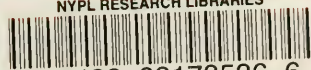


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HISTORY  
OF  
RENO COUNTY  
KANSAS

ITS PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

By  
SHERIDAN PLOUGHE

---

With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and  
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

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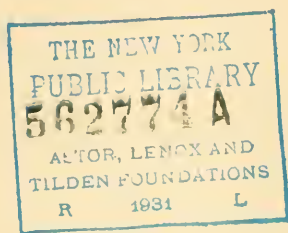
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Emerson Cady

# BIOGRAPHICAL

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HON. EMERSON CAREY.

The natural limitations of a review of this character prevent anything like an exhaustive or complete record of the various enterprises with which the Hon. Emerson Carey, of Hutchinson, this county, is connected; neither can there be set out here in detail the history of the present status of these industries or a detailed account of the very considerable improvement and extensive new works that have been brought into operation within the past few years. The Carey industries really comprise four distinct industries, each one being magnitudinal in its individual capacity and scope. The salt plants have a capacity of two thousand barrels a day and are the only plants of the kind in the world equipped with a quadruple-effect vacuum system for the manufacture of salt. The ice plant has a capacity of eighty-five tons a day, and there is a cold-storage space of over half a million cubic feet. The cold-storage plant is equipped with triplicate machinery throughout the whole system, as a sure safeguard in case of a breakdown. By a new process the salt is manufactured in enclosed vessels, which are absolutely dust proof, and no chemicals whatever are used to whiten or purify it. The grain is absolutely uniform and during no part of the process of manufacture is it touched by hand. The hundreds of barrels of salt that roll out of the city of Hutchinson daily on long freight trains, tell a tale of industry that no rhetoric can match. The history of the Carey industries is a record of development and expansion, one of the most interesting in the industrial annals of Kansas. As it is commonly said in Hutchinson that Emerson Carey is the Carey industries personified, it will be interesting to the reader to note at this point some of the salient points in the career of that energetic captain of industry.

Emerson Carey was born on a farm in Grant county, Indiana, on January 22, 1863, son of Samuel and Nancy J. (Bundy) Carey, both natives of that same county, the former of whom was born on July 28, 1839, and the latter, April 15, 1842. Samuel Carey was the son of Robert and Susan Carey, pioneer residents of Grant county, who with their children and the



various members of the latters' families emigrated in 1868 to Shelby county, Illinois, where the remainder of their lives were spent. Nancy J. Bundy was the daughter of Talbot and Jane Bundy, also pioneer residents of Grant county, who, about the year 1865, emigrated to Champaign county, Illinois, where they also resided the rest of their lives.

Samuel Carey was reared amid pioneer conditions in his early Indiana home and was married before he and the other members of the family moved over into Illinois. He was possessed of the true instinct of the frontiersman and after reaching Illinois, kept moving farther westward as advancing settlements encroached on his pioneer locations, it having been his custom to get a farm under cultivation, sell it and move on. Before coming to Kansas he had thus made his home, successively, in Shelby, Douglas and Vermilion counties, in Illinois, clearing up farms; his son, Emerson, sharing in all the vicissitudes of these numerous advances toward the continually receding frontier. In 1878, Samuel Carey came to this state and took up a tract of government land in the Sterling neighborhood of Rice county, from which he presently moved to McPherson county and thence, in 1880, came to Reno county and rented a considerable tract of land on the edge of the flourishing village of Hutchinson, at that time virgin prairie, in what is now known as the Sunflower addition to the city of Hutchinson, and for a time engaged in farming there. He then became associated with his son, Emerson, in the coal and building-supply business and later assisted in the organization of the Carey Salt Company and in other ways became a prominent factor in the development of the industrial life of Hutchinson. Samuel Carey was by birthright a Quaker, but after his marriage he joined the Methodist church, in conformance with his wife's faith, and in this faith their children were reared. There were fourteen of these children, as follow: Almeda, who married P. M. Gratton and lives at Kenton, Kansas; Marrietta, who married Charles Nelson and lives in Hutchinson, this county; Emerson, the immediate subject of this biographical review; Susan (deceased), who married Ethan Thomas; Arthur, who lives in Hutchinson; Elizabeth, who married Isaac Palmer and lives at Halstead, Kansas; Emma, who married Burrett Hanks and lives near Sterling, Kansas; Bertha, who married Harvey Crawford and lives at Stafford, Kansas; Rosa, who married James Kirk, and lives in Texas; Edith, who married S. Allen Winchester and lives in Hutchinson; Eva, who married Waverly S. Albright and lives in Hutchinson; Maud, who married Dr. J. J. Brownlee, of Hutchinson; Claude, who lives in California, and Albert, who died in infancy. Samuel Carey died at Hutchinson



on March 9, 1905. His wife had preceded him to the grave about ten years, her death having occurred on July 2, 1896.

Emerson Carey was five years of age when his parents left Indiana and was fifteen years of age when they entered Kansas in 1878. He had acquired some schooling in Illinois and upon coming to Kansas attended school at Sterling one winter. The next winter he attended a district school in McPherson county and the next winter he entered the schools at Hutchinson, he being then seventeen years of age. For the first three years after coming to this county he assisted his father on the farm and then for two years he worked in Hutchinson for Mr. Hale, who was engaged in the retail coal business. In 1885 he started in the retail coal and building supplies business on his own account, under the firm style of Conn & Carey. A short time later the firm became Carey, Beers & Lee and thus continued until 1890, in which year Mr. Carey took over the business alone and so continued until 1910, in which year he closed it out. In the meantime, in 1896, Mr. Carey had organized the Hutchinson Ice Company, which company is still doing business and supplies most of the ice for that city. In 1900, in connection with the operation of his ice plant, Mr. Carey started the Carey Salt Company, which began operations in a small way, but which has gradually grown to its present enormous proportions, with a producing capacity of two thousand barrels a day, one of the most important industries in central Kansas. A man of indefatigable industry and boundless energy, Mr. Carey became interested in various other enterprises as the time passed and has become one of the most important factors in the industrial development of this section of the state. He was one of the chief organizers, chief owner and first president of the Hutchinson Interurban Railway Company; helped organize and was president of the Kansas Chemical Manufacturing Company of Hutchinson, and is also president of the Grand Saline Salt Company, of Texas.

On September 26, 1888, Emerson Carey was united in marriage to Anna M. Puterbaugh, who was born near Mackinaw, Illinois, daughter of John and Olive Puterbaugh, who were among the earliest pioneers to settle in Harvey county, Kansas. They located at Newton in 1873, where for years Mr. Puterbaugh was engaged in the real-estate business. In 1885 they moved to Hutchinson, where Mr. and Mrs. Puterbaugh spent their last days, the death of the former occurring in 1888 and that of the latter in 1911.

To Emerson and Anna M. (Puterbaugh) Carey four children have been born, namely: Horbard J., born in 1892, a graduate of Cornell University, who assists his father in the management of the Carey Salt Company, mar-

ried Louise Banks, of Ithaca, New York, and lives on North Main street in Hutchinson; Charles E., 1894, for three years a student at Cornell, married Alice Degnan, of Jersey City, New Jersey, and assists his father in superintending the Carey industries; William, 1902, and Emerson, Jr., 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Carey are members of the Christian church and are active in all good works in and about Hutchinson. After his marriage in 1888 Mr. Carey built a home in the eleven hundred block on Main street and in 1898 located at his present beautiful home at 821 North Main street, a home widely known for its cordial hospitality.

Mr. Carey is a Republican and in 1908 was elected to represent this district in the state Senate and was re-elected in 1912. He has never been a candidate for any other public office. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the blue lodge and the commandery at Hutchinson and the consistory at Wichita. He also is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

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### JUDGE CHARLES E. BRANINE.

Few names in the long list of judges and lawyers who have so notably served the people of Kansas during the past generation are better known or held in higher regard by the people generally throughout this section of the state than is that of the Hon. Charles E. Branine, a prominent attorney of Hutchinson, this county, and former judge of the ninth Kansas judicial district, who has been a resident of Hutchinson since the year 1910, following his election to the district judgeship, and who before that time had attained wide distinction as a practitioner at Newton, this state, and who, since resuming his practice, at the close of his honorable judicial tenure, has added so conspicuously to his well-earned success that his many friends confidently predict that the future holds for him still higher honors in the service of the public.

Charles E. Branine was born on a farm on the old grade road near St. Elmo, Fayette county, Illinois, on March 7, 1864, a son of Joshua and Margaret J. (Dewese) Branine, the former of whom was born in Decatur county, Indiana, March 7, 1834, and the latter in Ohio in 1835, the Branines being of Irish ancestry and the Deweses of French stock. Joshua Branine was reared in Decatur county, Indiana, a member of one of the pioneer families in that historic section of the Hoosier state, and in 1860, not long after his marriage, emigrated to Illinois, where he bought government land

in Fayette county, which he improved and on which he and his family lived until the spring of 1874, at which time he brought his family to Kansas and settled on a quarter section of land, which he purchased near the growing town of Newton, and there he lived until 1893, when he and his wife retired from the farm and moved into Newton, where their last days were spent, Joshua Branine dying in November, 1898, and his widow in November, 1912. Joshua Branine was a most ardent Republican and almost worshipped the memory of Abraham Lincoln. He was more or less active in local politics and for years served his township most acceptably as township trustee. He and his wife were devoted members of the Methodist church, in which he long was a class leader and office bearer, and their children were faithfully reared in that faith. These children, ten in number, were as follow: Mary C., who married S. B. Holdeman and lives on the home farm in Harvey county, Kansas; Ira, who died in infancy; George W., a prosperous farmer of Kingman county, Kansas; Elmer L., also a farmer living near Blackwell, Oklahoma; Charles E., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Sarah E., who married Everett Anderson, of Newton, this state, for twenty-five years past a telegraph operator in the employ of the Santa Fe Railroad Company; John K., also a prosperous Kansas farmer; Ezra C., a prominent attorney, member of the firm of Branine & Hart, Newton, Kansas, who studied law in the office of his brother, Charles E., and for seventeen years, and until the time of the latter's election to the district judgeship, was a partner of his brother; Jeanette, who married the Rev. William J. Shull, a minister of the Methodist church, now located in McPherson county, this state, and Anna J., who married Charles Joseph, stock dealer and farmer living at Potwin, Kansas.

Charles E. Branine was ten years of age when his parents came to Kansas, in 1874, and his elementary education therefore was continued in the district schools of Harvey county. He later attended the public schools in Newton, and supplemented this course by a course of one year at Baker University and one year at the University of Kansas. He then taught school in his home district for one year, after which he entered upon a rigid course of reading in the law office of that sterling old lawyer, J. W. Ady, of Newton, former United States district attorney and an orator of rare power. In November, 1889, Charles E. Branine rented an office in Newton, took the bar examination one night, was admitted to the bar and the next day in a barren little office without a dollar started in the practice of the profession in which he was destined to achieve large note. In this same office room, which, however, was not long as bleak and barren as at

first, he remained nineteen years, until 1908, the year of his election to the district judgeship, by which he had become a lawyer of note and power throughout this section of the state. In 1892 Judge Branine's brother, Ezra C. Branine, a lad of twenty, right off the farm, entered his brother's law office and entered seriously the study of law. He was admitted to the bar in 1893 and in the next year became his brother's partner, a mutually agreeable connection which continued until Judge Branine assumed his judicial functions.

While studying law in 1888, Judge Branine was elected justice of the peace of Newton township and occupied that office for two years. In 1889 he was appointed United States commissioner for his district and in 1892 was elected county attorney for Harvey county. It was during his four years tenure in this office that the famous Rogers record-burning case was brought to trial, a trial that continued for three years, being tried twice in the district court and twice in the supreme court, and in which Judge Branine figured quite prominently, his management of the prosecution gaining for him a wide reputation as a brilliant and talented lawyer.

Judge Branine ever has been an ardent Republican, as was his father before him, and in 1898 served his party as county chairman. In 1900 he was elected to the state Senate from the thirteenth Kansas senatorial district, comprising Harvey and McPherson counties, and served with distinguished ability in the upper house of the Legislature from 1901 to 1905. In November, 1908, Senator Branine was elected judge of the ninth Kansas judicial district, comprising the three counties of Reno, Harvey and McPherson, and in January, 1909, ascended the bench, serving as a just and impartial judge until January, 1913, at which time he opened an office for the practice of law in the city of Hutchinson, and has been located there ever since, never having been out of the harness a single day. Judge Branine enjoys the unique record of having gone directly from the practice to the bench and from the bench back to the practice without missing any time. In July, 1910, he had moved his family from Newton to Hutchinson, in which latter city he had built a handsome residence at 114 Twelfth street, west, and where he still resides, the Branine home being widely known for the fine character of its hospitality.

On October 8, 1891, Charles E. Branine was united in marriage to Mary E. Rigby, who was born in Doniphan county, Kansas, daughter of Jonathan A. Rigby and Jane A. (Ferguson) Rigby, the former of whom, now deceased, was for many years a building contractor at Concordia, this state, and the latter of whom, a native of Ireland, of Scotch parentage, is



still living. Mary E. Rigby was a school teacher at Concordia and later at Newton and it was there that she and Judge Branine formed the mutual attachment which led to their happy union. To this union two children have been born, Harold R., born on October 10, 1892, graduated from the Newton high school in 1910 and from Kansas University in 1914 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts and elected to the Phi Beta Kappa fraternity and wearing the coveted key with becoming dignity, and now completing the law course at Kansas University, and Hazel E., born on March 10, 1895, graduated from the Hutchinson high school in 1913, from which she was admitted to Wellesley and now attending Wisconsin University at Madison, Wisconsin.

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### EUGENE L. MEYER.

Eugene L. Meyer, pioneer banker of Hutchinson, this county, president of the First National Bank of that city and prominently connected with numerous important enterprises hereabout, though a native Parisian, is a vigorous, loyal and devoted American, having been a resident of this country since he was four years old and during all of the active years of his life he has given of the best there is in him to the cause of progress in his adopted land. Mr. Meyer is the pioneer of all the bankers now residing in Reno county and has been connected with all the enterprises which the position of president of the oldest and largest bank in the county would naturally lead him into, being, therefore, a man of commanding influence in this community.

The First National Bank of Hutchinson for years has been known as "the oldest and largest bank in the Arkansas valley." It has grown as Kansas has grown, and when in the early years there were times of adversity the First National Bank of Hutchinson was the synonym for strength and character among the banking institutions of the state. It was founded in 1876. Its business increased as the city and community grew, and then it went beyond the local confines and embraced on its books a greater part of the banking business, either as banker or correspondent, for the local banks of central and southwest Kansas. Eugene L. Meyer has been "the man behind the gun" since the founding of the bank, and during all of this time his hand has been the guiding one and his conservative and yet aggressive banking methods have done much to establish the reputation of the

First National Bank. Its capital stock of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars and its surplus of fifty thousand dollars give it ample means with which to transact its extensive business, and its thorough acquaintance with methods, conditions and securities insures its success along all lines of activity. The First National Bank has made a special feature of its savings department and through that agency has encouraged many a young person in habits of thrift which have brought success in after years. Associated with Mr. Meyer in the conduct of the bank are: Directors, George E. Gano, N. B. Sawyer, Pet Nation; Fred C. French, cashier, and E. W. Meyer, assistant cashier. The directors are all strong men financially and each gives his earnest attention to the affairs of the bank. Mr. French and the younger Mr. Meyer both are trained bankers and are most efficient officers of the bank, which is always to be depended on by its depositors and is a source of just pride to every citizen of Hutchinson.

Eugene L. Meyer was born in Paris, the capital of France, on April 15, 1849. In 1853, he then being four years of age, his parents emigrated to the United States, landing at the port of New Orleans on November 6 of that year. Thence they proceeded up the Mississippi river, stopping at Rock Island, Illinois, where they remained until June, 1857, when they started by steamboat for Kansas, arriving at Leavenworth on the 10th of that month. Thence they moved to Atchison.

Eugene L. Meyer was eleven years old when his family located at Atchison. Upon completing his schooling, Mr. Meyer began the study of the drug business at Leavenworth, Kansas, where he remained until 1867. Later he went East and was engaged as a traveling salesman for three years with a wholesale chemical house of New York City. It was in March, 1872, that he located in Hutchinson. He erected a modern building on lot No. 9, North Main street, and was engaged in the drug business here for twelve years. When the Reno County State Bank was organized, in May, 1876, he was one of the original incorporators of this bank and became its vice-president. In May, 1884, the bank was changed from a state bank to a national bank, and Mr. Meyer became cashier of the First National Bank of Hutchinson. Later he was elected president of the bank, and has ever since served in that important executive capacity.

On April 7, 1874, Eugene L. Meyer was united in marriage to Mary Emma Moore, daughter of Rev. D. M. Moore, father of Presbyterianism in this section of Kansas, pastor of the Presbyterian church at Hutchinson and the first formally installed minister of the gospel in that city. In a biographical sketch relating to Rev. D. M. Moore, presented elsewhere in

this volume, there is set out in detail further particulars of the history of that devoted pioneer minister. To Mr. and Mrs. Meyer five children have been born, Anna Marie, Edward W., Margaret E., Daniel E. and Louis F.

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SAMUEL H. SIDLINGER, M. D.

During the height of the distress caused throughout this section of Kansas by the grasshopper visitation in 1874 one of the most sympathetic contributors to the vast relief fund raised by the good people of the United States was Dr. Samuel H. Sidlinger, an earnest young physician of Napoleon, Ohio. A year later that young physician visited this county and was so deeply impressed by the promising conditions hereabout that he located at Hutchinson and has lived there ever since. During all these intervening years Doctor Sidlinger has done well his part as a good citizen and kindly benefactor. As a pioneer practitioner he was called to homes far remote from his home, often being required to drive as far west as Larned and down into the "panhandle" of Texas, his practice covering a radius of one hundred and fifty miles out of Hutchinson. As mayor of Hutchinson, Doctor Sidlinger rendered a distinctive civic service, the period of his term of office in the executive's chair covering a very important period in the city's growth and development; and in all other ways he has performed equally well every duty required of him in either a professional or civic capacity.

During the early years of his extensive practice throughout this region Doctor Sidlinger's faithful companion on his long and lonely drives was his good old horse, "Prince," a rarely intelligently animal, known all over the country for miles about. The Doctor and his friends used to declare that "Prince" possessed more than human intelligence and on "Prince's" unerring sense of direction the Doctor relied implicitly while driving through blizzards or in the black hours of the night over the trackless and unfenced plains. Faithful old "Prince" lived to be twenty-two years old and died full of honors. "Prince" was an animal of fine mettle and in his younger days had won honors on the race track and blue ribbons at the horse shows, but his enduring claim to distinction was based upon the faithful service he for years rendered in behalf of suffering humanity hereabout in the service of his gentle master, the conscientious pioneer physician. In those days Doctor Sidlinger was kept constantly "on the go," as the narration of the

following incident will show: For weeks the Doctor had not been able to take a Sunday dinner at home. One Sunday morning, by rare chance, he was at home and the indications were fair that he should be permitted to have a day of relaxation. His wife promised to prepare for him a dinner that should include all the "fixin's" he liked best and happily set about getting up a meal that should reward him for the many he had missed. Just as he was about to sit down to the bounteously laden table the Doctor was called to the bedside of a patient across the river. Hitching up "Prince" he dashed off on his mission of mercy, assuring Mrs. Sidlinger that he would be back within the hour. Before he had concluded that first call a call came to him from another bedside and thus, one after another, until eight days had elapsed before the Doctor reached home again, he and "Prince" having been kept going night and day meanwhile.

Samuel H. Sidlinger was born at Massillon, in Stark county, Ohio, June 23, 1845, son of John and Orsilla (Weible) Sidlinger, the former of whom was born in the kingdom of Bavaria and the latter near the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. John Sidlinger had been well trained in his native country to the trade of carriage-maker, and at the age of eighteen came to the United States. He had little difficulty in finding remunerative employment in this country and presently found himself at Massillon, Ohio, where for nine years he was engaged as foreman in the machine shop of the Partridge & Russell Threshing Machine Company. He then went to Napoleon, Ohio, where he established a wagon- and carriage-making shop, in his later years, however, retiring to a farm at Liberty Center, six miles from Napoleon, where his last days were spent. John Sidlinger was a fine baritone singer and an expert musician and during the Civil War served as a member of the regimental band of the Fourteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He and his wife were the parents of six children, namely: Edward, now deceased, who for years was a well-known druggist at Hutchinson, this county; John, also deceased, who for years was a clerk in his brother's store at Hutchinson; Samuel H., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; George, now deceased, who was foreman in a factory at Napoleon, Ohio; William, a wealthy retired farmer and large landowner of Napoleon, Ohio, and Ida, who married Amos S. Hess, of the *Hutchinson Notes*.

Samuel H. Sidlinger was nine years of age when his parents moved from Massillon to Napoleon and his schooling was thus divided between the schools of those two towns. At the age of ten he entered upon the study of music and became a proficient performer upon the clarinet, cornet and



the violin. When sixteen years old, after two unsuccessful attempts to enlist for service during the Civil War, being rejected on account of his youth, he succeeded in getting in as a musician and for eighteen months served as a member of the regimental band of the Fourteenth Ohio Infantry. He then enlisted in the hospital corps of the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which he served until the close of the war, being mustered out on June 30, 1865. Upon the conclusion of his military service this young soldier returned to his home at Napoleon and for nearly nine years was engaged there as a clerk in a drug store, meanwhile giving his serious attention to the reading of medical literature. He then entered the medical department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and was graduated from that institution in the spring of 1874, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Thus admirably equipped for the practice of his profession, Doctor Sidlinger returned home and opened an office at Napoleon and was engaged in practice there for six months. It was during this time that the great grasshopper scourge turned the attention of the whole country to the sufferings of the victims of that visitation in Kansas, and there was no more sympathetic contributor to the relief of those sufferers than Doctor Sidlinger. That fall Doctor Sidlinger decided to locate in the West. At Hutchinson he found what seemed to him the very spot he was seeking and in 1875 he settled in the struggling little village on the plain and established a permanent office, an exercise of judgment he never has regretted. Two years later, in 1877, the Doctor's brother, Edward Sidlinger, joined him at Hutchinson to take charge of the E. L. Meyer drug store and in 1882 engaged in the drug business in that city on his own account, establishing his store in a one-story brick building on the site of the present Sidlinger drug store. The Doctor from the first was a silent partner in the business and later erected the two-story building in which the store long has been located.

From the very beginning of his residence in Hutchinson, Doctor Sidlinger gave his most earnest attention to local political affairs. In those days he was what was called an "Abe Lincoln black Republican" and he never has departed from the faith. He was one of the most energetic promoters of civic pride in the new town and for four terms rendered valuable service as a member of the city council. He then was elected mayor and during his two terms of service in that capacity Hutchinson's streets were graded and the sidewalks brought to a level, the mayor in other ways also striving to arouse a higher degree of civic consciousness in the minds of the settlers. Of course, it was as a physician that his great service was ren-

dered, and a record of that service is written on the hearts of all survivors of that fine generation of pioneers who made possible the present high stage of development of this favored section of the state. In 1875, shortly after locating at Hutchinson, Doctor Sidlinger was appointed local physician for the Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Company and has ever since been retained in that position. He also has been physician for the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company ever since that road reached Hutchinson. In 1913 he practically retired from his private practice, but continues to maintain the liveliest interest in local affairs.

On June 30, 1868, Dr. Samuel H. Sidlinger was united in marriage to Lucinda Welty, who was born at New Philadelphia, Ohio, daughter of John and Sarah Welty, the former of whom was a farmer who later moved to Newton, Jasper county, Iowa, where he and his wife spent their last days. To this union one child was born, a daughter, Lila, who married Fred A. Innes and lives in Oklahoma. In 1875, the year he located in Hutchinson, Doctor Sidlinger built a comfortable brick house at the corner of First and Poplar streets, and there he and his wife still make their home, being very pleasantly situated. The Doctor is a Knight Templar, a past eminent commander of the commandery at Hutchinson; a past worshipful master of the Masonic blue lodge and past high priest of the local chapter, Royal Arch Masons, and thrice illustrious master of his council. He also is a charter member of the Hutchinson lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and in the affairs of these several organizations takes a warm interest.

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#### HON. GEORGE A. NEELEY.

The life of former Congressman George A. Neeley, president of the Farmers National Bank of Hutchinson, this county, and a prominent lawyer of that city, has been a busy one. Though still a comparatively young man, he has accomplished much and his friends confidently predict for him even greater accomplishments. His defeat for election to the United States Senate in 1914 was accomplished by so close a margin that there are not a few persons, even among those who were politically opposed to his candidacy, who insist that had certain allegations of election frauds been fully investigated it would have been found that he had been triumphantly elected to a seat in the greatest deliberative body in the world.

George A. Neeley was born in the hamlet of Detroit, Pike county,

Illinois, on August 1, 1879, son of George M. and Mary Elizabeth (Stephens) Neeley, the former of whom was born within one hundred yards of that spot on March 1, 1839, and the latter in Iowa, August 15, 1851, both of whom are still living. George M. Neeley is the son of Henry and Margaret Neeley, the former a native of Tennessee and the latter of Illinois. Henry Neeley was an early settler in Pike county, Illinois, and bought a large tract of land on which he later laid out the town of Detroit. He was one of the most influential men in that section of the state of Illinois and became quite well-to-do. He was an active member of the Methodist church and was prominent in all good works thereabout. Upon the death of his wife, in 1846, he married again and lived to a ripe old age. One of his brothers was a soldier during the Mexican War. Mary Elizabeth (Stephens) Neeley is the daughter of Elijah M. and Catherine Stephens, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Iowa. Elijah Stephens left Kentucky during the days of his early manhood and went to Missouri, where he became a pioneer physician. Upon the breaking out of the Civil War, he enlisted in the Union army and during the latter part of the war was made surgeon of his regiment. At the battle of Wilson's Creek he was seriously wounded, but recovered and lived many years of usefulness, his death occurring in 1904, he then having been eighty-three years of age. His widow, whom all the family lovingly call "Kittie," is still living at Carl Junction, Missouri.

George M. Neeley, father of the subject of this biographical review, was bereft of his mother by death when he was seven years of age and he was taken into the home of the Defontaine family and grew to manhood on an Illinois farm. He then went to Texas, where he spent eighteen years as a cotton planter and broker, at the end of which time he returned to Detroit, Illinois, where he engaged in merchandising until 1884, in which year he went to Joplin, Missouri, where he remained until 1893, after which he went to Oklahoma, where he homesteaded a considerable tract and is now living, very comfortably situated, at Wellston, Oklahoma. During the Civil War, George M. Neeley served as a soldier in the Confederate army, a member of Company D, Third Arizona Regiment, which was recruited in northwestern Texas. He served three years and nine months, among the notable engagements in which he participated having been the battle of Red River, and he was wounded twice. At the close of the war, under the mistaken apprehension that Confederate soldiers were to be shot by the Federal government, he departed for Mexico and remained over the border for two years before learning that it would be perfectly safe for him to return.

Upon returning to Texas, he took the oath of allegiance and presently was appointed county judge. Upon the expiration of that term of office he was appointed United States marshal for the eastern district of Texas. Upon his return to his boyhood home in Illinois, he entered actively into the political life of that community, as a Democrat, and served as a justice of the peace much of the time during his later residence there. George M. Neeley was twice married. By his first wife, who was a McKeever, he had two children, Albert Marion, who died in Texas in 1883, at the age of twenty years, and Emma, who married John D. Howard, a merchant of Joplin, Missouri, where she is still living. To his union with Mary Elizabeth Stephens, four children were born, namely: Lillie, who is living with her parents at Wellston, Oklahoma; George A., the immediate subject of this sketch; Elva, who married John Dunham and lives at Wellston, Oklahoma, and Lola, who married James A. Dunham and lives in the same city.

George A. Neeley was but five years of age when his parents moved to Joplin and was thirteen years of age when they moved from that city to Oklahoma, his elementary education therefore having been gained in the common schools of both Missouri and Oklahoma. This he supplemented by a course in the Southwestern Baptist University at Jackson, Tennessee, after which he entered the law school of the University of Kansas, from which he was graduated in 1904. Prior to that time he had taught school for four years in the schools of Oklahoma and had likewise been sedulously engaged in the private study of law at home. Following his graduation, in 1904, Mr. Neeley opened an office for the practice of his profession at Wellston and remained there one year. He then married and moved to Chandler, county seat of his home county, where he entered the law office of Malcolm D. Owen, as junior partner, a mutually agreeable connection which continued for three years and six months, or until the time of his decision to locate in Hutchinson. Upon going to Hutchinson, Mr. Neeley entered the law office of Carr W. Taylor, with whom he was engaged in practice for two years and six months, at the end of which time he opened an office of his own.

At a special election held on January 1, 1912, George A. Neeley was elected to represent this district in Congress, to fill the unexpired term of Congressman Edmund H. Madison, and in November following was elected for the full succeeding term, at that election receiving the greatest plurality ever given a candidate for Congress in the state of Kansas. Congressman Neeley arrived at Washington to fill out Mr. Madison's unexpired term on



January 29, 1912, the fiftieth anniversary of the admission of Kansas to the Union of states. Upon being presented by one of his colleagues to receive the oath of office in the House, he was pleasantly greeted by Speaker Clark, who, gravely addressing the House, said that he had two important events to announce: "The taking of the oath of office by the second Democratic congressman ever elected from the state of Kansas; and that on the fiftieth anniversary of the admission of his state," which announcement was received with much applause on the part of the assembled representatives. Representative Neeley took a very active part in the deliberations of the Congress and, for a new member, received some very important committee appointments, a mark of distinction which his friends in his home district properly appreciated. As a member of the celebrated Pujo "money trust" investigation committee, he assisted materially in that extensive inquiry and helped write the exhaustive report of the committee. He also was a member of the important committee on banking and currency, which framed the federal reserve act, and it was he who led the fight both in the committee and in the majority caucus for the inclusion of the "agricultural credits" clause in that act. In 1914 Representative Neeley received the nomination in the state-wide primaries as the Democratic candidate for the United States Senate in this state, and in the memorable election of that fall, in which more than five hundred and twenty-six thousand votes were cast, he failed of election by the narrow margin of three thousand eight hundred and ninety-four votes, a circumstance which caused even some of those who had most earnestly opposed his candidacy to admit that if certain alleged election frauds had been cleared up he would have been found to have been elected. In January, 1912, Mr. Neeley formed a partnership, for the practice of law, with A. Clare Mallory, which partnership still exists. In 1915 he was made president of the Farmers National Bank of Hutchinson, which was organized in that year, and is now serving in that capacity, and is also vice-president of the Farmers Hail Insurance Company, having its principal office at Hutchinson.

On Monday, October 31, 1904, George A. Neeley was united in marriage to Eva M. Hostetler, who was born in Bedford, Indiana, daughter of Jonathan and Martha Hostetter. Jonathan Hostetter, whose wife died on December 26, 1912, is a veteran of the Civil War and for many years was a prominent merchant in Indiana. He is now living at Mulvane, this state. To Mr. and Mrs. Neeley two children have been born, George Newland, born on August 5, 1905, who died on December 21, 1907, and Eva Mar-

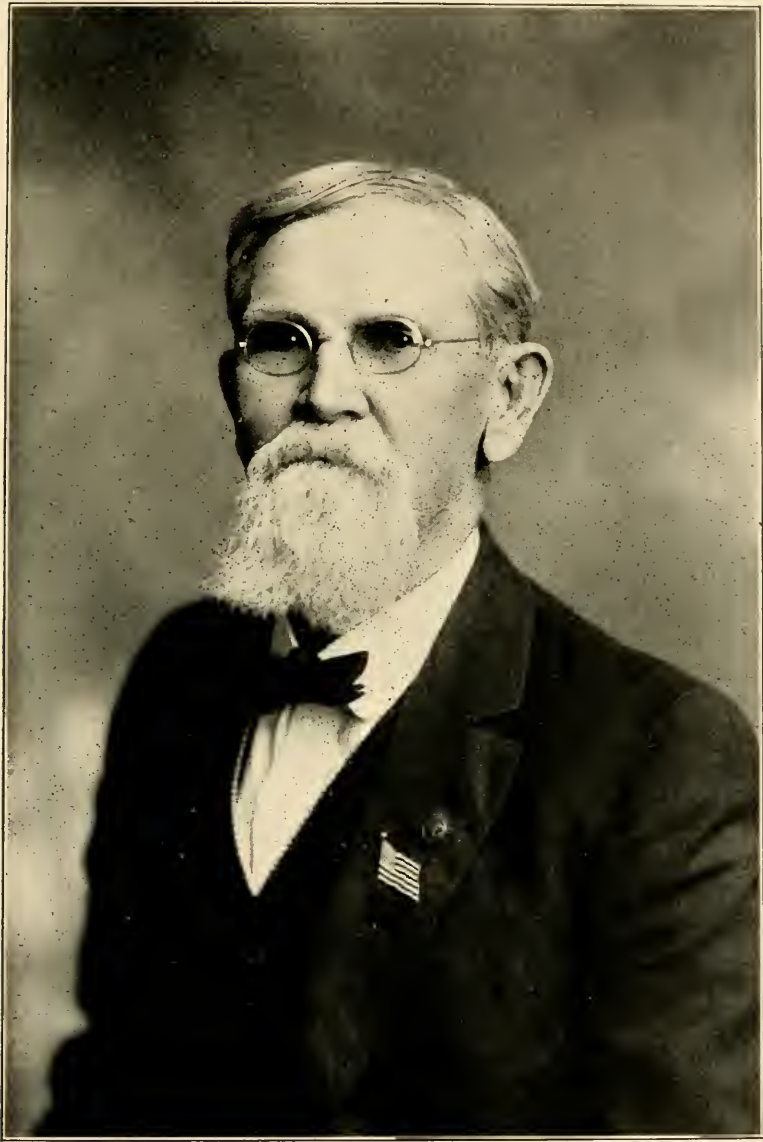
garet, born on February 17, 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Neeley are members of the First Christian church at Hutchinson and Mr. Neeley is a member of the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Modern Woodmen.

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### HON. WILLIAM H. MITCHELL.

The Hon. William H. Mitchell, former member of the Kansas state Legislature, a prominent retired stock farmer of Huntsville township, this county, now living at 411 Seventh avenue, east, in the city of Hutchinson, is a native-born Hoosier, a fact of which he never has ceased to be proud, though for many years he has been a staunch and loyal Kansan. He was born on a farm near the city of Bedford, in Lawrence county, Indiana, March 8, 1844, son of William C. and Mary J. (Francis) Mitchell, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Indiana, whose last days were spent on their Indiana farm.

William C. Mitchell was the son of James and Nancy (Campbell) Mitchell, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania on October 14, 1767, and died in Monroe county, Indiana, June 9, 1846. James Campbell and wife reared six sons and three daughters, all of whom save one daughter married and reared families of their own. One son, Joseph, removed to Iowa about 1850 and there reared a large family, one of his sons, James, being a veteran of the Civil War. Another son, George, also removed to Iowa in an early day and two of his sons, Thomas and William Oscar, were veterans of the Civil War. The latter became a state senator in Iowa and was twice elected to the Legislature. Another grandson of James Mitchell became one of the leading lawyers of Ottumwa, Iowa, and was elected to the bench. William C. Mitchell was born in Kentucky in 1807 and died in Indiana on July 30, 1885. He married in Indiana, Elizabeth Francis, and to that union six children were born, namely: Elizabeth M., who married I. H. Waynick and reared a large family; Mrs. Martha A. Norris, who lived at Charlton, Iowa; David T., who became a lieutenant-colonel during the Civil War, later moving to Kansas, where he became one of the organizers of Neosho county in 1865; later moving to Columbia, Missouri; Mrs. Nancy A. Douglas, a resident of Charlton, Iowa; William H., the subject of this review, and James F., who remained in Indiana, a dealer in lumber. The mother of these children died in 1848 and William C. Mitchell married, sec-



W. H. Mitchell.





ondly, Mary J. Erwin and to that union were born four sons and one daughter. Two of these sons, Samuel E. and Lewis, remained in Indiana; George settled near Augusta, Oklahoma; Bennett, the first born, died when he was three years old, and Katie, the only daughter, died at the age of five years. Mrs. Mary J. Mitchell survived her husband about one year.

William H. Mitchell was reared on the paternal farm in Indiana and grew up with very little schooling, the whole number of his days in school aggregating less than a year. On July 9, 1861, he then being but seventeen years of age, he enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War in Company A, Twenty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served for three years with the Army of the West, being mustered out at the end of his term of enlistment, July 31, 1864, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His health being somewhat broken, Mr. Mitchell did not re-enlist. He returned to his home in Indiana and in 1865 went to Iowa, where he entered school, but soon withdrew, on account of defective vision, and returned in the spring of 1866 to Indiana and the same year came to Kansas, where he joined his brother, Col. David T. Mitchell, in Neosha county.

In August, 1867, Mr. Mitchell again returned to Indiana, where he was married and in the following month he and his bride, together with his brother, James F., a brother-in-law, H. C. Mallott, and John Stone and wife, drove through with four "prairie schooners" to Kansas and pre-empted claims twenty miles south of Humboldt. In the fall of 1869 Mr. Mitchell's wife died and he took his two small children to Indiana, where he remained for a couple of years farming. In the fall of 1871 he married another Indiana girl and returned to his Neosha county homestead. In 1873, on account of his wife's failing health, he returned again to Indiana, where he remained until 1884, in which year he returned to Kansas and settled in Reno county. He bought of John Puterbaugh the old Wampler timber claim of a quarter of a section in Huntsville township and later one hundred and twenty acres south of that, and went in quite extensively for raising cattle. Later he engaged extensively in the breeding of purebred Poland China hogs and became quite successful as a stockman. In 1906 he retired from the active labors of the ranch and moved to Hutchinson, where he still lives, though retaining the ownership of his valuable farms.

Mr. Mitchell has taken an active interest in civic affairs ever since coming to Kansas and has been conspicuously prominent in the various movements designed to better the conditions of farm life and promote the interests of farmers generally. For twelve successive years he was president of the

school board of Huntsville township and served for two terms as justice of the peace there. During his residence in Neosha county he served as township trustee. Mr. Mitchell was secretary of the first Greenback party county organization effected in Lawrence county, Indiana, and attended numerous district and state conventions of that historic party. He joined the Grange in Indiana and was secretary of his local organization. He also was lecturer for the Patrons of Husbandry until he left Indiana in 1884. When the Farmers Alliance was formed in Kansas Mr. Mitchell took an active part in the affairs of that organization and was engaged as county lecturer for the same, in that capacity attending all the national conventions of the alliance. When the Farmers Alliance was merged with the Populist party Mr. Mitchell took an active part in the affairs of the latter party and was chairman of the first Populist convention held in Reno county and was later nominated by that party as its nominee for representative in the state Legislature from the seventy-third representative district. In the fall of 1890 he was elected representative and served during the ensuing session of the Kansas General Assembly. In 1892 he was re-elected, but his opponent, W. J. Dix, contested the election on the ground of a controversy over boundary of the district. Mr. Mitchell took his seat in the House, but a decision of the supreme court on the issue of the disputed boundary automatically unseated him. During his service in the Legislature Mr. Mitchell was one of the members of the committee appointed to act in the matter of charges in the impeachment of Theodosius Bodkin, a matter of much political moment in that day; which charges Mr. Bodkin successfully resisted. Mr. Mitchell was one of the committee of investigation that investigated the Bodkin matter and was also one of the impeachment board that tried him. After the subsidence of the Populist movement Mr. Mitchell remained absolutely independent in his political views, but since 1912 has regarded himself as a progressive Democrat.

When the American Society of Equity was organized in the early part of the past decade for the purpose of securing to the farmers of the country a more equitable share in the profits of their products, Mr. Mitchell took a prominent part in the promotion of the movement and was made president of the local branch of the society and a delegate to the state and national meetings of the same. He was a delegate to the national convention of the society in Indianapolis in 1907, when the Everett faction was so vehemently resisted. Mr. Mitchell was made the spokesman of the opposing faction and when the minority delegates finally withdrew he was made chairman of the "rump" convention and was elected president of the National Farmers

Society of Equity, organized to give new life to the demands of the real farmers composing the same. He served as president of the new society for one year and was then elected vice-president and director of the organization, a position he held until 1914, when, at the national convention held at Omaha, he declined to serve any longer, on account of his increasing years and the state of his health, though he still retains active membership in the society. In 1914 Mr. Mitchell was elected vice-president of the American Farmers Federation (a federation of all the societies founded for a like purpose) and is still serving in that capacity. In 1913, Mr. Mitchell was appointed administrator of the Samuel Adamson estate and much of his time since then has been occupied in administering the estate. Mr. Mitchell is a past commander of Joe Hooker Post No. 17, Grand Army of the Republic, at Hutchinson, and for some time has been agent, by appointment of county commissioners, in a movement to secure the placing of proper headstones at the graves of all deceased soldiers of the Civil War, the government having signified a willingness to furnish the stones if the various counties will provide for the erection of the same. Mr. Mitchell was at one time President of the Indiana Old Settlers Society of Kansas and served for three years and has been associated with it since its organization.

In September, 1867, in Indiana, William H. Mitchell was united in marriage to Amanda Wood, who died on September 29, 1869, leaving three children, Olla E., born on June 22, 1868, now a farmer living at Carmen, Oklahoma, and Willie and Jesse W., twins, the former of whom died when three months old and the latter of whom is now living in Lawrence county, Indiana. On September 26, 1871, Mr. Mitchell married, secondly, Nancy L. Stipp, who was born in Lawrence county, Indiana, and to this union ten children have been born, as follow: Cadda A., who married J. W. Spilman and lives at Valley Falls, Kansas; Virgil W. and Edward (twins), the former of whom is a farmer living near Abbeyville, this county, and the latter of whom died when four months old; Michael F. and David B. (twins), the former a farmer living twelve miles west of Hutchinson on the Griffin farm, and the latter manager of the White Lumber Company at Fowler, this state; Hattie M., a graduate nurse at Los Angeles, California; Mattie E., who married J. Frank Rush, a fireman in the employ of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad, with headquarters at Newton, this state; Lottie P., who married Joseph Vazis, a mechanic, living at St. Louis, Missouri; James L., who operates his father's farm in Huntsville township, and Grace P., who married Elliot H. Chappel and lives in Hutchinson.

## FRED W. COOK, D. V. S.

Dr. Fred W. Cook, who, since April 15, 1914, has been mayor of Hutchinson, and for many years has been actively engaged in the practice of veterinary surgery in Hutchinson, is one of the most talented members of his profession in the state, and has done as much, perhaps, to elevate its standard of excellence as any other man in the profession.

Fred W. Cook was born in Worcestershire, England, May 1, 1858. His parents were Joseph and Martha Cook, who were also natives of that country. His father was a landed proprietor. In connection with his agricultural pursuits he also followed the profession of a veterinary surgeon at Bredon, England, where his death occurred in 1876. Two daughters of the family came to America with Fred W. They are: Annie, the wife of J. O. Shuler, a farmer of Reno county, and Laura, the wife of J. C. Baddeley, assistant manager of the Morton Salt Company, and a member of the Hutchinson school board. Later three other sons of the family came to America, namely: Walter, a building contractor of Hutchinson; Arthur, a farmer of Reno county, and Frank, a blacksmith of Hutchinson. George, another member of the family, still makes his home in Bredon, England, where he follows the occupation of a building contractor.

The subject of this sketch received a liberal education in the public schools of the neighborhood in which he spent his early years. He graduated in the Blue school of his native town, after a five-year course, at the age of seventeen years. He then entered an apprenticeship in scientific horse-shoeing, and three years later, after thoroughly mastering the art, he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits and stock raising on a farm of two hundred acres. He continued to devote his time and attention to this business until 1881. In that year he left the land of his birth and turned his face toward the New World. The older settled states did not appeal to him as a desirable place in which to locate and he did not tarry long there. His arrival in America was at a period when there was a great migration towards the western states where lands were cheap and the opportunities for industry and enterprise to win success in their development. Kansas was one of the states in which these opportunities were afforded and to this state Mr. Cook directed his steps. He found a desirable location in Grant township, Reno county, where he purchased a quarter section of land and at once began its cultivation. He gave special attention to the raising of fine stock, principally, Hereford and Shorthorn cattle, and Cleveland Bay and Hamiltonian horses. He followed this line of industry for three years with good suc-



cess. In the fall of 1885 he entered the Ontario Veterinary College, of Toronto, Canada, where he completed a three-year course, graduating on March 30, 1888, with the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Surgery.

After his graduation Doctor Cook returned to Hutchinson and began the practice of his chosen profession, in which he has met with exceptional and merited success. His increasing practice soon demonstrated the need of a suitable place for the treatment of subjects and, in 1891, he erected his present infirmary which is equipped with all modern appliances and conveniences known to the profession, for the treatment of all classes of disease, and for performing various operations required in the profession. This, without doubt, is the best equipped institution of the kind in the state, and in his chosen profession Doctor Cook stands second to none in the West. During the past twenty years he has also dealt extensively in high grade horses, buying and selling locally, or shipping to outside points, and in this business he is meeting with an equal degree of success; his well known reliability in all trade transactions having gained for him the confidence of the entire public.

In June, 1883, Fred W. Cook was married at Astoria, Illinois, to Minnie Oviatt, a daughter of Henry and Mary (Jones) Oviatt. The father was a native of New York, and, during the War of the Rebellion, served as a brave and faithful soldier in defence of the flag. One daughter and one son have brightened and blessed this union. Mary Pauline, born in Hutchinson, July 10, 1894, graduate of Hutchinson high school, attended Redlands University, in California, one year, studying vocal and instrumental music, and is now at the State Normal School, at Emporia, Kansas, studying music and domestic science. William Lawrence, born in Hutchinson, February 29, 1908, named for the eminent Baptist divine, Doctor Lawrence, of Chicago.

For many years Doctor Cook served as president of the Kansas State Veterinary Association, and is a member of the Missouri Valley Veterinary Association. In 1888 he was state veterinary surgeon of western Kansas. The cause of education has also found in him a staunch and abiding friend. For ten or twelve years he served as a member of the board of the Reno high school, at Nickerson, and for eighteen years as a member of the school board of Hutchinson. For two years he was president of the school board, and for many years was chairman of the building committee in charge of the construction of new buildings.

Doctor Cook devoted his best efforts to secure the establishment of the First Baptist church in Hutchinson, and during his entire residence here

has served as a member of the official board; for twenty-three years he has served as superintendent of the Sunday school and a teacher of a Bible class in the school.

In March, 1914, Doctor Cook was nominated as a candidate for mayor of Hutchinson, on the law enforcement, or reform ticket, and was elected in April of that year, defeating Lincoln S. Davis, the opposing candidate. He was re-elected in April, 1915, with James P. Harsha as the opposing candidate. In the administration of this office he has followed the same ideals that have characterized his professional and business dealings. As a public official, as well as a private citizen, he enjoys the confidence and esteem of the community. He has a beautiful home at 215 Second avenue, east, where he and his family have resided for many years.

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### THE CITIZENS BANK OF HUTCHINSON.

Among the substantial and well-established financial institutions of this part of the state of Kansas few, if any, have a wider connection or a solidier foundation than has the Citizens Bank of Hutchinson. Organized in 1892, the Citizens Bank was the natural outgrowth of conditions existing at that time in Hutchinson and vicinity and from its very inception has been a success, filling, as it did then, and still does, a very vital necessity in the commercial and general business life of this community. Founded by men of high purpose, keen business sagacity and of unquestioned financial solidity and responsibility, its stockholders and directorate including the names of some of the best-known men in the local business world, the Citizens Bank of Hutchinson inspired the confidence of the community from the very moment it opened its doors, and that confidence has never been abused in any fashion by the directing heads of the sound old institution.

Previous to the time of the organization of the bank, in 1892, James B. Mackay, a banker who had moved to Hutchinson from Illinois during the later eighties, he having had a bank in a small town near Galesburg, had been engaged in the banking business at Hutchinson and when the need of a new bank became apparent to him he associated with himself James Duke-low, T. F. Leidigh, Dr. Fred W. Cook and Frank P. Hettinger and organized the Citizens Bank. They bought the building at Second and Main, which is still occupied by the bank, from the old Bank of Commerce, paying about ten thousand dollars for the building and site. The bank started

small. There was probably not more than twelve thousand dollars capital stock to start with. It is characteristic of Mr. Mackay that when the new bank showed a loss the first year or two, not making expenses, he paid from his own pocket to cover the deficiency, telling his colleagues that he was responsible for getting them into it and that he would stand the loss. But the bank soon got onto its feet and was going good. It prospered from year to year and is now one of the strongest financial institutions in central Kansas. Mr. Mackay remained in active charge of the bank as president and cashier for many years, his fine conservatism and sound judgment, together with his wide knowledge of financial conditions hereabout, undeniably adding much to the solid success achieved by the institution which he thus served. A few years ago, when the business became so heavy as to require it, Charles M. Branch was called from the First National Bank to become cashier of the Citizens Bank, and in 1915, when Mr. Mackay was forced to leave the bank and take a season of rest in California, Mr. Branch stepped into his place as acting president. In the middle of January, 1916, Mr. Mackay definitely retired from the presidency of the bank and at his suggestion and request Mr. Branch was elected president to succeed him.

James B. Mackay is a native of Scotland, having been born in the city of Edinburgh. Some time after coming to this country he located in Iowa, where he was engaged in the banking business for some time, later going to Illinois, where he continued his banking business until his removal to Hutchinson, as above noted. Mr. Mackay has long occupied a high position in the business life of this community. He and his wife have a charming home at 725 Washington street, north, in Hutchinson. The veteran banker continues his interest in the bank and will remain on the official staff as vice-president.

Charles M. Branch, president of the Citizens Bank of Hutchinson, may properly be regarded as a pioneer of Reno county, he having been fourteen years of age when he came to this county with his parents in 1873. He has been a witness of the wonderful development of this section of the state from the very earliest days of its settlement and has ever done his full part in the promotion of that development, long having been regarded as one of the most active factors in the business life of the community. Charles M. Branch is a native of Iowa, having been born in the town of Vinton, in Benton county, that state, September 27, 1859, son of Phineas C. and Sarah (Chapin) Branch, the former of whom was born at Middleton, near Rutland, Vermont, in 1824, and the latter in 1826 in Massachusetts, who later



became pioneers of this county and both of whom died in Hutchinson, to which city they had retired from the farm in their declining days.

Phineas C. Branch was fourteen years old when his parents emigrated from Vermont to Illinois, the family settling on a homestead farm in that state, where the parents spent the remainder of their lives. Phineas C. Branch became a dentist in Illinois and in 1855 moved to Vinton, Iowa, where he engaged in the practice of his profession and was thus engaged until he came with his family to Reno county in 1873. During the Civil War, Mr. Branch enlisted as a private in Company G, Thirteenth Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, with which regiment he served for three years. In the fall of 1873 he gave up his practice as a dentist, desiring a change to outdoor life, and having been attracted by the glowing reports then proceeding from this section of Kansas, came to Reno county. He entered a soldier's homestead and a timber claim in Medford township and there established his home. He enlarged his original holdings by the purchase of two hundred and forty acres additional in Medford township and when he retired from the farm and moved to Hutchinson, in 1901, was regarded as one of the most substantial citizens of his part of the county. He was a stanch Republican in earlier life, but later became an ardent Prohibitionist and was an earnest laborer in the cause during the height of the anti-saloon campaign in this state. He and his wife were devout members of the Baptist church and were counted among the leaders in all good works in their neighborhood. But two children were born to them, sons both, Charles M. and Andrew C., the latter of whom is living at Sterling, Kansas. Mrs. Branch died in 1902, the year following her removal to Hutchinson, and Mr. Branch survived her about ten years, his death occurring in 1912.

Charles M. Branch was about fourteen years old when he came to Reno county with his parents and his schooling, which was interrupted by his removal from Vinton, was resumed in the district school in the neighborhood of his pioneer home in Medford township, which he supplemented by one year of attendance in the high school at Sterling. In 1886 he was engaged as a teacher in the schools at Sterling and was thus engaged for three years, at the end of which time he entered the service of the Rice County Bank at Sterling as a bookkeeper, a position which he occupied for nearly two years. His services then were engaged by the First National Bank of Hutchinson and for fourteen years he served in the capacity of bookkeeper in that institution, after which he was made assistant cashier, a position which he occupied until January 1, 1902, on which date he assumed

the position of cashier of the Citizens Bank and was so engaged until his elevation to the presidency of that institution, in January, 1916.

On January 5, 1910, Charles M. Branch was united in marriage to Lenora Scott, who was born in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Branch have a very pleasant home in Hutchinson and take a proper part in the general social activities of the city.

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### J. NEVON HERR.

The notable improvement in the morale of the inmates of the Kansas state reformatory at Hutchinson, this county, since Superintendent Herr took charge of that institution in 1913, has been the subject of congratulatory comment in all parts of the state, so many improvements having been made by him not only in the system of institutional administration, but in the general equipment of the reformatory and the beautification of the grounds, all reflecting most generously the humane spirit underlying modern correctional methods, that the inmates have been affected most wholesomely; so much so, indeed, that an entirely new spirit may be said to be dominating the entire population of that admirable correctional institution.

Immediately upon taking charge of the reformatory, or as soon thereafter as he could acquire a proper working acquaintance with the institution and its more vital needs, Superintendent Herr extended the honor system among the inmates, this humane expression of his confidence in the basic uprightness of mankind having had an immediate effect upon the general deportment of the unhappy young men under his care, who at once felt themselves "on honor" bound to give conformance to the general rules laid down by this humane new administration. One of the first of these new regulations was a complete reformation in the matter of the institutional dress of the inmates, all institution marks carrying the brand and stigma of the old "convict" system being eliminated, the effect of which alteration in the reformatory "uniform" being an immediate improvement in the spirit of the inmates, who responded most readily and with unanimous heartiness to this appeal to their better natures. In the way of provision for wholesome relaxation during the idle hours of the inmates, Superintendent Herr has installed a motion picture outfit in the reformatory, through which medium the inmates are at proper times and for the time being lifted out of their self-centered lives and given an opportunity thus to keep in touch with

the outside world, attendance on these exhibitions being practically unrestrained and without guard, an appeal to the pride and self-respect of the institution's population which has been met in the spirit in which it has been made. The population of the reformatory also is given the privilege of the grounds on such evenings as are marked by proper weather conditions, these "outings" also being practically unrestrained and unguarded. The value of these two experiments in institutional management has been exemplified to the complete satisfaction of the reformatory authorities, it having been demonstrated that the moral tone of the institution has been elevated thereby in an extraordinary manner, the young men there under restraint having thus been given an outlet for their thoughts that has resulted in most cases in a complete rehabilitation of their mental attitude toward the place, which, naturally enough, has resulted in a general betterment of their morals and in their more decorous behavior. A striking manifestation of this improved attitude on the part of the inmates toward the institution to which they temporarily are attached has been found in the organization by the young men there restrained of a "Betterment League," which holds regular meetings, unrestrained and without guard, at which all matters looking to the general betterment of the lives of the members of this league are given proper consideration, the members of the league binding themselves to report to the administration any infringement of the mild rules laid down for the conduct of these meetings which might result in any way in a curtailment of the privileges thus accorded. These reports are not in any manner understood as being based upon a system of "spying" on the part of the members of the league, the members agreeing to resort first to proper moral suasion in the case of a possibly refractory member before reporting delinquencies on the latter's part. The effect of improved conditions in the conduct of the school and library in connection with the reformatory also have proved largely beneficial and it is understood that a great work of real and permanent reformation is going on in the lives of many unfortunate young men under the humane system now operative under Superintendent Herr's administration.

Not only in the purely correctional and reformatory aspects of the institution has extensive improvements been noted since Mr. Herr took charge of the reformatory, but in the physical aspect of the place, such as in the improvement of the grounds and the enlargement of the equipment of the reformatory, there has been marked betterment. A manual training department, where the young men are given technical instruction in the leading trades, has been installed by Mr. Herr and an irrigation system has

been provided as a means for the proper and profitable cultivation of the reformatory farm, while the formerly unsightly tract at the front of the grounds, once a mere ugly weed patch, has been converted into a real beauty spot by the exercise of a bit of intelligent direction in the way of landscape gardening. A large cement fish pond, stocked with several varieties of fish and surrounded by flower pots also has been provided and fifty acres of what once was a barren sand waste has been converted into a beautiful catalpa grove. The effect of all this intelligent direction has been to give the inmates of the reformatory an entirely new outlook on life and the conditions temporarily surrounding them, improving their morals and making them more amenable to discipline, while the better spirit of contentment that prevails under these altered conditions has been well proved by the fact that there have been but three elopements from the institution since Mr. Herr assumed the superintendency of the same. Mr. Herr's valuable experiments have attracted wide attention among sociologists and penologists all over the country and have been the subject of numerous interesting treatises presented in various high-class magazines and periodicals devoted to social betterment.

J. Nevon Herr, superintendent of the Kansas state reformatory, is a native of Pennsylvania, having been born in Dauphin county, that state, on March 3, 1875, son of Abraham R. and Elizabeth (Shenk) Herr, both natives of Pennsylvania, of that sterling stock known as Pennsylvania Dutch, the Herr family in this country, however, having originally been founded by a Swiss, who emigrated to America in colonial days. Abraham Herr was a farmer and stockman in Pennsylvania, who, in March, 1886, came, with his family, to Kansas, locating in the Kiowa neighborhood of Barber county, where he bought a half section of land, on which he made his home and where he died in the following June. His widow married, secondly, Henry Somner, who died five years later, and the widow now lives in Wellington, this state. Abraham R. Herr and his wife were earnest members of the Methodist church and their children were reared in that faith. There are five of these children still living, those besides the subject of this biographical review being as follow: Allan, a prosperous farmer and stockman, of Medicine Lodge, this state; A. L., a prominent attorney, of Chickasha, Oklahoma, who married Bertha Downtain; Uriah C., postmaster of Medicine Lodge, this state, and publisher and editor of the *Index* at that place, and Ada, a school teacher, who lives with her mother at Wellington.

J. Nevon Herr was twelve years of age when his parents came to Kansas and he has resided in this state ever since. His elementary education



had been received in the schools of his home neighborhood in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, and this was supplemented by the instructions he later received in the high school at Kiowa, this state, from which he was graduated, after which he entered the employ of a corporation department store at Kiowa, with which concern he remained for eighteen years, his advancement in service with the company being so rapid that during the last few years of his connection therewith he was president of the corporation. During his residence in Kiowa, Mr. Herr took a prominent and active part in civic affairs and was regarded as one of the leaders in the ranks of the Democratic party in Barber county. For four years he served as mayor of Kiowa and his administration of the duties of that office was marked by many and substantial improvements to the town. For four years also Mr. Herr served as a representative in the state Legislature from Barber county and it was during his tenure in this latter office that he received his appointment as superintendent of the Kansas state reformatory at Hutchinson, his administration in that important office dating from August 1, 1913, since which time he has had his residence in the administration building of the reformatory.

On May 12, 1901, J. Nevon Herr was united in marriage to Edith Potter, who was born in New York state and who came to Kansas when five years of age with her parents, Orman J. Potter and wife, the former of whom was a farmer and carpenter, and to this union two children have been born, Eleanor Lucile, born on March 4, 1903, and Harold, February 3, 1908.

Mr. Herr is a member of the Masonic lodge and of the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen, in the affairs of which orders he takes a warm interest.

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#### CHARLES A. RYKER.

Charles A. Ryker, president of the Kansas Central Indemnity Company, of Hutchinson, this county, is a Hoosier, having been born on a farm in Jefferson county, state of Indiana, on January 21, 1859, son of Joseph H. and Eliza S. (McLelland) Ryker, both natives of Indiana, the former of whom, born in 1826, died in 1881, and the latter, born in 1830, is still living.

The Ryker family in America had its origin in Holland, the first of the name to come to this country having located in New York in colonial days.

Gerardus Ryker was the first of the name to settle in Indiana, having been one of the first white men to make a home there. He settled near the northern bank of the Ohio river not far from where the city of Madison later arose. His son, the great-grandfather of Charles A. Ryker, was born on the pioneer farm in what is now Jefferson county, as was his son, the father of Joseph H.; the latter was reared there and spent his last days there. During the Civil War, Joseph H. Ryker served the cause of the Union as a soldier in Company A, Fifty-fifth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and at the close of the war returned to the farm, where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1881, and his widow is still living there. Joseph H. Ryker and wife were members of the Presbyterian church and their seven children were reared in that faith.

Charles A. Ryker spent his youth in Hanover, Jefferson county, Indiana, and his elementary education was received in the local schools there, this course being supplemented by a course in the sterling old Presbyterian institution, Hanover College. In 1879, he then being twenty years of age, Charles A. Ryker came West, locating at Burlington, in Coffey county, this state, where for eight years he worked for mercantile and lumber firms and where he cast his first vote for the Republican party. In 1887 he came to this county, locating at Hutchinson, where he took charge of the lumber yard of the Wisconsin Planing Mill Company, and continued in the lumber business, as manager for different firms, until his election, in 1900, on the Republican ticket, to the office of county treasurer, in which office he served for five years, his term of office having been extended by the Legislature. From the time of his arrival in Hutchinson, Mr. Ryker had taken a thoughtful part in the political affairs of the city and county and had, previous to his election to the treasurer's office, served the public very acceptably both as a member of the city council and as a member of the school board. In 1906 Mr. Ryker was elected a member of the state railway commission and served in that important capacity until the end of 1910. He, for years, served as a member of the Reno county Republican central committee and has been a frequent delegate to the state conventions of his party. In 1910 Mr. Ryker started in the commission business, under the firm style of the Ryker Realty and Commission Company and has so continued to this time. Early in 1915 he was instrumental in effecting the organization of the Kansas Central Indemnity Company, capital stock one hundred thousand dollars, and was elected president of that promising insurance concern, a position he now holds.

In 1881, at Burlington, this state, Charles A. Ryker was united in mar-

riage to Eva Dickinson, who was born in Kansas and whose father, George H. Dickinson, is still a resident of Burlington, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Cornelia, who has been a student at Hanover College, in Indiana, she being a representative of the third generation of her family to attend that excellent old institution. Mr. and Mrs. Ryker are members of the Presbyterian church, and take an interested part in the various social and cultural movements of their home town. They have a very pleasant home at 424 Avenue A, east, which Mr. Ryker built in 1905.

Mr. Ryker is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Modern Woodmen. He is a member of the Commercial Club, which he has served in the official capacity of secretary, and takes a general interest in all movements designed to promote the advancement of conditions in all proper ways hereabout.

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#### ARTHUR E. ASHER.

Arthur E. Asher, president of the Commercial National Bank of Hutchinson, this county, has been a resident of Kansas for twenty-nine years, or since he was twenty-one years of age, and has been a continuous resident of Hutchinson since 1906, his previous residence in that city, begun in 1897, having been interrupted in 1903 by a change in business which took him to Stafford for a period of three years, after which he returned to Hutchinson, which has been his home ever since.

Arthur E. Asher was born in Oldham county, Kentucky, on May 14, 1863, son of Milton and Martha L. (Eddins) Asher, both natives of that same county, both of whom were born in 1835. Milton Asher was the son of James D. Asher, of Irish descent, a pioneer in Oldham county, Kentucky, whose last days were spent there. James D. Asher and wife were members of the Christian church and were the parents of eight children, who were reared in that faith. Martha L. Eddins was the daughter of Abraham and Mary Eddins, both of whom were natives of Kentucky and members of the Methodist church, warmly opposed to the institution of slavery which then existed in most parts of Kentucky.

Milton Asher was reared in Oldham county, Kentucky, and became a carpenter, millwright and bridge builder. He married there and inherited a part of the paternal farm, becoming a man of considerable means. In 1886 he emigrated with his family to this state and located at Stafford, that



being before the days of the railroad there, and there he was engaged extensively as a building contractor for years. In 1897, at the time his son, Arthur E., moved to Hutchinson, he and his wife also moved to that city, and there they both spent their last days, Mrs. Asher dying two years later, in 1899, and Milton Asher dying on January 27, 1911. They were earnest members of the Christian church and their children were reared in that faith. Of these children, four in number, Arthur E. Asher, the immediate subject of this sketch, is now the sole survivor, the others having been as follow: Andrew Jackson, a farmer, who died at the age of twenty-four; Alonzo, a pharmacist, who died at the age of twenty-two, and Rosa L., who died at the tender age of four. -

Arthur E. Asher was reared in Oldham county, Kentucky, receiving his education in the district school of his home neighborhood and at the college at Campbellsburg. He was twenty-one years of age when he came to Kansas with his parents and for a time after locating at Stafford he was engaged in the lumber business in the employ of Fair & Shock. He then entered the employ of the Bank of Stafford and thus began his successful career as a banker. In 1895 he was made cashier of that bank, but two years later, in 1897, left that concern and located in Hutchinson, where he effected the organization of the St. Johns Trust Company, a concern for the exclusive use of cattlemen, and was made secretary of the company. In 1903 that company liquidated and Mr. Asher returned to Stafford, where he organized the First State Bank of Stafford and was made president of that institution. In 1906 he returned to Hutchinson and organized the Commercial National Bank, of which he was made president, a position which he has held ever since. In 1908 Mr. Asher extended his banking operations to Mineola, this state, where he organized the First National Bank of Mineola and was made president of that institution, which office he still holds, at the same time retaining an interest in the First State Bank of Stafford, of which he formerly was president, and of which he still is a director. Mr. Asher is an alert, up-to-date business man and is interested in various other enterprises in and about Hutchinson, among which is the Hutchinson Building and Loan Association, of which he is vice-president and one of the directors.

On December 8, 1888, Arthur E. Asher was united in marriage to Gertrude M. Sommers, who was born in Illinois, daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth Sommers, early residents of Stafford. Alexander Sommers was a carpenter and builder, who took a prominent part in the upbuilding of the

town of Stafford in the earlier days thereabout. He died there and his widow, who is still living, is making her home with Mr. and Mrs. Asher.

To Arthur E. and Gertrude M. (Sommers) Asher three children have been born, namely: Lucile, born in 1890, who married Ernest Dickerson, a traveling salesman, of Hutchinson; Mildred, who married Ray H. Tinder, a lawyer, of Hutchinson, and has one child, a son, Charles Elston, born in April, 1915, and Helen, 1898, who is attending high school. Mr. and Mrs. Asher are members of the Christian church and Mr. Asher is president of the official board of the congregation to which he is attached. He and his wife take an active part in the social life of the city making their presence felt in many useful ways and are held in high regard. Their home at 1009 North Main street is one of the most attractive in the city.

Mr. Asher is a Democrat in matters relating to the policies of the national government, but in local politics is inclined to be rather independent, holding to the view that the man instead of the party should be the guide to the voter in local elections. For seven years he served on the Hutchinson school board and has been a member of the city council for years, his services in both of these offices having proved of large value to the community. Mr. Asher is a Mason and has attained to the York Rite in that order, being one of the most active members of the commandery of the Knights Templar at Hutchinson, and is also an active member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

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### EDWARD TINDALL GUYMON.

Edward Tindall Guymon, one of the best-known and most representative business men in Hutchinson, founder of the town of Guymon, Oklahoma, and prominently identified with many of the most extensive corporations in and about Hutchinson, as well as in other sections of the state, is a native of Illinois, but has been a resident of Kansas since 1879. He was born on a farm near Warsaw, in Hancock county, Illinois, in August, 1859, son of John and Jane (Griggsby) Guymon, both natives of that same state, the former born in 1838 and the latter in 1836.

John Guymon was a farmer. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in behalf of the Union cause and went to the front as a private in Company F, Seventy-eighth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served valorously until captured by the enemy. He was confined

in Andersonville prison, where he died in 1864. After the unhappy death of her soldier husband, Mrs. Guymon took her three children and went to live with her parents in Missouri, remaining there for several years, but later returning to Illinois. She is now making her home with her only remaining son, the subject of this biographical sketch, at Hutchinson, as is her only daughter, Irene, who married Henry Ellison. The other son, Roy, a resident of Los Angeles, California, died in 1911.

Owing the straightened circumstances surrounding his youth, Edward T. Guymon had little opportunity for securing an education in his boyhood, his schooling having been confined to attendance for two or three months each winter for a few winters in Illinois and Missouri, and at eleven years of age he engaged his services to an Illinois farmer for eight dollars a month and worked for that man for four years, at the end of which time he began clerking in a store at Coalsburg, Illinois, where he worked until the spring of 1879, when he came to Kansas, stopping at McPherson, where he was employed for a time as a carpenter's helper. He then secured a place as a clerk in the store of L. H. Thompson, now a resident of Hutchinson, who was then engaged in business at McPherson, and remained thus engaged for two or three years, at the end of which time he was engaged in the Barnes general store, where he remained for some time. He then left McPherson and went to Lakin, a coal-mining town, where he remained two years, a part of which time he was employed as a railroad section hand, after which he returned to McPherson and began clerking in the Fegley store, later going to the Hacklethorn & Northup grocery store, in the same town. Presently, Mr. Guymon bought the interest of Mr. Northup in the store and was a partner in the business for three years, at the end of which time he sold his interest and secured a half interest in a meat-packing plant and was thus engaged for two years. Then Mr. Guymon, in partnership with Messrs. Irvin, Lloyd and Oakley, established the Star Grocery Company at McPherson and from that time on began to make his influence felt as a man of affairs. In 1888 the firm established a branch store at Liberal, this state, and Mr. Guymon took charge of the same in person, remaining there for three years. In 1901 he moved to Lewistown, Illinois, where for two years he was engaged in the manufacture of a grain weigher, at the same time retaining his ownership of the store at Liberal, the Star Grocery Company meanwhile having dissolved. The Star store at Liberal had grown to be an extensive wholesale as well as retail store, supplying the trade throughout that section of the state, as well as in parts of Oklahoma, Texas, New

Mexico and Colorado. In the meantime Mr. Guymon was rapidly developing other interests and in 1902 moved to Hutchinson, where he ever since has resided, operating his extensive business connections from that central point, and has long been regarded as one of the most substantial citizens of central Kansas. Upon locating at Hutchinson he bought the beautiful Wood home at 1019 North Main street and is still living there.

Among the numerous concerns in which Mr. Guymon is actively interested is the Guymon-Petro Wholesale Grocery Company, of Hutchinson, of which he is president; the Commercial National Bank, of Hutchinson, of which he is vice-president; a director and one of the founders of the Hutchinson Electric Light and Water Company; vice-president of the Liberal Elevator and Hutchinson Terminal Elevator Company and director of Hontran Loan and Trust Company; vice-president of the American Warehouse Company; former president of the Guymon Bank of Oklahoma, besides which he is the owner of grocery stores in several towns in Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Nevada and Canada, and has been interested in a number of cattle ranch corporations. It was in 1902, the year in which he took up his residence in Hutchinson, that Mr. Guymon laid out and founded the town of Guymon, named after himself, in Oklahoma. That town has grown to be a place of more than eighteen hundred population, with about forty-five business establishments. Mr. Guymon was president of the company which promoted the town and is actively interested in a number of enterprises in the place, such as grain elevators, stores and the bank, the latter of which Mr. Guymon founded and was for some time its president. Mr. Guymon also has railroad and other interests, his combined connections easily making him one of the leading capitalists of Kansas. Mr. Guymon is a Republican and while living at Liberal served as a member of the city council, but has never sought other offices.

In June, 1887, Edward T. Guymon was united in marriage to Frances Mary Flagg, who was born in Illinois, daughter of George and Mary Flagg, the former of whom died in 1900 and the latter of whom is still living. To this union one child has been born, a son, Edward Tindall, Jr., born on June 8, 1909. Mr. Guymon is a thirty-second-degree Mason and a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, a member of the consistory and the shrine at Wichita, and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs. He is a member of the Hutchinson Commercial Club and the Country Club and in the affairs of both of those local organizations he takes an active interest.



## REV. DANIEL MONTIETH MOORE, D. D.

The minutes of the first meeting of the presbytery of the Presbyterian church of this section of Kansas following the death of the lamented Rev. Daniel Montieth Moore, D. D., in 1900, carries the following tribute of respect and expression of esteem for the memory of a great and good man; a man who had done very much for the spiritual and cultural advancement of this part of the state:

"Doctor Moore was a ripe scholar, always a student, not only of the Scriptures, but also of the best literature and current events. The honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was worthily bestowed upon him by his *alma mater* in 1897. Doctor Moore was an old-time gentleman of rare dignity and commanding presence and was distinguished for his urbanity and hospitality. His religious experience was rich and refined in his declining years."

Daniel Montieth Moore, who was the first ordained clergyman to proclaim the message of the Gospel in Reno county, was a native of Ohio, having been born in the village of Cortsville, in Mahoning county, that state, on January 2, 1824. At the age of fourteen, having then completed the course in his home school, he was sent by his parents to live with his uncle, the Rev. John Montieth, at Elmira, Ohio, and under the fine influence of that good clergyman he was reared to useful manhood. Upon completing the high-school course at Elmira, the studious lad was sent to the academy at Darlington, Pennsylvania, from which he was presently graduated, after which he entered Western University at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from which he was graduated at the age of twenty-two, after which he entered Lane Theological Seminary at Cincinnati, from which sterling old sectarian institution he was graduated three years later, and presently was ordained a minister of the Gospel by his home presbytery. For a short time after his ordination, the Rev. Daniel M. Moore was engaged as acting pastor of a country church in Brown county, Ohio, and it was while thus living his "day of small things" that he married, in June, 1849, Ellen McMillan, daughter of Captain McMillan, of Ripley, Ohio, who died on November 6, 1850, leaving one child, born on April 22, 1850, which died on August 11, of that same year. At Manchester, Ohio, December 30, 1851, Rev. Daniel M. Moore married, secondly, Mary A. Ellison, daughter of William and Mary K. Ellison, who was a faithful and competent helpmate during his long and difficult ministry.

The first charge to which the Rev. Daniel H. Moore was called and in

which he was installed as pastor was the Second Presbyterian church of Greenfield, Ohio, the congregation of which he served as pastor for a period of twelve years, at the end of which time he accepted a call from the Presbyterian church at Yellow Springs, Ohio, and was pastor of that church for nearly five years. In 1868 he accepted a call from the "new school," or "free," Presbyterian church at Lawrence, this state, and thus began his long period of ministerial service in Kansas. Doctor Moore, during antebellum days, ever had been possessed of strong anti-slavery convictions and had acquiesced in the division of the church on that question, but upon the removal of the cause of this division was among the first to seek a reconciliation between the two wings of the church and it was during his pastorate of the "free" church at Lawrence and largely through his efforts that the "new school" and the "old school" churches in that city were reunited, both pastors resigning in order that the united church might call a new pastor. In 1873, two years after the founding of the town of Hutchinson, Doctor Moore accepted the call of the little Presbyterian church at that point to "come over and help us," and thus became the first ordained minister of the Gospel to preach in Reno county. The Presbyterian church at Hutchinson at that time was composed of but seven members, but during the seven years of Doctor Moore's pastorate there the growth of the congregation was proportionately much larger than was the growth of the town. During these seven years of earnest and consecrated effort on the part of Doctor Moore that good minister so impressed his individuality upon the congregation and upon the community as a whole as to give to that pioneer church the sterling characteristics that still distinguish it, he clearly having laid the firm foundation upon which its present strength is built.

It was during his pastorate at Hutchinson that Doctor Moore was selected as a member of the committee which organized the presbytery with which the Presbyterian church at that point is still connected, and it was he and the Rev. Mr. Overstreet who drew the first standing rules for the government of the presbytery, and no other man has been so long or so efficiently connected with the work of the presbytery as was he. Upon leaving Hutchinson, in 1880, Doctor Moore filled charges at Carthage, Illinois; Columbus, Kansas; Ft. Worth, Texas, and El Paso, same state, and in 1887 returned to Hutchinson to pass the remainder of his days among the members of his family and among the firm friends he had made during the time of his long pastorate there in pioneer days. His interest in Hutchinson and in her people never waned and in the very hour of his death, at a few minutes past nine o'clock on August 2, 1900, the aged clergyman feebly ex-



pressed his regret that the state of his health would prevent his attendance on the annual meeting of the old settlers of Reno county that was being held in Hutchinson that day.

To the Rev. Daniel M. and Mary K. (Ellison) Moore three children were born, W. E. Moore, of Peru, Illinois; E. M. Moore, manager of the Hutchinson Printing Company, of Hutchinson, and Mrs. E. L. Meyer, wife of the president of the First National Bank of Hutchinson.

Edward M. Moore was born in the town of Greenfield, Highland county, Ohio, in 1861, during the period of his father's pastorate at that place and he was seven years of age when he came with his parents to Kansas in 1868. His early schooling was received at Lawrence and he remained there until in March, 1874, when he followed his father to Hutchinson and became "devil," or printer's factotum in the office of the *Hutchinson News*. In the early fall of that year, W. F. Wallace started the *Independent* in Hutchinson and young Moore transferred his services to that paper, continuing as printer there under the successive ownerships of E. Conway Bruffy, a Virginian, and Jap Turpin, an Indianian. When the *Interior Herald* was launched by W. C. Bowles, J. W. Kauaga and others, with Henry Inman as editor, Mr. Moore went over to that paper, serving the owners thereof as printer until they sold to J. W. Kauaga, after which he continued with the latter owner for three years, doing the printing of the paper under contract. In 1882 Mr. Moore left Hutchinson for a time and went to Peru, Illinois, where he was engaged as shipping clerk by the Illinois Zinc Company until 1886, in which year he returned to Hutchinson and engaged there in the plumbing business for one year, at the end of which time he resumed his connection with the printing trades, taking employment in the printing department of the *Hutchinson News*, under R. M. Eansley, editor. Presently Mr. Moore was given charge of the circulation department of the *News* and when the Sponslers bought the paper he was made advertising manager. In 1895 Edward M. Moore and W. Y. Morgan bought the *Hutchinson Daily News*, Mr. Moore acting as business manager of the same until 1908. In 1909 the Hutchinson Printing Company ("Jay Hawker Press") was incorporated to take over the job-printing department of the *News*, that paper no longer to engage in the job-printing business, and Mr. Moore was made manager of the same, which position he still holds, retaining his interests in both the printing company and the newspaper.

Edward M. Moore has been twice married, his first wife having been Clara A. McInturff, who was born in Trenton, Missouri, daughter of

Andrew and Lucretia McInturff, early settlers of Reno county, who homesteaded a place in Lincoln township in 1873, later moving to Hutchinson, where Mr. McInturff became a well-known photographer, in which business he continued until his death. Mrs. Moore died in 1908, without issue, and on August 11, 1911, Edward M. Moore married, secondly, Belle Rice, who was born in Ohio, daughter of George and Elizabeth Rice, the former of whom, now deceased, for years was a well-known building contractor in Hutchinson, who erected the Masonic Temple, numerous school buildings and other important buildings throughout the city and county, and whose widow is now making her home with Mr. and Mrs. Moore.

Mr. Moore is very prominently connected with the order of the United Commercial Travelers, in the affairs of which he takes a warm and active interest. He has served as the grand treasurer in the state organization of that popular association and has several times been a delegate to the national conventions of the organization.

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### SAMUEL G. PUTERBAUGH.

Samuel G. Puterbaugh, a well-known retired banker of Hutchinson, this county, is a native of Ohio, he having been born on a farm in the Xenia neighborhood of that state on November 11, 1840, son of David and Catherine (Snyder) Puterbaugh, the former of whom, born in 1800 died in 1864, and the latter, born in 1803, died in 1853.

David Puterbaugh was born near the town of Hagerstown, Pennsylvania, and was reared on a farm there. Following his marriage, he and his wife moved to Greene county, Ohio, where they lived on a farm until 1850, in which year they moved with their family to Illinois, settling in Tazewell county, where they established a new home, in which Mrs. Puterbaugh died three years later. David Puterbaugh lived until 1864 and became one of the well-to-do men of that section, having been the owner of more than one thousand acres of land. While living in Ohio, he and his wife were members of the German Lutheran church, but upon moving to Illinois, finding no church of their denomination there, became members of the Christian church. They were the parents of ten children, of whom only one besides the subject of this biographical review is now surviving, David Puterbaugh, a real-estate speculator and traveling salesman, of Kansas City. Another brother, John Puterbaugh was for years a resident of Hutchinson.

this county, he having been engaged in the agricultural business there and, in boom times, was well known as a real-estate speculator. He died in 1888.

Samuel G. Puterbaugh was ten years of age when his family moved from Ohio to Illinois and in the latter state he went to school but one year. He grew up on the farm in Tazewell county and upon the first call to arms after Ft. Sumter had been fired on enlisted in the Eighth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, for the three-months service, and served in that regiment for six months, at the end of which time he enlisted in the Third Illinois Cavalry, with which he served until the close of the war, the greater part of this service having been in the Army of the West, under General Grant. Mr. Puterbaugh was wounded twice, once in 1862 and again in 1863. At the battle of Lafayette, Mississippi, he was taken prisoner and for eight months was kept in durance by the Confederates, for one month at Mobile and the remainder of the time in Belle Isle, Richmond. He then was exchanged and until the end of the war served in the Tennessee campaign, near Memphis and Vicksburg.

At the close of the war, Mr. Puterbaugh engaged in the dry-goods business at Mackinaw, in Tazewell county, Illinois, in partnership with his brother John, which connection continued for three years, at the end of which time the brothers sold their store, John coming to Kansas and Samuel G. moving to Pekin, county seat of his home county, where for four years he served as deputy clerk of the circuit court, at the end of which time he became a candidate for the office of county clerk, on the Greeley ticket, and was defeated by only sixty votes. He then went to Chicago, where he entered the service of the John V. Farwell Company, with which he was connected for five years in the capacity of a traveling salesman, after which he transferred his services to Carson, Pirie, Scott & Company and was for twenty-five years engaged with that company as a general salesman, having charge of their Kansas territory, meanwhile making his home in Chicago. He then became interested in the Webb-Freyschlag Company at Kansas City and, resigning his position in Chicago, moved to Kansas City and took charge of that company's affairs. This work, however, proved too confining and in 1904 Mr. Puterbaugh traded a part of his stock in the Webb-Freyschlag Company for a general store at Lyons, this state, and moved to the latter place, where he lived for two years. Upon finding his health completely restored he came to this county in 1907, locating at Hutchinson, where he organized the Reno State Bank, though still retaining his store at Lyons. He was elected the first president of the Reno State Bank and served that institution in that capacity until the time of his retirement

from active business affairs, and still makes his home in Hutchinson, being the owner of a very pleasant home at 1006 North Maine street, of modern style and very attractive, built in 1911.

On February 16, 1887, Samuel G. Puterbaugh was united in marriage to Nora L. Webb, who was born in Macon, Illinois, and who is a reader in the Christian Science church at Hutchinson. Mr. and Mrs. Puterbaugh have an adopted daughter, Elizabeth B., who was born in November, 1909. Mr. Puterbaugh is an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

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### MARTIN CHARLES BUSSINGER.

Martin Charles Bussinger, one of the best-known retired farmers of Reno county, now living in Hutchinson, former trustee of Center township, an honored veteran of the Civil War and one of the real pioneers of this county, he having been a resident here since the year 1873, is a native of Ohio, having been born in the village of Gnadenhutten, Tuscarawas county, that state, June 2, 1843, son of Anselm and Sarah (Keiser) Bussinger, the former a native of the republic of Switzerland and the latter of Pennsylvania, born in the city of Philadelphia.

Anselm Bussinger was born in 1802 and was about nine years old when he came to this country from Switzerland with his parents in 1811, the family locating in the city of Philadelphia, where young Anselm grew to manhood and where he learned the cabinet-maker's trade. He married in that city Sarah Keiser, who was born in Philadelphia in 1806, daughter of a physician, and presently moved to Gnadenhutten, in Tuscarawas county, where he was for some years engaged at his trade of cabinet-making, later, in April, 1859, moving to Indiana and locating on a farm in the neighborhood of the city of Terre Haute. Years later he and his wife came to Kansas and their last days were spent in this state, his death occurring in Reno county in 1876 and hers, ten years later, in 1886, in Kingman county. Anselm Bussinger was a Republican and he and his wife were members of the Congregational church. They were the parents of six children, those besides the subject of this biographical review being as follow: Henrietta, born in Philadelphia, who married Dr. Samuel B. Livingston; Henry, born in Philadelphia; John, born in Pittsburgh; Sophia, born at Gnadenhutten, Ohio, and Louisa, also born at the last named place, which also was the birthplace of M. C. Bussinger.







*Martin C. Brasinger*





*Sarah C Bussinger*



Martin C. Bussinger was about sixteen years of age when the family moved from Ohio to Indiana, in the spring of 1859, locating on a farm in the Terre Haute neighborhood, and he was living there when the Civil War broke out. Upon the call for volunteers to defend the flag and suppress the rebellion, Mr. Bussinger, following the example of thousands of other patriotic young men of Indiana, abandoned his civil pursuits and offered his services as a soldier. He enlisted in Company K, Eighty-fifth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, which was organized at Terre Haute, John P. Baird, colonel; Lewis Pucket, captain of Company K. The Eighty-fifth Indiana was mustered in on August 12, 1862, and was mustered out, June 12, 1865, at the close of the war. Mr. Bussinger followed the fortunes of this regiment from the start to finish, participating in the marches and minor skirmishes, in the early months of service, in Kentucky and Tennessee; the severe engagement at Thompson's Station, Tennessee, March 3, 1863, when the greater part of the brigade to which the regiment was attached was overwhelmed by a superior force and taken prisoners; in the Atlanta campaign under Sherman, participating in the battles of Resaca, Dallas, Culp's Farm, Peach Tree Creek and others; in the march to the sea, the siege and capture of Savannah; thence through the Carolinas, participating in the last severe engagement of the war, at Averysboro, North Carolina; thence on to Bentonville, Goldsboro and Raleigh, being stationed at the latter place when Lee surrendered; thence on to Washington, participating in the final Grand Review of the army at the close of the war.

During Sherman's march from Atlanta to the sea, the army was wholly dependent upon the country through which it passed for subsistence. Details were made from the several commands and sent out each day, some distance from the line of march, to gather food and forage. These details were under command of an officer and a strong guard as a protection against straggling bands of the enemy. Not infrequently soldiers of Sherman's army would leave the command to forage on their own account, taking the risk of being captured and severely dealt with by the enemy. Mr. Bussinger took a risk of this kind, and a narration of his experience in getting back with his "supplies" to the "safety zone" will be of interest in this personal sketch.

"It was dangerous business, going out foraging," said he, "for the 'Johnnies' were prowling about all the time. Once I came very near being captured. I was sent by my lieutenant down to a white house to forage around for food. He said it was half a mile, but I found it a good deal farther.

"There were three women on the porch. I kept my eye on them, for I didn't want to take any chances and I wasn't sure whether or not they would fight. I backed away from them, meanwhile keeping an eye on them, while I searched for food. In the smoke house I found some sides of bacon, several of which I hung to my saddle and then started off. I didn't have a gun and when I saw a man ahead I made an effort to get away, but he saw me and took after me calling on me to surrender; but I kept on going and finally got away. I found that the 'Johnnies' had driven my company away when I got back to where I had left it, and I had a close call in finding my company.

"At another time, soon after leaving Atlanta, I went out foraging on my own hook. We were getting short of food and I was mighty hungry. I decided to go out and see what I could get. I was warned not to go, for the rebels were all around us, and they were hanging every forager they caught and filling the bodies full of bullets. But I decided that I'd take a chance. I was so hungry that I didn't much care; I'd about as soon be killed as to die of starvation, I thought. So, early the next morning, I struck out before the boys were up. In a short time I came to a house and after looking around found I was safe. Finding a sack of flour in the house I picked up the sack and started off with it. I ran across an old negro and made him carry the sack for me. He begged hard to be relieved, as he said there were rebels all around; 'they's thousands of 'em right over dar in de woods,' he said, but I made him go ahead and carry the sack. He begged every step of the way, and was almost scared to death, for fear there'd be a 'reb' behind a tree ahead. Finally, we got to the road which would take me to our lines, when I saw some chickens that tempted me. I knew I'd better be hurrying along, but I couldn't leave those chickens. The old negro kept insisting that the 'rebs' were coming, but I made him catch three hens and a mule for me. Then, with my sack of flour and three chickens on the mule, I struck off down the road. I didn't meet any 'rebs' and got back to camp safe with the supplies. We had good eating in my mess for a few days."

After his discharge from the army, at the close of the war, Mr. Bussinger returned to Terre Haute and remained there until the fall of 1866, when he went to Coles county, Illinois, where he remained for about two years, working on a farm, and where he was married, after which he moved to Iowa and located at Charitan, in Lucas county, where he remained until the fall of 1873, when he and his family came to Kansas and located in Reno county, where they ever since have made their home. It was in September,

1873, that Mr. Bussinger settled on his homestead in Center township, this county, he and his family thus having been among the earliest pioneers of that part of the county. He developed that homestead farm and became a large landowner and one of the most influential residents of the county. For years he served as trustee of Center township, and in other ways did his part in the development of the civic interests of the community. Mr. Bussinger is a Republican and has, ever since coming to this county, given his earnest attention to local political affairs. In 1901 Mr. Bussinger sold his farm and moved to Hutchinson, where he started his children in business and has since then lived retired.

It was on December 2, 1867, in Coles county, Illinois, that Martin C. Bussinger was united in marriage to Sarah C. Johnston, who also was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, November 2, 1842, daughter of Christopher and Grace L. (Kennedy) Johnston, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Ohio, and to this union ten children were born, three of whom died in infancy, the others being as follow: Gracie, born in Coles county, Illinois, who married Lincoln S. Davis and died at Partridge, leaving a daughter, Charlotte G.; Charles, born in Lucas county, Iowa, who married Eliza Paine; Bertha, also born in Lucas county, who married George H. Pickens, a Reno county farmer, and has five children, George, Grace, Bertha, Claude and Harold; Harry, born on the homestead farm in Center township, who married Abbie Pickens and has four children, Charles, William, George and Robert; Eugene, born in Center township, who married Selma Austman; Louise, born in Center township, who married C. E. Pickens, a Reno county farmer, and has three children, Carl, Helen and Francis, and Annette, also born in Center township, who married H. L. Eales, proprietor of an automobile repair shop at Hutchinson, and has one child, Bertha.

Mr. and Mrs. Bussinger are earnest members of the Methodist church and for years have been active in the work of that denomination in this county. Upon coming to this county they brought their letters from the Methodist church at their former home and put the same with these of the congregation of the First Methodist church at Hutchinson, with which they ever since have been connected. Mr. Bussinger was a member of the original building committee of the church and was superintendent of construction when the first church was built; also, as an officer of the church, taking an active part in the work of refurnishing and decorating the edifice in February, 1908. He is now a member of the board of trustees of the First Methodist church and continues to maintain his warm interest in the affairs of the same.



## PET NATION.

Pet Nation, cattleman and banker, vice-president of the First National Bank of Hutchinson and for years one of the leading factors in the commercial and financial life of that city, though a Hoosier by birth has been a resident of Kansas since he was a boy fourteen years old and a resident of this county since he was eighteen, hence is as true and loyal a son of Reno as though "native and to the manner born." He was born on a farm in Henry county, Indiana, in 1864, son of Sylvan and Sarah Nation, both natives of that state, the latter of whom died in 1903, at the age of sixty-two, and the former of whom is living at Emporia, this state, in his eightieth year, for many years one of the best-known cattlemen in that section of the state.

It was in 1881 that Sylvan Nation left his farm in Indiana and with his family came to Kansas. He located at Emporia and in that vicinity engaged in the cattle business on a constantly growing scale until he presently became known as one of the most extensive ranchmen in the state and is still actively engaged in the business in which for years he has made so distinct a success. His three sons followed in his footsteps and all became successful, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, Fred and Carl, who are largely engaged in the cattle business, with headquarters at Emporia.

Pet Nation was seventeen years old when the family came to Kansas in 1881 and he at once entered, heart and soul, into the fine free life of the open range. As a cowboy on his father's ranch, he reached his physical growth early and learned the cattle business from the bottom up, early becoming a thoroughly experienced and competent cattleman. When eighteen years old, in 1882, he came to Reno county and started in the cattle business on his own account. Six years later, in 1888, following his marriage, he moved onto a half section of land in the northern part of Reno township, on Cow creek, and there established his home, but presently his operations had expanded to such a point that he found he could conduct his affairs more advantageously from the vantage ground of the city and in 1890 he moved from the farm into Hutchinson, where he ever since has made his home, directing his cattle business and other extensive interests from that point. Some time after locating in Hutchinson Mr. Nation sold his Reno county ranch and bought a much more extensive ranch over in Chase county, which he has since operated very successfully. He also is actively identified with the financial and commercial interests of this com-



munity and as vice-president of the First National Bank of Hutchinson, the oldest and strongest financial institution in central Kansas, is recognized as one of the leading and most influential factors in the financial life of this section of the state, and has done much to advance the material welfare of the community.

In 1888 Mr. Nation was united in marriage to Nettie Price, daughter of P. B. and Sarah Price, the former of whom, for years was one of Hutchinson's leading real-estate men, is now deceased and the latter of whom is still living in Hutchinson. To this union one child has been born, a daughter, Eula, who married Edward W. Meyer, assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Hutchinson, and lives at 510 Avenue A, east. In 1902 Mr. Nation erected a fine residence at 512 Avenue A, east, and there he and his wife are very pleasantly situated. Mr. Nation is a member of the Hutchinson Commercial Club and takes an earnest interest in the affairs of that organization, constantly on the alert to promote any movement having to do with the further development of his home town.

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#### CAPT. JOHN M. HEDRICK.

Capt. John M. Hedrick, who enjoys the local distinction of being the only man ever elected to three terms as sheriff of Reno county, is a veteran of the Civil War and one of the real pioneers of this county, he having come here the year after the first permanent settlement in the county, when this section was a virgin plain, buffaloes and hostile Indians then roaming at will hereabout.

John M. Hedrick was born in Clark county, Ohio, August 22, 1840, son of Isaac and Elizabeth (Patterson) Hedrick, the former of whom was a native of Kentucky and the latter of Pennsylvania. Isaac Hedrick was a prominent farmer and stock buyer and drover, well known throughout eastern and central Ohio, whose custom it was to buy up cattle, fatten them on his farm and drive them to the eastern markets. During the Civil War he served the Union cause as a member of the famous Ohio "squirrel hunters" and was a patriotic and influential citizen, eight of whose sons served as soldiers in the Union army during the war and the eldest of whom, David, also had been a soldier in the Mexican War. Isaac Hedrick was twice married, his first wife, mother of the subject of this sketch, having been the mother of seven children. Following her death, Mr. Hedrick married a

widow who had five children by her former marriage and to this second union ten children were born, making twenty-two children in the Hedrick family. Captain Hedrick has but one full brother living, William, a farmer, who lives at Palmyra, Missouri. Another brother, Joseph, now deceased, was for years a well-known painter in Hutchinson, this county.

The boyhood of John M. Hedrick was spent upon the paternal farm in Ohio, school periods being limited to attendance three months a year in a little log school house, and very early he began assisting his father in the business of driving cattle, making trips through Ohio and into Illinois and Indiana after cattle, which later would be driven to eastern markets. He spent the winter of 1859 with his brother in Brown county, Illinois, returning the next spring to his home in Ohio. On April 17, 1861, John M. Hedrick enlisted, at Columbus, Ohio, in Company F, Twenty-second Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in response to the President's call for three-months volunteers. In September of that same year he re-enlisted, this time taking service in the Fourth Ohio Cavalry, with which he served until July, 1865, a period of nearly four years. He was mustered in as a private, but gradually was promoted and in the summer of 1864 was made the captain of his company. Captain Hedrick's service throughout the war was with the Army of the Cumberland and he participated in most of the severe engagements undertaken by that great army. On his twenty-fourth birthday, during Kilpatrick's raid at Lovejoy Station, near Atlanta, Captain Hedrick was wounded and for a time was laid up in the hospital. During Sherman's march to the sea he was in Wilson's cavalry brigade and fought at Stone's River and in all the cavalry raids around Chattanooga and Atlanta. Seven of Captain Hedrick's brothers also served the Union cause as soldiers during the Civil War and at one time one of his half-brothers, Louis, was serving in his company.

At the close of the war Captain Hedrick returned home and married and in 1868 went to Brown county, Illinois, where he bought a farm and there remained for two years, at the end of which time he sold out and moved to Grundy county, Missouri, where he remained two years, engaged in farming, and then came to Kansas, arriving in Reno county on September 17, 1872, only one year after the first permanent settlement in the county. Captain Hedrick homesteaded a claim in Lincoln township and also "proved up" a timber claim in the vicinity of his homestead, and there established a new home. In the spring of 1875, Captain Hedrick was the hero of an incident which effectually put a stop to further attempts at claim "jumping" in Reno county. The claim of Fay Smith, a neighbor of Captain Hedrick

and the later deputy sheriff under him, had been "jumped" by a man of the name of Pierce. This action aroused the pioneers of that section and about forty of them gathered, under Captain Hedrick's direction, captured Pierce and under threats to drown him in a pool in the creek on the Hedrick farm compelled him to sign a relinquishment of his claim and get out of the country. This incident made Captain Hedrick the hero of Reno county and that fall he was elected sheriff on the Republican ticket. He was re-elected to that office in the next election, serving two terms of two years each, and then waited two years and was again a candidate and was triumphantly re-elected, thus having the distinction of being the only man in Reno county who has served three terms as sheriff. Following his service in the sheriff's office, Captain Hedrick returned to his farm, where he lived ten years, at the end of which time he sold his Lincoln township homestead and bought three hundred and twenty acres in the northeast part of that same township, where he lived until 1904, in which year he retired from the active life of the farm and moved into Hutchinson. In 1906 he bought ten acres in South Hutchinson, where he has a very pleasant home and where he is living in quiet retirement.

On November 9, 1865, Capt. John M. Hedrick was united in marriage to Catherine Kneister, of Madison county, Ohio, to which union three children were born, Dolly, who married Alfred Wainner and lives in Lincoln township; Johanna, who married Benjamin S. Wainner, a clerk in the post-office at Hutchinson, and Edward, a farmer, living near Big Sandy, Montana. The mother of these children died on August 21, 1897, and on January 2, 1901, Captain Hedrick married, secondly, Mrs. Mary (Ingraham) Wilson, widow of Smith Wilson, who died in 1895, and daughter of Oliver and Mary Ingraham. Oliver Ingraham died when his daughter, Mary, was three years of age and his widow and children moved from their home in Blair county, Pennsylvania, to this county, in 1879, and bought a farm in Reno township, where they established a new home.

Captain Hedrick is an ardent Republican and from the day of his coming to Reno county has taken a warm interest in civic affairs. In addition to his distinguished services as sheriff of the county back in pioneer days, he also served as justice of the peace for years and in other ways has given his most intelligent attention to good government. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and for years has given close attention to the affairs of the local post. He also is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in the affairs of which he also is warmly interested.

## GEORGE HIRST.

The late George Hirst, for many years one of the best-known and most popular farmers of Lincoln township, this county, whose death on October 29, 1915, was the occasion of much sorrow in that community, was a native of Wisconsin, having been born in the town of Darlington, that state, January 13, 1856, son of George and Elizabeth (Brillbrough) Hirst, both natives of England, whose last days were spent in Reno county, they having been for years highly respected residents of Lincoln township.

George Hirst was born in the city of Leeds, England, and grew up there, becoming a very proficient cabinet-maker. Shortly after their marriage he and his wife came to the United States, settling at Janesville and later at Darlington, Wisconsin, where for twenty years Mr. Hirst followed the trade of carpenter, during that time doing much for the upbuilding of the town. In the fall of 1872 George Hirst came to Kansas, homesteaded a tract of land in section 6, of Lincoln township, and there established his family in the spring of 1873. The Hirsts at once entered actively into the community life of that section and it was not long until they were regarded as one of the most substantial and useful families in the neighborhood. Mr. Hirst served for one term as a member of the school board, and in other ways displayed his interest in the common good. He died on July 25, 1897, and his widow survived until September 25, 1914, her death occurring at Hutchinson, in which city she had made her home in her later years. They were the parents of eight children, of whom George, the immediate subject of this memorial sketch, was the eldest son and the third child, in order of birth. Further details of the history of this interesting pioneer family are set out in the biographical sketch relating to William Hirst, a prosperous farmer, of Lincoln township, presented elsewhere in this volume.

George Hirst spent his boyhood in his native town of Darlington, Wisconsin, receiving his education in the schools of that city, and was seventeen years old when he came with his parents to Reno county in 1873, the family being among the very earliest settlers of Lincoln township. His father was not in robust health and George, the eldest son, early became the mainstay in the labor of developing the homestead farm. Upon him fell very largely the difficult task of "breaking out" the prairie and he lived at home, practically managing the place, until ten months after his marriage, in 1882. A year previous to his marriage, Mr. Hirst had bought a tract of eighty acres adjoining his father's farm and on this place he remodeled the house that







then was standing there and in it established his home. He later bought another "eighty," a mile east of his home and in 1914, upon the death of his mother, bought eighty acres of the old homestead tract, besides which he was the owner of a one-third interest in a half section of land in Troy township, and at the time of his death was accounted one of the most substantial and progressive farmers in that part of the county. Not only was he diligent in his own business, but he had a fine regard for the public service and had rendered efficient and valuable aid in carrying on the functions of local government, having served as treasurer of the local school board for more than thirty years and for some time also served as township clerk. He was not an intense partisan in his political allegiance, ever supporting such candidates for office as he regarded best qualified for the offices sought, irrespective of their party indorsement. Mr. Hirst was a member of the American Order of United Workmen, in the affairs of which organization he took a warm interest, and was held in high regard by his neighbors and throughout the county generally, he having had, as a pioneer, a wide acquaintance throughout this whole region.

On December 25, 1882, George Hirst was united in marriage to Elma Templin, who was born in the village of Elizabeth City, Indiana, November 14, 1858, daughter of Lancy Jefferson and Mary Ann (Learner) Templin, the former a native of Indiana and the latter of Pennsylvania. As a young man Lancy J. Templin became an ordained minister of the Methodist church and for some years was a preacher in a Howard county circuit in his home state. Becoming afflicted with an asthmatic affection, he sought relief in the ideal climate of this section and in 1876 came to Kansas, locating at Hutchinson. For several years he was engaged as a school teacher and after a period of admirable and useful service in that connection rented a farm near Hutchinson and for four or five years was engaged in farming. In the spring of 1882 he and his wife moved to Canon City, Colorado, and there Mr. Templin was engaged in raising fruit and garden stuff for several years, at the end of which time he moved to California and after a residence of three years in that state returned to Colorado, locating at Florence, in that state, where his death occurred on December 19, 1900, he then being sixty-five years of age. His widow, who still survives, and who celebrated the eighty-second anniversary of her birthday on April 1, 1917, is now making her home with her children. To Lancy J. Templin and wife six children were born, as follow: Alice, who married the Rev. J. M. Clark, a minister of the Methodist church, was killed in a highway accident when thirty-two

years of age, a pony which she was driving having backed off an embankment, throwing Mrs. Clark in such a manner that her back was broken; Elma, widow of Mr. Hirst; Olin, for many years a member of the faculty of the University of Kansas at Lawrence, he now being dean of that institution; Larner, whose whereabouts have long been unknown to the family; Ida, who married George M. Deibert, a furniture dealer and undertaker, of Florence, Colorado, and Dana, who is engaged in the United States reclamation service, now stationed at Rupert, Idaho.

For four years after coming to Reno county Mrs. Hirst taught school, being thus engaged in Medford, Reno and Lincoln townships, and ever has taken a warm interest in the social and cultural activities of the community, her capable and useful services in that connection being greatly appreciated, particularly in the neighborhood in which she so long has made her home, and she is held in the highest esteem throughout that whole section. She has a very pleasant home in Lincoln township and is quite comfortably situated there, two of her sons continuing to make their home with her. She is the mother of four children, namely: Jesse Templin, born on November 23, 1883, unmarried, who is now operating a farm which he bought near Pine River, Minnesota; Daisy, February 27, 1888, who married Will E. Homan and lives on a farm near McAllen, Texas; Warren Leroy, December 17, 1890, unmarried, who is the active manager of his mother's farm, and George Ivan, January 13, 1896, who is also still making his home with his mother, a valuable assistant in the operation of the home place.

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### JOHN P. HARSHA.

Former Mayor John P. Harsha, of Hutchinson, who is now living comfortably retired at his pleasant home at 207 Avenue A, east, in that city, is a native of Pennsylvania, having been born in the town of Harshaville, Beaver county, that state, September 6, 1849, son of Dr. John M. and Mary (Dawson) Harsha, both natives of that same county and members of prominent families thereabout, and both of whom are now deceased.

Dr. John M. Harsha was a practicing physician at Harshaville, who, in 1854, moved to Washington county, Ohio, locating near the town of Marietta, where he laid out the town of Cutler, upon the completion of the railroad now operated by the Baltimore & Ohio Southwestern Railroad Company, and also was the owner of other extensive land interests. In

1872 he moved to Shawneetown, Illinois, and made his home there, practicing his profession, until 1872, in which year he came to Kansas, locating in Reno county, where he bought twelve hundred acres of land in Lincoln township and lived there until 1878, when, following his election to the office of county surveyor, he moved to Hutchinson, the county seat, where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1885, at the age of sixty-six. Doctor Harsha not only was a practicing physician of wide reputation hereabout, but was a civil engineer of much ability, having learned surveying under his father, John Harsha, who was one of the best-known civil engineers in Pennsylvania in his day, and in his official capacity as county surveyor of Reno county performed a valuable service in behalf of the public. He was a Whig originally, but upon the formation of the Republican party became a Republican and was thereafter affiliated with that party. He was a member of the United Presbyterian church and ever was active in good works. Doctor Harsha was twice married. His first wife, who, before her marriage was Mary Dawson, died in 1860, at the age of thirty-two years, leaving three children, of whom the eldest was John P. Harsha, the subject of this biographical review, the others being William C., a merchant of Partridge, this state, and Benoni R., who died at his home in Vincennes, Indiana, in October, 1912. Following the death of the mother of the above children, Doctor Harsha married, secondly, in 1863, Amanda M. Garen, who is now living in Kansas City, Missouri.

John P. Harsha was five years of age when his family moved from Pennsylvania to Washington county, Ohio, and he received his elementary education in the local schools of his home neighborhood, supplementing the same by a course in Bartlett College at Plymouth, Ohio, from which excellent old institution he was graduated, after which, in 1869, he then being twenty years of age, he entered the service of the road now known as the Baltimore & Ohio Southwestern as secretary to the superintendent of construction, with headquarters at Shawneetown, Illinois, and remained with that company for eighteen years, eventually becoming traveling freight and passenger agent, with jurisdiction over business originating at Ohio, Mississippi and Cumberland river points. In 1882 Mr. Harsha came to Reno county on a visit to his father and was so highly impressed by the possibilities then presented in land investment that he bought twelve hundred acres of land in Salt Creek and Center townships and proceeded to develop the same. In March, 1887, he moved to Hutchinson and opened a retail grocery store near the corner of Sherman and Main streets, under the firm name of Harsha & Duval, which firm sold out in 1888, after which

Mr. Harsha was instrumental in the organization of the Hutchinson Wholesale Grocery Company, J. F. Greenlee, president; Frank Vincent, vice-president; John P. Harsha, treasurer, and J. S. George, secretary, which firm quickly established itself on a very substantial business footing, becoming known far and near throughout the territory covered by its salesmen. In 1894 Mr. Harsha bought Mr. Greenlee's interest in the company and became president of the same, a position he retained until April 26, 1915, at which time he retired from active business, though still retaining some of his former business connections and is still president of the Antheline Manufacturing Company, of Hutchinson.

From the very beginning of his residence in this county, Mr. Harsha has taken an active interest in political affairs and has given valuable service to the public in a civic capacity. For three years he served as a member of the city council and then, in 1897, was elected mayor of Hutchinson on the Republican ticket for a term of two years. He was re-elected upon the expiration of that term and thus served four years. In 1903 he again was elevated to the office of the city's chief executive and was retained in office three successive terms, thus making a service of ten years in the mayor's office, a distinction accorded no other man in the political history of Hutchinson. During Mayor Harsha's incumbency many notable improvements were made in Hutchinson, including the Cow creek drainage canal, which was built under his administration, undoubtedly a measure which has saved Hutchinson some very disastrous floods and has been of great sanitary benefit to the whole community. In other ways, too, Mr. Harsha has proved his enterprise and public spirit and the people of this community gladly accord to him the credit of having been the means of accomplishing much in behalf of the common good.

On September 14, 1873, John P. Harsha was united in marriage to Aletha A. Campbell, who was born in New Cumberland, Hancock county, Virginia, now a part of West Virginia, daughter of John and Ruth (Swearngen) Campbell, both natives of that section, where all their lives were spent, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Ruth, who married William Snyder, a traveling salesman, and now lives in Los Angeles, California; May, who is living at home with her parents; Clyde B., a traveling salesman for the Hutchinson Wholesale Grocery Company, who married Nell Devine and makes his home in Hutchinson, and Harry, also at home. The Harshas have a very pleasant home at 207 Avenue A, east, which Mr. Harsha bought in 1900.

Mr. Harsha is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Benev-



olent and Protective Order of Elks, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of those two popular orders. Mrs. Harsha is a member of the Christian church.

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### WILLIAM G. FAIRCHILD.

William G. Fairchild, of Hutchinson, long recognized as one of the leading members of the bar of Reno county, is a native of New Jersey, he having been born in Monmouth county, that state, the only son of Samuel G. and Sarah A. (Hoff) Fairchild, the former of whom died in 1909, at the age of eighty-one, and the latter of whom still is living at Keyport, New Jersey.

Samuel G. Fairchild was for many years one of the best-known men in maritime circles in the East. He was the owner of an extensive line of ships and for eighteen years was in the service of the government as inspector of steamships for the third district, which includes the port of New York.

William G. Fairchild, the only child of his parents, received his early education at the military school at Cheshire, Connecticut, from which he was graduated in 1879, and entered Sheffield, Yale, but quitting on account of ill health. As a boy and young man he spent considerable time at sea in various capacities, from supercargo to master, spending almost two years of this time in Mexico. After this he returned to the United States and was for some time engaged in civil engineering and helped to lay out and build the town of Macksville, Kansas. In 1888 he was admitted to the supreme court of Kansas, immediately thereafter becoming the law partner of H. C. Johns, at Larned, which mutually agreeable connection continued until the death of Mr. Johns in 1894. In 1892 Mr. Fairchild closed his Larned office and with Mr. Johns came to this county, locating at Hutchinson, the county seat, where he has been engaged in the practice of his profession ever since. After the death of Mr. Johns, Mr. Fairchild formed a partnership with James McKinstry, which was dissolved in 1899 and a few years later, in 1902, he formed a partnership with Howard Lewis, which still continues, this well-known legal firm having been very successful.

On April 29, 1891, William G. Fairchild was united in marriage to Ellen F. Campbell, who was born in the state of New York, daughter of Charles E. and Anna (Foster) Campbell, formerly of Ft. Worth, Texas, who are now living in Hutchinson, this county. To this union two children have been born, Samuel G., who, after an engineering course in the

Kansas State University, is now with the Santa Fe Railroad Company, and Stephen J., a student in Kemper Military School at Boonville, Missouri. The Fairchild family has a very pleasant home at 551 Sherman street, east, in the city of Hutchinson.

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### PROF. STEWART P. ROWLAND.

In 1914 when the biennial question of electing a county superintendent of schools in Reno came up there was considerable agitation in certain quarters looking to the possibility of a change in the incumbency of that office, the argument advanced in the quarters intimated being that it was not "good politics" to keep on retaining, year after year, a Democrat in a public office in a county which then was and for years had been strongly Republican. The teachers of the county, getting wind of this agitation, put their heads together and drafted a series of resolutions, signed by practically every teacher in the county, as well as by the principal and teachers of the Reno county high school and the principals and teachers of the graded schools throughout the county. Needless to say, Professor Rowland, superintendent of the Reno county schools since the year 1908, was again re-elected by his usual handsome majority.

The resolutions thus referred to recited, on the part of the teachers, the story of "the unusual record of our present superintendent" and pointed out some of the "remarkable results" obtained under his administration of the affairs of the county superintendent's office, at the same time declaring that "the consensus of opinion is that the office should remain completely removed from politics as it has been for the past few years," urging that "the success of past years promises even greater success for the future" and declaring, in conclusion, the belief of the teachers "that the continuation of this great work should be left in the hands of the man most responsible for its recent rapid improvement." The voters ratified these resolutions and Professor Rowland is still administering the affairs of his important office, the duties and responsibilities of which he takes so closely to heart that during the past few years he has declined several flattering propositions to transfer his services elsewhere, believing that his valuable labors in behalf of the schools of Reno county are still unfinished.

Stewart P. Rowland was born on a farm in Noble county, Ohio, May 27, 1870, son of Perry and Mary E. (Ellison) Rowland, the former of

whom, born in that same county in 1829, is still living and the latter, born about fifteen miles from the city of Liverpool, England, in 1836, died in June, 1911, at her home in Reno township, this county.

Perry Rowland was left an orphan at the tender age of four years and was reared in the family of James Taylor, growing up on a farm in his native county. Following his marriage, in that same county, he rented a farm and established a home of his own, later buying the place, and remained there until 1878, in which year he sold his Ohio farm and came, with his family, to Kansas, buying a quarter of a section of land northwest of Hutchinson, in Reno township, this county, where he still lives. Perry Rowland prospered in his farming operations and gradually enlarged his land holdings until now he is the owner of five hundred acres of choice land surrounding his fine home in Reno township. During the Civil War Perry Rowland served as a soldier in the Union army for three years, a member of the Ninth Ohio Cavalry, attached to the Army of the West, which was with Sherman to the sea. He is a Democrat and for many years has been regarded as one of the leaders in the civic life of the community in which he lives. He is a Methodist, as was his good wife, a liberal supporter to the cause of the church, and his children were reared in that faith. These children, all of whom are living, in the order of their birth are as follow: John E., a prominent farmer and fruit grower of Clay township, this county; Charles W., also a farmer, living in Reno township; Eliza J., unmarried, housekeeper for her father; James P., a large land-owner, who also makes his home with his father; Stewart P., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, and Alfred E., an extensive stockman, who manages his father's large farm.

Stewart P. Rowland was eight years of age when his parents came to this county and his elementary education was received in the district schools of his home neighborhood, after which he entered Hutchinson high school and presently entered the ranks of Reno county's fine teaching force, application for his first teacher's certificate having been made at the age of sixteen. His success in this initial examination was the beginning of his useful career in the educational life of this county. The young teacher continued his studies while teaching, and for a few years spent his summer vacations in school, taking a three-years course at the Kansas Normal College at Ft. Scott, and later a course of two years at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. His health then becoming somewhat impaired, Professor Rowland relinquished his studies for awhile and recuperated through wholesome physical labor on his father's farm, later resuming his work of

teaching in the district schools and in the teachers' institutes, he having early in his teaching career secured the necessary certificate of his qualifications as an institute teacher, and was thus engaged until his election to the office of county superintendent in 1903, the duties of which he entered upon in May, 1909, and which he since then has been faithfully performing, having been re-elected in each biennial election since that time, regardless of the fact that he is a Democrat and that Reno county is normally Republican; his first election having been won by a majority of one thousand and nineteen votes. In further preparation for his scholastic career, Professor Rowland took a course in the Hutchinson Business College at Hutchinson, from which he was graduated and in which excellent commercial school he taught during the year following his graduation.

Professor Rowland has a state-wide reputation as an educator and for some years has conducted a June normal school for teachers, the attendance on the last such short course having been about two hundred and fifty. He is a member of the executive committee of the Kansas State Teachers' Association and at the 1916 session of the Central Kansas Teachers' Association, held at Hutchinson, with an attendance of one thousand teachers, he was president of the same. In the chapter relating to education in the historical section of this work, the general development of the school system of Reno county is admirably presented by the historian. Professor Rowland has been a very potent factor in that development and he very properly takes modest pride in his accomplishments in that direction. Professor Rowland owns a half section of land near Hutchinson and takes much interest in the development of his farm along the best approved lines of modern agriculture.

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### EDWARD ESHER YAGGY.

Edward Esher Yaggy, of Hutchinson, one of the best-known and most progressive citizens of this section of Kansas, president of the Yaggy Plantation Company, an incorporation of the great estate of the late L. W. Yaggy in Grant township, this county, and for years prominently identified with the work of developing the resources of this region, is a native of Chicago, born in that city, March 19, 1876, son of L. W. and Sarah E. (Esher) Yaggy, the former of whom was born in Plainfield, Illinois, and the latter in Cleveland, Ohio, both now deceased.

Upon completing the course in the old Northwestern College at Naper-



ville, Illinois, L. W. Yaggy went to Chicago, where he became engaged in the publishing business and for twenty-five years was one of the best-known publishers in the United States. He was president and chief stockholder of the great Western Publishing House, which had seventeen branch offices and five thousand agents throughout the United States, the principal work of which was the publication of maps and studies for colleges and high schools, that company for years having occupied a foremost position in that particular branch of the publishing business in this country. Mr. Yaggy also was quite a mechanical genius and was the patentee of numerous devices of a convenient sort, the first of which was a stubble turner, which yielded him considerable revenue. He also patented an adding machine, advertising devices of different types, a "royal scroll" for the display of pictures and a Chautauqua desk. For his notable service in preparing a relief map of the United States for the use of the Smithsonian Institute at Washington Mr. Yaggy was created a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of England and was widely known in general geographic circles.

While on a hunting trip through this section of Kansas in 1888, L. W. Yaggy observed a well being dug on the Thomas Parker ranch just northwest of Hutchinson and noted that the water was only a few feet below the surface of the soil. Recognizing the potentialities of such a condition, Mr. Yaggy immediately purchased the entire Parker estate of one thousand three hundred and fifty acres and planted the same to catalpa and apple trees, the revenues from which since then have amply demonstrated the accuracy of his foresight. The plantation now bears five hundred acres of catalpa trees and eight hundred and eight acres of apple trees and is one of the most profitably productive plantations of the sort in the country. There are no fewer than one million catalpas growing on the place and fifty thousand apple trees, six hundred acres of which latter are now bearing and the rest coming into bearing. In the season of 1915 two hundred and ten thousand bushels of apples were sold off the Yaggy plantation, the principal varieties being the popular Jonathan, the Grimes Golden, Wine Sap, Roman Beauty and York Imperial. There also is a considerable acreage of cowpeas, potatoes, sweet potatoes and wheat grown on the plantation and in season three hundred men are employed on the place, while a constant force of more than thirty men is required to operate the plantation. About five hundred thousand gallons of spraying material is used annually on the trees and the great plantation is operated along the latest approved and most up-to-date lines. Mr. Yaggy's examples and methods have been followed by others in the neighborhood and the Arkansas river valley, as a result, is



becoming widely renowned as a natural fruit-bearing center. The catalpa industry is growing yearly in importance and is now thoroughly established, these hardy trees coming more and more into demand, their durable fiber giving them a high value for use as fence posts and railroad ties. It has been found that it requires ten years to grow the first crop of catalpas, eight years the second and seven years the third. Some time before his death L. W. Yaggy, in order to simplify the inheritance of his estate, incorporated, for two hundred thousand dollars, the Yaggy Plantation Company, in favor of his three sons, who now compose the company, its directorate and officary, as follow: President, Edward E. Yaggy; vice-president, A. F. Yaggy, of Chicago, and secretary-treasurer, W. E. Yaggy, of Hutchinson. The elder Yaggy died at a sanitarium at Watkins Glen, New York, in October, 1912. His wife had long preceded him to the grave, her death having occurred in Chicago.

Edward E. Yaggy received his preparatory schooling in the academy and college at Lake Forest, Illinois, and then entered Yale, from which he was graduated, after a three-years course, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, in 1899. With a view to broadening his education and in order to perfect himself in French and German, Mr. Yaggy then went abroad and for eighteen months or more attended lectures in the university at Geneva, Switzerland, and in the University of Erlangen, in Bavaria, upon the completion of which course he returned to the United States and entered upon the duties of manager of his father's estate in this county and has ever since then been thus engaged. The Yaggy estate included, besides the great plant of the Yaggy Plantation Company in this county, valuable lands in other parts of Kansas and in Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska and the Yaggy brothers are thus very well circumstanced, the head of the company long having been regarded as one of the most substantial citizens of this part of the state.

On December 27, 1905, at Kansas City, Missouri, Edward E. Yaggy was united in marriage to Laura Reed, who was born in that city, daughter of Homer and Laura (Coates) Reed, the former a native of Michigan and the latter of Pennsylvania. Homer Reed was born at Leslie, Michigan, and upon completing his studies in the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor went to Kansas City, where he has lived ever since and where he for many years has been prominently identified with the real-estate interests of that city. It was not long after locating in Kansas City that Mr. Reed married Laura Coates, who was born in West Chester, Pennsylvania, daughter of Kersey Coates and wife, who settled in Kansas City when that place was

a village of seven hundred and fifty population. Kersey Coates was a man of large influence in the early, bustling days of Kansas City and it was chiefly due to his personal activity in the matter that the future of his home town as a railroad center was determined, his influence having been the decisive factor in making that city instead of Leavenworth the center of the railroad interests of this section in pioneer days. Homer Reed has a beautiful home in Kansas City, his place at Waldo, "Sunny Croft," being one of the most attractive residences in that city. To him and his wife six children have been born, those besides Mrs. Yaggy being as follow: Kersey, who is engaged in the dry-goods business in Chicago; Thomas H., manager of the Baker Asphalt Company's interests at Birmingham, Alabama; Sarah E., who married Alfred W. Stone, now assistant treasurer of the Vanderbilt lines west of Buffalo, with offices in the Grand Central depot at New York; Homer, Jr., engaged in the life-insurance and loan business at Kansas City, and Isabel, who is at home with her parents.

Laura Reed Yaggy is a violinist of much ability, widely known to the concert stage, whose performances Thaddeus Rich, in a personal letter to Mrs. Yaggy, declares possess "a rare combination of temperament and finish \* \* \* a facile technique and a very warm and beautiful tone." In closing his letter of felicitation, the concert master wrote: "I am sure your playing will bring you great success and my heartiest congratulations and best wishes accompany you." Mrs. Yaggy has appeared with great success with such artists as Johanna Gadske, Paulo Grunpe, Arthur Middleton, James Whitaker, Barbara Waite, Ida Gardner, Raphael Navas and others. She began violin lessons when seven years old and at eleven played the "Souvenir de Haydn" of Leonard in a public concert. At the age of thirteen she played the Mendelssohn Concerto entire with the Kansas City Symphony. Madame Camilla Urso, the famous violinist, was present on that occasion and was so captivated by the performance that she later sent for the young violinist to come and live with her in Minneapolis to continue her study. At the age of fourteen Miss Reed played Vieuxtemp's "Fantasia Appassionata" entire with the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra and after studying nearly a year with Leopold Lichtenberg, of New York, she played, at the age of seventeen, the great Max Bruch G Minor Concerto at one of her own concerts. This early career was temporarily interrupted by her marriage at the age of eighteen, but after seven years of retirement Mrs. Yaggy again felt the lure of the concert stage and made her appearance, in April, 1913, as soloist with the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Kansas City Symphony, and recently with the New York Philharmonic

at the Hutchinson 1916 festival, devoting a part of her time to the concert stage. She is the possessor of a rare Sanctus Serafine violin, which sold thirty years ago for three thousand dollars and is today worth much more than that figure, being considered one of the most valuable instruments in the United States. Mrs. Yaggy is the founder of the Apollo Club at Hutchinson and was the first president of the same. She is still an active member of the club and is now serving as vice-president. She is an ardent suffragist and during the memorable campaign of 1912 was president of the Reno County Equal Suffrage Association.

To Mr. and Mrs. Yaggy two children have been born, a son and a daughter, Laura Coates and Edward Esher, Jr. Mr. Yaggy is a member of the Hutchinson Country Club. During his Yale days he was actively affiliated with the Zeta Psi fraternity and still retains a warm interest in the doings of that association. He takes a good citizen's interest in local civic affairs, ever an ardent champion of good government, but in his political views holds himself independent of political parties.

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### JOHN A. REED.

John A. Reed, a well-known and well-to-do pioneer farmer of Valley township, this county, an honored veteran of the Civil War; a continuous resident of this county since March, 1871; first constable of his home township and who claims the distinction of being the oldest continuous resident of a homestead farm in Reno county, as well as having been the first blacksmith to locate in this county, is a Hoosier, a fact of which, even though loyal Kansan as he is, he has never ceased to be proud. He was born on a pioneer farm in Wabash county, Indiana, November 24, 1843, son of Matthew and Isabelle (McCutchen) Reed, both natives of Pennsylvania, in which state they were reared and married.

Matthew Reed was born on a farm in Pennsylvania in February, 1800. There he married Isabelle McCutchen, who was born on November 31, 1811, and in the early thirties immigrated to Indiana, settling in the heavy timber lands in Wabash county, that state, where he proceeded to clear his homestead tract and carve out of the wilderness a home for his family, presently becoming one of the most substantial residents of that community. Matthew Reed was a Whig in his political affiliations and he and his wife were among the leaders in the Methodist church in their community. Matthew Reed

died on September 29, 1849, and after his death his widow and the older sons continued to operate the farm until her death on June 15, 1857. There were seven children in the family, as follow: Andrew, who died in Colorado; Samuel and Sarah, twins, the former of whom lives at Riverside, Colorado, and the latter, Mrs. Hoffman, lives at Perry, Iowa; Nancy Jane, who married Samuel Haggy and lives in Minnesota; Margaret C., widow of Jerome Swihart, now living at Joplin, Missouri; John A., the subject of this biographical sketch, and Matthew Barnett, who lives at Muskogee, Oklahoma.

John A. Reed spent his boyhood on the home farm in the woods in Wabash county, Indiana, receiving his elementary education in a little subscription school conducted in a log house, after the manner made familiar in "The Hoosier Schoolmaster." He was but seven years old when his father died and was thirteen when his mother died. He then went to the town of North Liberty, near South Bend, where he was able to attend a good school for three months in the year. There he was apprenticed to a blacksmith and learned the smith's trade, working at the same for more than two years. Though but a boy when the Civil War broke out he was bent on enlisting at the time of President Lincoln's first call for volunteers, but the strong objections of his sisters interposed and his youthful patriotism was for the moment curbed. Undaunted, however, by the failure of his first attempt to enroll himself as a soldier of the Union he went over into Illinois, ostensibly on a visit to an uncle at Bement, and there, on July 3, 1861, enlisted in Company A, Thirty-fifth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for three years and three months. The first engagement the Thirty-fifth Illinois had with the enemy was at Springfield, Missouri; thence on to Pea Ridge, Corinth, Perryville and Murfreesboro, after which, under General Rosecrans, it was hemmed in at Chickamauga for thirty days, subsisting on quarter rations. Sherman and Hooker then came up with reinforcements and the Thirty-fifth went on with Sherman into Georgia, participating in all the arduous phases of the campaign on to Atlanta. Upon the fall of Atlanta, the Thirty-fifth's three-years period of enlistment having expired, the regiment was sent to Springfield, Illinois, where it was mustered out on September 27, 1864, Mr. Reed then being twenty-one years of age.

Upon the conclusion of his military service J. A. Reed returned to Liberty Mills, Indiana, where he remained working at his trade until 1866, in which year he went to Iowa, where he joined his brother, Andrew, who had settled on a homestead farm in Dallas county, that state, some time



before, and there he worked for a year, after which he went to Des Moines, where he began working in a blacksmith shop. In 1868 he went to Rock Island, Illinois, and after working for awhile in that city came to Kansas and was for some time employed at his trade in Atchison, later going to Wilson county, in the eastern part of this state, where he opened a blacksmith shop of his own, which he operated for about three years. Then, in March, 1871, he came to this part of the state and filed a pre-emption of the northeast quarter of section 26, in what is now Valley township, Reno county, but which then was in Sedgwick county. He later changed that claim to a timber claim and still lives on half the latter, having sold the west half of it years ago. Mr. Reed thus claims the distinction of being the oldest settler in Reno county who still resides on the farm on which he located.

After locating his claim John A. Reed went back to the mouth of Little river, where there was a saw-mill and where he worked at his trade for two or three weeks, at the end of which time he brought his tools with him and returned to his claim, where he threw up a sod shanty and there opened a blacksmith shop, the first blacksmith shop established in what is now within the confines of Reno county. At that time there were not more than half a dozen families living in this county. Across the river there were great herds of buffaloes, thousands of them, and the early settlers suffered no lack of fresh meat. Mr. Reed "bached" in his sod shanty and found diversion hunting buffalo between jobs in his smithy. The pioneers welcomed the coming of the smith and came to him from points many miles distant to have their plows sharpened and to secure such repairs as were necessary to their meager agricultural implements. In the fall of 1871 he drove to Newton, then the terminus of the Santa Fe road, and hauled back a load of lumber with which he constructed a somewhat more comfortable shack than his sod shanty. In the winter of 1872 he went to Hutchinson, nineteen miles distant, the only polling place in the county, to vote in the first election called in Reno county. In that election C. C. Hutchinson was elected representative from this district to the state Legislature and in the following session of the General Assembly secured the enactment of a law defining the boundaries of Reno county, which brought Valley township within the confines of this county. Mr. Reed has always been a Republican and from the very beginning of a civil community here has taken an active part in local politics. At the first election held in Valley township he was elected constable and he later was elected to the office of township trustee and later, township treasurer, while he nearly



always has represented his precinct in county, district or state conventions. Mr. Reed set out forty acres of timber on his timber claim, but found that the care of this grove in its early stages required too much of his time; so in 1873 he homesteaded a tract of one hundred and sixty acres one and one-half miles east of his original entry, the same being the northeast quarter of section 22, Valley township, and thereon he built a frame house and a blacksmith shop. In 1875 he married and sold his blacksmith tools to Andy Ballard, who started the first blacksmith shop in the town of Burrton, and began to give his undivided attention to farming. In 1877 he and his wife moved back to his timber claim and there have lived ever since. It was with difficulty that Mrs. Reed could become accustomed to the frequent presence of Indians about the place and upon the first sign of the approach of a party of redskins would run over to stay with the neighbors until the hunting party would pass on. After selling his tools, Mr. Reed found himself "lost" without the old familiar implements of his smithy and so bought a new outfit and re-established his smithy, much to the gratification of his pioneer neighbors. He presently sold the farm he had homesteaded and bought an "eighty" adjoining his timber claim, which he still owns. In 1909 he built his present comfortable dwelling and he and his wife are very pleasantly situated. The old house built in 1875 continues to stand on the home place and is a prized relic of pioneer days.

On July 17, 1875, John A. Reed was united in marriage to Mary L. Moore, who was born in Greene county, Tennessee, December 10, 1856, daughter of William T. and Rachel (Ellis) Moore, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of Tennessee, who came to Reno county in 1873. William T. Moore was but a boy when his parents moved from North Carolina to Tennessee and in the latter state he grew to manhood and married, farming in that state until 1858, in which year he moved with his family to Sullivan county, Missouri, where he bought a farm. During the Civil War he served the Union cause as a member of the Missouri Home Guards, and in 1873 he and his family came to this county, homesteading a farm in Valley township. Mr. Moore and his wife later retired from the farm and moved to Hutchinson, where he died on November 28, 1893, at the age of fifty-eight, his widow surviving him for about fifteen years, her death occurring on February 5, 1908, she then being at the age of seventy-two years and eleven months. They were the parents of ten children, of whom Mrs. Reed is the eldest. To Mr. and Mrs. Reed no children have been born, but they adopted a five-months-old baby girl, Annie Laurie, whom they reared with as much loving care as they could have

bestowed upon a child of their very own, and who married James Morgan, a well-known farmer of Valley township, this county, and has five children, Wallace R., Clayton S., Mayme, Mildred L. and Everett C. Mr. Reed is a member of the Masonic lodge at Burrton and takes much interest in the affairs of that order.

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### WILLIAM HIRST.

William Hirst, a well-known and substantial farmer of Lincoln township, this county, who has lived here since he was two years old, is a native of Wisconsin, having been born at Darlington, that state, December 20, 1870, the youngest of the eight children of George and Elizabeth (Brilbrough) Hirst, natives of England, both of whom were born at Leeds, the former in 1824 and the latter in 1826, and both of whom became respected residents of this county, where their last days were spent.

George Hirst was reared in the busy city of Leeds and grew up there to the cabinet-making and pattern-making trades, becoming a very competent craftsman. A year or two after their marriage he and his wife and their first-born child came to America, in 1854, locating at Darlington, Wisconsin, some kinsfolk of Mr. Hirst having previously located there, and there they made their home for nearly twenty years, Mr. Hirst being engaged as a carpenter. In the fall of 1872 George Hirst, his attention having been attracted to the possibilities presented in this region, came to Kansas looking for land. The lay of the land in Reno county pleased him and he homesteaded a tract in section 6, of Lincoln township. He then returned to Wisconsin and the next spring brought his family to Reno county and entered upon the occupation of his homestead, the Hirsts thus having been among the very earliest settlers of Lincoln township. George Hirst was an industrious farmer and, with the assistance of his sons, developed a fine property, the family coming to be regarded as one of the most substantial and influential in that neighborhood. Mr. Hirst not only was diligent in his own business, but was attentive to the general needs of the community and served his township very acceptably for some time in the capacity of township trustee. He also was on his local school board for many years and in other ways did what he could to advance the common cause hereabout in pioneer days. His wife was a member of the Episcopal church and she also was active in all good works, both being held in high esteem throughout that section of the county. George Hirst died on his farm on July 18, 1897, and his widow survived him for seventeen years, her death occurring at Hutchinson on September 25,



*William Christ and Family*





1914. They were the parents of eight children, namely: Anna, who died at the age of sixteen; Hannah, now deceased, who married John Eaton, of Darlington, Wisconsin, who also is dead; George, a wealthy farmer, who died on the old homestead in Lincoln township on October 29, 1915; Mary Ann, who died at the age of eighteen; Lila, now deceased, who married G. W. Woodard, of Hutchinson; Samuel, who married Myrtle Rogers and lives in Hutchinson, where he is a dealer in photographic supplies; Fred, a farmer in Center township, this county, and William, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch. George Hirst was the first photographer of Hutchinson and his daughter learned the trade and succeeded her father and Samuel then succeeded his sister and conducted the business until 1915. So the Hirst family has been connected with that business for many years.

William Hirst was two years of age when his parents came to this county from Wisconsin and he grew to manhood on the homestead farm in Lincoln township, receiving his education in the school in district No. 41. He did not marry until he was thirty years of age and in the meantime remained on the home place, which he took charge of, in his mother's behalf, after the death of his father, in 1897. In 1912 he bought a quarter of a section of his own in Lincoln township and after his mother's death, in 1914, moved onto his own place, where he since has made his home and where he and his family are very pleasantly and comfortably situated. In addition to his land holdings in Lincoln township, Mr. Hirst is also the owner of a third interest in a half section of land in Arlington township and the owner of a quarter section in Hamilton county, this state, besides which he owns a house and lot in Hutchinson, at 410 B avenue, east, and is considered quite well-to-do.

On October 23, 1900, William Hirst was united in marriage to Margaret Hardcastle, who was born at Hutchinson, this county, daughter of Joseph and Minnie Hardcastle, early residents of that city, the latter of whom is still living, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Margaret Elizabeth, born on September 28, 1903. Joseph Hardcastle for years was one of Hutchinson's best-known citizens. He was regarded as quite well-to-do until the "boom" collapsed after the middle eighties, at which time it was found that he had lost practically all his fortune in the sudden depreciation of property values which followed that collapse. Mr. and Mrs. Hirst are highly respected residents of their neighborhood, taking an active part in the common life of that community, and are held in high esteem by all thereabout.



## JOHN S. SIMMONS.

John S. Simmons, a well-known lawyer of Hutchinson, former speaker of the Kansas House of Representatives and prominently identified with banking interests hereabout, is a native son of Kansas, born in Douglas county in 1860. Upon concluding his studies at Baker University he began to read law and was admitted to practice, at the bar of the Crawford circuit court, in 1886. He opened an office for the practice of his profession at Dighton and quickly took a prominent place in the general affairs of that part of the state. For two terms he served as county attorney for Lane county; represented that county in the lower house of the Kansas General Assembly for two terms and in 1907 was elected speaker of the House. From 1899 to 1904 Mr. Simmons served as superintendent of the Kansas state reformatory and was a member of the board of management of that institution for four years, being appointed by Governor Hoch. In 1895 he was elected president of the State Bank of Dighton, which position he ever since has held, and is also a director of several other banks. Following his service as speaker of the House Mr. Simmons became attracted to Hutchinson as a desirable place of residence and in June, 1907, moved to that city, where he ever since has made his home. He formed a partnership with Whiteside & Tyler in the practice of the law and upon the dissolution of that firm began to practice alone and so continued until 1910, in which year he formed a partnership with Ray H. Tinder, which arrangement continued for three years. In 1913 Mr. Simmons admitted into partnership his nephew, K. K. Simmons, who was graduated from the law school of Kansas University in that year, and this mutually agreeable arrangement continues. In addition to his extensive general practice Mr. Simmons has for many years served as attorney for the Santa Fe Railroad Company. Since taking up his residence in Hutchinson Mr. Simmons has continued his active interest in political affairs and is regarded as one of the leaders of the Republican party in this section of the state. In 1914 he was his party's nominee for Congress from the seventh Kansas district, but his candidacy was no more successful than that of the general ticket that year.

In 1886 John S. Simmons was united in marriage to Emma Brown, daughter of Capt. G. W. Brown, of Osage county, this state, and to this union four children have been born. Mrs. Simmons is a prominent figure in Kansas club circles and is past president of the Kansas Day Club. Mr. Simmons is one of the directors of the Hutchinson Young Men's Christian

Association, a member of the Hutchinson Commercial Club and a member of the Hutchinson Country Club, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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### WILLIAM D. SHULER.

William D. Shuler, one of the oldest and best-known pioneers of this county, for years lovingly known throughout the Grant township neighborhood as "Squire" Shuler, is a native of Virginia, having been born in Page county, that state, on June 23, 1833, son of George and Tabitha (Dovel) Shuler, both natives of that same county, the former of whom, born on December 25, 1794, died on April 28, 1873, and the latter, born in 1796, died on June 8, 1857. The former was a member of the Methodist church and the latter of the Christian church. They were the parents of eight children, five sons and three daughters, of whom the subject of this sketch is the youngest, and only three survive, the others having been John, Diana D., Noah W., Elizabeth Ann Aylshire, who died at the age of twenty-four; George W., Andrew Jackson and Sarah Jane, who married John Aylshire, her brother-in-law, who was killed in battle during the Civil War, and who later married James E. Morris and died in this county in 1895, and he died later.

George Shuler was the son of John Shuler, who was born in Pennsylvania, son of John Shuler, a German, who came to America and settled in Pennsylvania. The younger John Shuler married a Keyser in Pennsylvania and later moved to Virginia, where he became a large landowner, and where he spent the rest of his life. Grandmother Shuler died in Illinois at the age of ninety-five years. She married Mike Step. George Shuler was reared on the plantation in Virginia and in turn became a large landowner and one of the leading men in his neighborhood. His first wife died in 1857 and he married, secondly, a widow, Mrs. Kite, and both spent their last days in Virginia.

William D. Shuler lived on the home place in Virginia until he was grown, acquiring a liberal education meanwhile, and his father gave him half the home farm of nearly four hundred acres, on which he lived until 1875, the time of his coming to this county. When Virginia ordered a vote on secession in 1861 he was one of twelve voters in his precinct who voted for a continuance of the Union. He was drafted into the Second Virginia Infantry, under "Stonewall" Jackson, despite his opposition to secession and

served for a year before employing a substitute to take his place, during which time he participated in the battles at Blue's Gap and near Harper's Ferry. Upon leaving the army he returned home and there was seized by Union forces. Upon explaining his position toward secession, however, he was released and the federal soldiers gave orders that his place should not be molested. They had destroyed all other property in the valley. In 1875, attracted by the promising word from this section of the country, Mr. Shuler came to Kansas, locating in Reno county. He bought Lon Mead's relinquishment to eighty acres and the relinquishment of an adjoining eighty in section 28 of John Gaus, in Grant township, and there he established his new home. At first he built a small frame house, twelve by sixteen feet, and in 1878 built a better house. On his place at that time there were the only three trees. One of these trees, a giant cottonwood, five feet in diameter at the base, stood until 1915, when it went down during a heavy wind storm. Mr. Shuler prospered from the very beginning of his farming operations and has assisted in buying farms for all of his sons, more than a section of land in all. Mr. Shuler quickly took his place as one of the leading men in that community. He had served as justice of the peace in his Virginia home and presently his pioneer neighbors elected him justice of the peace in Grant township, a position he held for years, and is still known as "Squire" by his many friends thereabout and throughout the county. He was also trustee for a number of years. He is a Democrat, though quite liberal in his political views, and has also voted the Prohibition ticket. He is an ardent Methodist and the year after his arrival in this county went around the neighborhood stirring up sentiment in behalf of the establishment of a Sunday school in Grant township and succeeded in having such an institution started in the school house near his home. He later headed a subscription paper with a liberal subscription and took it around among his neighbors and thus secured the establishment of the Mitchell Methodist church in his home township, of which he has been one of the leading members for many years.

On August 9, 1855, in Page county, Virginia, William D. Shuler was united in marriage to Sarah Ann Koontz, who was born in that county, August 28, 1839, daughter of David and Elizabeth Koontz, natives of Virginia, and to this union five children were born, namely: Preston P., a cement manufacturer and farmer, of Wakceney, this state; Jacob O., of whom further mention is made later on in this review; Lee, a fruit raiser at Hotchkiss, Colorado; Martin B., who is now living retired at Santa Rosa, California, and Walter, who is engaged in the dairy business in Reno town-

ship, this county. The mother of these children died on October 19, 1896, and for the past few years Mr. Shuler has been making his home with his sons.

Jacob O. Shuler, who was born in Page county, Virginia, on February 4, 1859, was sixteen years of age when his father, William D. Shuler, came to this county with his father, and he grew to manhood on the old Shuler farm in Grant township. Following his marriage, in the fall of 1884, he bought the northeast quarter of section 27, in Grant township, and there established his home and has lived there ever since. He later bought a half section in Reno township and also a quarter section. He is a Democrat and has taken an active interest in local political affairs and is now treasurer of his home township. He and his family are members of the Methodist church and he gave the land on which the Mitchell Methodist church was built, on one corner of his farm. He is a member of the Court of Honor and takes a warm interest in the affairs of this society. Mr. Shuler is an extensive farmer and has given much attention also to raising cattle and hogs.

On November 6, 1884, Jacob O. Shuler was united in marriage to Annie Cook, who was born in Gloucestershire, England, daughter of Joseph and Martha (Barnes) Cook. Mrs. Shuler came to this county in June, 1883, in company with her sister, Mrs. Laura Baddeley, and her two brothers, Fred Cook, the present mayor of Hutchinson, and Walter Cook, also of Hutchinson. To Mr. and Mrs. Shuler four children have been born, as follow: William Archie, born on October 13, 1885, at home; Harold, August 17, 1887, who married Myrtle Oldsworth and lives on a farm in Reno township; Gilbert A., December 17, 1893, and Annie Gertrude, October 6, 1895, married Arthur W. Lancaster and lives in Reno township.

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#### THOMAS G. ARMOUR.

Thomas G. Armour, one of the publishers of *The Wholesaler*, published at Hutchinson, this county, was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on December 6, 1872, son of Thomas D. and Eliza (Sloan) Armour, the former of whom was born in Randolph county, Illinois, in 1830, and the latter in Belfast, Ireland, in September, 1837. Thomas D. Armour was a son of James C. Armour, a native of Scotland and an early settler in Randolph county, Illinois. Eliza Sloan was a daughter of Robert and Belle



Sloan, both of whom were born in County Antrim, Ireland, where their last days were spent. In 1848 the three Sloan children, Robert, Jr., aged sixteen; Belle, aged fourteen, and Eliza, aged eleven, came to America and made their way to St. Louis, where they were received by friends of the family, and where Robert, now deceased, went to work for the Whittier Packing Company, he having learned something of the packing business in Belfast, where his father was engaged as a meat packer. Aunt Belle Sloan, who never married, also is now deceased, the only one of that family now surviving being Eliza, who is living at Wichita.

Thomas D. Armour was reared on a farm in Illinois. As a young man he went to St. Louis, where he engaged in the transfer business and where he lived until 1890, in which year he moved to Wichita, this state, becoming a considerable landowner, and there he died in August, 1906. For some time before moving to Wichita, Thomas D. Armour had been engaged in the development of coal lands in southern Illinois. He and his wife were the parents of three children, Robert, a farmer, living in South Dakota; Thomas G., the subject of this biographical sketch, and Belle, who lives with her mother at Wichita, this state.

Thomas G. Armour was reared in St. Louis, in the public schools of which city he received his education. As a boy he learned the printer's trade in St. Louis and in 1890 went to Sterling, this state, where for three years he was engaged in the printing business with J. E. Junkin. In 1893 he moved to Hutchinson, where he became employed in the job department of the *Hutchinson News*, and has ever since made that city his home. Mr. Armour continued on the staff of the *News* until 1905, and in 1906 he and A. L. Sponsler began the publication of the *Times*. The next year, in 1907, they also began the publication of *The Wholesaler*, and in 1910 they merged the *Times* with *The Wholesaler* and discontinued the publication of the former paper, *The Wholesaler* still being continued and is quite successful, Mr. Armour being the active manager of the same. Shortly after the *Times* was started, Messrs. Armour and Sponsler erected a two-story office building at 100-102 South Main street. Mr. Armour takes considerable interest in other enterprises of one kind and another in Hutchinson and is one of the incorporators of the Central State Bank, incorporated in 1915.

On April 8, 1901, Thomas G. Armour was united in marriage to Fannie M. Graves, who was born in Troy township, this county, daughter of William and Hannah (Yardy) Graves, who was accounted among the



earliest settlers of Reno county and both of whom are still living, comfortably and pleasantly retired at their home in South Reno.

William Graves was born in Cambridgeshire, England, on February 2, 1836, son of James and Mary (Coxell) Graves, farming people, the former of whom was a Baptist and the latter of whom held to the views of the established church. They were the parents of six children, two sons and four daughters. Both of the sons, John and William, and two of the daughters, Sarah and Betsey, came to America, William being but seventeen years of age at the time he arrived on the shores of the New World. John Graves is still living, a prosperous retired farmer in Benton county, Indiana; Sarah, who married William Burton, lives in Nebraska, and Mrs. Betsey Clinton died in Michigan. The father of these children came to America when seventy-five years of age to spend his last days with his children and died in Benton county, Indiana, at the age of ninety-seven.

Upon reaching the United States, William Graves located in Niagara county, New York, where he worked on a farm and on the Erie canal for three years. In 1856, the year following his marriage in Niagara county, he bought a farm of eighty acres in Benton county, Indiana, to which he later added until, in February, 1876, at which time he moved with his family to Troy township, this county, he having two years before bought three hundred and twenty acres of railroad land in that township, and there he lived until January, 1908, when he and his wife retired from the farm and moved to South Hutchinson, where they now live, being very comfortably situated there. William Graves, during the active days of his farming operations, was one of the most extensive cattlemen in Reno county, his farm, which he had enlarged by the purchase of additional tracts until it comprised four hundred and eighty acres, having mainly been given over to the raising of purebred Durham cattle. He is an ardent Republican and during his residence in Troy township served on the school board.

On June 26, 1855, in Niagara county, New York, William Graves was united in marriage to Hannah Yardy, who was born June 21, 1836, in the town of March, Cambridgeshire, England, daughter of William and Anne Yardy, both natives of the same section of England, the former of whom was foreman of a large estate. Hannah Yardy was bereft of her father by death when she was little more than a year old and her mother died when she was fifteen years of age. In 1854 she came, with her sister, Anne, and the latter's husband, William Clark, to America, settling, with them, in Niagara county, New York, where she was married in the following year. To William and Hannah Graves eleven children were born, namely: James,

who lives on a farm in Reno township, this county; William, who lives in Benton county, Indiana; Mary, who died in infancy; John R., a bridge carpenter, who lives at Fruita, Colorado; Sarah, who married John Tharp and lives in Hutchinson, this county; Henry A., who lives on one of the old home farms in Troy township; Lily, who married James Dawson and lives on a farm in Troy township; Fannie M., who married Mr. Armour; Rose, who lives in Hutchinson, widow of William Lewis, and Frankie, who died in infancy.

To Thomas G. and Fannie M. (Graves) Armour two children have been born, Phylis, born in 1902, and Thomas G., Jr., August 22, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Armour have a very pleasant home at 812 North Walnut street built in 1902, and are held in high esteem by their many friends in and about Hutchinson. Mr. Armour is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Knights of Pythias and take a warm interest in the affairs of both of these orders.

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### LEVI P. HADLEY.

Levi P. Hadley, a well-known pioneer of Reno county and honored veteran of the Civil War, who is now living comfortably retired from the more active duties of life on his fine farm in Reno township, where he has made his home since 1874, is a Hoosier, a member of the famous Hadley family, well known throughout central Indiana, which has numbered among its members a judge of the supreme court of Indiana, a treasurer of state and others distinguished in the civic and social life of the old Hoosier state. He was born in Hendricks county, Indiana, not far southwest of the state capital, on February 25, 1840, son of Joab and Mary (Pickett) Hadley, both natives of North Carolina, of Quaker parentage, whose respective parents had settled in the Plainfield neighborhood of Hendricks county at an early day in the settlement of that sterling old Quaker community.

Joab Hadley was one of the leaders in the Quaker community and was the owner of a farm of two hundred acres in Hendricks county. He married Mary Pickett and to this union five children were born, namely: Calvin, who died in Douglas county, Kansas; Atlas, who is still living in Hendricks county, Indiana; Melissa, who married Wesley Kellum and died in Indiana in 1913; Levi P., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, and Hannah, who married Noah Kellum and died in July, 1915, in Hendricks





Mary J. Hadley



L. P. Hadley





county, Indiana. Joab Hadley died in 1842 and his widow married, secondly, Jacob Chandler, a prominent member of the Quaker community there, a farmer of means, and to this union three sons were born, John, who lives in Hendricks county, Indiana; Hadley, who died in 1900, and William, who is living at Plainfield, Indiana. Jacob Chandler died on his home farm in Indiana at the age of eighty years and his widow died in 1900, at the age of eighty-four.

Levi P. Hadley was reared on the farm in Hendricks county, Indiana, receiving his elementary education in the district schools of Guilford township, that county, which he supplemented by a short course in Earlham College, at Richmond, that state. On July 28, 1861, he enlisted for service in behalf of the Union in Company E, Twenty-sixth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served for three years and fifty-five days. During this service he participated for four weeks in the siege of Vicksburg and took part in the memorable Yazoo River expedition. During the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, he was severely wounded in the knee. Upon the conclusion of his military service, Mr. Hadley returned to his home in Indiana and on September 12, 1865, was united in marriage to Mary Jane Jessup, who was born and reared in Hendricks county, that state, and who was generally and lovingly referred to throughout that community as "the best and brightest girl in the township." Mr. Hadley had inherited a tract of sixty-four acres, his portion of his deceased father's estate, and on that small farm he and his wife and their growing little family made their home until 1874, in the fall of which year they came to Kansas, settling on a tract of railroad land in Reno township, this county, where they established their permanent home and where Mr. Hadley is still living.

Mr. Hadley had made a trip to this county in August, 1874, and, despite the horrid scourge of grasshoppers which the pioneers had endured that summer, was so deeply impressed by the possibilities presented hereabout as a choice agricultural region that he bought the north half of section 3, township 26, range 6 west, in Reno township, and immediately made arrangements for the removal of his family to this county, and they arrived here on November 18, following. Mr. and Mrs. Hadley at once took a leading part in the development of a higher social order in this county and from the very day of their arrival here their influence ever was exerted in behalf of better things. Mr. Hadley was a vigorous and progressive farmer and prospered in his agricultural operations, soon becoming recognized as one of the county's most substantial citizens.

In the absence of an organization of a Society of Friends hereabout,

Mr. and Mrs. Hadley identified themselves with the Methodist communion and immediately became leaders in the same. Mrs. Hadley's native ability and strong and admirable force of character quickly brought her to the front in all woman's movements here and she was particularly active in the ranks of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, by both voice and pen, even from the very first days of the prohibition agitation in this state, laboring in that behalf and will ever be remembered as one of the faithful leaders in the movement which eventually gave to Kansas its state-wide prohibitory law with relation to the liquor traffic. She was superintendent of the evangelistic department of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and when the issue of "wet" and "dry" came up in Reno county she swung the tide of battle in the balloting from what had seemed an inevitable "wet" victory to a victory for the "drys." It was generally conceded by all that the colored vote, which then held practically the balance of power, would be cast in favor of the "wets." But nothing daunted by this seeming preponderance against the cause she so ardently was advocating, Mrs. Hadley went right among the colored voters and so strongly influenced them in behalf of the prohibition cause that the county turned a sufficient majority in favor of the "drys," the old politicians ungrudgingly giving her full credit for having altered the whole course of a campaign which they had regarded as closed when their "straw" votes had revealed an apparently overwhelmingly preponderance of "wet" sentiment. Mrs. Hadley was working in behalf of the Evangelistic Union, which organization made her superintendent of the work among the colored people. Mr. Hadley also was a strong supporter of the prohibition cause and was one of the most vigorous and effective champions of the "drys."

In 1889 Mr. and Mrs. Hadley recognized the need of a church in the then rapidly developing manufacturing section of the city of Hutchinson, it being apparent to them that the people living in that section were not properly favored in the matter of a church or other proper social center. Mr. Hadley shouldered the responsibility for the undertaking, signing the notes for the erection of the church building on Avenue F, and for several years, until the new congregation had proved itself self-supporting, practically carried the church along, guaranteeing the minister's salary and seeing to the upkeep of the church. The grateful people who came to form the congregation of the church in Avenue F displayed their appreciation of Mr. Hadley's efforts and the church to this day is known as the Hadley Methodist church, a very proper memorial to the unselfish labors of Mr. and Mrs. Hadley in its behalf. Mrs. Hadley died on February 22, 1903, and there

was wide mourning throughout the county at the news of her passing, for she was a woman who had done well her part in the social development of this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Hadley three children were born, Herbert, who is managing his father's extensive farm in Reno township and in whose household his venerable father is making his home, married Rosa Burch and has four children, Eldon, Mary, John and Rose Elizabeth; Wilma, who died May 8, 1912, married George B. Manning and lived in the city of Hutchinson and had six children, Marian, Winifred, Jane, Florence, Marie and Esable; Alta G. married William Newling, proprietor of a dairy farm in Reno township, and has two children, George and Nina.

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### JOHN WESLEY GLASS.

John Wesley Glass, a well-known and prosperous farmer of Lincoln township, this county, now practically retired from the active labors of the farm, is a native of the great Keystone state, having been born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, April 17, 1853, son of Jacob and Sarah Ann (Guthrie) Glass, both natives of that same county and who spent their lives there.

Jacob Glass was a son of George and Hannah Glass, natives of Germany, who came with their respective parents to America in their childhood, both families settling in Franklin county. George Glass was a soldier in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War, and John W. Glass has the watch which his grandfather bought in Baltimore the day he was mustered out of the service at the close of the war in 1783. George Glass was a carpenter, and both he and his wife had been reared in the Mennonite faith, though in later life they were earnest adherents of the Methodist church. He lived to the great age of one hundred and six years, and his wife lived to be ninety-six. Jacob Glass learned the mason's trade in his youth and became a very competent craftsman, in after years becoming a very successful contractor in that line. He married Sarah Ann Guthrie, a neighbor girl, who was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, daughter of James P. and Isabelle Catherine (Wagonseller) Guthrie, natives of England, who came to America, settling in Chester county, Pennsylvania, later moving to Franklin county, same state, and both of whom died in Chambersburg.

When the Civil War broke out Jacob Glass enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, attached to Hancock's Brigade, with which he served for nine months.

at the end of which time he enlisted with a veteran regiment, with which he served to the end of the war, his regiment having been engaged in such noted battles as those of Antietam, Gettysburg and Chancellorsville. During the time of the rebel invasion of Pennsylvania the city of Chambersburg was burned by the invaders and after the war Jacob Glass filled large contracts for mason work in connection with the rebuilding of the city, having twenty-five or thirty men working under him for years. The battle of Gettysburg was fought within twelve miles of the Glass home and the roar of the battle shook the windows of the house. John W. Glass then was but ten years' old, but he was taking an active part on the outskirts of the desperate struggle between the two mighty armies and succeeded in capturing a gun from a straggling rebel soldier who was on the way to the battle and he still has that gun, in proof of his claim that although only ten years old at the time he silenced one rebel gun at Gettysburg. After the battle the lad carried water to the wounded on the battlefield, vivid memories of that great battle still being retained by Mr. Glass.

In 1859 Jacob Glass had bought a farm at the edge of the town of Scotland, in Franklin county, and moved his family onto that place, which was the family home for years. In their declining years, Jacob Glass and wife moved to Green village, that same county, and there spent their last days, the former dying in October, 1896, at the age of seventy-eight, and the latter in 1903, at the age of eighty-six. Both were life-long members of the Methodist church, in which faith their children were reared, and Jacob Glass had been for many years both a trustee and a steward of the church. He was a Republican and had served very efficiently as sheriff of Franklin county. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, as follow: James A., who was shot and killed by a rebel spy at his home; Isabelle Catherine, who married John J. Allen, both now dead; George A., a bachelor, who died at Hagerstown, Maryland, at the age of sixty-two; Jacob W., a Maryland merchant, now deceased; John W., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Hannah Jane, who died in infancy; Sarah Elizabeth, who died at the age of fifteen years; Charles S., a merchant, who died at Greencastle, Pennsylvania, in October, 1915, and William E., a merchant of Scotland, Pennsylvania.

John W. Glass received his early education in the school in the neighborhood of his home and all his life has added to that by wide reading and close observation until he is regarded as a very well-informed man. He has traveled quite extensively and has had a varied experience. He claims the distinction of being the only man in Reno county who has met every



President of the United States from Lincoln to Wilson and has shaken hands with all save Mr. Taft, the latter of whom was nursing a badly bruised hand, the result of too much handshaking during a previous reception, at the time he had the honor of meeting him. At the age of twenty years, Mr. Glass left home and started firing a locomotive on the Pennsylvania railroad between Harrisburg and Altoona. After about eighteen months thus engaged he was caught in a nasty wreck and decided that the life of a railroader was not the life for him. After reaching that conclusion, Mr. Glass pursued the less hazardous life of a farmer for thirteen months, working as a farm hand on farms in Mahoning and Stark counties, Ohio, and in March, 1875, went to Richwood, in Union county, same state, and worked on a farm in that neighborhood until the following October, at which time he rented a farm near Prospect, Marion county. In 1877 he married the niece of the man who owned the farm and continued to make his home on that place until 1881, in which year he moved to Prospect, where he was engaged in the mercantile business until January 1, 1886. He then sold his store and came to Kansas, settling in Meade county, where he pre-empted a quarter of a section of land, which he "proved up" and sold, and in the fall of 1887 moved to the town of Meade, where he opened a general store, which he conducted until March 1, 1890, on which date he sold out and came to this county, locating at Hutchinson, where he bought the Daniel Sickling meat market, at 10 South Main street, which he sold in the spring of 1891 and began working in the Hutchinson packing house, soon being promoted to the position of foreman in the same, and was thus engaged until 1894, in which year he engaged in the feed business at 4 South Main street, in the same city. In October, of that same year, he sold his feed store and rented the E. L. Myers farm in Reno township, where he made his home for five years, at the end of which time, in the spring of 1905, he moved to a farm in Lincoln township that he had bought the previous fall, the same being one-quarter of section 18, in that township, and there he has made his home ever since, being very well established and quite comfortably situated. Upon taking possession he built a good farm house on his place and in 1910 built a fine, modern concrete barn, which he declares is as thoroughly finished and as well equipped as any barn in the county. Upon engaging seriously in the agricultural business, Mr. Glass went into the registered Shorthorn cattle business, also raising and marketing some mules, and has made money out of his live-stock undertakings, besides being very successful in his general farming operations, being now regarded as one of the substantial farmers in his part of the county. In

April, 1915, Mr. Glass was struck by an automobile and severely injured, the result of his injuries having left him so painfully crippled that he now is practically retired from the active labors of his farm, though still possessed of his old ability as a manager and director of affairs thereon.

On December 9, 1877, John W. Glass was united in marriage to Emma A. Freeman, who was born in Marion county, Ohio, daughter of Alvin A. and Louisa (Rush) Freeman, the former of whom was born in Marion county, Ohio, and the latter on the Atlantic ocean while her parents were coming to this country, and to this union the following children have been born, namely: Charles Orlando, born on April 27, 1881, who married Gertrude Minner, and is now a successful building contractor at Tampa, Florida; Lulu, August 23, 1883, who married C. E. V. Coleman and lives in Reno township, this county; Welcome E., April 1, 1886, who married Marjorie Graves and lives in Reno township; Hazel, July 29, 1888, who married A. G. Siegrist and lives in Reno township; Jacob Winfield, December 8, 1890, a teacher in the Reno county schools, who makes his home with his parents, and Mabel Juanita, May 13, 1893, also a school teacher, who lives at home. Mr. and Mrs. Glass are earnest members of the Methodist church and their children have been reared in that faith. Mr. Glass has been a class leader in the Methodist church continuously since 1875 and upon moving to Reno township, in 1900, assisted in a Sunday school which had been organized in the Poplar school house. Out of that well-directed movement grew the organization of the Poplar Methodist Episcopal church, and for eight years after the church was built he served very earnestly and very efficiently as president of the board of trustees of the church. Mr. and Mrs. Glass for years have been regarded as among the leaders in the community life of their neighborhood and they and their family are held in high esteem throughout that entire section of the county. Mr. Glass is a Republican and ever has given a good citizen's attention to the political affairs of the county, though never having been included in the office-seeking class.

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#### HECTOR KENNETH McLEOD.

Though a comparatively newcomer in Reno county, H. K. McLeod, president of the Reno State Bank at Hutchinson, has firmly established himself in the regard of those connected with the commercial and financial circles of this county and is being generally recognized as one of the leading financiers of this section of the state.

Hector Kenneth McLeod was born in Prince Edward Island, Canada, on September 25, 1868, son of Donald and Anne (McKenzie) McLeod, both natives of that same place, the former born on January 20, 1826, and the latter October 10, 1836, and both are still living. Donald McLeod is the son of Angus McLeod, and Anne (McKenzie) McLeod is the daughter of Hector Kenneth McKenzie, both born and reared near Belfast, Ireland, of Scotch Highlander descent and both of whom were elders in the Presbyterian church for more than fifty years. In 1804 Angus McLeod and Hector Kenneth McKenzie emigrated, with their respective families, to Prince Edward Island, landing from the good ship "Polly," that having been about the time the French were driven out of Arcadia, an event made famous by Longfellow's "Evangeline," and there both the McLeods and the McKenzies became farming people.

Donald McLeod was reared on the paternal farm in Prince Edward Island and upon reaching manhood engaged in the mercantile business at Eldon, in his native island, and he and his wife still live there, though he has been retired from business for the past thirty years. He has been an elder in the Presbyterian church for the past forty-five years and is regarded as one of the leaders in his community. He and his wife have a very pleasant home and one hundred acres of land. To them four children were born, namely: Rev. M. J. McLeod, pastor of St. Nicholas German Reformed church in New York City, established in 1728, the oldest church in that city, and attended by the old Dutch families of Gotham's "400;" Davina, who married Dr. Harry D. Johnson and lives at Charlottetown; Hector Kenneth, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, and Ada Belle, who married Arthur G. Putnam, manager of the Royal Bank at Vancouver, British Columbia.

Hector Kenneth McLeod, in the days of his youth, spent his school vacations in the store of his father, acquiring an excellent commercial education. The schooling he received in the public schools of his home town was supplemented by a course at Prince of Wales College, from which he was graduated in 1890, after which he became connected with the legal department of the Phoenix Insurance Company, of Brooklyn, New York, and was stationed in the company's offices at Chicago, where he remained until 1899. In the meantime he had been sedulously pursuing his legal studies, and in 1898 he was graduated from the Chicago College of Law. In 1899 he came to Kansas, locating at Ellis, where he organized the Ellis State Bank and was at the head of the same, acting as cashier for thirteen years, at the end of which time, in 1913, he bought an interest in the Reno

State Bank, of Hutchinson, this county, and was made vice-president of the same. He then moved to Hutchinson and on January 1, 1915, was elected president of the bank. Upon leaving Ellis, Mr. McLeod did not sever his connection with the Ellis State Bank, and is now vice-president of that institution.

On June 26, 1901, Hector Kenneth McLeod was united in marriage to Helen E. Burbank, who was born in Montreal, Canada, daughter of Robert and Emily Burbank, who came to Kansas in 1890, settling at Ellis, where Robert Burbank, who is now deceased, was for some years engaged in mercantile business, and where his widow is still living. To Mr. and Mrs. McLeod two children have been born, Donald Angus, born on September 3, 1903, and Hector Kenneth, Jr., May 10, 1907.

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#### SAMUEL D. GASTON.

To the late Samuel D. Gaston, for many years a prominent farmer and cattleman of this county, belonged the honor of having been the first homesteader south of the Arkansas river in Reno county. When he filed his claim there the stakes marking the site of the city of Hutchinson had not yet been driven and the county had not yet been organized. He took a leading part in the development of social and economic conditions in his neighborhood and was a substantial and useful citizen, whose memory ever will be cherished thereabout.

Samuel D. Gaston was born in the county of Wheeling, Virginia (now West Virginia), April 24, 1827, son of John and Mary (Farris) Gaston, it that the ancestor of the Gaston family in America was a younger brother of a king of France, and held a stronghold in northern France. The king both natives of that state, members of old colonial families. Tradition has sent a strong force against him, but he and his followers defeated the king's forces, routing them utterly. Gaston knew, however, that his victory was only temporary; that he could not long hold out against the resources of France, and believing that discretion was the better part of valor, crossed the channel and found refuge in Ireland, becoming there the founder of a numerous family, a descendant of one branch of which emigrated to America in an early day in the settlement of the colonies and became the founder of the family in this country. John Gaston was reared a farmer in Virginia and there married Mary Farris, some years later, when his son, Samuel D.



was a child, locating in Delaware county, Ohio, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. They were earnest members of the Presbyterian church and their children were reared in that faith.

Samuel D. Gaston was reared on a farm in Delaware county, Ohio, and was married in that neighborhood. Shortly thereafter he moved to Illinois, his elder brother having previously established a large stock farm in McLean county, that state, and after a sometime residence in that county moved over into Logan county, same state, where he bought a farm, where he remained until he and his family came to Kansas in the spring of 1871. Upon arriving in this state the Gastons settled at Paoli, in Miami county, where they spent the season. In August, of that year, Samuel D. Gaston came over into the section now comprised in Reno county, hunting buffaloes. He was so well pleased with the appearance of the land hereabout that he filed a homestead claim on the southwest quarter of section 4, township 24, range 5 west, which, when the county was later organized, lay in Lincoln township, and in 1914, upon the organization of Yoder township, became a part of the latter township. Samuel D. Gaston's claim was the first filed on land south of the river in Reno county. At that time there was not even a shack on the site of the present flourishing city of Hutchinson and the county had not been organized. Upon filing his claim, Mr. Gaston built a sod shanty on his tract and then returned to Paoli, where he wintered with his family. In the following February he and his eldest son, S. Clinton Gaston, started for Reno county, and on March 2, 1872, reached their homestead. Mr. Gaston found that a party of Texas cowboys who had been herding cattle in that locality had taken possession of his sod shanty, but there was no difficulty in establishing his rights and he set about preparing the place for the reception of his family, his wife and the other children joining him and his eldest son in the little sod shanty on the plain in May. There Samuel D. Gaston established his home, later erecting a more suitable residence, which, in 1893, he supplanted by the fine, large house which now marks the homestead, and there he spent the rest of his life, becoming a prosperous farmer and cattleman. He started his herd in 1874 and for years was actively engaged in cattle raising, in which he did well, at the time of his death, in June, 1904, being regarded as one of the most substantial citizens of that part of the county.

In 1854 Samuel D. Gaston was united in marriage in Ohio to Hester A. White, who was born in Morrow county, that state, daughter of Timothy and Sarah White, natives of Ohio, the former of whom was a well-



known practicing physician in that section, who later moved from Ohio to Missouri, thence to Illinois and thence to Paoli, Kansas, where Mrs. White died, Doctor White's last days being spent at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Gaston, in this county. To Samuel D. and Hester A. (White) Gaston seven children were born, as follow: Samuel Clinton, who is managing the old home farm in Yoder township; Ida, now deceased, who married David Taylor, of Hutchinson, this county; William E., who is engaged in the life insurance business at Wichita, this state; Alice, who married Harry Wainer, a well-known farmer of Lincoln township, this county; John Walter, an extensive wheat farmer, of Pawnee county, this state; Grace, who married A. H. McHarg, a Lincoln township farmer, and Lee, unmarried, who lives with his eldest brother on the old home farm. Mrs. Hester A. Gaston, widow of Samuel D. Gaston, died on October 17, 1915.

Samuel Clinton Gaston, eldest son of Samuel D. and Hester A. (White) Gaston, was born in Dalaware county, Ohio, in 1855, and received his early education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home there. He was fifteen years old when he came to this county with his father, and thus may be regarded as one of the very earliest settlers of Reno county. He went through all the hardships of pioneer life hereabout and has witnessed the complete development of this region from its primitive state to its present high state of cultivation. He has a distinct recollection of the days when the Santa Fe construction crew was driving the grade stakes along the line of the road where the populous city of Hutchinson is now situated, but on which there was then not a sign of the coming city, and also recalls having seen C. C. Hutchinson, founder of the city of Hutchinson, at Harner's shack on the north side of the river, before Hutchinson had decided where to set the stakes for the city he even then had in his mind's eye. The elder Gaston was much troubled with rheumatism and even from the days of his young manhood, S. C. Gaston took a lead in the work of developing the homestead. In 1902 he opened a general store in the new town of Yoder and was appointed first postmaster of that village, but the next year returned to the farm where he ever since has continued to reside. He is unmarried and he and his youngest brother, Lee, quite successfully "bach it" together in the old home. For several years they were engaged in the wholesale dairy business, with a fine herd of Jerseys. S. C. Gaston is an active and influential Republican and was elected first trustee of Yoder township upon the creation of that civic unit in 1914. He takes an earnest interest in general public affairs and is looked upon as a substantial and progressive citizen.

## DAVID E. RICHHART.

David E. Richhart, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of this county, now living at Nickerson, is a native of Illinois, having been born on a farm near Jacksonville, that state, November 2, 1855, son of Henry and Betty (Taylor) Richhart, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of England, who became pioneer residents of this county, where their last days were spent.

Henry Richhart, an honored veteran of the Civil War, was born near Chillicothe, in Ross county, Ohio, September 27, 1829, son of Henry and Susanna Richhart, natives of Pennsylvania, and farming people, who moved to Ohio in early days and spent the rest of their lives in the Chillicothe neighborhood. They were members of the Methodist church and substantial people in that community. The younger Henry Richhart was reared in Ohio and when a young man moved to Illinois, where he became a farmer. On February 10, 1852, he married, at Aaronsville, that state, Betty Taylor, who was born in England on May 9, 1834, and who was seven years old when her parents, Ernest and Alice Taylor, came to this country from England, landing at New Orleans in 1841 and making their way up the river to Illinois, where they entered a homestead of eighty acres and spent the rest of their lives there. In August, 1861, Henry Richhart enlisted for service in the Civil War in the Twenty-first Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for three years and seven months. He was in the battles of Bull Run, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Charleston and a number of other important engagements, besides marching with Sherman to the sea and from the effects of powder burns lost his sight. In 1873 he and his family came from Illinois to Kansas and he homesteaded a tract of land on the border between Reno and Rice counties, part of the land lying in each county, and there he established his home, remaining there until 1880, in which year he and his wife retired from the farm and moved to Nickerson, where their last days were spent, her death occurring on May 14, 1903, and his on May 9, 1906. Both were earnest members of the Methodist church and were among the organizers of a church of that denomination in their neighborhood in pioneer days, Henry Richhart serving as a trustee of the same to the time of his death. For years also he was a justice of the peace and did his part well in the pioneer community. To him and his wife but two children were born, the subject of this sketch having had a sister, Alice, born on September 10, 1854, who married Daniel

Van Natton, a farmer living north of Nickerson, and she died at Nickerson, May 22, 1907, without issue.

David Richhart was about eighteen years old when he came to Kansas with his parents in 1873, and his schooling was completed in the school in district No. 24, one mile east of Nickerson, now recalled as the old Nickerson school. He married in the fall of 1885 and homesteaded a farm not far from that of his father on the Reno-Rice county border, and proceeded to develop the same. He was a successful farmer and stock raiser and from the very first prospered in his operations, gradually enlarging his land holdings until he now is the owner of a fine farm of six hundred and forty acres, one-half of which lies in this county and the remainder in Rice county. In 1898 he retired from the farm and he and his family moved to Nickerson, where they are very comfortably and very pleasantly situated. Mr. Richhart is a director of the State Bank of Nickerson and a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company, of the same place, long having been regarded as one of the most substantial and public-spirited men in that place.

On October 15, 1885, David Richhart was united in marriage to Mary Cochran, who was born in Pennsylvania on April 12, 1859, daughter of William and Margaret (Wilson) Cochran, and to this union three daughters have been born, Ethel Lucile, born on November 26, 1889; Alma Margaret, November 2, 1891, and Letha Elizabeth, July 6, 1893; the two elder are teachers in the Reno and McPherson county public schools and all three are graduates of the Reno county high school. Ethel and Alma are graduates of the Southwestern College at Wingate, Kansas, and Letha, the youngest, is taking the domestic science and art course at the Kansas State Agricultural College. Mrs. Richhart and her daughters are members of the Methodist church at Nickerson, and the family takes an earnest part in the general good works of the community. Mr. Richhart is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Anti-Horse-Thief Association, in the affairs of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

Mrs. Richhart's father, William Cochran, was born in Ireland on February 22, 1812, and when seven years of age came to America with his parents and his sisters, Elizabeth and Jane, who settled near Jamestown, in Mercer county, Pennsylvania. Elizabeth Cochran married Samuel Porter and Jane married Alexander McElhanney, the two families making their homes near the home farm, remaining there the rest of their lives. They were devout members of the Reformed Presbyterian (Covenanter) church. There William Cochran grew to manhood and in 1843, at Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania, married Margaret Wilson, who was born in 1820, daughter

of Thomas and Margaret (Adams) Wilson, the former of whom died on August 14, 1862, and the latter September 26, 1865. Thomas Wilson was the son of Ezekiel and Jane Wilson, who came to America from Scotland and settled near Newcastle, Pennsylvania, where their last days were spent. They also were earnest members of the Reformed Presbyterian church. To William Cochran and wife nine children were born, Nancy Ann (deceased), Samuel R., Margaret S., Thomas Wilson, David H. (deceased), William R., Mary J. (wife of Mr. Richhart), Elizabeth Porter and Allen.

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### FRED W. COOTER.

Fred W. Cooter, president of the State Exchange Bank of Hutchinson, is a native son of Kansas and has lived in this state all his life. Though not born in Reno county, he has lived here since his early infancy and has never known another home, being therefore, very properly regarded as one of the real sons of Reno. He was born in Leavenworth, this state, September 12, 1872, son of George W. and Elizabeth (Hartford) Cooter, the former of whom, now living retired in Hutchinson, was former treasurer of this county and for many years one of its most prominent and influential citizens. In a biographical sketch relating to the elder Cooter, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is set out a comprehensive history of the Cooter family in this county, to which the reader is respectfully referred in this connection for details regarding the genealogy of the subject of this biographical review.

Fred W. Cooter was but one year old when his parents moved to Reno county and became homesteaders in Little River township, they being among the very earliest settlers and pioneers in that section of the county. He was reared on the homestead farm and received his education in the public schools and a business college course, between terms of school, taking his full part in the labor of developing the home place. When his father was elected county treasurer, in 1891, he moved with him to Hutchinson and served as deputy treasurer during the two terms in that office filled by the elder Cooter, and thereafter served two years as deputy treasurer under W. E. Burns, his father's successor. In 1898 Mr. Cooter was made assistant cashier of the State Exchange Bank of Hutchinson, and presently was elected cashier of that institution, serving in that capacity until his election to the presidency of the bank in October, 1913, since which time he has



devoted his best energies to the success and development of that excellent financial institution. Mr. Cooter is an energetic, enterprising and public-spirited man of affairs and holds a high position in the commercial and financial life of the community.

In 1895 Fred W. Cooter was united in marriage to Myrtle Sympton. Both are members of the Episcopal church and both he and his wife are deeply interested in all measures designed to advance the general, moral and social interests of the community and take an interested part in local good works. Mr. Cooter is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization and is chairman of the finance committee of the Grand Lodge. He has served as a member of the board of education of Hutchinson.

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### JACOB A. YOUNG.

Jacob A. Young, a well-known pioneer farmer of Roscoe township, this county, and an honored veteran of the Civil War, is a native of the great Keystone state, having been born in Miflin county, Pennsylvania, February 4, 1845, son of John and Harriet (Rudy) Young, both natives of that same county, the former of whom was the son of John Young, a native of Germany, who settled in Miflin county upon coming to this country and there established the family.

The younger John Young was reared in Miflin county, was married there and there he continued to make his home until 1864, in which year he came West and settled in Cedar county, Iowa, where he lived on a rented farm until 1877, when he came to this county and joined his son, Jacob A., the subject of this sketch, who had located here three years before, and here he died three years later, in 1880. He was a Republican and he and his wife were members of the Dunkard church, in which faith they reared their children, twelve in number, Jacob A., Lewis, Daniel, Amanda, Noah, Adam, John, Alison, James, Abigail, Ellen and Elizabeth, all of whom are still living save Lewis, Daniel, Elizabeth and Alison.

Jacob A. Young was reared on the home farm in Miflin county, Pennsylvania, receiving his education in the neighboring district school, and in 1862, he then being but seventeen years of age, enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War, in Company I, Twelfth Pennsylvania Reserve, and while thus connected participated in the seven-days battle before



Richmond. He then was stricken with typhoid fever and upon his recovery was discharged on a physician's certificate of disability. Later he re-enlisted and, as a member of Company B, One Hundred and Forty-seventh Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, served until the close of the war, during which service he was with Sherman to the sea. Upon the conclusion of his military service, Mr. Young rejoined his parents, who had meanwhile moved to Iowa, and in that state, in 1870, married Sarah E. Hagarty, daughter of S. K. Hagarty and wife, and in 1874 came to Kansas with his wife and two children, entered a soldier's claim to a tract of land in Roscoe township, this county, established his home there and has ever since resided on that homestead, he and his wife long having been regarded as among the leading pioneer residents of that part of the county. To his original homestead, Mr. Young has added by purchase until he now is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres and is looked upon as a very substantial citizen. He has taken an active part in local politics and has served as trustee, clerk and treasurer of Roscoe township.

To Jacob A. and Sarah E. (Hagarty) Young nine children have been born, as follow: S. E., Albert, of Iowa; J. P., Rebecca, of Wichita; Rosemary, also of Wichita; Della, Pearl, of Wichita, who for two years served as assistant to the probate judge; Elizabeth and Helen, all of whom are living. Mr. and Mrs. Young and their family are members of the Presbyterian church at Pretty Prairie and are active in the work of that church. Mr. Young is an Odd Fellow, and both he and his wife are active members of the Daughters of Rebekah, in the affairs of which organization they take a warm interest.

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#### FREDERICK HIRST.

Frederick Hirst, trustee of Center township, this county, and one of the best-known farmers of the Partridge neighborhood, is a native of Wisconsin, having been born in the town of Darlington, that state, August 24, 1868, son of George and Elizabeth (Bilbrough) Hirst, both of whom were born in the city of Leeds, England, the former on June 21, 1825, and the latter May 19, 1828.

George Hirst was trained to the cabinet-maker's trade in his native city and also obtained a fine practical knowledge of the photographer's art. He married in 1855 and he and his wife at once came to the United States, settling at Janesville, Wisconsin. There Mr. Hirst engaged in the cabinet-

making business and made his home there for several years, at the end of which time he moved to Darlington, Wisconsin, and established a photograph gallery, which he operated until 1872, in the spring of which year he came to this county and opened a photograph gallery in the promising village of Hutchinson, then but a year or two old. The next spring he brought his family here from Wisconsin and in that same year homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 6, in Lincoln township, this county. The next year, 1874, he established his home on the homestead tract and was living there when the grasshopper plague swept over this section, the voracious insects eating the siding off his house. In 1878 George Hirst turned the photograph gallery in Hutchinson over to his eldest son, George, and thereafter devoted his whole time to his farm, spending the rest of his life there. He and his wife were Episcopalians in their religious persuasion, but during their residence in this county were not affiliated with any local church. Mr. Hirst was a Democrat and for several years served as justice of the peace in and for Lincoln township. He died on July 25, 1898, and his widow survived him for sixteen years, her death occurring on September 25, 1914. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Hannah, now deceased, who married John Eaton; George, Jr., a well-known farmer of Lincoln township, who died in the fall of 1915 and a memorial sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Lida, who married George A. Woodward and died in 1885; Mary Ann, who died in childhood; Samuel, of Hutchinson, who for years operated Hirst's photographic studio in that city and who is now a traveling salesman for a photograph supply house; Frederick, the subject of this sketch, and William, a farmer of Lincoln township, a sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume.

Frederick Hirst was five years old when his parents moved to Hutchinson from Wisconsin in 1873. The next year the family moved to the homestead farm in Lincoln township and there he grew to manhood, receiving his education in the district school in the neighborhood of the home farm and assisting in the development of the homestead until his marriage, in 1894. Four years before his marriage he had bought the south half of the southeast quarter of section 5, in Lincoln township, and after his marriage established his home on that place. A year later, however, he sold that farm and bought the southeast quarter of section 11, in Center township, where he ever since has made his home and where he is very pleasantly situated, the excellent farm house and other improvements on the place bespeaking the progressive character of the owner's farming methods. In 1914 Mr. Hirst bought eighty acres of his father's old place in Lincoln

township and is also the owner of a one-third interest in a three-hundred-and-twenty-acre tract of pasture land, the west half of section 31 in Troy township. Mr. Hirst is a Democrat and is at present serving as trustee of Center township and as school director for eighteen years, giving his most thoughtful attention to the administration of the affairs of that important office. He is a member of the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

On March 1, 1894, Frederick Hirst was united in marriage to Lucy Walter, who was born in Reno township, this county, December 16, 1873, daughter of Christopher and Eva (Lohr) Walter, both now deceased, who were pioneers of that section of the county, having homesteaded the south-east quarter of section 30 in Reno township in 1872, thus having been among the very earliest settlers of Reno county, and to this union four children have been born, as follow: George Walter, born on July 15, 1896, now attending an automobile school in Kansas City, Missouri; Bert Harvey, July 25, 1898, who is attending the high school at Partridge; Eva Marie, April 16, 1907, and Frederick, Jr., November 30, 1914.

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### WILLIAM F. CARSON.

William F. Carson, a well-known farmer of Valley township, this county, an honored veteran of the Civil War and a pioneer settler of Reno county, is a native of Ohio, having been born on a farm in Brown county, that state, September 24, 1840, son of William G. and Elizabeth (Finley) Carson, both natives of that same state, the former of whom was born in Ross county and the latter in Brown county.

William G. Carson was reared on a farm in Ross county and upon reaching manhood's estate rented a farm there, after his marriage, and lived there until 1856, when he and his family drove through to Woodford county, Illinois, where he rented a farm and made his home. His wife died there in 1860, at the age of forty-two years, and in 1868 he went to Adams county, Iowa, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1892, at the age of eighty-four years. He was a Republican and he and his wife were members of the United Presbyterian church, in the rigid tenets of which faith their children were reared. There were ten of these children, namely: Mrs. Margaret Parker, now living in Nebraska; William F., the subject of this biographical sketch; Mary, unmarried, who is making her

home with her brother-in-law in Iowa; Samuel, who lives in Idaho; Jane, now deceased, who married James Ramsey; Wilson, who died in California in 1915; Sarah, who died in her early girlhood; James, a Nebraska farmer; Ebenezer, who was last heard from in Alaska, and Cyrus, who died in infancy.

William F. Carson was about sixteen years old when he moved with his parents to Illinois, and he finished his schooling in the latter state. On August 13, 1862, he enlisted in Company C, Seventy-seventh Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served with that regiment until the close of the Civil War, being mustered out at Mobile, Alabama, July 10, 1865. Mr. Carson participated in all the activities of his regiment up to the day of the great charge during the siege of Vicksburg, at which time he was captured by the enemy, May 22, 1863. The next day he was paroled and he at once returned home on parole, where he remained until August 28, on which day he reported at the parole camp at Benton Barracks. In November, 1863, he was exchanged and at once rejoined his regiment, then at Brady City. Following the Red River campaign the Seventy-seventh Illinois was sent to New Orleans for garrison duty, after which it was sent on to Mobile, in the siege and capture of which city it took a prominent part, and after participating in the reduction of Spanish Fort and Ft. Blakeley returned to Mobile, where it was mustered out.

Upon the conclusion of his military service, Mr. Carson returned to Illinois and began farming on his own account. He married in 1867, bought a farm, which he presently increased by further purchase and there made his home until he came to Kansas early in the spring of 1878. He disposed of his interests in Illinois and on March 11, 1878, chartered a car in which to transport his belongings and came to this county, his destination being Hutchinson. After looking about a bit he bought an eighty-acre tract in section 30, Valley township, and there established his home in a one-room house, which served as a dwelling until he later erected a more comfortable dwelling. There he lived for six years, at the end of which time, in 1884, he bought another "eighty" in the same section and moved onto the latter, where he still makes his home and where he and his wife are very pleasantly and comfortably situated. Mr. Carson was a Republican until the formation of the Progressive party in 1912, since which time he has favored the latter party. In 1894 he was elected justice of the peace for Valley township for two years. He is an active member of Joe Hooker Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Hutchinson, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization.



On December 25, 1867, by Rev. J. W. West, William F. Carson was united in marriage to Phoebe J. Baird, who was born on August 11, 1840, in Brown county, Ohio, Mrs. Carson's native county, but who was not acquainted with him until she moved to Illinois with her parents, Harvey and Margaret (Kirkpatrick) Baird, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of Ohio, who moved to LaSalle county, Illinois, in 1856, and there spent the rest of their lives on a farm. To this union but one child has been born, a daughter, Rachel Jane, who married Pliny Coberly, a well-known farmer of Valley township, and has four children, Clyde, Elsie, Lucile and Harry. Mr. and Mrs. Carson are members of the Valley Presbyterian church, of which Mr. Carson was for some years a member of the board of trustees.

Mrs. Carson has a cupboard of walnut which was made over sixty years ago in Ohio from walnut lumber taken off her father's farm, her sister also having a table of the same. Mr. Carson has a piece of the flag-staff that was shot off by Farragut at Fort Hinman. He had many narrow escapes, having his canteen pierced by bullets, also his tin cup on two occasions. The Carsons burned corn stalks the first two winters to keep warm.

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### ARTHUR H. SUTER.

Arthur H. Suter, cashier of the Commercial National Bank of Hutchinson, and one of the best-known and most prominent figures in financial circles hereabout, is a native of Missouri, born at Palmyra, in Marion county, that state, May 18, 1877, son of Thomas J. and Elizabeth (Gash) Suter, both natives of Missouri, the former born in 1846 and the latter in 1853.

For three generations the Suter family has been engaged in the banking business. Thomas J. Suter's father, Verdner Suter, aided in the organization of the Marion County Savings Bank, and for years was president of the bank, acting in that capacity until his death. In his early youth, Thomas J. Suter became vice president of the above named bank, and ever since has been connected with that institution. His wife died in 1912, at the age of fifty-nine. They were the parents of two sons, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Ira T. Suter, still living at Palmyra, Missouri.

Arthur H. Suter received his early education in the schools of Palmyra, Missouri, and when but a boy started to work in the bank with which his



father was connected. He was first employed as a collector, later was made bookkeeper, and was advanced to the position of assistant cashier, all the time giving his most studious attention to the technical details of the banking business, and thus acquiring a broad general knowledge of the business.

In pursuit of wider experience in the vocation to which he had devoted his life and his energies he went to St. Louis, where for several years he was connected with the Mechanics National Bank of that city. In 1902 Mr. Suter organized the Farmers and Traders Bank at Hardin, Ray county, Missouri, an institution with a capital and surplus of fifty thousand dollars, and for three years was cashier of the same. He then sold his interests in that bank and came to Kansas, locating at Hutchinson, where, with others, he organized the Hutchinson Building and Loan Association, and was made secretary of that institution. On July 1, 1908, Mr. Suter was elected cashier of the Commercial National Bank of Hutchinson, and ever since has occupied that position, giving his whole attention to the duties of the same, being recognized as a conservative banker of ability. The Commercial National Bank of Hutchinson was opened for business on November 20, 1906, and is regarded as one of the best established and most substantial financial concerns in this part of the state, and Mr. Suter is one of the representative stockholders in this institution. While devoting his undivided attention to banking, Mr. Suter has also taken a keen interest in farming and stock raising, and is the owner of twelve hundred acres of good farm land in Comanche and Haskell counties, this state. He is also the owner of valuable down-town business properties in Hutchinson.

In 1902 Arthur H. Suter was married to Ottie H. Heather, who also was born at Palmyra, Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Suter are members of the Christian church and take an earnest interest in the general work of the same, as well as in all good works hereabout. Fraternally, Mr. Suter is a Mason, taking an active interest in the work of that order.

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#### HARRY H. TAYLOR.

Harry H. Taylor, of the Taylor Motor Company, Hutchinson, this county, official pilot and chief promoter of the "Santa Fe Trail" and one of the best-known automobile men in the state of Kansas, is a Hoosier, having been born in Clark county, Indiana, not far from the banks of the Ohio river, February 5, 1869, son of S. D. and Priscilla (Monroe) Taylor.

S. D. Taylor was a farmer and in 1871 moved from Indiana to Illinois. He bought a large farm in Jasper county, that state, and there spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1905. His widow is now making her home with her children in Chicago.

Harry H. Taylor was but two years old when his parents moved from Indiana to Illinois, and he was reared on the paternal farm in the latter state, receiving his education in the public schools in the neighborhood of his home. In 1888, at the age of nineteen years, he came to Kansas and located at Hutchinson. He engaged in newspaper work and for one year was employed in the office of the *Hutchinson Democrat*. In 1890 he began working in the office of the *Hutchinson Daily News*, R. M. Easley, editor, and remained with that newspaper for several years, first as mailing clerk, then as bookkeeper and then as manager of the office-supplies department. In 1909 Mr. Taylor began a study of the possibilities presented by the automobile business and organized a company, known as the Taylor Motor Company, the other stockholders being W. Y. Morgan, L. A. Bunker, E. T. Guymon and Dr. H. G. Welsh. This company secured the local agency for the sale of the Ford automobile and established a garage and general repair and supply and service station at 111-119 Sherman avenue, east, and Mr. Taylor is still located there, having made a great success of the business. He long ago bought the stock held in the concern by his associates and is now the sole owner of a very prosperous and growing business. The first year he was engaged in business, 1909, his company sold nine automobiles. In 1914 he sold eight hundred and seventeen cars and now employs a force of twenty-six men in his place. He is also interested in several real-estate companies and is one of the directors of the Hutchinson Daily News Company.

Mr. Taylor has been looked upon as one of the leading automobile men of Kansas for years. The good roads movement has been one of his chief concerns and he was one of the most active leaders in promoting the same throughout the state, having been the official pilot of the new "Santa Fe Trail" ever since the creation of that modern highway over the ancient trail. Mr. Taylor is a member of the Kansas City Automobile Club and of the Hutchinson Country Club. He is a Republican and for years has been actively interested in local politics, but has never been an aspirant for public office.

On September 24, 1895, Harry H. Taylor was united in marriage to Dora Reddersen, who was born in Ohio, daughter of William and Augusta (Groschner) Reddersen, the former of whom is a retail shoe merchant, and

to this union has been born one child, a daughter, Dorothy, born in 1896, who was graduated at Dana Hall, Wellesley, Massachusetts, in June, 1915. Mr. Taylor is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the consistory and of the Mystic Shrine at Wichita, and is also an Elk.

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### PIERCE C. ROBERTS.

Pierce C. Roberts, a well-known and well-to-do retired farmer of Valley township, this county, who for years has made his home in Hutchinson, where he and his family are very pleasantly situated, is a native of Kentucky, born on a farm in Nelson county, that state, August 18, 1856, son and only child of John W. and Margaret (Weekly) Roberts, both natives of that same state, the former of whom died in Nelson county in 1862. In 1865 his widow married, secondly, Lee G. Bruner, with whom she moved in that same year to Martin county, Indiana, where she lived until her death, March 21, 1916, at a ripe old age.

Pierce C. Roberts was but six years old when his father died and was about nine when he moved with his mother and his stepfather to Martin county, Indiana, where he continued his schooling in the local schools. He was reared a farmer and after his marriage in the fall of 1882 to a neighbor girl continued farming in Martin county until in March of 1888, when he and his wife and their two young sons came to Kansas, where they ever since have resided. Upon coming to this state Mr. Roberts bought a quarter of a section of land in Byron township, Stafford county, where he lived for thirteen years, at the end of which time he sold that place to advantage and came over into Reno county. He bought the west half of section 25, in Valley township, which he still owns, and which he has developed into a very fine piece of property. After a residence of three years on that farm Mr. Roberts retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Hutchinson, where he has lived ever since. Upon moving to Hutchinson Mr. Roberts bought the residence at 1100 North Main street, which he still owns and where he and his family made their home until in 1915, when he built his present residence at 14 Eleventh avenue, east, where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Since locating in Hutchinson, Mr. Roberts has taken an active part in public affairs and for more than eight years has served as a deputy city assessor. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization, as does Mrs. Roberts, who is a member of the Daughters of Rebekah.

It was on November 27, 1882, in Martin county, Indiana, that Pierce C. Roberts was united in marriage to Martha Imogene Smith, who was born in that county on December 7, 1857, daughter of Dr. Nicholas S. and Mary J. (Charles) Smith, both natives of Orange county, Indiana, and prominent and influential residents of that section of the Hoosier state, the latter of whom is still living, making her home at Hutchinson, this county, in a ripe old age. Mary Jane Charles was born on September 22, 1836, and on February 12, 1857, at Natchez, in Martin county, Indiana, was married to Dr. Nicholas S. Smith, who was born on August 31, 1828, son of a prominent pioneer Baptist preacher, who had emigrated to that section of Indiana from Kentucky. Doctor Smith's eldest brother, Daniel, also was a physician, but when his brother entered practice he turned his attention to the gospel ministry, was ordained a minister of the Methodist church and thus continued until he was placed on the honorably retired list. Doctor Smith's second brother, Harrison, also was a minister, but followed his father in the Baptist faith and was for many years a minister of that church. The venerable Mrs. Smith still recalls the days when she would sit for an hour and a half listening to the sermons of the Rev. Harrison Smith without growing weary. There were three other brothers, Ford, John and Benjamin Smith, who, though not ministers, were very pious men and active in all good works. Mrs. Smith's father, William Charles, was the son of William Charles, one of the earliest settlers of Orange county, Indiana, who was killed by Indians while plowing in his field near the pioneer blockhouse at French Lick Springs in that county. The son, William, then was but two years old and a year later was orphaned, indeed, when his mother died, unable to recover from the shock and grief due to the murder of her husband, and he was reared to manhood by a cousin, Azor Charles. Dr. Nicholas S. Smith enlisted for service in the Union army upon the breaking out of the Civil War and went to the front as first lieutenant of Company A, Seventeenth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for three years, at the end of which time he received his honorable discharge on a physician's certificate of disability, illness incapacitating him for further service. To Doctor Smith and wife three children were born, Mrs. Roberts having had two brothers, Daniel L. Smith, former clerk of Pueblo county, Colorado, who died on March 13, 1900, and Delos V. Smith, who is engaged in the saddlery business at Hutchinson. Daniel L. Smith married Eugenia Day, of Pueblo, Colorado, and had four children, Darwin Bidwell, Martha Irene, Wolcot and Elizabeth. Delos V. Smith married Bessie Bloom and



has one child, a son, Delos. Dr. Nicholas S. Smith died at his home in Martin county, Indiana, June 12, 1867, his health having been permanently impaired by his service in the army.

To Pierce C. and Martha Imogene (Smith) Roberts three children have been born, sons all, Harry W., born in Martin county, Indiana, November 17, 1883, now operating a general store at Elkhart, Kansas, who married Ethel Burnett, December 25, 1908, and has three children, Eugene Pierce, born on October 17, 1909; Harry Daniel, December 26, 1912, and died in May, 1913, and Robert Burnett, August 20, 1915; Daniel Leroy, born in Martin county, Indiana, February 8, 1886, a progressive young man in partnership with his brothers at Elkhart, who married Margaret Newey, March 23, 1907, and has two children, Margaret Estella, born on June 17, 1911, and Daniel Leroy, Jr., June 15, 1915, and Chester L., born in Byron township, Stafford county, this state, November 16, 1893, who is connected with his brother in the general mercantile business at Elkhart. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts are members of the Christian church and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same as well as in all worthy movements for the advancement of the common interest hereabout.

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### CHARLES E. WAGONER.

The late Charles E. Wagoner, for years a well-known and popular dairyman in the Hutchinson neighborhood and later prosperous rancher and stockman, who died at his home in Reno township, this county, on June 5, 1911, was a native of Ohio, having been born on a farm near Bellevue, in Huron county, that state, on June 5, 1863, and his death occurred on the forty-eighth anniversary of his birth. He was the son of Levi and Sarah Wagoner, farming people of Ohio, who came to Kansas about the year 1880 and settled on a farm near the town of Sterling, in Rice county, where they spent the remainder of their lives, devout members of the Christian church. Besides the subject, another of their sons came to Reno county, David Wagoner, who is a well-known farmer in Valley township.

Charles E. Wagoner was about sixteen years old when he came to Kansas with his parents and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Rice county. He married young, in 1883, and then bought a farm lying between Sterling and Lyons, in Rice county, on which he lived for a few years, at the end of which time he sold it and for a time thereafter rented farms in the Sterling neighborhood. He always was interested in cattle and





CHARLES E. WAGONER AND FAMILY.



was considered an expert in their care. It was his great desire to become an extensive stockman, but the seasons of drought and hot winds about that period so strongly militated against his success that in 1900 he still was a poor man. In 1901 he decided to make a change of base and with this end in view came to Reno county, where, on the outskirts of Hutchinson, he engaged in market gardening for a season, at the same time doing a small business in the dairy line, he having brought nine cows and a team of horses with him. The dairy business seemed promising and he presently bought out the extensive equipment of the Charles Bloom dairy and went into the business on a considerable scale. He had practically no money to pay down for the equipment he bought, but he was able to secure the same on advantageous terms and was successful from the very start, it not being long before he was the proprietor of the leading dairy farm in the county, his product proving so popular in and about Hutchinson that he was enabled to raise the rate to a price above five cents the quart, the first time such an increase had been attempted in Hutchinson, without creating a protest on the part of his customers. He and his wife and his children all worked diligently and with excellent results, their business prospering beyond their most hopeful expectations.

When Charles E. Wagoner arrived in Reno county in 1901 he was eight hundred dollars in debt and possessed practically nothing save the nine cows and the team of horses above mentioned. Ten years later he was the owner of four hundred and twenty acres of choice land in Reno county, all paid for and producing him a handsome revenue from his extensive operations in cattle. From the profits of his dairy business he bought, in 1907, a half section of land from William Buttles, in Clay township, remodeled the house which stood on the same, put up modern farm buildings and engaged in cattle raising, the pursuit in which his heart had always been most closely concerned. In 1910 he sold the dairy business and devoted his whole attention to cattle raising and was greatly prosperous, a short time before his death he having bought an additional hundred acres adjoining his original half section in Clay township. His specialty was pure-bred Short-horn cattle and Poland China hogs and his stock farm soon gained a wide reputation for the fine quality of its stock. Since his death his widow and her three sons have continued successfully to manage the farm. Mr. Wagoner was a member of the Christian church, as are all the members of his family. He was a Democrat, and in his lodge affiliations was connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Knights of the Maccabees.

On December 4, 1883, Charles E. Wagoner was united in marriage to Emma Gibson, who was born in Cedar county, Iowa, February 20, 1860, daughter of James and Sarah Gibson, both of whom were born in the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but who did not meet until they were grown and living in Cedar county, Iowa. James Gibson, for eighteen years, had done service as a bookkeeper in a commercial concern in Pittsburgh and then, deciding to get a touch of the West, moved to Iowa, settling in Cedar county, where he bought a farm and there he married, his wife having lived in that county since her childhood, her parents having moved from Pittsburgh. In the spring of 1875 James Gibson sold his Iowa farm and came to Kansas, driving through with his family and such portable belongings as conveniently could be loaded in the wagon, and driving several cows along, the family arriving at Sterling, in Rice county, on June 1, 1875. On their way they had driven through Hutchinson, the little daughter, Emma, now Mrs. Wagoner, driving the cows through the main street of the town. She recalls to this day the dreary appearance presented at that time by the straggling village, a half waste of drifting sand dotted by houses of a very crude style of architecture. Upon arriving in Rice county, James Gibson bought a half section of land and later bought more land, presently becoming quite well-to-do. He and his wife were devout people, members of the Christian church, and earnest folk, who set about establishing the new home very energetically. They were the parents of eight daughters and one son, the latter of whom, the youngest of the family, was the only one of the family born in Kansas. Upon their arrival in Rice county, the Gibsons were poor, but all hands set to work and pretty soon they began to see their way clear. The older daughters taught school and brought home every cent of the money thus earned, all going into the common fund with which to pay off the mortgage on the original purchase of land. Emma Gibson, now Mrs. Wagoner, was the eldest of these eight helpful daughters and much of the burden of providing ways and means fell upon her willing shoulders. At the age of sixteen she began teaching school and from the first was successful, continuing her service as a teacher for ten years. During the earlier years of this service her father begged her not to marry, but to stay with him, a helpful daughter, until the obligation of his debt was released and she promised to do so; and kept her promise. Mrs. Wagoner is a very capable woman and is making a very successful farm manager. She is ably assisted by her three sons, Vernon, who was born on June 1, 1894; Perlton, February 22, 1897, and Harlon, April 9, 1900.

## JAMES L. PENNEY.

Associated with the business interests of Hutchinson, Reno county, Kansas, almost from the very beginning of that town, the late James L. Penney played an important part in the upbuilding of this now thriving city. While Mr. Penney was a successful business man, he was not content to work for his own interests only, but was always ready to aid every measure for the benefit of the public, and especially for his interest in the cause of education will he long be remembered in the city of Hutchinson.

James L. Penney was born in the pleasant village of Adams, in Jefferson county, New York, June 5, 1848, the son of George and Mary (Gardner) Penney, both of whom were natives of the Empire state.

George Penney was of English descent and was a farmer in Jefferson county. Both he and his wife lived in New York state all their lives, and were devoted members of the Baptist church. They were the parents of six sons and one daughter, the subject of this sketch being the youngest of the family.

James L. Penney attended the public schools of his native town, and was graduated from the Hungerford Institute at Adams, New York. After teaching school in New York state for several terms he went to live with a brother in LaSalle county, Illinois, and taught school in that locality one winter. In 1869, Mr. Penney went to Topeka, Kansas, and became cashier of the Alfred Ennis Company, which firm carried on a law and real-estate business.

The town of Hutchinson was founded in 1871 by C. C. Hutchinson, who determined, in the year following, to establish a bank in the new town. Accordingly, he wrote to the Ennis Company in Topeka to recommend a young man for cashier of the new bank. The company recommended Mr. Penney, and so, in April, 1872, he came to Hutchinson as cashier of the Reno County Bank—the first bank in Reno county. The bank passed safely through the panic of 1873, and after an existence of four years was sold out in 1876. Mr. Penney then bought a partnership with J. S. George, with whom he was associated for two years in the grocery business. He then went to Odell, Illinois, and joined his brother, Seth H. Penney, in conducting a general store, remaining there about two years.

Mr. Penney returned to Hutchinson in 1880, and built a corn and wheat feed-mill on the bank of the mill race where Avenue C is now located. Later he formed a second partnership with J. S. George in the Hutchinson



Produce Company, which was located on the corner of Washington and First streets. Subsequently, Mr. Penney organized the Hutchinson Music Company, at 17 South Main street, of which company he was president and main owner, and in which business he continued until his retirement from active affairs in 1908.

On April 8, 1873, James L. Penney was united in marriage in Topeka, Kansas, with Mary McLaughlin, of Indianapolis, Indiana, the daughter of Col. John A. and Louisa (Moorhouse) McLaughlin, both of whom were descended from Revolutionary ancestors. The maternal grandfather of Col. John A. McLaughlin, a Kimberley, emigrated from Connecticut to Ohio, where he secured a land grant given to Revolutionary soldiers. Louisa Moorhouse came from an old Virginia family, her great-grandfather, Col. Robert McFarland, having served in the American Revolution.

James L. and Mary (McLaughlin) Penney were the parents of three children, Louis Arthur, who died when two years old, Elizabeth, Alice and Edith Louise. Elizabeth Alice Penney is the wife of John F. Fontron, who is associated with the Fontron Loan and Trust Company, of Hutchinson. Edith Louise Penney on June 29, 1911, was married to Oscar A. Peterson, of Hutchinson.

James L. Penney served as secretary and treasurer of the Hutchinson school board for several terms in the early seventies. He promoted the movement to issue bonds to build the first large school house in the city. This bond issue was opposed by citizens in certain sections of the city who wished the school house located in their neighborhood. As the time for the election drew near it looked as though the bond issue would be defeated, and it was mainly due to the efforts of C. C. Hutchinson and Mr. Penney and his wife that the bond issue was carried. Mr. Penney sold the bonds in Kansas City and with the proceeds he and his associates built the "Sherman Street school house," which was the school attended by all the Hutchinson pioneer children. This building served for forty years, when it was torn down in 1915, to be replaced by a modern building.

Mr. Penney served on the school board for several terms at a later period. He was an ardent Republican, and was especially interested in good local government. He was a charter member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He attended the Presbyterian church. James L. Penney died in Hutchinson on March 29, 1914, and was sincerely mourned by all who knew him.

When Mr. and Mrs. Penney returned to Hutchinson they resided in the first block on Avenue B, west, and lived there for twenty-two years.

In 1902, they built the residence at 521 Sherman avenue, east, which Mrs. Penney still owns. This home is built on a lot which is part of an acre in the C. C. Hutchinson farm on which the city was founded. Mrs. Penney had owned the acre tract since 1876.

Mrs. Mary (McLaughlin) Penney, is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. During her residence in Hutchinson she has seen the straggling village grow into a beautiful and prosperous city and can take just pride in the knowledge that she and her husband helped in this development.

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### WALTER B. HARRIS.

Walter B. Harris, official surveyor and civil engineer of Reno county and one of the best-known civil engineers in Kansas, is a native of Arkansas, having been born in Stone county, that state, August 18, 1868, son of Augustus B. and Carrie V. (Stevens) Harris, the former a native of Arkansas and the latter of Tennessee, both now deceased.

Augustus B. Harris was reared on a farm in his native state and grew up to strong, robust manhood. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in the cause of the Confederate states and served to the close of the war, being present with Lee at the surrender at Appomattox. He participated in the battle of Shiloh and numerous of the bloodiest engagements of the war, receiving several wounds, which undoubtedly shortened his life. Upon the conclusion of his military service he walked back from Virginia to his home in Arkansas and there engaged in the general mercantile business in his home village, being thus engaged until his death, at the age of thirty-six years, in 1874. His widow survived until 1912, her death occurring at San Antonio, Texas. She was the mother of three children, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Mabel, who married R. J. Jeffrey and lives at Fayetteville, Arkansas, and Margaret, who married T. A. Black, a grocer at San Antonio, Texas.

Walter B. Harris was six years old when his father died. His elementary schooling was obtained in the schools of his home village and he later entered the Missouri School of Mining at Rolla, from which he was graduated after a four-years course in 1895, with the degree of Civil Engineer. Thus equipped for the calling to which he had devoted his life, Mr. Harris took employment with the Frisco railroad, in Missouri, as a civil engineer, later going to the Midland Valley, in Oklahoma, in the same

capacity. He also surveyed numerous branch railroads, and was thus engaged until he was installed as assistant city engineer at Hutchinson in 1905. After two years of service in that connection he was employed on an irrigation project in New Mexico for a year, at the end of which time he returned to Hutchinson and resumed his former place in the city engineer's office, and was thus engaged until his appointment in 1910 to the office of county engineer of Reno county, which position he ever since has held. Mr. Harris is a member of the Kansas Engineering Society and is one of the best-known civil engineers in this state.

On July 5, 1904, at St. Louis, Missouri, Walter B. Harris was united in marriage to Eliza B. McKinley, who was born in Pennsylvania, and to this union two children have been born, Margaret M., born on May 5, 1906, and Victor B., July 2, 1908. Mr. Harris has a very pleasant home at 122 Seventh avenue and he and his wife take an interested part in the various social and cultural activities of their home town.

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### THE FONTRON FAMILY.

The founder of the Fontron family in America, prominently represented in Hutchinson, Reno county, Kansas, by Joseph A. Fontron, Louis E. Fontron and John F. Fontron, was Joseph Vonthron, an Alsatian, who came to the United States in 1832, locating in Peoria county, Illinois. He erected and operated the first grist- and saw-mill in the city of Peoria, known at that time as Ft. Clark. He was also largely interested in farm lands there. After his death the name of Vonthron was Anglicized, becoming Fontron.

In 1838 Joseph Vonthron married Katherine Herr, a Bavarian, who came to this country and located in Peoria county, Illinois, in 1832. In 1849, attracted by the gold fields of California, Joseph Vonthron left his interests and started for the new Eldorado. He died in California in 1851, leaving a widow and four children, the eldest, Mary, still living in Peoria, Illinois; Katherine and Elizabeth, deceased, and Joseph A. Fontron, then five years of age.

Joseph A. Fontron was married at Hennepin, Illinois, in 1870 to Anna Feltes, who was born at Kinderhook, New York, March 10, 1852, and was the daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (McDermott) Feltes. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Fontron lived in Henry, Illinois, until

1873. They then removed to Castleton, Stark county, Illinois, where for three years Mr. Fontron was engaged in the mercantile business. In 1876 they came to Hutchinson, Kansas. Mr. Fontron was engaged for one year in the mercantile business, erecting a two-story building on lot No. 5, North Main street, which building is still standing. The next fifteen years were spent by Mr. Fontron and family upon a homestead in Grant township, this county. In 1891 the family returned to Hutchinson where J. A. Fontron served as probate judge for three terms and in 1907 he engaged in the real-estate and loan business. He has always taken an active interest in general business and civic affairs of Hutchinson and Reno county, and assisted in organizing the Hutchinson Building and Loan Association and for two years acted as its president. Since 1897 he has been actively engaged in the real-estate and loan business, merging his interests with those of the Fontron Loan and Trust Company upon the organization of the latter in May, 1915.

Five children were born to Joseph A. and Anna Feltes Fontron, namely: Eva, Joseph P., Mabel, John F. and Louis E. Eva Fontron, who was born in Henry, Illinois, August 5, 1871, married W. D. Puterbaugh, eldest son of John Puterbaugh, in 1894, and died on December 21, 1915, at North Yakima, Washington. Joseph P. Fontron was born on March 22, 1873, at Castleton, Illinois, and married Fan Hardy, daughter of George W. Hardy, of Hutchinson, Kansas, in 1904. Joseph P. Fontron is now a prominent attorney of Kansas City, Missouri. Mabel Fontron, born in Castleton, Illinois, June 12, 1875, and married Paul Rewman on July 10, 1911, is now residing in Deadwood, South Dakota. John F. Fontron, born in Hutchinson, Kansas, March 15, 1877, married Elizabeth Alice Penney, daughter of J. L. Penney, December 31, 1902. John F. Fontron was for fourteen years engaged in the jewelry business at McPherson, Kansas, returning to Hutchinson in 1915 and becoming associated with the Fontron Loan and Trust Company as secretary-treasurer, upon the organization of that institution in May, 1915. To Mr. and Mrs. John F. Fontron were born three children, John, Jr., born on December 2, 1903; Dorothy, born on April 25, 1905, and Alice, born on October 9, 1910. Louis E. Fontron, who was born on the farm in Grant township Reno county, Kansas, January 28, 1870, was twelve years of age when the family moved to Hutchinson. In 1901 he entered with his father in the real-estate, loan and insurance business, in which he has since been engaged and during which time he has become one of the prominent loan men in this part of the state. In 1915 he organized the Fontron Loan and Trust Company, of which he was elected first president.

the position which he now holds. This marked the first trust company organization in Hutchinson and central Kansas. In October, 1902, Louis E. Fontron was married to Mary Elizabeth Bigger, of Hutchinson, Kansas, daughter of L. A. Bigger, in a biographical sketch of whom presented elsewhere in this issue there is set out a history of the Bigger family in this county. To this union two children have been born, Elizabeth, born on December 25, 1903, and Anna, born on September 11, 1907.

In the spring of 1913 Louis E. Fontron was elected mayor of Hutchinson, which official position he held for one term, declining to seek a second term in order to devote himself to his business interests.

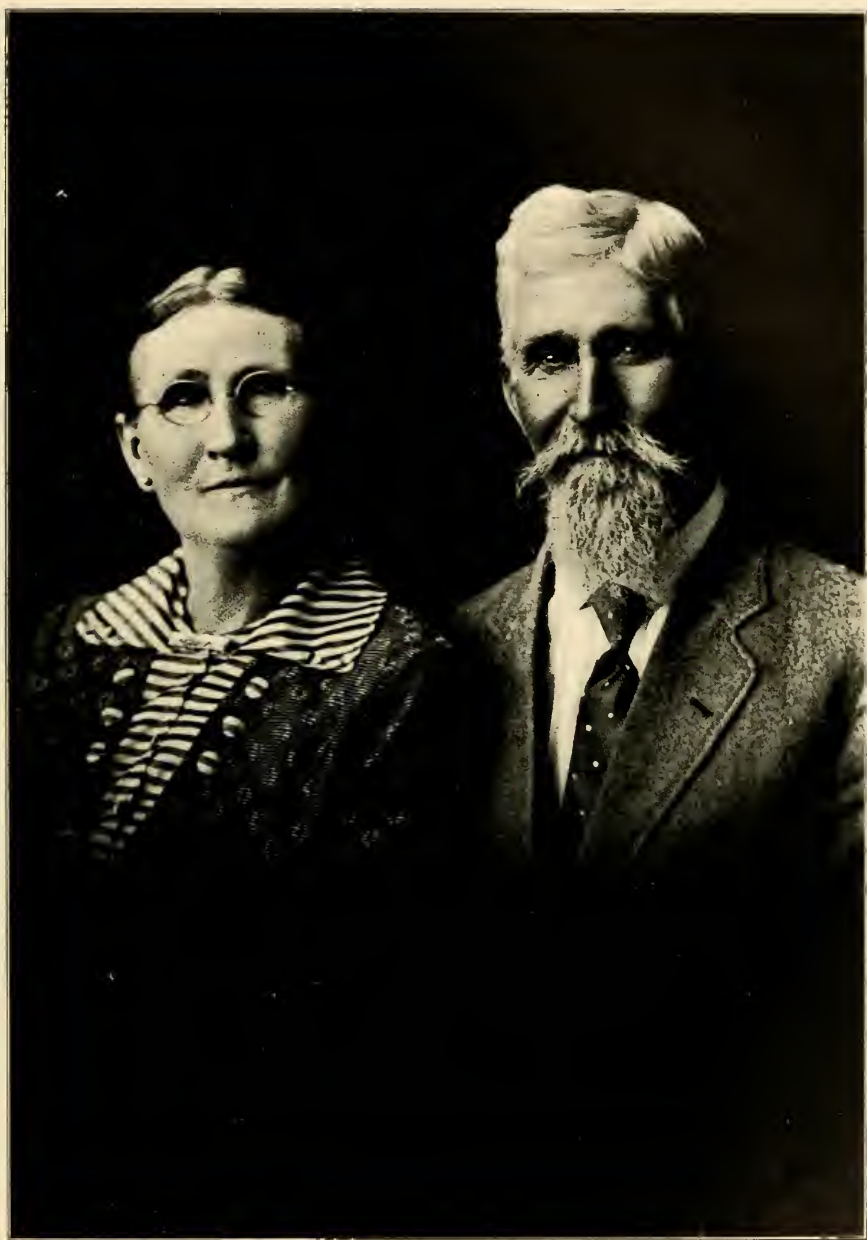
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### JAMES FRANKLIN McMURRY.

James Franklin McMurry, a well-known and progressive farmer of Lincoln township, this county, is a native of Tennessee, having been born on a farm in Haywood county, that state, September 17, 1846, son of William H. and Martha J. (Faires) McMurry, the former of whom was born near Murfreesboro, in that same state, in April, 1823, and the latter in Alabama, in August, 1823, both of whom spent their last days in this county, having come here from Tennessee a year or two after Reno county was opened for settlement in the early seventies.

William H. McMurry was reared on a farm in eastern Tennessee and when still a boy moved with his parents to Haywood county, in the same state, where he later married and bought a tract of "Congress land" at one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. He presently sold that farm and bought a larger one, on which he made his home until 1872, in which year he and a couple of his Tennessee neighbors, James A. Moore and H. D. Freeman came to Kansas on a prospecting tour. In the fall of that year Mr. McMurry bought a full section of railroad land in Lincoln township, this county, the same being section 23. He arranged for the erection of a house on his section and returned to Tennessee, coming back to Reno county the next year with his family and establishing his home on his new place in Lincoln township, and there he and his wife remained the rest of their lives. William H. McMurry was a Union man during the time of the Civil War and was a Republican ever after, his influence with the party hereabout during pioneer days having considerable weight. He became a substantial farmer and an extensive dealer in hogs, taking a good deal of pride in the





A M McMurry

J. F. McMurry.



high grade of hogs that he raised on his place. He and his wife were members of the Methodist church and took an earnest and an influential part in all good works in their neighborhood. Mr. McMurry died in 1903, he then being eighty years of age, and his widow survived him for three years, her death occurring in 1907, at the age of eighty-four. They were the parents of seven children, as follow: James F., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Harriet, who lives in Lincoln township, widow of D. M. Stewart; Elizabeth Jane, who married J. C. Moore and lives in Hutchinson, this county; Mrs. Susan F. Allen, now deceased; Hugh L., who died in October, 1876, at the age of seventeen years; William Eli, a retired farmer, now living at Winfield, this state, and Charles W., who lives on a farm in Lincoln township, this county.

James F. McMurry grew up on the home farm in Haywood county, Tennessee, receiving an excellent education in the subscription schools in the neighborhood of his home, the public-school system not being inaugurated in that state until after the Civil War, and at the age of twenty-one began teaching in the public schools and was thus engaged for ten years, farming during the summer months. In 1869 he married and for a year thereafter lived on a rented farm. He then bought a small farm of sixty acres and there made his home until 1884, in which year he followed his father's excellent example and came to Kansas, arriving in Reno county in December of that year. He located in Lincoln township, near his father's extensive place, and for six years rented farms in that vicinity, prospering meanwhile, so that in 1891 he was able to buy a quarter of a section of excellent land in Lincoln township, the same being the northwest quarter of section 22, and has made his home there ever since. Upon taking possession of his farm, Mr. McMurry enlarged the house that then stood on the place and has otherwise improved the farm, also bringing it up to a high state of cultivation; in addition to general farming being also largely interested in the dairy business, from which he derives considerable profit. Mr. McMurry is a Republican and has served his party several times as a precinct committeeman. From 1904 to 1908 he served the county very acceptably as a member of the board of county commissioners and is widely and most favorably known throughout the county.

On December 2, 1869, James F. McMurry was united in marriage to Ann Mariah Thomas, who was born in Haywood county, Tennessee, August 18, 1849, daughter of John B. and Marcia (VanBuren) Thomas, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Kentucky, early settlers in Haywood county, and to this union seven children have been born, namely: Edgar L.,

born on July 31, 1870, who was killed in an automobile accident on December 26, 1909; Guy T., November 20, 1871, who married Rhoda Hertzler and lives on a farm near Ft. Benton, Montana; Lulu J., June 11, 1874, who married W. E. Uhl and lives in Ft. Benton county, Montana; Ernest and Pearl, twins, June 26, 1878, the former of whom married Cora Gander and was killed by a runaway team on April 16, 1913, and the latter married J. O. McNew and died on October 22, 1901; Linnie Kate, July 2, 1880, who married J. O. Dix and lives on a farm in Lincoln township, this county, and Hugh, January 10, 1885, who died on August 10, 1889. The McMurrys are members of the Methodist church at Elmer and for years have been active in the various beneficences of the same, Mr. McMurry being a member of the board of trustees of the church. The family is regarded as one of the most substantial factors in the community life thereabout and its members are held in high esteem by all.

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### BENJAMIN E. GILES.

Benjamin E. Giles was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, January 22, 1865. His father, Stelle Giles (1833-1907), was reared near Plainfield, New Jersey, married Mary C. Albro (1826-1909), of Newport, Rhode Island, pioneer farmers in Illinois from 1850 to 1877, and lived one year in Hutchinson, Kansas, in a house which is still standing at First and Maple streets, the property belonging to John Nelson. In the spring of 1878, Stelle Giles and his sons drove to Barton county and purchased land at the head of Cow Creek, and the same fall was joined by the family, and there they became extensive farmers and stockmen. When, in 1887, the Missouri Pacific railway was built, Benjamin E. Giles helped secure the right of way, also aided in having bonds voted in different townships. This railroad crossing their land, they formed a company and founded Giles City, now Chaslin. Judge Hamilton, who laid out the railroad, lived with them while there. Chaslin, becoming prosperous, later shipped more wheat in one year than any other town in Kansas. Mr. Giles built a fine suburban home and continued his farming operations with great success, and in 1900, sold out and moved to Stillwater, Oklahoma. Mr. and Mrs. Giles were members of the Baptist and Christian churches, respectively. Their children are as follow: Mrs. Mary A. Bass, of McPherson; Mrs. Estella Newcombe, of Great Bend; Emma, the wife of H. W. Galloway, of Pawnee

county; William A., of Pawnee county; S. A., of Denver, Colorado; Benjamin E., of Hutchinson; Carrie, the widow of L. W. Cook, formerly an editor of Elnwood.

Benjamin E. Giles came to Kansas when thirteen years of age, attended the old Sherman street school in Hutchinson, and herded cows on the commons on the site of his present residence. After the family moved to Barton county, he rode five miles to school until one nearer his home was started, and finished his schooling at Great Bend, in the meantime working hard. After leaving school he bought a farm six miles northeast of Chaffin, and in 1897 engaged in the real estate business at Great Bend, with Porter Young, remaining with the firm for six years, and during this period the firm sold five hundred thousand acres of mostly western lands, which was claimed to be the greatest record in the state. Besides his real estate business Mr. Giles was also extensively engaged in farming and stock raising on an acreage of between two and three thousand acres, and for three years owned and operated a ranch consisting of thirty-four hundred acres in Hodgeman county, Kansas, keeping nearly one thousand cattle and many mules and horses. In 1909 he bought and located on the George Cole farm, northwest of Hutchinson, in order to give his children rural and urban advantages. In 1914 he purchased his present home, an attractive bungalow at 211 Ninth avenue, Hutchinson. He owns nine hundred and sixty acres of land in Pawnee county, Kansas, which is managed by his son, Elton, and a son-in-law, A. E. Immenschuh. He also owns a wheat farm of nine hundred and sixty acres in Kiowa county, Kansas, purchased in 1899, and managed by his son, Leonard, as well as five hundred and sixty acres in Ford county, Kansas.

On April 20, 1887, at St. John, Benjamin E. Giles was married to Nydia B. Lamb, a native of Butler county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Daniel and Malinda Lamb. In 1885 Mrs. Giles' parents moved from Pennsylvania to Kansas, purchasing a half section of land near Chaffin. Later they moved to St. John, but are now living at Grand Junction, Colorado, aged ninety-eight and seventy-eight, respectively. To Mr. and Mrs. Giles have been born the following children: Alice, the wife of A. E. Immenschuh, has two children, Benjamin and Eugene; Ethel, the wife of Elmer Justice, of Garden City, Kansas, has one son, Lawrence; Elton, a graduate of the high school at Hutchinson, and later a student for a year at Emporia College, spent one year at the Kansas State Agricultural College, Manhattan, Kansas, and won much fame as a foot-ball player; Helen.



a kindergarten teacher in Hutchinson, and Gertrude and Margaret, the last two named being still in school.

Mr. Giles is a Republican in politics, and has always taken a prominent part in all matters of local importance and upbuilding. He was chief promoter, a director and is now vice-president of the Straw-Board Manufacturing Company, of Hutchinson, which is a large and prosperous concern. He is president and chief organizer of the Hutchinson & Western Interurban Railway Company. He is a Mason, belonging to the blue lodge and consistory at Great Bend, and to the Mystic Shrine at Salina. He is a charter member of the lodge of Odd Fellows at Chaffin, and is a trustee, though non-member of the congregational church at Hutchinson, to which his wife belongs, and assisted in its building.

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### MELVIN J. REYNOLDS.

A descendant of one of the old families of Virginia, the subject of this sketch was early thrown on his own resources. After the family had suffered considerable loss in the general havoc wrought by the war between the States, Melvin J. Reynolds came to the West and after years of diligent application is now comfortably situated on a fine quarter section in this county.

Melvin J. Reynolds was born on August 31, 1860, in Russell county, Virginia, the son of Isaac V. and Sarah J. (Ferguson) Reynolds, both of whom were born in Russell county, where the family had lived for many generations. Isaac V. Reynolds was the son of Ira Reynolds, who was the owner of a large plantation in Virginia before the war.

During the Civil War, Isaac V. Reynolds served in the Confederate army in the Sixteenth Virginia Cavalry, under the command of General McCausland. After serving throughout the war, Isaac V. Reynolds returned to his home, but he never recovered from the effects of a cold contracted while in the army, and died in 1866, at the age of twenty-nine years.

Sarah J. Ferguson was born on December 21, 1837. She was married to Isaac V. Reynolds a short time before the war. When her husband died in 1866 she was left with the care of two small children, and seeking a better location in which to rear her family than the then devastated region of her home seemed to offer, she removed to Illinois, in 1873, and located in Adams county, where she kept house for seven years for William Burke.

Later, Mrs. Reynolds bought a farm in that county, and lived in Illinois the remainder of her life. She died at Ellen Grove, Illinois, December 23, 1907, at the age of seventy years. Mrs. Reynolds was a member of the Missionary Baptist church and was active in all good works in that communion.

Isaac V. and Sarah J. (Ferguson) Reynolds were the parents of two children, namely: Melvin J., the subject of this sketch, and Ira, a farmer in Adams county, Illinois, who lives on the old home farm of one hundred and forty-three acres.

In Virginia, Melvin J. Reynolds attended subscription school for a few terms, the tuition being paid by his mother through the sale of chestnuts, cabbage and tobacco. When the family removed to Illinois in 1873, Melvin J. was thirteen years old. He attended the district school in the winter and worked on farms in the summer, living in Adams county with his mother until he was twenty-two years old.

In 1882, Mr. Reynolds went to Sumner county, Kansas, where he secured employment with A. B. Burke, a big sheep man, with whom he worked for eleven years. At that time the sheep were on the open range and were herded from Nebraska to southwest Texas, changing pastures with the seasons. Mr. Reynolds soon became an expert in the sheep business and was made foreman of the outfit, subsequently he became financially interested with his employer. Melvin J. Reynolds came to Reno county in 1894 and located in Salt Creek township, where he rented a farm of Moses C. Stahly. Mr. Reynolds conducted this farm on a rental basis for many years, and finally, in 1912, purchased one hundred and sixty acres of the place, being the southeast quarter of section 32. Mr. Reynolds has put numerous improvements on the farm. He keeps a good grade of stock and engages principally in wheat farming, which has been very profitable in recent years.

Melvin J. Reynolds was married on November 26, 1900, to Amy Stahly, who was born near Nappanee, in Elkhart county, Indiana, the daughter of Moses C. and Mary (Nisley) Stahly. Moses C. Stahly came to Reno county, Kansas, from Indiana in 1885, and bought a farm in Salt Creek township. In 1903 he and his wife moved to Hutchinson, where they still live and where Mr. Stahly is engaged as a carpenter.

Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds are the parents of one son, Ferguson, who was born on October 23, 1904. Mr. Reynolds is a Democrat, and takes a proper interest in all matters affecting the welfare of the community. He and his wife have a wide circle of friends in this part of Reno county.

## WILSON SMITH.

Wilson Smith, best known as one of the influential citizens of Nickerson, Reno county, Kansas, was born on September 28, 1860, in Peoria, Illinois, and is the son of Henry and Margaret (Wilson) Smith, who were both born in Ireland. Henry Smith was born in 1826, and died in 1902. He immigrated to America previous to his marriage and located in Philadelphia. Margaret Wilson was brought to this country when a girl and her marriage to Henry Smith was solemnized in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she then lived. Her death occurred in 1862. She was the mother of five sons, whose names follow: Robert and William, deceased; Lewis C., Robert, who has been unheard from for many years, and Wilson. After the death of Margaret (Wilson) Smith, her husband married Mariah (Wilson) Reece, widow of Joseph Reece, and of this second union four children were born, namely: Mariah, Newell, David, deceased, and Loren. Mariah (Wilson) Reece was the mother of one child by her first marriage, Jennie. Henry Smith was a resident of Illinois at the time of his death and both he and his wife were active in local church affairs, being devoted members of the Presbyterian church.

Wilson Smith lived in Illinois until twenty-two years of age, when he located in Butler county, Kansas. After his marriage and for the past thirty years Lewis has lived with his brother. Lewis Smith is a farmer who operates a place containing about six hundred acres of land and first began his career in this vocation in 1877.

On February 18, 1886, Wilson Smith was united in marriage to Alice Thompson, daughter of William P. and Mary A. (Kizer) Thompson. Wilson Smith and wife are the parents of two children, Laura and Edith, who are both in training at the State Normal School at Pittsburg, Kansas. The marriage of Wilson Smith and Alice Thompson was solemnized in Washington, Illinois. Alice (Thompson) Smith was born on December 11, 1861, and is one of ten children born to the union of her parents, five of whom are now living. Their names follow: Elizabeth and Elijah, deceased; Celia A., Lucinda E., Mary Louisa, Ella, Alice, Emma C. and two who died in infancy. William P. Thompson was a native of Pennsylvania, while his wife was born in Virginia. They met and married in Ohio, in 1841, and thence removed to Illinois where they established a permanent home. Both husband and wife were active members of the Christian church and liberal supporters of same. William P. Thompson was born in 1817 and his death

occurred on April 21, 1903, his wife preceding him by ten years. She was born in 1821.

Wilson Smith was a resident of Kansas for three years previous to his marriage, returning to Illinois for his bride. Upon his return to this section, they purchased eighty acres and added to it until they had seven hundred and twenty acres of land in Westminster township. Mr. Smith continued to make that his home until 1908, at which time he removed to the town of Nickerson. Since coming to this city he has been identified with all progressive civic questions and has served as a member of the town council for three years past. He is also active as a member of the Christian church, serving its interests as an elder for seven years.

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### J. O. WHEELER.

J. O. Wheeler was born in Jackson county, Indiana, November 8, 1830. He is a son of Orrel H. Wheeler, who was born in Vermont. His mother was Elizabeth Love, a daughter of John Love, who moved from eastern Tennessee to Indiana, where he lived the remainder of his life. He was a soldier in the War of 1812.

Mr. Wheeler's paternal grandfather was Nehemiah Wheeler, a New Englander, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, entering the service at the age of sixteen years. Nehemiah Wheeler first settled in Ohio, but later moved to Jackson county, Indiana, where he lived the remainder of his life. His wife was Thursie Hall. He was a son of Enoch Wheeler, and the grandson of Samuel Wheeler, who was the first representative of the Wheeler family who settled in America.

Orrel H. Wheeler's education comprised three months in a country school, but he became a well-read man. He was twice married, his first wife being J. O. Wheeler's mother. He came to Jackson county, Indiana, with his father's family, when twelve years old. He learned the carpenter's trade, but after moving to Jasper county, Illinois, he followed farming the rest of his life, his death occurring in the latter county.

J. O. Wheeler received his education in the common schools of Jackson county, Indiana, and was a student in the high school in Jennings county, Indiana. After leaving school Mr. Wheeler took up farming and also learned the carpenter's trade. Upon the breaking out of the Civil War, he enlisted for service in the Union army on August 14, 1862, and served three years

with the Ninety-eighth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Mounted Infantry. He received gunshot wounds in the hand and in the back while in the service, and from third sergeant he was promoted to first sergeant, then to first lieutenant. After the war he resumed farming, and in May, 1873, moved from Indiana to Kansas, homesteading land four miles west of Nickerson. Here he and his family endured all the hardships of the early Kansas pioneers, hunting buffalo bones for a living and contending with the grasshopper plague. Mr. Wheeler has now retired from active life, being almost blind.

On August 16, 1852, J. O. Wheeler was married to Mary Ruddick, who was a native of Jackson county, Indiana, and who died on July 13, 1914. They were the parents of the following children: Emma E., who married Albert Dean and they have seven children; Alice, who married J. M. Asher; Solomon, Julia, Clara Jane, who married William Dean and they have five children; Charles Harvey, who is now living on the farm, married Fannie Johnson and they have five children. All are deceased but Charles Harvey. Mrs. Wheeler in early life was a Quaker, but later was a member of the Methodist church, in which denomination Mr. Wheeler is still active.

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#### CHARLES BLOOM.

Charles Bloom, who for many years was one of the best-known business men in Hutchinson and who later lived very comfortably on his fine farm in Reno township until his death on January 29, 1916, was a native of Germany, having been born in the town of Waldmohr, Rhenish Bavaria, on June 24, 1846, son of Philip and Mary (Zimmer) Bloom, both born and reared in Bavaria, members of the German Reformed church, and the former of whom was a blacksmith.

In 1856 the Bloom family emigrated to America, the vessel on which they sailed being forty-eight days on the way to the port of New York. Upon arriving in this country, the Blooms located at Tiffin, in Seneca county, Ohio, later moving to a farm near that city, where Mr. and Mrs. Bloom spent the remainder of their lives, both dying in 1870, the former at the age of seventy-two and the latter at the age of fifty-six. They were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch was the youngest, the others being as follow: Philip, Jr., now deceased, who was a farmer in Ohio; Jacob, now deceased, who was a blacksmith in Ohio;





MR. AND MRS. CHARLES BLOOM.



Caroline, who died unmarried in Indiana; Charlotte, now deceased, who married George Hartman, of Seneca county, Ohio; Mary, who married William Leper and lives in Tiffin, Ohio, and Dora, who lives in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, widow of Luther Allbrecht.

Charles Bloom was six years of age when he arrived in this country with his parents and his schooling therefore was wholly confined to the American system of education. He performed valuable labors in his youth in assisting in the clearing of the home farm in Seneca county, Ohio, and at the age of twenty-two, in 1868, he came to Kansas and entered a claim in Wilson county, but the fever and ague at that time were proving such drawbacks to that section of the state that he abandoned his claim and went to Andrews county, Missouri, where, in the village of Balco, he opened a blacksmith shop, he having learned that trade from his father, and was thus engaged until 1872, in which year he rented a farm in that same county, he having married there in the fall of 1871, and there he lived for four years, at the end of which time he decided that Kansas offered better opportunities for material advancement and returned to the state he had left in disgust seven or eight years before. He arrived in Reno county on July 18, 1876, where he lived until his death. Upon his arrival here he settled in Hutchinson, even then a most promising village, and bought a building on the corner of Second and Main streets, in which, in partnership with his brother-in-law, A. M. West, they started a livery stable, which they conducted for some time. In 1878 Mr. Bloom and his partner bought the water-power flour mill, which they operated until 1901. Mr. Bloom also was the organizer and one of the five men who composed the wholesale grocery concern of C. Bloom & Company and was connected with that flourishing business until 1901, at the same time being actively connected with the retail grocery and general store of the A. M. West Company, from 1883 to 1891, dividing his time about equally between the two enterprises. In 1895, five or six years before his retirement from business in Hutchinson, Mr. Bloom had bought two hundred and forty acres of the Wolcott ranch, west of Hutchinson, and after his retirement made his home there. For several years he operated an extensive dairy there, but in later years confined his attention wholly to general farming and gave his personal attention to the management of his well-kept farm. In 1910 Mr. Bloom's second son, Ralph H. Bloom, opened a livery barn in Hutchinson and Mr. Bloom had an interest in that concern.

On October 3, 1871, Charles Bloom was united in marriage, in Seneca county, Ohio, to Margaret E. West, who was born in that county, daughter

of James and Julia West, and to this union three children have been born: H. Clayton, a retired merchant living in Hutchinson; Ralph H., who operates a livery barn in Hutchinson, and Bessie, who married Delos Smith, president of the Hutchinson Wholesale Saddlery Company.

Mr. Bloom was a Democrat and during the early years of his residence and during the time of his active business career took an active and influential part in the political affairs of Reno county and of the county seat town, but never was an office seeker. He was honorable and upright in all his relations in life, and will be long remembered by his many associates and friends.

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### ROBERT JAMES GRAHAM.

The late Robert James Graham, for more than twenty years one of Hutchinson's sterling and most substantial citizens, a man highly respected throughout the whole county, active and influential in all good works hereabout, whose widow, Mrs. Sarah Marshall Graham, is still living in Hutchinson, honored and respected by the entire community, was a native of Ohio, having been born on a farm in Morrow county, that state, March 8, 1850, son of Thomas and Isabelle (Walker) Graham, both natives of Washington county, Pennsylvania, and both of sterling Scottish descent.

Soon after their marriage, Thomas Graham and wife left Pennsylvania and moved over into central Ohio, settling in Morrow county, where they bought a farm and there spent the remainder of their lives, Mrs. Graham dying when the subject of this sketch was nine years old. Eight children were born to Thomas Graham and his wife and all were reared in the strict faith of the Reformed church, both Mr. and Mrs. Graham having been rigid "Covenanters." Thomas Graham was a good farmer and an excellent manager and became a man of considerable substance, his children being given every advantage in the way of schooling and cultural training, all becoming good citizens, serving usefully in their respective callings.

Robert J. Graham received his elementary education in the schools of his native county and supplemented the same by a thorough course in Oberlin College, from which he was graduated with honors. He had been reared to the life of the farm and soon after his marriage, on April 23, 1873, bought a farm in Richland county, Ohio, where he made his home until 1884, in which year he disposed of all his holdings there and came West with the intention of settling in Dakota. On the way out he stopped

at Hutchinson, this county, to make a visit with his brother-in-law, W. R. Marshall, who had located in that city some time previously, and during that visit became much impressed with the possibilities of this section of the state. He continued his trip to Dakota, however, but after having received so favorable an impression of conditions hereabout was not much impressed with conditions in Dakota. Upon his return to Hutchinson, Mr. Graham told his wife, who meanwhile had remained there, that they would remain in Hutchinson that winter and if conditions still seemed favorable in the following spring they would make their home here. During that winter Mr. Graham's liking for Kansas increased and in the spring he bought three hundred and twenty acres of land in Lincoln township, continuing, however, to make his home in Hutchinson, managing the farm from his home in town. Later he increased his investment in Reno county realty by buying the quarter section just north of Hutchinson, which his widow sold in 1909 to the Kansas State Fair Association and which has been converted into the state fair grounds.

In the early nineties Robert J. Graham became a partner with Mr. Ardery in the A. & A. drug-store enterprise at Hutchinson and for ten years was an active partner in the same. He also was interested in various other enterprises in and about the city and was long regarded as one of Hutchinson's leading citizens, so that at the time of his death, on October 18, 1905, he was widely mourned, the community recognizing that he had been true and faithful in all the obligations of life. In 1888, four years after taking up his residence in Hutchinson, Mr. Graham built a pleasant home at 310 Fourth avenue, east, where his widow still lives, very comfortably situated and enjoying the constant evidences of the high esteem in which she is held by the entire community, her devotion to all good works hereabout having endeared her to all. Mrs. Graham is alone in her home, so far as family is concerned. Three of her babies died in infancy and the only child who grew to maturity, her dearly loved daughter, Myrtle, who married Harry Squire, died in February, 1909. Mrs. Graham's parents, Robert and Rebecca (Riddle) Marshall, died in Richland county, Ohio, before her marriage to Mr. Graham, but she has a sister, Mrs. Dora Silver, wife of George Silver, of Ellsworth, this state, and a brother, Edgar Marshall, a prominent clothing merchant of Mansfield, Ohio. Another brother, the late William R. Marshall, was for years a well-known resident of Hutchinson, this county.

Robert J. Graham was an earnest member of the Presbyterian church at Hutchinson, in the various beneficences of which he ever took a warm interest, his widow still being devoted to the same. Mr. Graham was a Re-



publican and ever took a good citizen's interest in local political affairs, being greatly concerned in good government, though never having been included in the office-seeking class. He was a member of the order of Modern Woodmen, in the affairs of which he took a warm interest and during the two decades and more in which he made his home in Hutchinson was regarded as one of that city's most popular citizens, a friend to all, all friendly to him, a good neighbor and an enterprising and public-spirited citizen.

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### WILLIAM PEARSON.

William Pearson, a veteran of the Civil War and one of the pioneer farmers of Reno county, who lived retired at his pleasant home at 221 Eleventh avenue, west, in Hutchinson, until his death, on September 12, 1915, was a native of the Emerald Isle, having been born in Londonderry, County Derry, in the north of Ireland, on March 29, 1841, son of Gibbons and Jane (Wilson) Pearson, both natives of that county, of Scottish descent, the former of whom was a member of the established church of England and the latter a Presbyterian.

Gibbons Pearson was a contracting teamster, the owner of more than a dozen teams, who had the contract to do all the hauling between Londonderry and a neighborhood village. In 1841 he emigrated with his family to America, stopping for a short time in New York City, where he was employed as a teamster, presently moving to a town in Pennsylvania, where he died within the year. His widow never remarried and presently moved back to New York City, where she spent the remainder of her life. She was left with seven children, five sons and two daughters, upon the death of her husband, and she bravely kept her family together, bringing them up to lives of usefulness. Of these children, the subject of this biographical sketch, who was next to the youngest, was the only one who ever came West, the others making their homes in New York City and Brooklyn, and they are all now deceased.

William Pearson was an infant in arms when he was brought to America by his parents and was but two years of age when his father died. He attended the public schools of New York City and at the age of fourteen began learning the carpenter trade. In May, 1861, when twenty years of age, he responded to President Lincoln's first call for volunteers to help put down the rebellion of the Southern states, enlisting in New York City

in Company F, Seventy-ninth Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, the famous "Highlanders," with which he served for a little more than three years, being mustered out in June, 1864. During this term of service, Mr. Pearson was a participant in some of the most important and bloody engagements of the Civil War. His regiment was attached to the Ninth Army Corps, First Division of Burnside's Army, and was present at both battles of Bull Run, of Port Royal Ferry, South Carolina; of South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Vicksburg, Jackson, Blue Springs, the siege of Knoxville, the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Hatchers Run and Petersburg.

At the close of his army service, Mr. Pearson returned to New York and entered the employ of his brother, Alexander, who was engaged in the manufacture of sewing-machine cases for the Grove & Baker factory, and in 1867 became his brother's partner, this arrangement continuing until 1872, in which year he engaged in the retail furniture business in the city of Brooklyn and became quite successful in that line. In the meantime, in 1866, he had married and had established his family in a fine three-story house in the city. In 1874 an asthmatic trouble with which Mr. Pearson for some time had been afflicted became so pronounced that it was declared imperative that he should seek a different climate. With that end in view he came to Kansas, leaving his family in their home in Brooklyn, and sought relief from his disability in the far-sweeping and health-giving breezes of Reno county, living here during the summer and fall of 1874, "batching" with a homesteader in Medford township, and was so agreeably impressed with the possibilities of this region that he bought a quarter of a section of land thereabout as an investment. To his great joy, he presently found that his asthmatic affliction had entirely disappeared and he returned home, confident that he was permanently restored to his former excellent state of health. He had not been home more than a fortnight, however, until his old enemy, the asthma, again attacked him and this time with such force that his life was despaired of. He hastened back to his old quarters in this county and then and there decided to make this his permanent home, his affliction again having disappeared.

Preparatory to the establishment of his new home, Mr. Pearson homesteaded one-quarter of section 12, in Medford township, adjoining the quarter of a section he previously had bought, and set about the erection of a home. Not content to bring his family, accustomed to the comforts of their fine home in the city, to such a form of habitation as that represented in the "shacks" such as his pioneer neighbors had built on their homestead lands, Mr. Pearson, at much trouble and no small expense, caused to be erected a

large frame house, one and one-half stories in height, filled in between the weather-boarding and the plaster with bricks, in order to make it as near winter-proof and cyclone-proof as possible, the house being probably the largest and best house in the county at that time. Mr. Pearson's care in thus providing for the coming needs of his family was a matter of wide comment throughout the county and one of the Hutchinson newspapers of that date was moved to remark that "a New Yorker has come to the county and has built a mansion on his farm." When all was in readiness, Mr. Pearson sent for his wife and family, having meanwhile closed out his business interests in the city, and they arrived on July 4, 1876.

In order to gain a closer acquaintance with his pioneer neighbors and as a suitable "house-warming" for the new home, Mr. Pearson had extended a general invitation throughout the countryside for all the pioneer neighbors to gather in at his new home on a certain evening and become acquainted with his wife and family. The response to this cordial invitation was general, the people of that then sparsely settled country coming distances of twenty miles or more to take part in the festivities. That had been a season of hard fortune for the people hereabout, what with the drought and the grasshoppers, and the opportunity thus to break the dread monotony of conditions on the prairie was not to be overlooked. A number of great turkeys, together with "lashin's of fixin's" had been provided for the occasion and the Pearson home then and there established a reputation for hospitality that it ever retained. The only musicians in Hutchinson, four in number, had been brought out to the new homestead to provide music for the dance which followed the feast, and dancing was kept up in the new barn, the floor of which had been converted into an admirable dancing surface, until six o'clock the next morning. The floor of one of the large rooms in the house was nearly covered with the sleeping babies, thus tucked away for the night while their respective mothers were enjoying the festivities. And thus the Pearsons established themselves in Reno county, the "house-warming" which inaugurated their arrival here still being a matter of pleasant recollection on the part of the surviving "old-timers," who have never ceased to keep in mind the opening of the new home.

From the very beginning of his farming operations in this county, Mr. Pearson was successful and he gradually enlarged his original holdings until he became the owner of four hundred acres of valuable land. In 1902 he retired from the active duties of the farm and he and his wife, who had ever been a valuable and competent helpmate in the life on the farm, moved into Hutchinson, where she is now living in a very pleasant home at 221

Eleventh street, west. On July 3, 1916, Mr. and Mrs. Pearson would have celebrated their "golden wedding," had he lived, that date marking the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage in New York City on July 3, 1866. Mrs. Pearson, who before her marriage was Ellen Edwards, was born in Canada and located in New York City when a small girl, her parents, Matthew and Jane (McLean) Edwards, moving to the city at that time. To the union of William and Ellen (Edwards) Pearson eight children were born, namely: Alexander, who is engaged in the furniture business at Eugene, Oregon; Ella, who died at the age of twenty; Thomas Burnside, who lives on the old homestead farm in Medford township; William Gibbons, who is engaged in the piano business in Kansas City, Missouri; James Lincoln, connected with the Zinn Jewelry Company at Hutchinson; Jennie, who married Charles Smith, a well-known farmer of Reno township, this county; Mary E., who married William Davis, a Medford township farmer, and Sarah M., who married Herman Hostetter and died on February 12, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Pearson were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and their children were reared in that faith. Mr. Pearson was a Mason and a member of Joe Hooker Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and for years took a warm interest in the affairs both of the lodge and of his fellow veterans of the Civil War.

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### HENRY G. CURNUTT.

Henry G. Curnutt, an honored veteran of the Civil War and a pioneer farmer of this county, now living pleasantly retired in the city of Hutchinson, is a Hoosier, having been born in Fayette county, Indiana, December 24, 1844, son of Calloway and Lydia (Hutchings) Curnutt, the former of whom was a Virginian who migrated to Indiana when a boy, with his parents, and the latter a native of Indiana.

Calloway Curnutt grew to manhood in Fayette county, Indiana, being reared on a pioneer farm, and upon reaching manhood's estate began farming on his own account. He married a neighbor girl and established a home there, in which he and his family lived until 1849, in which year they moved to Montgomery county, Indiana, settling on a farm near the village of New Richmond, on which he and his wife spent their last days. They were Methodists and substantial and useful members of the community in which they lived. Calloway Curnutt died in 1858, in his fortieth year, and



his widow survived him but five years, her death occurring in February, 1863, at the age of forty-five. They were the parents of eight children, five sons and three daughters, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch was the third in order of birth, and but one other of whom, the Rev. William Curnutt, now deceased, for years a well-known minister of the Methodist church at Iola, Kansas, ever came to this state. One of the other sons, Frank Curnutt, next older than Henry G., was killed in battle at Stone's river, while fighting for the cause of the Union during the Civil War.

Henry G. Curnutt was five years old when his parents moved from Fayette county to Montgomery county, Indiana, and he grew to manhood on the home farm in the latter county, receiving his education in the pioneer district school of that neighborhood. On July 25, 1862, he enlisted in Company E, Seventy-second Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for service during the Civil War, and served until February 4, 1863, on which date he was honorably discharged on account of physical disability, having been confined in hospital for two months previous to his discharge. His regiment was attached to the Army of the Cumberland and among the important engagements in which he participated was the battle of Castillian Springs. At the termination of his military service, Mr. Curnutt returned home and, after recuperating from his weakened condition, took active management of the home place, he being the eldest of the sons of their widowed mother at home. His mother died in the same month in which he was discharged from military service and he kept things going at home for five years, or until 1868, in which year the family disbanded and he went to Macon county, Illinois, where he rented a farm and established a home of his own. On May 21, 1867, Mr. Curnutt had married Dortha E. Smith, who was born and reared in Montgomery county, Indiana, and who ably assisted him in creating the new home in Illinois. She died there on June 10, 1875, leaving two children, Frank, who now lives in Caddo county, Oklahoma, he having drawn a valuable farm claim in the allotment of lands when the Indian territory was opened for settlement, and May, who married Harry Camren, of Montgomery county, Indiana, and died in February, 1906.

Following the death of his wife, Henry G. Curnutt gave up his farming operations in Illinois and, leaving his small daughter with kinsfolk in Indiana, came to Kansas, seeking a new start amid the conditions that then seemed so promising in this county. He homesteaded a claim in Huntsville township and on February 14, 1877, married, secondly, in that township, Sarah E. Wilson, who was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, on February



3, 1849, daughter of Samuel and Catherine (McMahon) Wilson, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio, who were married in the latter state and made their home in Muskingum county, where Samuel Wilson followed farming until the time of his death, in 1852. He and his wife were the parents of six children, Mrs. Curnutt being the sixth in order of birth. Of these six children, but one other is now living, Robert Wilson, a resident of Belvidere, Nebraska. The Widow Wilson did not remarry and upon the opening of Reno county to settlement came here with her family and homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in Huntsville township, where she created a new home, which, however, she did not live long to enjoy, for her death occurred in 1875, she then being sixty-three years, nine months and ten days of age. Not long after his marriage in this county, Mr. Curnutt sold his homestead and bought the northwest quarter of section 2, township 23, range 9 west, in Huntsville township, and as he prospered in his farming operations added to the same until he now is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and thirteen and one-half acres there, on which for years he carried on, quite extensively, general farming and stock raising and became quite well-to-do. In 1898 he and his wife retired from the active duties of the farm and moved to Nickerson, this county, where they lived until in April, 1913, in which month they moved to Hutchinson and bought a pleasant home at 305 Sixth avenue, east, where they are now living.

To Henry G. and Sarah E. (Wilson) Curnutt two children have been born, William, who is managing the home farm in Huntsville township, married Pearl Decker and has two children, William and Nellie, and Alma, who married Bartley Jessup, a banker of Abbeyville, this county, and has two children, Ruth and Freda Ellen. Mr. and Mrs. Curnutt are members of the Methodist church and for years have been active in the good works of that denomination. For seven years Mr. Curnutt was superintendent of the Sunday school of the Methodist church in Huntsville township, a steward of the church and a consistent financial supporter of the same. Mr. Curnutt also was active and influential in the promotion of the interests of the schools of that township and for sixteen years was treasurer of the combined school districts of his neighborhood, inclusive of four districts, and did much to help elevate educational standards thereabout. He is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to the political affairs of the county. Enterprising and energetic, he took a prominent part in the promotion of the various interests of his home neighborhood and for eight years was president of the Nickerson Telephone Company, a concern which

he helped to establish. Mr. Curnutt is an active member of Joe Hooker Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that patriotic society.

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### HENRY NEUENSCHWANDER.

Henry Neuenschwander, a well-known farmer of Salt Creek township, this county, is a Hoosier by birth, having been born in Adams county, Indiana, on January 17, 1878, son of Jacob Neuenschwander and wife, members of the Mennonite colony in that county, who were the parents of five children, three of whom are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Noah, who lives in Oklahoma, and Josie, who married George Keller and also lives in Oklahoma. The mother of these children died when her son, Henry, was a baby, and the latter has no recollection of ever having heard her name. Jacob Neuenschwander married, secondly, Barbara Eagley, and in 1884 he and his family came to Kansas, settling in this county, where he bought a quarter of a section of land in Salt Creek township and established a new home. To his second marriage two children were born, a daughter who died in youth and a son, Emil, who is now living in Oklahoma. In 1900 Jacob Neuenschwander sold his place in this county and moved, with his family, to Beaver county, Oklahoma, where he and his wife are still living, devout members of the Mennonite colony there.

Henry Neuenschwander was six years old when he came with his family to this county and he was reared on the home farm in Salt Creek township, attending the district schools and living the simple and somewhat puritanical life of a Mennonite farmer boy. He was twenty-two years old when he accompanied his father and the other members of the family to Oklahoma. He remained there two years, assisting his father in getting settled in his new home, after which he returned to this county, married and rented a farm in Enterprise township, on which he made his home until 1912, in which year he bought a quarter of a section of the farm of his father-in-law, John Schott, the southwest quarter of section 3, in Salt Creek township, including the Schott homestead, and there he has since made his home, becoming a prosperous and substantial farmer, his father-in-law, whose wife died in 1887, making his home with him and his wife. All are members of the Mennonite church, substantial and excellent people, who lend much to the general stability of that section of the county. Mr. Neuen-

schwander never votes, in common with the practice of the people of his faith, but once served as clerk of the school district. Though, in the main, following the old-fashioned ways of his fathers in the manner of conducting his farm operations, he does not wholly deery modern methods and finds his Ford automobile a great help and convenience.

On August 19, 1902, Henry Neuenschwander was united in marriage to Lucy Schott, who was born in Wayne county, Indiana, daughter of John and Katie Schott, and who came to this county with her parents when she was four years old and here grew to womanhood. John Schott is a native of France, having been born in a Mennonite settlement in the eastern part of that country. As a young man he emigrated to the United States and finally located in Allen county, Indiana, in the Ft. Wayne neighborhood, where he married, later moving to Wayne county, in the neighborhood of Richmond, where he lived until 1878, in which year he and his family came to Kansas and settled in this county, buying the southwest quarter of section 3, in Salt Creek township, railroad land, and there made their new home. As noted above, Mrs. Schott died in 1887, and in 1912 Mr. Schott sold his farm to his son-in-law, Mr. Neuenschwander, who had married his daughter, Lucy, youngest of his children in a family of six. Mr. and Mrs. Neuenschwander have one son, Paul J. They also have in their household Helen and Arthur, whom they have undertaken to rear to manhood and womanhood.

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### SWAN ESKELSON.

No history of Reno county would be complete without fitting reference to the life and the works of the late Swan Eskelson, one of the very earliest settlers of this county, who braved all the privations and the distressing conditions that confronted the pioneers of this section during the early years of the settlement hereabout and who succeeded largely, in time coming to be one of the most substantial farmers and stockmen of the Hutchinson neighborhood, his fine farm in Clay township having been developed from the homestead which he entered there in 1871, three months after the first settlement made in Reno county.

Swan Eskelson was born near the town of Wexo, Sweden, December 3, 1826, and was past eighty-nine years of age at the time of his death, on January 15, 1916. He was the son of Eskel and Ingebar (Jahnsdatter) Swanson, natives of the kingdom of Sweden, who spent all their lives in that

country, rearing their children in the faith of the Lutheran church. Eskel Swanson died in 1856 and his widow survived him many years, her death occurring in 1884, she then being past ninety years of age. Swan Eskelson was reared on a farm and when twenty-two years of age married Kersting Germanson, who was born in Sweden in October, 1825. After his marriage he tilled his father's farm, rearing his family there, until the spring of 1871, at which time he came to the United States, he and the other members of his family joining at Topeka, this state, in June, his sons, John, who had come to this country in 1869, and Peter, who had followed in 1870. Upon arriving in Kansas, Swan Eskelson lost little time in seeking a homestead tract and in the summer of 1871 homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 24, in Clay township, Reno county, in addition to which he bought eighty acres of railroad land and there he established his home. Erecting a little shack on his homestead on the plain, Swan Eskelson faced the task of developing a home in the midst of rather unpromising conditions, but he weathered the hardships of the grasshopper years and the years of drought and flame and presently began to prosper. He early made a specialty of stock raising, the free range at that time offering large opportunities for the successful prosecution of that business, and made a fortune. He later bought another quarter section in Clay township and became one of the county's most substantial farmers. His wife died on June 29, 1897, and in 1900 Mr. Eskelson sold most of his land and moved to Hutchinson, where he built a home and prepared to spend the balance of his days in the city, but conditions in the pent-up environment were not to his liking and he returned to the farm, built a new house near that of his daughter, Mrs. Hannah Strandberg, who now owns the old home place, and there regained the freedom of spirit he could not feel in the city.

On January 15, 1916, Mr. Eskelson suffered an attack of heart disease while entering an interurban railway car in front of the Baldwin hotel in Hutchinson to return to his home near Kent station and before medical assistance could be secured was dead. Mr. Eskelson for many years had been regarded as one of the leaders of the considerable Swedish colony in this county and his sudden death was widely mourned by his many friends. He was an ardent Republican and had served his home township in the capacity of trustee and as treasurer. He and his wife were earnest members of the Swedish Lutheran church at Hutchinson and their children were reared in that faith. There were six of these children, namely: The late John Eskelson, who at the time of his death was the owner of eighteen hundred acres of land in Clay township, his widow now being the largest land-



owner in Clay township; Peter, born on October 28, 1848, a well-known retired farmer living on his fine farm in Clay township; Christine, who married Allman Peterson, a Clay township farmer, both now deceased; Mollie, wife of Jacob C. Hartshorn, of Los Angeles, California; Lena, wife of James Freese, of Hutchinson, and Hannah, wife of Peter Strandberg, a well-known farmer of Clay township, living on the old Eskelson homestead.

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### ANDREW JACKSON HUCKLEBERRY, JR.

Andrew Jackson Huckleberry, Jr., one of Reno county's best-known young practical farmers and an extensive buyer of horses and mules, whose operations extend all over the plains and mountain states, is a native of Texas, having been born in the town of San Angelo, in Tom Green county, that state, on December 28, 1884, son of Andrew Jackson and Lilly (Humphrey) Huckleberry, pioneers of this county, who were temporarily residing in Texas at that time, the former of whom is still living in this county, at the age of seventy-eight, and the latter, born in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1852, died in 1903.

The senior Andrew J. Huckleberry, who is a remarkably well-preserved old gentleman and who is still living on his fine place in Salt Creek township, which has been his home since 1872, the year after the first permanent settlement in Reno county, is one of the most interesting figures hereabout, a veteran of the Civil War, a gentleman of much learning and wide information, widely traveled, courtly in his ways, after the manner of the old school, and a most engaging conversationalist. He is a Hoosier by birth, having been born in Clark county, Indiana, on the banks of the Ohio river. He received an excellent education and as a young man was engaged as bookkeeper on one of the fast packets then plying the waters of the Ohio, later being promoted to the position of shipping clerk. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in the Fourth Indiana Cavalry and served for four years, participating in all the notable engagements taken part in by that gallant regiment, including the battles of Chattanooga and Murfreesboro, and marched with Sherman to the sea.

At the close of the war, Mr. Huckleberry settled in Saline county, Missouri, where he shortly afterward married Lilly Humphrey, a Kentucky girl then living there, and successfully engaged in business. In the spring of 1872, attracted by the promising possibilities presented in this part of



Kansas, he came to Reno county, the first permanent settlement having been made here the year before, and homesteaded a quarter of section 20, township 23, range 7 west, in Salt Creek township, and there made his permanent home. To this tract he later added, by purchase, an adjoining quarter section, and on this well-kept and admirably-improved old home place he is now spending in quiet comfort the pleasant "sunset time" of his life. Mr. Huckleberry was among the very first settlers of Salt Creek township. He came to Reno county with about fourteen hundred dollars in money and among his other possessions, most precious in the pioneer community, were three head of mules, a team of horses and a new wagon, he having been the first man in the township to own a team of horses or mules. One of the other settlers was the proud possessor of one horse and one ox, which he used effectively in team work. The early settlers were glad to bargain with Mr. Huckleberry for work on his place, taking in pay therefor the use of his teams with which to haul buffalo bones to Hutchinson, at that time a flourishing market for these "natural products of the soil." As a pioneer, Mr. Huckleberry passed through all the hardships of the grasshopper plague and the later plagues of flame and drought and his vivid recollections of that period form an inexhaustible and accurate source of information regarding that unhappy chapter in the history of Reno county. In the early eighties Mr. and Mrs. Huckleberry left this county, the state of Mrs. Huckleberry's health at that time seeming to require a change of climate, and for fifteen years were in residence elsewhere, first living in Texas, then in Arkansas and then in New Mexico. Though ever regarding his homestead place in Salt Creek township as his permanent home and being pleasantly situated there in the household of his son, who for some time has been the practical manager of the place, Mr. Huckleberry has spent much of his time in travel and is thus a man of wide and general information. He is a member of the Methodist church at Partridge and ever has displayed a proper interest in good works hereabout. He is a Republican and while giving a good citizen's attention to the political affairs of the county, never has been a candidate for public office. Besides his son, the junior A. J. Huckleberry, Mr. Huckleberry has a daughter, Ada, who married William C. Layman and lives on a farm south of Arlington, this county.

A. J. Huckleberry, Jr., was but a small boy when his parents returned to Reno county to make their definite home. During the period of his school days his parents moved to Hutchinson in order that he might live there and receive the benefits of the city schools. Upon completing the common-school course, he attended the State Agricultural College at Manhattan. In

1903 he married and for some years past has been in active charge of the old home farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Salt Creek township, where he makes his home. Most of his time, however, is spent in buying horses, his operations in this line taking him all over the plains and mountain states, he being one of the most extensive dealers in horses and mules in Kansas. Upon the outbreak of armed hostilities in Europe in 1914, he contracted with the British, French and Italian governments to furnish animals for war purposes and has shipped since then more than two thousand horses and mules.

On May 9, 1903, A. J. Huckleberry, Jr., was united in marriage to Maud Gregg, who was born in Worth county, Missouri, daughter of the late William M. Gregg and wife. Mrs. Huckleberry's mother is a resident of this county, her home being in Enterprise township.

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### GEORGE TURBUSH.

George Turbush, one of the leading factors in the mercantile and banking circles of Nickerson, Reno county, Kansas, has for many years been identified with the progressive element of this section. His birth is recorded as having taken place on June 22, 1845, in Albany, New York, where he was reared. For nearly four years prior to his removal to this part of the country, he was engaged with the Clinton Wire Company, of Clinton, Massachusetts. Terminating his connections with this concern, he removed to this county, where he arrived in January, 1874.

Just the year previous to the last named date, George Turbush was united in marriage to Helen A. Haskins, a native of New York state, and to their union were born these children: Elmer E. and Ernest F., both born in this state. Elmer E. was married to Anna Foley, and is living in Denver, Colorado, while Ernest married Nellie Shears and resides in Nickerson, Kansas. The wedding of George Turbush and Helen Haskins was solemnized in January, 1873. Soon after his marriage, George Turbush became the owner of a soldier's homestead, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, which he sold in 1883. He then entered the hardware business in Hutchinson, Kansas, and continued in that place and enterprise for a period of ten years. Some three years prior to the termination of his business connections in Hutchinson, Kansas, he had engaged in the same business in Nickerson, Kansas, to which place he finally removed. While in Hutchin-

son, Kansas, he was the president and manager of the Hutchinson Hardware Company. For ten years he served his community as its mayor and has also been a director of the Nickerson State Bank, of which institution he was also one of the incorporators.

George Turbush enlisted for service in the Civil War in December, 1863, in the Eighth Regiment, of the Vermont Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war under General Sheridan. He is now a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He is also a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, belonging to the chapter and commandery. In his religious affiliations he is connected with the Congregational church.

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### GEORGE R. BOWSER.

The late George R. Bowser, who, at the time of his death, in 1901, was regarded as one of the largest landowners and most substantial and successful farmers of Lincoln township, this county, was a native of Pennsylvania, having been born in Armstrong county, that state, July 18, 1837, son of John and Julia Ann (Burnham) Bowser, both natives of the same county, farming people of the sturdy sort, members of the Church of the Brethren, commonly called Dunkards, frugal in their ways and earnest in all their doings.

In 1854 John Bowser and his family and Jonathan Martin, a neighbor, and the latter's family, decided to push on out of Pennsylvania into the then West. The two families, disposing of their lands and all their belongings save such portables as they conveniently could pack into their wagons as a nucleus for the housekeeping that would be necessary in their new homes, drove out of Pennsylvania, through Ohio and through Indiana into Illinois, in which latter state they bought farms near each other in Schuyler county and established new homes in what was then practically pioneer country, and there John Bowser and his wife and Jonathan Martin and his wife spent their last days, having established comfortable homes in the midst of their broad acres in which their declining years were passed.

When the long journey from Pennsylvania was made there were two youthful members of the party who, even then were sweethearts, George R. Bowser, then seventeen years of age, and Jane Martin, slightly the lad's junior. She, too, had been born in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, daughter of Jonathan and Lydia (Sylvus) Martin, both also natives of Pennsylvania and farmers, who left their home a few miles north of Kittanning,



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE R. BOWSER.





along the Allegheny river, together with the Bowser, to make their home in Illinois, in which latter state they spent the rest of their lives. Mrs. Martin, who was born in 1820, dying in 1865; her husband, who was born in 1818, surviving until 1904. George R. Bowser and Jane Martin grew to maturity on their neighboring farms in Illinois and on March 11, 1861, were married. After his marriage, George R. Bowser rented farm lands in Illinois and lived there as a tenant farmer until 1868, by which time rents had become so high that he and his wife decided to push on farther West, seeking cheaper land, packing their necessary belongings in a covered wagon they and the two or three small children by which their union then had been blessed, moved over into Missouri, where the family made a home on rented land for eight years, at the end of which time they came to Kansas, locating in Reno county, arriving in Hutchinson on May 27, 1876. Mr. Bowser bought a farm on the "Sun City Trail" in Reno township and there he and his family made their home for four years. He then traded that tract for the relinquishment of a timber claim in Lincoln township, the same being the northwest quarter of section 24, of that township, and there established a permanent home. Several years later, when it came time to "prove up" his claim, he found that through no fault of his own all the provisions of the law governing the entry of timber claims had not been rigidly followed out and that he had no title to the land which he had improved and on which he had established a home. However, the land officers permitted him then to homestead the place and thus he got title to it, after all.

When the Bowser, settled in this county they were very poor and had little but their willing hands and stout hearts to back them in the struggle which the pioneers of that period were compelled to undergo. The first few years, therefore, what with the bad seasons and the blighting winds, were discouraging, indeed, and it is not unlikely that if they had had funds sufficient to pay their passage out, they would have left the county, as so many others did during that time. But they "stuck it out," and in the end were greatly rewarded, for at the time of his death, on May 25, 1901, George R. Bowser was the owner of eleven hundred and eighty acres of fine land in this county and was besides independently rich in money, all made on the land and in the cattle and the hogs that he sent to market during the many active years of his life. Mr. Bowser was a Democrat and took a good citizen's part in the political life of his community, at one time serving the township as assessor. He and his wife were active members of the Harmony Baptist church in Lincoln township and did well their part in promoting proper con-

ditions of living during the early days when that community was being organized.

After the death of Mr. Bowser, his widow managed the farm for a few years, ever having been a strong, capable woman and an admirable manager, and during that time bought and paid for two farms, thus adding more to the family's already extensive landed wealth. She then decided to divide the estate among her seven children and each one received eleven thousand eight hundred dollars, or its equivalent in land, and Mrs. Bowser still has a large annual cash income from the investments made with the remainder. Mrs. Bowser still makes her home on the old home place, which now is owned by her youngest son, Arthur, who is unmarried and also makes his home there. There were seven children born to George R. and Jane (Martin) Bowser, as follow: Lemon, a well-to-do farmer, living near Darlow, in this county; Curtis, who lives on a three-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm on the Ninesca river in this county; Nettie, who married Louis B. Werkeiser, a big sugar-beet farmer near Greeley, Colorado; Frank, who lives in Nebraska; George, who lives on a farm adjoining the old home place in Lincoln township; Arthur, who lives with his mother on the old home place, and Daisy, who married Clarence Hamilton and also lives on a farm in Lincoln township. The Bowser family is very properly regarded as one of the most substantial families in that part of the county and all the members of the same are held in high regard by their many friends thereabout.

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### LEMON BOWSER.

Lemon Bowser, a well-to-do and progressive farmer of Lincoln township, this county, and one of the best-known men in the Darlow neighborhood, is a native of Illinois, having been born on a farm in Schuyler county, that state, March 6, 1862, eldest of the seven children born to George R. and Jane (Martin) Bowser, both natives of Pennsylvania, who moved from that state with their respective parents to Illinois, where they were married, later moving to Missouri, whence they came to Kansas, locating in Reno county in 1876, becoming well known among the early pioneers of Lincoln township and large landowners, George R. Bowser having been, at the time of his death, in 1901, the owner of eleven hundred and eighty acres of fine land in this county. His widow is still living on the old homestead in Lincoln township, where she enjoys many evidences of the respect and esteem

of that entire neighborhood. In a memorial sketch relating to the late George R. Bowser, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is set out a full history of this interesting pioneer family, to which the reader is respectfully referred in this connection.

Lemon Bowser was about six years of age when his parents moved from Illinois to Harrison county, Missouri, and in the latter place he received what meager schooling he was able to get in his youth, but as he was the eldest child and his parents at that time were not in affluent circumstances by any means, he was kept busy on the farm assisting his father even from a very early age and his attendance at school was quite limited. He was fourteen years old when the family came to Kansas and settled in this county, having driven through in two covered wagons, driving seven head of cattle, and after that he had even less opportunity for schooling, for the manifold tasks of developing the pioneer farm on the old "Sun City Trail" required all the assistance he could give his father. In 1881 the family moved to what became the Bowser homestead in Lincoln township and there Lemon Bowser lived until his marriage, in 1888, working diligently in his parents' behalf, a large factor in getting them well started on the road which led to their eventual wealth. After his marriage, Lemon Bowser for a few years rented land in Lincoln township and in 1892 bought the northeast quarter of section 22, in that same township, the farm on which he ever since has made his home, and straightway began to improve the same and has since added to this quarter an eighty adjoining, it not being long until he had one of the best-developed places in that section, and in the Elmer neighborhood he has an eighty-acre tract. In 1901 he erected his present comfortable and commodious farm house, and the other buildings of the farm are in keeping with the same. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Bowser is also largely interested in the raising of purebred Percheron horses, his colts of that strain being in wide demand throughout that section. He also is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of pasture land in Minnecah township, which he inherited from his father, and is accounted one of the substantial men of his neighborhood. In other affairs he has displayed a good citizen's activity and is now president of the Darlow Telephone Company, previous to his elevation to the head of that concern having been treasurer of the company. Mr. Bowser is an ardent Socialist in his political views and is one of the most vigorous advocates of the principles of that party in this county.

On August 22, 1888, Lemon Bowser was united in marriage to Martha E. Tharp, who was born in West Virginia, daughter of John and Mary

Jane Tharp, for years well-known pioneer residents of Reno county, who moved to Oklahoma in 1900, where Mrs. Tharp died in 1915 and where Mr. Tharp still makes his home, and to this union two children have been born, Grover, born in 1889, who married Minnie Klein and lives on a farm in the Elmer neighborhood in this county, and Earl, born in 1892, who lives at home with his parents. The Bowsers have many warm friends in Lincoln township and throughout the county and are held in high regard by all.

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### GEORGE B. SHORT.

George B. Short, a well-known and progressive young farmer of Salt Creek township, this county, is a native son of Reno county, having been born on a farm in Salt Creek township, not far from his present place of residence, October 6, 1887, son of George M. and Mary (Crook) Short, both natives of Greene county, Illinois, where they grew up and where they were married, the former of whom, born in 1858, died on February 11, 1911, and the latter, born on March 6, 1863, is still living, making her home with her children.

In 1884, not long after their marriage, George M. Short and his wife left Illinois and came to Kansas, settling in Reno county and buying an unimproved tract in Salt Creek township. Mr. Short improved that place, erecting substantial buildings on the same and brought the farm to an excellent state of cultivation and there the family made their home until 1899, in which year he sold the farm and bought the southwest quarter of section 34, in the same township, the old T. B. Hand farm, one of the first tracts brought under cultivation in Salt Creek township in pioneer days. Two years later Mr. Short bought the "eighty" adjoining on the south, across the line in Center township, and on the new place he spent the rest of his life, except the last year, when he lived in Partridge, being accounted one of the most substantial farmers in the neighborhood, in addition to his general farming being also an extensive feeder of live stock, making a specialty of the raising of purebred Poland China hogs. Mr. Short was a Democrat and took an active part in local politics, having been an office-holder in Salt Creek township during nearly all of the time of his residence there, serving the township variously in the several capacities of trustee, clerk and in other ways. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of America, in the affairs of both of which orders



he took a warm interest, and during their residence in Illinois he and his wife were members of the United Brethren church. They were the parents of four children, namely: Howard C., who lives on a farm near Bluffton, Arkansas; George B., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Mayo W., unmarried, who lives at Newton, this state, and Mrs. Annabelle White, who lives on a farm in Center township, this county.

Following his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, George B. Short attended the county high school at Nickerson for four years and worked on his father's farm until his marriage, in 1910, after which, for three years, he was engaged in the transfer business at Partridge. Upon the death of his father, in 1911, he was made administrator of the latter's estate and in 1914 moved onto the home farm and has ever since made his home there, doing well with his agricultural operations. Mr. Short is a Democrat and during his residence in Partridge rendered excellent public service as a member of the city council.

In February, 1910, George B. Short was united in marriage to Sylvia W. Hand, who was born on the pioneer homestead on which she now lives, daughter of T. B. Hand and wife, pioneers of Salt Creek township, the former of whom is now deceased and the latter living in California, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Beatrice, born on December 25, 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Short take an active interest in the general social affairs of their neighborhood and are held in high esteem by their many friends throughout that neighborhood. Mr. Short is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Partridge and takes an active interest in the affairs of that popular order.

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### GEORGE WASHINGTON MOURN.

George Washington Mourn, one of the best-known pioneer farmers of Reno county, proprietor of a fine farm in Valley township and for many years one of the leaders in the community life of that neighborhood, is a Virginian, having been born in Monroe county, that state (now in West Virginia), February 27, 1841, son of Hoke and Jane Mourn, both natives of that same state, the former of whom was killed by a fall from a hay loft in 1859. Hoke Mourn and wife were the parents of four children, three sons and one daughter, the latter of whom is dead, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, James and Edward. The Widow Mourn mar-



ried, secondly, Herbert Shorthold, and died in McLean county, Illinois, in 1878.

George W. Mourn attended school during his boyhood in a log school house five miles from his home, walking that distance twice each day during the school terms. He was reared to detest the slave-holding system and when the Civil War broke out his sympathies were with the cause of the Union. Despite his violent opposition to secession, however, he was forced into the service of the Confederate army by conscription, but presently managed to desert and took service with the cause of the North as fireman on the government steamboat "Victor 2," continuing such service on the Ohio and Big Kanawha rivers for three years. He had married in 1861 and in the fall of 1865 returned to West Virginia and began working as a carpenter for his brothers-in-law, Henry O. and William M. Smith, the latter of whom afterward became a contracting carpenter in Hutchinson, this county. In 1868 George W. Mourn and family and one of Mrs. Mourn's brothers started West with a three-horse team and wagon. Upon reaching Missouri the brother became ill and the party stopped in Boone county, that state, where they remained three years, at the end of which time, in November, 1871, Mr. Mourn and his family came to Kansas, locating in Reno county, thus becoming among the very earliest settlers of this county. Mr. Mourn homesteaded eighty acres and a timber claim of one hundred and sixty acres in section 32, Valley township, and there established his home. He built a shanty of box boards and settled down to the strenuous task of developing his claim. In the spring of 1872 he "broke" ten acres and got in a bit of corn. That same year he worked with the construction crew of the Santa Fe Railroad Company and thus made a little ready cash. Buffaloes at that time were still plentiful on the plains and the family had no difficulty in obtaining fresh meat, but other supplies were not so easily obtained, Newton, the nearest market and postoffice, being twenty-five miles away; while Mr. Mourn had to drive eighty miles to mill the first few years he lived in this county. When the grasshoppers came, in 1874, he saved his cabbage patch by keeping wet grass fires about the patch for two weeks.

In 1876 Mr. Mourn sold his homestead "eighty" and moved to his timber claim, where he ever since has made his home. In addition to the dwelling he erected there he put up a blacksmith shop on the place and for twenty-five years worked at that trade, his sons looking after the farm. For a quarter of a century he also operated a sorghum mill, farmers for miles around bringing their cane to him to be converted into good Kansas sorghum. Since 1900 Mr. Mourn has kept thirty hives of bees and his apiary

long has been his principal "hobby;" that and indulging in reminiscences of pioneer days, for there are few of the surviving pioneers of Reno county, whose reminiscences of the early days are more varied or more interesting than those of Mr. Mourn. He served on the first jury ever impanelled in Reno county. He is a Republican and for two years served as treasurer of Valley township, also having served as a member of the first school board in his township.

On September 8, 1861, George W. Mourn was united in marriage to Mary Frances Smith, who was born within two miles of her husband's birthplace, February 25, 1842, daughter of Joseph and Susan Smith, both of whom died in West Virginia. To this union eleven children were born, namely: Ida May, who married W. E. Woodward and lives in Clay township, this county; Viola, who married Frank D. Barnes and lives in Valley township; George, engineer at the strawboard works at Hutchinson; Mary Elizabeth, who married William T. Gregory and died on April 19, 1904; Luella, who married George Hoskinson and lives in Valley township; William H., who lives in Clay township; Rosa, born on November 22, 1872, who died on December 6, 1872; Effie A., who married Wesley Jackson and lives on a farm near Burdette, this state; Lillie, who married Charles Hoskinson and lives in Valley township; Bertha, who married Samuel Imel and lives in Valley township, and Mertie, who married a Mr. Triplett, and married, secondly, Delva Butler, who is farming the old Mourn home farm. Mr. and Mrs. Mourn also adopted a child, Sadie May, who married Giles Day and lives in Burrton. Mrs. George W. Mourn died on November 22, 1912, and was buried in Burrton cemetery, Harvey county, Kansas.

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#### GARRETT SALLEE.

Garrett Sallee, a well-known farmer of Grant township, this county, is a native of the great Blue Grass state, having been born in Mercer county, Kentucky, September 27, 1868, son of A. J. and Margaret (Yast) Sallee, both natives of that same county, the former of whom was born on September 8, 1848, and the latter, September 16, 1848, she having been the daughter of Jacob Yast, a Kentucky farmer and a soldier on the Union side during the Civil War. Margaret (Yast) Sallee died in 1871, leaving three children, John Garrett and William. A. J. Sallee then married, secondly, Lucy Divine, and to this second union nine children were born, Mary Ann, James H.,

Levi, George, Grundy, Luther, Nancy, Martha and Richard. In 1888, he then being forty years of age, A. J. Sallee disposed of his interests in Kentucky and came to Kansas locating in Reno county. He bought four hundred and twenty acres in Valley township and there established his home, remaining there until 1903, in which year he moved to Oklahoma, bought a half section of land in Alpha county, that state, and there has made his home ever since.

Garrett Sallee was about twenty years old when he accompanied his father to this county from the old home in Kentucky in 1888, and he has lived here ever since. The year after arriving here he married Lydia Hale, who also was born in Mercer county, Kentucky, and who had come to Reno county with her parents, Elijah Hale and wife, in 1887. He then began farming on his own account and has prospered in his undertakings until now he is the owner of eight hundred and forty acres in this county and in the adjoining county of Rice. In May, 1896, he moved to the fine farm on which he is now living, in Grant township, and there he and his family are very pleasantly and comfortably situated. He is active in township affairs and is looked upon as one of the most substantial and influential farmers in that neighborhood. In addition to his extensive operations in the way of general farming, Mr. Sallee devotes considerable attention to the raising of fine cattle and his Herefords command the top of the market.

To Garrett and Lydia (Hale) Sallee two children have been born, daughters both, Bertha V., born on November 11, 1889, and Flora Myrtle, August 27, 1897. Mr. and Mrs. Sallee are members of the Christian church at Nickerson and Mr. Sallee is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

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#### ALBERT LEE SWARENS.

Albert Lee Swarens, one of Reno county's best-known farmers, who lives with his stepmother, Mrs. Lewis Swarens, on a fine farm adjoining the city of Hutchinson on the northwest, is one of the original pioneers of this county, as is Mrs. Swarens, there having been but two other families living within miles of them when they arrived at the point at which they still reside, in the year 1871, the town of Hutchinson not then even having been staked out. They consequently have witnessed the whole of the wonderful development of this section of the state and may be accepted as authorities upon all questions relating to the history of Reno county and particularly of the









neighborhood about Hutchinson, in which they have lived from the time of the beginning of a social order hereabout; doing well their respective parts in the development of the community which is so dear to both of them. Mrs. Lewis Swarens is a woman of the true pioneer type and during all the years she has lived in this county has done her whole duty as a neighbor and a friend to all. In her gentle heart there never has been room for mistrust, it ever having been her rule to believe only the best things regarding her neighbors, and throughout her long life in this community she ever has borne the profoundest respect and esteem of all.

Albert L. Swarens was born in Woodford county, Illinois, October 25, 1851, son of Lewis and Mary Ann (Watkins) Swarens, the former of whom was born in the town of New Albany, Indiana, on October 5, 1822, and the latter in Illinois. Lewis Swarens left the old Ohio river town, New Albany, when a boy and with his parents moved to Woodford county, Illinois, where he grew to manhood and where he was married in 1845. In 1856 he moved with his family to Hardin county, Iowa, where he bought two hundred and forty acres, and there he made his home until 1862, in which year he was seized with the "California fever," and, in company with several other families, the train comprising thirty-two wagons and one buggy, started on the long overland journey to the land of golden promises. En route the party had several fights with hostile Indians and the redskins stole all their cattle. Upon his arrival in California, Lewis Swarens encountered only disappointments. In the winter of 1863 his wife died, at the age of thirty-five years, and shortly thereafter his eldest daughter, Evaline, died, both being buried in Calaveras county. His eldest son, Frank, joined the army and he did not see him again for years. With two small children on his hands amid new and untried conditions, Mr. Swarens decided to make his way back to the old home in Illinois. He and the two children, Albert L., then about twelve of age, and the little sister, Laura, boarded a vessel at San Francisco and by way of Panama, presently arrived at an Eastern port, whence they returned to Woodford county, Illinois, where the children were left with relatives, after which Mr. Swarens again started West. For some time he tried his fortunes in the mining region about Ogden, Utah, and later in Oregon, but without success. In North Ogden he met Sylvesta Rice, who had located there with her parents in 1862, and on December 25, 1865, they were married.

Sylvesta Rice was born at No. 1, Park cottages, New Park road, Brixton Hill, Surrey, near the city of London, in England, on September 28, 1848, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Murrell) Rice, the former of whom was born in Sussex on November 3, 1824, and the latter in Kent, April 17,

1824, and who were married on November 22, 1847. In 1855, James Rice and his family came to the United States, landing from the sailing vessel, "Emerald Isle," at the port of New York. For seven years the Rices made their home in New York, James Rice being engaged as an engineer in a factory there and in 1862 decided to migrate West. They made the trip across the plains in "prairie schooners," drawn by ox teams and located at North Ogden, where Mr. and Mrs. Rice became associated with the Mormon church, having previously been members of the Episcopalian church, having been reared as members of the established church in England. They were the parents of seven children, of whom Sylvesta, Mrs. Swarens, was the eldest. She, however, did not join the Mormon faith.

Following their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Swarens remained in Utah, Mr. Swarens working at the carpenter trade until 1870, in which year they made a visit to friends in Cass county, Missouri, and from there went into the Cherokee strip in Indian Territory, where for a year Mr. Swarens was engaged as a contractor getting out railroad ties. In the spring of 1871 his son, Albert Lee Swarens, then grown to manhood, having rejoined him in Missouri, Mr. Swarens rigged out another "prairie schooner" and drove across country to Reno county, arriving at the site now occupied by the city of Hutchinson on June 17, 1871. At that time John Shehan and Mr. Frazier were the only people living within miles of that spot. Lewis Swarens homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 22, township 23, range 6 west, and there he and his wife and family proceeded to make a new home, their first place of abode there being a mere "dugout," which three years later was supplanted by a house. The Swarens were very poor upon starting their new home in this county, but they were industrious and with the true pioneer spirit made the best of the situation, eventually prospering, Lewis Swarens having been the owner of seven hundred and forty acres of choice land at the time of his death, on April 10, 1903. Since his death his widow and his son, Albert L., who is unmarried, have continued to make their home on the old homestead, where they have a fine farm of two hundred acres, besides being the owners of three quarter sections of excellent land in Medford township, this county.

To Lewis and Sylvesta (Rice) Swarens one child was born, a son, Lewis Leander, born on November 29, 1868, who died on June 17, 1889, his death having been due to a distressing accident. While breaking a wild bronco he was thrown so violently as to break his leg in such a manner as to require amputation and he died under the shock of the operation. Lewis Swarens's daughter, Laura, who was left motherless in the wilds of Cali-

fornia and who was returned to relatives in Illinois after the long trip across the isthmus of Panama, married George Darnell and now lives at Sunny-side, California.

Albert L. Swarens is a good farmer and keeps his place up in fine shape and his horses are of excellent stock. He is a Democrat, but is somewhat independent in his political views, believing that the man and not the party should be the controlling factor in determining the voter's judgment at the polls.

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### VINCENT PRIDDLE.

Vincent Priddle, well-known farmer of Valley township, this county, and one of the most extensive landowners of Reno county, is a native of England, having been born near the town of South Petherton, in Somersetshire, January 1, 1862, son of Stephen and Charlotte (Pipe) Priddle, both natives of that same vicinity. Stephen Priddle was foreman of a brick yard. In 1868 he came to the United States and settled in Albany, New York, in the vicinity of which city he rented a farm and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1885, he then being sixty years of age. His widow died in 1911, at the great age of ninety-two years. Her son, the subject of this sketch, paid her a visit at the old home in England just four months before she died. There were thirteen children born to Stephen Priddle and wife, of whom Vincent Priddle was the eleventh in order of birth. Twelve of these children grew to maturity. Three of Mr. Priddle's sisters are living in England; four sisters in the United States; one brother, Edgar, lives in Schenectady, New York, and one sister, Betsey, who married Samuel Collins, lives in Valley township, this county.

Vincent Priddle never went to school a day in his life. As a boy he worked on a farm, for which service he received thirty-six cents a week. Eleven years after his father had come to America he followed. Previous to this some of the other children came over together, and worked on a farm in the neighborhood of the point in New York state where his father had located. It was in 1880 that Vincent Priddle came to this country, he then being eighteen years of age, and in 1883 he came to Kansas, locating in Harvey county, where he worked on the Byle farm, south of Burrton, for thirteen months, at the end of which time, in 1885, he bought eighty acres in this county, the south half of the southwest quarter of section 16, in Valley township. The place was wholly unimproved and he straightway set

about getting it under cultivation. He set out a fine grove and a splendid orchard and soon had one of the best-kept farms in the neighborhood. Mr. Priddle was a good farmer, energetic and industrious, and prospered from the very start of his operations. He went into cattle raising on a somewhat extensive scale and as he prospered added to his land holdings until now he is the owner of twelve hundred and seventy acres of fine land in Valley township. Three hundred acres of this land he rents out and manages the remainder himself. Since 1905 he has been one of the directors of the Farmers Grain Company at Haven and in other ways has taken an active part in the general business life of the community. Mr. Priddle is an earnest member of the United Brethren church, of which he has been a trustee for thirty years; in which he also has been a class leader and the Sunday school of which church he is now superintendent.

In March, 1883, Vincent Priddle was united in marriage to Mary Follet, to which union eight children have been born, as follow: Charles, a minister of the United Brethren church at Pensacola, this state; Anna, who married E. E. Barrett and lives near Dodge City; Leo, who is a valuable assistant to his father in the work of managing the big farm, and Hazel and Edgar, also at home, and three who died in childhood. Mr. Priddle is a prominent Mason, a member of the blue lodge of that order at Haven and of the consistory at Wichita. He also is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and in the affairs of both of these orders takes a warm interest.

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### CHARLES SEEDLE.

Charles Seedle, a well-known farmer of Reno county, owner of a half section of well-improved land in Valley township, where he has resided since 1884, is a native of Ohio, having been born in Greene county, that state, March 31, 1856, last born of the eleven children born to his parents, and the only one now surviving. His father, born in Pennsylvania, son of German parents, and who died when the subject of this sketch was a small boy, was a shoe-maker by trade. He married a widow, Mrs. Eliza (Michael) Houser, also born in Pennsylvania, who was the mother, by her first marriage of two sons, Henry and John Houser, who came to Kansas in 1884 and settled in Osage county. John Houser died in Ohio.

Orphaned when he was a baby, Charles Seedle was cared for when a child in successive families, including those of the Haggard and Mack famil-



ies, and from the age of thirteen to twenty years in the family of William Ferguson. His early education was wholly neglected and at the age of fourteen he had not yet learned the alphabet. Reared on Greene county farms, he became an excellent farmer and when he was twenty years old began "working out" on his own account, being thus engaged until the time of his marriage, at the age of twenty-four, when he rented a farm in his native county and set up a home for himself, remaining there for four years, at the end of which time, in the spring of 1884, he came to Kansas on a home-seeking tour and bought one-half of the northwest quarter of section 17, in Valley township, this county, and early the next spring brought his family here, arriving on March 1, 1885. On his farm was a two-room house, a small barn and a few trees. Upon taking possession he at once entered upon the task of improving his place and bringing it to a proper state of cultivation and as he prospered gradually added to his land holdings until now he is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of well-improved land surrounding his home, he having bought from time to time three "eighties" adjoining his home place. Though very poor when he started farming in Reno county, Mr. Seedles has done well and is regarded as one of the substantial residents of his community. He erected his present excellent farm house in 1900 and the other improvements on the farm are in keeping with the same. Mr. Seedles is "independent" in his political views, believing in supporting the best men for public office, regardless of party affiliations.

On December 25, 1879, Charles Seedles was united in marriage to Tabitha Sutton, who was born on March 5, 1861, in Clinton county, Ohio, daughter of Jeremiah and Mary Ann (Culbertson) Sutton, farming people, the former of whom died in Ohio in 1888, aged fifty-four years, and the latter in 1887, aged forty-eight. To this union four children have been born, namely: Dora, who married the Rev. Charles Priddle, a United Brethren minister stationed at Pensacola, in the neighboring county of Kingman, and they have three children, Harley, Clyde and Glenn; Jesse, who farms a part of his father's place in Valley township, married Jennie M. White, and they have two children, Jesse E. and Clyde M.; Oscar, who owns a farm of his own in Valley township, married Golda Adkins, and they had two children, Ruth E. and Esther, who is deceased, and Walter Melvin, who died when three years old. Mr. and Mrs. Seedles are earnest members of the United Brethren church at Pleasant Grove, of which Mr. Seedles has been a trustee for nearly thirty years, and are active in church



work. Mr. Seedles is a member of Haven Lodge No. 287, Ancient Order of United Workmen, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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### ARTHUR DADE.

Arthur Dade, one of Hutchinson's most energetic and substantial business men, a capitalist whose interests and investments hereabout make him an important factor in commercial and realty circles in this county, is a native of Maryland, having been born in Montgomery county, that state, on May 4, 1872, son of the late Alexander and Susan Ann (White) Dade, prominent pioneer residents of Reno county, who settled here in 1878, and has been a resident of Reno county since he was five years of age. In the biographical sketch relating to Arthur Dade's brother, Ernest Dade, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is set out in detail a history of the Dade family, to which the reader is respectfully referred in this connection.

As stated above, Arthur Dade was five years old when he came to Reno county with his parents, who settled in Reno township, and he grew to manhood on the paternal farm there. He received his elementary education in district school No. 65, supplementing the same by a course in the Hutchinson high school, from which he was graduated with the class of 1892. For three years after leaving school he continued to assist his father in the operation of the home farm and then rented a farm in Reno township, on which he commenced operations on his own account. Soon thereafter, however, he bought a farm in the Poplar district in Reno township, but presently sold that place and bought another farm near the railway station at Whiteside, in the same township, which he worked for a year. In 1913 Mr. Dade bought two hundred and forty acres of the old William Fair section in Reno township, which he still owns, having sold the farm near Whiteside. In 1909 Mr. Dade moved to Hutchinson, for greater convenience in managing his growing interests and the next year erected a very pretty residence at 27 Eleventh avenue, east, in which he and his family have since resided. He inherited some property from his father's estate and has been fortunate in his own investments, his entire time now being devoted to the management of his extensive interests, looking after his farms, his various bits of city property and other investments. In 1913 Mr. Dade erected a business block at 411-413 North Main street, in the city of Hutchinson and also owns a business block at 11 South Main street and one across the street from the

same at 12 South Main street, which buildings are profitably occupied by retail stores and offices. Mr. Dade also is a director in the Kelley Milling Company at Hutchinson.

On January 27, 1904, Arthur Dade was united in marriage to Jessie E. Myers, who was born in Urbana, Illinois, daughter of John A. and Mary L. Myers, the former of whom is now living in Hutchinson, and a biography of whom is set out in another place in this volume. Mr. Myers is a former commissioner of Reno county and one of Hutchinson's most substantial citizens. To Mr. and Mrs. Dade two children have been born, John Travis, born on June 16, 1908, and Ernest Vincent, November 27, 1912. Mr. Dade is a Democrat, as was his father before him, and ever since arriving at years of maturity has given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, though never having been included in the office-seeking class.

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#### OSCAR W. OLMSTEAD.

Oscar W. Olmstead, one of the best-known farmers of Grant township, this county, and a pioneer of that section, who is still living on the quarter section he pre-empted in 1872, is a native of Michigan, having been born on a farm in Oakland county, that state, March 26, 1849, son of D. D. and Janet (Reid) Olmstead, both natives of the state of New York, the former of whom was born on March 16, 1823, and the latter, March 7, 1826, who became pioneers of Reno county and here spent their last days.

D. D. Olmstead was the son of David D. and Anna Olmstead, both natives of New York state, both of whom spent all their lives in that state. He grew to manhood there, spent two years in Canada, and married Janet Reid, daughter of William Reid, a native of Scotland, who had come to America when a mere lad. After their marriage D. D. Olmstead and wife lived in Michigan, where in Oakland county they established their home on a farm, where they lived until 1872, in which year they came to Kansas and settled in Reno county, thus becoming among the very earliest settlers of this county. D. D. Olmstead pre-empted one quarter of section 24, in Grant township, and there established his new home, both he and his wife spending the remainder of their lives there, his death occurring in August, 1884. She died in August, 1878. He was a thirty-second degree Mason and he and his wife were members of the Methodist church, in which faith their children were reared. There were eight of these children, of whom

four are still living, Oscar, the second in order of birth, Josephine, Herman and Ida. Those deceased were William, a veteran of the Civil War, Susan, Charles, Samuel and Ellen.

Oscar W. Olmstead was reared in Oakland county, Michigan, receiving his education in the school in the neighborhood of his home, and was about twenty-two years old when he came to Kansas with his parents. Upon arriving in Reno county in 1872, thus having been among the pioneers of this county, he pre-empted a quarter of a section of land in section 24, in Grant township, his present home, and proceeded to "break" and develop the same. On April 25, 1884, he married Essie Y. Jeffers, who also was born in Michigan, her birthplace being in Oakland county, and who came to Kansas with her parents, Aaron and Sarah Jeffers, in the fall of 1883, the family settling in this county, and he here established a home, but later moved to Indiana in 1890, where Mr. Jeffers is still living and where Mrs. Jeffers died.

To Oscar W. and Essie J. (Jeffers) Olmstead six children have been born, James, Bertha, Leo, Victor, Leona and Hazel. Miss Bertha Olmstead is a teacher in the public schools of Rice county, this state. The Olmsteads are members of the Christian church. Mr. Olmstead is a substantial farmer and his well-kept place shows evidences of his careful management.

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### STEPHEN S. LEIGHTY.

Stephen S. Leighty, a well-to-do and well-known retired farmer of Lincoln township, this county, now living in a pleasant home at 100 Eleventh avenue, east, in the city of Hutchinson, to which place he moved in the fall of 1911, he then having retired from the active labors of the farm, is a native of the great Keystone state, having been born on a farm in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, February 20, 1853, son of Stephen S. and Eliza (Hutson) Leighty, the former of whom was born on that same farm and the latter of whom was a native of the state of Maryland.

The senior Stephen S. Leighty grew to manhood on the farm on which he was born and upon the death of his parents bought the interests of the other heirs in the place and there spent all his days. He married Eliza Hutson, who died in 1863, leaving nine children, as follow: William, a veteran of the Civil War, who now lives in Stafford county, this state; Henry, a farmer, living in McDonough county, Illinois; Catherine, who married Mil-

L. S. Leighton & Family







ton Blair and lives on a farm near the town of Prairie, in Oklahoma; Zachariah Taylor, a farmer of Fayette county, Pennsylvania; Rebecca, who married Joseph Piersol and also lives in Fayette county, Pennsylvania; Anna S., who lives in Stafford county, this state, widow of Robert Rankin; Stephen S., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Eliza J., who married Dempsey Woodward and lives in Ohio, and Agnes, who married George Cox and lives in Woodson county, this state. Upon the death of the mother of the above children, the elder Stephen S. Leighty married, secondly, Mary Hare, also now deceased, and to this second union three children were born, Emma, who married Chester Gwinn and lives at Uniontown, Pennsylvania; Grant, who lives on the old home place in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, and John, who lives in Washington, same state.

Stephen S. Leighty, Jr., was reared on the home farm in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, receiving his education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home. He was ten years old when his mother died. He continued living at the old home until his marriage at the age of nineteen, after which his father bought a farm adjoining the home place and put him in charge of the same and he there made his home until 1882, in which year he came to Kansas, locating in this county, where he bought a quarter of a section of school land in Lincoln township, the same being in section 36 of that township, and there established his new home. Mr. Leighty was successful in his farming operations from the very beginning of his residence in this county and when he retired from the farm in September, 1911, and moved to Hutchinson, he was accounted to be very well-to-do. For his original quarter section in Lincoln township Mr. Leighty paid fourteen hundred dollars into the school fund. For that identical quarter section he since has refused an offer of sixteen thousand dollars. As he became established on his place, Mr. Leighty gradually increased his land holdings until he became the owner of four hundred and sixty acres of fine land in Lincoln and Yoder townships, which he still owns. In 1897 he erected a fine, modern farmhouse on his place, which is considered to be one of the best-improved farms in that section of the county.

In addition to looking after his extensive agricultural interests Mr. Leighty found time to give his attention to various other enterprises in the neighborhood and for years was considered one of the most active and enterprising citizens of Lincoln township. He helped organize the Darlow Live Stock and Grain Exchange and was the first president of that useful organization. He also helped to organize the Darlow Telephone Company and

for years was a director of the same, doing much to promote the extension of the telephone service in that part of the county. In civic affairs also he took an active interest and for eight years served as township treasurer, while for twenty years he served as a valued member of the school board. Mr. Leighty was a Republican when he came to Kansas, but he went over to the cause of the Populists and when that cause declined and ceased to be, he became a Democrat and is still affiliated with that party. He and his wife are members of the Congregational church at Hutchinson and he is a member of the board of trustees of that organization.

On November 13, 1872, Stephen S. Leighty was united in marriage to Nancy J. Harper, who was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Anna (Wadsworth) Harper, and to this union six children have been born, namely: Harper, a farmer of Yoder township, this county; William G., who is farming part of his father's place in Yoder township; Stephen S., III, who owns a farm in Ford county, this state, where he makes his home; Clyde W., who also owns a farm in Ford county, where he makes his home; Sabina E., who is attending college at Winfield, and Alice, who married George Getter and died at the age of twenty-three. Mr. and Mrs. Leighty have adopted Alice Margaret Leighty, the daughter of Harper, the eldest son.

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### ALBERT E. HARDEN.

Albert E. Harden, a well-known and progressive farmer of Grant township, this county, is a native of Iowa, having been born on a farm in Van Buren county, that state, April 1, 1865, son of Levi and Elvira (Bradford) Harden, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Rhode Island, who were married in Iowa and Mr. Harden later came to Kansas, being numbered among the pioneers of Reno county.

Levi Harden was born in Hocking county, Ohio, January 19, 1834, son of Even and Maria (Wolf) Harden, both natives of that state, the former of whom was born on April 13, 1803, and the latter, October 2, 1814, who later moved to Iowa, where his last days were spent, Even Harden dying at the age of fifty-six years. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom Levi was the eldest, the others being as follow: Jacob, born on April 26, 1836, now deceased; John, June 13, 1838, deceased; William, June 23, 1840; Eliza, May 6, 1843; Isabelle, April 14, 1846; George, February 12, 1849; Martha, October 20, 1852, and Philip, March 3, 1856.

deceased. Levi Harden was well grown when his parents moved to Iowa. On December 31, 1863, in that state, he was united in marriage to Elvira Bradford, who was born near Providence, Rhode Island, July 3, 1840, daughter of Albert Bradford and wife, the latter of whom was a Phillips, and who were the parents of three sons and four daughters: Mrs. Marie Corbett, of Texas; Miss Evelyn; Mrs. Laura Sandheim, of Seattle; Mrs. Elvira Harden; Alonzo, a veteran of the Civil War, now living at Hayward, California; Leander, also a veteran of the Civil War, lives in Bonaparte, Iowa, and Walter, also of Bonaparte, Iowa. Albert Bradford was a direct descendant of Governor Bradford of Colonial fame. He moved from Rhode Island with his family to Iowa and there spent the remainder of his life, a resident of Van Buren county. To Levi and Elvira (Bradford) Harden but one child was born, the subject of this sketch, whose mother died on July 31, 1867. Levi Harden married, secondly, Mrs. Fannie (Berry) Doughty, widow of J. Doughty, who was the mother, by her first marriage, of two children, Homer G. and Mary Virginia. To this second union three children were born, Sophia, born on October 16, 1872, who died at the age of sixteen; Lamiel J., May 24, 1874, and Dora, December 26, 1876, who now lives in Oklahoma. On March 17, 1877, Levi Harden came to Kansas and settled in Reno county, where he bought a quarter of a section of land on which he lived until his retirement from the farm. He is now making his home with a daughter in Oklahoma. He is a member of the Evangelical church and is a Mason.

Albert E. Harden was about twelve years old when he came to this county with his father and he grew to manhood on the home farm. On February 26, 1890, he married Mattie Moorman, who was born at Sandyville, Iowa, January 5, 1869, and located on the farm on which they are now living in Grant township, this county. In 1911 Mr. Harden erected his present modern farm house and he and his family are very pleasantly situated. The house is equipped with electric lights and many of the conveniences of modern life. Mr. Harden is a progressive farmer and is doing well on his well-kept place of two hundred acres. He takes a good citizen's part in public affairs and has been a member of the local school board since 1901. To Mr. and Mrs. Harden three children have been born, Evert Earl, born on May 1, 1893; Leon Clyde, March 13, 1895, and Alva Anthony, December 30, 1897, all at home.

Mrs. Harden's father, William Henry Moorman, a well-known retired farmer of this county and a veteran of the Civil War, was born in Highland county, Ohio, August 12, 1840, son of John Thomas and Mary (Van

Pelt) Moorman, the former of whom was born in Campbell county, Virginia, February 20, 1810, and the latter in Belmont county, Ohio, July 28, 1856. John T. Moorman was the son of Reuben and Lydia (Johnson) Moorman, both natives of Virginia, the former born on March 25, 1777, and the latter, January 25, 1779. Reuben Moorman was a soldier of the American Revolution and after his death in 1817 his widow moved to Ohio to accept a grant of land tendered by the government in behalf of his services. Reuben Moorman's parents, Micajah and Effie Moorman came to America from Wales and settled in the colony of Virginia. They were Quakers and founded a now widely connected family in this country. John T. Moorman went over into Ohio with his widowed mother and there he married Mary Van Pelt, member of a pioneer family of Belmont county. After their marriage he and his wife settled in Highland county that same state, where they lived until 1849, in which year they emigrated to Iowa and settled on a quarter of a section of land in Warren county. There John T. Moorman died on December 23, 1882. His wife died many years before. He and his wife were the parents of five children: Childress E., Malinda, William H., Childs and Sarah, of whom William H. is the only survivor.

William H. Moorman was reared on the pioneer farm of his parents in Warren county, Iowa, and there grew to manhood. He received an excellent education and all his life has been a great reader. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted for service in the Thirty-fourth Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served about four years, or until the regiment was mustered out at the close of the war, during which time he never lost a day of service. He was present at the siege of Vicksburg and participated in numerous of the most important engagements of the war, including Sherman's campaign to the sea. On December 8, 1865, he married Sarah C. Anthony, who was born in Hamilton county, Indiana, September 12, 1843, daughter of William and Matilda (Curry) Anthony, the former of whom was born in Butler county, Ohio, in 1812, and the latter in Franklin county, Indiana, in 1818. After his marriage William H. Moorman engaged in farming in Iowa until 1878, when he moved to Kansas, settled in Stafford county and in 1881 came to Reno county with his family and has lived here ever since, an employee of the car-repair service of the Santa Fe railroad until his retirement in 1903. To him and his wife six children were born, as follow: Walter, of Reno county, born on October 27, 1866; Mattie, wife of Mr. Harden; Malinda, who died in infancy; Lizzie, at home, born on July 9, 1873; Fannie Edna, November 23, 1878, who died on March 21, 1903, and Elmer O., of Oklahoma, born on June 9, 1884.



## JOHN SCHARDEIN.

John Schardein son of Bernard and Christine (Randolph) Schardein, was born seven miles from Cincinnati, Ohio, on August 24, 1837. Bernard Schardein was a weaver by trade, and was born in Alsace, France, in June, 1808. There he was reared and married. His wife was born on December 24, 1810. He came to America in 1833 and located near Cincinnati, where John was born. He went by steamboat to Louisville, Kentucky, in 1835, and became a grocer. He later moved to Clark county, Indiana, and purchased one hundred and forty acres of land. He was the father of five sons three of whom were soldiers in the Union army. Philip died of disease at Savannah, Tennessee, and was buried at Shiloh. Adam was wounded while fighting in the Shenandoah valley, and died at Williamsport, Maryland. John, who enlisted August 31, 1861, served three years, was shot twice by spent bullets receiving a ball in the foot, which still causes lameness. He also received a wound in the breast. He participated in the battles of Ft. Henry, Ft. Donelson, Champion's Hill, Vicksburg, Shenandoah Valley, Ft. Mornoe, and took part in the Grand Review at Washington, D. C., at the close of the war. He suffered from ophthalmia in a New Orleans hospital during his service. Bernard Schardein and his wife were both members of the Christian church and both died in Clark county, Indiana.

John Schardein was educated in the schools of Ohio and Indiana. He married his first wife, Nancy McKinley (distant relative of President McKinley), on April 20, 1857, in Clark county, Indiana. To this union was born one child, Luella Miller, now of New Albany, Indiana. Mrs. Nancy Schardein died in 1862, and in 1865 Mr. Schardein married Eliza Jane Grady, who died on November 18, 1915. Their children are as follow: John, Addie, Charles, Clara (deceased), Edward, Ethel (died in infancy), Hettie and Frederick.

After he returned from the war, Mr. Schardein went to Macoupin county, Illinois, where he lived for thirteen years, renting land which he farmed. In August, 1878, he chartered a car from Macoupin county, Illinois, to Sterling, Kansas, and drove from there to Reno county, to join a friend. He homesteaded a timber claim of one hundred and sixty acres in section 20, Salt Creek township, where he lived until 1908, when he retired from active farm labor and moved to Nickerson. He always took an active interest in the development and improvement of his community, and organized school district No. 101, and gave the site for the school building as



long as used for that purpose. He was a stockholder in the elevator company, in the telephone company and in the State Bank at Nickerson. After his wife's death, he and his daughter, Addie, kept house. Mr. Schardein died on March 31, 1916. He was a member of the Christian church, and belonged to the Grand Army of the Republic, in which he took an active interest.

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### PETER C. JONES.

Peter C. Jones, a well-known merchant tailor of Hutchinson, this county, is a native of the gallant little land of Wales, having been born there, in the town of Adwy Clawy, on May 21, 1854, son of Peter and Anne (Matthews) Jones, the former of whom was born at Mold, Wales, and the latter near that town. In 1870, the subject of this biographical sketch then being sixteen years of age, the Jones family came to America, locating in Williams-town, Pennsylvania, where the elder Jones resumed his vocation of tailor, to which he had been reared in his native home. Some years later Peter Jones and his wife retired from Williamsport and joined their son, Peter C., who meanwhile had located at Kankakee, Illinois, later coming thence with him to Kansas, when he made his home in Emporia, where their last days were spent. They were members of the Church of England, and were the parents of five children, namely: John M., a tailor in Fredonia, Kansas; Thomas N., now deceased, who for years was a well-known tailor in Emporia, this state; Peter C., the immediate subject of this sketch; Mary, who died in girlhood, and Mrs. Maggie Gelispe, a widow, who, in connection with her son, is operating a tailor shop at Collegeview, Nebraska.

Peter C. Jones practically grew up in his father's tailor shop and from childhood had been trained to the skillful use of a needle and to all the arts of the tailor's trade. Upon arriving in this country at the age of sixteen he became a journeyman tailor and for some time traveled quite extensively over the eastern section of the country, finally locating at Kankakee, Illinois, where he carried on his trade until 1879, in which year he came to Kansas, locating at Emporia, where he worked as a tailor until 1884. He then located in Hutchinson, where he entered the employ of his elder brother, J. M. Jones, who had opened a tailor shop there some time before, and there he remained until 1892, in which year he returned to Emporia and opened a shop of his own, which he conducted for six years and then, in 1898, returned to Hutchinson, where he opened a shop and where he has

remained ever since, most of which time his popular establishment has been located at 10 Sherman street, east, where he enjoys a fine patronage.

In 1877, at Kankakee, Illinois, Peter C. Jones was united in marriage to Dora Knocke, a native of Germany, who, in 1868, when she was eleven years of age, came to this country with her parents who located at Kankakee, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Allen, who has charge of the instruction in the tailoring department of the Kansas state reformatory at Hutchinson; Edwin, cashier of the Guymon-Petro Mercantile Company, of Hutchinson; Walter, a prominent young lawyer and now city attorney of Hutchinson, a sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, and Charles, who is buying and selling manager of a mill at Haven, this county. The Jones family has a very pleasant home at 626 Sherman street, east. Mr. Jones is a member of the Masonic order, of the Court of Honor and of the Knights of Pythias, in all of which orders he takes a warm interest.

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#### NELSON T. BARRETT.

Nelson T. Barrett, the well-known lettuce grower of Hutchinson, this county, the products of whose extensive green-houses are shipped in car-load lots to all the chief cities of the Central West and who is one of the best-known dealers in his particular line in this part of the country, is a native of the great Empire state, having been born at Middletown, in Orange county, New York, April 11, 1860, son of George and Elizabeth (Purdy) Barrett, both of whom were born in that same county, the former of English descent and the latter of Dutch descent, who later became Kansas pioneers and well-known residents of Reno county.

George Barrett owned a grocery and dry-goods store at Middletown, but sold the same in 1862 and moved to Newberg, New York, where he was engaged in the same line of business until 1874, in which year he came to Kansas and located in Reno county. Upon arriving here he homesteaded a tract in Lincoln township, took a timber claim and bought some railroad land, his holdings altogether aggregating three hundred and twenty acres. He established a home on his place and remained there a couple of summers, "proving up," and then resumed his calling in the mercantile line, becoming manager for the Rodney Ferguson store at Hutchinson. In 1877 he went to Kansas City, where he established a grocery store at 803 Main street and was there engaged in business until 1882, in which year he went

to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where for two years he engaged in the wholesale produce business. Meanwhile he had become seriously crippled by a severe attack of rheumatism and in 1884 retired from business and returned to Reno county. He had retained forty acres of his homestead tract and on that small farm spent the remainder of his days, his death occurring in 1910, he then being seventy-five years of age. His widow is still living, past eighty years of age, and has a pleasant home at 225 Avenue A, east, in Hutchinson. To George Barrett and wife six children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being as follow: Ida M., who married Charles Pellette, now deputy county treasurer of Reno county, living at Hutchinson; Carrie, who married Homer Meyers, cashier of the bank at Sylvia, this county; Grace, who married Henry Zimm, well-known jeweler at Hutchinson; Minnie, who married M. J. Hosmer, a well-known traveling salesman, of Hutchinson, and Florence, who married Ernest Eastman, connected with the Carey industries in Hutchinson.

Nelson T. Barrett was fourteen years old when he came to Kansas with his parents in 1874 and the work of his young manhood was definitely identified with the pioneer farm in Lincoln township. When his parents moved to town he remained on the farm. Being the eldest child and only son, he early took charge of affairs on the farm and by the time he was twenty years old he had brought two hundred and forty acres of the place under cultivation. Then, in 1880, he left the farm and went to Kansas City. For one summer he was employed there in a wholesale fancy-grocery store and then, in 1881, he pushed out to the farther frontier and for a year was engaged in trapping and hunting in the West. He then took employment with the United States government and for a year drove a stage coach in the Black Hills, later spending three years in the quartermaster's department. Mr. Barrett still recalls, with a very pardonable measure of pride, that during those wild, rough days on the frontier he was the only man of his acquaintance who was a "teetotaler." In the latter part of 1884 Mr. Barrett returned to his father's farm in this county, later renting the old Doctor Myers farm in Lincoln township, which he operated until 1890, in which year he went to Oklahoma and bought a quarter of a section of land near Guthrie, where he remained until 1899. He then sold out and returned to Hutchinson, where, in 1900, he bought a block of ground west of the 600 block, between Ninth and Tenth streets, and established his present extensive green-houses, engaging in the culture of lettuce, and has made a great success of his business. He has sixty thousand feet of glass, covering fifteen

green-houses, the whole expanse being devoted to lettuce culture and he does an enormous winter business, shipping his product to Kansas City, Leavenworth, Oklahoma City and other points throughout the Central West. Mr. Barrett is a member of the Hutchinson Commercial Club and takes an earnest part in the general affairs of the city.

In 1888 Nelson T. Barrett was united in marriage to Ada May Burton, and to this union six children have been born, as follow: Stanley, who is the proprietor of green-houses on First street in Hutchinson; Mark; who is associated with his father in business, and Gale, Lawrence, Willis and Dorothy.

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### EDWARD S. HANDY.

The late Edward S. Handy was for years recognized as one of the leading dealers in real estate in Hutchinson. During his long connection with the realty business there he laid out numerous additions to the city and in many ways was active in the promotion of the city's growth. He was one of the real pioneers of Reno county, and for several years served as clerk of the district court, during which time he became thoroughly familiar with realty conditions in pioneer days and no man in the county possessed a more accurate knowledge of realty values in this section of the state than he. Mr. Handy was an honored veteran of the Civil War and took an active part in the affairs of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic. His widow, who is still living at Hutchinson, was also one of the real pioneers of this county and was a witness of the whole of the wonderful development which has marked this region since the early seventies.

Edward S. Handy was born in Clark county, Illinois, February 28, 1846, son of Thomas and Jane E. (Scranton) Handy, the former of whom was the first male child born in that county, son of John Handy and wife, who were among the earliest settlers of that part of Illinois. John Handy was a native of the state of New York. Thomas Handy became one of the most substantial farmers of his neighborhood and was also the owner of a saw-mill. He married Jane E. Scranton, member of one of the pioneer families of that section of the state and to that union six children were born. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted for service in behalf of the Union arms in Company F, Seventy-ninth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered out with the rank of captain at the close of the war. At the battle of Chattanooga he was captured by the enemy and after



being kept in various Southern prison pens was sent to Libby prison at Richmond. He was one of the famous one hundred and eight who tunneled out of that prison, but was recaptured in sight of the Union lines and was kept prisoner until presently exchanged. Two of Captain Handy's sons, the eldest, Charles, and the subject of this sketch, served in his company and Charles Handy gave up his life to the cause of the Union during the fierce engagement at Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia. Another son, George Grant Handy, was for years engaged in the hardware business at Hutchinson, this county. Upon returning home at the close of the war Captain Handy resumed his place on the farm and was accidentally killed in his saw-mill in 1867.

Edward S. Handy was reared on the home farm and received his elementary education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home. On August 1, 1862, he then being sixteen years old, Edward S. Handy enlisted as a recruit in Company F, Seventy-ninth Illinois, his father's company, and served until the close of the war. At the battle of Stone's river he was severely wounded and for some time was confined to the hospital at Murfreesboro, after which he was sent home on a furlough. Upon his return to his company, he then being able to walk only by the aid of crutches, he was detailed as commissary of a hospital. Upon the return of his regiment from the Atlanta campaign he was again desirous of re-entering the active service, but his health would not permit and he was made clerk to the adjutant-general of the Third Brigade, Second Division, Fourth Army Corps. Subsequently he participated in the battles of Franklin, Nashville and Spring Hill and was mustered out with his regiment at Springfield, Illinois, June 12, 1865. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Handy entered an academy in the neighborhood of his home and after a course there engaged in mercantile business in the town of York, in his native county, and was thus engaged until he came to Kansas in the fall of 1872 and settled in Reno county. He homesteaded a tract of land in Lincoln township and sent back word for his brothers and sisters to join him here. They came in 1873 and all homesteaded farms in the same township, thus becoming numbered among the earliest settlers of Lincoln township. During the grasshopper visitation in 1874 they were hard hit, but overcame all hardships and presently began to prosper.

From the very beginning of his residence in Reno county Edward S. Handy was a forceful and valuable member of the pioneer community. In 1876 he was elected clerk of the district court and was re-elected, serving in that position for eight years. Upon his election he made his headquarters



at Hutchinson. He was married in 1879 and established his home in Hutchinson, which place ever afterward was his place of residence. He was an ardent Republican and took a prominent part in the political life of this section of the state, frequently serving as a delegate to district and state conventions, but with the exception of his service as clerk of the court never held public office. Upon the expiration of his term of office in the clerk's office Mr. Handy engaged in the general real-estate business and became very successful, for many years being regarded as an authority on all questions relating to realty in this district. He was notably active in promoting the growth and development of the city of Hutchinson and laid out eight or ten additions to that city, including Handy's Addition, Riverside Addition, Handy & Shadduck's Central Addition, Handy's Eastside Addition and others. He also built several of the finest business blocks in the city and was singularly fortunate in his investments. He was one of the incorporators and for a time was president of the Peoples State Bank of Hutchinson, later merged into the Hutchinson National Bank, and was one of the directors of the latter institution. He also for several years was a director of the First National Bank of Hutchinson and for some time was heavily interested in lead and zinc mining propositions at Galena; also in mining propositions in Colorado. For some years he served as a member of the city council and one time was the choice of his party for mayor of the city, but he declined to accept the honor. Mr. Handy was one of the organizers of Joe Hooker Post No. 17, Grand Army of the Republic, and for years took a very active part in the affairs of that patriotic organization, which for three terms he served as adjutant.

On December 25, 1879, Edward S. Handy was united in marriage to Minnie A. Hale, who was born near the town of Waterloo, in Dekalb county, Indiana, daughter of Marshall and Hannah (Owen) Hale, who came to Kansas in 1872 and settled at Hutchinson, then a straggling group of thirty or forty houses, with not a tree to relieve the somber monotony of the sand plain. Marshall Hale engaged in the fuel and general builder's-supply business and early became one of the city's most substantial and influential figures. He built a house for his family residence in 1872 at 408 First avenue, east, and there spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on January 11, 1906. His widow survived him a little more than eight years, her death occurring in April, 1914. They were the parents of two daughters, Mrs. Handy having a sister, Mrs. W. L. Woodnutt, living at Seattle, Washington.

Edward S. Handy died at his home in Hutchinson on May 19, 1914.

Besides his widow there survive him three children, namely: Inez L., who married Arthur H. Schlautt, vice-president and general manager of the Knoor-Schlautt Wholesale Notion Company, of Hutchinson, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Jessie, who married Dr. Connor Gray, of Seattle, Washington, and Cara Jean, who married J. Lee Dick, superintendent of the Carey Salt Company, of Hutchinson.

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### DR. JAMES MYERS.

Following the death of the venerable Dr. James Myers at his home in Hutchinson, this county, on September 9, 1915, an old settler paid the following deserved tribute to the memory of that fine old Christian gentleman: "All the old settlers that knew him know of his wonderful faith and confidence in the country; not only manifested by his talk, but by all the acts of his life. He always thought that Reno county was as good as anywhere else, and was never looking for 'green fields in the distance.' His success proved the accuracy of his judgment. The same characteristics were noticeable all through his life. He was a man of strong impulses, of well-fixed principles, 'nothing wavering.' True, first to his own family; true to his relatives and friends; true to his church, and true to his party; you always knew where to find him and how he stood when you did find him. Exceptionally kind hearted, it always did him good to help a deserving and needy one."

The late Dr. James Myers was a native of Ohio, having been born at Trenton, in Harrison county, that state, February 25, 1831, son of James R. and Maria (Romney) Myers, fifth in order of birth of the fifteen children born to that parentage, thirteen of whom lived to maturity, and five of whom still survive, as follow: J. A. Myers, a retired capitalist of Hutchinson, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Dr. Jonathan Myers, of Troy; Albert Myers, of Bellville; Mrs. Robert Anderson, of Muskogee, Oklahoma, and Mrs. Minnie Moore, of Tolono, Illinois. James Myers received his elementary education in the schools of his home town in Ohio, supplementing the same by a two-years course in a small Presbyterian college at New Hagerstown, Ohio, and a two-years course at another sectarian college of the same denomination at Richfield, same state, thus received quite a liberal education for that day. At the age of twenty-one he began to teach school and in 1855 emigrated to Iowa, where, in

Keokuk and Jefferson counties, he was engaged for four or five years in teaching. For six months previous to going to Iowa, he had been reading medical books, with a view to becoming a physician, and upon his arrival in Iowa resumed this form of study, in addition to his work in the school room, and for three years sedulously applied himself to reading medicine in the office of his uncle, Dr. D. V. Myers, in Jefferson county. In 1859 he came to Kansas, locating in the then pioneer village of Highland, in Doniphan county, where he opened an office and began the practice of medicine, thus becoming one of the pioneer physicians of Kansas.

When the Civil War broke out Dr. James Myers helped organize Company A, First Regiment, Kansas Volunteer Infantry, that regiment being for the most part engaged in fighting the guerillas in Missouri, during which service Doctor Myers took an active part. A year or two after locating at Highland, Doctor Myers had bought a farm in that neighborhood and upon returning from the war resumed his practice there and at the same time gave personal attention to the management of his farm. He had married in 1861, and in 1874 came to Reno county on a visit to his father-in-law and then saw the town of Hutchinson for the first time; at that time becoming so favorably impressed with the situation hereabout that in 1878 he and his wife moved to this county and bought three hundred acres of excellent land in Lincoln township, where they established a new home. Doctor Myers did not continue his profession in his new home, and thereafter devoted his undivided attention to the development of his extensive and growing landed interests and became a very successful farmer and cattleman. In 1883 Doctor Myers retired from the farm and moved into Hutchinson, where he bought a house at 523 Avenue A, east, which he remodeled and there he and his wife lived in quiet comfort. The Doctor continued to look after his landed interests, however, after moving to town and gradually added to the same until at one time he was the owner of twelve quarter sections of choice land in this county.

In 1861, in Doniphan county, this state, Dr. James Myers was united in marriage to Letitia O'Neal, who was born in Indiana and whose parents were among the very first settlers of the Highland neighborhood, having emigrated from Indiana to Kansas very soon after the territory was opened for settlement. Mrs. Myers was a typical pioneer wife and mother, ever ready to cope with any emergency that might arise amid the primitive conditions in which her homekeeping was begun, and ever able to turn apparent hardships and backsets into eventual successes. She died at her home in Hutchinson on March 30, 1913, and was widely mourned, for her life had

been rich in good works. Doctor and Mrs. Myers were active members of the Methodist Episcopal church and for years gave their close personal attention to all movements designed to advance the common good hereabout. Doctor Myers was an ardent Republican from the days of the organization of that party and for many years took an active part in the political affairs of Kansas, though never having been included in the office-seeking class. To the last he took a keen interest in local affairs, always an earnest advocate of civic righteousness, and his counsels and judgments were highly respected throughout the community.

To Dr. James and Letitia (O'Neal) Myers the following children were born, namely: Elmer, who died in 1880 in his young manhood; Mahlon, who died in his early youth; Homer, a well-known banker of Sylvia; Walter, who died in infancy; Minnie, who married Charles N. Payne, of Hutchinson; Mrs. Olive Epperson, of Hutchinson, and Alice, who married Edward Smith and lives in Sylvia.

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### JUDGE CHARLES M. WILLIAMS.

Judge Charles M. Williams, one of the oldest and best-known lawyers in Hutchinson, the county seat of Reno county, is a native of Missouri, having been born in the town of Harrisonville, Cass county, that state, in July, 1852, son of James H. and Hettie (Son) Williams, the former of whom, born in Tennessee in 1818, died in 1884, at the age of sixty-six, and the latter, born in Missouri in 1825, died in 1864, at the age of thirty-nine.

James H. Williams was reared in his native state of Tennessee and when a young man moved to Missouri, where he became a pioneer merchant in the town of Harrisonville, and where he spent the remainder of his life. He married Hettie Son, and to this union seven children were born, two daughters and five sons, all of whom are deceased except Dr. William W. Williams, a dentist at Sioux City, Iowa, and Charles M., the immediate subject of this sketch. Upon the death of the mother of these children, James H. Williams married, secondly, Armina Son, a sister of his deceased wife, and to this latter union three sons were born, Robert, who lives in San Francisco, California; George, who lives at Warrensburg, Missouri, and Jesse, who for years has been an employee of the Santa Fe Railroad Company.

Upon completing the course in the public schools in his native town, Harrisonville, Missouri, Charles M. Williams entered the Kentucky State

University, continuing there until his junior year, after which he taught school for a couple of terms and for a short time worked in his father's store at Harrisonville. He then entered the law office of Terrell & Mathews, at Harrisonville, and after a diligent course of reading passed the required examinations and was admitted to the bar in 1875, after which he engaged in the practice of law at Harrisonville and Belton, Missouri, until 1886, in which year he came to Reno county and located at Hutchinson, the county seat, where he entered into a partnership relation with an established firm, under the firm style of McKinstry, Wisler & Williams. A short time afterward Mr. Williams formed a new partnership, under the firm style of Davidson & Williams, which lasted until 1896, when he formed a partnership with F. F. Prigg, which continued until Judge Prigg ascended the bench of the district court in 1913, since which time Mr. Williams has been alone in his practice.

In 1902 Charles M. Williams was appointed by Governor Bailey to fill the unexpired term of Judge Simpson, of the district court, who had been killed, and in the September following his appointment resigned the office, preferring his private practice to a place on the bench. In 1890 Judge Williams was elected to the office of county attorney of Reno county and served until 1892, when he resigned before his term was out. Judge Williams has enjoyed a very good law practice and there are but two attorneys at the bar of the Reno court who have been practicing in Hutchinson longer than he has.

On September 4, 1876, at Harrisonville, Missouri, Charles M. Williams was united in marriage to Nannie Stair, who was born in Wisconsin, daughter of Edward and Margaret Stair, the former of whom, for many years a building contractor at Harrisonville, now is deceased and the latter is making her home in the household of Judge Williams. To Judge and Mrs. Williams one child has been born, a son, Roy E., born in August, 1884, who attended Armour Institute at Chicago, being graduated from the department of mechanical and electrical engineering, and is now an engineer with Crane & Company, of Chicago, is married and has one child, a son, Charles F. Mr. and Mrs. Williams have a pleasant home at 547 Avenue A, east, in Hutchinson, Mr. Williams having erected his residence there in 1887, the year following his location in Hutchinson.

Judge Williams was a Democrat until 1896, when on account of the nomination of William Jennings Bryan on a free silver ticket he left the Democratic party and voted with the Republicans, and has ever since worked and affiliated with the Republican party and for years has been an influential



factor in the councils of this party in this county, he having been a frequent delegate to Republican conventions and in other ways manifesting his interest in the affairs of the party. He takes an active interest in the general development of the commercial and industrial progress of his city and county and has been largely influential in securing a number of public and private institutions in this city.

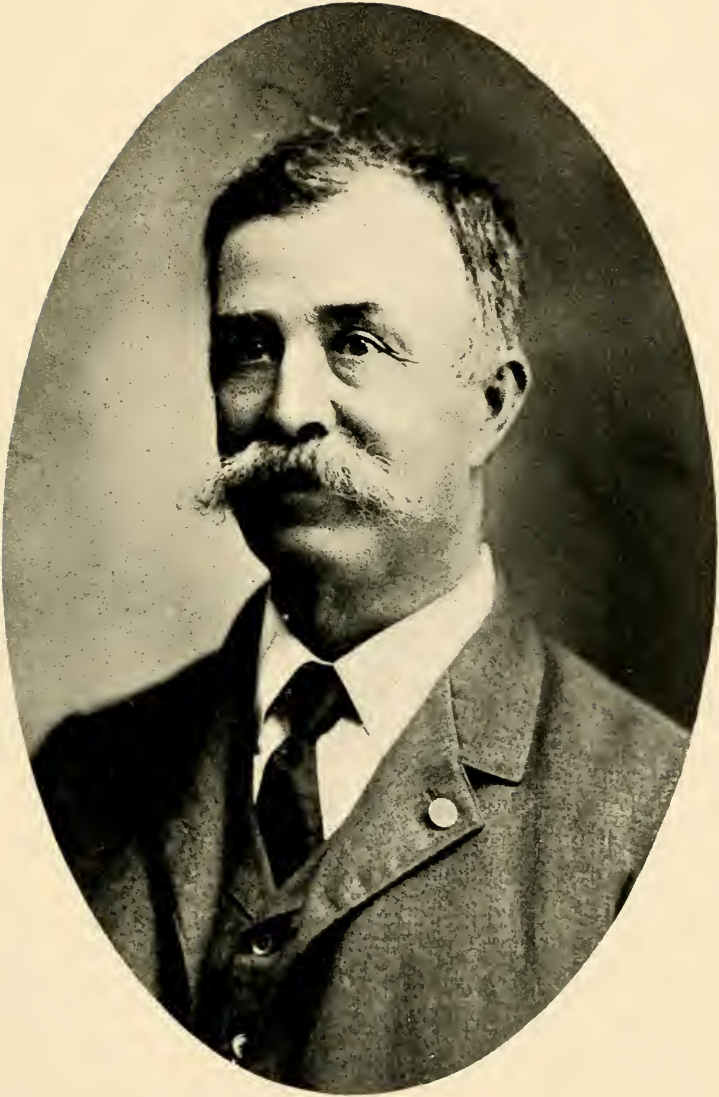
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### CAPT. JESSE BRAINARD.

Among the many veterans of the Civil War who came to this county immediately after it was thrown open to settlement and filed soldier's claims to land here and who braved the first few hard years following their settlement, later to be rewarded by plenty, few are better known than Capt. Jesse Brainard, who is now living in substantial comfort in the city of Hutchinson, to which place he retired upon leaving his farm in 1910.

Jesse Brainard was born in Summit county, Ohio, on June 15, 1838, youngest of the eight children of Timothy and Mary, or "Polly" (Sweet) Brainard, the former of whom was born near the town of Haddam, Connecticut, in 1785, and the latter, near the town of Warren, in New York state, in 1805.

Timothy Brainard was one of the fourteen children of Jesse and Mary (Thomas) Brainard, who were married in 1776 and who lived at Haddam, Connecticut, until 1803, in which year they moved to Leyden, in Lewis county, New York, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Timothy Brainard was reared as a farmer and when the War of 1812 broke out enlisted for service and served until the close of that brief but conclusive struggle, in payment for which service he received a warrant for eighty acres of land, which he sold. In 1817 he married "Polly" Sweet and soon thereafter drove through with ox-teams to Summit county, Ohio. On his way he passed through the hamlet which was destined to grow into the flourishing city of Cleveland, but which at that time contained but three houses. Arriving in Summit county, he located in Stowe township, where he entered a tract of government land and proceeded to clear the same and establish a home in the then wilderness. He prospered and later added to that tract by purchase until he became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres, quite a good farm for that time and place. In 1842 he sold that farm and moved to the town of Cayuga Falls, not so very far from the place where he had lived so long, and engaged in the paper trade, his practice



*Sam Brownard*



being to drive through the country with loads of manufactured paper and trade the same for paper rags. He later bought a farm near there, on which he made his home until the death of his wife in 1856, after which he made his home with a son in Illinois, where his death occurred in August, 1869.

Timothy Brainard was a Whig in his early political affiliations, later an Abolitionist and then a Republican. During the trying days preceding the Civil War he was an active "conductor" on the famous "underground railroad," his farm being one of the best-known "stations" thereabout, and many a harried black he aided in securing freedom by flight across the border. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, namely: Francis, a veteran of the Civil War, who died in 1880; Mrs. Mary Atwood, now deceased; Henry, now deceased, who for years was a pilot on the Ohio river and whose whereabouts for years was unknown to his family; Lucy, who died of typhoid fever, at the age of eighteen, shortly before the date set for her marriage; Thomas, who died in 1874, in Illinois; Julia, who married B. D. Green and settled in Valley township, this county, in October, 1873, and died at Nickerson, this county, in April, 1914; Ann M., who married Charles Green, both of whom now are deceased, and Jesse, the immediate subject of this sketch, the sole survivor of this large family.

Jesse Brainard was four years of age when his parents moved to Cayuga Falls and he received his elementary education in the public schools of that town, supplementing the same by a course in a commercial college in Philadelphia in 1856, during which time he made his home with his uncle, the Rev. Thomas Brainard, a minister of the Presbyterian church in that city. In 1857 he went to Illinois and was working on a farm in McLean county, that state, when the Civil War broke out. On August 26, 1861, he enlisted in Company B, Fourth Illinois Cavalry, with which he served until in February, 1864, at which time he was promoted to the rank of captain of Company I, Third United States (Colored) Cavalry, with which he served until January 26, 1866, on which date he was mustered out. Captain Brainard participated in the battles of Belmont, Ft. Henry, Ft. Donelson and Shiloh, after which latter engagement his company for months was stationed as a guard to the Memphis & Charleston railroad. He then took part in the siege of Vicksburg and the next February was promoted to the rank of Captain. For six months his cavalry company was stationed at Goodrich's Landing, Louisiana, then at Vicksburg and then was transferred to Memphis and was at the latter point when the war came to an end. Following that the company was kept

busy for months keeping down "jayhawkers," Captain Brainard having been appointed assistant adjutant-general, under General Dudley, doing scouting and provost duty. During the war Captain Brainard was wounded twice, once in the side and once in the arm, during a cavalry fight in Arkansas.

At the close of his military service Captain Brainard returned to McLean county, Illinois, and on September 26, 1866, was married to Mary M. Warlow, who was born on a farm in that county, nine miles west of the town of Bloomington, on April 26, 1843, daughter of Jonathan and Catherine (Hay) Warlow, the former of whom, a native of Massachusetts, had emigrated to Illinois with his parents in 1834 and who there married Catherine Hay, who had located there with her parents, who had emigrated from Kentucky. Jonathan Warlow became a quite well-to-do farmer and he and his wife spent their last days on their home farm in Illinois. After his marriage, Captain Brainard bought two hundred and twelve acres in the north part of McLean county, which he sold in 1868 and bought a farm of one hundred and four acres eight miles west of Bloomington, where he lived until 1873, in which year he came to Kansas and filed a soldier's claim to a tract of land in Salt Creek township, this county, and returned home to sell his farm and close out his affairs preparatory to making his home in Kansas. He did not get back here within the prescribed six months and thus forfeited his claim, but in February, 1874, he returned to Reno county and bought a discouraged homesteader's pre-emption right and transferred his soldier's right to a quarter section in Valley township. His family joined him in March of that year and they proceeded to establish a home on the plains, their first habitation being a mere shanty, eight by twelve feet. That was "grasshopper year," and they consequently, in common with all the pioneers hereabout, lost their first crop, but they stuck it out and after the first few hard years began to prosper, presently becoming recognized as among the most substantial families in the county. Captain Brainard after awhile enlarged his original holdings by the purchase of a quarter section cornering on his original tract, the southeast quarter of section 30, township 23, range 4 west, and now owns one-half section of well-improved and valuable land. He made big money farming as the years went by and in June, 1910, retired from the active duties of the old home place and he and his wife, ever a competent and valuable helpmate to him in the days on the farm, moved into Hutchinson, buying a home at 306 Sixth avenue, east, where they are now living in quiet comfort. They have but one child, a daughter, Jennie E., born on February 28, 1879, who married George P. Lowe, a prosperous



farmer of Valley township, this county, and has six children, Hazel, Norman J., Ray B., Wesley L., Keith and Edwin.

Captain Brainard is an ardent Republican, but never was a candidate for public office. He is a member of Joe Hooker Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and is also affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Mrs. Brainard is a member of the Presbyterian church. Formerly Captain Brainard was a member of the same church and gave the land at the southeast corner of his farm on which the Presbyterian church in that section is situated, at the same time contributing liberally to the fund for the erection of the church, but has since taken his letter out and withdrawn from the congregation.

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### RANDALL P. HERSHBERGER.

Randall P. Hershberger, a well-to-do retired farmer of this county, now living in the city of Hutchinson, is a native of Ohio, having been born in Wyandot county, that state, on December 23, 1863, son of J. H. and Samantha (Paul) Hershberger, the former a native of Wyandot county, Ohio, and the latter of Crawford county, same state.

J. H. Hershberger, who is now living retired at Hutchinson, at the age of eighty-two, was reared as a farmer in Ohio, where he married and where he lived until the spring of 1874, at which time he came with his family to this county and bought out the homestead rights to a half section of land in Reno township, the tract now occupied by the county farm. He proved up this claim, but after the grasshopper scourge of that fall became so discouraged over the outlook here that he left the county and returned to his farm in Ohio. In 1883 he and his family returned to Reno county and took up their residence on his half section in Reno township. In 1886 he sold that farm and bought another farm in Clay township, on which he lived for a year, at the end of which time he sold it and moved to Hutchinson and invested in real estate, which failed to develop as he had expected and he lost considerable money when the "boom" collapsed, in 1888. He then returned to the country and rented a farm south of Hutchinson, living there until 1900, when he returned to Hutchinson. His wife died in March, 1903, at the age of seventy-two, and Mr. Hershberger is now making his home with his daughter, Mrs. J. M. Dana, in Hutchinson. Mr. and Mrs. Hershberger were the parents of four children, the subject of this biographical sketch having three sisters, Mary, who married J. M. Dana and lives in

Hutchinson; Frankie, who married M. C. Obee, a merchant of South Hutchinson, and Rose, who married Harry Dice and lives in Hutchinson.

Randall P. Hershberger received his education in the public schools of the neighborhood of his boyhood in Ohio and in the old Sherman street school at Hutchinson, this county. He remained on the farm in this county, with his father, until he was grown and then he learned the plumbing trade under Stewart & Hellowell, in Hutchinson, and worked at that trade in that city until he was married, in 1891, after which he rented a farm in Lincoln township, this county, on which he made his home until 1898, in which year he bought the southeast quarter of section 32, township 24, range 6 west, which he still owns. He made his home on that farm for twelve years and prospered. His wife also owns a fine farm in that same neighborhood, the northeast quarter of section 29, township 24, range 6 west, and in 1910 Mr. and Mrs. Hershberger retired from the farm and moved into Hutchinson, where they bought the old McCandless home, at 218 Sherman street, east, where they have since made their home, Mr. Hershberger directing the operations of the two farms from his home in the city.

On February 18, 1891, Randall P. Hershberger was united in marriage to Alice Obee, who was born in the town of Napoleon, Lucas county, Ohio, daughter of Henry and Louisa Obee, further mention of whom is made in the biographical sketch relating to L. H. Obee, presented elsewhere in this volume, and to this union two children have been born, Paul, born on September 22, 1892, who is a graduate of the Hutchinson high school, and Locke, September 28, 1895, a mechanic for the Hudson Motor Car Company, of Detroit. Mr. Hershberger is a member of the Elks of Hutchinson and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and takes a warm interest in the affairs of those popular organizations.

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#### ELI BOWMAN.

The late Eli Bowman, who died at his home in Hutchinson, this county, on June 21, 1896, was one of the Kansas pioneers who did well his part during the formative period of that section of the state in which he settled, and his memory, particularly in Barton county, long will be cherished by the people thereabout. He was a man of strong character, and his helpful services in behalf of many of his pioneer neighbors who were less well endowed than he have not been forgotten to this day.

Eli Bowman was born in Licking county, Ohio, on December 13, 1841, son of David and Mary (Mouser) Bowman, both natives of Pennsylvania, in which latter state they were married, after which they settled in Licking county, Ohio, where David Bowman operated a broom factory. In 1842 they emigrated to Illinois, settling in Crawford county, on the eastern edge of that state, it having been discovered that the soil of that section was peculiarly adapted to the culture of broom corn, and there David Bowman bought a tract of government land, for which he paid one dollar and twenty-five cents the acre and paid for the same out of the money he made from the manufacture of brooms. He prospered and gradually added to his holdings in that county until he became the owner of twelve hundred acres of land. He was among the earliest settlers of that part of the county in which he located and upon the organization of the township in which he lived was able to secure for it the name of Licking township, in honor of his old home county, in Ohio. He spent the rest of his life there, dying in 1894, at the age of eighty-one. He had been thrice married and was the father of a large family. His first wife, who was Mary Mouser, mother of the subject of this sketch, died in 1858 and he then married Angeline Bowman, who, however, was not of the same family of Bowmans as he, and upon her death married a Bishop.

Eli Bowman was but one year old when his parents settled in Illinois, and he consequently was reared in that state. He was the eldest son who lived to maturity and was, therefore, the mainstay of his father in the labor of developing his growing farm interests. When he was twenty-five years of age, in 1866, Eli Bowman married and his father then gave him a quarter of a section of land and he started farming on his own account, remaining on that farm until the spring of 1873, when he, like so many others about that period, caught the "Kansas fever," and came to this state, locating in Barton county, where he homesteaded eighty acres of land in Pawnee Rock township, took a timber claim of one hundred and sixty acres and preempted an additional eighty acres. The night he and his family arrived on their homestead a buffalo was seen on this place. The year following their arrival there, 1874, the grasshoppers ate up everything they had raised, but the next year they had good crops and presently were in prosperous circumstances. The town of Pawnee Rock after awhile was located on the section adjoining their claim, which caused the value of the Bowman claim to advance so rapidly in price that much of it was sold to advantage. In 1883 Mr. Bowman left the farm, built a home at Pawnee Rock, into which he and his family moved, and he and his brother, W. Henry Bowman, built a

fine flour-mill in the new settlement, and for years did a flourishing business under the name of Bowman Brothers. Mr. Bowman also operated a general store in Pawnee Rock for several years and increased his land holdings by the purchase of a good farm in Barber county. In 1894 he traded his store for sixty-two lots in the eastern part of Hutchinson, this county, and in the fall of that year moved to that city. He bought a house at 621 North Main street and there he spent his last days, his death occurring about two years later, on June 21, 1896. His widow is still making her home in the same house.

Eli Bowman was a Republican and during the years of his residence in Barton county took an active part in political affairs. He was the first justice of the peace of his home township there and for years also served as a member of the town council of Pawnee Rock. His wife also served for one year as a member of the city council, she also having been elected as a Republican. The Bowmans were a very influential and helpful influence among their pioneer neighbors in Barton county. They had brought to that county the first domesticated cow and the first churn ever brought to the county and presently, as other neighbors acquired cows, their churn was in great demand, being borrowed for miles around. Mr. Bowman was a man of very generous sympathies and it is said of him that he helped fully two-thirds of the settlers in that part of the county to get a start, either by lending them money or by extending liberal credit to them at his mill and store. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias and both he and his wife were active in the work of the Pythian Sisters. They were members of the United Brethren church, but since living in Hutchinson Mrs. Bowman has been a member of the First Methodist church.

On October 28, 1866, Eli Bowman was united in marriage to Henrietta Barrett, who was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, daughter of Thomas and Catherine (Flick) Barrett, the former of whom was born in England and the latter in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania. Thomas Barrett was four years of age when he was brought to America by his parents. His father, Thomas Barrett, Sr., was a member of the aristocracy in England, a graduate of Oxford College and by profession a civil engineer, which profession he followed after coming to this country. He was accidentally drowned in the Susquehanna river when his son, Thomas, was seventeen years old, the lad thus early being completely orphaned, for his mother had died when he was seven years of age. The younger Thomas Barrett grew up in Pennsylvania and became a timber man, owner of a large



saw-mill, and became quite well-to-do. In 1865 he and his family and his brother, Joseph, and the latter's family, emigrated to Illinois and settled in Crawford county, where they became extensive landowners. There Thomas Barrett died on February 10, 1869, at the age of fifty-three. His widow later made her home on the farm of her daughter, Mrs. Bowman, at Pawnee Rock, where her death occurred on March 29, 1883, the day she was fifty-nine years of age.

To Eli and Henrietta (Barrett) Bowman four children were born, as follow: Dora, born on February 17, 1870, widow of A. Bert Cook, and lives at Geneseo, Illinois, where she has one child, a son, A. B. Jr.; Will M., November 14, 1880, a printer in the office of the *Hutchinson Wholesaler*, who married Dove Gear and has five children, Henrietta, Wilma, Keith, Wayne and Hugh; Myron, February 11, 1883, who married Jessie Cutshaw and lives in Los Angeles, California, where he is engaged in the wholesale cigar business, and Minola, September 28, 1886, who married Sherman Miller, a farmer of Valley township, this county, and has two children, Sherman and Ira.

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#### FRED SCHARDEIN.

Fred Schardein, a farmer of Reno county, was born on December 10, 1883, on his father's homestead farm in Salt Creek township. His parents, John and Eliza J. (Grady) Schardein, settled in Kansas in 1878. He was educated in the district schools of his home township, and took up farming as a vocation after leaving school.

Mr. Schardein has leased his father's farm, which he has been operating for several years, and is making arrangements for the purchase of this farm in the near future. His father placed all the early improvements on the place, but during the last three years Mr. Schardein has erected a dwelling house, a barn and silo, and otherwise improved the farm.

On May 6, 1908, at Hutchinson, Fred Schardein was married to Anna F. Long, who was born on March 10, 1885, the daughter of Daniel and Alice A. (Welty) Long, who were among the early pioneer settlers of Reno county. Mr. and Mrs. Schardein are the parents of three children: Fern, born on March 25, 1909; Teddy, November 20, 1912, and Frederick, March 1, 1915. Mr. Schardein is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Sons of Veterans.



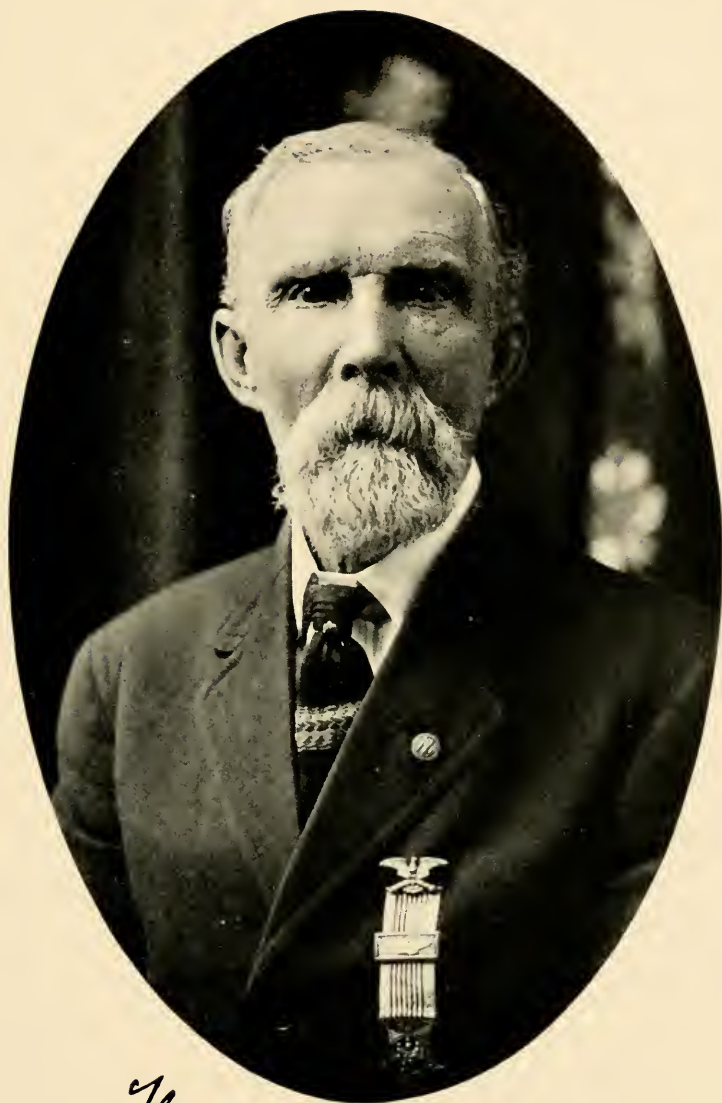
## COL. HENRY HARTFORD.

Col. Henry Hartford, a distinguished veteran of the Civil War and proprietor of the noted "Hillsview Stock Farm," in Medora township, this county, who for some years has been living comfortably retired at his pleasant home at 410 Fourth avenue, east, in the city of Hutchinson, is a native of the Emerald Isle, having been born in County Londonderry, Ireland, February 8, 1837, son of William and Martha (Leslie) Hartford, both natives of that same county, the former of whom died in Ireland at the age of forty-four and the latter of whom, born in 1812, died at the home of her son, the subject of this sketch, in Medora township, this county, in 1905.

William and Martha Hartford, well-to-do people in Ireland, were the parents of five children, of whom Col. Henry Hartford is the eldest, the others being William, who resides at Lahunta, Colorado; John died in young manhood in Ireland; and Elizabeth and Susan, twins, the former of whom married George Cooter, now a retired farmer, living in Hutchinson, this county, and the latter of whom married John Clark and died at their home at Long Branch, New Jersey.

Henry Hartford received an excellent education in private schools at his boyhood home in Ireland and when he was eighteen years old determined to try his fortune in the great and promising New World across the water. With this end in view, in 1855, he took passage on one of the first steamships that crossed the Atlantic and in due time landed at the port of New York. In that city he had little difficulty in finding employment and as his brother William had preceded him, they both were engaged as clerks in a grocery store. In the early sixties their widowed mother and one sister joined them in their new home in New York and the reunited family established a very comfortable home there. The other sister had come about 1859. Years afterward when the Hartford brothers became successful homesteaders in this county, the widow Hartford joined them here and her last days were spent in this county, at the home of her eldest son.

Upon President Lincoln's first call for volunteers to help in the suppression of the rebellion of the Southern states, Henry Hartford left his place behind the counter of the grocery store and enlisted in Company K, First New Jersey Militia, for the three-months service prescribed in the first call for troops. Upon the expiration of this service the militia was reorganized as a volunteer regiment and became the Eighth Regiment, New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, Henry Hartford becoming first sergeant of Company F of the same, and in this regiment he served until it was mustered out follow-



Henry Hayford



ing the Grand Review at the close of the war, performing his soldierly duties so faithfully that he was mustered out as lieutenant-colonel, in command of the regiment. Sergeant Hartford rose steadily in the ranks during the early part of his service and was ranking officer of the regiment when Col. John Ramsey, commander of the regiment, was raised to the rank of brigadier general, in charge of his brigade of the Second Army Corps, which left a vacancy and it was then Mr. Hartford was made colonel of his regiment and was in command until the close of the war. The Eighth New Jersey was in the very thick of every important battle fought by the Army of the Potomac and Colonel Hartford was wounded five times seriously and once slightly, his most serious wounds having been received at the battle of Petersburg, Virginia, June 16, 1864; the battle of Gettysburg, July 3, 1863, and at the battle of Williamsburg, May 5, 1862. He was in the thick of things during the battle of Fredericksburg and in all the other battles under Gen. Joe Hooker and some of the battles under General Sickles. Colonel Hartford was in charge of his regiment in the Grand Review in Washington at the close of the war and after the regiment was mustered out he remained in the service, assisting in checking up regimental stores, until in October, 1865, when he, too, was mustered out. Colonel Hartford had a most interesting military career. He was in the following engagements: Yorktown, Williamsburg, part of General McClelland's retreat to Malvern Hill, Bristle Station, Second Bull Run, Mine Run, Gettysburg, Kelley's Ford, McLean Ford, and many other minor engagements.

Upon the conclusion of his military service, Colonel Hartford returned to New York City and for a year thereafter was employed in the office of the city assessor, at the end of which time he was engaged by the old Sprague & McKilleys Mercantile Agency, a concern then corresponding to the now well-known Dunn and Bradstreet agencies, with which he was connected until 1867, in which year he and his brother, William, decided to test the opportunities apparently presented in the then new West. They came to Kansas, locating at Leavenworth, where they engaged in the commission business, under the firm style of the Hartford Brothers Commission Company and thus continued in business there until 1872. In November, 1872, Colonel Hartford had made a trip over into Reno county and had filed a claim for a soldier's homestead in Medora township, filing on the northeast quarter of section 18, township 22, range 4, west, which land he still owns, and in February, 1873, moved onto his homestead and began to develop the same. His brother filed on another quarter of the same section; his mother who, meanwhile, also had come West, took up another quarter of the same

and his brother-in-law, George W. Cooter, filed on the remaining quarter, the family thus being together the owners of all of section 18, in Medora township, and among the very earliest settlers of Reno county. The hardships endured by the early settlers of this county are fittingly described in the historical section of this work and need not therefore be more than touched on here, but it is proper to say that the Hartfords did not escape their share of privation. They rose equal to all emergencies and superior to all discouragements, however, and in the end prospered greatly. Following the dread grasshopper scourge of 1874, Colonel Hartford, a natural leader of men, took charge of affairs in behalf of the suffering and famine-stricken settlers and was the first man to secure aid from the East for Reno county and acted as distributing agent for supplies apportioned to Medora township and in other ways rendered invaluable assistance during the dreary days which tried the souls of all hereabout. From the very beginning, Colonel Hartford conducted his farming operations on an extensive scale and presently became known as one of the most progressive ranchers and cattle men in this section of the state. As he prospered he gradually added to "Hillview Stock Farm," until he now owns one thousand acres of choice land in Medora township, where for years Colonel Hartford had a fine grade of pure-blood Shorthorn cattle of which he made a specialty, but before retiring sold out his cattle, the great ranch now being under the management of Colonel Hartford's son, Harry E. Hartford, whose progressive ideas are producing excellent results. Colonel Hartford has not confined his business activities wholly to his ranch, however, and is the owner of quite a bit of valuable property in the city of Hutchinson. Though practically retired from the more active pursuits of life, he continues to take a warm interest in affairs and personally gives his close attention to some of the details of his extensive interests. In 1906 Colonel and Mrs. Hartford retired from the ranch and moved into the city of Hutchinson, where they have a very pleasant home and where they are now living.

On February 28, 1879, Col. Henry Hartford was united in marriage, in Medora township, this county, to Alice Elizabeth Thomas, who was born in Jennings county, Indiana, daughter of Joseph V. and Emily Thomas, who came with their family to Reno county in 1873 and entered a quarter of a section of land adjoining the Hartford section in Medora township, and to this union five children have been born, namely: Ethel died at the age of fourteen years; Ella, a teacher in the Hutchinson schools, lives with her parents; Harry, who is on his father's farm; Daile, who married John Cain and



lives at Mitchell, in Rice county, this state; and Martha May, who is at home with her parents, is also a teacher in the city schools.

Colonel Hartford is an ardent Republican and during the more active years of his life attended every county and many district and state conventions of his party. He was the second sheriff elected in Reno county, serving in that office in the years 1874-75, and also served very efficiently as township clerk and member of the school board. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in which order he takes much interest, and is one of the directors of the Eastside Cemetery Association. It was Colonel Hartford who received general credit among the members of that post for having given Joe Hooker Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Hutchinson, its name, he and Captain F. L. Mintie, who were the only charter members of that post who had fought under General Hooker, having fought so vigorously for this honor in behalf of their old general that the other comrades of the post finally gave in and Joe Hooker post it ever has been, Colonel Hartford ever having been one of the most active members of the same.

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#### WILLIAM R. CONE, D. D. S.

Dr. William R. Cone, a well-known dentist, of Hutchinson, this county, is a native of Missouri, having been born on a farm in the neighborhood of Albany, in Gentry county, that state, on August 28, 1860, son of E. W. and Eliza M. (Ogden) Cone, both of whom were born in Fountain county, Indiana, the former on December 25, 1834, and the latter, August 29, 1835, both of whom are still living.

E. W. Cone was reared on his father's farm in Fountain county, Indiana, and was married in that county, shortly after which, in 1858, he moved to Missouri and bought a farm in Gentry county, in the neighborhood of Albany. He was a Douglas Democrat and an ardent anti-slavery man, who never hesitated to make his position on the burning issues of that day known. Following the election of President Lincoln, in 1860, his pro-slavery neighbors, who even then were organizing guerilla bands thereabout in preparation for eventualities, drove him out of the neighborhood. He was compelled to sacrifice his farm in Missouri and took his family and moved to Muscatine, Iowa, where he remained for a few months, at the end of which time he leased a farm in Mercer county, Illinois, on which he lived until the fall of 1872. He then came to Kansas, locating on a homestead

on Prairie Dog creek, in the northern part of the state. He had been there but a short time when a prairie fire devastated that whole section of the state, he and his family saving their lives only by desperate back-firing and plowing under the sod in a radius of twenty acres surrounding their home. Discouraged by the outlook there, the Cones moved to the Junction City neighborhood, where they raised a crop the succeeding year and in the spring of 1874 moved to another farm near Peabody, Kansas. That was grasshopper year and everything they raised that summer was eaten up by the cloud of pests that overwhelmed the land. In the fall of that year the family moved over into Coffey county and there E. W. Cone bought a farm on which he made his home until 1884, in which year he and his wife retired from the farm and moved to Tulare county, California, where they are now living, he being past eighty-one years of age, and she past eighty. They are members of the Presbyterian church and their eight children, all of whom are living, were reared in that faith. These children, in the order of their birth, are as follow: Edgar P., a fruit farmer, who lives near Seattle, Washington; Dr. William R., the immediate subject of this sketch; Carlton, who lives at Fresno, California; Oscar, a building contractor, also living at Fresno; Samantha, who married S. C. Wilkinson and lives at Laton, California; Catherine, who married W. W. Wilkinson and lives at El Paso, Texas; Josephine, who married E. A. Atchison and lives at Butte, Montana, and Cora, who married George N. White and lives at Boise, Idaho.

William R. Cone received his elementary education in the district schools of Illinois and Kansas. He was twelve years of age when his family moved to this state and at the age of seventeen he began teaching school in Coffey county and was thus engaged for five years, at the end of which time, in 1883, he entered the University of Kansas, from which he was graduated in 1888, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. In the fall of 1888 he was elected county superintendent of schools of Coffey county, in which capacity he served for two years. In the meantime, he had taken up the study of dental surgery and in 1891 began the practice of that profession at Florence and continued thus engaged until 1894, in which year he entered the College of Dental Surgery at Chicago and upon completing his course there returned to Florence, where he practiced until in February, 1899, at which time he came to Reno county, locating at Hutchinson, where he ever since has been engaged in the practice of his profession.

On March 10, 1895, Dr. William R. Cone was united in marriage to Armanellie Stetler, who was born in Burlington, Iowa, October 11, 1868,

daughter of I. H. and Retta Stetler, both of whom are now living in Chicago. Mrs. Cone was graduated from the Woman's Medical College of Northwestern University, at Chicago, and from the time of her arrival in Hutchinson until 1906 was actively engaged in the practice of her profession, making a specialty of diseases of women and children. Doctor and Mrs. Cone are members of the Presbyterian church and Doctor Cone is a Mason. In 1907 Doctor Cone built a pretty suburban home at 900 Seventeenth street, west, where he owns a fine tract of forty acres. Twenty acres of this tract is set to orchard fruit, mostly apples and cherries, and in this fine orchard the Doctor finds his chief diversion from the exacting duties of his profession, deriving not only considerable profit from his orchard but an infinite amount of pleasure in the cultivation of the same.

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#### HOUSTON WHITESIDE.

Houston Whiteside, dean of the Reno County Bar Association, one of the best-known lawyers in Kansas, founder of the *Hutchinson News* and probably the oldest continuous resident of the city of Hutchinson, a man who has witnessed the development of that bustling city from the days it consisted of a few unsightly shanties stuck up in the dreary sands of the original townsite and who has aided very materially in the development of the city to its present exalted status, is a native of Tennessee, he having been born in Shelbyville, that state, in 1847, son of Russell Porter and Mary Ann (Houston) Whiteside, the former of whom, born in 1824 died in 1854, and the latter, born in 1824, died in 1912.

Russell Porter Whiteside was born near Shelbyville, Tennessee, member of a pioneer family of that section, and was reared on the paternal farm. His elder brother, Thomas C. Whiteside, was a prominent attorney in Shelbyville, and upon completing his schooling he entered his brother's office and began the study of law, presently being admitted to the bar and becoming a partner of William H. Wisener in the practice of the law, with offices at Shelbyville and Lewisburg, quickly taking his place among the leaders of the bar thereabout, entering upon a most promising career, which was cut short by death at the early age of twenty-eight. Russell P. Whiteside married Mary Ann Houston, who was born near Concord, in Cabarrus county, North Carolina, daughter of Dr. William and Sarah (Phifer) Houston, who emigrated to Tennessee with her parents when seven years of age, her

father having located there at that time on a large tract of land which had been granted to his father by the government in consideration of his distinguished services in behalf of the armies of the patriots during the Revolutionary War, her father having been the colonel of the Third North Carolina Regiment, the same in which Doctor Houston's father had served in the capacity of captain. Dr. William Houston became one of the leading plantation owners in the Shelbyville neighborhood, a large slave-holder and an extensive breeder of cattle. Russell P. Whiteside was a Whig and a member of the Presbyterian church, the sterling character of the man being attested by the fact that he had been an elder in the Presbyterian church for some time previous to his death, at the early age of twenty-eight. To him and his wife two children were born, the subject of this biographical sketch having had a sister, Annie, who married William E. Hutchinson, partner of his brother, C. C. Hutchinson, founder of the city of Hutchinson, this county. Upon the death of Russell P. Whiteside his widow married, secondly, George T. Hutton, a farmer of Bedford county, Tennessee, who died about 1890, and to this second union three children were born, Emmette, Samuel and Leota, the latter of whom married Doctor Conn, and all of whom reside in Hutchinson.

Houston Whiteside was reared at Shelbyville, Tennessee, his elementary education being received in a private school there, the same being supplemented by a course in Shelbyville College, which was interrupted by the military activities in that section during the Civil War, during which time the schools were closed. After the war, Mr. Whiteside began teaching school near Shelbyville and was thus engaged for three years, at the end of which time he went to Mississippi, where for a year he operated a cotton plantation, after which he entered the law office of his uncle, Thomas C. Whiteside, at Shelbyville, where for two years he gave his most studious and intelligent attention to the theory and practice of the law, laying there the foundation for the notable success he later was destined to achieve in the practice of that exacting profession. In the spring of 1872 Mr. Whiteside came to Kansas and on May 16, of that year, arrived at Hutchinson, which had been platted the year before and which at the time of his arrival consisted of but a few shanties. Recognizing immediately the need of a proper medium of expression for the promotion of the interests of the promising town site, Mr. Whiteside, in connection with Perry Brothers, of Miami county, this state, founded the *Hutchinson News*, he taking editorial direction of the same. The next year, 1873, he bought the interests of his partners and operated the paper alone until 1875, in which year he sold the same,



the growing interests of his already extensive law practice demanding his undivided attention. In November, of the year of his arrival in Hutchinson, Mr. Whiteside was elected county attorney for Reno county and was re-elected in 1874. From the time he retired from editorial direction of the *Hutchinson News* until the time of his practical retirement from practice, in 1907, Mr. Whiteside occupied a very high place at the bar of Reno county and from the first was recognized by both the bench and bar of this section as a vigorous and useful force in affairs. From the date of its organization, more than thirty years ago, he has been the president of the Reno County Bar Association and in every way has labored to maintain the high dignity of the bar in this county. Though most of the time Mr. Whiteside has conducted his practice alone, he from time to time has been associated in partnership with W. H. Gleason, A. C. Malloy, W. E. Hutchinson and James McKinsty.

Mr. Whiteside is a Republican and from the time of his arrival in this county has given close attention to the political affairs of the community and of the state at large, though never having been a candidate for office, his large law practice having required all his time. For several terms, however, he served as city attorney, under appointment of the city council, in which public capacity he performed excellent service, and for twenty-five years was district attorney for the Santa Fe system. Frequently, Mr. Whiteside has been a delegate to state and congressional conventions of his party and has been regarded as a useful factor in Kansas politics. He also has given his close attention to business affairs and helped to organize the Hutchinson Commercial Club in 1892. He was president of the first flour-mill company in Hutchinson and for years was president of the Water, Light and Power Company and at different times has been actively connected with various real-estate and banking companies, though not now thus actively connected. He still owns the quarter of a section of land which he pre-empted near Hutchinson, on the west, and is the owner of other valuable farm lands.

On February 22, 1889, Houston Whiteside was united in marriage to Julia Clementine Latimer, who was born at Jackson, Tennessee, daughter of Charles Latimer and wife. Charles Latimer was a Virginian, who was graduated from the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis and for many years was an officer in the United States navy. During the Civil War he was federal superintendent of railroads, located at Jackson, Tennessee, and after the war took service in the engineering department of the Lake Shore railroad, which company he served for some years as chief engineer, with



headquarters at Cleveland, Ohio, later going to the Erie Railroad Company, in the same capacity, and died in Cleveland in 1887.

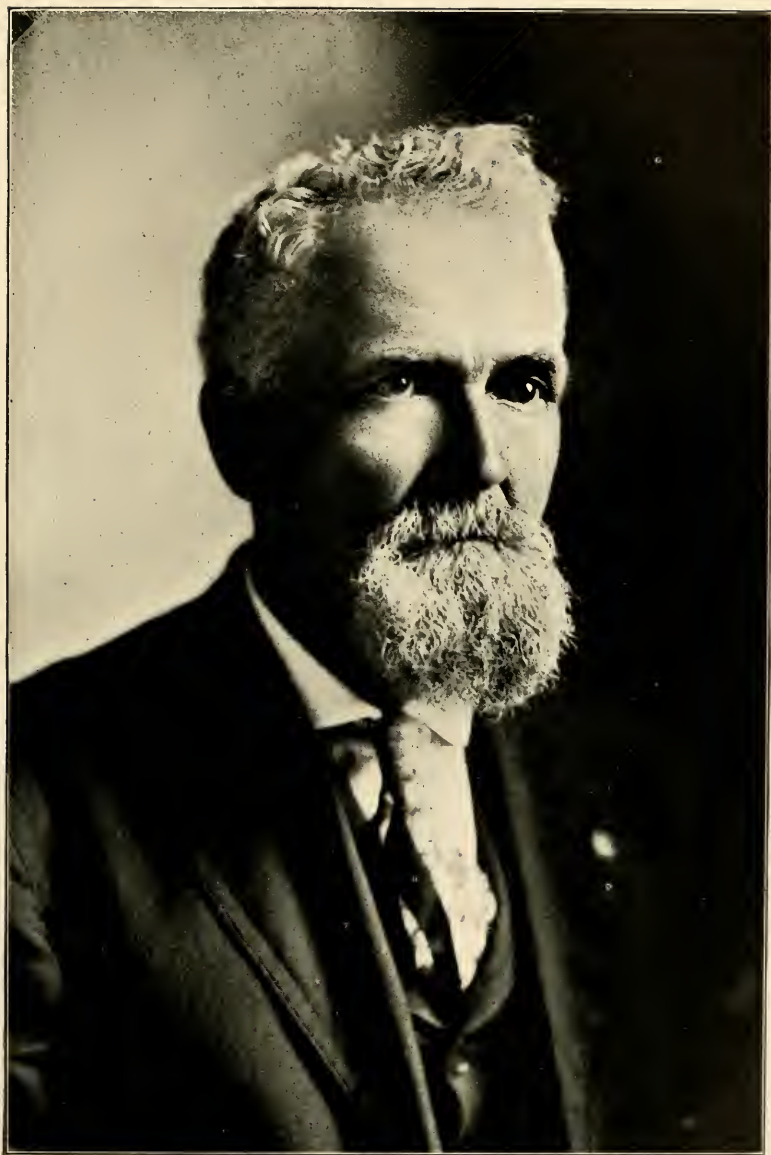
To Houston and Julia C. (Latimer) Whiteside two children have been born, a son and a daughter. Houston, Jr., born in 1891, graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1912 and served as an officer in the Twenty-third Regiment, United States Infantry, until his resignation in 1914, since which time he has been giving his attention to his father's extensive business interests in and about Hutchinson; and Ada, 1893, who supplemented her schooling in the public schools of Hutchinson by a course in a finishing school for young women at Greenwich, Connecticut, and married Wirt Morton, superintendent of the Morton Salt Company, of Hutchinson. The Whitesides live in a handsome and hospitable home at 504 Sherman street, east, in the city of Hutchinson. Mr. and Mrs. Whiteside are members of the Episcopal church, of which Mr. Whiteside was a vestryman for many years and senior warden for twenty years. He has been chancellor of the diocese since its organization and takes a warm interest in church affairs. He is a member of the Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Anti-Horse Thief Association. Mrs. Whiteside is highly accomplished in music and has done much to promote music in Kansas. She is well known as the finest vocalist in the state and one of the best amateur singers in the whole country.

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### JOEL M. ANDERSON.

Joel M. Anderson, son of William D. and Sarah I. (Louder) Anderson, was born in Guilford county, North Carolina, April 16, 1841. His parents were natives of North Carolina and were of Scotch ancestry. His father was a pioneer minister of the Wesleyan Methodist church. Reared in a state where slavery existed he disapproved strongly of the system and, with a view of getting himself and family from its blighting influences, he removed to Henry county, Indiana, in 1851. He remained there until about 1858, when he removed to Decatur county, Iowa, where he continued to make his home during the remainder of his life. He died in February, 1890, and his wife survived him less than a week.

Joel M. Anderson, the subject of this sketch, died at his home in Hutchinson, Kansas, December 18, 1911. He had the following brothers and sisters: Rhoda, deceased, married W. H. Sanford, of Leon, Iowa; Mary A. married J. P. Dunn, of Abbeyville, Kansas; William S., a farmer, of



JOEL M. ANDERSON.



Ringgold, Iowa; Irene married Peter Deck, of Abbeyville, Kansas; Solomon, a member of the Third Iowa Cavalry in the Civil War, died in the service in Louisville, Kentucky; John C., a farmer, at Kennard, Indiana; Isaac B., a farmer, at Cadiz, Indiana.

Joel M. Anderson was educated in the district schools of Henry county, Indiana, and Decatur county, Iowa. He remained at home working on the farm until he reached his majority. He then rented a farm in Decatur county, Iowa, and afterward bought a small farm in that county which he cultivated until the fall of 1873, when he removed to Reno county, Kansas, where he located a homestead claim on the northwest quarter of section 34, township 23, range 8, and during the fall and winter of 1873 broke sod preparatory to spring planting. In the spring he rented some other land that had been broken the preceding year and planted forty acres in corn, but he lost his entire crop by the grasshopper scourge that devastated that section that year. Having nothing left, like many other settlers, he had to leave his claim and seek some other location to obtain a living for himself and family. He returned to his former home in Iowa where he spent the winter working with his team at one dollar per day. In the spring of 1875 he returned to Kansas to make another effort to raise a crop. He planted only a small acreage of wheat because he did not have enough money to purchase seed for a larger acreage. The grasshopper plague had abated and he was able to realize a fair return for his labor that year. His first house was a one-story, fourteen by sixteen, in which he lived for several years, until he was able to enlarge and improve it. He was engaged in general farming and stock raising until September, 1888, when he removed to Hutchinson to assume the duties of the office of county treasurer, to which he had been elected.

Mr. Anderson was elected to the office of county commissioner in 1885, for a term of one year, from the third district. This was to fill a vacancy in that office. On the expiration of that term he was re-elected for the full term of three years, but he resigned the office of commissioner to accept the office of county treasurer, to which he was elected in the fall of 1887. He served for two terms, of two years each, in the latter office, being re-elected in the fall of 1889. He was elected police judge of Hutchinson, in 1895, and served in that capacity for two years. He was also township trustee for three years, and one of the organizers of school district No. 58, and served as treasurer of the school board for nine years. In the discharge of these various official duties he was always prompt, efficient and reliable, and

commanded the approbation and the esteem of the community which he faithfully served. His official record is without criticism or reproach. His public honors always came to him unsought, his fellow citizens calling him to office because they recognized his trustworthiness and ability.

After retiring from office Mr. Anderson engaged in the real-estate and insurance business, and also engaged as administrator of estates and guardian of minor heirs. In this capacity his superior business judgment, his unquestioned integrity in handling public and private interests, gave assurance that business entrusted to him would be carefully handled and honestly accounted for. His entire life was in harmony with his profession—honorable, straight and upright—and was crowned with the high degree of success which is ever accorded sterling worth.

On August 8, 1863, Mr. Anderson enlisted in Company C, Ninth Iowa Cavalry, under the command of Colonel Drummond, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with whom he served for two years. This regiment served in Missouri and Arkansas, guarding wagon trains and doing much scouting and escort duty. On account of disability from hard service and exposure, Mr. Anderson was discharged at the end of two years.

Joel M. Anderson was married, July 31, 1862, in Iowa, to Sarah A. Chambers, a daughter of Daniel E. and Elizabeth ((Brinneman) Chambers. Mrs. Anderson was born in Pennsylvania, September 8, 1844. Her father was born in Pennsylvania, June 21, 1816. He was a farmer, owning one hundred and sixty acres of cultivated land and forty acres of timber land, near Leon, Iowa, where he settled in 1848. In 1850 Mr. Chambers was attracted by prospects in gold mining in California and went on the long journey across the plains to seek his fortune in that state. After two years of indifferent success he returned to his Iowa home and resumed his farming operations. In 1893 he came with his wife to Hutchinson to live with his daughter, Mrs. Joel M. Anderson. He died here, September 8, 1905. He had been blind for about twenty years. Mr. Chambers had been a successful farmer and took great pride in his farm, and in the raising and care of fine horses. His wife was born in Pennsylvania, February 25, 1816, and died in Hutchinson, June 4, 1894. Both were prominent members of the Methodist church.

The brothers and sisters of Mrs. Joel M. Anderson are: Austin, born in Pennsylvania, March 29, 1841, was a soldier in the Civil War, serving six months, died in Lyoden, Washington territory, January 17, 1889; Mary Ellen, born in Pennsylvania, December 2, 1847, married George T. Chandler, a farmer, living at Armour, South Dakota; Emma Jane, born near Leon,



Iowa, May 29, 1858, died June 16, 1869; Amos, born near Leon, Iowa, October 16, 1854, is a farmer and stock raiser at Leon, Iowa.

The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are: William A., a farmer of Reno county; Ida L. married M. Wilmot; Cora married John S. Dauber, of Whitewater, Kansas; Bertha married Walter Meade, of Hutchinson, Kansas.

Mr. Anderson was an active and prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, having served as a member of the official board, and in the work of the Sunday school, in which he was a teacher in the country. He was a member of Joe Hooker Post, Grand Army of the Republic. He was also a supporter of the Hutchinson Young Men's Christian Association. Politically, he was identified with the Republican party, having served on the county central committee, and was frequently a delegate to the conventions of his party. Mrs. Anderson is a member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and the Woman's Relief Corps, auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic. The family residence is one of the handsome homes of Hutchinson, located at 517 Third avenue, east.

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#### PETER A. NELSON.

Peter A. Nelson, well-known hardware merchant at Hutchinson, this county, is a native of Sweden, having been born near the village of Elmholt, in the district of Smaalene, in that kingdom, on January 4, 1864, son of John and Nellie Nelson, both natives of the same district, farmers there, who, in 1869, emigrated with their two small sons, John W., now president of the Nelson Manufacturing Company, of Hutchinson, this county, and Peter A., the subject of this sketch, to America, locating for a short time at Rockford, Illinois, where John Nelson worked at such labor as his hands could find to do.

In 1872, the year after the organization of Reno county, the Nelsons came to Kansas, settling in this county, where John Nelson pre-empted eighty acres of land in Lincoln township, on the present site of the village of Darlow. He presently sold that homestead and bought a quarter of a section in the same township, two miles west of his original place, where he made his home for some time. He then bought a farm in Castleton township, during the eighties, later buying a quarter of a section in Reno township, south of the town of South Hutchinson, on which he lived until the time of his retire-

ment from the active labors of the farm, after which he moved into Hutchinson, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring in 1909. His widow survived him three years, her death occurring in 1912. During their residence in Sweden, the Nelsons were members of the Lutheran church, but upon coming to this county, in the absence of a Lutheran congregation with which to worship, Mrs. Nelson joined the Methodist church.

Peter A. Nelson was five years of age when he came to America with his parents and was eight years of age when they came to this county in 1872. He, consequently, has been a witness of the wonderful development of this region since those pioneer days and his recollection of the hardships and privations which the original settlers of this county had to endure in the days of grasshoppers and droughts is very vivid. He grew up on the farm, manfully assisting his father in the development of the same and when his father moved from Castleton to Reno township he gave Peter A. the former quarter-section farm as a reward for his faithfulness and industry. Mr. Nelson lived on this farm for one year, at the end of which time, in 1886, he went to Finney county, where, in the Garden City neighborhood, he homesteaded and then commuted a tract of land, which he still owns and the next year returned to his Castleton township place. In 1889 he joined his brother, John W., in South Hutchinson, where they engaged in the retail hardware business, the next year moving their store to Hutchinson, locating the same in the Rock Island block, where they conducted their business quite successfully for a time, and finally locating at North Main street, which three-story building they purchased, and where they greatly enlarged the capacity of their business and at the same time engaged in the manufacture of galvanized tanks, building up an extensive business in the same. In 1909 this partnership was dissolved, Peter A. Nelson retaining the store and his brother, John W., taking the manufacturing end of the business, which he is still operating. Mr. Nelson's hardware store is one of the best equipped stores in Hutchinson, fittings and fixtures being up-to-date and stock complete.

In 1899 Peter A. Nelson was united in marriage to Hilma Anderson, who was born in Sweden, daughter of Carl and Mary Anderson, both now deceased, and who came with them to America when she was a small girl, the family settling in Wisconsin, later coming to Kansas, and to this union one child has been born, Celestine, born in 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have a very pleasant home at 428 Avenue A, east.

Mr. Nelson is a Republican in national affairs, but in local elections is

more inclined to give his preference to the men he thinks best fitted for the office, regardless of party distinctions. He is a thirty-second-degree Mason, a member of the blue lodge at Hutchinson and of the consistory at Wichita. He also is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and in all of these organizations takes a warm interest.

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### FRANK M. McDERMED.

As an example of what energy, pluck, perseverance and thrift, coupled with an inherent shrewdness of thought and habit, may accomplish in the life of one man, the following interesting bit of biography, the life history of one of the most successful business men in Kansas, well deserves a prominent place in these pages. In Reno county, few men are better known than Frank M. McDermied, merchant and capitalist, of Hutchinson, and it is to a brief review of his successful career since arriving in Hutchinson in 1887, a poor boy, but eighteen years of age, that these lines are addressed.

Frank M. McDermied was born in Roanoke City, Virginia, October 4, 1869, son of Oliver and Mary (Barnes) McDermied, the former of whom, born in that same city in 1830, son of William McDermied, a prosperous merchant, died in Arkansas, November 11, 1886, and the latter, born in Roanoke county, Virginia, in 1835, died in Hutchinson, this county, January 27, 1914.

Oliver McDermied was reared to the mercantile business and upon reaching manhood became proprietor of a store at Roanoke City. Some years before the Civil War period he moved to Richmond, Virginia, and there engaged in business, becoming the proprietor of a large store. When the war between the states broke out, he enlisted in the cause of the Confederate states and served valiantly during that fratricidal struggle in the army of his great general, Robert E. Lee. At the close of the war, he found himself bankrupt, his business in Richmond having been destroyed during the time of the Federal occupation of that city, and after struggling along ineffectually for a few years in Roanoke City, decided to try his fortunes anew in the West. In 1872 he removed, with his family to Lonoke, Arkansas, where he and his son-in-law, "Bud" Holloway, engaged in cotton planting with some measure of success, though, after the death of Oliver McDermied, in 1886, there was not much left when his estate was settled. Oliver McDermied and his wife were the parents of eight children, as follow:

William E., formerly a merchant at Los Angeles, California, now a commercial traveler there; Laura, who died, unmarried, in 1876; John A., a well-known farmer of this county; Robert F., engaged in the real-estate business in Hutchinson, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Luton, a well-known grocer in Hutchinson; Annie, now deceased, who married "Bud" Holloway; Frank M., the immediate subject of this sketch, and James E., merchant, manufacturer, speculator and promoter, of Hutchinson, this county.

Frank M. McDermied was three years of age when his family moved from Virginia to the Arkansas plantation and was seventeen years of age when his father died. During the life on the plantation conditions necessitated the labor of all hands and he had little time for schooling, he having had the advantage of attendance at but three terms of district school during the time he lived there. When he was eighteen years of age he and his widowed mother and such of the younger children as had not yet left home came to this county and settled in Hutchinson, where he received the further advantage of attendance at three terms of the common school, his vacations being spent at work in a plumbing shop. In 1890, he being then twenty-one years of age, Frank M. McDermied decided to go into business on his own account and opened a grocery store at 213 South Main street, which he operated quite successfully, continuing to occupy that same location until 1905, in which year he sold it and a poultry yard he had established in 1898 to his brothers, Luton and James E., after which he started a new grocery and hardware store at 519-27 South Main street, where he is still in business, in connection with this establishment also conducting a large retail coal yard.

It is not too much to say that Frank M. McDermied has become quite a capitalist. When he arrived in Hutchinson, in 1887, he was a poor boy, with but little education, but possessed of a natural aptitude for business and has made money at every turn. Mr. McDermied is interested in many enterprises in and about Hutchinson, in addition to his extensive commercial establishment. He was one of the promoters of the Rorabaugh-Wiley building, the only eight-story office building in the city of Hutchinson, and was one of the original owners and promoters of Riverside Park. He is largely interested in farms in Arkansas, Texas and Oregon and is a director of the Reno State Bank, a director of the Fontron Loan and Trust Company and a director of the Haven Milling Company, and from 1896 to 1903 was largely engaged in raising cattle in this county.

In civic affairs also Mr. McDermied has shown his intelligent interest



and has found time from his extensive commercial and financial pursuits to give considerable attention to the public service. He is a Democrat and served as a member of the Hutchinson city council from 1903 to 1910, in which latter year the commission form of government for that city was inaugurated, he being one of the first city commissioners. An interesting item in connection with Mr. McDermid's large holdings in Hutchinson is the statement that he is the owner of the oldest building now standing in Hutchinson, a stone building located at 15 South Main street, which was erected in 1872 and was constructed from stone hauled all the way from Newton, which at that time was the terminus of the Santa Fe railroad, there being then no railroad in Hutchinson. Mr. McDermid is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that popular order.

On February 14, 1915, Frank M. McDermid was united in marriage to Clara Teter, who was born and reared in Hutchinson, a daughter of James L. Teter, who is now a grocer at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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#### ALBERT P. DIXON.

The Dixon family has been actively connected with the affairs of Reno county since the days of the beginning of a social order hereabout, Albert P. Dixon, a well-known and progressive young farmer of Salt Creek township, this county, being a grandson of Nathaniel Dixon, a Hoosier, who came to Reno county in 1872, the year following the first permanent settlement made in the county, and son of the late Cyrus N. Dixon, who for years was regarded as one of the leading farmers of Enterprise township.

Nathaniel Dixon was born in Indiana and became a well-to-do farmer of the Aurora neighborhood in that state. He married Iantha Hoard and continued making his home near Aurora until 1872, in which year he and his family, his wife and five young children, came to Kansas, locating in Reno county, where, in Enterprise township, he homesteaded a tract of land, being among the very earliest of the settlers of this county and the second or third to settle in Enterprise township. When he erected his humble home on his homestead there was not another house to be seen in any direction from that point, nor was there a tree in sight, while vast herds of buffalo still were roaming the prairies hereabout, providing ample supplies of meat for the family larder. Nathaniel Dixon speedily proceeded to



make a home on the prairie and soon had things in habitable shape. He planted a slightly grove on his place and quickly began to be recognized as one of the most progressive and energetic of the settlers in that part of the county. Nathaniel Dixon kept the postoffice in his home about 1874. His sons were active aids to him in the work of creating a new home and all grew up sturdy and independent farmers. Nathaniel Dixon and his wife were members of the Methodist church and early took their place among those who were continually active in good works in their neighborhood. In the early eighties he sold his home place to his son, Cyrus N. Dixon, and he and his wife went to Oregon, where their last days were spent. They were the parents of five children, as follow: Ezra L., who went to Oregon and died in Portland, that state; Luella, who married W. T. Hare and now lives in the town of Nickerson, this county; Cyrus N., father of the subject of this sketch, and Samuel and Michael, both of whom have for years been making their homes in Oregon, the latter of whom formerly was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, but is now farming in Oregon.

Cyrus N. Dixon was twelve years of age when he came to this county with his parents in 1872, and he grew to manhood on the homestead farm in Enterprise township. When he came of age he married Annie Warnock, who was born in Iowa in 1861 and who came to this county with her parents when she was a girl, and then he bought the homestead of his father, the latter at that time moving to Oregon, and spent the rest of his life there, becoming a very successful farmer. He presently bought an adjoining half section of land and at the time of his death on January 11, 1915, was the owner of seven hundred and twenty acres of choice land in Enterprise township. He was a Democrat, ever taking an active part in local political affairs, and he and his wife were earnest members of the Methodist church. They were the parents of five children, namely: Albert P., the subject of this sketch; Iantha, who married Jesse Huckworth and lives on a farm in Enterprise township, this county; Lola, married Virgil T. Slifer, a farmer of Enterprise; Ray, who is managing the home farm, and Ezra, deceased.

Albert P. Dixon was born on the old Dixon homestead in Enterprise township, this county, on December 17, 1885. He grew to manhood there, receiving his elementary education in the district school of that neighborhood, which he supplemented by a course in the Salt City Commercial College at Hutchinson. Following his marriage in 1911 he bought the old Claypool place, the southwest quarter of section 6 in Salt Creek township and moved onto that farm, on which he still makes his home. He has been

quite successful in his farming operations and rents additional land from his mother, which he is cultivating with profit.

On July 29, 1911, Albert P. Dixon was united in marriage to Katy Kittle, who was born in Rush county, this state, daughter of Stacy Kittle and wife, who now reside in Nickerson, this county, and to this union two children have been born, sons, Oscar, who was born in July, 1912, and Harold, in May, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Dixon are members of the Methodist church and take a proper interest in the good works of their community.

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### WILLIAM E. CARR.

William E. Carr, general manager of the "Monarch" mills at Hutchinson, this county, vice-president of the Monarch Milling Company, prominently connected with the banking and commercial interests of the city and for years one of the most active promoters of the best interests of "the Salt City," is a Hoosier, a fact of which he has never ceased to be proud, having been born in the village of New Corydon, Jay county, Indiana, February 19, 1857, son of D. W. and Charlotta (Daugherty) Carr, both natives of that same state.

William E. Carr was reared in his native village, receiving his education in the local schools, and even as a youth started out to make his own way in the world. In May, 1877, he came to Kansas, being located for a time in Hutchinson, then a village of promising proportions, but still bearing all the evidences of its recent origin, and while there worked in various capacities for the Santa Fe Railroad Company. In 1881 he was sent by that company to Garden City, this state, to edit a newspaper, the *Irrigator*, which the railroad company had financed for the purpose of "booming" the sale of lands thereabout. In 1883 Mr. Carr moved to Ellinwood, this state, where he was engaged in editing and publishing the *Ellinwood Express* (now known as the *Advocate*) until 1887, in which year he moved to Great Bend to take the position of bookkeeper in the office of the Great Bend mills, owned by Hume & Kelly. In 1897 Mr. Carr and William Kelly, of the above firm, came to this county and erected the "Monarch" mills at Hutchinson. In 1905 Mr. Kelly sold his interest in the flour-mill to N. B. Sawyer, who, with Mr. Carr, H. A. and E. B. Sawyer and R. E. Carr, organized the Monarch Milling Company, incorporated, and which is doing a very flourishing business. Upon the entrance of the Sawyer interest into

the milling company, N. B. Sawyer was elected president of the company, and Mr. Carr vice-president and general manager, Mr. Carr having had practically entire management of the mill ever since it was erected. It is universally acknowledged that the product of the "Monarch" mills is as fine as there is made in Kansas. The plant has a daily capacity of six hundred and fifty barrels and the flour is shipped to all parts of the United States, in addition to which the company enjoys a considerable export trade. The "American Lady" brand of flour manufactured by this company is its leading brand and is known in all parts of the country.

Not only has Mr. Carr given his most thoughtful and intelligent attention to his milling business, but he has taken an active part in several other enterprises of a local character and is known as one of Hutchinson's most representative business men, being a stockholder in the Commercial National Bank, First National Bank and numerous other concerns.

In 1886 William E. Carr was united in marriage to Alice Jacobs, who was born in Union county, Ohio, and to this union one son has been born, Ralph E., who is associated with his father in the milling business. Mr. and Mrs. Carr are members of the First Presbyterian church, in the various beneficences of which they take an active interest, and Mr. Carr is a member of the Modern Woodmen and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He and his son are active members of the Hutchinson Country Club, and the latter is an enthusiastic golfer.

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### JOSEPH P. FARLEY.

Joseph P. Farley, superintendent of mails in the postoffice at Hutchinson, this county, and one of the best-known citizens of that city, is a native of Pennsylvania, having been born in Tamaqua, that state, June 15, 1860, son of Michael and Ann (Colum) Farley, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of England, both of whom are now deceased.

Michael Farley was born in County Cavan, Ireland, and came to the United States with his widowed mother when four years of age. The widow Farley settled in Tamaqua, in the heart of the Pennsylvania coal field, and there Michael grew to manhood, early becoming a miner, which vocation he followed all the active years of his life. He died there on October 30, 1875, and his widow later moved to Philadelphia, where she died in November, 1910. She was born in St. Helens, England, and had come to

this country when a girl with her parents. There were ten of these children, all of whom are living save two, Thomas having died when eighteen years old and Catherine when four, those besides the subject of this sketch (all residents of Philadelphia) being as follow: James C., a railroad contractor; Mary, widow of Thomas Mundy; Daniel, Michael, Sarah, who married Jacob Borrell, a brick mason; Margaret, who married William Blaich, superintendent of circulation in the office of one of the Philadelphia newspapers, and Connor, inspector of upholstery for the Pennsylvania railroad.

Joseph P. Farley was reared at Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, and received his schooling there. He "grew up" in the coal mines and worked there until he was seventeen years old, when, in 1877, about two years after his father's death, he went to Indiana and was engaged in farming in the Terre Haute neighborhood for ten years, at the end of which time he came to Kansas, arriving at Hutchinson on November 21, 1887. The Crystal Salt Company of that city had been organized by Terre Haute men and Mr. Farley was engaged as foreman of that company's plant, a position he held for four years. He then engaged in the grocery business and two years later received an appointment as letter carrier in the Hutchinson postoffice. For fifteen years Mr. Farley faithfully performed the duties of postman and then was advanced to the position of clerk, which he held for five years, or until his appointment to the position of superintendent of mails in 1912, which position he still occupies. Mr. Farley is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to political affairs.

On January 1, 1890, at Nevada, Missouri, Joseph P. Farley was united in marriage to Hannah Rukes, who was born near Brazil, in Clay county, Indiana, not far from Terre Haute, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Hoffman) Rukes, both natives of Clay county, Indiana, the former of whom is still living, now a resident of Brazil, Indiana, and to this union six children have been born, namely: Anna E., who married Ralph J. Chesney, a freight clerk for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad, stationed at Kansas City, Missouri; James N., an attorney-at-law at Hutchinson; Helen, who married Fred Danielson, baggage master at the Rock Island railroad depot at Hutchinson; Edna, a graduate of the Hutchinson high school, and Margaret and Joseph P., Jr., who are still in school. The Farleys have a pleasant home at 516 B avenue, east, and are quite comfortably situated. Mr. Farley is a Mason, an Odd Fellow, a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and in the affairs of all these organizations takes a warm interest.



## FRED W. THORP.

Fred W. Thorp, a prosperous lumber and coal dealer in Haven, this county, a large landowner, first postmaster of the town of Haven, editor of the first newspaper published in that town, founder of the bank established in Haven, former mayor of the town and who in other ways has been actively identified with the promotion of the best interests of that flourishing little city, is a native of Wisconsin, having been born in Washington county, that state, April 22, 1860, son of the Hon. Frederick O. and Maria (French) Thorp, the former of whom was born in Massachusetts and the latter in Connecticut, who emigrated to Wisconsin with their respective parents, the former in 1831 and the latter in 1832, Wisconsin then being unorganized as a state, existing merely as a part of the great Northwest Territory. Frederick O. Thorp and his wife were members of the Congregational church. They were the parents of three children, the subject of this sketch having had two brothers, George H., a promising lawyer, who died at the age of twenty-six, and Herman S., who died in early youth.

Fred W. Thorp received his elementary education in the schools of West Bend and of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, supplementing the same by a course in the University of Wisconsin, from the scientific department of which excellent institution he was graduated in 1878. The following year he came to Kansas, locating in Reno county, where he has ever since made his home. For some time after coming to this county, and while getting "the lay of the land," Mr. Thorp worked on farms in Haven township, and in one capacity and another, until 1886, the year in which the town of Haven was founded, he began the publication of a newspaper in that promising village, the *Haven Independent*, with the purpose to "boom" the town, and was thus engaged for four or five years, at the end of which time he sold the *Independent*, of which he had made a sprightly and flourishing publication. In the meantime he had married and had become the owner of a fine farm about one and one-half miles east of Haven, and upon leaving the newspaper moved to the farm, where he made his home until 1903, in which year he moved back to Haven, where he ever since has made his home and where he and his family are very pleasantly and comfortably situated.

Mr. Thorp was the first postmaster of Haven and from the very beginning of that thriving town has taken a warm interest in its development. Upon returning to Haven he organized the Citizens State Bank and was elected cashier of the same, a position he held until he sold his interest in the



bank, in 1911. He then established his present up-to-date lumber yard, one of the best appointed concerns of the kind in the county, where he also handles coal, cement and brick and manufactures cement-block. Since moving back to town, Mr. Thorp has rented his farms, being now the owner of several well-tilled tracts of land in this county, and is looked upon as one of the most substantial citizens of the Haven community. He is a Democrat and served as mayor of Haven during the years 1913 and 1914.

In 1889 Fred W. Thorp was united in marriage to Hattie Mount, daughter of Cyrus and Mary Mount, who were among the very earliest settlers of Reno county, they having located in Haven township in 1871, their daughter, Hattie, then having been but two years of age, and to this union two children have been born, George H., who is assisting his father in his business office, and Caroline, who is still in school. Mr. Thorp is a Mason, affiliated with the blue lodge of that order at Haven; with the commandery of the Knights Templar at Hutchinson and with Midian Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Wichita. He also is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and in the affairs of these several organizations takes a warm interest.

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### ISAIAH DANFORD.

Isaiah Danford, a well-known and prosperous farmer and dairyman of Reno township, this county, now living retired in the city of Hutchinson, is a native of Ohio, having been born on a farm in Noble county, that state, June 27, 1841, son of Abraham and Lavina (Bates) Danford, both natives of that same state, the former born in Belmont county and the latter in Noble county.

Abraham Danford was reared on a farm and became a successful and well-to-do farmer in his own right, the owner of two hundred and eighty acres of land. He was a Whig in his political belief and for many years served his township well in the capacity of justice of the peace. He and his wife were members of the Christian church and their children were reared in that faith. Abraham Danford lived to be ninety years of age. His wife died ten years previous to his death. They were the parents of eight children, five of whom are still living, those besides the subject of this biographical sketch being Eli, Elizabeth, who married John Rowe; Nancy,

who married Julius Groves, and Roland Jasper, all of whom still live in their native county, substantial, well-to-do people.

Isaiah Danford was reared on the paternal farm in Ohio, receiving his education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, and after his marriage his father helped him buy a one-hundred-acre farm four miles from the old home place. Presently he sold that farm to advantage and bought a farm of two hundred and ninety-seven acres in the same county, becoming an extensive farmer, and there his ten children were born. In 1887 he sold his farm in Ohio and came to Kansas with his family, locating in Hutchinson, this county, where he engaged in the hotel business, operating the Noble County Hotel for a year with much success, that being in "boom" times. He then traded the hotel for a quarter of a section of land in Reno township and moved to the latter place, making his home on that farm for four years, at the end of which time he sold the farm and rented a ranch of sixteen hundred acres in Cowley county, this state, which he operated for five years. He then returned to Reno county and bought a farm of ninety acres in Reno township, on which he made his home for two years, at the end of which time he bought a dairy farm in South Hutchinson and in 1905 started the South Hutchinson Dairy, which he still owns, the same now being operated by his son-in-law, Benjamin Myers. In 1907 Mr. Danford and his wife retired from the active labors of the farm and moved into Hutchinson, where Mrs. Danford died on November 10, 1909.

In 1862 Isaiah Danford was united in marriage to Eliza Ellen Groves, who was born in Noble county, Ohio, August 16, 1846, daughter of John and Matilda Groves, and to this union ten children were born, all of whom are still living, namely: Lincoln, born on July 11, 1866, now operating a large ranch in Edwards county, this state; Annie, July 8, 1868, who married Benjamin Myers, who conducts the South Hutchinson Dairy; Eli Franklin, September 9, 1869, a large farmer in Reno township, this county; William Collins, May 25, 1871, an extensive farmer in Oklahoma; Lavina Della, October 19, 1872, who married L. S. Kent, a well-known auctioneer, of Hutchinson; Louis P., January 9, 1874, a well-to-do farmer of Reno township, this county; Mary Alice, January 31, 1876, who married A. T. Moupin, proprietor of the "Sunflower" dairy in South Hutchinson; Carrie May, January 27, 1878, who married Robert Carlisle, a merchant of Stafford, this state; Rosanna, August 17, 1880, who married Patrick Hamilton and lives in South Hutchinson, and Ella, October 30, 1882, who married Richard Kennedy and lives at Haven, this county. The Danfords are all doing well in their several undertakings and all are held in high regard in their

respective communities. Mr. Danford is a Republican and ever has given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, though never an aspirant for office. He has many friends in Hutchinson and throughout the county and is held in high regard by all.

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### HERBERT E. RAMSEY.

County Attorney Herbert E. Ramsey, an active and popular young lawyer, of Hutchinson, county seat of this county, is a native of Reno county, having been born on a farm in Reno township, December 26, 1885, the only son of Enoch M. and Nellie D. (Belfour) Ramsey, both natives of Illinois, and both of whom are still living in this county.

Enoch M. Ramsey owned a farm in Hancock county, Illinois, when he was married, but in 1882 he and his wife decided to come farther West and came to Kansas, locating near Larned, where they bought three quarter sections, but not being satisfied with that location shortly afterward disposed of their place and came to Reno county, buying three quarter sections in Reno township, which has been their home ever since and where they have prospered largely. Mr. Ramsey still gives close attention to the general management of his place, though practically retired from the active labors of the same. He and his wife have a pleasant home at 633 Sherman street, east, in Hutchinson, where Mrs. Ramsey makes her home most of the time with her son, the subject of this sketch, and Mr. Ramsey alternates his time between his town house and the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey are active members of the Presbyterian church, in the various beneficences of which they take much interest, and Mr. Ramsey is a Democrat and a member of the Masonic order.

Herbert E. Ramsey was reared on the home farm in Reno township, receiving his elementary education in the district school in that neighborhood, after which he entered the high school at Hutchinson, from which he was graduated with the class of 1906. He then entered the law office of Hettinger & Hettinger and after a course of reading there, entered the law department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, from which he was graduated in 1910. Upon receiving his diploma, Mr. Ramsey returned to Hutchinson, was admitted to the bar and began the practice of his profession. He was appointed assistant county attorney under E. T. Foote and for four years was thus engaged, acquitting himself so satisfactorily in

that position that in 1914 he was elected county attorney and is now serving in that important office, his administration of the affairs of which is giving general satisfaction to the public.

Mr. Ramsey is an active, energetic young lawyer, public spirited and enterprising and is very popular in his large circle of friends throughout the county generally. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and takes a warm interest in all good works hereabout.

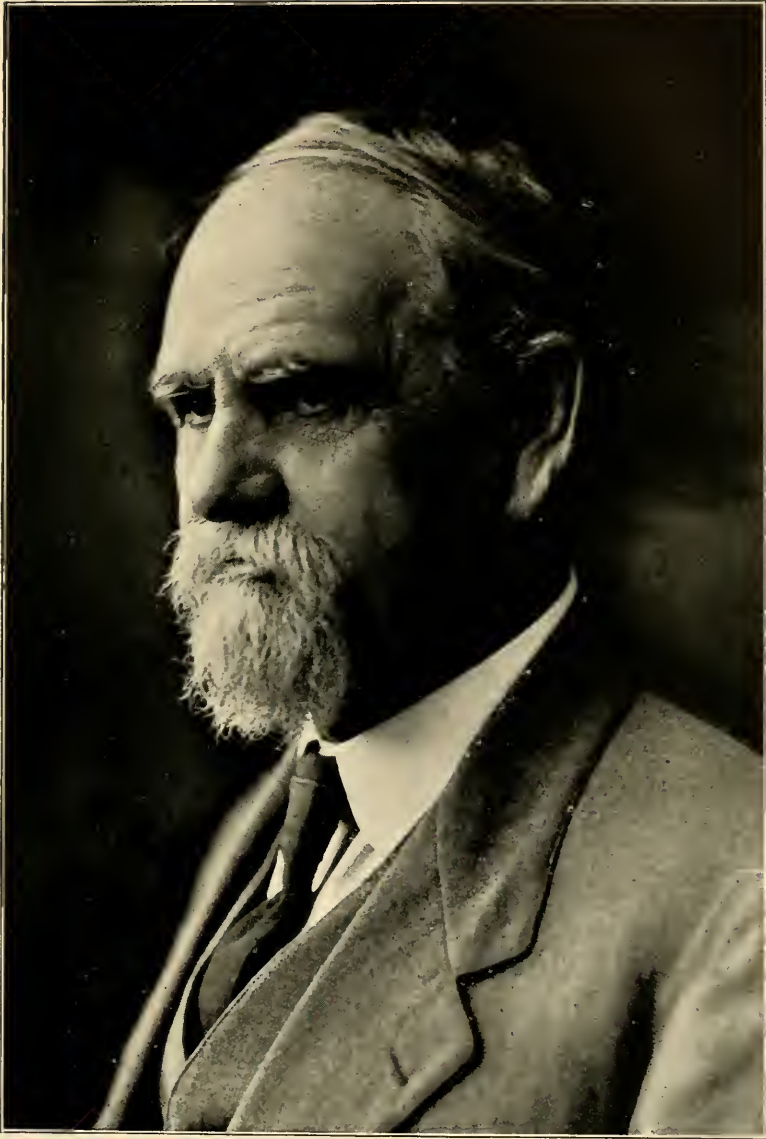
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### JOHN A. MYERS.

John A. Myers, a well-known retired farmer and cattleman, is a veteran of the Civil War and a native of Ohio, having been born in Harrison county, that state, on July 28, 1840, son of James R. and Maria (Romney) Myers, both natives of Pennsylvania. James Myers moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio after he was grown and there was married. For some time he owned and operated a farm in Harrison county, that state, but in 1852 he sold that farm and moved to Tuscarawas county, same state, where he bought another farm on which he made his home until later when he moved to Uhrichsville, death occurring in 1877, at the age of eighty-one years. His wife had died some years previously. They were members of the Presbyterian church during their residence in Harrison county, but after moving to Tuscarawas county joined the Moravian church. To James Myers and wife fifteen children were born, as follow: Hiram, who died in Los Angeles, California; Mrs. Melissa Welshimer, who died at her home in Hutchinson, this county, in 1913, at the age of ninety-one; Harriet; Mary, who died unmarried in 1895, in Hutchinson; Elizabeth, who died in infancy; James, a physician, who lived in Hutchinson, until his death in 1915, in his eighty-fifth year; Salome, who married a physician at Urbana, Illinois; Mrs. Elvina Smith, deceased; Albert, aged seventy-nine, living in Belville, Kansas, retired; Alvin, who died at the age of twenty-one; John A., the immediate subject of this biographical review; Mrs. Martha Anderson, who lives at Muskogee, Oklahoma; Jonathan, a dentist, of Troy, Kansas; Minerva, who lives in Champaign county, Illinois, and Gracilla, who died in childhood.

John A. Myers completed his elementary education in the public schools of Tuscarawas county, having been but twelve years of age when his family moved to that county, and supplemented the same by a course in Trenton Academy, after which he taught one term of school in the town of Newport,





*Jno A Myers*





in his home county. In July, 1861, he enlisted in Company B, Fifty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for service during the Civil War, and served until he was mustered out with his regiment in Texas in October, 1865. His regiment was attached to the Army of the Cumberland and he participated in all the great battles in which his division of that army was engaged, including Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Stone's River and in the Atlanta campaign, aiding in the taking of that city, and then at the battles of Franklin and Nashville, and in all this severe service never received a wound.

At the close of the war, John A. Myers returned home and resumed his vocation in the school room and for two years taught school in the neighborhood of his home, during his vacations working on the home farm. In 1867 he came to Kansas and for a year was engaged in teaching at White Cloud, after which he returned to Ohio. He was married in 1871 and went to Urbana, Champaign county, Illinois, where he opened a brick factory and also operated a private grain elevator. In 1879 he returned to Kansas and for a time stopped at Hutchinson, but did not then make that place his permanent place of abode, instead going on to Doniphan county, where for three years he conducted a general store in the village of Leona. In 1882 he returned to Hutchinson and there he has resided ever since. Upon his arrival in Hutchinson, Mr. Myers at once became a prominent factor in the development of the cattle business hereabout. He engaged extensively in the buying and selling of cattle and was one of the first men to ship cattle from this section. In 1884 he bought a farm in Reno township, where he lived until 1907, in which year he returned to Hutchinson and retired from the more active pursuits, though still continuing, more or less, his activities in the real-estate market in which he had been engaged from the time of his arrival in this county. Mr. Myers has bought and sold a great deal of real estate in his time and has been a heavy investor, coming to be regarded as one of the leading capitalists hereabout. He also has given considerable attention to various other local enterprises and some of these interests he still retains, being now vice-president of the Haines-Miller Wholesale Paint Company and a director of the Mutual Building and Loan Association of Hutchinson.

On May 4, 1871, John A. Myers was united in marriage to Mary L. Frediebur, who was born in Ohio, and to this union six children have been born, namely: Rev. Howard Myers, a minister of the Christian church at Clyde, Kansas; Josephine, who died at the age of thirteen months; Jessie,

who married Arthur Dade and lives in Hutchinson; Frank, a farmer, of Reno township, this county; Ernest, a civil engineer at Dallas, Texas, and Raymond, of Hutchinson, a well-known traveling salesman. The Myers family resides at 113 Avenue B, west, in Hutchinson, a very pleasant and hospitable home.

Mr. Myers is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and for years has taken an active interest in the affairs of the local post. He also has given much of his attention to the political affairs of the county and for seven years served as a member of the board of county commissioners, first having been elected on the Populist ticket and then on the Democratic ticket. He was a member of the board which directed the erection of the present Reno county court house and in such a business-like and economical manner were the details of that transaction managed by the board that it was unnecessary for the county to float a bond issue to provide for the same, a most unusual record of efficiency in the management of the public business.

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#### FRANK D. HAMILTON.

Frank D. Hamilton, one of the most progressive farmers of the Partridge neighborhood in Center township, this county, as well as one of the most popular and best-informed men in that section, is a Hoosier, having been born in Washington county, Indiana, February 11, 1874, son of Benjamin and Miranda (Bryant) Hamilton, both natives of that same county, members of pioneer families in southern Indiana, both of whom now are deceased.

Benjamin Hamilton was the son of David Hamilton, one of the early settlers of Washington county, Indiana, his parents having come from Ireland and settled there at an early day in the settlement of that section of the Hoosier state. Benjamin Hamilton grew up on the home farm in the hills of southern Indiana and, upon reaching manhood's estate, married and bought a farm of his own, on which he and his family lived until 1885, in which year he sold the place, and with his family came to Kansas, homesteading a farm in Finney county. Not long after homesteading in Finney county, Mr. Hamilton sold a relinquishment of his right and came to Reno county, buying a quarter section of land in Center township, a mile west and a mile north of the village of Partridge, where he lived until his wife's death in June, 1901, at the age of fifty-six years, after which he made his home

with his son, the subject of this sketch, the remainder of his life, his death occurring on November 9, 1907. Benjamin Hamilton was an excellent carpenter and during his residence in this county spent most of his time as a building contractor, leaving the cultivation of the farm to his sons. He did a great deal of carpenter work in Hutchinson and among the buildings erected by him in the more immediate neighborhood of his established home was the fine school building at Partridge. He was a Democrat and he and his wife were members of the Congregational church, in which faith their children were reared. Four children were born to them as follow: John, who resides on the old home place in Center township; Addie, now deceased, who married David Brown; Frank D., the subject of this sketch, and Zella, who married George Coffey and lives in Jackson county, Indiana.

Frank D. Hamilton was eleven years of age when he came with his parents to Reno county and completed the course in the schools at Partridge. Until his marriage in 1896 he made his home on his father's farm, assisting in the labors of the same, and then for four years rented the Oscar Wespe farm in Center township, making his home there. In the spring of 1904 he bought the farm he had been renting, erected a new house and barn and otherwise improved the same and has since made his home there, having one of the best-kept and most effectively cultivated farms in the neighborhood, among the many improvements being an excellent orchard. In 1913 Mr. Hamilton bought an "eighty" adjoining his place on the east and is now recognized as one of the most substantial farmers in that section. He is a Democrat, though somewhat independent in his political views regarding local affairs, voting for the candidates he regards as better fitted for the duties of the office sought, rather than because of their particular party affiliation, and ever has taken a good citizen's interest in local civic affairs, though not himself an office seeker.

On October 14, 1896, Frank D. Hamilton was united in marriage to Addie Sims, who was born in Jackson county, Indiana, daughter of John C. and Sarah Sims, who left Indiana about 1885 and came to Kansas, locating on a farm in Center township, this county, where Mr. Sims died in 1910 and where his widow is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton take an earnest interest in the general affairs of the neighborhood and are held in high regard by their many friends thereabout. Mr. Hamilton is a member of the lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Partridge and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that popular organization. Mrs. Hamilton is a member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and Ladies Aid Society.

## JAMES WILLIAM SMITH.

James William Smith, better known to his friends throughout this county as "Will" Smith, a well-known and progressive farmer of Sumner township and proprietor of a fine farm in the Haven neighborhood, is a native-born Hoosier, but has lived in Reno county since he was eighteen years old and is very properly regarded as one of the pioneers of this county. He was born on a farm in Grant county, Indiana, December 31, 1859, only son of Ichabod and Mary (Simpson) Smith, both natives of that same state, the latter born in the city of Terre Haute.

Ichabod Smith grew up on an Indiana farm and after his marriage bought a farm in Grant county and was engaged in farming when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted for service in Company C, Eighty-ninth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served for three years in the Army of the Mississippi, seeing much hard service, particularly during the Red River campaign, and was wounded twice. Upon the completion of his military service he returned to his farm and later moved to the nearby town of Jonesboro, where his wife died in 1874, at the age of thirty-three years. Mr. Smith did not remarry and the next year, in November, 1875, he and his son, Will, then a sturdy lad of sixteen years, drove through from their home in Indiana to Kansas, locating for a time in Sedgewick county. In 1877 they came over into Reno county and the elder Smith homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 18 in Sumner township, where he and his son threw up a sod house, half dug-out, and began to "bach." Both worked side by side in the labor of developing the homestead and prospered from the very beginning of their operations. When Will Smith reached his majority he bought the relinquishment of a homestead claim to a quarter of a section adjoining that of his father and the two thus had in that one tract a full half section. In 1883 they began to engage extensively in the cattle business, renting additional lands for grazing purposes, and prospered largely in this line, continuing in the cattle business until 1895, in which year they sold their farms to advantage. Ichabod Smith continued making his home in Reno county until 1907, in which year he moved to San Diego, California, where he is now living in comfortable retirement at the age of seventy-eight. During his residence in this county he was active in local affairs and was one of the leading pioneers of his part of the county. He is a Republican and took a prominent part in the councils of his party in this county. For eight years he was trustee of Sumner township and in various



ways gave the full strength of his influence and energy to the advancement of the common good. He is a member of the Methodist church.

After selling his farm in 1895 Will Smith rented other lands and continued his farming operations. He married in 1896 and in 1900 bought the northwest quarter of section 3 in Summer township, which he has greatly improved and where he ever since has made his home, being regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that neighborhood. He has not gone in much for cattle raising of late, but gives considerable attention to the raising of Poland China hogs. Mr. Smith takes an earnest interest in neighborhood affairs and is serving very efficiently as vice-president of the Summer Telephone Association, an organization of farmers in that part of the county. He is a Republican and takes a warm interest in civic affairs, but has never been included in the office-seeking class.

On February 27, 1896, Will Smith was united in marriage to Miranda Eabling, who was born in Mandato, Marshall county, Indiana, in 1871, daughter of John F. and Catherine Eabling, who came to Kansas in 1872, settling in Harvey county, later coming to Reno county and settling on a farm in section 6, Summer township, where Mr. Eabling spent the remainder of his life and where his widow is now living. To Mr. and Mrs. Smith five children have been born, namely: Harold D., born in 1898, now a student in the county high school at Nickerson; Ralph E., 1899; Lloyd F., 1901; Mary C., 1904, and Opal May, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the United Brethren church and take an active interest in all neighborhood wood works.

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#### ADELBERT M. NETTLETON.

Adelbert M. Nettleton, well-known printer at Hutchinson, former editor and proprietor of the *Hutchinson Gazette* and for years actively identified with the printing-trades industry in this state, is a native of Illinois, born near the town of Woodstock, in McHenry county, that state, July 27, 1859, son of Henry T. and Jane (Rogers) Nettleton, the former of whom was born in Middlesex county, Connecticut, and the latter at Chardon, in Geauga county, Ohio.

Henry T. Nettleton was reared in his native state and learned the trade of carpenter and cabinet-maker. When a young man he came West and in the early fifties located in the neighborhood of Woodstock, the county seat of McHenry county, in the northern part of Illinois, northwest of Chicago,

and there remained until October of 1878, when, with his family he came to Kansas and settled in Pawnee county, northwest of Larned, where he homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 12, township 20, range 19, and there established his home, becoming one of the most substantial pioneers of that section. On that homestead farm Henry T. Nettleton spent some years, and upon retiring from the active labors of the farm moved to Larned, where his death occurred on December 26, 1893. His widow, who still survives, is now making her home at Hutchinson, where she has lived for some years. She and her husband were the parents of six children.

Adelbert M. Nettleton received his schooling in the schools of Woodstock, Illinois, and in the printing office in that town learned the rudiments of "the art preservative of all arts," working at the printer's case there until he came with his parents to Kansas in the fall of 1878, he then being about nineteen years of age. Shortly after locating in Pawnee county he homesteaded a quarter of a section adjoining his father's homestead and also entered a claim to a quarter of a section, under the provisions of the timber act, and there he engaged in general farming and cattle raising. In 1892 he and his brother went to Stafford, where they established the *Peoples Paper*, which, in February, 1896, they traded for the *Gazette*, at Hutchinson, and moved to the latter city. Upon taking charge of the office of the *Gazette* they made numerous improvements in the equipment of the plant, making it one of the most modern and up-to-date printing plants in central Kansas. It was the Nettleton brothers who installed in Hutchinson the first type-setting machine seen in that city. The new building which they erected for the plant of the *Gazette* was the first cement-block building constructed in Hutchinson and is still standing at 121 Sherman avenue, east. In 1907 the Nettleton brothers sold the *Gazette* and since that time Adelbert M. Nettleton has continued his active connection with the printing trades in Hutchinson, with the Hutchinson News Company. Earl G. Nettleton died on July 11, 1907.

During his long connection with the printing business in this state, Mr. Nettleton has come into contact with many of the interesting figures of this section of Kansas. Among these may be mentioned Henry Inman, for whom Mr. Nettleton worked at Larned. Henry Inman, who will be remembered as a writer of stories of the Santa Fe trail, was succeeded in his work by Col. Dick Ballinger, whose son, Richard Achilles Ballinger, became President Taft's secretary of the interior. While living at Dodge City, Mr. Nettleton became acquainted with "Bat" Masterson and his brothers and with "Mysterious" Dave Mather and D. M. Frost, the latter of whom

was the proprietor of the first newspaper at that place and afterward was register of the land office at Garden City. Mr. Nettleton was an acquaintance of Mayor Webster, of Dodge City, who became celebrated throughout this section for the summary manner with which he dealt with the crooks and ruffians within his jurisdiction. One of the men in whom Mr. Nettleton was much interested in those days was "Jim" Kelly, an old government scout and the owner of the first opera house at Dodge City, known in the early days as "Kelly's Opera House"; also Chalk (Chalkley) Beeson, another old government scout and for many years leader of the famous Dodge City Cowboy Band. Perhaps the earliest pioneer of Ft. Dodge was R. M. Wright, who was a post trader at that point and who operated a big outfitting store there before the town was established. Capt. W. H. Strickler, more commonly known by his pen name of "Julian de Llano," a celebrated writer of Western poetry and songs, was one of the interesting men of those early days at Dodge City, whom Mr. Nettleton recalls with pleasure.

On October 27, 1910, at Kansas City, Missouri, Adelbert M. Nettleton was united in marriage to Myrtle Dillon, who was born near the city of Wheeling, West Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Nettleton have a very pleasant home at 517 North Jackson street, where they are very comfortably situated. They are members of the Christian church and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same. Mr. Nettleton is "independent" in his political views and has never been a seeker after public office.

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#### ARTHUR L. SIEGRIST.

Arthur L. Siegrist, an energetic and progressive young farmer of Salt Creek township, this county, and one of the best-known men in that section of the county, is the third of his generation successfully to engage in agriculture in Reno county, his grandfather, the late John Siegrist, who was accounted one of the best farmers in the county, having become a large landowner here in 1876, and his father, Jacob L. Siegrist, who also has lived here since pioneer days, is still one of the leading agriculturists of Reno township. In a sketch relating to the latter, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is set out the history of the well-known Siegrist family in Reno county.

Arthur L. Siegrist was born on the farm on which he still makes his home, July 3, 1880, son of Jacob L. and Abbie A. (Biggs) Siegrist, who

came to this county immediately after their marriage in Tazewell county, Illinois, in February, 1877. Mr. Siegrist was reared on the home farm in Salt Creek township, receiving his education in the district school in that neighborhood, which he supplemented by a course in a business college at Great Bend, this state. He remained at home until his marriage, in the spring of 1905, after which he rented the paternal acres in Salt Creek township, a fine tract of two hundred and forty acres, his father meanwhile having moved to the farm of his venerable grandfather in Reno township, in order to take over the direction of the latter's extensive affairs, and there he has lived ever since, doing very well, having been quite successful both as a general framer and as a stock raiser. One hundred and sixty acres of his home farm lies in Reno township, the remainder in Salt Creek township, and it is in the latter portion that he has his residence, a very comfortable and pleasant home, where he and his family live in quiet comfort. In addition to this tract, which he rents from his father, he is the owner of an adjoining tract of eighty acres in Salt Creek township, which is also profitably cultivated by him.

On February 22, 1905, Arthur L. Siegrist was united in marriage to Ora Mollie Wildin, who also was born in this county, daughter of William and Celia Wildin, Reno county pioneers, now living retired in the city of Hutchinson, and to this union four children have been born, as follow: Florence, born in 1906; Marie, 1908; Helen, 1910, and Russell, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Siegrist are earnest members of the Poplar Methodist Episcopal church and are interested in all good works thereabout. Mr. Siegrist is a Republican, as were his father and his grandfather before him, and gives his thoughtful attention to the political affairs of the county. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes a warm personal interest in the affairs of that popular fraternal organization.

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### GEORGE BARRETT.

The late George Barrett, one of Reno county's pioneers and an early merchant of Hutchinson, who died at his pleasant home in that city on November 18, 1910, was a native of the great Empire state. He was born at Utica, New York, August 20, 1835, son of Joseph and Mercy (Miller) Barrett, whose last days were spent in Utica. Joseph Barrett was a manufacturer of combs. He was twice married. His first wife died when the



subject of this sketch was a child, leaving two sons, George and Daniel S., both now deceased, the latter of whom became a well-known artist at Utica. By his second union Joseph Barrett was the father of three sons. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church and their children were reared in that faith.

George Barrett lived with his father until he was twenty-one years old and then went to New York City, where he entered the employ of the D. S. Arnold Wholesale Notion Company and was thus engaged for a couple of years. He then, in 1859, married and went to Middletown, New York, where he established a dry-goods store, which he conducted until 1862, in which year he went to Newburg, same state, and was there engaged in the grocery business until he sold out in 1873. The next year, in the summer of 1874, he and his family came to Kansas and settled in Reno county, arriving here on September 15, of that year. Mr. Barrett homesteaded a quarter of a section in Lincoln township, his wife's brother, Wilson Purdy, having homesteaded a quarter of a section in the same township a few months previously. He remained on the farm until he had "proved up" his claim and then, in 1877, moved to Hutchinson, where he re-entered the mercantile business. He put in a stock of groceries in a building on Main street, the present site of Zimm's jewelry store, and was engaged in business there for a couple of years, at the end of which time, in 1879, he moved to Kansas City, Missouri, and established a grocery store there, at 803 Main street, where he continued in business until 1884, in which year he sold out there and went to Albuquerque, New Mexico. There he engaged in the retail produce business, but two years later the state of his health compelled his retirement from business and in 1888 he returned to Hutchinson, built a house at 225 A avenue, east, one of the first houses erected on that street, and there lived retired until his death in 1910. His widow is still living there, enjoying many evidences of the high regard in which she is held throughout the entire community. Mrs. Barrett is a member of the Methodist church and for years her husband was a deacon in the same.

Mrs. Barrett was born Elizabeth Jane Purdy. She is a native of New York, having been born in Ulster county, that state, May 10, 1836, daughter of John S. and Loretta (Rhodes) Purdy, both natives of New York state. John S. Purdy was a wagon- and carriage-maker and moved from Ulster county to Newburg, New York, where he carried on his vocation until his death in 1863. Elizabeth J. Purdy was given excellent educational advantages and became a teacher in the New York state school for the blind in New York City, where she was thus engaged for three years, or until her



marriage, and during which time she was closely associated with the famous blind hymn writer, Fannie Crosby, with whom she roomed for one year. It was on April 30, 1859, that she was united in marriage to George Barrett and to this union six children were born, as follow: Nelson T., a well-known florist at Hutchinson, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Ida M., who married Charles Pellette, of Hutchinson, deputy county treasurer of Reno county; Carrie, who married Homer Myers, former treasurer of Reno county, now a banker at Sylvia, this county; Grace, who married Henry Zinn, proprietor of a jewelry store at Hutchinson; Minnie, who married M. J. Hosmer, a traveling salesman, of Hutchinson, and Florence, who married Ernest Eastman, who is connected with the operations of the Carey Salt Company at Hutchinson.

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#### WILLIAM JOHNSTON VAN EMAN.

No history of Reno county would be complete without fitting mention of the part William Johnston Van Eman and wife took in the early settlement of that part of Grove township now comprised in Bell township, which latter township was named in honor of the late Mrs. Van Eman, whose name, Isabella, ever was better known among her friends as "Belle." William J. Van Eman was one of the pioneers of this county and had begun to make his impress upon the early life of this section when he fell a victim to one of the destructive cyclones which swept this region in the latter seventies. His widow and her children kept the home place going and Mrs. Van Eman continued to reside on the homestead, a most useful and influential member of that community, until her retirement and removal to Hutchinson, where she spent the remainder of her life, a prominent figure in the good works of that city.

William Johnston Van Eman was born in Stark county, Ohio, on July 5, 1825, son of Abraham and Mary (Johnston) Van Eman. He was a business man in early life, a farmer after he came west. He married Isabelle Davis, who was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, March 8, 1831, daughter of Robert and Hannah (Jameson) Davis. In 1852 he moved to Richland county, Ohio, where he lived until 1857, in which year he moved to Ogle county, Illinois, where he remained ten years, moving thence, in 1867, to Stephenson county, same state, where he remained until he came to Kansas and settled in Reno county in 1874. It was on February 27,

1874, that Mr. Van Eman and family arrived in Hutchinson, then but a straggling village on the dreary plain. Leaving his family in the village, Mr. Van Eman started out seeking a location and within the month had filed on the southeast quarter of section 6 in Grove township, that section now being a part of the later organized township of Bell. At the same time he timber-claimed the northeast quarter of section 7, same township, and the family lost little time in establishing a home on the plains, quickly becoming recognized as among the most substantial and influential members of that pioneer community. Mr. Van Eman took a prominent part in the organization of the civic body in that part of the county and was becoming a very well established farmer when he was killed in the cyclone that swept over that section of the county on May 17, 1878.

Mrs. Van Eman and her children remained on the homestead farm and continued the work of developing the same, gradually creating a fine piece of property. When the rapid settlement of the community seemed to call for a subdivision of the civic organization up to that time known as Grove township, the new township was named Bell township, in honor of Mrs. Belle Van Eman, fitting recognition of her valuable services in the community and an affectionate expression of the high esteem in which she was held by her pioneer neighbors. In the spring of 1884 Mrs. Van Eman gave up the active direction of her homestead affairs and moved to Hutchinson, where she spent the rest of her life, continuing active in good works, her death occurring on March 1, 1895. She was an earnest member of the Presbyterian church, as was her husband, who was an elder, and their children were reared in that faith. There were nine of these children, as follows: Robert Chalmers, born in Stark county, Ohio, August 11, 1849, a retired farmer, now living at Gorham, Illinois; Abram Wiley, born in Stark county, Ohio, August 1, 1851, for years a well-known grocer at Hutchinson, this county, who died on July 15, 1913; Hannah Mary, born in Richland county, Ohio, January 30, 1854, now living at Denver, Colorado, widow of W. S. Deisher, a real-estate dealer of that city, who died on December 16, 1911; Rufus Melanchton, born in Richland county, Ohio, March 14, 1856, a prospector, living at Fresno, California; Ettie Belle, born in Ogle county, Illinois, July 5, 1860, who died in childhood; Anna Myrtie, born in Ogle county, Illinois, August 10, 1862, who is still living in Hutchinson; Charles Edwin, born in Ogle county, Illinois, May 9, 1865, foreman of the freight house of the Santa Fe railroad at Hutchinson; William Glenn, born in Stephenson county, Illinois, September 16, 1868, who died on January 2, 1901, at Butte, Montana, where he was engaged in the newspaper business.

and James Logan, born in Stephenson county, Illinois, December 28, 1870, night agent at the Santa Fe freight office in Hutchinson. Since 1905 the Van Eman family residence has been maintained at 724 Sixth Avenue, east, a comfortable dwelling owned by Miss Anna Van Eman. Miss Van Eman is a member of the Presbyterian church, an earnest worker in the local Woman's Christian Temperance Union and devoted to all good works in her home town.

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### MARCELLUS MOORE.

Marcellus Moore, a well-known, progressive and well-to-do farmer of Lincoln township, this county, long recognized as one of the leading citizens of the Darlow neighborhood, is a native of Maine, having been born on a farm near the city of Bangor, in that state, April 5, 1845, son of Joseph and Rachel (Randolph) Moore, both natives of that same state, the former born in 1825 and the latter in 1826, whose last days were spent in Illinois.

Joseph Moore's father was a native of Ireland, who came to the United States as a young man and settled in the lumber region of Maine, where he married, reared his family and spent the rest of his life. Joseph Moore grew up to the life of the timber woods and in his turn became a lumberman. He married Rachel Randolph, daughter of a neighboring farmer, Walter Randolph, who had been kidnapped on the river Thames in England when a boy and brought to this country, where he grew to manhood in Maine and became a farmer. Joseph Moore lost a hand in the saw-mill in which he was working in Maine and some time afterward moved with his family to Pennsylvania, in which state he operated a saw-mill for himself for four years, at the end of which time, in 1855, he moved with his family to Pike county, Illinois, where he bought an improved farm and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, he dying in 1890 and she in 1895, long having been regarded as among the leaders in the life of the community in which they lived so long. The mother was a member of the Congregational church and they were the parents of three children, Marcellus, the subject of this sketch; Josephine, who married Simpson Capps, and Mrs. Theodosia Walker, the latter of whom is now deceased.

Marcellus Moore was six years old when his parents moved from Maine to Pennsylvania, and in the latter state he attended school for a few months during the winters of his boyhood in the mountains near the lumber

camp. He was ten years old when the family moved to Illinois and he there attended school in a room where ninety children were kept under the supervision of one teacher, the school district in which he lived being an unusually crowded one. Being the only son, he early became his father's mainstay on the farm. He married in 1865 and continued making his home on the paternal farm, taking the practical management of the same on his own shoulders, this relieving his father of much of the labor of the place, and so continued until his father's death, after which he bought the interests of the other heirs in the place and continued to make his home there until 1899, in which year he sold the farm and came to Kansas with his family, locating in Reno county. Upon coming to this county, Mr. Moore bought two hundred and forty acres in Haven township and lived there for one year and ten months, at the end of which time he sold that place and bought the northwest quarter of section 24, in Lincoln township, where he ever since has lived, he and his family having a very pleasant and attractive place, the comfortable farm house and well-kept farm buildings being situated just one-half mile west of the pleasant village of Darlow.

In addition to his home farm, Mr. Moore is the owner of a quarter of a section of fine land in Medford township and is principally engaged in grain farming, though he has taken much interest in maintaining one of the best herds of pure-bred O. I. C. hogs in that neighborhood. Mr. Moore has ever taken an active interest in movements designed to advance the welfare of the farmers of that part of the county, and for some years served as treasurer of the farmers elevator at Darlow and has also for several years been one of the directors of the Darlow Telephone Company. He is a Democrat in principle, though independent in the expression of his preferences for candidates in local elections, ever reserving his right to vote for such candidates as he regards best fitted for the performance of the duties of public office. He has served in the past as school director and is now director of Lincoln township, giving his most thoughtful and intelligent attention to his public duties.

On September 15, 1865, Marcellus Moore was united in marriage to Juliett Craig, who was born in Pike county, Illinois, daughter of Mitchell and Mary Craig, early settlers of that section of Illinois, and to this union nine children have been born, as follow: Marcella, who married Charles Scheff and lives on a farm in Haven township, this county; Theodore, principal of the high school at Griggsville, Illinois, married Sophia Madison and has one child, a daughter, Fannie; Ollie died, aged fourteen years; Rollin married Grace White and lives at Hutchinson; Mrs. May Kapps.



wife of a prosperous farmer of Pike county, Illinois; Eugene, a well-known farmer of Lincoln township, this county, who married Carrie Farthing; Fannie, who married Henry Dixon and lives in Yuma county, Colorado; Laura married Orvil Kimp, a farmer of Lincoln township, and Floyd, who with his little daughter, Doratha L., child of his deceased wife, makes her home with his parents. Mr. and Mrs. Moore are members of the Methodist church at Elmer and are devoted to all good works in their neighborhood, being held in high regard thereabout. In September, 1915, they celebrated their "golden wedding," an occasion of much felicitation on the part of their neighbors.

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### GEORGE ZIMMERMAN.

George Zimmerman, a well-known farmer of Castleton township, this county, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in the Castleton neighborhood, former township trustee and a stockholder in the elevator company at Castleton, is a native son of Reno county, having been born on a pioneer farm in the neighborhood of his present home, August 26, 1874, son of G. Milton and Priscilla (Carroll) Zimmerman, the former a native of Iowa and the latter of Pennsylvania, who became pioneers of this county and influential citizens of the Castleton neighborhood.

G. Milton Zimmerman was born in the state of Iowa on March 20, 1849, son of George K. and Rachel (Jones) Zimmerman, natives of Pennsylvania, who moved to Iowa shortly after their marriage and established their home on a farm, many years later moving to Missouri and settling on a farm in the vicinity of Sedalia, where their last days were spent. They were active members of the Christian church and their children were reared in that faith. They were the parents of nine children, Samuel B., Margaret, Adella, Augusta, Helen, G. Milton, Harvey, Mand and William. Of these children, Samuel B., G. Milton and Harvey, came to Reno county, and took an active part in the pioneer life of this county. Judge Samuel B. Zimmerman was the first principal of the old Sherman school in Hutchinson. For years he was a prominent attorney of Hutchinson and for two terms served the county as probate judge. Harvey Zimmerman was also one of Reno county's pioneer school teachers and was thus engaged here for several years, but later moved away.

G. Milton Zimmerman received an excellent education in his native state, having supplemented his common-school education by a course in the college



at Iowa City, and for several years taught school there before moving to Missouri with his parents. He came to Reno county in 1872 with his brothers and taught one term of school here. After looking over the ground he decided to make his home here and with that end in view returned to Missouri for a wife. There he married Priscilla Carroll, who was born in Pennsylvania on January 11, 1850, daughter of George and Elizabeth (Henderson) Carroll, both natives of Pennsylvania, the former of whom was born at West Alexandria in 1824 and the latter in 1826, and who were the parents of five children, Priscilla, Anna, John, Emma and Elizabeth. The mother of these children died in 1859 and George Carroll married, secondly, Ruth Ray, who was born at Bethany, Virginia, which second union was without issue. George Carroll was the son of William and Priscilla (Israel) Carroll, the former a native of Ireland, who settled in Maryland, later moving to West Maryland, Pennsylvania, where he followed his trade as a tailor until his death. George Carroll was a soldier during the Civil War and at the close of the war moved to Missouri, settling on a farm in Pettis county, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on December 30, 1892, at the age of sixty-eight. G. Milton Zimmerman was about twenty-five years old when he and his wife came to Reno county from Missouri. Upon his arrival here he homesteaded a tract of land east of the present site of Pretty Prairie, but presently sold that farm and bought a quarter section in Castleton township, one-half mile from the village of Castleton, and there established his home. To him and his wife were born four children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being Anna, who married Frank Mohr; Milton E., of Sterling, this state, and Ruby, a teacher in the Hutchinson public schools, with whom her mother is now living in that city, their home being at 311 Sixth street, east.

George Zimmerman was reared on the home farm in Castleton township and received his education in the common schools. After his marriage, in 1900, he moved to his present place, being the owner there of a fine farm, and in addition to his own extensive farming operations manages his father's farm. He takes an active interest in the general affairs of the community and is one of the stockholders of the elevator company at Castleton. For years he has been a member of the school board and for four years served as township trustee.

On November 12, 1900, George Zimmerman was united in marriage to Laura Button, born on May 26, 1881, in Missouri, daughter of A. T. Button and Nancy Phillips, who came to this county about 1890, and to this

union five children have been born, Rachel, born on June 4, 1902; John, October 28, 1904; Hazel, November 14, 1906; Ray, July 25, 1910, and Josephine, June 22, 1913. Mrs. Zimmerman's father was a well-known farmer of this county, who died in the summer of 1915.

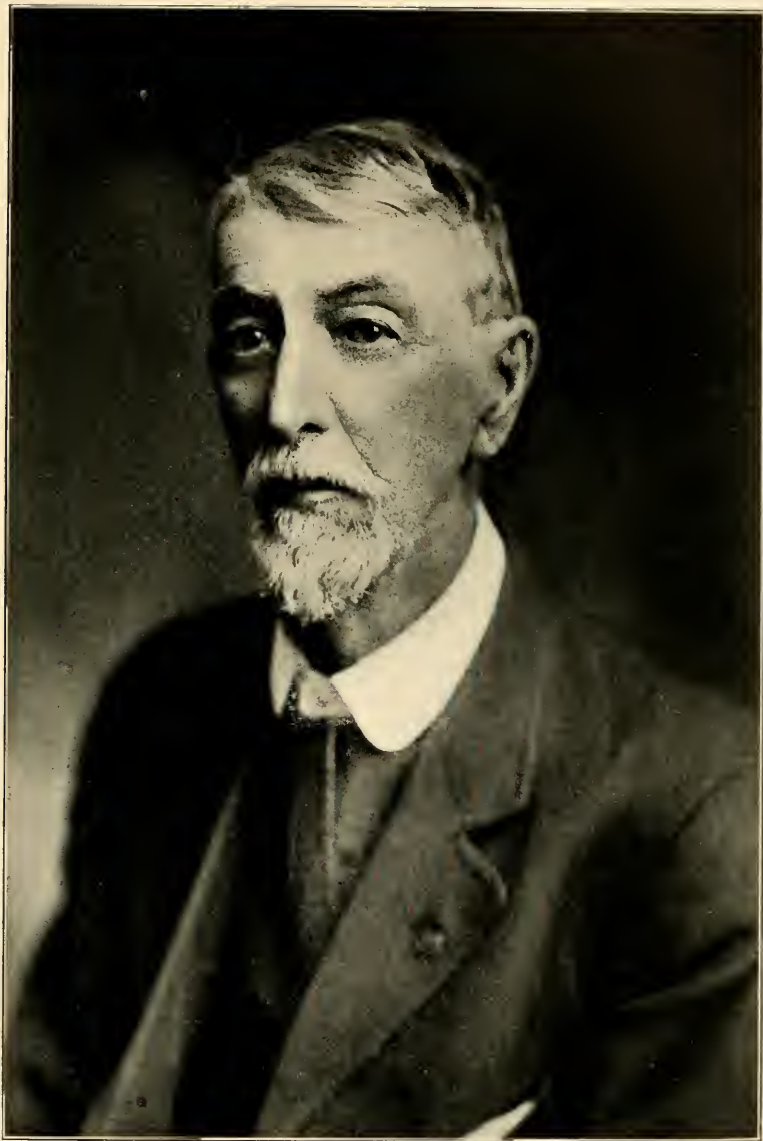
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### FRANK MAGWIRE.

Frank Magwire, an honored veteran of the Civil War, a wealthy retired farmer of this county, now living at Hutchinson; one of the real pioneers of Reno county, a former county commissioner and for many years active in the public affairs of this county, is a native of Vermont, having been born in the town of Brandon, that state, September 11, 1841, son of Frank G. and Melissa D. (Avery) Magwire, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter of Vermont.

Frank G. Magwire was trained to the trade of painter and as a young man went to Vermont, where he married and established his home at Brandon. In his old age he retired to Rutland, Vermont, where he died in 1884, being then eighty-four years of age. He was twice married, his first wife, the mother of the subject of this sketch, having died following the birth of the latter, leaving two other sons, Roderick, a house painter, who died at Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1910, he having moved to that place in 1865, and John, a veteran of the Civil War, a member of Company H, Fiftieth Regiment, Vermont Volunteer Infantry, who died from the effects of a wound received during the battle of Seven Pines. Frank G. Magwire married, secondly, Jerusha Stowel, and to that union two children were born, Mary M. and Emily Augusta, both unmarried, living at Hydeville, Vermont.

The younger Frank Magwire was reared at Brandon, Vermont, receiving his education in the schools there, and was trained as a house painter. At seventeen years of age he left home and started out as a contracting painter on his own account. In the winter of 1860-61 he went to Michigan, settling in Shiawassee county, where he started to work at his trade, and in May, 1861, enlisted in Company G, Third Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, for service during the Civil War, and in June was in Washington, D. C., with that regiment, shortly thereafter being called on to participate in the battle of Blackburns Ford and in the first battle of Bull Run. The brigade to which the Third Michigan was attached was commanded by Colonel Richardson and covered the army's retreat after the disastrous



Frank Maguire



engagement at Bull Run. In the following December Frank Magwire became quite ill and received his honorable discharge on a physician's certificate of disability. He spent that winter in Ohio and then returned to Michigan, where, in June, 1862, he enlisted in Company G, Fourth Michigan Cavalry, and served in that command until the close of the war, presently being promoted to the rank of sergeant and later first sergeant, which was his rank when he was mustered out at the termination of hostilities. The Fourth Michigan Cavalry was attached to the Army of the Cumberland and was constantly engaged in cavalry and raid duty, its record being written high on the scroll of fame. Sergeant Magwire thus had many thrilling experiences. For weeks at a stretch his regiment was engaged in almost ceaseless skirmishes with Joe Wheeler and General Forrest. It was his regiment that opened the battle of Chickamauga and held Longstreet back all day while Rosecrans was coming up. He participated in the siege and battle of Chattanooga, lying on the left flank for two weeks in the breastworks at Atlanta. The Fourth Michigan Cavalry then was sent on to take part in Kilpatrick's raid on Jonesboro, and raided all around the Confederate army. After the fall of Atlanta they went to Nashville and fought under Hood, and from there went to Louisville to secure new mounts, being compelled to surround the town before the people would give up the required number of horses. The cavalymen then started back to Nashville, but by that time the battle was over. They then took part in Wilson's big raid through Alabama and burned the town of Selma. It was at the battle of Selma that Sergeant Magwire became commander of his company, a position he retained until the regiment was mustered out. Though Selma fell in thirty-five minutes, one-sixth of the Union force was killed or wounded and one-fourth of the officers fell. After Selma the regiment pushed on to Irwinville to capture Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America, and after having turned their prisoner over to the proper authorities returned to Nashville, where they were mustered out.

Upon the completion of his military service, Sergeant Magwire returned to Selma, Alabama, the town in whose destruction he had participated, and for two years was engaged there in a carriage-painting shop. He then returned to his former home at Jonesville, in Hillsdale county, Michigan, where he married, proceeding thence to Maconb, Illinois, where he opened a carriage-painting shop and also engaged in contract house painting, remaining there for three years, at the end of which time, in 1871, he came to Kansas by "prairie schooner" and settled in Reno county, arriving here in



August of that year, being thus among the very earliest settlers of this county. Mr. Magwire entered a soldier's claim to the southwest quarter of section 26, in Clay township, and there established his home in a twelve-by-fourteen pine shanty, which was his domicile until conditions presently were fitting for the erection of a more commodious residence. Mr. Magwire early in his pioneer days came to the conclusion that grain crops were uncertain and began to give his chief attention to cattle raising, in which he engaged quite successfully for thirty-eight years. He presently enlarged his land holdings by the purchase of an adjoining quarter section, in addition to which half section he also owns a quarter section in the sand hills, and long has been regarded as one of the most substantial farmers of the county.

Mr. Magwire is one of the real pioneers of Reno county. He assisted in the organization of Clay township and was elected the first township treasurer, gaining his election on the Democratic ticket, he ever having been an ardent Democrat. He then was elected township trustee and for seven years served in that important office. He circulated the petition which resulted in the establishment of a school district in the neighborhood and for ten years served as school director. He later served as justice of the peace in and for Clay township, and in 1885 was elected county commissioner of Reno county, in which office he made a fine record. He did much toward the creation of proper social and economic conditions in the formative period of that now well-established farming community and has been a witness of the passing of the old order hereabout. Mr. Magwire, in 1873, killed the last buffalo that was ever seen in Clay township. He remained on his ranch until his retirement in August, 1913, since which time he has made his home in Hutchinson, where he is very comfortably situated. He takes a keen interest in current affairs and for the past fifteen years or more each year has taken a trip to one or another of the distant points of interest in the United States. An ardent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, for years an active member of Joe Hooker Post of that patriotic order, he has attended ten national encampments of the order and has ever taken a warm interest in the affairs of the same. He formerly was an active Mason and has always contributed to the support of the Presbyterian church, of which he is an attendant, though not an active member.

In March, 1868, Frank Magwire was united in marriage in Michigan to Rosella J. Lockwood, who was born in that state, daughter of Alanson and Dolly Lockwood, natives of New York, and to that union three children were born, Fred A., a machinist, who died in Montana on February 27, 1916; Ella, who married George Turkle, now deceased, and she is now liv-

ing at Kent, this county, where she manages the tower for the Santa Fe railroad, and Floy, who married Prof. R. L. McCormick, who holds the chair of mathematics in Rose Polytechnic Institute at Terre Haute, Indiana. Mrs. Rosella Magwire died on November 26, 1885, and in 1888 Mr. Magwire married, secondly, Mrs. Bertha M. (Rehn) Steinhäuser, who was born in Canal Dover, Ohio, daughter of a German Methodist minister, and to this union one son was born, Frank B., who married Estella Jones, and is now managing a farm at Ellenwood, Kansas. By her first marriage, Mrs. Magwire was the mother of one son, Clifford E. Steinhäuser, a railroad man living at Aberdeen, Washington. Mrs. Bertha M. Magwire died on August 10, 1911.

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### MERWIN BOLTON BANGS.

The late Merwin Bolton Bangs, one of the most brilliant and popular young men in Reno county, whose death at his pleasant farm home in Lincoln township in 1909 was the occasion of much sorrow among his many friends in Hutchinson and throughout the county generally, was a native of New York City, where he was born on August 29, 1877, son of Dr. Lemuel B. and Frances (Edwards) Bangs, both natives of that same city, whose respective families had been represented in the social and cultural activities of the American metropolis for generations, the former of whom was a first cousin of the famous author, John Kendrick Bangs.

Dr. Lemuel Bangs, whose death occurred in October, 1914, he then being seventy-two years of age, was for years one of the best-known surgeons in New York City. He had followed a thorough course of instruction in the medical schools of his home city by a course in the famous college of surgeons in Vienna and his lectures to medical students and contributions to medical magazines for years were regarded as among the authoritative utterances of his profession. To him and his wife, Frances Edwards Bangs, three children were born, the subject of this memorial sketch having had two sisters, Mary E., unmarried, who makes her home in New York City, and Helen A., now deceased, who married Nevin Sayre, whose brother, Francis B. Sayre is a son-in-law of President Wilson. Upon the death of the mother of these children, which occurred when the only son was about fifteen years of age, Doctor Bangs married, secondly, Isabelle Hoyt, to which union one child was born, a son, Nesbitt, who is now (1916) a student

in Williams College, who makes his home in New York City with his mother and his sister, Mary.

Merwin B. Bangs was reared amid the most refined surroundings in his home in New York and after finishing the work in the public schools was sent to the St. Paul preparatory school at Hartford, Connecticut, where he prepared for entrance to Yale College, from which latter institution he was graduated in 1899, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Following his graduation he entered a broker's office in New York and was thus engaged for a year, at the end of which time he became attracted by the possibilities of ranch life in the West and came to Kansas. He bought a ranch of twelve hundred acres near Greensburg, in Kiowa county, stocked the same and operated it successfully for four years, at the end of which time, in 1904, he sold the ranch to advantage and came to Reno county, where he bought a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in Clay township. The next year he married and made his home in Hutchinson, where, in partnership with J. N. Bailey, he engaged in the real-estate business, though still keeping his farm. In the spring of 1909 Mr. Bangs withdrew from the real-estate business and bought the northeast quarter of section 18, Lincoln township, since made a portion of Yoder township, and there established his home, taking much pleasure in the thought of the many improvements he had projected for the place. Unhappily, he was not permitted to see the fruition of these plans, for death came to him before the year was out. December 25, 1909, he then being but thirty-two years of age.

On November 8, 1905, Mervin B. Bangs was united in marriage to Minette Alice Dewey, who was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, daughter of Edward and Minette (Sloan) Dewey, the former of whom was born in Williamstown, Massachusetts, and the latter in New York state. Edward Dewey was reared in Massachusetts and as a boy studied medicine, with the expectation of becoming a physician, and was graduated from Williams College at the early age of sixteen years in 1861. He then enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War and served as a member of one of the Massachusetts regiments until the close of the war, after which, his intention to become a physician having become changed during the time of his military experience, he located in Chicago and after spending two years there went to Milwaukee, where he ever since has been engaged in business, long having been the head of the wholesale grocery firm of Edward Dewey & Company, one of the most extensive and progressive concerns of its kind in the Northwest. Not long after locating in Milwaukee, Mr. Dewey was united in marriage, at Beaver Dam, same state, to Minette

Sloan, who, as a child had moved to that place with her parents, prominent pioneers of that city, and to this union four children were born, Francis E., who is in business with his father in Milwaukee; Eliza, who married George Fernie and lives on a ranch in Lincoln township, this county; Minette Alice, who married Mr. Bangs, and Sloan, who is engaged in business with his father in Milwaukee.

To Merwin B. Minette A. (Dewey) Bangs two children were born, sons both, Merwin Bolton, born on October 7, 1906, and Edward Dewey, March 28, 1910. Mrs. Bangs is a member of the Episcopal church at Hutchinson, of which her late husband also was an earnest member, and takes an active interest in all good works hereabout, being held in the highest esteem by the many friends she has made since coming to this county. Since her husband's death she has continued to make her home on the farm, to the operation of which she gives her personal attention.

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### JOHN MILTON DAVIES.

John Milton Davies was born on July 19, 1873, in Guernsey county, Ohio, the son of Hiram and Sarah (Slack) Davies, both of whom were natives of that county. Hiram Davies was a coal miner in Ohio, and moved to Sumner county, Kansas, in 1884, where he lived for one year. He then moved to Lawrence county, Missouri, and lived on a farm for some time, after which he removed to Monett, Missouri, and worked as a machinist in the 'Frisco railroad shops. Mr. Davies is still living at Monett. His wife, Sarah (Slack) Davies, died in 1907, at the age of sixty-six years. She was an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which denomination Hiram Davies still takes an active interest.

Hiram and Sarah (Slack) Davies were the parents of seven children, as follow: John Milton, the subject of this sketch; Edgar, who was killed in a railroad accident in North Dakota; Harry, who is an engineer on the 'Frisco railroad, lives at Monett, Missouri; Charles, who was an engineer, was killed on a railroad in Texas; Pearl died in 1903, at the age of twenty years; May, deceased, was the wife of a Mr. Ulman; Loyal is attending college in Morrisville, Missouri.

John M. Davies attended the elementary schools in Ohio for a few years, and later had several years training in the schools of Kansas and Missouri. While living in Lawrence county, Missouri, he assisted his father



with the work of the farm. After the family had moved to Monett he secured employment in the division offices of the 'Frisco lines, and later worked as a brakeman on that railroad. Mr. Davies then went to the zinc mines at Oronogo, Missouri, and was working there when he met with an accident through which he lost a hand and an eye. Mr. Davies was married in 1903, and in 1907 he and his wife came to Reno county, Kansas, where Mr. Davies worked for his father-in-law, Ulysses Hendrickson, who owned a farm of two hundred and forty acres in Salt Creek township. In 1912 Mrs. Davies inherited the farm, and since that time the farm house has been remodeled, so that Mr. and Mrs. Davies now have a comfortable, modern home.

On October 22, 1903, at Oronogo, by Rev. James Sullens, John Milton Davies was united in marriage to Grace Hendrickson, who was born in Jasper county, Missouri, the daughter of Ulysses and Mary J. (Cochran) Hendrickson. To this union have been born two children: Gordon, who was born on June 19, 1905, and Loyal, who was born on March 12, 1907.

Ulysses Hendrickson was born on April 24, 1832, in Holmes county, Ohio, and died on May 19, 1912. He was the son of Samuel and Sarah (Wetherby) Hendrickson. The Hendrickson family was long prominent in Maryland and was represented among the pioneers in Holmes county, Ohio, where Samuel Hendrickson was born. In 1846 he removed to Linn county, Iowa, and settled on government land. He went to Jasper county, Missouri, in 1866, and there died at the age of eighty-three years. He was a Mason.

Sarah Weatherby was born in Massachusetts and was reared in Ohio. She died in Missouri, at the age of seventy years. Her father, John Weatherby, was one of the early settlers of Holmes county, Ohio, and was of English descent. Samuel and Sarah (Weatherby) Hendrickson were the parents of eight children, as follow: Marietta, Martha, Ulysses, Lucretia, Iantha, Andrew J., Melvina, who married J. W. Hawn; James W.

Ulysses Hendrickson received his early school training in Holmes county, Ohio. He was fourteen years old when the family moved to Linn county, Iowa, and there he attended school in the log school house on Otter creek. He was an apt student and with reading and travel in later life acquired a broad education. He endured the hardships of pioneer life in a sod house in Iowa, and lived at home until his marriage, in 1855. After farming for a few years in Fayette county, Iowa, he moved to Jasper county, Missouri, and bought forty acres of land in Mineral township, three miles west of Oronogo, and there erected a cabin sixteen by eighteen



feet. He subsequently increased his land holdings in Missouri to four hundred acres. In 1874 Ulysses Hendrickson was elected sheriff of Jasper county, Missouri, and went to live at Carthage, the county seat. When his term of office had expired he returned to the farm until 1890, when he was elected to the Missouri state Senate, from the twenty-eighth district. He served four years in the Senate, after which he located in the town of Oronogo, where he bought a fine residence in 1897. He was an ardent Democrat. Later, Mr. Hendrickson came to Reno county and here he died.

On September 26, 1855, Ulysses Hendrickson was united in marriage with Mary J. Cochran, who was born on February 28, 1837, in Pickaway county, Ohio, the daughter of George and Hannah (Ward) Cochran, both of whom were natives of Ohio. Mrs. Hannah Cochran died when Mary J. was one year old. Mrs. Mary J. Hendrickson died in Reno county, June 3, 1913. Ulysses and Mary J. (Cochran) Hendrickson were the parents of six children, as follow: Commodore Perry, retired, of Hutchinson, Kansas; John B., of Hutchinson; Iantha, wife of Thomas R. McLaughlin, a retired farmer of Hutchinson; Minerva, who married Harvey Nance; Grace, wife of John M. Davies, and Cole C.

John Milton Davies is a Democrat, and has been elected by that party to a place on the local school board. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. and Mrs. Davies are interested in every measure calculated to advance the welfare of Reno county, and have many friends in their home neighborhood.

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### J. S. THURMAN.

J. S. Thurman, superintendent of the great Viles plantation in Medora township, this county, is a native of Illinois, born in Fulton county, that state, February 8, 1870, son of Stephen and Margaret (Snodgrass) Thurman, the former also a native of Illinois and the latter of Ohio.

Stephen Thurman was born on February 26, 1830, and is still living, long having made his home in Butler county, this state. He is an honored veteran of the Civil War, having served for three years and eight months as a member of Company A, Forty-seventh Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry; and during the service was shot three times, still carrying a bullet in his thigh. The Forty-seventh Illinois saw much active service, and Mr. Thurman was right in the thick of the most of it. Upon the completion of

his military service he resumed his life as a farmer in Illinois and remained there until 1884, in which year he chartered two cars and moved to Kansas, settling in Butler county. He bought a quarter of a section of partly improved land and there established his home. His wife died in 1913, at the age of seventy-three years. She was a member of the Dunkard church; he had been reared a Quaker. They were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the youngest, the others being as follow: Levi H., who lives in Oklahoma; Edward, who lives in Cherokee county, this state; C. G., who lives in Fulton, Illinois, and Sarah C., who married J. C. Cook and lives near Larned, this state.

J. S. Thurman received his early schooling in the schools of his native county in Illinois and was fourteen years old when he came to Kansas with his parents in 1884. He grew up on the home farm in Butler county, assisting in the labors of developing the same, and remained there until his marriage, in 1888, at the age of nineteen years, after which he bought a farm of twenty-eight acres near the town of Keighley, rented another bit of land adjoining and was extensively engaged in market gardening for thirteen years, or until 1901, in which year he came to Reno county and settled at Medora, where for six years he served as foreman of the railway section at Medora, in the employ of the 'Frisco Railroad. In 1907 he was made joint car inspector for the Rock Island and the 'Frisco at Medora and served in that capacity for something more than a year, at the end of which time he engaged in the hotel business in that same town, operating a retail store in connection with the same. In 1909 he sold his hotel and store and accepted the position of section foreman for the Rock Island railroad at Groveland, which position he held until September, 1910, when he received the appointment to his present position of superintendent of the eight-hundred-acre plantation of James Viles, in Medora township, this county, where he ever since has lived. This great plantation is devoted almost wholly to the raising of catalpa trees, the first stand of which was set out twelve or thirteen years ago. In the winter of 1915-16 Mr. Thurman cut out one hundred thousand trees, the same to be converted into posts, thus thoroughly demonstrating the value of catalpa culture in this county. Mr. Thurman is a Republican and takes an active interest in political affairs, having been township treasurer for the past four or five years.

On June 30, 1888, J. S. Thurman was united in marriage to Martha L. Easton, who was born in Mercer county, Missouri, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Easton, the former of whom was a transfer man, and both of whom are now deceased, and to this union eleven children have been

born, all of whom are living save Viola, the second in order of birth, who died in infancy, the others being as follow: Nola, who married E. Kinley and lives in Ford county, Kansas; Vina B., who married George Shea and lives on a farm in Medora township, this county; Nettie, who married A. G. Johnson, night telegraph operator at the junction at Medora; William, who assists his father on the plantation; Dewey, also an assistant to his father, and Virgil, Lee, Opal, O'Neal and Austin, who are still in school. Mr. and Mrs. Thurman are members of the Brethren church and their children have been reared in that faith. Mr. Thurman is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that order.

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### WILLIAM H. MILLER.

William H. Miller, one of the real pioneers of Reno county, for years a prosperous and well-known farmer of Troy township, now living comfortably retired in a pleasant home in Hutchinson, enjoying the ample rewards of a life of well-directed industry, is a native of Iowa, having been born on a farm in Wapello county, that state, July 16, 1849, son of John and Sophia (Walworth) Miller, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York state.

John Miller was reared on a farm and was married in New York state, later emigrating to Indiana, where he began developing a fine farm, but presently a cloud was discovered on his title to the same and he was ousted on a legal technicality, after which he moved farther west and settled in Illinois, where he remained until 1846. About the time he settled in Illinois the Black Hawk War broke out and he served in that brief but conclusive struggle. In the summer of 1846 he and his family drove through by ox-team to Iowa and settled in Wapello county. There John Miller pre-empted a half section of "Congress' land," on which he lived until 1855, in which year he sold out and moved to Decatur county, where he bought a quarter of a section of land and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in the spring of 1874, he then being seventy-eight years of age. His widow survived him for nearly eighteen years, her death occurring in February, 1892, at the age of eighty-six. They were the parents of nine children, three sons and six daughters, of whom the subject of this sketch was the youngest that grew to maturity, and of whom three are now living, he having a brother, Henry, who still makes his home in Decatur

county, Iowa, and a sister, Mary, widow of Henry McVay, living in Wayne county, that same state.

William H. Miller was about six years old when his parents moved onto the frontier farm in Decatur county, Iowa, and there he grew to manhood. The nearest school house being about three miles from his home, his early opportunities for schooling were limited. In the spring of 1872 he married a daughter of Zeno Tharp, a prominent farmer of that neighborhood, who, that same spring, came to Kansas and pre-empted a homestead in Reno county, and in the spring of 1873 Mr. Miller and his wife accompanied the other members of the Tharp family to this county, arriving here on April 3. William H. Miller homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 20, in Troy township, and was thus one of the three earliest settlers of that township, there being but one other family besides his and that of Mr. Tharp in the township at that time. He built a sod house on his place, but during the first summer they lived there he and his wife continued to sleep in their "prairie schooner," which had brought them down from Iowa. Their nearest neighbor was five miles distant. The buffaloes were still ranging the plains, and it was during that summer of 1873 that the great herd, noted in history as "the big herd," passed their place, the countless mass requiring fifty-four hours to pass a given point. Cash was scarce and hard to get throughout this section of Kansas in those days, and Mr. Miller, in order to obtain a bit of ready money, from time to time, gathered buffalo bones up off the plains and hauled them to Hutchinson, where he received about six dollars a ton for the same.

Mr. Miller and his wife remained on their original homestead about four years, at the end of which time they sold that place and bought the northeast quarter of section 10, in Troy township, where they established their permanent home and where they lived until their retirement and removal to Hutchinson in 1908. Mr. Miller was a progressive and energetic farmer and made a success of his business, gradually enlarging his land holdings until he became the owner of six hundred and eighty acres in Troy township and was regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that part of the county. About 1889 he became extensively engaged in the cattle business and so continued until his retirement from the farm, being also quite successful as a stockman. Mr. Miller has always been a steadfast Republican and for years was looked upon as one of the leaders in the party in Troy township, a constant attendant at party conventions and otherwise active in the affairs of his party. For years he served as school director in his home district and also served for some time as township



treasurer. In 1908 he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Hutchinson. He bought a house at 225 Sixth avenue, west, and there he and his wife are very pleasantly situated.

On February 11, 1872, in Decatur county, Iowa, William H. Miller was united in marriage to Catherine Rose Tharp, who was born on a farm near Winchester, Indiana, daughter of Zeno and Christina (Fry) Tharp, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Germany. Zeno Tharp was born in Ashland, Ohio, May 20, 1827, and grew to manhood on a farm. When a young man he went over into Indiana and settled in Jay county, where he married Christina Fry, who was born in Germany in 1835 and who was but five years old when her parents came to the United States, settling in Jay county, Indiana. About 1853 Zeno Tharp and his family emigrated to Iowa, settling in Decatur county, that state. When the Civil War broke out Mr. Tharp enlisted in Company K, Fifty-third Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served for ten months, at the end of which time he was discharged on a physician's certificate of disability, illness incapacitating him from further service. In 1872 Zeno Tharp came to Kansas and in November of that year filed on a half section of land in Troy township, this county. The next spring he brought his family here and established his home. He also bought a half section of railroad land and it was not long until he was accounted one of the most substantial farmers and stockmen in the county. Mr. Tharp was very active in the general affairs of the community during pioneer days and it is generally agreed that no man had more influence in the days of the early development of the southern part of the county than he. In 1902 he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Hutchinson, where his last days were spent. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, six of whom are living, of whom Mrs. Miller is the eldest, the others being Mary, who married Harry Wright and lives in Hutchinson; John, a farmer, who makes his home in Hutchinson; D. T., who lives at Nickerson, this county, and Flora, who lives at Hutchinson, and George, who lives on the old home farm.

To William H. and Catherine Rose (Tharp) Miller three children have been born, as follow: Walter J., born in 1876, who married Laura Croas and lives in Troy township, this county; Cora A., 1877, who married A. F. Hood and also lives in Troy township, and Frank Z., 1880, who married Gladys Hambrick and also makes his home in Troy township, all substantial farmers and useful citizens of that part of the county. Mr. Miller is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and both he and his wife



are members of the Daughters of Rebekah. He also is a member of the Modern Woodmen and of the Fraternal Aid Society and in the affairs of all these organizations takes a warm interest.

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### GEORGE ASTLE.

George Astle, one of the best-known farmers of Haven township, this county, an honored veteran of the Civil War and one of the pioneers of Reno county, is a native of England, having been born in the town of Melbourne, Derbyshire, October 21, 1842, son of Richard and Sarah (Hibbert) Astle, both natives of Derbyshire, the former of whom was born on February 15, 1811, and the latter, February 3, 1810, who came to Kansas in pioneer days, settled in Haven township, this county, and there spent the rest of their lives, useful and valued citizens of that community.

Richard Astle was reared in Derbyshire, married there and became a market gardener. To him and his wife ten children were born, all of whom grew to maturity. In 1852, their elder children having them grown, the two eldest having married and settled in their home town, Richard Astle and his wife and their younger children emigrated to the United States, locating near Quincy, Illinois, where Mr. Astle engaged in gardening. In 1861 the family moved to Godfrey, near Alton, Illinois, where they farmed until 1866, in which year they moved to Alhambra, that same state, and farmed there until 1872. In this latter year, the good word of the promising conditions presented in this section of Kansas having begun to attract much attention in the East, Richard Astle and his wife and their elder children equipped a couple of "prairie schooners" and drove through to this county, arriving in Haven township in the month of April, the younger children joining them a few months later. Richard Astle and those of the children who had reached their majorities each homesteaded a quarter of a section, the father's homestead being in section 20. There he established his home and there he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, his death occurring on June 10, 1883. His widow survived until January 22, 1891. Richard Astle was a Republican and took a prominent part in local political affairs in pioneer days, long serving as justice of the peace in and for Haven township. He and his wife were earnest members of the Methodist church and were among the leaders in the organization of a church of that denomination in their neighborhood. Their children were

as follow: John, born on November 17, 1832, who remained in England and who died on September 2, 1896; Elizabeth, March 15, 1834, who married Henry Barber, of Melbourne, England, where she died on September 28, 1899; Richard, February 15, 1836, a well-known retired farmer, living at Haven, this county; William, November 21, 1840, a veteran of the Civil War, who was prominent in the establishment of the town of Haven, where he was successfully engaged in the grain and general mercantile business, married Louisa Tissias and is now living retired at Haven; George, the subject of this sketch; Joseph, April 27, 1845, a well-known hardware merchant in Haven, who died in 1899; Sarah, February 16, 1847, now deceased, who married Henry Challacombe; Mary, February 20, 1849, married J. W. VanBuren and died in Haven township on March 22, 1910; Henry, June 21, 1851, a retired farmer now living at Haven, and Charles W., the only one of the children born in the United States, born at Quincy, Illinois, November 21, 1854, former postmaster of Haven, which town he also served as mayor, and former manager of the farmers' elevator at that place, where he is now living retired.

George Astle was about ten years old when his family came to America from England and he grew to manhood on the farm in Illinois. In August, 1862, he then being not quite twenty years of age, he enlisted in Company I, Ninety-seventh Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, for service during the Civil War, and was at once sent with his regiment to Kentucky, the regiment there forming part of the army under General Buell in the campaign against General Bragg. After participating in the battle of Perryville the regiment was sent on to Memphis, thence to Vicksburg, an attack, under General Sherman, being made on the latter town, upon the repulse of which the regiment retired to Arkansas Post, which place was taken in January. In the spring of 1873 the Ninety-seventh Illinois fought in the battles of Port Gibson, Champion Hills and Black River, following which it was engaged in the siege of Vicksburg until that city fell. The regiment then assisted in the capture of Jackson, Mississippi, after which it took part in the famous Red River expedition, being ordered thence to New Orleans to be fitted out as a regiment of mounted infantry. On the way to New Orleans the troop train was wrecked, leaving fewer than two hundred men fit for service, and these were put on provost duty while the regiment was being recruited to its normal strength. The regiment was then sent on the expedition against Mobile and after the capture of that city was sent to take Selma, Alabama, upon the destruction of which town the Ninety-seventh was sent to Galveston, Texas, where it was mustered out in July, 1865.

Upon the conclusion of his military service Mr. Astle stopped for a couple of years in Missouri and while there married Mattie Shuron, a native of Missouri, who died one year and twenty-eight days after her marriage, without issue. After that Mr. Astle rejoined his father in Illinois and remained on the farm there until the family came to Reno county in 1872, since which time he has made his home in this county. Upon arriving in this county George Astle homesteaded a quarter section in section 28, Haven township, but continued to make his home with his parents as long as they lived. He then bought the interests of the other heirs in the home place and continued to reside there, being now the owner of two hundred and twenty-five acres in this county, all well-improved and profitably cultivated. He erected a new set of buildings on the home place and set out a good-sized orchard and is now very well circumstanced.

In the fall of 1887 George Astle married, secondly, Mrs. Huldah (Michaels) Tucker, who was born in Virginia and came to Kansas with her three children in 1887, her marriage to Mr. Astle taking place shortly thereafter. She died in the spring of 1913. By her first marriage Mrs. Astle was the mother of three children, John R. Tucker, who lives in Oklahoma; Franklin DeWitt Tucker, who lives on his step-father's place, which he is now farming, and Gertrude, who married Josiah Foreaker and died in 1907, leaving three children, whom Mr. Astle is rearing. Mr. Astle is a member of the United Brethren church and of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Haven, in the affairs of which he takes much interest.

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#### ISAAC SMITH.

Isaac Smith, the well-known grocer of Hutchinson, Kansas, located at 7 South Main street, is a Hoosier by birth, having first seen the light of day on December 6, 1861, in Washington county, Indiana. He is a son of Stephen H. and Mary A. (Hoar) Smith, both parents being also natives of Washington county, Indiana. Stephen H. Smith was born on April 1, 1836, and died on September 15, 1884, his entire life being spent in that same county, where during all his active years he followed the vocation of farming. Mary A. Hoar was born on September 15, 1839, and passed from this life on July 26, 1882. Isaac Smith is one of a family of six children, the others being Mary F., wife of Thaddeus K. Benson, a farmer of Reno county; John E., a former grocer of Hutchinson, who died on January 22,

1909; Jesse E., a banker at Grainfield, this state; Martha J., a physician located at Indianapolis, Indiana, and Emmett, also engaged in the grocery business in Hutchinson.

Isaac Smith received his elementary education in the district schools near his home in Washington county, Indiana, supplemented by special and more advanced study at the Northern Indiana Normal at Valparaiso, that state. Later in life, Isaac Smith took a complete commercial course at the Campbell University, Holton, this state. For eleven years after completing his normal studies he engaged in school teaching, being located at various times in Washington county, Indiana; Sangamon county, Illinois, and Gove county, Kansas, serving two terms of two years each as superintendent of the Gove county schools. Mr. Smith homesteaded a claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Gove county, same being the southeast quarter of section 30, township 11, range 28, and after proving same, he disposed of it. On May 20, 1899, he engaged in the retail grocery business on South Main street, Hutchinson, to which business he has since given his best efforts and attention. In addition to his business, Mr. Smith owns his residence, located at 312 Ninth avenue, West, where he has resided for the past eighteen years. Mr. Smith has a well established business which he well merits by virtue of his honest desire to correctly meet the demands of his customers, and being possessed of a cordial temperament, he easily wins and holds friends.

On May 19, 1886, Isaac Smith was married in Sangamon county, Illinois, to Jennie Bridges, a daughter of Chester L. and Margaret E. (Abrams) Bridges, born in that county on August 28, 1862. Chester L. Bridges was born in Arkansas on April 2, 1834, and died at his home in Hutchinson on April 10, 1912, while his widow, who is still living in Hutchinson, was born in Illinois, on April 16, 1841. There were two children in the Bridges family, the one other than Mrs. Smith being Josephine, who married John A. Garber, a contractor and builder located at Hutchinson, Kansas. Chester L. Bridges was for many years a farmer and also a harness maker, following the latter occupation during the latter years of his life. Both he and his wife were for many years active workers in the Baptist church and in that faith Mrs. Smith was carefully reared. To Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been born five children, namely: Carroll M., who was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, on March 6, 1887, and assists his father in the grocery; Margaret A., born in Gove county, this state, on April 16, 1889, married William Lester, musician and composer of Chicago, Illinois; Chester L., the



third child, was born in Gove county, this state, March 6, 1891, and is located in Kansas City, Missouri, where he is engaged in the practice of the law; Eldon B. was born in Gove county, March 20, 1896, and is at present attending the state university at Lawrence; Melvin C., the youngest of the family, born in Reno county, May 26, 1900, is still in high school in Hutchinson. Isaac Smith and his family are numbered among the best people of the city wherein they have made their home for many years and are justly entitled to the high esteem in which they are universally held.

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### MARTIN BURRIS.

Martin Burris, truck farmer and gardener, living at 126 Fourteenth avenue, West, Hutchinson, Reno county, Kansas, was born in Morgan county, Indiana, a son of Caleb and Frances (Brown) Burris, April 6, 1856. Caleb Burris was a son of James Burris, of English parentage, and was born on September 29, 1818, in Ohio, "a day's drive" (as it was then termed) from the town of Cincinnati, now the thriving city. His death occurred in 1875. Frances Brown was born on August 28, 1817, in the hill country of North Carolina, and her death occurred in 1879. Caleb and Frances Burris were married on August 15, 1841, and to them were born six children. Those other than Martin, the immediate subject of this sketch, are William R., Rebecca L., who married Charles T. Mendenhall; Fernando, a truck farmer living near Savannah, Missouri; Mary and Allen J., all of whom have passed into the life beyond with the exception of Fernando and Martin.

Martin Burris when a young boy attended the common schools near his home in Morgan county, Indiana, and after the family moved to Iowa, he continued his studies in the public schools of Dallas county. He early engaged in farming and went to Sumner county, Kansas, in 1876 and rented a farm on which he lived for some time, during which time he was also engaged in freighting goods from Wichita, this state, to the supply camps and forts across the line in the Indian Territory. His load when going in that direction consisted of supplies and provisions for soldiers and Indians and on the return trip principally of hides. In 1877 Martin Burris moved to Rush county this state, where he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres. Securing a patent to his "claim" he sold and moved to the territory of Washington in 1888, purchasing one acre in the town of Sidney (which is now known as Port Orchard) and forty acres in Kitsap county, adjoin-



ing the town of Sidney. In the early nineties, he returned to Kansas, locating in Hutchinson, where he bought city property and has since made his home, giving his time and attention to truck gardening and light farming.

Martin Burris was married at West Point, Rush county, this state, October 30, 1883, to Emaline Caroline Carr, daughter of Cyrus and Mary Jane (Haworth) Carr, both in Harden county, Iowa, April 3, 1865. Cyrus Carr was a farmer, who owned land in Harden county, Iowa, and also in Rush county, this state, where he homesteaded a claim of one hundred and sixty acres and where his death occurred on February 11, 1895. He was born on August 20, 1828, near Clarksburg, in Highland county, Ohio, a son of Benjamin Carr, born on December 28, 1792 (died in 1885), and Permela (Evins) Carr (born in 1801, died in 1871). Permela (Evins) Carr was a daughter of Evin Evins and Permela Bales. Benjamin Carr was a son of Benjamin Carr, and Patience, his wife. Mary Jane Haworth, wife of Cyrus Carr and mother of Mrs. Martin Burris, was born on March 25, 1834, in Vermilion county, Illinois, and died on February 1, 1901. She was a daughter of Rees Haworth (born in 1804 and died in November, 1895), and Permela, his wife, who died in 1885. Cyrus Carr and Mary Jane Haworth were married on October 30, 1850, and to them was born a family of seven children, namely: Emaline (Mrs. Burris), John R., Melvina, who married Charles Osborn; Elven, Martha, a minister of the Quaker church living in Mead county, this state; Rees B., a farmer of the same county, and Harvey, a farmer in Pawnee county, this state. The Carr family have been members of the Quaker church for many generations, active in the work of their various local organizations.

To Martin Burris and wife have been born ten children, as follow: John W., George R., Harvey M., Mabel E., Alice A., Grace M., Allen J., Willie F., Mary F. and Lavina. John W. was born on August 28, 1884, in Rush county, this state and is now proprietor of a bakery in Lexington, Nebraska. George R., was born on January 2, 1886, in Rush county, and is now a linotype operator with the Mid-West Printing Company and secretary of Typographical Union No. 243. He has had conferred on him by his local organization the honor of being delegate to the international body and has discharged the responsibilities thus devolving upon him in a manner highly pleasing to all. George R. Burris is a student of archaeology and has spent three of his summer vacations in research work in the interesting field which New Mexico offers to such students. He is known in local labor circles as a leader among his fellow-workmen, and a broad-minded

man of ability and excellent judgment. Harvey M., born on October 10, 1887, in Rush county, is a printer. Mabel E. and Alice A. are twins, born on April 20, 1892, the former being a teacher in the schools of Reno county, and the latter the wife of Fred Leeburg. These twins were born in Sumner county, this state. Grace M. was born on August 29, 1894, in Hutchinson, and is also a teacher in the public schools. Allen J. was also born in Hutchinson, June 9, 1897, and is engaged in clerking. Willie F. was born in Hutchinson, September 26, 1899, and is attending school, as are also Mary F., born on August 9, 1902, and Lavina, born on February 24, 1905. One other child was born in this family, Oliver, who died at birth. The Burris family are numbered among the excellent people of their home city and are descended from forefathers who have been pioneers in their various times, moving with the advance of civilization from Ohio over into what is now termed the Middle West. Martin Burris hailed with delight the coming of the railroads to this section of the country, and during constructive days was known as an expert grade finisher. He worked with the Southern Pacific and also with the Northern Pacific in that capacity.

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### HUTTON & OSWALD.

Hutton & Oswald, proprietors of the American Steam Laundry at Hutchinson, this county, one of the largest and best-equipped laundries in the state of Kansas, long have been recognized as among the most enterprising and progressive forces in the commercial and industrial life of that city. After ten other firms had unsuccessfully attempted to establish steam laundries in Hutchinson, Mr. Hutton and Mr. Oswald took hold of the situation, adopted business-like methods, inaugurated a strictly up-to-date system in the operation of their plant and succeeded from the very start. Starting in a comparatively small way, they quickly were compelled to enlarge their plant, owing to the demands of their growing business, and so continued extending their facilities until they came to be recognized as among the leaders in that form of enterprise in Kansas.

The American Steam Laundry, which now occupies more than ten times the floor space it occupied when its present proprietors took hold on April 20, 1891, not only does a general laundering business, but is engaged as well in dry-cleaning and employs from seventy-five to one hundred and twenty-five persons and maintains agencies in more than one hundred and fifty

towns throughout Kansas and Oklahoma. Since 1895 its proprietors, Hutton & Oswald, have been members of the National Launderers Association and since July, 1913, members of the National Association of Dry Cleaners, while they have for years taken a prominent part in the affairs of the Kansas State Launderers Association, of which Mr. Oswald is the present president. Messrs. Hutton & Oswald also are extensive landowners in Reno county, the owners of a half section of land in Grant township and a half section in Medora township, which they devote to alfalfa and fruit growing and cattle raising, and are regarded as among the substantial citizens of this county.

Emmett Hutton, senior member of this successful firm, is a native of Tennessee, born in Bedford county, that state, December 10, 1866, son of George D. and Mary A. (Houston) Hutton, the latter of whom, before her marriage to Mr. Hutton, was the widow of Russell Whiteside, a Tennessee lawyer, and mother of Houston Whiteside, who became one of Hutchinson's most distinguished lawyers. Upon coming to Kansas in 1887 and locating in Hutchinson, Mr. Hutton for a year was employed in the office of the St. John & Marsh Lumber Company. He then, shortly after the inauguration of the mail delivery system in Hutchinson, was appointed a letter carrier and was thus engaged for three years, at the end of which time he bought an interest in the laundry business of H. L. Willis & Brother, which business, on April 20, 1891, he took over, in partnership with Charley W. Oswald, established the American Steam Laundry and has ever since been successfully engaged in that business. Mr. Hutton is a Democrat and gives a good citizen's attention to local politics, but has never been an aspirant for public office. He is a member of the Hutchinson Commercial Club, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

On October 25, 1899, Emmett Hutton was united in marriage to Lottie F. Bay, daughter of C. M. and Maggie J. (Sloan) Bay, well-known residents of Roscoe township, this county, and to this union two children have been born, Hildred and Emmett, Jr. The Huttons have a handsome home at 320 East Sherman street, where they have resided for years, and where they are very pleasantly situated.

Charley W. Oswald, junior member of the firm of Hutton & Oswald, is a native of Ohio, born in Wayne county, that state, November 3, 1867, son of Anthony and Maria (Ewing) Oswald, the former of whom was born in that same county, son of William Oswald, a native of Pennsylvania and

a pioneer of that section of Ohio, who for more than fifty years was engaged in the manufacture of boots and shoes. In 1877 Anthony Oswald and his family came to Kansas and settled in Reno county. Mr. Oswald bought eighty acres of railroad land in Center township and later bought four hundred and eighty acres in Salt Creek township, where he farmed for four years, at the end of which time, in 1881, he retired from the farm and moved to Hutchinson, where he presently became engaged in the real-estate business. His wife died in March, 1885, and in 1890 he left Hutchinson and for ten years was engaged in the mining business at Joplin and Galena. In 1900 he went to Beaumont, Texas, where he ever since has been successfully engaged in the real-estate business.

Charley W. Oswald was ten years old when he came to Kansas with his parents in 1877. He continued his schooling in the schools of Salt Creek township and of Hutchinson and was graduated from the Hutchinson high school in 1885, after which for two years he was engaged in teaching school. Upon the inauguration of the mail delivery system in Hutchinson he was the first letter carrier appointed in that city and entered upon the duties of that position on October 1, 1887, serving the public in that capacity until September 1, 1890. On April 20, 1891, he became associated with Emmett Hutton in the ownership of the American Steam Laundry at Hutchinson and has ever since been thus engaged. Mr. Oswald is a Democrat and from the days of his youth has been an active figure in the political life of this section of the state. For four years he served as a member of the Hutchinson city council and when that city adopted the commission form of government he was elected one of the members of the first commission of three, in April, 1909, and served until May, 1911, as commissioner of public utilities and streets. In 1904 Mr. Oswald was elected a delegate from this district to the Democratic national convention and in other ways has rendered able service in behalf of his party and the public. Mr. Oswald is a thirty-second degree Mason and a Knight Templar, a member of the blue lodge, the chapter, the council and the commandery at Hutchinson and the consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, at Wichita. He also is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and takes a warm interest in these several fraternal affiliations. He takes an active interest in the general business life of the city and is at present vice-president of the Hutchinson Commercial Club.

On May 24, 1896, in Troy township, this county, Charley W. Oswald was united in marriage to Myrtle Lewis, daughter of S. C. Lewis and wife, and to this union two children have been born, Anthony L., born on Decem-



ber 9, 1898, and C. Wallace, April 11, 1900, both of whom are now students in the high school. The Oswalds have a handsome home at 301 Ninth avenue, west, where they have resided for years and where they are very pleasantly situated.

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### SYLVESTER FARTHING.

Sylvester Farthing, one of the best-known and most substantial of the pioneer farmers of Yoder township, this county, is a native of Tennessee, having been born in Robinson county, that state, April 22, 1849, son of Peter and Elizabeth (Holland) Farthing, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Tennessee, who later became well-known pioneers of this county, where their last days were spent.

Peter Farthing was but a small boy when his parents emigrated from Virginia to Tennessee, settling in Robinson county, and there he grew to manhood. He married Elizabeth Holland, daughter of Richard Holland, a wealthy plantation owner of that county, a large slaveholder and the owner of more than one thousand acres of land; a deacon in the Missionary Baptist church for many years. Peter Farthing became the owner of a farm in Robinson county, but in the late fifties sold out there and moved to Union county, where he became the owner of four hundred and fifty acres, which he devoted to the raising of corn and tobacco. He owned a few slaves, but when the division of sentiment on the slavery question arose in Kentucky he became an ardent Union sympathizer and his former slaves remained with him for some time after their freedom had been declared. In 1876, attracted by the glowing reports at that time being heard regarding conditions in this section of Kansas, Peter Farthing sold his holdings in Kentucky and came to Kansas with his wife and their two youngest children, Norman and Ella. They located in Reno county and Peter Farthing bought a quarter of a section of land in Lincoln township, where he established his home and where he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, becoming prominent in the pioneer life of that part of the county. Peter Farthing was a good farmer and he eventually became the owner of two hundred and forty acres surrounding his home. He died there on September 23, 1890, at the age of seventy years, and his widow survived him less than two years, her death occurring on January 13, 1892, she then being sixty-nine years of age. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Marcellus, who still makes his home in Union county, Kentucky; Sylvester, the subject of



this biographical sketch; Samantha, who married Pascal Graves and lives on a farm in Sedgwick county, this state; Diana, who married John Coleman and lives in Union county, Kentucky; Harriet, who married Henry Turner and lives near Coffeyville, this state; Norman, who also lives near Coffeyville, and Ella, who married Benjamin Holman and lives in Oklahoma.

Sylvester Farthing was a small boy when his parents moved from Tennessee to Kentucky and he grew up on the home farm in Union county, in the latter state. Upon the dissolution of the slavery system the work of the farm fell upon him and his brothers and he began to plow as soon as he was big enough to hold the plow handles. He assisted his father on the farm and remained at home until his marriage in 1868, after which he bought a farm of one hundred acres in the neighborhood of his old home and began farming on his own account and was thus engaged there until the spring of 1877, when he sold his place and followed his parents to Kansas, they having settled in Reno county the year previous. Upon his arrival here he bought the southeast quarter of section 29 in Lincoln, now a part of Yoder township, and there he established his home in a shack, the lumber for building which he hauled from Wichita, sixty miles away. When he settled there there was not a tree in sight from his humble home on the plain, but it was not long until he had set out a large number of trees and had a thrifty grove growing on his place. He prospered in his farming operations and for many years has been regarded as one of the substantial residents of the Yoder neighborhood, still making his home on the place he has occupied for nearly forty years. He and his wife are earnest members of the Harmony Baptist church, as are all the members of their family, and have for many years been looked upon as among the leaders in good works thereabout.

It was on January 21, 1868, in Union county, Kentucky, that Sylvester Farthing was united in marriage to Cassandra Hobbs, who was born in Jefferson county, Kentucky, April 3, 1852, daughter of Henson and Sarah (Smith) Hobbs, the former of whom died on August 8, 1854, after which his widow married George Whitecotton and moved to Union county, where her death occurred on April 3, 1874. To Mr. and Mrs. Farthing eight children have been born, as follow: Sarah Elizabeth, born on January 26, 1869, who married James Green and lives in Yoder, this county; Leonia May, May 25, 1872, who died on September 9, 1893; Peter Rice, April 30, 1874, a well-known farmer of Salt Creek township, this county, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Addie Pearl, April 8, 1876, who married Albert Stewart and died on November 25, 1912;

Mary Ella, July 17, 1878, who is at home with her parents; Edna Vesta, December 17, 1882, widow of Judson Stewart; Carrie Low, May 9, 1885, who married Eugene Moore and lives on a farm in Lincoln township, and Ulah Lillian, February 1, 1889, who married Floyd H. Moore and died on January 2, 1915.

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### JOHN J. BOEHM.

John J. Boehm, the son of William and Caroline (Werle) Boehm, was born in Sterling, Illinois, December 27, 1857. The parents having come from Germany in 1850. The father was a building contractor and a cooper.

To William and Caroline Boehm were born the following children: Elizabeth, the widow of Charles Walz, who was a contractor at Sterling, Illinois; Katherine, the wife of George Collins, an assistant in the postoffice at Aurora, Illinois; Sarah, the wife of Loren Schneider, a farmer at Wadams Grove, Illinois; William, an electrician at Sterling; Albert, a carpenter at Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Adolph, a conductor on a railroad out of Omaha, lives at St. James, Minnesota, and John J., the subject of this sketch.

John J. Boehm was educated in the graded schools of Sterling, Illinois. After completing his education he followed the trade of a cooper, which trade he had learned in the shop of his father when a lad. In 1884 he went to Spencer, Clay county, Iowa, and engaged in the manufacturing of butter tubs for creameries. In 1896 he went to Minneapolis, where he remained until the next year, when he came to Hutchinson, where he purchased the interests of William A. Myers in the laundry business. Since that time he has been interested in the modern "Model" steam laundry, located at 27-29 Second avenue, West, and of which he is now the sole owner.

Mr. Boehm is a member of the Hutchinson Commercial Club and takes an active interest in all things that tend to assist in the growth and improvement of the city. He is independent in politics, but always looks to the selection of the best men to office. He was for four years the sergeant at arms of the Laundrymen's National Association of America, and was the president of the Kansas Laundrymen's Association for one year.

On March 19, 1885, John J. Boehm was married at Ames, Iowa, to Elizabeth J. Erb, the daughter of Jacob and Caroline (Reid) Erb. Mrs. Boehm is a native of Ames, while her father was born in Maryland and her

mother at Crestline, Ohio. Her father was for many years a farmer and an importer and breeder of pureblood Percheron horses.

To Mr. and Mrs. John J. Boehm have been born one child, Walter, who was born on October 31, 1889, at Spencer, Iowa. He completed the work in the grades and high school at Hutchinson and two years at the University of Pennsylvania, after which he attended the law department of the University of Kansas and graduated with the degree of Doctor of Laws. After being admitted to the bar he entered the laundry business of his father and now has charge of the office.

Walter Boehm was married, December 4, 1914, at Hutchinson, to Mary Lee Vance, a native of Abingdon, Virginia, and the daughter of J. M. Vance, whose wife was a Carpenter. The father of Mrs. Boehm was a native of Virginia and the mother of Maine.

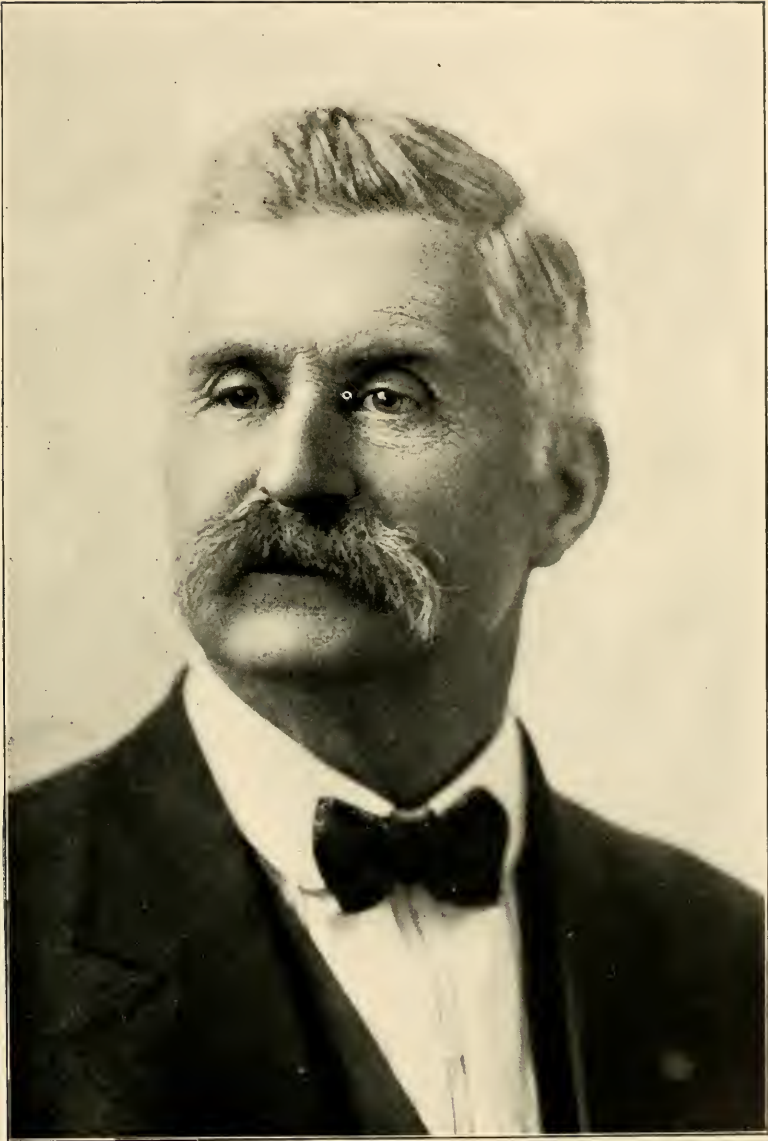
Jacob and Caroline Erb were the parents of the following children: Harland G., a farmer at Ames, Iowa; Eleanor, the wife of Charles Kukenrall, a farmer of Anthony, Iowa; Rosabel, the wife of M. H. Kelso, a dentist at Ames; Minnie May, the wife of L. M. Maxwell, a farmer at Lee, Montana, and Elizabeth J., wife of John J. Boehm.

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### GEORGE W. COOTER.

George W. Cooter, former county treasurer and a well-known retired farmer of Reno county, now living at Hutchinson, where he possesses valuable banking and other interests; an honored veteran of the Civil War, one of the real pioneers of Reno county and a man who for years has been actively identified with the best interests of this section of the state, is a native of England, but has been a resident of the United States since he was a babe in arms. He was born in Sussex on May 3, 1846, son of George W. and Martha (Boxall) Cooter, both natives of Kent.

The senior George W. Cooter was born in 1820 and was reared on a farm, later becoming an expert landscape gardener, doing contract work in that line. In 1847 he emigrated with his family to America and located at Saybrook, Connecticut, later moving to Cleveland, Ohio, where he remained until 1858, in which year he came West and bought a farm in Jackson county, Missouri, where he remained until practically driven out by his pro-slavery neighbors, whose violent opposition to his well-known anti-slavery views and ardent support of the Union cause compelled him to seek security



G. W. Coater





for himself and family over the line in Kansas. He located at Leavenworth in 1862, and in that neighborhood rented a farm, where his death occurred in 1867, he then being forty-seven years of age. His widow survived until 1882, she being sixty-eight years of age at the time of her death.

George W. Cooter, Jr., was about one year old when his parents came to the United States and his early schooling was obtained in the public schools of Cleveland. He was twelve years old when the family left that city and moved to Missouri, and was fifteen years old when the Civil War broke out. He was a big, vigorous, robust boy. In 1862 his father, whose name was also George W., had enrolled his name for enlistment, but when the call came at Independence, Missouri, the father was sick and was worried because he could not respond, so the son said he would go and answer the call for muster for the father, which he did, and was accepted, and instead of coming back as he agreed he went on with his company the next morning, in Company E, Twenty-fifth Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry, and served with the Army of the West until September 20, 1865. He was attached to Company C, First Engineering Corps, with which he served until the close of the war, being classed as an artificer. During his service in the Engineering Corps, Mr. Cooter was attached to the Fifteenth Army Corps, under Gen. John A. Logan, and was with Sherman in the march to the sea, engaged in reconstructing bridges destroyed by the enemy. At the close of the war Mr. Cooter participated in the Grand Review at Washington and was not yet twenty years old when he returned to his home in Leavenworth, a veteran of one of the greatest wars in history.

Upon the completion of his military service, Mr. Cooter served a three-years apprenticeship to a carriage smith at Leavenworth and became thoroughly proficient in that trade, which he later followed for four years, in the employ of Moore & Jennings at Leavenworth, after which he was given the position of foreman of the carriage department of the federal prison at Leavenworth. In the meantime, in 1871, he had married and after retaining his foremanship for thirteen months, decided to join the homestead movement, then setting in strongly toward this section of the state, and in 1873 came with his wife and baby son to Reno county. Upon arriving here Mr. Cooter homesteaded a tract of land in Little River township, where he established his home, being one of the very earliest settlers of that part of the county. Presently he also entered a timber claim and as his affairs prospered gradually enlarged his land holdings until he eventually became the owner of eight hundred acres of land in Little River township and what is now Medora township. To his general farming operations he added cattle

raising and was also quite successful in that line, soon coming to be regarded as one of Reno county's most substantial citizens. For his own convenience and that of his neighbors he also set up a smithy on his farm and later moved the same to Medora, where he kept it going for several years.

Mr. Cooter was early elected treasurer of Medora township and for years served in that important public capacity. From the very day of the organization of the Republican party Mr. Cooter has been a loyal and steadfast adherent of that party and took an active part in local political affairs. In 1892 he attended the Reno county Republican convention, without ever a thought of being a candidate for any county office, and was very much astonished to find himself nominated for the office of county treasurer. There were several avowed candidates for nomination to that place on the ticket, but Mr. Cooter was not a candidate and no previous mention of his name had been made in that connection. When the call for nominations for treasurer was made a farmer delegate in the convention secured the floor and placed the name of George W. Cooter in nomination, and the "dark horse" was nominated on the first ballot, very much to the surprise of the nominee. That was the year after the Populists swept Kansas and the Republicans came back and elected their men to every office in Reno county. George W. Cooper was one of these and in due time he entered the duties of the office of county treasurer. He was re-elected in the next campaign, and thus served two terms in the treasurer's office. During his incumbency in that office Mr. Cooter made his home in Hutchinson, the county seat, but upon the expiration of his term of public service returned to his farm in Medora township, where he lived until his final retirement from the farm, since which time he has made his home in Hutchinson. In 1905 he built a fine home at 314 Fourth avenue, east, and there he and his wife are now living, very pleasantly situated. Mr. Cooter has sold his farm lands and has made other investments. He is a director of the State Exchange Bank and takes an active interest in the general affairs of the business community, but his greatest pleasure is found in the exercise of his undoubted skill and ingenuity as a wood-carver, which, now in the days of his comfortable retirement, has become a delightful "hobby" with him and those who have seen the results of his work with a jack-knife and a piece of wood declare that he accomplishes wonders along that line. Mr. Cooter is past commander of Joe Hooker Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and continues to take a warm interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization.

In 1871, at Leavenworth, this state, George W. Cooter was united in marriage to Elizabeth Hartford, who was born in Coleraine, County Lon-

donderry, Ireland, in 1846, daughter of William and Martha Hartford, the former of whom died in England at the age of thirty-six, his daughter, Elizabeth, then being but five years old. In 1861 the latter and her mother came to this country to visit her brothers in New York and six years later came to Kansas, locating at Leavenworth, where she married Mr. Cooter. To this union four children have been born, as follow: Fred W., now president of the State Exchange Bank of Hutchinson, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Elizabeth, who married Clifton J. Ryker and now lives at Gulfport, Mississippi; Clara, who married D. Winters and lives at St. Joseph, Missouri, and George, a prosperous farmer, living near Lamar, Colorado.

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### FRANKLIN EDWARD DILLON.

Franklin Edward Dillon, one of the most successful farmers residing in the vicinity of Hutchinson, Kansas, is a native of Macoupin county, Illinois, where he was born on December 20, 1877. He is the son of J. W. and Ellen (Preble) Dillon, the former of whom, a retired farmer, makes his home in Alton, Madison county, Illinois. He is a veteran of the Civil War, having given active service in saving the Union for three years during the conflict. Mr. Dillon has always been an ardent advocate of the principles of the Republican party and in religious views gives support to the Methodist church. His wife, who is deceased, was also a prominent member of the same church. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Dillon are: Oscar, Ollie, Jasper, Roy, and Franklin Edward.

In the public schools of Jersey, Illinois, Franklin E. Dillon received his elementary education. Upon completing the common school course he began to work as a farmer on his father's farm. He remained on the home place assisting his father until he was twenty-three years of age and at the end of that time came to Reno country, Kansas, where he obtained employment on the farm owned at that time by Frank Danfords. He remained on this farm, which was in Reno township, for two years when he went to work on the Fernie ranch in Lincoln township. After a year spent in this township, he rented a farm with which he was occupied for a few years, until he bought a farm of two hundred and forty acres in Reno township, just west of Hutchinson. For the last few years, the subject of this sketch has rented a tract of one hundred and twenty-five acres of land, belonging

to his wife's mother, and adjoining her home place. Mr. Dillon divides his time as a farmer between his own farm and the rented land, occupying the latter as a residence.

In the fraternal affairs of the county in which he resides the subject of this sketch takes an active interest. He holds membership in the Modern Woodmen of America and plays a part in local commercial life. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Reno township and in his political views is in favor of the Republican cause, although in local politics he votes independently.

On April 3, 1907, Franklin Edward Dillon was married to Susie V. Wildin, a native of Reno county, Kansas, and the daughter of John and Electa (Hoskins) Wildin. To this union the following children have been born: Floyd, who was born in January, 1908; Kermit, Esther and Wilma.

John F. Wildin, deceased, father of Mrs. Dillon, was one of the most popular men of the community in which he resided. He was born in York county, Pennsylvania, on November 13, 1851, the son of George and Caroline (Keener) Wildin, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, and descendants of an old German family, who were termed in the early days of colonial life, the "Pennsylvania-Dutch." The family gave support to the Lutheran church. George Wildin, who was a plasterer by trade, moved with his family to Pike county, Illinois, in 1858, where he bought a farm and turned over his plastering trade to his sons. In 1882 he moved to Rush county, Kansas, where he remained a few years before moving to Hutchinson, where he lived until his death, which occurred in 1912. His wife passed away on September 1, 1899. The couple reared a family of four children as follow: William J., who lives in north Reno township; Calvin, who resides in Pueblo, Colorado, where he is engaged in the real-estate business; Susan, who became the wife of Jacob Musser, and who died in 1897, and John F.

John F. Wildin was the eldest in the family and at the age of seven years moved with his parents from Pennsylvania to Pike county, Illinois, where he attended the public schools. He was trained from youth to assume the duties of farm life, and remained as an assistant to his father on the farm until he reached the age of manhood. After his marriage he rented land from his father for three years, and in 1880 was able to buy a farm of his own. He purchased four hundred and eighty acres of land in Rush county, Kansas, where he continued to reside for nine years, leaving the place in 1889. He located in the Park addition of Hutchinson, where he



lived for two years, before buying a farm in Enterprise township. In 1892 he bought two hundred and sixty acres in Reno township and lived on what was known as the Hetock place, until his death. The farm residence was built by Mr. Wildin in 1894. He also assisted in building the Methodist church as a member of the building committee. His wife also held membership in the Methodist church of Reno township. Mr. Wildin for a number of years served as steward of the church and also as trustee and during that time was faithful in his attendance at the services.

On March 11, 1877, John F. Wildin was united in marriage to Electa Hoskin, a native of Pike county, Illinois, and the daughter of Isaac and Mary Jane (Mosier) Hoskin, the former of whom was a native of Pike county, Illinois. Mary (Mosier) Hoskin was born in Monroe county, Indiana, and died in Illinois. She was a prominent member of the Methodist church of the district in which she resided. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. John Wildin are as follow: Mary, who became the wife of W. S. William and who reside in Lincoln township; Carrie, who married John Miller, a farmer of Rush county, Kansas; Susie, who became the wife of Franklin E. Dillon; Janie, who lives with her mother in Reno township; Electa and Frederick, who are also residing on the home place.

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#### WILLIAM ELBERT LONG.

William Elbert Long is a native of Tennessee. He was born in Athens, McMinn county, in that state, March 28, 1862, the son of Erastus R. and Etharilla A. (Cassada) Long. The father was born in South Carolina, February 7, 1836, but the greater part of his life was spent at Athens, Tennessee, where he followed the occupation of a farmer. He also learned the trade of wagon-maker while living in his Tennessee home. The elder Long, with his family, left Athens, Tennessee, October 12, 1877, and arrived at Hutchinson, Kansas, October 14, 1877. He entered one hundred and sixty acres of trust land located in the southern part of Reno county. There he built a home and engaged in farming until his death, which occurred in November, 1885. He was a Mason, a Republican and a Methodist. Etharilla A. (Cassada) Long was born in Tennessee, November 28, 1839, and is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Erastus Long were married in McMinn county, Tennessee, April 17, 1859, and were the parents of the following children: Jacob W., born in Athens, Tennessee, March 7, 1860,



died on November 19, 1913; William Elbert, the subject of this sketch; Cordelia M., born in Athens, Tennessee, November 24, 1866, died on August 11, 1867; Ida, born in Athens, Tennessee, September 24, 1868, married John A. Cole, a rancher in Meade county, Kansas; Mittie, born in Athens, Tennessee, July 9, 1871, married William Cannan, a farmer near Cherokee, Oklahoma; Frank, born in Athens, Tennessee, November 28, 1873; Bértha, born in Reno county, Kansas, December 20, 1878.

William Elbert Long was educated in the public schools of Athens and Wesleyan University, of same place, and assisted his father in farming until the death of the father, in 1882. In 1878, while but a youth of sixteen years, William E. Long "located" one hundred and sixty acres of government land adjoining his father's land, and later entered and proved up the same, obtaining a clear title in 1884, which he still owns. He remained on the farm until 1898, when he was elected sheriff of Reno county and removed to Hutchinson. He held the office of sheriff of the county for five years, or two and a half terms, although the state law only permitted two terms in succession for that office; the half term was on account of change to biennial elections.

Mr. Long was engaged in the plumbing and heating business from 1904 to 1909; since then retired. He was a member of the Hutchinson city council two terms, from 1904 to 1908, as a representative from the third ward. He supported the administration of Mayor J. P. Harsha, in the matter of building the drainage canal from Cow creek to the Arkansas river, as a measure for protection from floods. Politically, Mr. Long has always affiliated with the Republican party. Fraternally, he is a thirty-second degree Mason, a Knight Templar, a Mystic Shriner, a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, Modern Woodmen of America, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

On April 27, 1897, William E. Long was married to Sarah C. Baker, in Pawnee county, Nebraska. She was the daughter of Frederick W. Baker and Sarah Elizabeth (Long) Baker, who were married on October 5, 1862. Mrs. Long's father was born in Kentucky, March 8, 1833, and died in Arlington, Reno county, Kansas, April 18, 1913. His occupation was that of a farmer. During the Civil War, Mr. Baker was commissioned by Governor Johnson, of Tennessee, as recruiting officer, and was afterward captain in a Tennessee regiment. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Arlington, Kansas, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he was a Republican. Mrs. Long's mother was born

in Bradley county, Tennessee, November 17, 1842, and is now living at Arlington, Reno county, Kansas.

Mrs. Sarah (Baker) Long was born in Benton, Polk county, Tennessee, July 21, 1871, and died in Hutchinson, Kansas, August 18, 1913. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Long are: Cella E., born on July 12, 1898; Charles E., February 14, 1903; Chester E., January 5, 1906; all born in Hutchinson, Reno county, Kansas.

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### ELMER L. BREWER.

Elmer L. Brewer, superintendent of the printing department of the *Hutchinson News* was born in McLean county, Illinois, December 4, 1863, one of the family of five children of James and Susan (Westfall) Brewer. Belle, a sister, is the widow of Charles N. Davis, for many years a newspaper man at Port Arthur, Texas. His death occurred on April 4, 1911. Charles, a brother, is a farmer in McLean county, Illinois, where Walter, the youngest of the family, also lives, engaged in the same occupation. Nellie, is the wife of Charles C. Russell, a dealer in wall paper and paint, located at Coffeyville, this state. James Brewer was a native of Kentucky, born in Franklin county, near the city of Frankfort, October 20, 1837. He was a farmer and nurseryman all his life and died at Coffeyville, this state, March 10, 1914. Susan (Westfall) Brewer was born in Leroy, Illinois, July 6, 1841, and died on November 3, 1909, while the family was residing in McLean county, Illinois.

Elmer L. Brewer received his earlier education in the grade schools of Leroy, Illinois, and after completing his studies was apprenticed to a printer in that town where he learned the trade to which he has given himself since that time. He came to Hutchinson in April, of 1886, to accept a position with the *Hutchinson News* and has been on the staff of that publication since that time. For eight years he was assistant foreman in the printing room and has been superintendent of that department for the past eighteen years. Mr. Brewer has also become a stockholder of the company and is an active member of Typographical Union No. 243, also of the Independent Order of Red Men. He is independent in politics and holds his religious membership with the Methodist Episcopal church, to the support of which he gives liberally of time and means.

On January 1, 1898, Elmer L. Brewer was married in Hutchinson to

Della M. Sloan, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Sheridan) Sloan, born at Ashland, Ohio, December 15, 1861. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania, born in New Derry, Westmoreland county, December 15, 1835, and was a farmer all the active years of his life. Her mother, who is also dead, was born in Ashland, Ohio, March 10, 1840. Mrs. Brewer has two brothers, namely: William J. Sloan, cashier of the Halstead Bank, Halstead, this state, and Alva L. Sloan, in the abstract and title business at San Bernardino, California. The Brewer home is a handsome residence located at 625 Fourth avenue, East, Hutchinson, where Mr. Brewer took his bride shortly after their marriage.

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### ALPHEUS EWER ELLIOTT.

The late Alpheus Ewer Elliott, who for years was one of the best-known and most progressive merchants in Hutchinson, this county, was a native of Maine, having been born in the town of Vassellboro, that state, on November 24, 1843, son of Francis and Mary (Robinson) Elliott, both natives of Maine. The Elliotts are of English descent, the family in this country having descended from an Elliott who was among the very early settlers in New England. Francis Elliott, who was a ship builder and an earnest Quaker, was the son of a soldier in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, who grew to maturity.

Alpheus Ewer Elliott received his education in the public schools of his home town and was seventeen years of age when the Civil War broke out. His youthful heart was fired with patriotic fervor and he at once attempted to enlist for service in the regiment that was being formed in his part of the state, but was rejected on account of his age. Nothing daunted, however, and still determined to fight for the cause of the union of the states, he ran away from home and went to Massachusetts, boldly declared himself to be twenty-one years of age and enlisted in the Twenty-second Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, with which he served until the close of the war. During this full term of service he never was wounded, though having participated in many important and severe engagements, and never was on the hospital roll but once, that temporary disability having been caused by long exposure in killing weather.

At the close of the war Alpheus E. Elliott, then a veteran, though still



MR. AND MRS. ALPHRETS E. ELLIOTT.





little more than a boy in years, returned to Massachusetts with his returning regiment and stopped at Fall River, which he made his home for more than ten years. He married there in 1871 and then engaged in the grocery business, which he continued quite successfully for some years. In 1878, warned by the failing state of his health, and at the advice of his physician and friends, he decided to come West, believing that a change of climate would prove beneficial. With his family he came to Kansas, locating in the town of Ottawa, where he engaged in the loan business. After about ten years of residence in Ottawa, Mr. Elliott determined to push on further West, the state of his health again beginning to trouble him, and decided to locate at Cheyenne, Wyoming. En route, he stopped off at Hutchinson, this county, and so favorably was he impressed with general conditions and the salubrity of the climate hereabout that he decided to remain. That was in 1889 and the remainder of his life was spent in Hutchinson. Upon locating in Hutchinson, Mr. Elliott engaged in the retail furniture business, his place of business having been in the 300 block in North Main street, and there and thus he continued in business until 1895, in which year the gradually failing condition of his health compelled his retirement from business and he lived as an invalid for eleven years, his death occurring on February 13, 1906, his widow and one child surviving him. His widow passed away on November 27, 1915.

On October 12, 1871, at Fall River, Massachusetts, Alpheus E. Elliott was united in marriage to Myra Martha Bowers, who was born in Medford, Massachusetts, daughter of Capt. John and Elizabeth (Jones) Bowers, members of old families thereabout, the two families having been represented in and about Medford for generations. John Bowers was a sea captain, master of his own vessel, engaged in the coastwise trade, who died of yellow fever at New Orleans when his only daughter, Myra, was a baby. His widow survived him but three years and the orphaned little girl, the only child, was reared by her uncle, James Dudley, at Waltham, Massachusetts.

To Alpheus E. and Myra M. (Bowers) Elliott two children were born, Charles, who died at the age of two years, and Myra Gertrude, born in 1877, who married Jonas Geyer, manual training instructor in the Hutchinson high school, and has two children, both sons, Alpheus Edward and Sheffey Elliott. Mr. and Mrs. Geyer live at the mother's old home, at 21 Sixth avenue, east, in Hutchinson, which has been the Elliott residence for the past quarter of a century.

(18a)

## JOSIAH WATSON ABEL.

Josiah Watson Abel, the son of William Theodore and Nancy (Watson) Abel, was born at Shoals, Martin county, Indiana, the early home and the birthplace of both of his parents. His grandparents, on both sides, were pioneer settlers in the county. His maternal grandfather lost his life fighting the Indians.

William Theodore Abel has devoted his life to farming. At the age of sixteen, he enlisted in an Indiana company, in 1864, and served in the ranks until the close of the Civil War, having taken part in the sieges of Nashville and Atlanta. He and his wife now live at Belle, Missouri.

To William T. and Nancy Abel have been born the following children: Christopher, a contractor at Festus, Missouri; George N., a farmer at Byron, Missouri; Henry W., in the produce business at Belle; Isola May, at home with the parents; Ida, the wife of John Kite, a farmer at South DeSoto, Missouri; Claudia, the wife of Henry Kausler, a dairyman at Festus, Missouri; Emma, the wife of Amos Nicholson, a merchant at Mountain View, Missouri, and Josiah Watson.

Josiah Watson Abel received his education in the district schools of Martin county, and was graduated from the high school at Shoals. He then took two and one-half years work at the Normal school at Shoals, and taught in the grades of his home town, until he entered McKendree College at Lebanon, Illinois. After completing his college work he was ordained a deacon by Bishop Andrews, now deceased, and at Alton, Illinois, he was ordained an elder by Bishop Fitzgerald, also deceased.

The first charge of Reverend Abel was at Decker Station, Indiana, where he remained for some time, after which he engaged in evangelistic work in the Indiana Methodist conference. He was later transferred to the Southern Illinois conference and for four years was pastor of the Methodist church at Alton, Illinois. From Alton he was transferred to Granite City, where he built Niedringhaus Memorial Methodist Episcopal church. He then entered the Des Moines conference and served in succession at Council Bluffs, Carroll, Clarinda and Des Moines. In the latter city he was pastor of the Wesley Methodist Episcopal church. In 1912 he entered the southwestern Kansas conference and on September 19, 1912, he was assigned to the First church at Hutchinson, where he preached his first sermon on September 20, 1912. In three years he has received into the church one thousand members, the membership now numbering about eighteen hundred. The

Sunday school has had a gradual growth and last year the average attendance was seven hundred and forty-six, the total enrollment being fourteen hundred. The prayer meetings are well attended, the Epworth League and the Young People's League have an attendance of two hundred. On August 10, 1915, the First church, as a foster parent, took over the Stewart hospital for the Methodist Episcopal church. The church contributes twenty-two hundred dollars to home and foreign missions, besides maintaining a representative in India, who is the superintendent of the Hingwah district. Three thousand two hundred dollars are given annually for benevolences. The Ladies' Aid Society is an important factor in the life of the church, the pastor's wife taking an active part in the work, as well as in all the other church societies. The church is located at the southeast corner of First avenue, East, and Walnut street. The society also owns a large and handsome parsonage at 322 First avenue, East.

Reverend Abel is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He is prominent in the activities of the various orders. He has done much lyceum work with the Jeffries-Wicks Chautauqua System of Des Moines.

On December 27, 1900, Josiah Watson Abel was united in marriage at St. Joseph, Missouri, to Lillian May, the daughter of Frederick and Katherine (Dersch) May. She is a native of Brunswick, Missouri. To Mr. and Mrs. Abel have been born two children: Katherine May, born at Carroll, Iowa, and Margaret Emma, born at Des Moines.

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### FRED H. CARPENTER.

Fred H. Carpenter, son of George W. and Diana (Howard) Carpenter, was born in West Stephenson, New York, September 20, 1857. His father came to Reno county in 1871 and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres, and afterward bought a railroad quarter. This land he cultivated until 1880, when he removed to Hutchinson and went into the livery business, the livery barn being located where the postoffice is now. He continued in that business until his death, which occurred on June 28, 1903. George W. Carpenter was born in West Stephentown, New York, August 23, 1834. He was one of the first trustees of Clay township, in Reno county, where he first settled; was a charter members of the Baptist church; a char-

ter member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen; a Mason and a Knight Templar. His political affiliations were with the Republican party. Diana (Howard) Carpenter was born in Rensselaer county, New York, November 7, 1838, and died November 17, 1868. In 1877 George W. Carpenter was married, secondly, to Amanda M. Bly, at Waterloo, Iowa. She is still living in Hutchinson. Fred H. Carpenter had two sisters: Minnie, widow of Benjamin F. Montgomery, a lawyer of Denver, Colorado; Florence, born in Reno county, in 1878, died in Hutchinson in 1894.

Fred H. Carpenter was educated in the district schools of Reno county and at the State Normal at Emporia, Kansas, and then took a course in civil engineering in the state university, at Lawrence, Kansas, completing the course in three years. In 1880 he entered the service of the Sante Fe railroad, in the civil engineering department, in the town of McPherson, on the line between Florence and Ellinwood. Later he was transferred to old Mexico and then to Arizona. These positions he held until 1884, when he was elected county surveyor of Reno county. He held this position for ten years. In November, 1884, he was appointed city engineer of Hutchinson, which position he held for seventeen years. He was the first engineer of Hutchinson and established all the street grades, laid out the sewer system and built the bridges. He was also the surveyor for the Arkansas Valley Town and Land Company—the townsite department of the Sante Fe railroad—from 1890 to 1898. He has been roadmaster for the Sante Fe railroad for twenty years, and now has headquarters in Hutchinson. He is a blue lodge, chapter and commandery Mason, and a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His political affiliation is with the Republican party; his church relationship is with the Presbyterian denomination.

Mr. Carpenter was married, October 13, 1886, in Seward county, Kansas, to Amanda M. Saunders, who was born in Waterloo, Iowa, October 10, 1865. She is the daughter of Hosea A. and Sarah J. (Bly) Saunders, who were born near West Stephentown, New York; the former July 7, 1826, and the latter, March 7, 1831. Mr. Saunders was a blacksmith by trade, and was superintendent of the shops of the Illinois Central Railroad Company at Waterloo, Iowa, for a number of years, about 1870. He died in 1896. His wife died at the home of her daughter in Hutchinson, February 17, 1916.

Mrs. Carpenter's brothers and sisters are: William B., a farmer near Rolfe, Iowa, died in 1901; Herbert D., a piano tuner, Portland, Oregon; Allen H., a farmer, Princeton, Oregon; Frank, a photographer, Woodward, Oklahoma; Kate B., who married Stuart F. Brady, a lawyer of Caruthers-



ville, Missouri, was superintendent of schools in Seward county, Kansas, from 1895 to 1901. A brother of Mrs. Carpenter, James I., died at the age of three years, in Waterloo, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter have no children of their own, but Lelia M. Saunders, a daughter of Herbert D. Saunders, came to live with them, March 9, 1895, as their daughter, and has lived with them ever since. Her mother died on December 27, 1894. She graduated at Hutchinson high school, and at Forest Park University, St. Louis, Missouri. Mr. Saunders has a handsome residence at 329 Fourth avenue, East.

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### GEORGE LUTHER CROW.

Among the prominent agriculturists of Reno county, Kansas, is George Luther Crow, who has been a resident of this section of the state for twenty-seven years. He was born in Noble county, Ohio, on March 25, 1874, and came to this county with his parents, Isaac and Mary (Calvert) Crow, at the age of fifteen years. The family traces its origin in this country to Frederick Crow, the great grandfather of the subject of this sketch, who was a native of Pennsylvania and a son of German parents. He married Rachel Enochs, of English descent, who accompanied him on his journey to the Middle West, in a covered wagon. The couple settled in Monroe county, Ohio, where Mr. Crow built a large log cabin in the center of a forest tract he had obtained through a grant from the government. The cabin is still standing today and is a monument to the early struggles of the pioneers of that section of Ohio in which it was erected. The surrounding land is owned at the present time by George Reed, a descendant of Frederick Crow. Before his death, Frederick Crow had become an extensive land-owner and was known throughout the community as a prominent Democrat of that locality.

Jacob Crow, grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was born in Pennsylvania in 1790, and as a boy traveled with his parents in the most primitive manner from the East to Monroe county, Ohio. He was reared to the discipline of farm life and at the age of twenty-seven, after he had become successful as a farmer, married Mary Laisure, a native of Monroe county, Ohio, and the daughter of Jeremiah Laisure, a pioneer settler of Ohio. Soon after his marriage, Jacob Crow moved to what is now called Noble county, where he entered a government claim on one hundred and



sixty acres of land, located on the east branch of Duck creek, between the towns of Stafford and Harrietsville. Before his death, Mr. Crow added one hundred and sixty acres to his farm, which gave him profitable returns. At the age of fifty-six years, in 1846, Mr. Crow passed away. He was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church and also held a high place in Democratic politics.

The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Crow are as follow: Elizabeth, who died in Noble county, Ohio; George, who passed away in 1889 in Reno county, Kansas; Anne, who died in Washington county, Ohio; Nancy, who passed away in 1809 in Wyandott county, Ohio; Isaac, who became the father of the subject of this sketch; Jacob, who was killed in the Civil War while serving in the Union army; Mary, who passed away while still a child; Rhoda and Cynthia, both of whom died in Noble county; Martin, who died in Hutchinson, Kansas; Robert, who died in Ohio, and Dianthe, who makes her home in Wyandot county, Ohio.

In the district schools of Noble county, Ohio, Isaac Crow received the rudimentary branches of education. At the age of fourteen his father died and the boy was thrown upon his own resources with little or no chance of going to school. He followed the simple lines of farming until he reached the age of manhood, when he began to assume management of the farm of his father, and after a short time was able to buy out his mother's share in the estate. From year to year he added to his possessions by buying out the shares of each heir until he became, through firm purpose of achievement and untiring energy, sole owner of the original homestead. He erected a beautiful residence and built one of the finest barns in that section of the county, a structure large enough to shelter three hundred head of cattle. Through constant care and applied labor his farm became one of the most cultivated in the state. In 1889 he sold the farm for the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, and moved to Reno county, Kansas, where he bought the west half of section 17, in Reno township, to which he later added seventy acres to the southern boundary. In 1895 he moved to Hutchinson, where he resided for two years. At the end of that time he decided to return once more to farm life, which had always appealed to him, and bought a home in section 19, of Reno township, where he lived until his death, which occurred on March 3, 1903. His wife, who is a native of Monroe county, Ohio, still resides on the farm, at the age of eighty years. At one time Mr. Crow was owner of eight hundred and ten acres of land, most of which he divided among his children before his death. He was elected county commissioner in 1886 and filled the duties of his office in a manner deserving

of the highest praise. During his three years of service he made a brilliant record and made more improvements in Noble county, Ohio, than that section of the state had experienced in twenty-five years. Among the institutions established by him at this time were the county infirmary and the childrens' home.

The marriage of Isaac Crow to Mary A. Calvert took place on August 1, 1859. Mrs. Crow is a native of Belmont county, Ohio, spent most of her girlhood in Monroe county, of the same state. She is the daughter of Jacob and Mary (Powell) Calvert, the former of whom was a Virginian, of Scotch-Irish descent, and the latter a native of Pennsylvania, where she was born of Welsh parents. Mr. Calvert enlisted in the War of 1812, but never entered active service. To the union of Isaac and Mary Calvert Crow the following children were born: Adalaska, who died in infancy; Leola Dell, an artist, who resides in Hutchinson, Kansas; Edward Gordon, who follows the occupation of a farmer in Salt Creek township, Reno county; Charles R., who died in infancy; Cornelia, who is also dead; Elizabeth, who became the wife of Frank Danford and who resides in Reno county, Kansas; W. R., a resident of Hutchinson; George, the subject of this sketch; Roswell Holland, who died in infancy, and Otis, a farmer of Colorado.

George Luther Crow attended the public schools of Noble county, Ohio, and came West with his parents, who settled in Reno county, Kansas, about 1889. On his father's farm the subject of this sketch learned some of his most valuable lessons regarding agricultural life. After reaching the age of manhood he assumed management of his father's farm and continued at this occupation until he was able to buy a farm of his own. He bought a quarter of a section of land in Reno township, of this county, where he lives at the present time. The farm is located in section 19, township 23, range 6 west. From time to time he has continued to buy small tracts of land until he is now considered an extensive landowner. He owns eighty acres in section 18, and half a section of pasture land near the vicinity of Hutchinson, the exact location of which is in the north half of section 13, township 23, range 6 west. Mr. Crow makes a specialty of raising fine cattle and mules and has one hundred and fifty young mules on hand annually. He gives much time to the breeding of cattle and keeps a herd of two hundred and fifty head of full-bred Galloway cattle. He has kept the farm in the best state of improvement and has built, aside from other buildings, a large cement barn.

Mr. Crow has a personality which has gained for him a wide popularity in the community in which he lives. As a member of the Republican

party he has been elected to serve on the township school board. He takes an active interest in educational affairs and talks as an authority on school questions of the township. Fraternally, Mr. Crow is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Since the building of the first Methodist church in Reno township, when he acted as a member of the building committee, the subject of this sketch has taken an active interest in church welfare.

The marriage of George L. Crow and Katie Jackson took place on January 23, 1895. Mrs. Crow, who is the daughter of James Jackson, is a native of Saline county, Missouri. Her father, who was a farmer and a stockman, lived with his daughter during the four years preceding his death, which occurred after he had reached the age of seventy-four years.

Mr. and Mrs. Crow have one daughter, Oberia, who was born on December 27, 1897, and an adopted son, Gilbert, who, though not legally adopted, has made his home with the Crow family since he was three years old, or since 1905. They also raised Golden Hall from early childhood until her marriage to Ira Baldwin, a traveling man of Medford, Oklahoma.

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#### T. R. McLAUGHLIN.

T. R. McLaughlin, a retired farmer of Hutchinson, Reno county, Kansas, was born in Henry county, Illinois, January 26, 1855, the son of Dr. Josiah B. and Harriett (McMillan) McLaughlin, both of whom were born in Butler county, Pennsylvania, and are now deceased. Dr. Josiah B. McLaughlin was a doctor of medicine and practiced for many years in Illinois. He was a stanch Republican in politics and was always more or less active in political affairs. Both he and his wife were devout members of the Methodist church and brought their family up in that faith. They were the parents of ten children, all of whom are living except one. The children are as follow: T. R., the subject of this sketch; Catherine, who married C. J. Myers, a grocer of Davenport, Iowa; Henry, a fruit farmer near Seattle, Washington; Frank, a barber of Geddes, South Dakota; Lizzie, who married Richard Stults, a merchant of Oronogo, Missouri; Harriett, who married a Mr. Yergin and died in February, 1913, at Sterling, Illinois, where she was a doctor known as H. A. Yergin, M. D.; Minnie, who married Harry Beaumont, of Chicago, Illinois, and is a teacher of vocal music at Drake's University; Anna, who is the wife of Thomas Morton, a real-

estate dealer of Mitchell, South Dakota; James, a barber of Webb City, Missouri; and Grace, who is the wife of Ves Parker, a contractor and builder of Portland, Oregon.

T. R. McLaughlin received his education in the district schools of his home neighborhood, in Henry county, Illinois, and later attended the graded schools of Woodhull, Henry county. He followed farming during all of his active life, beginning this occupation in Henry county, from which he moved to Marshall county, Illinois, where he remained for eight years, and then went to Finney county, Kansas. On January 20, 1884, Mr. McLaughlin came to Reno county, settling first in Reno township, later in Grant township and finally in Salt Creek township, where he owns three hundred and twenty acres of land, part of which is situated in section 26 and part in section 27. Besides this land, he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in Hodgeman county, Kansas, which he sold. He resided in Partridge, Reno county, for four years or until August 30, 1915, when he moved to Hutchinson, where he owns a beautiful residence at 404 Twelfth avenue, East, and other property.

Mr. McLaughlin was married on December 31, 1889, in Oronogo, Missouri, to Iantha Hendrickson, who was born on March 27, 1863, in Fayette county, Iowa, and is the daughter of Ulysses and Mary J. (Cochran) Hendrickson, both natives of Holmes county, Ohio, the former born on April 24, 1832, and the latter on February 28, 1837. Ulysses Hendrickson was a farmer by occupation and moved to Jasper county, Missouri, in 1866, where he later engaged in lead and zinc mining. In 1874 he was elected sheriff of Jasper county, serving in this office for two years, and in 1888 was elected to the state Senate, where he served for four years. In 1908 he came to Reno county, settling in Center township, where he lived until his death, which occurred while he was on a trip to Jasper county, May 10, 1912. He was a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Hendrickson were the parents of six children, whose names, besides Mrs. McLaughlin, are as follow: C. Perry, a retired farmer of Hutchinson; John P., a retired farmer of Hutchinson; Minerva, the widow of Harvey Davies, a farmer of Reno county, and Cole, a commercial traveler of Hutchinson. To Mr. and Mrs. T. R. McLaughlin have been born two daughters, Freda and Katherine. Freda, who was born in Reno county, August 9, 1893, is a graduate of the Partridge high school, attended Mt. Carmel Academy at Wichita for one year, and is now attending business college at Hutchinson. Katherine, who is generally known as Cassie, was



born on April 7, 1907, and is now attending the north side grade school at Hutchinson.

Politically, Mr. McLaughlin is a Democrat and has always taken a very active interest in politics, having filled several offices in this county. While a resident of Grant township he served as clerk for two years and had been elected to the office of trustee, but did not get to fill this office on account of his removal to Salt Creek township. He also served as a member and clerk of the school board of Salt Creek township for twelve years, and as a member and treasurer of the school board of Partridge for four years.

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### THURMAN J. BIXLER.

Thurman J. Bixler, son of James W. and Josephine E. (Frone) Bixler, was born in Americus, Kansas, March 21, 1888. His father was born on October 21, 1858, and is now a retired groceryman, living in Hutchinson, Kansas; he is a member of the Baptist church. His mother was born in New York, October 28, 1862, and died in Hutchinson, March 20, 1914. She was a member of the Episcopal church. The brothers and sisters of Thurman J. Bixler are: Carrie E., who married Albert Harmon, a creamery man in Hutchinson; Sarah A., married George Schultz, a grocer in Hutchinson; Earl F., a clerk in the employ of the D. J. Farr Lumber Company, in Hutchinson; John A., a grocer in Hutchinson; Nellie O., bookkeeper at San Diego, California, in the employ of the Home Telephone Company; Gould F., chemist with Swift Company, died on July 21, 1914; Helen G., stenographer with Guymon-Peters Mercantile Company, in Hutchinson.

Thurman J. Bixler was educated at the Maple street school, in Hutchinson, passing through the eighth grade. On October 8, 1906, he went into the coal business, which he continued for three years. In 1909 he engaged in the elevator business, at 911-913-915 South Main street; this, in connection with a feed business, he conducted for about two years. In 1911 he embarked in the bottling business, manufacturing a beverage known as "Bixler's Famous Soda Water," and he is engaged in that line of business, as sole proprietor and owner at the present time. He manufactures all flavors of soda water and fruit drinks. He is also the inventor of the T. J. Bixler Automatic Bottle Feed, which is a great time and labor-saving machine in a bottling plant.

Mr. Bixler was married, April 3, 1907, in Hutchinson, Kansas, to



Orlena Rabner, daughter of Edward L. and Rachel (Horn) Rabner; she was born in Hutchinson, September 4, 1893. Her father was born in Russell county, Kansas, February 20, 1868; he is a steam-fitter in Chicago, Illinois. Her mother was born in Pennsylvania, March 29, 1868; both are members of the Presbyterian church.

John A. Bixley, besides being a successful business man, is also an aviator of some note. He studied aviation with the Benoist Aircraft Company, of St. Louis, Missouri, and with the Wright Brothers, of Dayton, Ohio, and was graduated at both places. He has made successful flights at St. Louis, Dayton and Hutchinson, at exhibitions. He holds international license No. 246, received from the Aero Club of America. He was born in Americus, Kansas, October 2, 1885; married Mattie C. Sames, daughter of William J. and Isabel Sames, in Hutchinson, February 14, 1906; the daughter was born in Hutchinson, October 10, 1887. They have four children: Dorothy Marie, born on December 17, 1906; John Albert, February 22, 1908; Dallas D., February 17, 1910; Helen M., May 7, 1912.

For two years John A. Bixler was in the poultry and egg business with his brother, Earl F., and has since been engaged in the grocery business by himself, at 909 South Main street, in Hutchinson. William J. Sames died in Hutchinson, July 25, 1908; his wife is still living in Hutchinson.

The Bixlers have taken much interest in navigation. They were the only persons in Hutchinson who had a boat during the flood of 1903 and 1904, available for rescue purposes. They made good use of their boat in saving persons and property threatened with the raging flood, and made no charge for their services. James W., Earl F. and Gould F. Bixler made a trip from Hutchinson, Kansas, to Ft. Smith, Arkansas, on the Arkansas river.

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### JOHN H. CAMPBELL.

John H. Campbell, son of James M. and Sarah A. (McDonald) Campbell, was born in Hampshire county, Virginia, April 5, 1855. His father was born in Fayette county, Virginia (now West Virginia), February 13, 1829. When a youth the father lived at Harper's Ferry, and began railroading as a brakeman in 1850 on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad between Wheeling and Washington, D. C. He was fireman on the locomotive that pulled the first train over the mountains in 1852; a few months later he was made an engineer. Railroading was very difficult in those days, the moun-

trains were crossed by a system of switchbacks, a slow and tedious manner of travel compared to the finely-equipped trains pulled by the massive engines of the present day.

The growing bitterness on account of the agitation of the slavery question between the North and the South was intensified by the John Brown affair at Harper's Ferry in 1859. Even at that time there was talk of secession and disunion by the radical southern leaders, and those who were not in sympathy with this radical sentiment found their environment anything but pleasant. James M. Campbell was a strong Union man, and, with a desire to find a location in a community more in harmony with his sentiments, moved to Illinois in the later fifties. In 1878 he came to Reno county, Kansas, and homesteaded eighty acres of land in Salt Creek township, and bought one hundred and sixty acres adjoining, which he farmed until he retired, in 1875. He then removed to Hutchinson, where he lived at 426 Tenth avenue, until his death, on February 2, 1916. He was a member of the United Brethren church and is independent in politics.

The paternal grandfather of John H. Campbell was John Campbell, who was a pioneer settler in Greenbrier county, Virginia, and built one of the first houses erected in that county. He was a farmer and stock raiser. He married Elizabeth Kesler, a daughter of Jacob Kesler, whose mother was of German descent. The paternal great-grandfather was also a native of Virginia. He was captured by the Indians and used as a pack carrier for two years before he made his escape from his captors. Sarah A. (McDonald) Campbell was born in Virginia in 1832. She was the daughter of John McDonald. John H. Campbell's brothers and sisters are: Joseph W., a farmer in Reno county, born in Hampshire county, Virginia, June 5, 1853; James C., a farmer in Reno county, born in Lee county, Illinois, in 1859, was formerly a building contractor in Hutchinson, Kansas, and Aurora, Illinois; P. L., born in Lee county, Illinois, in 1861, is a grocery merchant in Hutchinson; Jacob L., born in Lee county, Illinois, died in infancy; Lacey Ann, born in Lee county, Illinois, in 1870, died in Reno county, at the age of fourteen years.

John H. Campbell was educated in the district schools of Lee county, Illinois, and was kept at work on his father's farm when not in school. In 1877, soon after attaining his majority, he came to Kansas and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land, in section 21, township 25, range 12, in Rose valley, Stafford county; it is now a part of Union township, Stafford county. He arrived in Hutchinson on an emigrant train June 11, 1877. The water through which the train had to pass at that time was up to the

axles of the cars and the streets of Hutchinson were flooded, so that it was necessary for him to take a boat to reach the Reno House, where he put up for the night. Next morning he crossed Cow creek bridge, which was anchored with chains, and found enough grass on the other side to provide his three horses with their morning feed. Finally, after these and many other discouraging experiences, he reached his intended location and established a temporary home. He began the improvement of his land, and some time later added to his cares by the purchase of the southwest quarter of section 21, township 25, range 12, in Stafford county. In the first township election held in the township in which Mr. Campbell located, his house was used as the voting place. In lieu of a regulation receptacle for the deposit of votes an old copper kettle was used as a ballot box. Several years later this kettle was taken to St. Johns, the county seat of Stafford county, and kept as an interesting historic relic.

Mr. Campbell engaged in farming quite extensively, adding to the improvement and value of his lands from year to year. In 1886 he engaged in the grain business in Stafford county and devoted his attention to this line of business largely until 1892. In the early part of 1893 he went to Kansas City, Missouri, to engage in business with the Jones Dry Goods Company, in which he was a stockholder. In this business he had charge of the furniture, carpets and draperies department for about ten years. In 1902 he retired from the firm on account of his health. During the time he was connected with this firm the business increased rapidly from year to year, as indicated by the fact that the number of employees of the house had increased from thirty-two to one thousand and thirty-six in that ten-year period.

For four years Mr. Campbell was in the wholesale carpet business at 181 North Main street, Hutchinson, as a member of the firm of Fontron, Leigengood & Campbell, who bought the business and were the successors of Wall & Wall. Then, after traveling for one year, he engaged in the grocery business with his brother, P. L. Campbell, for four years. He was then engaged in the lumber business for two years, to 1913, when he retired. During these years, in which he had been engaged in various business enterprises, he had been uniformly successful and made large investments of his accumulated profits in lands. His holdings in real estate at the present time are: Three hundred and twenty acres in Lane county, one hundred and sixty acres in Coffey county, four hundred and eighty acres in Stafford county, one thousand six hundred acres in Hamilton county—a total of two thousand and eighty acres of Kansas lands. In addition to this he is the

owner of valuable real estate in Hutchinson, including his fine residence at 28 Sixth avenue, West. He was a member of the school board, of Stafford, Kansas, and is a member of the First Christian church, of Hutchinson. His political affiliation is with the Republican party.

John H. Campbell was married on December 24, 1882, in Reno county, Kansas, to Mary M. Warnock, daughter of Lewis W. Warnock. Mrs. Campbell was born in Missouri, February 9, 1862, and died in Hutchinson, Kansas, May 22, 1911. Her father was a farmer and died in Reno county, Kansas, in 1895. He was a member of the United Brethren church, and a Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell was the parents of the following children: Leona A. married Paul R. Hunter, a printer in Hutchinson; Irving M., in the furniture business in Silvia, Reno county; Maud M., married Mike T. Bell, a farmer in Coffey county; Jennie M., married Joseph Ray, a sheet metal worker and plumber, in Stafford, Kansas; Sarah, "Sadie" A., married Joseph Thomas, salesman in the Hutchinson supply store; William C., a farmer in Stafford county, Kansas; Andrew, attending school in Hutchinson.

Mr. Campbell is one of the live, progressive citizens of Hutchinson, a man of upright character and strict integrity, a capable business man and socially agreeable; he commands the confidence and respect of the community of which he is an honored citizen.

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#### REV. WILLIAM M. FARRELL.

Rev. William M. Farrell, son of William F. and Margaret (Cunningham) Farrell, was born in Kentland, Indiana, May 12, 1876. His father was born in Urbana, Ohio, in 1840, and died in Independence, Kansas, in 1881. He was freight agent of the railroad which passed through Kentland. Mrs. Margaret Farrell was born in Lafayette, Indiana, in 1855, and is now living with her son in Hutchinson. The only daughter, Elizabeth May, was born in Kentland, Indiana, June 12, 1878; she married Harry F. Sinclair, engaged in the oil business at Tulsa, Oklahoma.

William M. Farrell received his education in the parochial schools of Independence, Kansas, which he attended for two years, receiving instruction in that institution under the management of the Jesuits during the years 1887 and 1888. For six years after leaving that institution, 1889 to 1895, he was employed as a clerk in M. J. Paul's wholesale grocery com-



pany, of Independence, Kansas. His early ambition was to adopt the clerical profession as his life work and his plans were all formed with that purpose in view. Having to depend largely upon his own effort to secure means to obtain the necessary education to fit him for his chosen profession, he engaged in such employment as he could find. In his six-years' service with the wholesale grocery company he demonstrated the fact that he was possessed of excellent business qualities, and gave promise of great success in business lines, but his ambition was in a different direction. He left his business employment and entered the St. Benedict College, at Atchison, Kansas, and after four years in that institution graduated with a diploma in the classical course. He then entered Kenrick Seminary, in St. Louis, Missouri, graduating after two years in philosophy. He then went to Rome, Italy, and spent four years as a student in the North American College of that city, studying theology, at the propaganda school of theology. He graduated in theology with two degrees, Bachelor of Arts and Professor of Theology, in 1905, and was ordained, December 16, 1905, at the Capranica College, by Cardinal Respighi, Vicar General of Rome. After a tour of Europe he returned to America and began his clerical work, January 15, 1906, in the diocese of the cathedral of Wichita, Kansas, where he remained for two years and six months. While there, in addition to his pastoral duties, he was the editor and publisher of the *Catholic Advance*, which was the official organ of Wichita, Concordia and Leavenworth, Kansas, and of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Reverend Farrell came to Hutchinson, July, 1908, and continued the publication of the *Advance* for a year at this place. He then became pastor of St. Teresa's Catholic church, at 205 Fifth avenue, East, which was at that time a small frame building, with a seating capacity of about one hundred and fifty. The energy and earnest devotion which he applied to his work, and the faithfulness with which he discharged his pastoral duties, brought new life and spirit to his charge and the congregation increased in numbers to such an extent that the little frame church was of insufficient capacity to accommodate the worshippers. A larger and more commodious building was a necessity, and steps were taken to secure it. In this project the pastor, by his business experience and good judgment, was well fitted to take the lead. A collection to secure the necessary funds was started, September 1, 1909, and the cornerstone of the new building was laid with due ceremony in May, 1910. The building was completed and dedicated May 18, 1911, an occasion of happiness and rejoicing for this congregation, when they could look upon the completion of a work for which they had unitedly and gen-



crously contributed. The completed building is an imposing structure of brick and stone, of artistic architectural design, with all modern appointments and conveniences. The interior finish is modest and tasteful, in harmony with the general design and character of the building. The auditorium has a seating capacity of about six hundred.

There are two missions connected with the parish of St. Teresa's Catholic church, one at Nickerson, the other at Castleton, both in Reno county. The latter has about one hundred communicants.

In addition to his labors in the pastoral charge of this church and its allied missions, Reverend Farrell is assistant chaplain of the state reformatory at Hutchinson. He is also actively identified with every civic movement that has for its object the uplift of humanity and the benefit of the community of which he is an honored citizen. He is a member of the Hutchinson Commercial Club, and contributes of his influence and energy in the promotion of every enterprise that tends to the increase and development of Hutchinson, a city in whose continued growth and prosperity he has unbounded confidence. His fraternal association is with the Knights of Columbus, of which he has long been a prominent member. He is independent in politics, giving his support to the candidate whom he considers best fitted for the office to which he aspires, regardless of the political faith to which the candidate subscribes.

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### SAMUEL S. GRAYBILL.

One night at a banquet in Topeka, Samuel S. Graybill, present popular postmaster at Hutchinson, this county, was introduced as toastmaster of the occasion as "the man who knows more men in Kansas than any other man in the state;" and this prandial compliment was well deserved and probably within the exact limits of the truth, for there are mighty few persons of consequence in Kansas with whom Mr. Graybill is not, at least, on speaking terms, and with most of whom he enjoys an intimate acquaintance. This unusually wide acquaintance is based upon his many years as a stockman, during which time he traveled widely and constantly over the state buying cattle, and upon his long connection with state political circles, during which time he has missed very few occasions for mingling with his fellows at such times as politicians are wont to foregather. His jovial, whole-souled manner of greeting his fellow men has made Mr. Graybill not only one of the



*Sam S. Graybill*



best-known men in the state, but one of the most popular, and it is but fitting and proper that some extended mention be made of him here in this history of the county in which he has so long resided and in the affairs of which he takes so deep an interest.

Samuel S. Graybill was born in Juanita county, Pennsylvania, November 29, 1860, son of Amos and Mary (Shelley) Graybill, both natives of that same county, the former of whom, born in 1828, died in 1900, and the latter, born in 1835, died in 1912, both having spent their last days in Kansas.

Amos Graybill was reared on a farm in Juanita county, Pennsylvania, his parents devout Mennonites and earnest-minded people, one of whose sons, William, was a bishop in the Mennonite church. In his native county Amos Graybill married an earnest Mennonite maiden, Mary Shelley, and settled down on a farm nearby his father's home, where to him and his wife ten children were born. In 1874, attracted by the many flattering reports emanating at that time from Kansas, Mr. Graybill sold his place in Pennsylvania and with his family emigrated to this state. He bought the relinquishment of a homestead right in Harvey county and there made his new home, farming the place quite successfully until 1884, in which year he and his wife retired from the farm and moved to the town of Newton, where they spent the rest of their lives in pleasant comfort. The sons of the family were not particularly attracted to life on the farm and all engaged in business in Newton.

Samuel S. Graybill received his early education in the public schools of his home neighborhood in Pennsylvania and at the academy at Port Royal, that state, and was preparing to enter the Pennsylvania State Normal when his plans were interrupted by the removal of the family to this state in 1874. The year following his arrival in Kansas, 1875, memorable as "grasshopper year," he worked on the railroad section, afterward assisting in the development of the homestead place until 1879, in which year he went to Newton and for a year clerked in a grocery store. He then transferred his services to a Newton druggist and for thirteen years was engaged as a drug clerk, acquiring in that time a thorough acquaintance with the drug trade. In June, 1893, Mr. Graybill left Newton and came to this county, locating at Hutchinson, where he has ever since made his home. For the first year after arriving in Hutchinson, Mr. Graybill clerked in the drug store of Charles Winslow, after which he engaged in business for himself, opening a drug store at the corner of Main and Sherman streets, which he conducted with much success until 1897, in which year a severe attack of pleurisy left

his health so unsettled that he decided to get out of the store and into the open and to this end went into the live-stock business, buying and selling cattle, in which business his son presently became associated with him and they bought cattle from all parts of southwestern Kansas, shipping the same to Kansas City and Wichita, building up an extensive business in that line. In the spring of 1913 Mr. Graybill was appointed by Governor Hodges as a member of the Kansas state live stock commission and served in that capacity until the time of his resignation, in September, 1914, to accept the appointment as postmaster of Hutchinson, in which important public capacity he is now serving.

For years Mr. Graybill has been active in the ranks of the workers in the Democratic party, not only throughout this section, but in the state at large, and is one of the best-known politicians in the state. He has attended every state convention of his party since the year 1890 and is consequently one of the most familiar figures present at those biennial functions. For nineteen consecutive years he was precinct committeeman in his home precinct and was secretary of the Reno county Democratic central committee for six years; a member of the Democratic state committee for eight years and attached to the executive committee of the same for six years. He was a delegate to the Democratic national convention at Denver in 1908. He has attended every Democratic congressional convention ever held in the seventh Kansas district and for six years was chairman of the congressional district committee of his party. When the commission form of government was adopted in the city of Hutchinson, Mr. Graybill was made commissioner of health and public buildings and it was during his incumbency in that office, and under his direction, that the great convention hall in that city was erected.

On April 7, 1886, Samuel S. Graybill was united in marriage to Minnie Kirlin, who was born in Anderson, Indiana, daughter of Cyrus Kirlin and wife, who moved from their Indiana home to Newton, Kansas, when their daughter, Minnie, was five years of age, the former spending the last ten years of his life in Mr. Graybill's home in Hutchinson, where he died at the age of ninety years and four months. To Mr. and Mrs. Graybill two children have been born, Preston B., born in 1890, who, after a course in the Kansas State Agricultural College, married Bertha Templin, in November, 1914, and is now engaged in the dairy business on one of his father's farms near Hutchinson, and Marguerite, born in 1892, who, after being graduated from the Hutchinson high school, took a course in the University of Kansas.



The Graybills have a very pleasant home at 334 Sherman street, east, built in 1907.

Mr. Graybill is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the consistory of the Scottish Rite at Wichita. He has been thrice past eminent counsellor and has been honored in having held every chair in every degree of his home lodge, a distinction held perhaps by but one other Mason in Hutchinson.

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### MORRISON H. BROWN.

Morrison H. Brown, son of Dr. Felix G. and Elizabeth A. (Wakefield) Brown, was born in Washington county, Kentucky, July 24, 1871. His father was born in Indiana, January 6, 1843, and was reared and educated in Taylorsville, Kentucky, by his maternal uncle, John Wakefield. He attended medical lectures in St. Louis, Missouri, and graduated there in 1868. He began his practice as a physician in Washington county, Kentucky, remaining there until 1885, when he removed to Hutchinson, where he continued to practice his profession until his death, which occurred on April 29, 1901. Before he went to St. Louis to attend medical college, Felix G. Brown was engaged for some time in teaching school in Kentucky. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias, and of the Modern Woodmen of America; also a member of the Hutchinson Commercial Club. His church relationship was with the Southern Methodist church; his political affiliation was with the Democratic party. In the early part of the Civil War, Doctor Brown enlisted as a soldier in the Union army and served ninety days.

Elizabeth A. (Wakefield) Brown was born in Washington county, Kentucky, October 8, 1851, and is still living in Hutchinson. She was the daughter of John H. and Roxy (Weathers) Wakefield. Her father was born in Nelson county, Kentucky, about 1829, and died in Washington county, Kentucky, in 1891. He was a farmer, a Methodist and a Democrat. Her mother was born in the same county of which her father was a native, November, 1837, and died in Washington county, Kentucky, March, 1904. Her only other son, William Ernest, was born in Washington county, Kentucky, October 21, 1876. He is a traveling salesman for the Wheeler & Motter Mercantile Company, of St. Joseph, Missouri, and has offices in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Morrison H. Brown was educated in the grade and high schools of Hutchinson, and then took a position as salesman in stores in Hutchinson.

He was employed for some time in the store of P. Martin Dry Goods Company, and afterward was with the Rosabaugh-Wiley Dry Goods Company. In 1909 he accepted a position with the Ely & Walker Dry Goods Company, of St. Louis, Missouri, as traveling salesman, in which capacity he is still employed, with offices in the Rosabaugh-Wiley building, Hutchinson, Kansas. Mr. Brown is a member of the Elks, and of the Hutchinson Commercial Club. His political affiliation is with the Democratic party. He has resided at 551 Avenue, East, for many years, and is building a new home there at the present time.

Mr. Brown was married at Great Bend, Kansas, May 23, 1900, to Julia H. Wesley, daughter of Paul V. and Susannah (Godby) Wesley. Mrs. Brown was born in Paintsville, Kentucky, March 16, 1878. Her father was born in Pulaski county, Kentucky, March 31, 1849, and died at Great Bend, Kansas, where he was pastor of the First Methodist church, in September, 1884. Her mother was born in Casey county, Kentucky, March 28, 1846, and is still living in Great Bend, Kansas.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Brown. They are Eula Elizabeth, born in Hutchinson, February 7, 1902, and Wesley Ernest, born in Hutchinson, June 22, 1907.

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### PARKE SMITH.

Parke Smith, son of Albert G. and Anna (Parke) Smith, was born in Putnam county, Indiana, July 25, 1875. His father was born in Ohio, May 9, 1847, and was a principal of the high school in Greencastle, Indiana, for several years. In 1878 he moved to Medicine Lodge, Barber county, Kansas, where he engaged in the business of farming and stock raising. In 1884 he removed to Arizona, where he continued in the same line of business. He died in Pratt county, Kansas, January 25, 1886. He was a master Mason, and an active member of the Methodist church, being county superintendent of Putnam county Sunday schools. Politically, he was an advocate of the principles of the Republican party and gave his support to candidates of that party, being elected superintendent of Putnam county schools.

Anna (Parke) Smith was born in Putnam county, Indiana, June 15, 1855. She was the daughter of James and Mary J. Parke. Her father owned two hundred and eighty acres of land in Putnam county, Indiana, and

was by occupation a farmer. He died about 1882. Her mother was born about 1829, and is still living in Hutchinson. She is one of the oldest members of the Methodist church, in which she has long been a faithful worshiper.

The brothers and sisters of Parke Smith are: Goldwin, born in Putnam county, Indiana, October 26, 1878, died on July 25, 1896, from the effects of becoming overheated in riding a bicycle; Mary Alvesta, born in Medicine Lodge, Kansas, September 6, 1880, died on October 12, 1881; Roy, born in Medicine Lodge, Kansas, October 14, 1882, is in business with the subject of this sketch, in the "Brunswick Smoker," 211 North Main street, Hutchinson; Junita, born in Tombstone, Arizona, November 23, 1884, married George Lynch, who is engaged in the general mercantile business in Galesburg, Illinois.

Parke Smith was educated in the public schools of Hutchinson and attended the high school for two years. He then held a position in the store of J. H. F. Plate, grocer and baker, for three years; afterward in the grocery business with Kanage & Smith Brothers, for two years. In 1898 and 1899 he was in Arizona, as secretary of the Erie Cattle Company. Returning to Kansas, he was engaged in the restaurant business for nearly two years in St. Johns, Kansas, and afterward in the same line of business in Hutchinson for four years. In 1907 he engaged in the tobacco and cigar business, opening a store at 211 North Main street, known as the "Brunswick Smoker," which he has continued to the present time. Before coming to Hutchinson, Mr. Smith moved with his father from Putnam county, Indiana, to Medicine Lodge, Kansas, in 1878, and to Tombstone, Arizona, in 1884. He is a member of the Hutchinson Commercial Club, and also a member of the Elks lodge in Hutchinson. Politically, he affiliates with the Republican party, and, withal, he is a very pleasant and capable business man, with a willingness at all times to aid and encourage every enterprise that tends to the development of the industrial interests of the community of which he is a citizen.

Parke Smith was married on November 6, 1899, to Anna L. Wimpleberg, daughter of William and Sarah Wimpleberg. Mrs. Smith was born in Indiana, March 25, 1875. Her father was a retail flour merchant; both he and his wife died in Hutchinson in 1913. He was a Republican, a veteran of the Civil War, and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Albert, born in St. John, Kansas, September 12, 1900, is the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

## E. B. SCHMITT.

E. B. Schmitt, a well-known resident of Pretty Prairie, this county, who has been actively connected with the work of the Rock Milling and Elevator Company of that place since 1909, is a native son of the Sunflower state, having been born at Halstead, Kansas, September 4, 1880, son of D. W. and Anna (Graber) Schmitt, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Poland, who later came to Reno county and located at Pretty Prairie, where both spent the remainder of their lives.

D. W. Schmitt, who was born on June 6, 1852, was but two years old when his parents, Johannas Schmitt and wife, came to the United States from Germany in 1854 and located near Summerfield, Illinois, where they spent the rest of their lives, active members of the Mennonite community in that section of the state. When a young man D. W. Schmitt, who had become an excellent carpenter, came to Kansas and located at Halstead. There he met and married Anna Graber, who was born on September 30, 1861, daughter of John C. and Fannie (Stuckey) Graber, and who was about ten years old when her parents came to the United States from Russian Poland in 1871, settling at Halstead, this state, where they lived for about four years, at the end of which time they moved north of Mound Ridge, whence, in 1888, they came to Reno county, where John C. Graber died in February, 1907, and where his widow is still living, being now nearly eighty years of age.

In the fall of 1889 D. W. Schmitt and family came to Reno county and located at Pretty Prairie, where Mr. Schmitt engaged in contract and carpentering and made wise investments in land, being the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land in that vicinity at the time of his death on June 10, 1905. He and his wife were active and prominent in the work of the New Jerusalem church and their children were reared in that faith. There were ten of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being Ida, Gussie, John, Harry, Reuben, Daniel, Albert, Susan and Stella.

E. B. Schmitt was about nine years old when his parents came to Reno county and settled at Pretty Prairie and he completed his schooling in that village. On October 29, 1905, he was united in marriage to Mary Launhardt, who was born in Germany, April 21, 1884, daughter of Philip and Mary Launhardt, who came to this country and settled about 1895 in Hodgeman county, this state, where Philip Launhardt was killed by lightning

the next year. To Mr. and Mrs. Schmitt three children have been born, Irvin, born on November 26, 1906; Elwia, October 20, 1909, and Harold, January 20, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Schmitt are active members of the New Jerusalem church and take a proper interest in the general affairs of their home community. Since December, 1909, Mr. Schmitt has been prominently identified with the Rock Milling and Elevator Company's industry at Pretty Prairie, being now manager of the same, owns property in that town and is regarded as a substantial and useful citizen. Mrs. Schmitt is a trained nurse and a graduate of the Welch hospital at Hutchinson.

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### JAMES E. FERGUSON.

James E. Ferguson, the son of William and Nancy J. (Mills) Ferguson, was born near Bedford, Lawrence county, Indiana, on July 13, 1873. William Ferguson was born in Lawrence county, Indiana, in February, 1849. After completing his education in the common schools, Mr. Ferguson devoted his life to farming, first in Lawrence county, Indiana, then for twelve years in Texas, after which he removed to Kansas, near Sedan, where he died in 1901. Nancy (Mills) Ferguson was born in Lawrence county, October 13, 1854, and died at her home in Chautauqua county, Kansas, on October 13, 1900. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson were members of the Christian church.

James E. Ferguson has four brothers, as follow: Dillon, a farmer in Chautauqua county, Kansas; George M., a former farmer and stock man, is now in Larned, Kansas, where he is the representative of Ferguson-Shircliff Grain Company; Lee A., a stock raiser and farmer in Chautauqua county, Kansas, and Lawrence, engaged in the elevator and milling business at Independence, Kansas.

James E. Ferguson received his education in the common schools of Montague county, Texas, and in Chautauqua county, Kansas. After completing his education he was engaged for five years in the buying and selling of stock in his home county in Kansas. He then removed to Blackwell, Oklahoma, where he was engaged in the grain business, from 1897 to 1905, after which he continued the business at Winfield, Kansas, until 1908, when he located at Hutchinson, where he now has offices at 508 and 509, First National Bank building. The firm name is Ferguson-Shircliff Grain Company.

On October 28, 1903, James E. Ferguson was united in marriage, at



Sedan, to Mary Eudora Shircliff, who was born on June 3, 1875, at Haydensville, Ohio. Mrs. Ferguson is the daughter of Bernard C. and Sarah (Turner) Shircliff, both of whom are natives of Ohio.

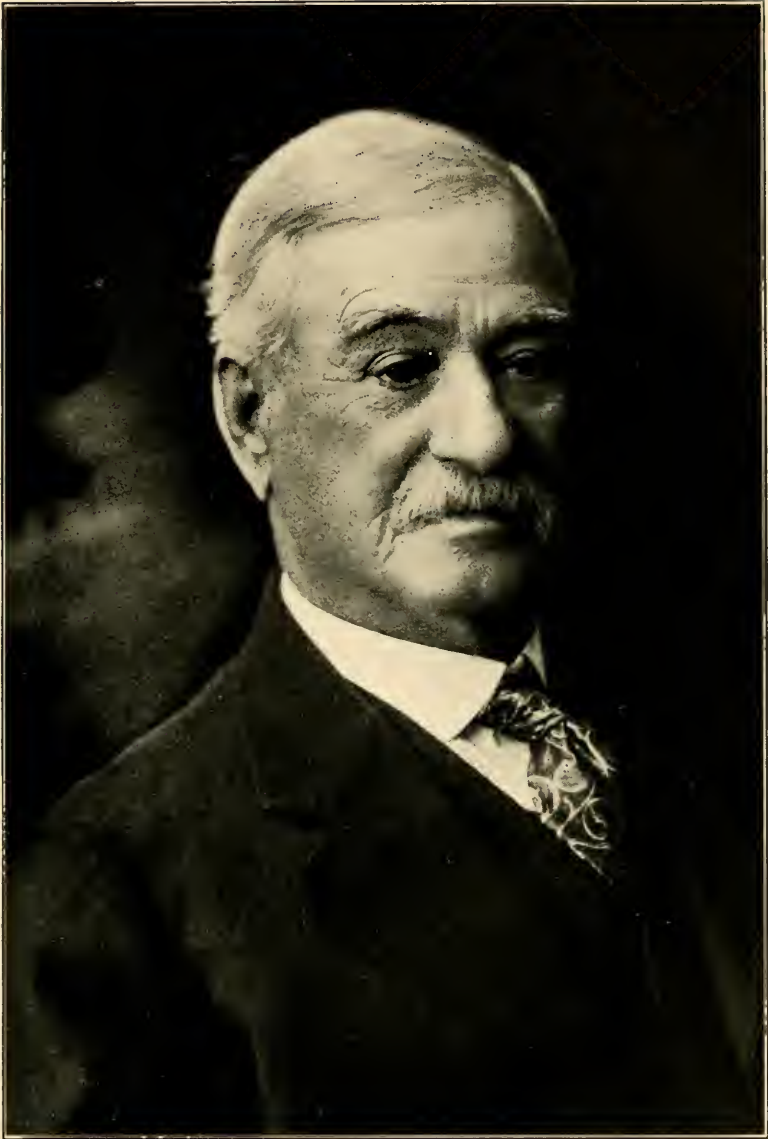
Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson have a beautiful house at 903 North Main street, where they live with their only child, Azel Eudora, who was born in Winfield, November 2, 1907. The family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church and are active in all church work.

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### CAPT. WILLIAM R. BENNETT.

Capt. William R. Bennett, head of the Bennett Mineral and Distilled Water Company, of Hutchinson, this county, of the plant and product of which he and his son are the owners, is a native of the Empire state, having been born in the town of Wurtsboro, Sullivan county, New York, on October 5, 1837, son of Captain Eli and Elizabeth (Cranse) Bennett, the former of whom, born in Connecticut in 1801, died in January, 1878, and the latter of whom, also a native of Connecticut, born in 1811, lived to the great age of ninety-three years and nine months.

Capt. Eli Bennett was the son of Amos Bennett and wife, who came to this country from England and established a new home in Connecticut, becoming influential farming people in the neighborhood in which they settled. Amos Bennett participated in the struggle of the Americans against England in the War of 1812, a member of a Connecticut regiment, and was in all ways a good citizen of his adopted country. He and his wife reared a family of eleven children. Their son, Eli, grew to manhood on the Connecticut home farm and early began teaching school, in which profession he was engaged for some years, during which period he moved to Wurtsboro, Sullivan county, New York, where for some time he was engaged as a teacher and where he established his permanent home, becoming one of the most prominent residents of that section of the state. Shortly after locating there he took a contract for the construction of a portion of the Delaware division of the Erie railroad and upon the completion of that contract embarked in the mercantile business at Wurtsboro and was thus occupied during the remainder of his active life. He was captain of the local company of the New York state guards and during the period of his activity in that connection became one of the best-known officers of the New York state militia. He was a Whig in his political belief until the formation of



Wm R Brumett



the Republican party, when he identified himself for life with the latter party and ever after ardently supported its men and its measures. Capt. Eli Bennett was called upon to serve the public in various official capacities, having served in nearly every local office, though always stoutly declining to accept any office that would require his removal from his established home in Wurtsboro. He and his wife were the parents of four sons and two daughters, whom they reared in the faith of the Presbyterian church, of which they were active and earnest members. Of these six children, the subject of this sketch was the only one to make his home in Kansas.

William R. Bennett received his early education in the local schools of his native home and assisted his father in the latter's store until twenty-one years of age, at which time he embarked in business for himself, first engaging in the flour-milling business, which he continued for a year, at the end of which time he went to New York City, where, at 631 Hudson street, he opened a grocery store which he conducted until the breaking out of the Civil War. In April, 1862, he enlisted in behalf of the cause of the Union and for some months served in the engineering corps of the Army of the Potomac, engaged in the construction of bridges, after which he returned to his home county, where he and Ira Dorrance recruited Company E, One Hundred and Forty-third Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, Ira Dorrance, captain, and William R. Bennett, first lieutenant, the enlistment dating from October, 1862. In March, 1863, Lieutenant Bennett was promoted to the position of captain of Company C and in that rank served until the close of the war, his company having the honor of being color company of his regiment. Captain Bennett saw much active service in the army and was a participant in some of the most important engagements of the great war. His regiment was at first attached to the Army of the Potomac, but in 1863 was joined to Sherman's army, with which it served until the close of the war and with which it proudly marched in the Grand Review at Washington, D. C. Captain Bennett's regiment fought at White House Landing in 1863 and was then marched double quick to Gettysburg, arriving there at the close of the great battle. In the winter of 1863-64, the division with which Captain Bennett's regiment was doing service opened up the "cracker" road from Bridgeport, Alabama, to Chattanooga and helped raise the siege there. Continuing in the Tennessee campaign, he then fought at Lookout Mountain and at Knoxville and all the other battles down to Atlanta and thence to the sea. The regiment rested at Savannah until the spring of 1865, when it was started north through the Carolinas; meeting General Johnston at Averasboro and taking part in the

heavy fighting at Bentonville, this being the last important engagement preceding Lee's surrender. Following the Grand Review, the regiment proceeded to New York City, where it was mustered out on July 20, 1865.

At the close of the war, Captain Bennett returned to Wurtsboro and was there engaged in carpentering for about a year, at the end of which time he went to Towanda, Pennsylvania, where he opened a bottling works and engaged in the manufacture of soda waters. Four years later he sold that plant and moved to Meadville, Pennsylvania, where he opened a new establishment of the same character and was there thus engaged in business for sixteen years. In 1887 he sold out and came to Kansas, locating in Hutchinson, where the next year he resumed the manufacture of soda waters and the like and has been thus engaged ever since, having been very successful, the products of his establishment having a wide sale throughout the Southwest. The plant which Captain Bennett erected in 1888, in A avenue, west, was greatly enlarged in 1908 and is now regarded as one of the most complete and thoroughly equipped plants of its kind in the state. His growing business caused Captain Bennett to erect, in 1906, a branch plant at McPherson, this state, which is also widely patronized.

On October 5, 1865, Capt. William R. Bennett was united in marriage to Mary Elizabeth Brown, who was born at Monticello, Sullivan county, New York, daughter of James and Mary Brown, and to this union five children have been born, namely: Adelaide, born in 1866, widow of Crawford R. Thobert, son of Bishop Thobert, of Meadville, Pennsylvania; Charles G., May 7, 1870, associated with his father in business, who married, in Illinois, Frances L. North, daughter of Jacob L. and Amanda (Lemon) North, residents of Chase county, this state; Elizabeth, 1872, at home; Helen Jane, who married Scott E. Lieber, of Chicago, and Josephine, who married Charles Squires, a well-known scenic artist of Washington, D. C. Captain and Mrs. Bennett have a very pleasant home at 915 North Main street, Hutchinson, bought in 1903. They are attendants at the Presbyterian church and for years have taken an active interest in good works, hereabout.

Captain Bennett is a Republican and is warmly interested in local governmental affairs, for some years having been a member of the city council. He is a member of Byron Lodge No. 197, Knights of Pythias, and is a charter member of LaRue Division No. 4, Uniformed Rank, of that order, of which he was the first captain, and for four years served as colonel of the regiment to which No. 4 is attached. The Captain is a devoted member of the Grand Army of the Republic and during his residence in Meadville was for three years commander of the Meadville post of that patriotic



society. He is a member of Joe Hooker Post No. 4, at Hutchinson, in the affairs of which he for years has taken an earnest interest and which he has served in the capacity of adjutant. Captain Bennett is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and of the Woodmen of the World.

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### ROSS E. HALL.

Ross E. Hall, son of Ambrose S. and Mary L. A. (Poston) Hall, was born in Sedgwick county, Kansas, January 5, 1890. His father was born in Missouri, in October, 1854, and came to Kansas in 1871 or 1872, where he has since been engaged in farming and stock raising. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, a steward in the Methodist Episcopal church, and his political affiliations are with the Democratic party. He resides in Castleton, Reno county, Kansas. Mary L. A. (Poston) Hall was born in Indiana, May 12, 1859, and is still living. The other members of the family are: Reese A., born in Sedgwick county, Kansas, May 20, 1895, was a student in the university of Kansas; Homer G., born in Spivey, Kingman county, Kansas, January 13, 1899, now a student at Lawrence, Kansas.

Ross E. Hall attended Lewis academy, at Wichita, Kansas (kindergarten) for six months; Center Pole township, Kingman county, school for four and one-half months; Spivey, Kansas, town school one and one-half terms; Mount Hope, Kansas, city school one-half term; Castleton, Kansas, city school one and one-half term; Hutchinson, Kansas, city school four terms, where he graduated at the age of seventeen years. He then attended the University of Kansas and graduated in the civil engineering course at the age of twenty-one years, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. He then took a post-graduate course in economics and sociology for one year; then a post-graduate course in economics and banking at Harvard University for half a year. He graduated from the University of Kansas in the spring of 1914 with the degree of Master of Arts; afterward completed a course in the Lawrence Business College, receiving the degree of Master of Accounts, being one of only three who ever received that degree. Received diplomas from Hutchinson high school and from the University of Kansas in Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees.

Since May, 1914, Mr Hall has been engaged in the lumber and building material business. He is president of The R. E. Hall Lumber Company,

incorporated, located at Hutchinson, 730 First avenue, East, a concern well established and doing a profitable business. He is a member of the American Economics Association, the National Masonic Research Society, and the Rotary Club, of Hutchinson. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, a Methodist and a Democrat.

On May 12, 1815, Ross E. Hall was married to Chlora V. White, the daughter of Lehman J. and Alice White. Mrs. Hall was born in Liberal, Kansas, April 20, 1892. Her father is a thirty-second degree Mason, a former mayor of Bucklin, Kansas—elected without opposition, is a Republican in politics, and a member of the Christian church. Mrs. Hall is also a member of that church.

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### JAMES R. LOVELACE.

James R. Lovelace, son of James C. and Frances (Cole) Lovelace, was born in Allen county, near Scotsville, Kentucky, July 20, 1845. His father was a native of North Carolina, born in that state in 1818, a son of Samuel Lovelace, who moved to Allen county, Kentucky, about 1832. In 1833 the elder Lovelace bought more than two hundred acres of land at three dollars per acre in Allen county, and engaged in farming. His wife was Sarah Cross; she died in the Allen county home in 1863 or 1864.

James C. Lovelace was a farmer. He bought two hundred and sixty acres of land in Allen county, Kentucky, about 1852, where he established a home and continued to live until his death, which occurred in 1907. He was also a cabinet-maker and followed that trade to some extent in connection with his farming business. His church relation was with the Baptist denomination, and his political affiliation was with the Democratic party. Frances (Cole) Lovelace was born in North Carolina in 1820, and died in 1901.

James R. Lovelace had eight brothers and sisters. Elizabeth, born in Allen county, Kentucky, in 1838, died in the county of her birth in 1864. She married Martin V. Wilson, a farmer and a lay preacher in the Methodist church, who died at his home in Allen county, Kentucky, in 1907. Benjamin, born in Allen county, Kentucky, in 1840, died at his home in that county in 1862. William B., born in Allen county, Kentucky, in 1842, died in 1866. Samuel H., born in Allen county, Kentucky, in 1843, is a prominent Methodist minister and is pastor of a Methodist church in Louisville.

He began his ministry in 1865. He is a thirty-second degree Mason and his political affiliations are with the Democratic party. Joseph, born in Allen county, Kentucky, in 1847, died at his home in that county in 1867 or 1868. He was a farmer, a Methodist and a Democrat. Sidney J., born in Allen county, Kentucky, in 1849, died at his home in that county in 1910. He was a teacher, and afterward county judge, and clerk of the county court for many years, having been elected to office by the Democratic party, with which he affiliated. He was prominent in the Masonic order, and also a leading member of the Methodist church. John W., born in Allen county, Kentucky, in 1857, is a farmer and merchant and is now living in Nashville, Tennessee. He affiliates with the Democratic party in politics and is a member of the Methodist church. Mary A., born in Allen county, Kentucky, in 1859, married Phineas Oliver, a farmer and a Methodist. They are both living in Sumner county, Kansas.

James R. Lovelace was educated in the schools of Allen and Warren counties, Kentucky, and spent his early years working on his father's farm. On December 10, 1861, at Columbia, Kentucky, he enlisted in Company F, Ninth Regiment, Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, Col. B. F. Grider and Lieut.-Col. C. D. Bailey commanding. This regiment was a part of General Crittenden's corps of Gen. D. C. Buell's army operating in Kentucky and Tennessee in 1862; afterward the army was commanded by Rosecrans. Mr. Lovelace participated with his regiment in all the campaigns and battles in which it engaged, including Shiloh, Stone's River, Chickamauga and the several battles of the Atlanta campaign under Sherman. He was severely wounded in the battle of Chickamauga. He was mustered out as a corporal on January 8, 1865, at Huntsville, Alabama. After his return from the army he was deputy sheriff of Allen county for several years, and afterward engaged in farming. In 1874 he moved to Indiana, where he farmed until 1881, when he removed to Severance, Kansas. There he engaged in the farming implement business for two years, and in the produce business for three years. In October, 1886, he came to Hutchinson and for twelve years was engaged in the fruit business, on North Main street, the present site of the Kress building. Since 1898 he has been salesman for the Hutchinson Produce Company.

Mr. Lovelace has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for more than thirty years. He is a member of the Hutchinson Commercial Club, a charter member of the Young Men's Christian Association, a prominent member of the Baptist church and a staunch Republican in politics.

On November 12, 1879, James R. Lovelace was married to Lanie Shaw, of Laporte, Indiana, daughter of Daniel and Julia (Reynolds) Shaw, born in Kingsbury, Indiana, April 10, 1848, and a descendant of the "Mayflower" pilgrims. She taught in the Laporte, Indiana, schools for about ten years before her marriage. She has been a member of the Woman's Relief Corps, an auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, for more than thirty years; she is a member of the Woman's Club, of Hutchinson, and is a member of the Church of God, Adventist.

The father of Mrs. Lovelace was born in Washington county, New York, August 14, 1814. One of his early recollections was seeing Fulton's first steamboat on the Hudson river. Mr. Shaw was a carpenter and builder by trade, and he also engaged in teaching school. About 1832 he removed to Kingsbury, Indiana, where he served for awhile as postmaster. Afterward he bought one hundred and sixty acres of government land, at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, in Laporte county, and engaged in farming. He was a member of the Church of God, Adventist, and affiliated with the Democratic party. Mrs. Lovelace's mother was born in Erie county, New York, August 2, 1823, and was the daughter of Abram and Mary (Willington) Reynolds. Abram Reynolds was a veteran of the War of 1812.

The brothers and sisters of Mrs. Lovelace are: Thomas J. Shaw, born in Kingsbury, Indiana, July 20, 1841. He was a prominent Chicago physician, and his son, Don Lee Shaw, was a noted surgeon. Both died in 1910. Martha J. Shaw was born in Kingsbury, Indiana, January 28, 1843, married Hiram Wincholt, a farmer; both living in Laporte county, Indiana. Flora M. Shaw, born in Kingsbury, Indiana, October 27, 1856, married D. P. Grover, assessor of Laporte county. Frank B. Shaw, born in Kingsbury, Indiana, November, 1858, is a steel worker; with South Chicago steel mills for thirty-three years. Jennie L. Shaw, born in Kingsbury, Indiana, November 10, 1860, married Robert White, farmer and railroad man. Allen G. Shaw, born in Kingsbury, Indiana, in 1863. He is a pharmacist, and is now salesman for the Colgate Company, of Chicago. Dan Shaw, born in Kingsbury, June 20, 1866, painter and decorator in Kingsbury, Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Lovelace have one son, James Sydney, who was born in Kingsbury, Indiana, June 12, 1881. He was educated in the city schools of Hutchinson, and graduated from the high school. He afterward entered the First National Bank, of Hutchinson, as a clerk, and is now one of the two tellers of the bank. He is a member of the Hutchinson Commercial

Club, Hutchinson Country Club, Young Men's Christian Association (a charter member), financial secretary of the Baptist church, and a member of the Church of God. He is a progressive Republican in politics. As a tennis player he has the honor of being the champion in Hutchinson.

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### WILLIAM ALLEN BROWN

William Allen Brown, a worthy citizen and retired agriculturist of Hutchinson, Reno county, Kansas, was born on November 15, 1848, in Shippenburg, Pennsylvania, and is the son of Allen and Mary (Cumerer) Brown. Allen Brown was born in Lititz, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and the birth of his wife occurred in the Cumberland valley, of the same state. Mary (Cumerer) Brown was the daughter of George Cumerer, a carpenter and native of Pennsylvania. She died in 1890, at the age of seventy-four years and her husband died three years later at the age of eighty-four. Allen Brown was the son of Frederick Brown, who was of Holland descent but whose birth occurred in Pennsylvania where he later engaged in the brewery business. His son, Allen Brown, spent his entire life in his native state as a farmer near Cumberland. He was an active member of the Lutheran church and was considered one of its strongest communicants in the county. Politically, he was a Democrat and active in the cause of temperance. He was the father of three children whose names follow: Israel, now living in Shippenburg, Pennsylvania; George W., who resides in Hutchinson, Kansas, and William Allen, also of Hutchinson, Kansas.

William Allen Brown was reared and educated in his native state and removed to Illinois in 1875, going from there to Kansas in 1876. He located in Reno county on February 15 of that year and has since been a resident of this locality. The first one hundred and sixty acre purchase of school land which he acquired was sold in 1901, and he then removed from Arlington township to Grant township the following year. He again invested in one hundred and sixty acres of land on which he now resides.

On February 22, 1886, William Allen Brown was united in marriage to Katherine E. Rayl, daughter of Thomas and Julia Ann Rayl, who located in Kansas in 1871. Katherine E. Rayl was born in Kokomo, Indiana, and died in Kansas on September 15, 1909. Her husband then retired to Hutch-



inson, Kansas, where he took up his residence with his brother, George W. Brown, who married Jennie Harris, and is the father of one child, Frank A. Brown, who operates the property of his uncle, William Allen Brown.

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### ALFRED L. SPONSLER.

In the Sponsler family there is a tradition that the American progenitor of that now widely scattered family, of which Alfred L. Sponsler, of Hutchinson, this county, secretary of the Kansas State Fair, is a distinguished member, was a captain in the French army, who came to America during the French and Indian wars, and after the war settled in Philadelphia, which thus became the point of origin of the family in this country. Alfred L. Sponsler's paternal grandfather, Lewis Sponsler, was a resident of Perry county, Pennsylvania, where he died at middle age. His son, Lewis Sponsler, father of Alfred L. Sponsler, was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, on October 3, 1825, and in his youth learned the trade of wagon-making, at which occupation he worked for many years. In 1849, in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, he married Maria Wolfe, who was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, September 22, 1827, a daughter of Christian and Sarah (Stoner) Wolfe, both of German descent. Christian Wolfe was a son of Henry Wolfe, who was a soldier in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War.

In 1856 Lewis Sponsler emigrated with his family from Pennsylvania to Keithsburg, Mercer county, Illinois, where he worked as a carpenter for four years, at the end of which time he bought a farm seven miles east of that city, which he improved and there made his home until 1881, when he retired from active farm life and moved to Aledo, in the same county, and there he and his wife spent their last days, his death occurring on April 4, 1893, his widow surviving until August 7, 1913. Lewis Sponsler and wife were members of the Presbyterian church, in the various beneficences of which they for years were leaders in their community. Their children were as follow: William J., who married Mary Hodgson, came to Reno county, Kansas, in 1874, and became one of the leading farmers of Reno township, where he lived until 1915, in which year he retired from the farm and moved to Hutchinson, where he is now living; Sarah, the wife of W. D. Reynolds, a stock raiser of Villisca, Iowa; George W., a farmer and stock raiser, of Mercer county, Illinois; Alice M., unmarried, who lives at Aledo, Illinois;



Ed. Hoar



Minnie B. Hoar



Alfred L., the immediate subject of this review; Anna, who is the wife of Laon McWhorter, one of the most noted breeders of Angus cattle in the United States, now living retired at Aledo, Illinois, and John L., now a prominent attorney at Muskogee, Oklahoma, who was formerly connected with his brother, Alfred L., in the newspaper business at Hutchinson.

Alfred Lincoln Sponsler, third son and fifth child of Lewis and Maria (Wolfe) Sponsler, was born in Mercer county, Illinois, on April 30, 1860, and was reared on the paternal farm in that county, receiving his elementary education in the district schools of his home neighborhood, after which he completed the course in Knox Academy at Galesburg and entered Knox College, same city, which institution he left at the age of twenty-three to study law in the office of John C. Pepper at Aledo. In May, 1885, after formal examination, he was admitted to the bar by the supreme court of the state of Illinois, and then entered into partnership with Mr. Pepper, under the firm name of Pepper & Sponsler, and practiced law at Aledo for a year and a half, when he came to this county, locating at Arlington, with the expectation of engaging in the practical law at that place, but instead, engaged in the real-estate business, being attracted thereto by the "boom" that was then under way in Kansas, and so continued in business there until November, 1889, when he moved to Hutchinson, where he has ever since made his home.

It was during the time of Mr. Sponsler's residence in Arlington, in 1888, that he made one of the most remarkable political races ever recorded in this state. He was a candidate in that year for the nomination for state senator from this district on the Republican ticket. The senatorial convention, which met at Pratt, was in deadlock from the very first ballot and after balloting for three days adjourned to meet at Turon. At the latter place three more days were consumed in ineffectual balloting, after which the convention adjourned *sine die*. Upon the next call of the district committee, the convention was held again at Turon, and after several hundred ballots, without a nomination, Mr. Sponsler, who several times had come within one vote of the required number to make a choice, and on one ballot within one-half vote of the nomination, withdrew his name from further consideration on the part of his faithful delegates and the nomination went to Hon. F. E. Gillette.

Upon locating in Hutchinson in 1889, Alfred L. Sponsler, in connection with his brother, John L. Sponsler, founded the *Hutchinson Times*, and in the next year bought the *Republican*, which they consolidated with the *Times*, presently picking up four other small papers, merging the same

with the *Times*, which they conducted under that name until 1891, in which year they purchased the *Hutchinson Daily News*, including the job shop and bookbindery connected with the plant of that paper, and merged the *Times* with the latter paper, continuing the publication of the *News* until the autumn of 1895, in which year the paper was bought by William Y. Morgan, now lieutenant-governor of Kansas and the present owner of the paper. Upon retiring from the newspaper business, Mr. Sponsler and his brother invested all their money in ear corn, which they cribbed at various points in Reno, Harper, Barber and Rice counties, and held until 1898, when they sold it at a nice profit. The next venture undertaken by Mr. Sponsler was the feeding of large bunches of live stock for the market. In this also he was quite successful and he then bought four hundred and fifty acres of grazing land in Salt Creek township, this county, and engaged in the breeding of registered Shorthorn cattle, continuing in that business until the fall of 1913, at which time he sold his herd and since then has confined his ranch operations wholly to grain farming. Coincident with his ranch operations, in 1906, in connection with Thomas G. Armour, Mr. Sponsler established a printing and publishing house at Hutchinson, the partners later organizing a building company, the Times Building Company, erecting a large office building on South Main street for their publications and put out a new newspaper, the *Times*. The next year they started the *Wholesaler*, presently merging the *Times* with the latter publication, and are still issuing the *Wholesaler*, in connection with which they also continue to operate their large printing plant, Mr. Armour being the active manager of the same.

Mr. Sponsler ever since coming to Reno county has been prominently connected with all movements designed to advance the common good of this community, and his various newspapers have ever been outspoken in behalf of improvements and good government. It was through his efforts in 1892 that the Republican state convention was held in that year in Hutchinson, the first time the convention had ever been held this far west, and during the winter of 1891-92 his efforts brought about a reorganization of the Commercial Club along lines which have proved valuable to the welfare of the city. Mr. Sponsler for years has taken an active part in politics and has been a delegate to many state conventions of his party. He was chairman of the Reno county delegation to the convention which nominated Governor Morrill in 1894. Since 1889 he has attended every session of the General Assembly in behalf of the interests of good government and it is undeniable that he has personally exerted a wholesome influence upon legislation. He helped organize the "Kansas Day" Club, of Kansas, and was



delegate to the Trans-Mississippi congress in 1894. In the spring of 1901 Mr. Sponsler organized the Central Kansas Fair Association and was its first president. He later became secretary of this association and upon the merger of the Central Kansas Fair with the Kansas State Fair (which was created by the Kansas Legislature, session of 1913), became secretary of the latter and has so continued since that time, his admirable service in that connection now having covered a period of thirteen years. He was for seven years a member of the state board of agriculture and president of that organization during 1907 and 1908. He was also a member of the board of regents of the Kansas State Agricultural College three years and largely instrumental in electing Dr. Henry J. Waters president of that institution.

Mr. Sponsler is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the blue lodge at Hutchinson, and of the consistory at Wichita, and is warmly interested in the philosophy of Masonry. He also is a life member of Hutchinson Lodge No. 453, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

On September 27, 1887, Alfred L. Sponsler was married to Minnie Bentley, who was born in Mercer county, Illinois, on September 5, 1862, the daughter of James L. and Nancy (Smith) Bentley, who was educated in the common schools, the Aledo Academy and the Illinois State Normal. To this union two children were born, Cora, a graduate of the Hutchinson high school, who attended Kansas State Agricultural College one year, took a course for voice culture in the Knox Conservatory of Music, Galesburg, Illinois, and also in Chicago for a year and a half under private tutorship; and Lewis, who, after taking a two-year course in the Kansas State Agricultural College at Manhattan, and studying voice culture at Chicago, is now a student in Chicago Voice and Dramatic Art Schools.

Mrs. Sponsler died at her home at the corner of Twelfth and Washington streets on June 10, 1915, and was widely mourned throughout the city and county, for, ever since she had been a resident of Hutchinson she had been one of its leading citizens, in every field where women were needed she ever having been foremost. She had served as president of the Women's Club, the pioneer of women's clubs in Hutchinson; had also served as president of the city Federation of Women's Clubs, and in memory of her the women's clubs of Hutchinson have named their state endowment fund for her. She was a state officer in the "P. O. E.," having been one of the leaders in bringing the national convention of that sisterhood to Hutchinson several years ago. She was intensely interested in music and was an active member of the Apollo Club. She also took a live interest in public affairs and was one of the supporters in the equal suffrage movement in

Reno county, at the same time having done considerable work, in a quiet way, in behalf of the prohibition cause in the county and state. But with all her public activities, Mrs. Sponsler's most dominant trait was her love of home life, and it was at her fireside that she enjoyed herself most. She was a woman who put her family first over all and always remained a modest home-lover, a womanly woman.

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### ROSCOE C. LAYMAN.

Roscoe C. Layman, son of Preston and Harriet (McNabb) Layman, was born in Newport, Tennessee, November 21, 1875. His father was born in the same place, September 13, 1833, and although born and reared in the South and surrounded by an influence favorable to secession in 1860, he remained steadfastly loyal to the Union. When the Civil War came, as a result of the secession, and when his native state joined in the secession movement and took up arms against the old flag, and the Union of which it was the emblem, Preston Layman refused to follow the example of his native state. He was an avowed Union man, and in consequence of his known principles, his surroundings became exceedingly unpleasant, not to say hazardous. He found it necessary to leave his home and he eventually gave evidence of his sincere patriotism by enlisting in the Union army in defense of the flag. At Bowling Green, Kentucky, in 1862, he enlisted in Company E, Second Tennessee Cavalry, and served in this command until the close of the war. Under the command of Rosecrans, Thomas and Sherman, this regiment participated in the campaigns through Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. It was in the battle of Stone's river, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, the several engagements in the Atlanta campaign, at Knoxville, Franklin and Nashville, and was finally mustered out of the service at Knoxville, at the close of the war.

In all these engagements Preston Laymen bore a soldier's part, and, after his discharge returned to his old home in Tennessee. In February, 1882, he removed to Kansas, settling in Arlington township, Reno county, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land from George Alexander. He added to his acres, from time to time, until at his death he was the owner of eleven hundred and twenty acres of as fine a body of land as is to be found in the county. He gave his attention to farming and cattle raising and was one of the most successful in that line of industry in the county.

His death occurred on November 27, 1909. He was a member of Cabal Lodge No. 299, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Arlington, Reno county; was a member of the Methodist church, and his political affiliations were with the Republican party. He served as justice of the peace of his township for six or eight years, was a member of the school board six years and was a trustee and an influential member of his church.

Harriet (McNabb) Layman was born in Newport, Tennessee, May 4, 1843, the daughter of John, and Elizabeth (Dugan) McNabb. She was a member of the Methodist church and died on March 29, 1916, at Hutchinson, Kansas. Her father, John McNabb, who owned twelve hundred acres of land in Tennessee and had five or six family servants, was born in a fort which had been erected for protection against the Indians in the early days. He was a strong Union man in the days of the Civil War, and was an active worker in the Republican party after the war. He was a magistrate and a trustee and deacon in the Baptist church.

The brothers and sisters of Roscoe C. Layman are: William C.; Orrin W., born in Newport, Tennessee; Della, born in Newport, Tennessee, and Arthur, born in Newport, Tennessee.

Roscoe C. Layman was educated in the district schools of Reno county, and in the State Normal School at Emporia, Kansas, which he attended two terms. He then taught school for two years, and was principal of the school in Langdon township, Reno county, for two years. He then turned his attention to farming in Arlington township until 1909, when he removed to Hutchinson and engaged in the transfer business for about nine months. Following this he was engaged in the real estate and insurance business for about two years. In the last few years he has devoted his time and attention to his personal business and his farming interests, which are extensive. He is a member of the Hutchinson Commercial Club and an active member of the Christian church. Politically, he is a Democrat, and was the candidate of his party for the state Legislature in November, 1914.

Roscoe C. Layman was married, May 3, 1899, to Emma E. Fuller, daughter of Daniel E. and Amy (Lynch) Fuller, of Arlington, Reno county. Mrs. Layman was born in Mahaska county, Iowa. She is a member of the Woman's Club, a member and treasurer of the Mother's Club, and a member of the State Suffrage Association, an organization that succeeded in getting the right of franchise for women in Kansas two years ago. Mrs. Layman is also a member of the local Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and was its president for two years. She is a loyal Democrat and a great admirer of Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Wilson, the latter of whom she

ardently supported in the election of 1912, not only by her vote but also by campaign speeches; her ability as a speaker is of state-wide reputation.

Mrs. Layman's father was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, in 1844, and died on September 17, 1892. He was a farmer, and a member of the Methodist church, and voted the Democratic ticket. Her mother was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, May 24, 1847, and died on April 26, 1916.

Mr. and Mrs. Layman have two children: Zora Mabel, born in Langdon, Reno county, and Velma Gwendolyn, born in Hutchinson. The family home is a beautiful new house at 307 Twelfth avenue, East.

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### WILLIAM W. REXROAD.

William W. Rexroad, a progressive and prosperous farmer of Lincoln township, this county, one of the best-known and most energetic residents of the Darlow neighborhood, is a Virginian, having been born in Woods county, Virginia, now a part of West Virginia, on November 4, 1854, son of John and Sarah (Campbell) Rexroad, both natives of Virginia, the former of whom was born in Pendleton county and the latter in Amherst county, both the Rexroads and the Campbells having been residents of Virginia for several generations, the former family being of German descent.

John Rexford was one of a large family of children and grew up on a farm. He received an excellent education and upon reaching manhood's estate married and started farming for himself. In the spring of 1873, attracted by the fine reports at that time emanating from this section of Kansas, he decided to put in his lot with the homesteaders in that section and he and his family came out here, arriving in Hutchinson on March 31, of that year. John Rexroad homesteaded the west half of the northeast quarter of section 20, in Lincoln township, and bought an adjoining "eighty," and there established his home, the family for some time living in a little two-room frame "shack." The next year the memorable grasshopper visitation of 1874 made the outlook for the homesteaders rather uncertain for a time, but Mr. Rexroad was persevering and energetic and he presently began to prosper. After awhile he bought another adjoining "eighty," thus becoming the owner of a full half section of fine land, and it was not long until he was looked upon as one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood. John Rexroad and his wife were members of the



Baptist church, Mr. Rexroad formerly having been a deacon in that church, and were helpful in all good ways in the early days of their community. John Rexroad died at the old homestead in 1895, he then being seventy years of age, and his widow survived him for ten years, her death occurring in 1905, at the age of seventy-five. They were the parents of eight sons, all of whom are still living, namely: William W., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; John A., familiarly known among his friends as "Jack," a prosperous building contractor at Ft. Worth, Texas; George W., who lives at Long Beach, California; Benjamin S., a well-known building contractor of Hutchinson, this county; James M., a well-known farmer of Center township, this county; Joseph S., a farmer, living in the neighborhood of Gage, Oklahoma; Henry J., of Lincoln township, this county, and Marion, a farmer at Goodwill, Oklahoma.

Being the eldest son, William W. Rexroad was his father's "right-hand man" during his boyhood, beginning at an early age to help out in the work of the farm, and his schooling back in his old Virginia home consequently was much neglected. He was eighteen years of age when the family came to Reno county in 1873 and he at once became an active participant in the labor of preparing the homestead tract for habitation, remaining at home until 1880, in which year he bought a quarter of a section of unimproved land in Center township, where Charles D. Evans now lives, and proceeded to improve the same. Early in the year 1886 he married and established his home on that farm, making the same his home until 1890, in which year he sold the place to advantage and for a time thereafter lived on the farm of his brother, George.

In 1900 Mr. Rexroad bought the unimproved southwest quarter of section 34, in Lincoln township, and has ever since made his home there. He has done very well in his farming operations and in 1907 erected his present fine farm house, one of the best in the neighborhood, and the year following built the large barn which is the center of quite a cluster of well-kept farm buildings, the home plot being situated on the crest of a gentle knoll, commanding a fine view of the whole of the Ninnescah valley to the south. In addition to successfully farming his own quarter section, Mr. Rexroad is the lessee of the quarter section adjoining on the south, which latter tract he devotes wholly to grain farming. Mr. Rexroad is public-spirited in his general relations to the community, progressive and up-to-date in his methods as a farmer and is recognized as one of the most substantial citizens of that part of the county.



On February 26, 1886, William W. Rexroad was united in marriage to Minnie J. Bailey, who was born in Iowa, and to this union six children have been born, as follow: Lottie, born on April 13, 1887, who married Charles Terry and lives in Hutchinson; Raymond, January 17, 1889, who married Ida Montgomery and is now farming in Missouri; Carl N., September 3, 1896, now (1915) a student in the college at McPherson; John Edward, May 31, 1898, also a student at McPherson College; Ruth, January 12, 1902, and Hazel, July 16, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Rexroad are members of the Church of the Brethren, commonly called Dunkards, Mr. Rexroad being a deacon in the church, and are among the leaders in all local good works, being held in high regard throughout that community. Mr. Rexroad was a Republican until the campaign of 1912, since which time he has been an "independent," with Democratic leanings. He takes a warm interest in civic affairs and supports such candidates for office as in his estimation are best fitted for the proper performance of the duties of the public life.

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#### HON. F. C. FIELD.

Hon. F. C. Field, former state senator from this district, a well-known real-estate dealer at Pretty Prairie, this county, and for many years a merchant of that thriving little city, is a native of Michigan, having been born in Van Buren county, that state, on July 16, 1860, son of O. H. and Rhoda (Patterson) Field, the former a native of Michigan and the latter of Canada, who came to Kansas in the early seventies and became pioneers of Reno county.

O. H. Field, an honored veteran of the Civil War, who died at his home in this county in 1878, was the son of Calvin and Samantha (Stricklin) Field, the former of whom was born at Batavia, New York, and the latter at Salem, Massachusetts. In 1837, the year following their marriage, Calvin Field and his wife emigrated to Michigan and established their home in Van Buren county, that state, where they became owners of considerable land. In 1874 he and his family moved from Michigan to Kansas and settled in Reno county, thus having been among the pioneers of this county, and here Calvin Field and his wife spent their last days. They were the parents of nine children, those besides Senator Field's father being Warren A., Herbert W., Florence E., Estelle, Oscar, Allene and two died in infancy.

O. H. Field was reared on his parents' homestead farm in Michigan,

receiving his education in the schools of that neighborhood and became a great reader and close student of affairs. He married Rhoda Patterson, daughter of Ephraim Patterson and wife, natives of Ireland, who immigrated to Canada and later moved over the border into Michigan, becoming pioneers of the Ann Arbor neighborhood. Upon the organization of the Republican party O. H. Field affiliated with that party and was an ardent supporter of its principles until after the close of the war, when he became a Democrat. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted for service in Company K, Twelfth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and served for nearly five years, afterward being prominently connected with the Freedmen's Bureau. During his military service Mr. Field was taken prisoner by the enemy and for a time was confined in Andersonville prison, later being transferred to Libby prison, whence he was exchanged. In 1876 he and his wife and their one child, the subject of this biographical sketch, came to Kansas and located in Reno county. Mr. Field took a timber claim in the Pretty Prairie section and there he died in the following summer, April 19, 1878. His widow married, secondly, Frank Nelson, of Rush county, this state, and made her home in the latter county the rest of her life, her death occurring on January 9, 1890.

F. C. Field was fifteen years old when he came to Reno county with his parents. He had received an excellent common-school education, which he supplemented by a course in Kilgore Business College. He spent two years in Colorado, prospecting in the gold fields, and then returned to Reno county, where he has made his home ever since. He became a farmer and was thus engaged until his removal to Pretty Prairie in 1893, where he engaged in the hardware business, in which he was actively engaged for twenty years. In 1913 he became interested in the real-estate business and has since then been devoting his attention chiefly to that line. He has a very pleasant home in Pretty Prairie and is besides the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and sixty acres.

For years Senator Field has given close attention to the political affairs of both county and state. He is a Democrat and in 1896 was elected senator from the thirty-sixth senatorial district, comprising Reno, Pratt and Kingman counties. He was elected in 1910 to the lower house of the assembly and served one term.

On April 29, 1879, F. C. Field was united in marriage to Sarah A. Hartman, who was born in Illinois on December 15, 1859, daughter of Amos Hartman and wife, who came to Kansas in the sixties and later came to Reno county, and to this union seven children have been born, namely:

Jessie, who married M. Winfrey and lives at Big Cabin, Oklahoma; Mabel S., who married J. J. Winfrey, a brother of the above, and lives at Kingman, this state; Clarence A., of this county, who married Alberta Smith; Chester F., of Pretty Prairie, who married Martha Soft; Edith, who married W. V. Griffith; Ralph W., who married Maud Smith, a sister of the wife of his brother, Clarence, and Oscar, who died in infancy. Senator and Mrs. Field have twenty grandchildren.

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### HERBERT C. HODGSON.

In the field of agriculture, Herbert C. Hodgson has attained a place of honor in the community in which he lives. He is a native of Reno county, Kansas, having been born there September 1, 1876, on the homestead granted to his uncle, Thomas Hodgson, in 1872. Herbert C. Hodgson is the son of William and Ellen (Ware) Hodgson, the former of whom is a native of Cumberland county, England, and the latter of Watertown, New York. It is worthy of note that the house in which the subject of this sketch was born was that in which the famous English soldier, Captain Hodgson, known for his services during the Indian Mutiny, was ushered into the world. The grandmother of Herbert Hodgson was Rebecca (Smithson) Hodgson, a cousin of the founder of the Smithsonian Institute of Washington, D. C. The father of the subject of this sketch, who follows the occupation of a farmer, was prominent in the Civil War, where he had an active part in twenty-three battles and fought under the most noted generals of that time.

The common schools of his native state afforded Herbert C. Hodgson his early educational advantages, and as a youth he became acquainted with the simple duties of farm life. He assisted his father for a number of years, after which he rented a quarter of a section of the home farm, which he uses for independent farming. In 1903 he erected on the farm a modern home, which forms the residence occupied by the subject of this sketch and his family at the present time.

The marriage of Herbert C. Hodgson to Mary Ledgerwood, a native of Green county, Indiana, where she was born in 1880, was solemnized on May 6, 1903. Mrs. Hodgson is the daughter of Andrew and Emily Ledgerwood, who came to Kingman county, Kansas, from Indiana, in 1884. Both parents are deceased. Mrs. Hodgson has been reared to the duties of farm life, and as a consequence adapts herself readily to all branches of rural

and home economics. She has devoted a great part of her time to the interests of poultry, and has a small section of the farm devoted exclusively to the raising of Plymouth Rock chickens. Two children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hodgson are Grace and Forest. In political affairs Mr. Hodgson supports the principles of the Republican party, and takes a live interest in local elections.

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#### CHARLES A. LAMBERT.

Charles A. Lambert, a well-known and progressive farmer of Roscoe township, this county, clerk of that township and proprietor of a well-kept farm of two hundred acres in the Pretty Prairie neighborhood, is a native of Iowa, having been born on a farm in Lee county, that state, April 11, 1871, son of J. A. and Alice (Schooley) Lambert, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Iowa, pioneers of Reno county, who are still living in this county on their fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Roscoe township, the highway separating their home from that of their eldest son, the subject of this biographical sketch.

J. A. Lambert born in Murphy county, Kentucky, August 14, 1847, son of Robert and Anna (Scott) Lambert, the former of whom also was born in that state and the latter in Tennessee. Robert Lambert was the son of Charles and Phoebe (Westerfield) Lambert, who left their home in Murphy county, Kentucky, in 1854, and moved to Iowa, thence to Missouri, their last days being spent in Clark county, that state. Robert Lambert continued farming in Kentucky for some years after his marriage to Anna Scott, who was the daughter of C. C. Scott, a wealthy slave owner, who had plantations both in Tennessee and Missouri and later moved to Lee county, Iowa, where he and his wife spent their last days. They were members of the Christian church and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, of whom J. A. Lambert is the eldest, the others having been C. W., James, C. D., Sarah, Margaret and Lydia. Robert Lambert died on January 18, 1879, and his widow survived him many years, her death occurring on March 1, 1905.

J. A. Lambert was reared in Lee county, Iowa, and received his education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home there. His parents were struggling to make their Iowa homestead profitable and at the early age of ten he began to contribute to the family support. Being the eldest child he was of large assistance to his father in the work of the farm



and was early inured to a life of toil. On October 18, 1853, he married Alice Schooley, who was born in Ohio, daughter of John and Edith (O'Neil) Schooley, natives of Maryland, who later moved to Indiana, settling in the neighborhood of Indianapolis, where they farmed for some years, later moving to Iowa, where they pre-empted eighty acres in Lee county, Iowa. In 1884 J. A. Lambert and family moved from Iowa to Kansas, settling in this county on a farm in Roscoe township, where Mr. Lambert and his wife still make their home, though now living alone, all their children having married and made homes of their own.

For some time after coming here J. A. Lambert left the direction of the farm to his eldest son, Charles, who, with his brothers, farmed the place while their father was working on the railroad and in the brickyard at Kingman, his wages from that source supporting the family until the farm was brought under profitable cultivation. Mr. Lambert presently engaged somewhat extensively in cattle raising and prospered, he now being the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres, on which he lives practically retired from the active duties of the farm. To J. A. Lambert and wife eight children have been born, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being Robert, who died in infancy; Alma, who died when nine years old; Oscar M., Edith, Frank, Elizabeth and Andy.

Charles A. Lambert was about twelve years old when he came to this county with his parents and his schooling was completed here. He was his father's mainstay in the work of developing the farm and in due time shared in the prosperity that marked the operations on the home farm, becoming the owner of his present fine farm of two hundred acres adjoining that of his father in Roscoe township, upon which he established his home at the time of his marriage in 1900. He erected a fine new house in 1907 and he extensively engaged in raising Shorthorn cattle and is regarded as one of the substantial farmers of his community.

On March 7, 1900, Charles A. Lambert was united in marriage to Alice Hemphill, who was born in Ford county, Illinois, on March 5, 1871, daughter of John and Sarah (Hutchison) Hemphill, the former of whom was born in Ohio and the latter in Pennsylvania, daughter of James and Nancy (Frazer) Hutchison. John Hemphill was married in Ohio, later moving to LaSalle, Illinois, thence to Paxton, same state, where he and his family lived for fifteen years, at the end of which time, in 1879, he moved to Kansas, pre-empting a tract of land in this county, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring on April 4, 1889, and hers, April 20, 1903. To John Hemphill and wife eight children were born:



Fannie, Frank, Josiah, Ellen, Howard, Watson, Alice and Anna, all of whom are living save the first-born.

To Charles A. and Alice (Hemphill) Lambert one child has been born, a daughter, Lola V., born on November 21, 1911. They are members of the United Presbyterian church, in which he has been elder for ten years, and in the various beneficences of which they take a warm interest, and are likewise properly interested in the various social activities of their neighborhood. Mr. Lambert ever has taken a proper interest in the civic affairs of his community and has served the public in the capacity of township clerk. He is a Democrat and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

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### JAMES MILLS.

The subject of this sketch came to Reno county in 1873. Settling on a homestead in Little River township he endured the hardships incident to pioneer days, passed with fortitude through the lean years which afflicted the early settlers, acquired a large estate, and is now comfortably situated in his pleasant home in Yoder township.

James Mills was born on October 6, 1850, at North Kingston, Rhode Island, the son of George and Ruth (Northrup) Mills, both of whom were born in Rhode Island, the former of English and the latter of Scotch descent. The father of George Mills was a soldier during the War of 1812. He lost his life when a United States war vessel was sunk in 1813. George Mills was born in 1814, a few months after his father's death. Grandmother Mills was married a second time and went to Ohio where she secured a land grant for her husband's war services. George Mills had an elder brother, Varnum, who lived and died in New York City.

George Mills was born in Newport, Rhode Island, but grew up in the city of Brooklyn, New York. He had to shift for himself from the time he was a small boy. He worked in a drug store and became a pharmacist, and later was employed on the police force at Newport, Rhode Island. George Mills was a member of the Baptist church and his wife was a Methodist. He died in 1896, at the age of eighty-two years, and his wife died in 1899, at the age of seventy-eight. To George and Ruth (Northrup) Mills were born eight children, three of whom came to Kansas, namely: George, who lives in McPherson county, entered a homestead there in 1875; Charles,

deceased, once lived in this state but went back East; James, the subject of this sketch, was the fourth child born to his parents.

James Mills secured a good elementary education in the common schools in North Kingston, Rhode Island, after which he worked as a farm hand near his home town. In 1873 he came to Reno county, this state, and settled on a quarter section homestead in Little River township, in section 2, township 22. range 4 west. His brother, Charles, came to the county soon afterward and took a pre-emption nearby. James Mills built a small house, twelve by fourteen feet, and lived on the homestead until 1890. He was married in 1878, and prospered during the early years of his residence in this county, presently being the owner of six hundred and eighty acres of land.

In 1890 James Mills moved to Lincoln township and bought eighty acres in section 7, where he lived until 1905. He then bought one hundred and twenty acres adjoining, to which farm he moved and where he still makes his home. Mr. Mills also bought four hundred and eighty acres in section 1, in Lincoln township, and now owns six hundred and eighty acres in all. He feeds a small herd of cattle each year, but devotes his attention chiefly to grain farming.

On October 1, 1878, James Mills was married to Julia E. Hobson, who was born in Campbell county, Kentucky, the daughter of Benjames James and Mary Elizabeth (Watson) Hobson, native of Virginia and Maryland, respectively, who were married in Washington, D. C.

Benjames J. Hobson was a machinist by trade and located on Licking river, in Campbell county, Kentucky, where he operated a saw-mill. From there he went to Covington, Kentucky, and conducted a large distillery for a few years. In 1872 he brought his family to Reno county, and took up a timber claim in section 2, in Little River township. Mr. Hobson made an unsuccessful attempt at raising peppermint, but found the climate unsuited to that crop. Leaving his family in Kansas he went back to Kentucky to secure employment, but soon returned to this state. Later he had charge of a distillery at Peoria, Illinois, for a number of years. Benjames J. Hobson was born on November 3, 1828. He now makes his home with his son-in-law, Mr. Mills. Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Hobson died in 1902, at the age of sixty-eight years.

James and Julia E. (Hobson) Mills were the parents of eight children, as follow: Edith, who was born in August, 1880, was assistant of an Indian school in New Mexico, and is now living at home; Louie, who was born in 1882, married Walter Duncan and lives on part of her father's farm

in Yoder township; Benjames J., who was born in August, 1884, is a farmer in Oklahoma; George, who was born in October, 1886, is a machinist; Fred, who was born in March, 1880, married Lois Wilson and lives on the home farm in Lincoln township; David, born in February, 1895; Robert, born in February, 1897, and Reba, born in December, 1904, are at home.

Mr. Mills usually supports the Republican party in national issues, but is an independent in local affairs, preferring the man best suited for the office regardless of party. He is always found ready to support any measure calculated to promote the welfare of the county, and has served as a member of the school board. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Mrs. Julia Mills is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. James Mills has had no small part in introducing modern farming methods into this section, and his success has been a valuable example in the community. Mr. and Mrs. Mills have many friends among whom they are held in high esteem.

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#### BARCLAY L. JESSUP.

Barclay L. Jessup, cashier of the State Bank of Abbyville, this county, and one of the leaders in the financial and commercial life of that part of the county, is a native Hoosier, but has been a resident of this county ever since he was nine years old and may therefore be looked upon as an "old-timer" hereabout. He was born near the city of Greenfield, in Hancock county, Indiana, October 1, 1877, son of J. B. and Elmira (Ferrin) Jessup, the former of whom was born in that same county and the latter in the city of Indianapolis, Indiana, who for years have made their home in the western part of this county.

J. B. Jessup was engaged in the lumber business in Indiana, which he sold and moved to Kansas in the fall of 1886 and settled at Peace Creek in Reno county, whence, after a short time he moved on to Colorado, but in 1888 returned to Reno county and bought a farm near Sylvia, in the western part of the county, where he has ever since made his home, being engaged in general farming and stock raising. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and he and his wife are active members of the United Brethren church. They are the parents of three children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being Marion and Victor.

Barclay L. Jessup was about nine years old when he came with his parents from Indiana to Reno county and his schooling was continued in

the Sylvia schools, upon completing the course at which he began teaching school, later attending the normal school at Salina, after which he taught another term of school and then took a course in the business college at Kansas City. The following fall he put out a crop of wheat and then entered the employ of a merchant at Hutchinson, for whom he clerked until the first of January, 1900, when he entered the State Bank of Sylvia as a bookkeeper and was thus engaged for two years and nine months, at the end of which time he went to Denver, Colorado, where for a time he was engaged as reporter for the International Mercantile Agency. He then was given charge of a supply store in the Clear Creek, gold-mining district of Colorado, and remained there eight months, at the end of which time he was called back to Reno county as cashier of the State Bank of Abbyville, which position he has held ever since. Mr. Jessup entered upon his duties as cashier of the bank on September 1, 1903, and since then has come to be regarded as one of the leading bankers and business men of that part of the county. He also has extensive farming interests in this county and is secretary and one of the directors of a telephone company.

In 1909 Barclay L. Jessup was united in marriage to Alma Curnutt, and to this union two children have been born, Ruth and Frieda. Mr. Jessup is a Republican and is a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellow fraternities, in the affairs of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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#### WILLIAM R. CROW.

William R. Crow, the son of Isaac and Mary A. (Calvert) Crow, was born in Harriettsville, Noble county, Ohio, on May 24, 1870. Isaac Crow was a farmer and stock raiser and came to Reno township in 1889 where he accumulated eight hundred and ten acres of land in sections 17 and 19. In 1900 he retired from active life and moved to Hutchinson where he died at his home, 1217 Eleventh avenue west, in 1904. Isaac Crow was a native of Harriettsville, Ohio. Mary A. (Calvert) Crow was born in Belmont County, Ohio, and is still living at 106 Ninth avenue east, Hutchinson. Mr. Crow was a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and he and his wife were active members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

To Isaac Crow and wife were born the following children: William R., Leola Dell, Edwin G., Elizabeth, the wife of E. F. Danford; George L. and Otis H.







Gertrude Crow  
W. R. Crow



PRIZES RECEIVED BY WILLIAM R. CROW FOR SWINE EXHIBITS.



William R. Crow was educated in the district school of Noble county, Ohio, and in Reno county, Kansas. He came to Reno county in 1889 with his father and engaged in farming and stock raising. In 1892 he bought the southeast quarter of section 24, township 23 south, range 7 west, which had been homesteaded by J. D. Langlois. Mr. Crow sold the place, when he removed to Hutchinson, in 1896, to engage in the cattle and hog business. He now lives at 1300 South Poplar street, where he owns a fine home and seventeen acres of land.

Mr. Crow and his sons are engaged in the cattle and the hog business under the firm name of William R. Crow & Sons. They make a specialty of breeding the very best Duroc-Jersey hogs and their success has been most satisfactory. The two sons, Philip Ladd and Francis Luther have added greatly to the success of the business. The industry was started but fourteen years ago on a very small scale. While Mr. Crow was working in a creamery he purchased a few hogs and developed them mostly on buttermilk. Under the careful care of Mrs. Crow the hogs thrived and in time some of them were exhibited at the county fair, but no ribbons were won. The showing made at this time encouraged both Mr. and Mrs. Crow and they determined to purchase some of the very best hogs that it was possible for them to get. Having made the decision, Mrs. Crow went to Wichita and purchased a pair of Durocs from J. U. Howe for one hundred dollars, which was as much as they could afford to invest at that time. The next fall they won one hundred and twenty dollars in premiums. In 1913 their hogs won a silver trophy at Hutchinson, at the state fair, being the best young herd of Durocs. In 1914 they won a solid silver pitcher for best young herd; in 1915 they won silver medals at Topeka and at Hutchinson. The prizes were all valued at from seventy-five to one hundred dollars each and were given by the National Duroc-Jersey Record Association. In 1915 the state of Kansas had selected the herd belonging to Mr. Crow for exhibition at the San Francisco exposition, but owing to the outbreak of the "foot and mouth" disease that year they were not allowed to transport them.

On May 4, 1892, William R. Crow was united in marriage to Minnie Eisiminger, the daughter of Harvey Eisiminger and wife. Mrs. Crow was a native of Broadwell, Illinois, where she was born on October 5, 1870. To this union one son was born, Harvey, who was born on March 18, 1893. He is a graduate of the business college at Hutchinson and at present is a book-keeper for the Arlington Hardware Company, at Arlington.

On November 25, 1897, William R. Crow was united in marriage at  
(21a)

Hutchinson, to Gertrude Phillips, the daughter of William and Helen A. (Root) Phillips. Mrs. Crow was a native of Kalamazoo, Michigan, where she was born on February 24, 1871.

William Phillips was born in Leroy, New York, and came to Kansas in 1875 and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in Lincoln township. He later sold this place and removed to Kalamazoo county, Michigan, where he engaged in farming until his death in 1885. Mr. Phillips was a veteran of the Civil War, having first enlisted in New York and served two years, after which he enlisted at Kalamazoo and served until the close of the war.

Helen A. (Root) Phillips was a native of Michigan, where she lived for many years. In 1886 after the death of her husband, William Phillips, she came to Kansas, where she homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land and where she lived for three years. She later sold the place and moved to Hutchinson. In 1898 she was united in marriage to B. H. Pickett, a farmer of Clay township and they resided at their home in this township until her death on March 2, 1916.

The brothers and sisters of Gertrude Crow are as follow: Nellie, the wife of George E. Reed; Christa, the wife of James McMullin; Margaret, who died at the age of four; Lotta, the wife of George Chesbro; Louie, the wife of Aaron Phelps, and Blanche, the wife of C. V. Wilson.

To William and Gertrude Crow have been born the following children: Philip Ladd, born on January 11, 1899; Francis Luther, August 4, 1900; Mary, February 5, 1905; Edward Robert, June 7, 1909; Catherine Alberta, April 7, 1911, and Josephine Elizabeth, March 15, 1915.

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#### REV. DUDLEY DENTON AKIN, D. D.

The Rev. Dudley Denton Akin, D. D., superintendent of the Hutchinson district of the Methodist Episcopal church and for many years one of the best-known and most influential ministers of the gospel in the state of Kansas, is a native of Kentucky, having been born in the town of Lancaster, that state, February 16, 1844, son of Joseph and Josephine (Woodruff) Akin, both natives of that same state, the former born in 1814 and the latter in 1822.

Joseph Akin was a merchant tailor at Lancaster and spent his last days there, his death occurring in April, 1846. His widow survived him many years, her death occurring at the home of her son, the subject of this sketch,



at Lyons, Kansas, on March 20, 1894. Joseph Akin was a Methodist and his wife was a Presbyterian. They were the parents of four children, of whom Doctor Akin is now the only survivor, the others having been as follows: Elizabeth, who married Frank Hopkins, a hotel keeper at Halifax, Nova Scotia, now deceased; Joseph, who was a printer at Port Gibson, Mississippi, and Josephine, who married John Davis, a farmer, of Sulphur Well, Jessamine county, Kentucky, now deceased.

Dudley D. Akin was reared at Lancaster, Kentucky, receiving his elementary education in the "pay" schools of that place, supplementing the same by a course in Professor Babcock's seminary there. He then began clerking in the general store of Rochester & McNeil at Lancaster and was thus engaged until he entered the service of the Union army at eighteen years of age. He enlisted on August 21, 1862, in Company A, Eleventh Regiment, Kentucky Cavalry, under Colonel Riley, and served to the close of the war, a part of which service was performed under Colonel Holman and part under Colonel Graham. He was mustered in at the old fair grounds at Louisville, Kentucky, as a first sergeant and served with that rank throughout the war, being mustered out at Camp Chase, near Columbus, Ohio, on May 21, 1865. During this service Sergeant Akin participated in the battles at Creelsburg, Kentucky; Athens, Philadelphia, Maysville, Moss Creek and Knoxville, Tennessee, and helped pursue General Morgan, the famous Confederate cavalry raider, through Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio and was one of the force of twenty which led the advance of two hundred and forty under Major George W. Rue, when Morgan was captured near New Lisbon, Ohio. As amanuensis he wrote the draft of the official report on the capture of Morgan, dictated by Majors Rue and Graham and Captain Pond. On May 12, 1864, while attached to Sherman's army, Sergeant Akin was captured by the enemy and for seven months was held prisoner; four months in Andersonville prison and three months in the prison pen at Florence, Alabama, being one of the four members of the squad of twenty-one captured with him who survived the terrible ordeal. Sergeant Akin was not wounded during his period of service.

Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Akin returned to his home in Kentucky and in the fall of 1865 was married. For six years thereafter he was engaged in farming and then, feeling strong within him the call to the gospel ministry, entered Ayers Academy in Madison county, Kentucky, and prepared for the ministry. Following his ordination to service in the Methodist Episcopal church he entered the itinerant ministry

in February 26, 1872, and has ever since been actively engaged in the service of the church. Doctor Akin recalls that for his first year's service he received one hundred and seventy-five dollars, mainly in supplies of one kind and another. He remained in the Kentucky conference, pastor of churches at Vanceburg and at Covington, until the fall of 1880, when he was transferred to the Kansas conference and ever since has labored in behalf of Methodism in this state, a period of more than thirty-five years, his whole period of consecutive and effective service on behalf of the church being now more than forty-four years, during which time his yearly salary has averaged one thousand two hundred and ninety-four dollars. During his period of service in this state Doctor Akin has been pastor of churches at McPherson, Eldorado, Hutchinson (First church), Wichita (Emporia avenue), Arkansas City, Lyons, Peabody, Marion and Sterling. In 1905 he received the appointment as district superintendent of the McPherson district of the Southwest Kansas conference, in which position he served for four years, at the end of which time he was appointed superintendent of the Hutchinson district, which position he holds at this date. During this period of superintendency Doctor Akin has raised in behalf of foreign missions the sum of more than two hundred thousand dollars, exclusive of the amounts raised by various local women's home and foreign mission societies. He has fifty churches under his supervision, to each one of which he makes quarterly visits, besides such incidental calls as become necessary from time to time.

Doctor Akin's honorary title of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by the American University, Harriman, Tennessee, May 21, 1902. He is a Freemason and a Knight Templar and a member of the Peabody post of the Grand Army of the Republic and at one time served as chaplain of the Department of Kansas of that patriotic organization. He is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to political affairs. He owns a handsome home at 7711 Avenue A, East, in Hutchinson, besides other valuable residence property in that city; a quarter of a section of land in McPherson county, this state; real estate in Lewis, Kansas, and Manitou, Colorado, and some land and town lots in Zephyr Hills and St. Cloud, Florida.

On October 24, 1865, Dudley D. Akin was united in marriage, in Jessamine county, Kentucky, to Sarah E. Sagerser, who was born in that county in 1845, daughter of Henry Sagerser and wife, and to this union seven children were born, namely: Josephine, who married the Rev. E. J.

Harper, an Episcopal minister at St. Catherines, Canada; James, a book-keeper at Arkansas City, this state; Dudley H., a plumber and electrician at Sacaton, Arizona; Merrill, a building contractor at Shawnee, Oklahoma; Elizabeth, who married Ross Day and lives at Claremont, California; Amos S., a teacher of penmanship at San Diego, California, and John T., a student. The mother of these children died at Peabody, Kansas, February 6, 1900, and on February 16, 1901, Doctor Akin married, secondly, Mrs. Belle (Sanders) Randall, widow of the Rev. Mr. Randall, a Methodist minister, which union was without issue. Mrs. Belle Akin, who was born at Martinsburg, Ohio, January 22, 1853, died at Hutchinson, this county, September 26 1915. At the annual conference held in Wichita, March 8, 1916, Doctor Akin was granted the retired relation at his own request.

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### WILLIAM MUELLER, JR.

William Mueller, Jr., one of the most extensive landowners and wealthy farmers in this county, being the owner of more than thirteen hundred acres, and who also acts as manager for the large estate of his father, the latter of whom is the owner of twelve hundred acres of choice land in this county, is a native of Illinois, having been born on a farm in Will county, that state, January 14, 1874, son of William and Christina (Besta) Mueller, both natives of Germany, the former born in Brunswick and the latter in Waldeck, who later became pioneers of this county and are still living on their fine estate in Haven township.

William Mueller was born in 1841 and grew up on a small farm in Germany. When he was twenty-five years old he and his brother, Christian, emigrated to the United States and settled in Will county, Illinois, where they found employment as farm hands. About that time there arrived in that neighborhood a party of German girls who had come to this country under the auspices of an immigration society, among whom was Christian Besta, who secured domestic employment in a farm house nearby the farm where William Mueller was working. Not long thereafter William Mueller and Christian Besta were married and two or three years later, in 1875, they and their baby son William, and Mr. Mueller's brother, Christian, came to Kansas, locating in Reno county. William Mueller, Sr., bought the northwest quarter of section 30, in Haven township, and his brother bought an eighty, but the latter presently sold his "eighty" to his

brother and returned to Will county, Illinois, where he is still living, a quite well-to-do farmer.

It was on that homestead tract, in Haven township, that William Mueller, Sr., and his wife laid the foundation for their present very substantial fortune. Both were industrious, frugal and willing, working together to a common end and from the very start of their operations in this county prospered. William Mueller early went in somewhat extensively for cattle raising and his operations in that line also prospered, he soon becoming regarded as one of the most substantial figures in that part of the county. As he prospered he added to his land holdings until he now is the owner of twelve hundred acres of fine land in this county, besides eighty acres of very fine irrigated land in Los Animas county, Colorado. He has erected excellent buildings on his homestead farm in Haven township and there he and his competent helpmate are now living, very comfortably. City should be put on a cash basis and a sound financial footing, city orders uated and practically retired from the active duties of the farm, twenty years ago having turned the management of the same over to their only son, William, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, who, in the meantime had been making as pronounced a success of his farming operations as had his father. William Mueller, Sr., is a Democrat and ever has taken an earnest interest in local political affairs, but has not been included in the office-seeking class. He and his wife are among the leading members of the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church near Haven and he is a stockholder in the Farmers Grain Company at Haven. To him and his wife one other child was born, daughter, Minnie, who married the Rev. Ludwig Brauer, a Lutheran minister living near Herrington, this state.

The junior William Mueller was a babe in arms, about one year old, when his parents came to this county, in 1875, and he may very properly thus be regarded as one of the pioneers of Reno county, though still a comparatively young man. In his boyhood he was inured to hard labor, for his parents were poor then and his assistance was needed in the difficult labors of developing the homestead farm. He attended the Mt. Liberty school, district No. 109, in Haven township, during the winters of his youth and later, when his father began to grow prosperous, was given the advantage of a course in Waller College (Lutheran) at St. Louis, Missouri, which he supplemented by a course in the Southwestern Business College at Wichita, this state. To this he continually added a study of the latest and most approved methods of scientific agriculture and early equipped



himself for the duties of managing his father's large estate. After his marriage, in 1896, the management of the farm was turned over to him and he ever since has had charge of his father's farms, making his home in a very comfortable house not far from the parental home on the old homestead. In his own affairs he has prospered largely, having gradually added to his personal land holdings until he now is the owner of thirteen hundred and thirty acres of land, including a farm of five hundred and twenty acres in Ford county, this state; a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Gove county, this state; one hundred and seventy acres near Anness, in Sedgwick county; a quarter section in Clay township, this county, and a quarter section in Haven township. In addition to his general farming he has gone in somewhat extensively for hog raising and does a big business in that line. He owns a couple of fine automobiles and rides around among his farms directing the operation of the same, doing everything on a large scale. Mr. Mueller is backed by sufficient personal capital to enable him to buy large quantities of grain and hold the same for a rise in the market, having realized considerable profit from time to time by such procedure, long having been regarded as one of the most enterprising and energetic farmers and ranchmen in the county.

On July 30, 1896, William Mueller, Jr., was united in marriage to Johanna Meissner, who was born in the province of Holstein, Germany, daughter of Louis and Mary Meissner, who came to the United States when their daughter, Johanna, was eight years old and located in Haven township, this county, where Louis Meissner died in 1893 and where his widow is still living. To Mr. and Mrs. Mueller three children have been born, Meta, born in 1897; Walter, 1899, and Arnold, 1911. They are members of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church and are liberal supporters of all worthy causes looking to the advancement of the common welfare hereabout.

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#### C. W. CLAYBAUGH.

C. W. Claybaugh, editor of the *Pretty Prairie Times*, was born in Trenton, Missouri, March 13, 1876. He is the son of C. M. and Lavina (Turk) Claybaugh, natives of Indiana.

C. M. Claybaugh was for many years a traveling salesman for a nursery company and made his home at Trenton, Missouri, until three years before his death, when he removed to Nickerson, Kansas, where he died



in December, 1913. Mrs. Claybaugh died in July, 1911. They were the parents of the following children: Gertie, now deceased, was the wife of C. A. Beck, an artist of New York City; Grace is the wife of J. H. Drake, of Nickerson; Mae married W. H. Wiseman, of Des Moines, Iowa; C. W. is the subject of this sketch; Winnie, deceased, and Bessie, who died at the age of nineteen years. At the age of seventeen, C. M. Claybaugh enlisted in the Union army and served for three months during the Civil War. At his death he was given a military burial at Nickerson.

C. W. Claybaugh received his education in the common and high school of Trenton, Missouri, and soon after completing his education he began working for himself. On June 18, 1899, he was married in New York City to Lenore Travis, a native of Missouri and the daughter of Dr. K. W. Travis, who still resides at Spickards, Missouri.

To Mr. and Mrs. Claybaugh have been born two children: Kelly W., born on July 12, 1901, and Charles W., December 2, 1903. For seven years the family were residents of New York City, where Mr. Claybaugh was engaged in the portrait enlarging business. In 1908 the family removed to Missouri, where they remained until 1910, when they again became residents of New York City, where Mr. Claybaugh had a position as operator of a moving picture show and foreman in a printing office on Long Island. After remaining there two years the family became residents of Atlantic, Iowa, where Mr. Claybaugh was foreman in the office of the *Daily Telegraph*. On July 15, 1913, the family became residents of Pretty Prairie, where Mr. Claybaugh had purchased the *Times*, which paper had been established by Percy Torrey on August 15, 1910.

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#### JACOB L. SIEGRIST.

Jacob L. Siegrist, one of Reno county's most progressive and substantial farmers, who has been a resident of this county since the spring of 1876, thus being accounted among the pioneers of the county, is a native of Illinois, having been born on a farm near the town of Tremont, in Tazewell county, that state, on August 1, 1850, son of John and Elizabeth (Yontz) Siegrist, both born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, of Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, their respective families having been represented in that community for more than two hundred years.

John Siegrist was born on January 18, 1823, son of Christian and Hettie



John Segrist & wife



Siegrist, members of the Mennonite church and well-to-do farming people of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, both members of old Pennsylvania-Dutch families that had long been resident thereabout. He grew up on the paternal farm and on April 24, 1848, married Elizabeth Yontz, then eighteen years of age, who was born in that same county on February 12, 1831, daughter of Jacob and Fannie Yontz, both of Swiss descent, but whose families had been so long represented in the Lancaster county settlement that they were firmly merged in the common Pennsylvania-Dutch stock there and who were Lutherans in their religious persuasion. Immediately after their marriage John Siegrist and his bride started for the prairies of Illinois, determined to make for themselves a home in that then remote country. They proceeded by boat from Pittsburgh to St. Louis and thence up the Illinois river to Tazewell county, where John Siegrist bought a quarter section of "Congress land" at one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre, and there, in the Tremont neighborhood, almost the exact center of the county, they proceeded to make their home. At that time their nearest neighbor was two miles distant and the dread fever and ague which then were so prevalent throughout all that new country for a time made their lives miserable, but they were stout-hearted and gradually overcame the difficulties which confronted them during the pioneer stage of their life there and eventually prospered and had a fine farm, rearing their children amid plenty and comfort; but it was nineteen years before Mrs. Siegrist was able to make a visit back to her old home in Pennsylvania.

In 1876 John Siegrist's attention began to be attracted to the glowing reports at that time emanating from this favored section of Kansas and he and his eldest son, Jacob L., the subject of this sketch, came to Reno county to look the land over. Mr. Siegrist contracted for four sections of land here, with the expectation of engaging largely in the business of cattle raising, and, leaving his son here, returned to Illinois, where he closed up his affairs, selling his Tazewell county farm for forty dollars an acre, and he and the other members of his family came to Reno county to establish a new home. Upon arriving here Mr. Siegrist had fifteen thousand dollars available for investment. He changed his mind about buying a great cattle range and, instead, decided to go in for wheat raising. He bought the southwest quarter of section 22, township 23, range 6 west, in Reno township, and a full section of school land in Salt Creek township. In 1877 he built a fine frame house on his Reno township quarter and later bought another quarter section adjoining. His house then was one of the best in this county and is still a fine country home. During the first four years of his residence here

Mr. Siegrist lost practically all his crops due to the droughts of those years, but presently began to prosper and became one of the most substantial farmers in the county. He paid much attention to the raising of hogs and is said to have shipped four of the best carloads of hogs ever sent out of this county. Mr. Siegrist was a strong, robust man and retained his vigor and interest in affairs right up to the closing days of his life, his death occurring on August 15, 1907, at the age of eighty-five years. His widow is still living on the old home place, the farm now being under the management of their eldest son, Jacob L., the subject of this sketch.

To John and Elizabeth (Yontz) Siegrist seven children were born, namely: Jacob L., of whom further mention will be made later; Mary, who married George Spangenberg and lives on a farm in Reno township; Abraham, a former well-known Reno township farmer, who died in 1913; George W., a prosperous grain merchant at Whiteside, this county; Hettie, who married William Hodson and lives at Herington, this state; John Henry, who died at the age of six months and two days, and Annie, who married Claud Epperson and lives in Lincoln township, this county.

Jacob Siegrist received his education in the district school in the neighborhood of his pioneer home in Tazewell county, Illinois, and being the eldest son was his father's mainstay on the farm. On April 14, 1876, he then being twenty-six years old, he came to this county with his father seeking a location. While his father returned home, preparatory to removing to this county, Jacob L. Siegrist remained here, looking over the country, for about a year, at the end of which time he, too, returned to his Illinois home and there, on February 6, 1877, was united in marriage to Libbie A. Biggs, who was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, on February 22, 1853, daughter of John and Serena Biggs, and then returned to this county with his parents and the others of the family when they came here in the early spring of that same year. Upon locating permanently in this county, Mr. Siegrist bought one-fourth of the section of school land which his father had bought in Salt Creek township and there made his home until 1902, in which year he moved to his father's place in Reno township to take the active management of the same, and there he ever since has made his home. During his residence in Salt Creek township he had added to his holdings there by the purchase of an eighty-acre tract adjoining and upon moving to Reno township bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres adjoining that place and is therefore quite a well circumstanced landowner. Mr. Siegrist is known as an excellent farmer. He claims to have raised the first acre of alfalfa ever produced on Reno county soil, now one of the county's chief crops, and also



brought to this county the first large English Berkshire hogs ever brought here. For fourteen years he gave much attention to the breeding of full-blood Berkshires and did very much toward elevating the standard of hog raising hereabout.

To Jacob L. and Libbie A. (Biggs) Siegrist five children were born, as follow: John H., born on November 14, 1877, a valuable assistant to his father on the home farm; Myrtle, November 12, 1879, who married Byron A. Eastman, a well-known farmer of Reno township, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Arthur, July 3, 1881, who lives on his father's farm in Salt Creek township; Alpha, June 9, 1887, a Reno township farmer, and Wesley, May 16, 1894, who lives on a farm in Grant township, this county. The mother of these children died on March 22, 1913.

Mr. Siegrist was a Republican but for the past twenty years has been independent, and ever has given a good citizen's attention to political affairs, but never has been a candidate for public office. Since he was twenty-one years old he has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and ever has taken a warm interest in the affairs of that popular fraternal organization.

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#### HON. FRANK L. MARTIN.

The Hon. Frank L. Martin, for years a leader of the bar at Hutchinson, former judge of the district court, twice mayor of the city of Hutchinson and member of the lower house of the Kansas General Assembly, generally regarded hereabout as one of the best informed and most learned lawyers in this part of Kansas, is a native of Illinois, having been born on a farm in Hancock county, that state, March 15, 1860, son of Gilbert and Elizabeth (Lee) Martin, both natives of Washington county, Indiana, the former of whom died in 1869 and the latter of whom is still living, being now past eighty years of age.

Gilbert Martin, member of one of the pioneer families of southern Indiana, grew up on a farm in Washington county, that state, and was married there, shortly after which he moved to Illinois and bought a farm in Hancock county, where he spent the remainder of his life, being engaged in the nursery and live-stock business. In 1863 he volunteered his services as a soldier in the Civil War, enlisting in an Illinois regiment, but was taken ill and three weeks later was honorably discharged on a physician's cer-

tificate of disability. He was a Whig and later a Republican and he and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which faith their children were reared. Gilbert Martin died in December, 1869, at the age of thirty-six years, and his widow never remarried. In 1912 she sold her farm in Hancock county, Illinois, and moved to the city of Quincy, same state, where she is now living in a ripe old age. The Widow Martin was born in Washington county, Indiana, in 1835, daughter of Richard Henry Lee and wife, Virginians, and early settlers in southern Indiana, the former of whom was a member of the famous Lee family of Virginia. Gilbert Martin and wife were the parents of seven children, namely: Mrs. Emma Crawford, who lives at West Point, Illinois; Frank L., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Gilbert L. and Granderson, twins, the former of whom is deceased and the latter a resident of West Point, Illinois; James L., a well-known farmer of Reno township, this county; D. Herbert, manager of the bond department of the Fidelity Trust Company at Kansas City, Missouri, and Mrs. Elizabeth Randall, who died in Thomas county, this state.

Frank L. Martin grew up on the paternal farm in Hancock county, Illinois, attending the district school in the neighborhood of his home during the winters, the term in the same consisting of from sixty days to three months. At eighteen years of age, when he entered the high school at Bowen, the neighboring village, he realized that he had spent far more time playing and having a good time at school than he had devoted to his books, for he found himself in a class with youngsters of from twelve to thirteen years of age, who were far more advanced in their studies than he. Recognizing the need of diligence in his studies, he buckled down to the task and presently passed the examination for teachers and was licensed as a teacher in the public schools. For five years thereafter he taught school, the last year of this form of service, 1884-85, having been engaged as principal of the schools at Dallas City, Illinois. In the meantime, during the evenings while engaged as a teacher and during the summer vacations, Mr. Martin had been diligently applying himself to the reading of law in the office of Sharp & Berry Brothers at Carthage, Illinois, and was admitted to the bar on May 22, 1885, immediately following the close of his last term of school. Thus equipped for the practice of the profession to which he had devoted his life, Mr. Martin straightway came to Kansas, arriving in Hutchinson on June 1, 1885, and has since then made his home in that city, long having been recognized as one of the leaders of the bar, not only there, but throughout this entire section of the state.

For the first three months after locating at Hutchinson, Mr. Martin occupied a desk in the office of Ricksecker & Chrisman, lawyers, and then he became the junior member of the firm of Scheble, Vandever & Martin. Three months later Mr. Scheble died and the firm continued as Vandever & Martin. In 1887 Mr. Martin married his partner's sister, the mutually agreeable partnership between the two men thus becoming more firmly cemented, Vandever & Martin continuing in practice together very successfully until 1891, in which year Judge Vandever moved to Kansas City, after which Mr. Martin formed a new connection and was a member of the firm of Swigart, Martin & Crawford until he resigned from the firm on January 1, 1892, to enter upon the duties of judge of the district court for the ninth Kansas judicial district, to which office he had been elected at the preceding general election. For four years Judge Martin occupied the bench of the district court and was re-elected, but after serving one year of his second term resigned in order to re-enter the practice of the law, the latter form of service offering a far more lucrative field than the bench. Judge Martin then formed a partnership with John W. Roberts, under the firm name of Martin & Roberts, which was continued until in May, 1900, when Mr. Roberts moved to Seattle, Washington. About that time George A. Vandever returned to Hutchinson from New York City, where he had been serving as chief counsel for the National Surety Company, having gone from Kansas City to New York, and the old and profitable alliance of Vandever & Martin was renewed and continued until Judge Vandever's death on August 3, 1907. Judge Martin then continued his practice alone until in July, 1912, at which time he associated with himself in the practice of the law his son, Van Martin, then just home from law school with a well-earned diploma, and since then the firm has been Martin & Martin. In 1914 Judge Martin was admitted to practice in the United States supreme court. He has been engaged in some of the most noted lawsuits tried in the courts of this part of Kansas and has a wide reputation as a practitioner throughout the state.

During his many years of practice at Hutchinson, Judge Martin has been one of the most active participants in the political affairs of the county of any man hereabout. An ardent Republican, he ever has been a leader in the councils of that party in this county and in 1891 was chairman of the convention that met to nominate a candidate of the Republican party for the office of district judge. For two days and two nights the convention was in deadlock. It then becoming apparent that the deadlock could not be broken, the several aspirants for the nomination agreed to the selection of

three men, one of whom should be made the nominee of the convention. Under this arrangement, F. F. Prigg, of Hutchinson, received the nomination, but he declined to accept and the convention was thereupon adjourned to meet at Burton on September 31, following, the nomination going to Mr. Martin in this latter convention. Never was a more strenuous or effective campaign made in this district than that which followed his nomination and, despite the fact that the Populists carried the state and local ticket that year, Mr. Martin was elected by a plurality of three hundred and ninety-six votes and was re-elected in the election of 1895. In 1901 Judge Martin was elected mayor of the city of Hutchinson on a platform promising that the at that time having been for some time heavily discounted in the banks. This platform was so rigidly adhered to during the administration of Mayor Martin that city orders were restored to par, and the city restored to its former sound financial rating. Such a course not unnaturally aroused much opposition in certain quarters and Mayor Martin was defeated for the nomination in 1903, but in 1909 he was again nominated and elected. The city in the meanwhile had voted to adopt a commission form of government and it fell to Mayor Martin's lot to organize the functions of local government along these new lines. In the interim between his terms of office the city again had reverted to the old slipshod methods of government and city orders again were away below par. Mayor Martin's personal influence, backed by his known financial stability, proved sufficient guaranty with the banks of the city and funds were advanced with which to run the city government for a period of nine months, by which time the mayor again had restored the city's credit. Under the commission form of government the term of mayor was fixed at three years, and after Mayor Martin had served one year of that term the city, by reason of growth of population, had passed from the status of a city of the third class to a city of the second class and it became necessary to hold a new election and Mayor Martin declined to stand for re-election. In 1914 Judge Martin was elected representative in the Legislature from the seventy-fifth legislative district and his services in the lower house of the General Assembly proved valuable to his district and to the state at large.

In addition to his extensive practice and the performance of his official duties, as the latter would arise, Judge Martin is a farmer of no mean ability, being particularly well known hereabout as an apple grower, his fine orchards on his model "Riversbanks Plantation" northeast of Hutchinson, in Clay township, being his particular pride and joy. This fine plantation takes its name from its original owner, Rivers Banks, a Kentuckian, who



homesteaded that tract in pioneer days. Judge Martin has owned the place since 1902 and has given his orchards a great deal of thoughtful attention, his profit on his apples alone last year having been more than his original investment in the place. He has added to his original tract until he now owns four hundred acres in Clay and Medora townships, of which one hundred and ten acres are planted in orchards, in addition to which he is the owner of a fifteen-hundred-acre ranch in Hayes township, stocked with fine cattle.

On June 29, 1887, Frank L. Martin was united in marriage to Nellie Vandever, of Hutchinson, who was born in the town of Pana, in Christian county, Illinois, daughter of Aaron and Sarah (McWilliams) Vandever, both natives of Illinois. Aaron Vandever was a farmer and stockman, the owner of about five hundred acres of land, who moved to Pana in order to secure to his younger children the advantage of the schools and there he and his wife spent their last days, his death occurring when he was fifty-six years old and hers in 1903, she then being seventy years of age. They were the parents of ten children, four of whom grew to maturity, as follow: George A., for years a prominent attorney at Hutchinson, former law partner of Judge Martin, who died in 1907; Amanda, who married E. N. Mexfield, a hotel proprietor at Great Bend, this state; Nellie, who married Judge Martin, and Calvin B., who lives at Ashland, this state.

To Frank L. and Nellie (Vandever) Martin five children have been born, namely: Van M., born on September 1, 1888, who after his graduation from the Hutchinson high school attended the Salt City Business College and then entered the Kansas State University, from the law department of which he was graduated in 1912, since which time he has been practicing law as a partner of his father, under the firm name of Martin & Martin; Elizabeth, October 15, 1893, who married James Farley and lives in Hutchinson; John Morrill, September 16, 1894, who after three years at the State University of Kansas is now (1915) a senior in the Washington State University; Clara, October 16, 1897, and Franklin L., March 12, 1903. Judge and Mrs. Martin are members of the First Presbyterian church and are among the leaders in all good works hereabout, they and their family being held in the highest esteem. Judge Martin is a member of the Kansas State Bar Association and of the American Bar Association, in the deliberations of which he takes an active interest and occupies a high place in the regard of his associates at the bar. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.



## WILLIAM HODGSON.

William Hodgson is a native of Cumberland county, England, where he was born on December 25, 1842. He is the son of Hetherington and Rebecca (Smithson) Hodgson, both of whom were also natives of Cumberland county, England. It may be stated in connection with the name Smithson, that the first cousin of Mrs. Hodgson was the founder of the Smithsonian Institute, of Washington, D. C.

Hetherington Hodgson was known in the county in which he was born, as a master moulder in the "iron county" of England. He worked at his chosen trade until 1837, when with his family he came to this country and settled in Taunton, Bristol county, Massachusetts, where he continued to work along the lines of his trade until 1857, when he moved to Steele county, Minnesota, where on a homestead in Deerfield township, he engaged in the occupation of farming. This pursuit proved to be unprofitable, owing to the conditions of that locality and period, and Mr. Hodgson anticipating a probable financial crisis, decided to turn his attention to another field of activity and spent two years traveling through the West and the Northwest. During that time he established a number of foundries, the one at St. Paul being the first foundry established north of Dubuque. Along the Mississippi river as far as St. Paul he put up a number of moulding shops, from which he received good wages. Mr. Hodgson passed away in 1877 at the age of seventy-four years. His wife died in 1861 at the age of sixty-three. The couple attended the Universalist church, but were "free thinkers." Mrs. Hodgson was a woman of broad education and for eleven years preceding her marriage taught in the public schools of England. Mr. Hodgson was a descendant of one of the most patriotic as well as notable families of England. His uncle, Captain Hodgson, was prominent in the Indian Mutiny, and during an uprising in India, he shot the Rajah of Bengal and also his heir, and thus owing to the fatalistic belief of Hinduism, put an end to the mutiny.

Mr. and Mrs. Hetherington Hodgson were the parents of the following children: Richard, who became a prominent physician of Stoneham, Massachusetts, died at the age of seventy-four years; Elizabeth, who became the wife of Ezra Crandall, lived for a number of years in Steele county, Minnesota, where her death took place; William, the subject of this sketch; Jennie, who was the first school teacher in Reno county, Kansas, died in 1903; Hetherington, known as Harry, who was clerk of the first court of Reno county





*Wm Hodgson.*



MRS. WILLIAM HODGSON





by appointment and later elected to the same office, was identified with stock raising until the time of his death which he met in a train wreck near Billings, Montana; Thomas, who resides in Middleboro, Massachusetts, is a well-known physician, and formerly lived in Reno county, Kansas, where he homesteaded a tract of land for his medical college funds and which he later sold to his brother William; Mary became the wife of W. J. Sponsler, of Hutchinson, and Sarah, the youngest of the family, died at the age of twenty-two, on the farm in Reno county.

When William Hodgson was two or three years old his parents moved from England to Massachusetts and later to Minnesota, where after obtaining a meager education, William Hodgson went to work with his father on the homestead. His brothers each received the advantages of a liberal education but William was content to gain his experiences through contact with the problems of farm life.

On October 1, 1861, William Hodgson enlisted in Company E, Fourth Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, at Ft. Snelling, Minnesota, and became color sergeant of the regiment. He fought under General Grant at the battle of Shiloh, and had numerous thrilling experiences. The first important battle in which the subject of this sketch took part was at Iuka, Mississippi, September 19, 1862, this was followed by an overland expedition which had for its object the capture of Vicksburg. On March 1, 1863, Mr. Hodgson's regiment left Memphis with the Ross and Buford brigades on the historic expedition to Yazoo Pass. A squad of cavalry with the assistance of two gunboats and the ram "Indianola" cut the levee on the Mississippi side, just below Helena, Arkansas, from which point the expedition was sent later, to form part of the army which captured Vicksburg. During the campaign the regiment took part in the battles of Port Gibson, Forty Springs, Jackson and Champion's Hill. In a charge at Vicksburg, Company E was seriously crippled, Mr. Hodgson and one comrade being the only members who were able to reach an advanced point in the forward movement. At Vicksburg the Fourth Minnesota was held in reserve, but seizing a chance to take his musket, the subject of this sketch joined the attacking force, and had scarcely pulled down the heavy visor of his cap when he received a wound in the forehead which rendered him unconscious for two hours. His skull was slightly fractured, but after he regained consciousness he again took part in the battle and after the middle of night he was taken from the field, having first been passed by the relief assistants as dead. After his recovery from the effects of the wound, Mr. Hodgson left

with the members of his regiment for a four-hundred-mile march from Memphis across the mountains to relieve General Thomas, who was shut up in Chattanooga, besieged by the Confederate General Pemberton. On this march the army suffered some of its greatest losses, but was rewarded in the end by the capture of one hundred and sixty-nine prisoners.

On March 20, 1864, Mr. Hodgson was granted a veteran furlough of thirty days and upon his return to the service fought under General Sherman on the march to the sea until the fall of Savannah. He also had part in the final movement which resulted in Johnston's surrender, and took part in the Grand Review which was held in Washington. At the fall of Savannah the Fourth Minnesota was the first in line in Sherman's army to enter the city, and was led by the subject of this sketch as color bearer of his regiment. Mr. Hodgson was mustered out of service on July 19, 1865. He participated in twenty-three battles, of which the one at Alatoona Heights, Georgia, seemed to him the most severe.

At the close of the war the subject of this sketch returned to his home in Minnesota, where, on the 8th of November, 1865, he was united in marriage to Ellen Ware, a native of New York, and the daughter of Rev. Thomas Ware, a Methodist minister, and Sophia (Mixer) Ware, both of whom were pioneers of Steele county, Minnesota. Mr. Ware died in 1884, and his wife, who was born in 1819, passed away in 1896.

In 1866, Mr. Hodgson bought the farm owned by his father-in-law and followed the occupation of farming for a year, when he decided to sell out owing to the severe winters experienced in that locality. He bought forty acres of land in Jasper county, Missouri, where he farmed until 1873, when on the 14th of April he made his initial appearance in Hutchinson, Reno county, Kansas. In Reno county his two brothers, Harry and Thomas, and two sisters, Jennie and Mary, had built a house on the corner of four quarter sections of land, where they had taken up a homestead claim on a full section, or one square mile, in section 20, township 23, range 6 west. The subject of this sketch bought out the interests of his two brothers in Reno county, and still lives on the land purchased at that time, where he is known as the oldest living settler in that part of the county.

In political affairs the subject of this sketch has always taken an active part in Republican activities, and for one year was township trustee, and for thirty years a member of the school board. In his religious belief he is a Spiritualist. Mrs. Hodgson died on May 5, 1906, at the age of sixty-three years, after rearing a family of the following children: Minnie Rebecca, the wife of Charles Theiss and a resident of Clay township, Reno county; Alice

and Ella, who died when children; Edward, a physician at Stoneham, Massachusetts; Herbert Clarence, of whom an account is given on another page of this volume, and William L., a farmer of Reno township, also mentioned elsewhere in this work.

Mr. Hodgson has kept up a lively interest in the affairs of the Grand Army of the Republic. He joined the organization at the time when the members were authorized to watch the movements of the Klu Klux Klan, and is a charter member of the Joe Hooker Post, at Hutchinson, Kansas.

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### ARTHUR F. PETERSON.

Arthur F. Peterson is a descendant of two families of Sweden. He was born on January 23, 1879, in Clay township, Reno county, Kansas. His father was Allman Peterson, who was a native of Elmhult, in the central and most fertile region of Sweden. He was born there on February 8, 1849. When he reached the age of twenty-two years he took passage on a ship bound for America, determined to carve out his fortune in the New World. On the same vessel was Swan Eskelson and his wife with part of their family, one of whom, their daughter, Christine, was the future wife of the young emigrant. She was born on January 9, 1851. They all arrived in Topeka, Kansas, and in the same year, 1871, Allman Peterson went on to Newton, where the Santa Fe railroad terminus was at that time. He was for five years a foreman at the round-house there, but at the end of that period he purchased eighty acres of railroad land in Clay township, Reno county, it being the west half of the southeast quarter of section 15, township 23, range 5 west. He later bought forty acres more and on his property built a small shack, which, on being burned, was replaced by another more pretentious. In 1913 he and his family left the farm for a residence in Hutchinson and there, on July 4, 1915, Allman Peterson was found dead in bed of heart trouble. His wife had preceded him, December 2, 1909. They were both Lutherans and he was, in politics, a Democrat. He was noted for his success in stock raising. Their family consisted of Agnetta, the wife of J. F. Dodge, stock raiser of Larned, Kansas; Oscar A., born on November 7, 1876, who married Mary Elizabeth Penney, and resides on a farm in Clay township; Arthur F.; Anton, who is unmarried and a broken of Hutchinson; Hilma, the wife of R. D. Schermerhorn, of Hutchinson.

Arthur F. Peterson received his education in the Okee district school of Clay township, and in the Kansas State Normal. After working on the farm for his father until 1906 he was first cashier and later claim agent of the Wells-Fargo Express Company at Hutchinson. In 1907 he and Fred Forsha formed a partnership in the brokerage business. Two years later, Mr. Forsha retired and the Peterson Brokerage Company was formed, with Arthur P. and Anton as partners. Besides handling flour and all kinds of merchandise they were agents for Armour & Company. In June, 1914, Anton Peterson took entire charge of the business and Arthur F. moved to his father's farm. He is at present renting the farm of the heirs and carries on general farming there. In 1913 he sold his interest in the two hundred and forty acres in section 13, Clay township, which they had jointly purchased in 1902, to his brother, Oscar A.

Perhaps his greatest interest lies in raising and training race horses. He has owned the horse, "Liberty Bird," by "Jail Bird," eight of whose colts have been noted for speed. Mr. Peterson has raised some very fine horses, not the least noted of which is "Silver Key," a pacer, with a 2:13 $\frac{1}{4}$  record. He has been driven and raced by Mr. Peterson's brother in Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri. On the Peterson farm at present are some splendid colts with speed prospects.

On October 30, 1912, the marriage of Mr. Peterson to Lena Tellin took place in Hutchinson, Kansas. Her parents are Peter and Emma Tellin, of Hutchinson. Mr. Tellin has a long and useful record with the Santa Fe railroad, having served that company for forty years, beginning when its western terminus was Topeka. He is retired from active service on a pension. He has a ranch at Greenwood. To Mr. and Mrs. Peterson has been born one child, Jean, born on December 11, 1913.

Mr. Peterson is a member of the Masonic lodge, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the United Commercial Travelers.

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#### CHARLES PETERSON.

Charles Peterson, son of Carl and Catherine (Ellerson) Peterson, was born in Smolen, Sweden, June 12, 1868. His father is a native of that same place, the date of his birth being April 10, 1836. He came to Yorktown, Indiana, in 1870, and later lived in Tippecanoe and Clinton counties, Indiana, where he engaged in farming and stock raising until March



1, 1875, when he removed to McPherson county, Kansas, and homesteaded eighty acres of land. In 1892 or 1893 he moved to Marquette, Kansas, and died there in October, 1909. He served for some time as a soldier in the army of Sweden before coming to America. He followed the occupation of a farmer in his native country. At the time of his death he was an active member of the Methodist church.

Mr. Peterson's mother was also a native of Smolen, Sweden. She was born on May 9, 1834, and came with her children to join her husband, who had preceded her, to Yorktown, Indiana, in July, 1871. She is still living at Marquette, Kansas, where she is an active member of the Methodist church.

The brothers and sisters of Charles Peterson are: Martha, born in Sweden, June 13, 1857, married James K. Stinson, who is at present the postmaster at Marquette, Kansas; J. Gust, born in Sweden, September, 1863, is a farmer and stock raiser in McPherson county, Kansas; Emma C., born in Sweden, May 1, 1865, married Frank Elnquist, a farmer and stock raiser in McPherson county; Josephine, born in Sweden, March 12, 1867, married Adolph Hawkinson, a farmer and stock raiser in McPherson county; Ernest W., born in Yorktown, Indiana, July 6, 1871, is a dentist and has been in the practice of his profession at Kansas City, Missouri, for twenty years; Frank, born in Yorktown, February 8, 1873, is a farmer and stock raiser in McPherson county, and is the organizer of the Farmers Union in that county; Jennie E., born in Yorktown, September 12, 1874, married William Westling, who has a general store at Marquette, Kansas; George H., born in McPherson county, Kansas, September 6, 1877, is a farmer and stock raiser in Ellsworth county, Kansas.

Charles Peterson was educated in the district schools of McPherson county, Kansas, and attended one term of normal school at Salina, Kansas. After leaving school he engaged in farming in McPherson county until 1901, when he took a position as clerk in the hardware store of T. J. Collier, at Marquette, Kansas, where he remained for two years. He then turned his attention to the real estate and insurance business in that town until 1907, when he removed to Hutchinson, where he has continued in the same line of business to the present time, with offices at 16½ North Main street. His fraternal association is with the Modern Woodmen of America, and he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Hutchinson. He is not allied with any political party, using his own judgment as to the fitness of candidates for whom he casts his vote.

On September 16, 1894, Charles Peterson was united in marriage to



Margaret E. Young, who was born at Delhi, Delaware county, New York, daughter of Stewart M. and Elizabeth (Dodds) Young, the former of whom was born on February 16, 1836, in Scotland, and the latter on December 23, 1837, in Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Young are still living in Topeka, Kansas. They are the parents of the following children: Sheldon T., born on September 20, 1866, died on September 16, 1871; William D., April 17, 1868, a miner, married Alice Turney, of Cripple Creek, Colorado; Margaret Elizabeth, January 26, 1870, wife of the subject of this sketch; Robert S., February 11, 1872, married May G. Miner, of Salina, Kansas, December 25, 1898, died on July 7, 1909, leaving his wife and two daughters, Faye and Vera Roberta; Harriet D., February 20, 1874, married W. H. Carpenter, of Salina, Kansas, November 9, 1898, and Mr. Carpenter is now proprietor of the Vallejo hotel, Denver, Colorado; Emma J., May 10, 1876, a milliner for fifteen years, died in Denver, Colorado, September 11, 1911; Stewart M., Jr., April 24, 1878, married Blanche Garrell, of Dodge City, Kansas, is general manager of the Equitable Life Insurance Company at Wichita, Kansas; James M., October 6, 1881, salesman for Armour & Company, at Denver, Colorado; George A., August 1, 1885, died on September 9, 1890.

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### JOHN D. KAUTZER.

John D. Kautzer, son of Thomas and Josephine Kautzer, was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, December 17, 1870. His paternal grandfather, Henry Kautzer, and wife, Helen, were both natives of Germany, who emigrated to America in an early day, bringing with them their sons, Joseph, John and Matthew. Thomas and Anton, two other sons, arrived later. The family settled in Manitowoc county, Wisconsin, where the father homesteaded timber land and built a rude log cabin, and there the family lived in true pioneer style. Henry Kautzer died there in 1886, at the age of sixty-seven years. His two sons, Matthew and Thomas, died at about the same time.

Thomas Kautzer came to America in 1865. He was a soldier in his native country, and a saddleman by trade. While serving in the German army he lost the little finger of his left hand by a gun shot. After coming to America he located first in Milwaukee, but later lived in Manitowoc and in Eaton in the same county. He was a Catholic in religious faith, and

his children are as follow: Frank, Edward, John, Henry, Phena, Anna, Joseph, Mary and Elizabeth.

John D. Kautzer received his education in the schools of Manitowoc county and after attaining mature years lived in Oshkosh three years, where he was employed by a street car company. In 1902 he joined his wife's relatives in Reno county, Kansas. He rented a farm nine years from his father-in-law; during these years he bought one hundred and sixty acres in Albion township, the old Copper farm, which he sold two years later. Four years ago he purchased his present farm, on which he does general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of Hereford cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. He has placed many improvements on his farm, and in 1915 erected a large and commodious barn, forty by fifty-two feet in dimensions, also bought a Reo car and built a garage. In 1916 he built a fine modern home with all conveniences.

On January 27, 1896, John D. Kautzer was married to Rose Pargeter, who was born on August 15, 1869, at Stoughton, Wisconsin. Mrs. Kautzer's father, Thomas Pargeter, was born on February 4, 1827, at Hook Norton, Oxfordshire, England. He married Ellen Durnford, who was born at Birmingham, England, January 31, 1831, and died on January 12, 1907. Thomas Pargeter was a son of John Pargeter, a native of England. His wife was Hannah Lyzard. John Pargeter was a day laborer in England, his parents having died when he was quite young. The family were adherents of the Church of England. Thomas Pargeter came to America in 1869 and located at Stoughton, Wisconsin, where he had friends. In 1884 he moved from Wisconsin to Reno county, Kansas, where he purchased a half section of railway land, paying four dollars an acre for same. While actively farming he had two sections of land under his control, rent free. His children are as follow: William George, Ethel, Fred and Harry, all born in England; Rose Ellen, Louise, Lillie May and John, born in this country. Lillie May is deceased; Jane died in England, and Thomas died in Wisconsin, at Stoughton.

J. D. Kautzer and wife are the parents of five children: Lillian, born on May 12, 1898; Dwight T., March 16, 1903; Lester, October 20, 1904; Kenneth D., September 13, 1908; Harry P., April 28, 1913, all of whom are living at home with their parents. Mildred L., born on October 14, 1901, died on March 19, 1910. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Pretty Prairie, where Mr. Kautzer's daughter, Lillian, is pianist in the Sunday school.

Mr. Kautzer is a Republican in politics, and takes an active interest in

all matters pertaining to the welfare and betterment of his home community. He is now serving as treasurer of Roscoe township. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while his wife belongs to the Daughters of Rebekah.

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### WALTER C. PEIRCE.

Walter C. Peirce, farmer and stockman, of Lincoln township, this county, who has been a resident here since he was sixteen years old, is a native of Ohio, having been born in the city of Chillicothe, that state, on March 1, 1865, son of E. B. and Ellen (Wallace) Peirce, both natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in Chester county, that state, and the latter, at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. E. B. Peirce was a Quaker in his religious belief.

This Peirce family in America was founded by Caleb Peirce, an English Quaker, who joined William Penn's colony in 1686, settling in Chester county, province of Pennsylvania, and there established his family. E. B. Peirce, a direct descendant of Caleb Peirce, was a son of Isaac Peirce, a gentleman of scholarly attainments, the author of the first encyclopedia ever printed in the United States, which he published in Philadelphia in 1816, under the name of "A Dictionary of Arts and Sciences." The publication, however, did not prove a financial success and the scholar turned his attention to something more material, during the twenties operating a saw-mill in New York City. He was an ardent Abolitionist, and his home in New York City was a common meeting place for the leaders in that cause, John Greenleaf Whittier, the poet, being among those who were wont to gather at the Peirce home. In 1832 Isaac Peirce moved to Ohio, where he bought a farm in Stark county, and was engaged in farming there the rest of his life. During the trying times preceding the Civil War his home was one of the most prominent "stations" of the "underground railroad" for the transportation of fugitive slaves to the Canadian border, and he was one of the most active "conductors" in that service.

E. B. Peirce was eight years old when his parents moved from New York City to Ohio and he grew up on the home farm in Stark county. As a boy he had the privilege of riding on the first railroad train ever operated in the United States. During his youth he attended the original Spencerian College, conducted by Spencer, the originator of the system of writing bearing his name, and for nine years was a teacher in the common schools of



WALTER C. PEIRCE AND FAMILY.





Ohio and Illinois. In 1865 he conducted a book store at Chillicothe, Ohio. He married Ellen Wallace, daughter of John Wallace, at Martin's Ferry, Ohio. John Wallace was born in Philadelphia, member of an old family of that city. His mother, whose maiden name was Margaret Painter, was living in Philadelphia when the British took that city during the Revolutionary War, and the invading soldiers raided her home while she was baking bread, stealing the hot loaves from the oven, an act which aroused her indignation. John Wallace's father, William Wallace, was a ship carpenter and helped to build Commodore Perry's fleet. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, enlisted on September 14, 1776 (Pennsylvania archives, volume 14, page 69); commissioned ensign on September 6, 1777 (Pennsylvania archives, volume 14, page 91); commissioned lieutenant in Captain Gibbs' company (Pennsylvania archives, volume 14, page 104). William Wallace's father, Robert Wallace, was a patriot soldier during the Revolutionary War and was with General Washington's army at Valley Forge and at the battle of Trenton. Samuel Culbertson, another ancestor on the mother's side, was the colonel of a Pennsylvania regiment during the War of the Revolution, and was with Washington at the battle of Brandywine. He was commissioned colonel July 31, 1777 (Pennsylvania archives, volume 14, page 391.)

John Wallace ran away from home when a boy and went to sea, joining the crew of a vessel bound for the West Indies, but it was not long before he found that the life of a sea-faring lad was not just what he had pictured it would be. The vessel had not proceeded far when the brutal captain whaled young John with a rope's end, which effectually dampened the youth's ardor as a sailor and the lad slipped over the side of the vessel and swam several miles to the Virginia shore, where he presently landed, nearly dead, but thoroughly cured of his desire for a sailor's life. For some time thereafter John Wallace made his home in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where he married Agnes Culbertson in 1825, later going to Martin's Ferry, Ohio, and again later to Harrisburg, where he spent the remainder of his life. He and his wife were Methodists, and active participants in the work of the "underground railroad" thereabout during the days before the Civil War. They were the parents of three children, namely: William, who was a college classmate of James G. Blaine, was colonel of an Ohio regiment during the Civil War and was brevetted brigadier-general; Ellen, who became the wife of Mr. Peirce, and Mrs. Rebecca Geiger, who settled at Topeka, this state, at an early date in the settlement of the capital city.

Some time after the close of the Civil War, E. B. Peirce moved with

his family from Chillicothe, Ohio, to Fayette county, Illinois, where he remained until 1881, in which year he came to Kansas, locating at Hutchinson, this county. He traded for a piece of property in that city and engaged in the real-estate business here, being thus engaged until March 1, 1886, at which time he purchased the northwest quarter of section 30, in Lincoln township, this county, and there established a new home, the farm at that time having been known as the old Captain Lacy place. Mr. Peirce lived only two years after entering into possession of the farm, his death occurring in 1888, at the age of sixty-four years. His widow survived him ten years, her death occurring in 1898, she then being sixty-six years of age. There were ten children born to E. B. Peirce and wife, of whom but five are now living, those besides the subject being as follow: Eugene, a dentist at Denver, Colorado; Rebecca, who is a nurse; Ruth, a teacher, and Jennie, the wife of Charles I. Glass, of Kansas City, Missouri.

Walter C. Peirce was but a child when his parents moved from Ohio to Illinois and was sixteen years of age when he came to this county with them. Upon locating in Hutchinson he entered the old Sherman street school, and upon completing the course there, taught school one term. In 1886, he then being twenty-one years old, he moved with his parents to the Lincoln township farm and has lived there since. When his father died, two years after taking up his residence on the farm, Walter, then the eldest child of the family who was at home, assumed general charge of the farm in his mother's behalf and upon her death, ten years later, bought the interests of the other heirs and has since been the sole owner. He purchased a quarter section of land adjoining the home farm and now has a well-cultivated and well-improved place of three hundred and twenty acres. In 1905 he built a fine, modern country house on his place, the first house in that part of the county to be equipped with a hot-water heating system.

On September 14, 1898, Walter C. Peirce was married to Mary Barthold, who was born in Napoleon, Ohio, a daughter of John Barthold and wife, who, in 1886, came from Ohio to this county, settling on a farm in Center township, where both are still living, and to this union four children have been born: Harry, born in 1899, who is now a student in the Kansas State Agricultural College at Manhattan, Kansas; Charles, a twin brother of Harry, died in infancy; Frederick, born in 1901, died at the age of seven years, and Walter, born in 1908. Mr. Peirce has been prominent in Progressive politics in his community, and to educational matters he has given his particular attention and for eleven years has been a director of the local school district.

## JACOB BOWER UPDEGROVE.

Jacob Bower Updegrove, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Walnut township, this county, proprietor of a fine farm of four hundred acres surrounding his home, besides which he owns a ranch of seven hundred and twenty acres west of Dodge City, is a native of Pennsylvania, born on a farm in Berks county, that state, son of William S. and Elizabeth (Bower) Updegrove, both natives of that same state, of Pennsylvania-Dutch parentage, who spent all their lives in eastern Pennsylvania.

William S. Updegrove was the son of Jacob Updegrove and wife, the latter of whom was a Schaeffer, earnest members of the German Lutheran church, who spent all their lives in Berks county, the former of whom died in 1874, at the age of seventy-eight years. His widow lived to be eighty-nine years old. William S. Updegrove was taught in the local German sectarian schools and did not learn to read English until he was past fifty years of age, having had to rely upon German newspapers for his information regarding current events previous to that time. He was trained as a shoemaker and worked at that trade most all his life. His wife was a daughter of Jacob Bower, a small farmer in Berks county, Pennsylvania, who spent all his life in that county and who reared his family in the faith of the German Lutheran church. When well past middle age William S. Updegrove moved into the neighboring county of Montgomery, in Pennsylvania, where he bought a farm of one hundred and thirty-one acres and there he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1899, at the age of seventy-six years. His widow survived until May 20, 1912, and she was ninety years of age at the time of her death. They were the parents of nine children, Mary Ellen, Francis B., Harris B., William, Jacob B., Susan, T. F., Sarah A. and U. G., all of whom are still living.

Jacob B. Updegrove early determined that there were better opportunities for a young man in the then new West than in his home country and when twenty-three years old, in the spring of 1878, he came to Kansas and began working as a farm hand in Reno county. He improved his opportunities, awaited the proper time and on June 4, 1884, he then being twenty-nine years of age, bought the farm on which he is now living, in section 21, Walnut township, and set about developing and improving the same. Four years later he married and established his home on that place and there has lived ever since, continually improving and bettering his material condition until now he is the owner of a fine farm of four hundred acres surrounding

him home, besides which he is the owner of seven hundred and twenty acres west of Dodge City. In 1900 Mr. Updegrove built a fine new house on his place and the other improvements of the farm are in keeping with the same. In addition to his general farming he has gone in somewhat extensively for stock-raising and has done very well, long having been regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in his neighborhood. Mr. Updegrove has taken an active part in local civic affairs; for five years was treasurer of the township and is now a member of the township school board.

It was on March 1, 1888, that Jacob B. Updegrove was united in marriage to Barbara Schindler, who was born in Adams county, Indiana, August 19, 1855, daughter of Daniel and Catherine (Schlatter) Schindler, natives of Germany, who came to this country in 1852, landing in New York City, whence they proceeded to Indiana, joining a brother and sister who had preceded them as members of the Mennonite colony in Adams county, that state, both the Schlatters and the Schindlers having been members of that body of earnest religionists, and there both Daniel Schindler and his wife spent the rest of their lives, the latter dying in 1885, at the age of sixty-four years, and the former in 1896. To Mr. and Mrs. Updegrove three children have been born, Eugene A., born on December 14, 1888; Katie Elizabeth, August 30, 1890, who married J. L. Bennett, and Edna May, July 6, 1894, who married Earl Seybert.

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### GEORGE W. HOSKINSON.

George W. Hoskinson, a well-known and well-to-do farmer and cattleman of Valley township, this county, an honored veteran of the Civil War, and for years active in Reno county affairs, is a native of Ohio, having been born on a farm in Washington county, that state, August 26, 1847, son of George E. and Lucy (Bosworth) Hoskinson, the former of whom was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the latter in the state of Ohio.

As a young man, George W. Hoskinson settled in Washington county, Ohio, where he married and for awhile made his home on a rented farm. In 1854 he moved with his family to Clark county, Missouri, where his wife died in 1856, leaving six children, namely: Sarah, who married Alexander Perdue and lives in San Bernardino county, California; Eunice, who married Edward Rockefeller and died at Keokuk, Iowa, in 1885; Ophelia, who married George Mackey and lives in Van Buren county, Iowa; George W., the subject of this biographical sketch, and Joseph, a well-known



resident of Harvey county, this state, in which county he settled in 1877, and in whose home his father died in 1899, at the age of seventy-two years.

George W. Hoskinson spent his youth on the farm and was a hard worker from the days of his boyhood. When the Civil War broke out he was living with his father on a farm in Lee county, Iowa, and though but sixteen years of age at the time, he enlisted, on February 12, 1863, in Company L., First Iowa Cavalry, with which he served until the end of the war, seeing service in Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and Tennessee. At the conclusion of his military service he returned to Lee county, Iowa, where he married in the spring of 1866 and rented a farm, on which he lived until 1876, in which year he and his family came to this state, settling in Harvey county. Mr. Hoskinson filed on an eighty-acre homestead in Lake township, that county, but the next year he relinquished his claim to his brother, Joseph, and went to California, where he went into the business of driving artesian wells, remaining there nearly two years, during which time he put down forty-three such wells, making considerable money by his operations. In 1878 Mr. Hoskinson returned to Kansas and homesteaded a quarter section in Sumner county, where he lived for three years, at the end of which time he sold that place and came to Reno county and bought eighty acres in Valley township, establishing his home there. In 1881 he bought an "eighty" adjoining on the east and extended his operations in the cattle line, gradually adding to his farm until he became the owner of eight hundred acres of land and was regarded as one of the most extensive cattlemen in the county. In 1888 things began to "go bad" and Mr. Hoskinson lost thirteen thousand dollars in his cattle business. His creditors were lenient, however, and when his affairs were presently adjusted he had saved three hundred and twenty acres in section 11, where he now lives. In 1892 Mr. Hoskinson erected the present comfortable farm house. On March 1, 1916, he moved to Burrton, where he is living retired.

In the spring of 1866 George W. Hoskinson was united in marriage to Eleanor Hardy, who was born in Lee county, Iowa, daughter of John and Elizabeth Hardy, and to this union eight children were born, namely: George, a well-known farmer of Clay township, this county; Ella, who married Charles McElwain and lives on a farm adjoining that of her father; Charles, a Valley township farmer; Frank, salesman for the Maxwell Auto Company at Hutchinson, this county; Edward, unmarried, who continues to live at home and is managing his father's farm; Zula, who married William Collins; and May and Mabel, the former of whom married Henry Adams and lives at Burrton, and the latter of whom married Dennis Meyers



and lives in Valley township. The mother of these children died on January 22, 1910, and Mr. Hoskinson married, secondly, December 7, 1912, Mrs. Minnie (McDonald) Wineman, who was born in Tennessee and who was living in Hutchinson at the time of her marriage to Mr. Hoskinson.

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### SAMUEL McCOWAN.

Samuel McCowan, one of the prominent and successful men of Reno county, born in Ireland on July 12, 1837, the son of Robert and Elizabeth (Palmer) McCowan. Robert McCowan was of Scotch descent, and Mrs. McCowan was English. Robert McCowan died when the son, Samuel, was but sixteen years of age, the mother having died some years before. The McCowans were farmers in their native country. They were members of the Presbyterian church and took much interest in all church work.

To Robert and Elizabeth McCowan were born the following children: Robert, deceased; Samuel, William and Elizabeth, all of whom came to America. Elizabeth resides in Caledonia, New York; Robert, William and Samuel came to Kansas.

Samuel McCowan came to America in 1854 and located in the state of New York, where he engaged in farming for one year, after which he was for five years in Canada, on a farm. He later removed to Warren county, Illinois, where he conducted a farm for twenty years before he came to Reno county.

On January 1, 1868, Samuel McCowan was united in marriage to Nancy A. McClellan, and to this union the following children were born: Lizzie A., deceased, married Will Bramwell and had three children, Ethel, Cora and Lizzie; Virey married a Mr. Van Osdol and had one child, Marvin, and married, secondly, Roy Terrence; Jesse married Maud Shockley and has five children, Maria, Alma, Ruby, Arthur and Morgan S.; Wiley married Nellie Barton, who is now deceased, and they had four children, Ralph, Alvida, Fay and Nannie. All the children live in Reno county and vicinity. After the death of his first wife, Mr. McCowan was married, secondly, in 1885, to Sarah Haney, the daughter of Thomas Haney, a native of Ireland.

Samuel McCowan has been engaged in farming the greater part of his life and now owns several lots and four and one-half acres of land in Pretty Prairie and one hundred and sixty acres of land in Roscoe township. He

was for five years and two months a member of the Seventeenth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served during the Civil War. He was in many battles.

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### EDWARD T. MARTIN..

Edward T. Martin, a well-known and progressive farmer and large landowner of Miami township, this county, is a native of Missouri, having been born in the town of Mexico, that state, May 8, 1875, son of Hugh and Ann (Bohen) Martin, both natives of County Galway, Ireland, who settled in Reno county during the first half of the eighth decade of the last century and became prominent and influential residents of Miami township.

Hugh Martin, who was born in 1843, left his native home in Ireland and came to the United States in July, 1861. For a time he worked in the factories at Manchester, New Hampshire, and then went to Cincinnati, where he enlisted for service in behalf of the Union cause during the Civil War and served for ten months and four days on river gunboats, being mustered out at Cairo, Illinois. Upon the conclusion of his military experience Mr. Martin made his home for a time in Illinois and then moved over into Missouri, where he lived until he came with his family to Reno county, in May, 1884. Upon settling here he pre-empted the northeast quarter of section 34, in Grove (now Miami) township, and established his home there. As he prospered in his farming operations he added to his land holdings by the purchase of an additional tract of three hundred and twenty acres and soon became regarded as one of the most substantial farmers of that neighborhood. Mr. Martin is a Democrat and ever since coming to this county has given a good citizen's attention to local politics. For more than a quarter of a century he has been treasurer of school district No. 142 and in other ways has given of his service to the public. He is an earnest member of the Catholic church and has taken an active part in parish affairs. His wife died on December 2, 1899. They were the parents of six children, those besides the subject of this sketch being John, a prominent lawyer, of Pueblo, Colorado, who has served his district for two terms as a representative in the lower house of Congress; James, a locomotive engineer, of Moberly, Missouri; Hugh, a well-to-do farmer of Woods county, Oklahoma; Thomas, a locomotive engineer, of Pueblo, and Annie, who married Corb Carlisle, of Miami township, this county.

Edward T. Martin was about nine years old when he came to Reno

county with his parents and his schooling was completed in the schools of Miami township. He was reared on the farm and has been engaged in farming all his life and has done well, being now the owner of four hundred acres in sections 22 and 33, in Miami township, where he makes his home, and where he and his family are very comfortably and pleasantly situated. Mr. Martin is a Democrat and has served the public as a member of his local school board.

On February 19, 1899, Edward T. Martin was united in marriage to Hattie Gray, who was born in Cocke county, Tennessee, January 29, 1880, daughter of Lewis H. and Louvina (Click) Gray, who came to Kansas in 1884 and settled in Miami township, this county, where the rest of their lives was spent. Upon coming to Reno county, Mr. Gray pre-empted a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and established a very comfortable home. He was a veteran of the Civil War, having served in the Union army as a member of Company D, Tenth Regiment, Tennessee Cavalry, and for a time suffered imprisonment in Libby prison, the Confederate stronghold at Richmond. Mr. Gray died on August 8, 1899, and his widow survived for more than fifteen years, her death occurring on July 14, 1915.

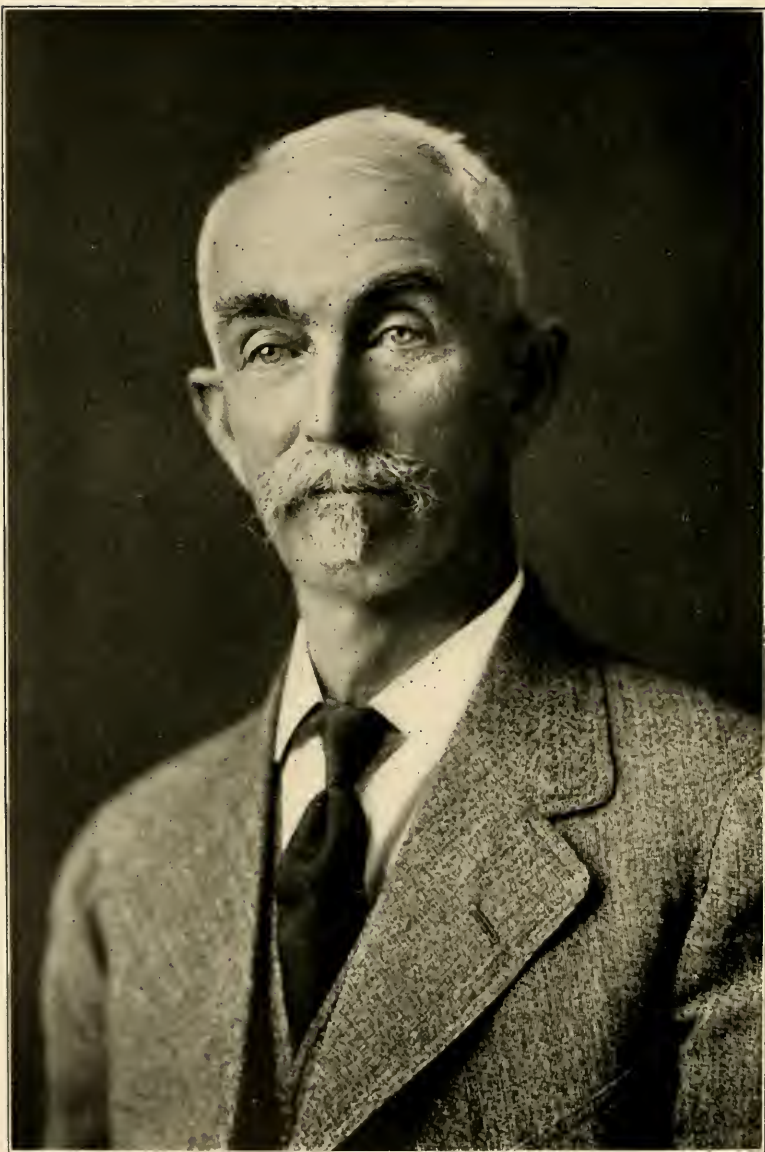
To Edward T. and Hattie (Gray) Martin two children have been born, James L., born on May 22, 1900, and Ethel, April 25, 1902. Mr. Martin is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the consistory at Wichita, and is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, in the affairs of both of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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#### CHARLES W. PECKHAM.

Charles W. Peckman, president of the Farmers Grain Company of Haven, this county, one of the founders of that now thriving little city; former vice-president of the Citizens Bank of Haven, first secretary of the Haven Commercial Club, one of the organizers of the Haven Mill Company, first trustee of Haven township, proprietor of "Gem Stock Farm" and one of the real pioneers of Reno county, he having built the first sod shanty on the plain in what is now Haven township, his humble abode at that time having been the extreme western frontier of Reno county south of the Arkansas river, is a native of Ohio, having been born in the city of Maumee, Lucas county, that state, March 26, 1849, son of John D. and Alzina (Brush) Peckham, both natives of the state of New York.





*C. W. Peckham*





*Sarah C. Peckham*



John D. Peckham was born in Madison county, New York, in 1808, and was reared in that county, becoming a merchant tailor, and at Madison on May 16, 1833, married Alzina Brush, who was born in Spencertown, New York, September 12, 1809. The following year he and his wife moved to Maumee, Ohio, where he opened a merchant-tailoring establishment and established his home. He and his wife were the parents of five children, namely: Frances, who married George Secor and is now living at Toledo, Ohio, past the age of eighty-two years; Lucinda, who died at the age of five years; George, who died in infancy; Cora, who married Charles Doesher and lives at Petaluma, California, and Charles W., the subject of this biographical sketch. The mother of these children died at Springfield, Ohio, in 1854, a victim of the cholera scourge which swept over that part of the country in that year, and some time later John D. Peckham moved to Jackson, Michigan, where he engaged in the merchant-tailoring business and there he resided until his retirement from business in 1872, after which he made his home with his son, Charles W., in this county, his death occurring in 1884. He was a member of the Methodist church, to which his wife also had been attached, and for years was a singer in the choir. Originally a Whig, he became a Republican during the Civil War period, but later became affiliated with the Democratic party.

Charles W. Peckham was five years old when his mother died and he was cared for in childhood by Mrs. Elizabeth Spencer, a widow who lived near Adrian, Michigan. Later he rejoined his father at Jackson, Michigan, and was educated in the schools of that city, completing the course in the high school. In 1867 Mrs. Spencer married and moved to Lockport, New York. Later, Mr. Peckham was called to Lockport to teach a refractory country school. He "made good" and afterward attended Lockport high school. In 1869, following a resolution he had made in his boyhood, he came West and settled in Colorado county, Texas, where he conducted a subscription school for one year, after which he went onto a ranch and became an expert cowboy and very competent cattleman. In 1871 he came through to Kansas with a herd of cattle destined for Abilene, and was so much pleased with the appearance of things in the Arkansas valley that he determined to locate here. In August of that year he homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 2, township 25, range 4 west, in what is now Haven township, this county, two miles east of the present flourishing little city of Haven, and there built a sod shanty and entered upon the task of developing his claim. This shanty was twelve by

fourteen feet, inside measurement, with two windows and one door; was covered with boards hauled from Newton and was plastered on the inside with the clay from the well which he dug nearby. That was the first dwelling erected in what is now Haven township and marked the farthest western habitation in Reno county south of the river. Soon after the sod shanty was completed a party of Texas cattlemen came along with three thousand head of cattle and that fall and winter Mr. Peckham herded cattle for them. In 1872 he and Doctor Durand went over on the Ninnescah, where he lassoed twelve buffalo and captured them alive, two of the creatures being sent East to a circus in which a brother of Doctor Durand was associated. When a school was organized in district 39, Haven township, not long after he settled there, Mr. Peckham became the first school teacher and for four years was thus engaged. In 1873, when the Grange became organized in that section of the county, Mr. Peckham was elected first master of the same and in that capacity did much for the advancement of the interests of the early agriculturists and cattlemen thereabout.

Charles W. Peckham is the pioneer among the cattlemen of Reno county, having been the first man to feed cattle in any considerable quantity. Hutchinson, the nearest grain market, was twenty miles away and Mr. Peckham early came to the conclusion that it would be far more profitable to feed the corn he raised on the ranch instead of hauling it to market. He now is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of choice land, comprising "Gem Stock Farm," long regarded as a model place. The latest farm house on the place was erected in 1900, a large, modern frame house with a cupola and generous verandas. One of the features of the ranch is a reinforced concrete silo, sixteen feet in diameter and fifty feet high, with a capacity of two hundred and twenty-five tons. Mr. Peckham made his home at "Gem Stock Farm" until 1909, in which year he moved to Haven, where he built a steel-framed, hollow-walled cement house, modern in every respect, generally regarded as the finest house in Haven, and there he since has made his home. Mr. Peckham has patented the process by which his house was constructed and the system of construction promises to become general and popular. The house has metal studding and lath. It is, of course, fire proof and the hollow walls are designed to render the house warm in winter and cool in summer.

Charles W. Peckham is a Democrat and ever since locating in this county has taken an earnest interest in local politics. He was the first trustee of Haven township and in that official capacity was enabled to render valuable public

service. In 1886 he was one of a committee of two appointed to go East to bring before capitalists the expediency of running the projected Wichita, Colorado & Western railroad, now a part of the Missouri Pacific system, through the town of Haven, he also having been a member of the original Haven Town Company, organized for the purpose of creating a town on the site selected, and the efforts of himself and his fellow committeemen proved effectual, the railroad presently connecting Haven with the outside world. Mr. Peckham was one of the prime promoters of the Citizens Bank of Haven, the first bank established in that town, and was elected vice-president of the same at the time of its organization. L. O. Smith, F. W. Ash and Mr. Peckham organized the Haven Milling Company in 1887 and erected the flour-mill at the new town, Mr. Peckham for three years being the active manager of the same. He was one of the organizers of the popular Farmers Grain Company of Haven, a concern which has done much to establish better prices for farm products in that neighborhood, and is now the president of the same. When the Haven Commercial Club was organized in 1911 Mr. Peckham was elected secretary of the same and for three years served in that capacity, doing much in the way of giving the club a proper start. In other ways he has demonstrated his fine public spirit and occupies a very high place in financial and commercial circles throughout this part of the state.

On February 19, 1874, Charles W. Peckham was united in marriage to Sarah C. Hess, who was born in Hartford City, Indiana, daughter of Abram and Elizabeth (Gadberry) Hess, both of whom died in Indiana, and to this union ten children have been born, as follow: John, who lives in Wichita, this state; Minnie, who married Everett Bishop, a farmer of Wauketa, Oklahoma; Bertha, who married Ralph Williams and is now mistress of the big house at "Gem Stock Farm;" Arthur Leroy, who lives at Wichita; Cora, who married Guy Van Buren and lives on a farm two miles north of Haven; Edward, a farmer, of Caldwell, this state; Ira, who lives near Burton, this state; Laura, who married Guy Astle, a well-known merchant of Haven; Flora, who died on November 15, 1885, and Ella, who died on February 14, 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Peckham are members of the Universalist church and Mr. Peckham is a member of the lodge of Ancient Order of United Workmen at Haven, in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest.

In 1905, the national organizer of the American Society of Equity came to Kansas to instruct western farmers in an improved system for the marketing of farm products. He soon came in contact with Mr. Peckham, who became impressed with the importance and feasibility of the plan. Together, they laid the plan of this great organization before the farmers and Kansas



soon took a front rank in the new organization. After the required number of local unions was formed, a state union was organized, and C. W. Peckham was elected state secretary. Senator L. P. King, of Winfield, was elected state president. Mr. Peckham gave much of his time for two years to the growth of the organization and attended its national conventions, and was tendered the presidency of the national organization, but declined to serve. Much good was accomplished, but the required cohesiveness among farmers was lacking, and the effort languishes. In June, 1907, the organization held a three days' session called the National Grain Growers Convention, at Omaha, Nebraska. Mr. J. A. Everitt, president and founder of the movement, was elected president of the convention. Upon taking the chair and making the opening address, he craved the privilege of nominating as secretary of the convention, one whom he assured them had, out of the twenty-three states represented, made the best record for his state. Mr. Peckham was elected secretary of the convention.

Charles W. Peckham has one accomplishment regarding which he is accustomed to speak somewhat self-deprecatingly, but regarding which is friends are in no doubt whatever, and that is his ability as a poet. When the members of the Reno County Old Settlers Association asked Mr. Peckham to prepare a poem relating to pioneer days, the same to be read at the next annual meeting of the association. Mr. Peckham rose to the occasion and the following production of his pen was warmly applauded:

#### THE PIONEER

Oh, how well do I remember  
When our present work begun,  
And we settled here in Kansas—  
Pioneers of seventy-one.

With our habitation finished,  
We began to till the sod;  
What the future held before us,  
No one knew except our God.

How our house loomed up in mirage,  
At the rising of the sun!  
How it spurred our every effort—  
Pioneers of seventy-one!

How we broke the bucking broncho;  
How we tamed the Texas steers,  
Could not pass beyond our memory  
If we lived a thousand years.

Our meager stock of food stuff,  
Like the widow's cruse of oil,  
Would just sustain our bodies,  
In our constant round of toil.

Oh, the taxes were prodigious!  
It would give your nerves a shock—  
We had no realty at that time;  
It was levied on our stock.

The sheriff once made a visit,  
And I doubt his good intents;  
His mileage was sixteen dollars  
For a tax of fifty cents.

I hadn't any money,  
And was also shy of brass;  
So, to save my scanty bacon,  
I hunted taller grass.

One lesson was enough for me—  
I'd end the unequal strife—  
I'd profit by the exemption,  
And go hunting for a wife,

The plan worked to perfection,  
I had often heard it said,  
That, "If man would bring the water,  
The wife would make the bread."

At first we had to hustle  
To get our bread and meat;  
But now it's no use to rustle—  
We live on "Easy street."

Then, there were those horrid 'hoppers;  
They would come and eat our crops—  
They would get as thick as coppers  
In a contribution box.

They'd upset our calculations,  
They'd eat up all we had;  
And we'd come out in the springtime  
Just as poor as any shad.

But it was not all starvation,  
For, sometimes, we'd have a feast;  
This was when we'd get a great big box  
From our friends, who lived down East.

But at last things went to turning,  
And our blues were changed to mirth;  
And now the things we can produce,  
Are not equalled on this earth.

Search the world for growing nature!  
Get earth's products where you can!  
Kansas leads, in every feature!  
I can prove it, to a man!

I've read how knights and cavaliers  
Sought for the golden fleece;  
Had they but come to Kansas,  
They'd have settled down in peace.

Those ancient, learned doctors,  
Who were hunting fount of youth,  
Might have found it, here in Kansas,  
And that's the naked truth.

No matter what you're hunting,  
Or of what you may be fond;  
You can find it here in Kansas:  
There's no use to go beyond.

There was Mr. C. Columbus—  
He claimed to have found us;  
But that would not go in Kansas—  
Not without a dreadful fuss.

No, we never stoop, or follow;  
And we do not lose a race;  
We are sure a hot tamale,  
And we always set the pace.

You have read of Spanish conquests—  
How Balboa found the sea;  
But he never did a thing in life,  
Compared to you and me.

Instead of courting glory,  
With a cruel, loaded gun—  
He might have had some standing  
With pioneers of seventy-one.

We came out here to Kansas;  
We opened wide the door!  
We made two blades of grass to grow,  
Where one blade grew before!

We've plowed up the desert,  
We've conquered its foes;  
Where the cactus once grew,  
Now blossoms the rose.

We've brought the horseless carriage,  
We've reared the telephone;  
We've schooled our sons and daughters,  
Till they can go alone.

We've driven back the buffalo,  
 We've framed a noble plan;  
 Which gives a boy protection  
 Till he becomes a man.

The bonds of our creation  
 Always bring the highest rates;  
 We're the grandest constellation  
 In this galaxy of states.

We've had the sockless Jerry,  
 And we've had our Mary Lease;  
 Carrie Nation swings her hatchet  
 And declares that rum shall cease.

We have captured Aguinaldo,  
 And we've scaled old Pekin's wall;  
 When it comes to nerve and daring—  
 Then's when Kansas leads them all.

For climate and for scenery,  
 Like you read of on the Rhine;  
 Come out here to sunny Kansas—  
 This is where we always shine.

With hearts full of gladness,  
 No one need repent,  
 That early toward Kansas  
 His footsteps were bent.

And now, my friends, we're coming  
 To the parting of the ways;  
 There'll be a time when you and I  
 Will end these happy days.

I'm sure I've no misgivings—  
 No, I haven't a single fear;  
 I know no evil can betide  
 The honest pioneer.

Another pronounced "hit" made by Mr. Peckham in the poetic way was his famous onslaught on the "trusts," first published in the *Kansas Farmer*, entitled:

#### THE OCTOPUS

I've often read how Captain Kidd  
 So gracefully his honors did.  
 How merchant's gains and banker's wealth  
 Were forced to help adorn his shelf.  
 Ah, well for him he died in time,  
 For now his fame would soon decline.

I've also read how Robin Hood,  
Held court in England's famous wood.  
He'd rob the rich to help the poor,  
No hungry man e'er left his door.  
He finally came to disgrace,  
His checks untaken at their face.

Who has not read how privateers,  
Kept seamen filled with constant fears?  
Their flag was black, their hearts as well,  
They'd dare not do such deeds in hell.  
Who ever thought, in our fair land,  
Such deeds as theirs would ever stand?

But now, we're seeing face to face,  
A game that throws them from the race.  
The grain combine, the packers' trust,  
Are forcing honest men to bust.  
Small merchant now must close his door,  
Because of the department store.

The merchant now who deals in coal,  
Had better pack his grip and roll,  
Unless he's in the great combine,  
As merchant prince, he cannot shine.  
Alone he gains by little nips,  
Combined it comes in larger chips.

You turn whichever way you will,  
Trusts there are large, and larger still.  
They're forcing man to come their way,  
To drop upon his knees and pay,  
A Moloch, of remorseless greed,  
How break their ranks, how slack their speed?

But of all combines, grafts, or fakes,  
The railroad combine takes the cakes.  
For all the lands that gave them start,  
They've never paid one million'th part.  
They shift their burdens, shun their taxes,  
Their grip, on lucre ne'er relaxes.

Since man began to let you live,  
You've made the map look like a sieve.  
You've run your lines in, out and down,  
With sidetracks broad in every town.  
Trains dash into our midst, pell-mell,  
With snorting whistle, clanging bell.



Through farmers' lands they build their tracks,  
 They scare his cattle, burn his stacks.  
 He had one farm, he's now got two,  
 This credit all belongs to you  
 Of straight lines you were ever shy,  
 His fields look like a piece of pie.

You've peeled his bacon to the bone!  
 He has to walk or stay at home.  
 When he goes to town to pay his tax,  
 He cannot ride, so walks your tracks,  
 Not having eyes both sides his head,  
 He's often now picked up quite dead.

If he, perchance, must ship some stock,  
 You straightway lay him on your block,  
 You filch his sirloin, pound his steak,  
 Now on your gridiron he must bake.  
 No thanks to him that he puts in,  
 The largest part of all your "tin."

You raise your rates, withdraw your passes,  
 (Except to legislative asses)  
 You lose much sleep to make your ends,  
 You do not recognize your friends.  
 You've kicked the tramp, and fired the bum,  
 Until you think you're somewhat some.

You play your game with loaded dice,  
 You carry preachers at half the price.  
 When gamblers fleece a nice fat duck,  
 They hand him back a dime for luck,  
 But you would throw him to the floor,  
 And throttle him, and yell for more.

If I was hunting for a jay,  
 Who'd sell his soul for meager pay,  
 I'd find in you a willing tool,  
 With conscience that befits a ghoul  
 You bring bad liquor to our state,  
 Your ticket reads "To Brimstone Lake."

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### CHARLES O. HITCHCOCK.

Charles O. Hitchcock, a well-known and progressive merchant of Hutchinson, this county, president of the Hutchinson Commercial Club and long recognized as one of the "live wires" in the commercial life of this com-

munity, is a native of Missouri, but has been a resident of Kansas ever since 1888. He was born in St. Louis, April 6, 1871, son of Charles O. and Anna Virginia (Newcomer) Hitchcock, the former a native of Alabama and the latter of Maryland.

The senior Charles O. Hitchcock was born in the city of Mobile in 1842 and when a young man went to St. Louis, where he presently married Anna Virginia Newcomer, who was born in Hagerstown, Maryland, in 1848 and who located in St. Louis with her parents when a girl. Charles O. Hitchcock became a commission merchant in St. Louis and was engaged in that business at the time of his death, in 1880, he then being thirty-eight years of age. His widow continues to make her home in St. Louis. She is the mother of two sons, the subject of this biographical sketch having a brother, Z. A. Hitchcock, who is assistant cashier of the Bank of Commerce at St. Louis.

The junior Charles O. Hitchcock was about eight years of age when his father died. He received his education in the public schools of his native city and was graduated from the St. Louis high school in 1888, after which he went to Wichita, this state, in the neighborhood of which he began farming. Starting in as a farmer on a rented farm, he presently bought a place of his own and was there engaged in farming for six years, at the end of which time he sold his place and entered the employ of an agricultural-implement firm at Wichita. That was in 1898 and he remained with that firm for ten years, during which time he became thoroughly familiar with the details of the implement business. In 1908 he transferred his services to the Hutchinson Implement Company, at Hutchinson, and became so deeply impressed with the possibilities of the business in this county that he opened up his business at his present site, 17-19 East Sherman street, which is a two-story building, fifty by one hundred and fifty feet, and carries all lines of farming implements, farm machinery, automobiles and fencing, his place being the largest of its kind in Hutchinson. Mr. Hitchcock takes an active part in the general commercial activities of his home town and is now the president of the Hutchinson Commercial Club, this being the fourth term he has served as head of that enterprising body, though not consecutive terms.

On November 21, 1896, Charles O. Hitchcock was united in marriage to Elizabeth D. Krack, who was born in Illinois, daughter of W. L. and F. D. Krack, who came to Kansas when their daughter, Elizabeth, was three years old, and who now live at Wichita. Mr. Krack being a well-to-do retired farmer. To Mr. and Mrs. Hitchcock two children have been born,

Hazel, born in 1897, and Marion, 1899. Mr. Hitchcock is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Wichita, and is also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen and of the Hutchinson Country Club, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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### GEORGE T. GRAY.

George T. Gray, an enterprising and progressive young merchant of Turon, this county, proprietor of an up-to-date furniture store at that place, is a Missourian by birth, but his home has been in Reno county since he was seven years old and he is a thorough-going Kansan. He was born in Grundy county, Missouri, August 8, 1884, son of James and Emily J. (Allen) Gray, the former a native of that same county and the latter of Kentucky, she having been born in Jefferson county, near the city of Louisville.

James Gray left his farm in Missouri in February, 1891, and with his family came to Kansas. He bought a farm of two hundred and twenty acres in Miami township, this county, and made his home there until in October, 1915, when he returned to Missouri and he and his wife are now making their home in Trenton, that state. James Gray is a veteran of the Civil War, having done valiant service in behalf of the Union cause during the struggle between the states. During his residence in this county he served for some time as trustee of Miami township and also served on the school board. He is an ardent Republican, an Odd Fellow and a member of the Baptist church. To him and his wife seven children have been born, those besides the subject of this sketch being as follow: Enos T., a farmer of Grundy county, Missouri; Edward S., a barber, of Turon, this county; Myrtle, deceased; Laura B., who married D. D. Downing, general storekeeper for the Chicago & Alton railroad at Chicago; Henry W., a farmer, of Grundy county, Missouri, and Lora, who married B. Allison, a retired liveryman, of Hutchinson.

George T. Gray was about seven years old when he came to this county with his parents and he was educated in the grade schools at Turon and the high school at Hutchinson. In 1901, he then being seventeen years of

age, he enlisted, at Wichita, for service in the United States army and for three years served as a non-commissioned officer in the First United States Cavalry, during twenty-one months of which time he was stationed in the Philippines. He was mustered out at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, in 1904, after which he went to Kansas City, where for four years he was engaged in the service of the Adams Express Company. He then returned to this county and for five years was engaged as a clerk in the store of the Anderson Furniture Company at Hutchinson, after which, in 1913, he opened a furniture store of his own at Turon and has ever since been very successfully engaged in business in that thriving little city.

On January 5, 1909, at Burrton, this state, George T. Gray was united in marriage to Edith M. Gardinier, who was born in Harvey county, this state, March 16, 1885, daughter of Henry F. Gardinier and wife, the former a native of Indiana and the latter of Pennsylvania. Henry F. Gardinier is a veteran of the Civil War and to him and his wife five children were born, those besides Mrs. Gray being as follow: William, a barber, of Pratt, Kansas; Ella, wife of H. L. Osborn, a hotel keeper of Burrton; Ethel, widow of H. F. Dykeman, a one-time telegraph operator at Hutchinson, and Ray, a barber of Greensburg, Kansas.

To George T. and Edith M. (Gardinier) Gray two children have been born, George, born on November 16, 1911, and Darius, March 5, 1913. Mr. Gray is a member of the Hutchinson encampment of the Spanish-American War Veterans' Association and takes a warm interest in the affairs of the same.

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### GEORGE MADISON KOONTZ.

The late George Madison Koontz, who was one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Sumner township, prominent in civic affairs thereabout, a leader in church work and a good citizen, was a native of Illinois, born in Jasper county, that state, July 28, 1860, son of Andrew Jackson and Julia Ann Koontz, natives of Pennsylvania, both of whom are still living on their old home farm in Illinois, the former at the age of eighty-seven and the latter at the age of eighty-six. Nine children were born to them, of whom only one is a resident of Reno county, David Koontz, a well-known carpenter at Hutchinson.

George M. Koontz was reared on the home farm in Illinois, obtaining

his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, and early learned the carpenter's trade, becoming a proficient craftsman in that line. Upon reaching manhood he came to Kansas and settled in Greeley county, where he homesteaded a farm, which he proceeded to develop, at the same time continuing his work as a carpenter. He also spent a year in Colorado, working at his trade in Denver. In the fall of 1891 he married a daughter of Tobias Moore, a prominent farmer of Sumner township, this county, and located for a time on his father-in-law's place in that township, later buying the southeast quarter of section 3, in the same township. Upon taking possession of that farm, Mr. Koontz began the development of the same and greatly improved it and brought it to a high state of cultivation. In 1906 he erected the present comfortable farm house which marks the place. He had come to a position in life where he could begin to relax some of the more active duties of his calling, when death stopped his earthly labors, on September 11, 1912.

George M. Koontz was a good citizen and was ever mindful of the common good. He was a Democrat and served the public of Sumner township both as a school director and as a constable and in other ways did his part in civic affairs. He helped organize the Farmers Telephone Company in that part of the county and took an active part in the affairs of the same. Mr. Koontz was a class leader, one of the trustees and superintendent of the Sunday school of the United Brethren church and for years was devoted to church work, both he and his wife being regarded as among the leaders in good works throughout their neighborhood. Since his death, Mr. Koontz's widow and her sons are continuing the management of the farm, and the family is very well situated.

It was on September 13, 1891, that George M. Koontz was united in marriage to Nannie J. Moore, who was born in Holmes county, Ohio, daughter of Tobias and Hannah (Walton) Moore, both natives of that same state and both of whom are still living. Tobias Moore was a tanner and saddler, the owner of a tannery near the town of Millersburg, in Holmes county, Ohio, where he was in business until 1882, in which year he sold his establishment and came with his family to Kansas, settling in Sumner township, this county. Mr. Moore bought one-half of section 3, in that township, and there established his home. The land was unimproved, but with characteristic energy he lost no time in improving the same, getting it under cultivation, soon becoming recognized as one of the most substantial farmers in his neighborhood. He is a Republican and took an earnest part in local political affairs, while both he and his wife were prominent in



the work of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Moore was born in August, 1828, and his wife was born in 1847. They are now living at Tokama, Nebraska, to which place they moved upon retiring from the farm in 1914. To them nine children were born, of whom Mrs. Koontz was the fifth in order of birth, and six of whom are still living.

To George M. and Nannie J. (Moore) Koontz six children were born, namely: Clinton Sylvester, born on May 13, 1892, who married Carrie Murphy; Orla Howard, July 17, 1893, who married Mary Nicklaus; Iona Edith, May 17, 1896, who married Herschel Prough, a farmer, of Summer township; Lloyd, who died in January, 1901, aged three years; Charles Kent, April 28, 1901; Olen Asa, April 4, 1905. Mrs. Koontz's elder sons are energetic young farmers of Summer township and are ably performing their part in the common life of that community.

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#### ABRAHAM B. CRABBS.

Abraham B. Crabbs, head of the firm of A. B. Crabbs & Company, real estate and loans, at Arlington, this county, one of the largest landowners in Reno county, a pioneer merchant at Arlington, president of the first bank organized in that town and for many years one of the most active figures in the development of that part of the county, is a native of Ohio, born in Richland county, that state, April 9, 1851, son of Jacob M. and Catherine (Bollman) Crabbs, whose last days were spent at Arlington, this county.

Jacob M. Crabbs was a merchant in his home state, but upon the location of his son, the subject of this sketch, at Arlington, in 1884, he retired from business and the next year also came to Reno county, locating at Arlington, where he died in 1894, at the age of sixty-four. His widow survived him eleven years, her death occurring in 1905, she then being nearly seventy-five years of age. They were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being John L., Albert E., Jennie and Mand, the latter of whom died in infancy. John L. Crabbs is associated with his brother, A. B. Crabb, in Arlington, and has two sons, Lee M., a farmer, living near Arlington, and Frank L., a merchant of that place. Albert E. Crabbs, for years a well-known merchant at Arlington, who died in 1908, left three sons, Arthur J., a farmer, living in western Kansas; Harry J., a merchant in Canada, and Dr. Ralph E. Crabbs, a well-known dentist at Arlington.

Abraham B. Crabbs spent his childhood in Adams county, Indiana, where he received his early schooling, and at the age of fourteen went back to the place of his birth in Ohio, where he began working in his father's store, and was there engaged until 1875, in which year he went to Toledo, Ohio, where he engaged in the grain commission business and was thus employed until he came to Kansas in 1884 seeking a location. He stopped at Hutchinson and after looking the situation over a bit decided to enter the mercantile business at the then new and promising village of Arlington, the center of the rich region in the west central section of the county. His store building, one of the first erected in the new town, was ready for occupancy in August, 1885, and he opened up with a general store of merchandise worth about six thousand dollars. From the very start the business prospered and it was not long until Mr. Crabbs was operating with a stock double in value his initial stock, at once taking his place as a leader in the commercial life of the new and thriving town, continuing as a merchant there for twenty-three years. Two years after locating in Arlington Mr. Crabbs organized, in 1887, the town's first bank, the Arlington State Bank, and was elected president of the same, which he operated for two years, or until he sold out to the Citizens State Bank in 1889, retaining, however, his financial interest in the bank. In 1889 Mr. Crabbs and brother, John L., erected a grain elevator at Arlington and continued operating the same until he sold out to the Hoffman Grain Company, of Enterprise, in 1904. In 1902 he became associated with J. S. Trembley in the hardware business and was thus connected until the firm sold out in 1915. In the meantime Mr. Crabbs also had been actively interested in the real-estate and loan business in and around Arlington and since disposing of his other interests has devoted his whole time to that branch of business, under the firm name of A. B. Crabbs & Company, and is doing very well. Mr. Crabbs is the owner of about four thousand acres of land, mostly in Reno county, and the most of which is under profitable cultivation, the various farms being managed by responsible tenants.

For years Mr. Crabbs has been generally handicapped by failing sight and for several years past has been all but blind, but despite this unhappy affliction retains a firm grasp on his extensive business interests and has lost none of his aforetime energy. Mr. Crabbs exerted a strong influence upon the progress of affairs in the western part of the county during the early development of that section and was one of the chief factors in securing to Arlington the advantages of a railroad when the Rock Island line was being surveyed through that part of the country. Politically, he is a Republican

and ever since coming to this county has been one of the leaders of the party in the western part of the county, but has never been included in the office-seeking class. In his fraternal relations he is affiliated with the Masons, the Modern Woodmen and the Ancient Order of United Workmen and takes a warm interest in the affairs of these several organizations. Mr. Crabbs has never married and makes his home with his brother, John L. Crabbs, at Arlington.

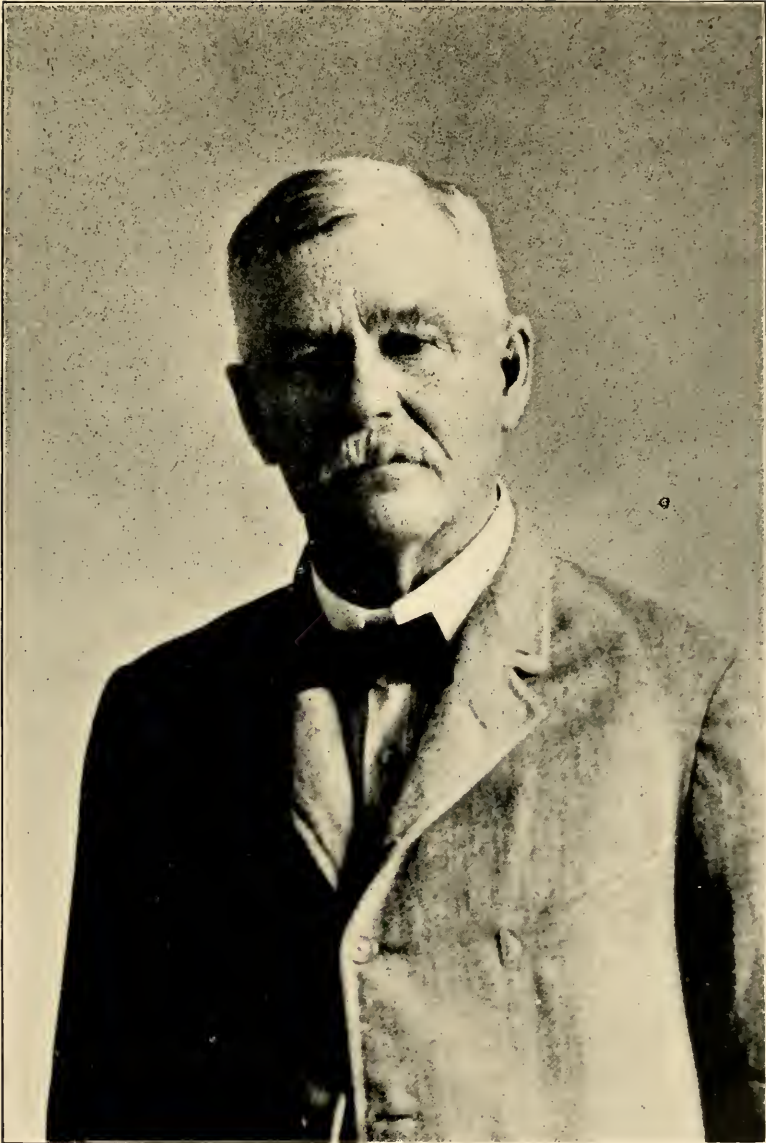
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### CORNELIUS O. CHAPIN.

Cornelius O. Chapin, a well-known and well-to-do retired farmer of this county, one of the real pioneers of Reno county, an honored veteran of the Civil War, one of the oldest Odd Fellows in the state and for years actively interested in the general civic affairs of this section of the state, has been living in Hutchinson since his retirement from the farm in 1905 and is very comfortably situated. Mr. Chapin is a native of Massachusetts, a member of one of the old Colonial families, which is represented in widely separated parts of the country. The Chapin family maintains a regularly organized association of kinship, with headquarters in the East, and holds annual meetings which are very largely attended. The house in which Mr. Chapin was born at Chicopee, Massachusetts, September 18, 1841, was built in 1730 and in that same house his father, Quartus Chapin, was born on October 14, 1793.

Quartus Chapin was reared a farmer and married Ruby Sexton, who was born in Somers, Connecticut, remaining in the East until 1853, in which year he moved to Illinois. He bought two hundred and forty acres in Morgan county, that state, and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on March 7, 1858. He was a soldier of the War of 1812, his father was a soldier in the Revolution and three of Quartus Chapin's sons were soldiers in the Civil War. His widow returned East and her death occurred in Waltham, Massachusetts. They were members of the Congregational church and their children were reared in that faith. There were six of these children, those besides the subject of this sketch being: Lyman, Horace and Cornelia L., now deceased; Lucy A., who married Henry E. Steele, a watchmaker of Waltham, Massachusetts, since whose death she has been living at North Adams, in that state, and Quartus H., in the United States railway service, with headquarters at Chicago.

Cornelius O. Chapin was about twelve years old when he moved with



*Cornelius C. Schapin*





his parents to Morgan county, Illinois. His higher education was obtained at Ft. Edward, New York, and in two years attendance at Illinois College, Jacksonville, Illinois. Though not twenty years old when the Civil War broke out he enlisted for three months service at the first call for volunteers and went to the front as a member of Company B, Tenth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered out at Cairo, Illinois, at the expiration of that term of service. Upon the completion of his military service he returned to the farm and in the fall of 1863 was married. Ten years later he came to Kansas and has been a resident of this county ever since. He arrived at Hutchinson on November 9, 1873, and presently homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 8, in Valley township, this county, upon which he and his wife established their home on February 12, 1874, and there they remained until their retirement from the farm and removal to Hutchinson in 1905. Mr. Chapin was a successful farmer and cattle raiser and for years was regarded as one of the most substantial and influential citizens of Valley township. Upon retiring from the farm he invested his capital in real estate and is very comfortably situated. He and his wife have a very pleasant home at 620 Sherman street, east, and take an active interest in the social and cultural movements of their home town.

It was on September 30, 1863, at Concord, Illinois, that Cornelius O. Chapin was united in marriage to Mary V. Detrick, who was born at Naples, Illinois, March 10, 1848, daughter of Dr. Jacob H. and Hannah (Morrison) Detrick, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio, both of whom spent their last days in Hutchinson, this county, Doctor Detrick dying on September 28, 1902, and his widow on April 5, 1913. Doctor and Mrs. Detrick were Methodists and active workers in the church. The Doctor was a Democrat and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. To him and his wife two daughters were born, Mrs. Chapin having a sister, Catherine E., who married Clarence Willey, a prominent lumberman of Chicago, and was among those who lost their lives in the sinking of the "Lusitania." Her only child, a daughter, Catherine, is the wife of Robert Thorne, vice-president of the great Montgomery Ward Company at Chicago. To Mr. and Mrs. Chapin one child was born, a son, Charles F., who was born at Concord, Illinois, June 4, 1864, and who was killed by the accidental discharge of a gun in the hands of another person, in Valley township, this county, January 21, 1887. Charles F. Chapin had married Fannie Demorett, of this county, and their only child, Lyman H., born in Valley township on

December 30, 1886, was killed by being run over by a loaded wagon in that township on November 2, 1897.

Mr. Chapin has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows since the year 1864 and a member of the Daughters of Rebekah, which latter order both he and his wife joined at the same time, since 1870. Upon the fiftieth anniversary of his service as an Odd Fellow, Mr. Chapin was presented by the grand lodge of Kansas Odd Fellows with a handsome gold badge, suitably inscribed, the number of his years of service, "50" being outlined in diamonds. Mr. Chapin also is a member of Joe Hooker Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Hutchinson, and for years has taken a warm interest in the affairs of that patriotic order. Mr. Chapin is a prominent member of the Woman's Relief Corps and has been senior vice-president of that organization for the department of Kansas. Mr. Chapin is a Republican and ever has taken an active interest in local political affairs, but has never been included in the office-seeking class.

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#### CHARLES GIBSON.

Charles Gibson, a well-known and progressive young farmer of Valley township, this county, is a native son of Reno county, having been born on the homestead farm where he now lives, May 23, 1885, son of Harrison and Mary A. (Black) Gibson, both natives of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, the former born on October 1, 1840, and the latter, November 30, 1846, who were pioneers of this county and prominent in the development of the community in which they settled in Valley township in 1878.

Harrison Gibson was reared in Ohio and served three years as a member of an Ohio regiment during the Civil War. Upon the conclusion of his military service he married and bought a farm in Ohio, where he lived until the spring of 1878, at which time he sold his farm and came to Kansas with his family, settling in Reno county. He bought a quarter of a section of land in Valley township and there constructed a two-room sod house, in which the family found shelter until the present commodious farm house was erected in 1882. Mr. Gibson was a good farmer and his operations prospered, he being the owner of five hundred and sixty acres of land in Valley and Clay townships at the time of his death, on August 6, 1912. He was a Republican and he and his wife were earnest members of the Methodist church, aiding in the organization of the Clay Valley Methodist

Episcopal church, of which he was a steward to the time of his death. His widow, who still survives him, is very pleasantly situated in a cottage on the old homestead, not far from the house in which her youngest son, the subject of this sketch, and his family reside. There were seven other children in the family: Alice, who married H. P. Tidrick and lives at Emporia, this state; Minerva, who married Allen O. Sprowl and lives on a farm in Yoder township, this county; Margaret, who died at the age of eighteen; Gertrude, who married H. T. Eales and lives on a farm in Yoder township; Harriet, who married Fred Sloop and lives on a farm in Clay township; John Walter, who married Anna Mary White and lives on a farm in Yoder township, and William Harrison, who lives on a farm in Valley township.

Charles Gibson was reared on the farm on which he was born and on which he still lives, and received his schooling in the Dodge school at the cross-roads near his home. When his father died he inherited half of the quarter section comprising the home farm, his mother retaining the other half. Mr. Gibson is a progressive and energetic young farmer and is doing well. He is much interested in the cultivation of a better strain of horse flesh in his neighborhood and is the owner of a prize-winning French draft sire, "Buster," which took the sweepstakes at the Kansas State Fair in 1913.

On March 19, 1913, Charles Gibson was united in marriage to Arlena D. Macklin, who was born in Valley township, this county, November 19, 1894, daughter of H. O. and Ruth (Averrill) Macklin, the former of whom was also reared in Valley township, his father, B. F. Macklin, now living in Hutchinson, having been one of Reno county's earliest settlers, and to this union two children have been born, Charles Kenneth, born on May 17, 1914, and Arthur Harold, August 19, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Gibson are members of the Clay Valley Methodist church and take an active interest in the various social and cultural activities of their community.

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### JOSEPH CATTE.

Joseph Catte, a well-known and substantial farmer of Langdon township, this county, owner of two hundred and forty acres in section 17, of that township, has been a resident of Reno county since he was ten years old and has therefore been a witness of all the wonderful development that has marked this region within the past generation. He was born in the city of Brooklyn, New York, October 29, 1868, son of Eugene and Gene-

rause (Abry) Catte, natives of France, both born in Alsace, the former on May 10, 1828, and the latter, May 16, 1828, for years well-known residents of Reno county.

Eugene Catte came to the United States in 1858 and was engaged in the business of gold refining at Brooklyn until the spring of 1878, when he came to Kansas, arriving in Reno county on March 17, of that year. He bought the northeast quarter of section 20, in Langdon township, and entered a timber claim on the south half of the south half of section 17, in the same township, and on the former tract established his home. While developing his farm he acted for some time, in pioneer days, as a freighter on the old Sunset trail, hauling grain from Hutchinson to Sun City and Lake City, on Medicine River, and bringing back firewood, for which service he was paid one dollar and fifty cents a load, boarding himself. As his farming operations progressed, however, he prospered and became a substantial farmer. He spent the rest of his life on the Langdon township farm, his death occurring on October 10, 1898. Some time after his death his widow returned to her former home in Brooklyn and there she died on May 29, 1905. She was a Catholic and her children were reared in that faith. There were five of these children, those besides the subject of this sketch being as follow: Louisa, who married T. J. Brady, a patrolman in New York City; Jules, now deceased, who was a tinner and galvanizer at Philadelphia; Louis, a farmer of Langdon township, this county, and Eugene, also a resident of Langdon township.

Joseph Catte was ten years old when he came to Reno county with his parents in 1878 and his schooling, which had been begun in Brooklyn, was resumed in the district schools of Langdon township. He grew up on the home farm and became an excellent farmer, in due time buying a farm of his own in the neighborhood of the home place, the same being the timber claim which his father had entered years before. He also inherited from S. D. Wyman the south half of the west half of the northwest quarter of that same section and now owns a well-kept farm of two hundred and forty acres there, being very comfortably circumstanced. Mr. Catte is a Republican and has taken an active interest in local civic affairs, having served as clerk of the school board of his home township since 1906.

On December 25, 1894, Joseph Catte was united in marriage in Langdon township to Melissa Applegate, who was born in Nodaway county, Missouri, October 22, 1876, daughter of Jackson and Elizabeth (Fee) Applegate, both natives of Indiana, the former born in Hamilton county, that



state, November 29, 1834, and the latter, in Clinton county, September 3, 1844. Jackson Applegate came to Kansas from Missouri in December, 1886, and settled in Langdon township, this county. He bought a quarter of a section of land there and established his home, spending the rest of his life on that farm, his death occurring on January 9, 1910. His widow is now living in the town of Langdon. They were the parents of six children, those besides Mrs. Catte being as follow: Randolph, a retired farmer, now living in Hutchinson; Samuel, a farmer, of Plevna township, this county; John, a farmer, of Langdon township; Edward, of Texas, and William, a railroad man, of Hutchinson.

To Joseph and Melissa (Applegate) Catte three children have been born, namely: Joseph Perry, born on October 2, 1895, who, on June 15, 1915, was appointed a cadet to the West Point Military Academy, on recommendation of Congressman George Neely; Hazel, February 16, 1897, and Velma, April 4, 1899.

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#### PETER DECK.

Peter Deck, member of the board of commissioners of Reno county, former trustee of Westminster township, a prominent pioneer of that township and one of the best-known and most substantial retired farmers of this county, now living in a fine house in Abbeyville, is a native Hoosier, but has been a resident of this county since 1874 and has thus been a witness to and a participant in the wonderful progress which has been made in this region since early pioneer days. He was born on a farm near the town of Albion, in Noble county, Indiana, August 6, 1850, son of Isaac and Julia (Johnson) Deck, both natives of Pennsylvania, who later became pioneers of Reno county and the latter of whom is still living here, being now in the ninety-first year of her age.

Isaac Deck was born near the town of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, March 4, 1820, and was reared as a farmer. About 1838 he went over into Ohio and settled in the timber, near the town of Bryan, in Williams county, where he made his home until 1844, in which year he moved to Indiana and settled near the town of Albion, in Noble county, where he lived until 1858, when he came west and settled in northern Missouri, where he lived until the sentiment against all anti-slavery sympathizers in that section became so pronounced that he moved his family to southern Iowa in 1861 and established a new home for them. He then returned to Missouri and in 1862



enlisted for service in behalf of the Union arms in Company G, Seventh Missouri Cavalry, with which he served for more than two years, during which time he was engaged in several hot skirmishes, including the battle of Springfield, Missouri. Upon the conclusion of his military service, Mr. Deck rejoined his family in Iowa and remained there until the spring of 1876, when he came to Kansas and established his home on a quarter of a section of land in Westminster township, this county, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in October, 1898. His widow is still living at her home in that township, in her ninety-first year, one of the best-known pioneers of the west central part of the county. Isaac Deck took a prominent part in pioneer affairs and was a good citizen. He was a Republican and an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic and he and his wife were earnest members of the Dunkard church, in which faith their children were reared. There were eight of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being Hannah, Lucinda, William, Gideon, Laura, Lincoln and Flora.

Peter Deck was about eight years old when his parents moved from Indiana to Missouri and was about eleven when the family sought refuge in Iowa. In the latter state he completed his schooling and became a farmer and there he was married in 1870. In March, 1874, he came to Kansas and homesteaded a quarter of a section in Westminster township, this county, which he straightway proceeded to improve and bring under cultivation, soon becoming known as one of the most substantial farmers in that part of the county. As he prospered in his farming and stock-raising operations, Mr. Deck gradually added to his land holdings, until he became the owner of a fine farm of four hundred and ninety acres and there he lived until 1912, in which year he retired from the farm and moved to Abbeyville, where he built a fine house and where he is now living, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Mr. Deck is a Republican and ever since coming to this county has taken an earnest interest in civic affairs. He served for some time as treasurer of Westminster township and later served as trustee of the same township. In 1912 he was elected commissioner of Reno county from his district and entered upon the duties of that important office in January, 1913.

It was in 1870, while living in Iowa, that Peter Deck was united in marriage to Sarah Anderson, daughter of W. D. and Sarah (Louder) Anderson, and to this union five children have been born, Lawrence, Roy, Ethel, Nettie and Chester. Mr. and Mrs. Deck are active members of the Methodist church and Mr. Deck has served as an office bearer in that church.

He is a Mason and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Woodmen, in the affairs of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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### JAMES W. PARISH.

James W. Parish, a well-known and progressive merchant of Langdon, this county, has been a resident of Kansas since he was fourteen years old. He was born in Springfield, Illinois, March 25, 1868, son of James and Amanda (Davis) Parish, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Indiana. James Parish moved from Pennsylvania to Indiana with his parents in his youth and at Franklin, in the latter state, married Amanda Davis, later moving to Springfield, Illinois, where he made his home until 1882, in which year he came to Kansas with his family, settling at Ft. Scott, where he lived for about ten years. He died at Clifton, Ohio, in 1909, and his widow is now living at Kansas City, Missouri. They were the parents of six children, those besides the subject of this biographical sketch being as follow: C. W., a capitalist at Spokane, Washington; Eva, who married Isaac Bingham, a farmer, of Baxter Springs, this state; Alice, widow of Lew Antrim, a one-time locomotive engineer, of Kansas City; Mrs. Lucy Butcher, of Kansas City, and Fred, a farmer, of Baxter Springs.

James W. Parish was about fourteen years old when he came to Kansas with his parents in 1882 and his schooling was completed in the schools of Ft. Scott. He then secured employment on one of the railroads running out of that city and for nine years was engaged as a railroad man. He then came to Reno county and located at Langdon, where he opened a store for the sale of general merchandise and has ever since been very successfully engaged in that business at that place, having built up a fine trade throughout that section of the county. His store is admirably stocked and his business is conducted along progressive lines.

At Catskill, New Mexico, June 4, 1894, James W. Parish was united in marriage to Junia Ramey, who was born in Cowley county, Kansas, September 23, 1877, daughter of William H. and Sarah (Davis) Ramey, the former of whom was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the latter in Springfield, Illinois. William H. Ramey died in Trinidad, Colorado, in October, 1906, and his widow is now living at Ludlow, in that state. They were the parents of seven children, Mrs. Parish's brothers and sisters being as follow: Robert, deceased; Montie, a painter, of Langdon, this county;

Gertrude, who married William Sherman, a miner, of Ludlow, Colorado; Wismie, who married Alex Lowe, also a Ludlow miner; Elsie, wife of Frank Runyon, another Ludlow miner, and Odessa, wife of Jack Sharp, also a Ludlow miner. To Mr. and Mrs. Parish two children have been born, Bessie, born at Trinidad, Colorado, October 19, 1896, who married R. L. Plush, a farmer, of Langdon township, this county, and Roy, born at Langdon, January 1, 1899. Mr. Parish is a Republican and gives close attention to local political affairs, but has never been an aspirant for political honors, preferring rather to give his undivided attention to his growing business interests.

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### THOMAS J. RICE.

Thomas J. Rice, proprietor of Rice's popular cafeterias at Hutchinson, this county, is a native of Ohio, having been born in Scioto county, that state, April 11, 1872, son of Charles and Sarah (Kirkpatrick) Rice, both natives of that same state, the latter of whom is still living, making her home with her son, the subject of this sketch, at Hutchinson.

Charles Rice was reared on a farm in Ohio and when the Civil War broke out enlisted in Company G, Ninety-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served three years in the Army of the East, under General Sheridan. He married in Ohio and remained there until 1876, in which year he came West with his family, settling in Holt county, Missouri, where he bought eighty acres of land and farmed for two years, at the end of which time he moved to Atchison county, same state, where he bought eighty acres and remained seven years. He then moved to Pawnee county, Nebraska, where he bought a farm of two hundred and forty acres and remained for ten years, at the end of which time he sold his place to advantage and moved to Prairie county, Arkansas, where he bought four hundred and eighty acres and after seven years residence there moved to the Creek Nation (now Rogers county, Oklahoma), Indian Territory, and had become well established there when he died, his death occurring in September, 1894, while making a visit to the Chickasaw Nation. He never had a law suit in his life. To Charles Rice and wife four children were born, these besides the subject of this sketch being, John W., a farmer, of Rogers county, Oklahoma; Charles J., a farmer, of Pawnee county, Nebraska, and David A., who died on his farm in Prairie county, Arkansas.

Thomas J. Rice was but four years old when his parents came West



T. J. Rice





and he grew to manhood on his father's farms in Missouri and Nebraska, finishing his school days in high school in the latter state. He married in the fall of 1894 and continued farming with his father until 1902, in which year he engaged in the general mercantile business in the Indian Territory and was thus engaged for seven years, after which he bought a farm in Nowata county, Oklahoma, where he made his home for three years. He then moved to Ford county, same state, where he remained, farming, until he moved to Hutchinson, where, on September 12, 1914, he and his wife opened, at 12 Second avenue, east, the first cafeteria established in that city. So successful did this venture prove that on November 9, 1915, Mr. and Mrs. Rice opened cafeteria No. 2, at 21 South Main street and have since been very successfully operating both places. Mr. Rice has taken an active interest in the general welfare of the city since moving to Hutchinson and is a member of the Commercial Club. He is a Republican and takes an earnest interest in local politics, but is not an office-seeker. He is a member of the Hutchinson post of the Sons of Veterans, of the Knights of Pythias and of the Odd Fellows.

It was in the fall of 1894, in Pawnee county, Nebraska, that Thomas J. Rice was united in marriage to Nellie Sovereign, who was born in Caldwell county, Missouri, November 26, 1876, daughter of Abram and Eunice (Tabor) Sovereign, the former a native of Canada and the latter of Indiana. Abram Sovereign was but a boy when his parents emigrated from Canada to Indiana and settled in Porter county, that state, in the neighborhood of Valparaiso, where he grew to manhood and where he married Eunice Tabor, who was born near Valparaiso. In the latter sixties Abram Sovereign came West, settling in Caldwell county, Missouri, where he remained until 1896, in which year he moved to Pawnee County, Nebraska, where he remained nine years, at the end of which time he returned to Missouri and settled in Vernon county, that state, where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in June, 1899. His widow, who still survives, is now making her home in Hutchinson, this county. Seven children were born to Abram Sovereign and wife, as follow: Chester E., deceased; Schuyler C., of Hutchinson; Grant, who is associated with Mr. Rice in the operation of the Rice cafeterias in Hutchinson; Nettie, who married William Scott, a farmer, and died in Pawnee county, Nebraska; Leonard, a farmer, of Galesburg, Illinois; Myrtle, who married George W. Hofsess, who is associated with Mr. Rice in the operation of the latter's cafeterias in Hutchinson, and Fred, railway station agent and telegraph operator at Satanta, this state.

To Mr. and Mrs. Rice three children have been born, Alvin, born in

Prairie county, Arkansas, July 6, 1895; Fay L., born in that same county, May 11, 1897, and Alta Eunice, born in Nowata county, Oklahoma, June 16, 1909, all of whom are a home. The Rice's have a handsome home at 19 sixteenth avenue, east, built in 1915, and are very pleasantly situated.

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### JOHN WILLARD CAMPBELL.

John Willard Campbell, former trustee of Plevna township, this county, one of the very earliest settlers of this township, a well-known and prosperous pioneer farmer of Reno county and a director and vice-president of the Farmers Elevator Company of Plevna, is a native of Michigan, but has been a resident of Reno county since 1873 and has thus been a witness to and an active promoter of the development of this section of the state since pioneer days. He was born at Bay City, Michigan, May 4, 1852, son of Noah R. and Elmira (Dixon) Campbell, both natives of the state of New York, who later became pioneers of Reno county and spent their last days here.

Noah R. Campbell was born at Brant, near the city of Buffalo, New York, January 25, 1820, and grew up and was married in Pennsylvania, where he was engaged in farming until 1851, in which year, shortly after his marriage, he moved to Michigan and settled in Bay City, where he engaged in teaming and was thus engaged until 1871, when he moved to Royal Oak, in the same state, where he lived until he came with his family to Kansas, entering a quarter of a section of land in Plevna township, this county, on October 6, 1873, and entered a quarter section in February, 1874, as a timber claim; his eldest son, the subject of this sketch entering an adjoining quarter section at the same time, these being the first homesteads entered in that township. There Noah R. Campbell threw up a sod shanty with a roof of hay and in that humble abode he and his family spent the winter; in the following spring erecting a small frame house, which later, from time to time, received additions, and this second house served as a home until it finally was destroyed by fire on July 2, 1897, after which a better and more commodious home was erected. In the spring of 1874 Noah R. Campbell and his sons broke forty acres of land and planted the same to corn, but the grasshopper plague of that year rendered futile their first season's efforts. The next year a small crop was raised and after awhile the Campbells began to prosper and early became recognized as lead-

ers in the pioneer life of that vicinity. Noah R. Campbell spent the rest of his life on that pioneer farm, but lived retired in his later years, and was almost wholly paralyzed for about two and one-half years before his death on January 27, 1892. His widow survived him for more than twenty years, her death occurring in Montana on July 27, 1915. They were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the eldest, the others being as follow: Ida, who married H. A. Abbott and is now living on a farm in Montana; J. J., a retired farmer, most of whose time is spent in Denver, Colorado, and who has four children, N. Alonzo, Mrs. Nellie Smith, J. T. and Mrs. Cora Cox; Dean, who married John W. Hanan, a farmer of Plevna township, this county; Mrs. Julia A. Dunham, deceased, and Mrs. L. G. Mitchell, of Plevna, this county.

John W. Campbell was reared in his native town, Bay City, Michigan, where he obtained his schooling and where for some time he was engaged as a clerk in a store. He was twenty-one years old when he came with his parents to Reno county in the fall of 1873 and he homesteaded a quarter of a section lying alongside his father's homestead in Plevna township, which he proceeded to develop, at the same time assisting his father in the development of his place and after the death of his father acquired the latter's homestead farm, being now the owner of the full half section of land, a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, well improved and profitably cultivated. In recent years he has erected a fine residence on his place and his modern barn and other farm buildings are in keeping with the same, Mr. Campbell conducting his farming operations along the latest and best-approved lines. He has for years taken an active part in civic affairs in that part of the county and for some time served as clerk of the township, later serving for several years as township trustee. He also has been active in the affairs of the Farmers Elevator Company at Plevna and is the vice-president and one of the directors of that enterprising and progressive concern. Mr. Campbell is an active and earnest member of the Kansas State Historical Society and has been able to contribute much valuable information regarding pioneer days in this county to the reports of that body. The first post-office in the Plevna section of Reno county was established in the old Campbell home and was given the name of "Dean," serving the people of that neighborhood until the office was moved to Plevna, upon the establishment of that village.

On June 2, 1888, John W. Campbell was united in marriage to Julia M. Dennis and to this union two sons have been born, Jason Edward and

Jesse Roberts, the latter of whom married Mary K. Nusser and continues to make his home on the old homestead place. Both sons are active and valuable aids to their father in the operation of the farm and are recognized in their neighborhood as energetic and up-to-date young agriculturists. Mr. Campbell is a member of the Modern Woodmen and of the Royal Neighbors and takes a warm interest in the affairs of these two organizations.

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### WILLIAM L. HUDSON.

William L. Hudson, a well-known and successful farmer and horse dealer, of Sylvia township, this county, is a native of Maryland, having been born on a farm in the neighborhood of the town of Berlin, in that state, on October 5, 1861, son of William S. and Julia A. (Powell) Hudson, both natives of that same state, who were reared and married there and who made their home there until 1866, in which year, following the readjustments being made thereabout as a consequence of the changed conditions incident to the conclusion of the Civil War period, they moved West with their family and settled in Pike county, Illinois, where they lived on a rented farm until 1882, in which year they moved to Shelby county, same state, where William S. Hudson and his wife spent their last days, the former dying at the age of seventy-eight and the latter at the age of ninety-two. William S. Hudson and wife were the parents of seven children, two sons and five daughters, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch was the youngest and the only one to come to Kansas.

William L. Hudson was five years old when his parents moved to Illinois and he received his education in the district school in the neighborhood of his early home in Pike county, meantime helping his father in the labors of the farm, and was twenty-one years old when the family moved to Shelby county in 1882. There Mr. Hudson met his future wife and in 1884 was married, after which he began farming on his own account, renting a farm in Effingham county, Illinois, where he made his home for four years, at the end of which time he returned to Shelby county and there made his home until 1892, the year of his removal to this state. It was early in the spring of 1892 that Mr. Hudson and his family came to Reno county, arriving here in March of that year, and a few months later he bought a quarter of a section of unimproved land in Sylvia township, just one-half mile north of the town of Sylvia. Later he added to this tract by the purchase of a quarter



of a section adjoining and now has a well-kept and highly improved place of three hundred and twenty acres, on which he still makes his home and where he and his family are very comfortably situated.

When Mr. Hudson settled on his Sylvia township place there was not even a fence-post on the place in the way of improvement, the whole a sandy plain without a tree or a building of any sort. In 1893 he built a small house, but later rebuilt and enlarged the house, remodeling the same into his present pretty dwelling, which, with the large and modern barn and ample orchard adjoining, situated on a gentle knoll, presents a very pleasing and attractive appearance to the eye of the traveler passing that way. In the fall of 1915 Mr. Hudson built a new house a few rods west of the farm dwelling, for the occupancy of his son, Carl H. and wife, the former of whom is now relieving his father of the greater part of the details of management of the home place. For some time after locating in this county, Mr. Hudson confined his operations to grain farming, but later went into the business of breeding full-blood Percheron horse stock and in that line has been very successful, there being a large and constant demand for the horses raised on the Hudson farm. Mr. Hudson has three full-blood Percheron sires and a number of full-blood mares of the same breed and his colts are eagerly sought by those who are desirous of improving the strain of their horse stock. Mr. Hudson is not only a good farmer and horse breeder, but is recognized as an excellent business man and is widely known throughout the county. He is a Democrat and a member of the lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Sylvia, in the affairs of which order he takes a warm interest.

On July 27, 1884, in Illinois, William L. Hudson was united in marriage to Josephine A. Brown, who was born in Macon country, that state, daughter of John W. W. and Mary C. Brown, the former of whom is now deceased, but the latter of whom is still living, making her home at Sylvia, this county, to which place she and her husband had moved when well past middle age. To William L. and Josephine A. (Brown) Hudson, four children have been born, as follow: Harry L., who died when eighteen years of age; George W., who is married and lives on a farm in Sylvia township, this county; Carl H., also married, who lives in a house neighboring that of the parental home, and who is now relieving his father of much of the detail work of managing the farm, and Lura A., who is at home with her parents. The Hudsons are well known throughout the Sylvia neighborhood and the family is held in high regard thereabout.



## ELBERT O. ALLMON.

Elbert O. Allmon, former mayor and a well-known and enterprising merchant of Turon, this county, who is associated in business in that flourishing little city with his father-in-law, E. O. Barker, is a native son of the Sunflower state, having been born in Barber county, Kansas, October 16, 1878, son of the Hon. Samuel J. and Zelmar (Sandifer) Allmon, both natives of Bollinger county, Missouri, who became residents of Kansas in 1877.

Samuel J. Allmon was born on October 20, 1850, and was reared on a farm in Bollinger county, Missouri. There he married Zelmar Sandifer, a neighbor girl, who was born in 1853, and they made their home on a farm in that county until the spring of 1877, at which time they came to Kansas and settled near Elm Mills, in Barber county, where they remained about a year, at the end of which time they moved to Pratt county, where Mr. Allmon homesteaded a quarter of a section of land near Preston, which he afterward sold and bought another quarter section three and one-half miles west of Preston and a quarter section eight miles southeast of Pratt, both tracts in Pratt county, which he still owns, though he has made his home in Preston for years. Mr. Allman has given earnest attention to civil affairs in his home county and at the last election was elected as representative from his district to the lower house of the Kansas state Legislature. For nearly twenty years he has been a member of his local school board and most of that time has also served as treasurer and clerk of the board. For eight years he served the people of Pratt county in the capacity of county clerk and has also served several terms as township trustee and as justice of the peace. His wife died at Preston in 1881. They were the parents of three children, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, May, who married J. C. Sillin, a miller, of Hudson, this state, and Belle, who is at home with her father.

Elbert O. Allmon received his education in the district schools of Pratt county and the grade schools of Preston and early entered upon his successful mercantile career. His first venture as a proprietor was in association with E. M. Rowell, in the general merchandise business at Turon, this county, which partnership was maintained for two years, at the end of which time Mr. Allmon became connected with his father-in-law, E. O. Barker, in business in the same thriving little city and has ever since been thus engaged, the firm having a fine store on Burns street, the chief street of the city.

Ever since locating at Turon Mr. Allmon has taken an active part in public affairs and was elected a member of the first council after the incorporation of the city. So acceptable was his service in that connection that he was elected second mayor of the city and made an excellent record in that important executive capacity. He is a prominent member of the Turon Boosters Club and neglects no opportunity to "boost" his home town in all proper ways. He is a Democrat and is well known in the councils of that party in Reno county.

At Preston, Kansas, October 3, 1900, Elbert O. Allmon was united in marriage to Ila E. Barker, who was born in Emporia, this state, daughter of E. O. and Caroline (Shull) Barker, both of whom were born in Dekalb county, Indiana, not far from the city of Ft. Wayne, and who came to Kansas years ago. To this union four children have been born, as follow: Ralph, born on July 16, 1903; Merle, July 2, 1905; Olive, May 15, 1907. and Vada Joy, April 6, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Allmon are earnest members of the Methodist church and take an active part in the various social and cultural activities of their home town. Mr. Allmon is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes a warm interest in the affairs of those organizations.

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### BUCKNER W. DUNSWORTH.

Buckner W. Dunsworth, one of the successful and progressive farmers of Reno county, was born at McComb, Illinois, June 22, 1850, and was the son of Nathaniel and Mildred (Waymac) Dunsworth, the later of whom was the daughter of Buckner Waymac. Mr. Waymac was a native of Tennessee, who in early life settled in Indiana and later at McComb, Illinois, where he engaged in farming until his death. The grandfather, Thomas Dunsworth, was a native of Ireland and later made his home in Illinois, where he died.

Nathaniel and Mildred Dunsworth were the parents of the following children: A. J.; Thomas; Tillman and Buckner W. The parents were active and influential members of the Baptist church and took much interest in all church work.

Buckner W. Dunsworth was educated in the common schools of Illinois and later engaged in farming. He has been married four times. He was first married to Sarah J. Jackson, to whom the following children were

born: William H., James E. and Ira. After the death of his wife he was married to Caroline Fowler to whom six children were born: Alice, Frank, Carrie, Ellen, Lewis and Abbie. Mr. Dunsworth later married Carrie Davis to whom one child, Grace, was born. Later in life he married Alice Spiva.

Mr. Dunsworth came to his present farm of two hundred and forty acres in 1887 and here he has made a success of general farming and stock raising. He has devoted much of his time to the raising of Percheron and French draft horses and has taken many prizes at the fairs.

Mr. Dunsworth is a member of the Baptist church and takes much interest in church work. He is a member of the Masonic order, having attained the Scottish rite degree at Wichita and the York rite at Hutchinson. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He has sixteen grandchildren.

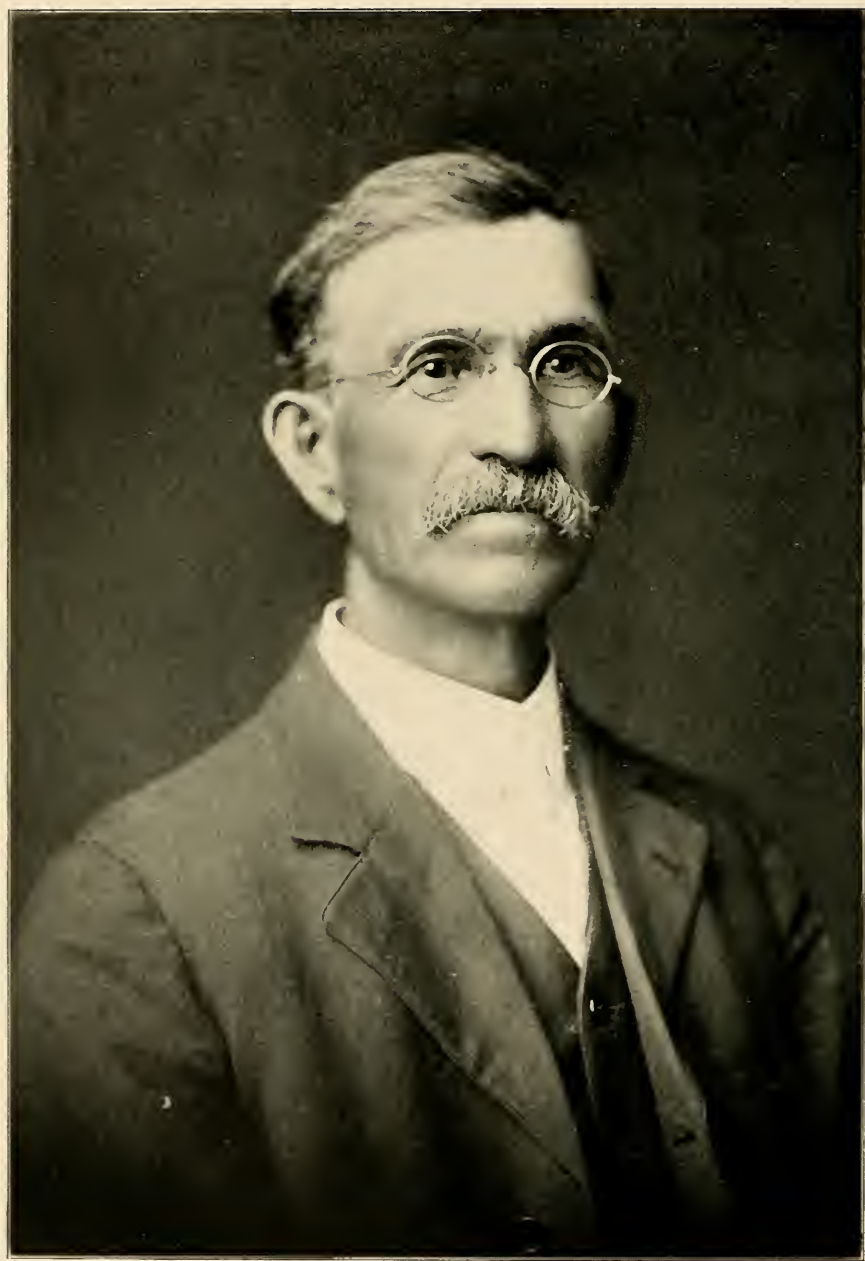
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### JOHN W. COMES.

John W. Comes, one of the most energetic and progressive farmers of Reno county, proprietor of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Valley township, on which he has erected the most attractive farm house on the "Santa Fe Trail" within twenty-five miles; a man who not only has been diligent in his own business, but who has ever given his thoughtful and intelligent attention to public affairs, is a native of Illinois, having been born on a farm in McDonough county, that state, July 21, 1857, son of Nicholas and Mary (Kohule) Comes, both natives of Germany, the former born in Coblenz, Prussia, and the latter in Wittenburg, who became pioneers of Reno county and substantial and influential residents of Valley township.

Nicholas Comes, who was born in 1829, left his native land in 1854, in order to escape the hated military system of that country, and landed in New York with just three marks (seventy-five cents) in his pocket. For a year thereafter he worked in the woods in the Schenectady district, at a wage of nine dollars the month, and then began working in a glove factory at Gloversville, where he met Mary Kohule, who also had come from Germany in 1854, and who was working in the same factory. They were married in the early spring of 1856 and straightway came West, settling in McDonough county, Illinois, where they bought a farm of one hundred acres in 1862 and there made their home until 1876, in which year Mr. Comes





JOHN W. COMES





MRS. J. W. COMES



disposed of his interests there, chartered a couple of cars for the transportation of his household goods, necessary live stock and sufficient lumber from which to construct a small house and he and his family came to Kansas. Mr. Comes bought a half section of land in Valley township and there established his home. With the lumber he had brought from Illinois he erected the best house at that time in the township and it was not long until he and his family were very comfortably situated on their pioneer farm. He and his sons quickly developed their farm, in addition cultivating quite a tract of adjoining land, "breaking out" five hundred acres of Virgin prairie with oxen, and it was not long until the Comes family was regarded as one of the most substantial families in the county.

Nicholas Comes was an ardent Republican and took an active part in local political affairs during pioneer days, but was not an office seeker. He and his wife were reared as Catholics, but when the priest told Mr. Comes to vote for Douglas during the campaign of 1860 or incur the penalty of excommunication he resented this form of interference with his civil rights, voted for Lincoln and discontinued his connection with the mother church, he and his wife transferring their connection to the United Brethren, later the Presbyterian church. Upon locating in this county they lost little time in encouraging the organization of a church of that denomination and in the spring of 1877 had the satisfaction of participating in the establishment of the Valley Presbyterian church, which ever since has been a power for good in that community. The subject of this sketch has a German Bible which has been in the family for nearly one hundred and fifty years. His mother, who is still living, now making her home at Burrton, in the neighboring county of Harvey, past the age of eighty-two, for many years has been active in church work and was a very helpful factor in the work of bringing about proper social conditions in the community in pioneer days. Nicholas Comes died in 1893. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being as follow: Joseph, unmarried, proprietor of a meat market in Burrton, over the line in Harvey county; Edward, who died in 1895; Mollie, widow of Gus Quercfeld, who makes her home in Lawrence, this state; Charles, traffic manager for the Kansas Milling Company, at Anthony, this state; Oscar, a railway conductor, living in Denver, Colorado; Alma, who married John New and is now deceased, and Clyde, who is engaged in the retail meat business with his brother, Joseph, at Burrton.

John W. Comes was reared on the farm in Illinois and received his ele-

mentary education in the public schools of that neighborhood, supplementing the same by a course in the McDonough County Normal School, which he attended until the spring of 1876. That was the spring in which the family came to this county and upon his arrival here he secured a position as a teacher in the county schools at thirty dollars the month, for two terms conducting the school in the Lawson district, in the neighborhood of the Comes home. He remained at home, assisting in the development of the home farm, until he was twenty-five years of age. He married on December 24, 1881, and in 1882 moved to Burrton, where, with his brother, Joseph, he was engaged in the general merchandise business until 1887, in which year he sold his interest in the store and became a locomotive fireman in the employ of the Santa Fe Railroad Company, his run being between Newton and Dodge City, and was thus employed for seven years, or until the big strike of the American Railway Union in June, 1893. In the spring of 1894 he returned to the farm and, his father having died the year before, he bought half of the original homestead, one hundred and sixty acres, from the other heirs and there established his home. He later bought a quarter section adjoining on the south and now owns the east half of section 33, Valley township, one of the best-kept and most profitably cultivated farms in that neighborhood. Upon returning to the farm Mr. Comes went in rather extensively for pure-bred Shorthorn cattle and his stock for years was in wide demand for breeding purposes. He is a Democrat and for years has been active in local politics, having served as township clerk and as township treasurer. He was one of the organizers and a director of the Clay-Valley Telephone Company, an independent organization for the benefit of the farmers of the community which it serves, and in other ways has done well his part in the general activities of the community. In 1912 Mr. Comes erected a fine modern dwelling on his farm and all the other improvements on the place are in keeping. The "Santa Fe Trail," the main highway through Reno county, passes the Comes house, which is regarded as being the most attractive residence to be seen on the trail for twenty-five miles. The house is up-to-date in every particular—sleeping porches, wide enclosed verandas, artistic architectural design, hot and cold water through the house—and is designed at every point to insure the comfort of its occupants, the family being thus very pleasantly situated.

On December 24, 1881, John W. Comes was united in marriage to Mary E. Hess, who was born on March 12, 1861, in Wisconsin, daughter of Zachariah and Harriet (Dodge) Hess, both natives of New York state. Zachariah Hess was born in Herkimer county, New York, December 25, 1829,

and died on March 22, 1916. He grew up in New York state, married there and became a dairyman, being thus engaged until 1860, in which year he moved to Wisconsin, bought a farm near Janesville, in Rock county, that state, and there made his home until 1868. He then moved to Minnesota, intending to buy land in that state, but did not like the cold winters there and moved down into Iowa, where he spent a couple of winters, after which he came to Kansas, settling in this county in October, 1872, and entered a homestead in section 18, in Valley township, where he established his family, which was thus one of the pioneer families of Reno county.

To John W. and Mary E. (Hess) Comes eight children have been born, namely: Harriet, a trained nurse, who is the widow of J. F. Mats; Helen, who married Harry W. Gibson and lives on a farm on the "Santa Fe Trail" in Valley township, this county; Verda, married Kemper Hinds and lives on a farm near Hobart, Oklahoma, and they have two children, Kemper, Jr., and Mary E.; Alma, a trained nurse in the Cook county hospital at Chicago, and Madge, Edward, Kittie and John, who are still at home. Mrs. Helen Gibson is a member of the Methodist church. Mr. and Mrs. Comes and the other children are members of the Presbyterian church, of which Mr. Comes is a deacon. He has been a Mason since 1883, a member of the blue lodge at Burrton; a member of the commandery at Hutchinson and of the consistory, Scottish Masons, and Midian Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Wichita. He also is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and in his lodge affiliations takes much interest.

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#### WILLIAM H. BURGESS.

William H. Burgess, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Walnut township, this county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres three miles west and three miles south of Sterling, and one of the most influential men, politically, in that part of the county, is a native of Kentucky, born in the city of Henderson, that state, July 26, 1861, son of the Rev. J. G. and R. J. (Goyer) Burgess, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of South Carolina, who are now living at Columbia, Missouri.

The Rev. J. G. Burgess has been actively engaged in the Baptist ministry since he was twenty-one years of age. He was born in Franklin county, Kentucky, his father, James G. Burgess, also a native of that



county, having been a farmer there all his life. Grandfather Burgess lived to be ninety-eight years old. He was an earnest Baptist and his son was early devoted to the ministry of that church, being given a liberal education at Bowling Green. During the Civil War the Rev. J. G. Burgess served as a chaplain in the Confederate army, in Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's command. For some years he was stationed at Henderson, Kentucky, pastor of a church at that place, but not long after the close of the war accepted a call to Missouri, where he has lived ever since, his present home being at Columbia, that state. His wife was born near Charleston, South Carolina, daughter of Daniel Goyer, a native of Pennsylvania, who became a well-to-do farmer in the Charleston neighborhood, later moving to Iuka Springs, in that same state, where his last days were spent. To the Rev. J. G. Burgess and wife six children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest and all of whom are living, the others being as follow: Benjamin, J. D., Joseph D., Sallie A. and Julia W.

William H. Burgess was but a child when his parents moved to Missouri and his schooling chiefly was obtained at Saline, that state. He became a farmer and in 1883 came to Reno county. The next spring he married the daughter of one of Reno county's pioneers and began farming on his own account, but did not locate on his present farm in section 12 of Walnut township until 1898. There he has made his home ever since and has done very well in his farming operations, long having been regarded as one of the substantial citizens of that part of the county. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Burgess has given considerable attention to raising live stock, making a specialty of Durham cattle and Poland China hogs. Of late he has gone in somewhat extensively for Cottswold sheep and sees promise of profit in that direction. Mr. Burgess is an ardent Democrat and ever since coming to this county has taken an active interest in local political affairs. Since 1903 he has been the Democratic committeeman in his precinct and has given his most thoughtful attention to the duties of that position, with the result that his precinct is the banner Democratic precinct in Walnut township and Mr. Burgess has come to be recognized as a foresighted and astute political leader in his community. He has taken an earnest interest in local enterprises generally and is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company at Sterling. Mr. Burgess has improved his farm in admirable shape and carries on his operations according to modern methods. In 1905 he erected a comfortable, up-to-date house on his place, replacing his former residence, and in the following year built his present well-equipped barn.

It was on March 2, 1884, that William H. Burgess was united in marriage to Martha A. Jacobs, who was born on July 21, 1864, daughter of Samuel Jacobs and wife, who came to Reno county in 1873, and to this union one child has been born, a son, D. L. Burgess, born on March 2, 1888, who is a valuable assistant to his father in the operation of the home farm. Mr. Burgess is a Mason and a member of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen and in the affairs of both of these organizations takes a warm interest.

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### MONROE COLEMAN.

Monroe Coleman, a well-known and prosperous farmer and stockman of Sylvia township, this county, is a native-born Hoosier, having been born on a farm in Pike county, Indiana, September 19, 1863, son of Francis Henry and Elizabeth (Parker) Coleman, both natives of that same county, members of prominent pioneer families in that section of the Hoosier state.

Francis H. Coleman was a son of Conrad Coleman, one of the earliest settlers in southern Indiana, he having settled in Pike county in 1806, ten years before Indiana was admitted to statehood, emigrating from Kentucky. He was a school teacher and became a man of large influence in the pioneer community in which he settled. He had the foresight to buy up a considerable tract of "Congress land" while it was selling at one dollar and twenty-five cents the acre and thus was able to give each of his large family of children a farm when they grew up. Francis H. Coleman was a good farmer and added to his birthright tract two other adjoining tracts. He married Elizabeth Parker, a neighbor girl, daughter of Lorenzo D. and Elizabeth Parker, early settlers of that same county, emigrants from Virginia. Lorenzo D. Parker's mother lived to be one hundred and four years of age. During the Civil War Francis H. Coleman offered his services to the Union, enlisting twice, but both times he was rejected on account of physical weakness. He was an ardent Republican and took an active part in local political affairs, having served as deputy county treasurer of Pike county for some years. He and his wife were members of the Baptist church and were leaders in good works in their community. Mrs. Coleman died in 1880, at the age of forty-seven, and Mr. Coleman survived until 1899, he being sixty-two years of age at the time of his death. They were the parents of six children, namely: Lewis, a well-known resident of Sylvia, this county; Catherine, who married Robert Montgomery and lives in

Alfalfa county, Oklahoma; Monroe, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; John, a progressive orchardist, living in Oklahoma; Granville, an engineer, of Owensboro, Kentucky, and Lawrence, who has been teaching school in the Philippine Islands for years and is now superintendent of a district comprising ten schools.

Monroe Coleman was reared on the paternal farm in southern Indiana, receiving his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home and assisted his father in the work of the farm until he was twenty years old, at which time, in 1883, he came to Kansas, settling in Chautauqua county. In the fall of the next year he married and thereafter was engaged as a farm hand on various farms in Greeley, Stafford and Reno counties until 1901, in which year he bought a quarter of a section of unimproved land in Sylvia township, this county, and proceeded to improve the same and get it under cultivation. Mr. Coleman is an energetic and progressive farmer and it was not long until he had created a model place and was prospering. In addition to his general farming he early began to give special attention to the raising of pure-bred Jersey cattle and his registered stock long has been in active demand throughout this part of the state. He was the first man in his neighborhood to erect a silo on his place and the advantage of this form of feeding was so ably demonstrated in his case that it was not long before others were following his example. Of late Mr. Coleman has been giving his undivided attention to his registered stock, his eldest son, John, taking over the active management of the farm, and the two form a most effective combination. The dairy feature of the Coleman farm is made much of and the Coleman Jersey cream commands the top of the market in Kansas City. In addition to his activities on the farm, Mr. Coleman ever has found time to give a good citizen's attention to public affairs. He is a Republican and during his residence in Greeley county served very efficiently for two terms as county commissioner in that county. Since coming to this county he has done well his part in his home township and served for one term as township trustee.

On September 25, 1884, Monroe Coleman was united in marriage to Mary Sandusky, who was born in Pike county, Indiana, daughter of George W. and Jane Sandusky, both of whom spent their last days in Greeley county, this state, they having settled there in 1889, and to this union five children have been born, as follow: John, born on September 13, 1885; who is now operating his father's farm; Carl and Pearl, twins, July 1, 1889, the former of whom is a farmer in Hayes township, this county, and the latter of whom married Harry Hall and lives at Downers Grove, Illinois;

Nellie, July 31, 1895, and Inez, March 1, 1901, both at home. Mr. and Mrs. Coleman are members of the Methodist church and they and their family are held in high esteem in their neighborhood. Mr. Coleman is a member of the Masonic lodge at Sylvia, in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest.

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### FRED WEESNER.

Fred Weesner, a well-known and enterprising young druggist of Hutchinson, this county, is a native Kansan, having been born on a farm in the neighborhood of Plymouth, Lyons county, this state, on November 4, 1877, son of Cyrenius and Rebecca (Allen) Weesner, both of whom are now living at Emporia, this state, who came to Kansas in 1868, settling in Lyons county, being among the very earliest settlers of that section of the state, Indians still being numerous thereabout at that time. In 1888 Cyrenius Weesner and his wife moved from Syracuse, Kansas, to Emporia, where they still reside. Despite his eighty-two years of age, Mr. Weesner is a rugged and robust man and for the past five years has been in the employ of the Santa Fe Railroad Company at that point. He and his wife are the parents of nine children living, five of whom live in Emporia, and four of their children are deceased.

Fred Weesner grew up on the paternal farm in Lyons county, receiving his elementary education in the local schools of his home neighborhood, which he supplemented by a course in the Kansas State Normal at Emporia, during which he paid particular attention to the study of chemistry, following which he entered the Ryder drug store at Emporia, one of the pioneer commercial concerns of that place, and for seven years was there engaged as a clerk, acquiring a thorough acquaintance with the drug business. In 1901 Mr. Weesner came to this county, locating at Hutchinson, where he entered the "A. & A." drug store and in a few years became a stockholder in that concern, remaining with the same for a period of thirteen years, at the end of which time he sold his interests in the store and on July 16, 1914, opened a new drug store under the name of Fred Weesner & Company at 126 North Main street, where he ever since has been engaged in business and where they carry a full and complete line of drugs and druggists' sundries, maintaining a very neat and up-to-date store.

On October 14, 1903, Fred Weesner was united in marriage to Jessie C. Grotz, who was born in South Carolina, but who came to Kansas when



a child with her parents, who settled in Lyons county, where she grew to womanhood, and to this union four children have been born, Frederick, born in 1904; Kenneth G., Kathryn and Christine. The Weesners have a very pleasant and comfortable home at 807 North Washington street. Mr. and Mrs. Weesner are members of the Christian church and take a warm interest in the promotion of all good works hereabout.

Mr. Weesner is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to the political affairs of the city and county. He is a Mason, a member of the blue lodge and the chapter of that order at Hutchinson, and has taken part of the work of the consistory at Wichita, on the way to his elevation to the thirty-second degree of Masonry. He also is a member of the Woodmen and of the Fraternal Aid Association. Mr. Weesner is one of the progressive young business men of Hutchins and is an active and earnest participant in all movements having to do with the promotion of the best interests of the community.

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#### ALEXANDER MORRIS SWITZER.

Alexander M. Switzer, a former county commissioner, well-known and prosperous retired farmer, who enjoys the distinction of having been the first settler of Lincoln township, this county, founder of the town of Yoder, where he has been engaged in the merchandise business since 1905 and whose wife has been postmistress of that village since that year, is a native of Ohio, having been born on a farm in Tuscarawas county, that state, on March 7, 1849, son of John and Elizabeth (Anderson) Switzer, the former a native of Switzerland and the latter of Ireland, both of whom came to the United States with their respective parents in childhood.

John Switzer was a member of one of the most prominent families in Switzerland. He was born in Berne and his father, who was quite well-to-do, was a brother of President Switzer, one of the most noted of the chief executives of the republic of Switzerland. Upon coming to this country, the elder Switzer located in Ohio and became a substantial farmer of Tuscarawas county, where he and his wife spent their last days. John Switzer was reared on the farm there and learned the trade of shoemaking and harness making. In 1866 he moved to Coshocton county, same state, where he bought a two-hundred acre farm, on which he established his home, working his farm during the summers and working at his bench





*Amstutz*



during the winters. His first wife, Elizabeth (Anderson) Switzer, died in 1860, at the age of thirty-three, leaving seven children, and John Switzer married, secondly, Anna Cotterley, to which union eight children were born. Of Alexander M. Switzer's full brothers and sisters, three are now living, Robert, the eldest, who lives in Stark county, Ohio; Mrs. Elizabeth Hardstein, of Coshocton county, Ohio, and Thomas, who lives on the old home place in that same county. John Switzer died in 1876, at the age of fifty-one. He was a member of the Lutheran church and reared his family in the faith of that communion.

Alexander M. Switzer was reared on the home farm in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, receiving an excellent education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home. When the Civil War broke out his father enlisted with the "hundred-day" men, but was unable to get away with his company and Alexander, though then barely fifteen years of age went as his substitute, enlisting in Company D, One Hundred and Sixty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the hundred-days service, at the end of which time he re-enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Eighty-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war. During his service with the first-named regiment he was attached to the Army of the Shenandoah and during his latter period of service was attached to the Army of the Tennessee, being mainly engaged in keeping down the guerillas. During the Shenandoah campaign the raw regiment was sent into the Allegheny mountains and as the commissary department of the army had not at that time attained a very high state of efficiency, the boys nearly starved, for days at a time being compelled to subsist wholly on mountain corn.

At the close of his military service, Alexander M. Switzer returned to Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and on March 21, 1866, was united in marriage to Jennie Nee, who was born and reared in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and in that same year he moved to Champaign county, Illinois, where he rented a farm, making his home in the little town of Tolono, where he bought a piece of property, and there lived until the spring of 1872, at which time he and his little family and Eugene Deburn and wife, drove through to Kansas, settling in Reno county, where Alexander M. Switzer homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in Lincoln township, the same being the southeast quarter of section 2, locating there on April 17, 1872, the very first settler in that township and one of the very earliest in the county, for the county had only been opened to settlement the year before. Mr. Switzer

constructed a sod shanty on the plain and there he and his wife and their small children made their home. In June following a heavy rain washed away their sod shanty and Mr. Switzer then drove to Newton, thirty-five miles away, and procured a load of lumber which he hauled back, ferrying the boards across the Arkansas river, and constructed a ten by twelve frame shack, in which he and his family lived until conditions became more favorable for the erection of a suitable residence. When C. C. Hutchinson laid out a string of town plats directly south of Hutchinson in 1872, including Castleton, Kingman and others, Mr. Switzer marked the line by plowing a furrow twelve miles long straight south to the point which later became Castleton, thus establishing the trail. A company of United States cavalry came along soon afterward and followed the furrow, thus making a good trail. As the troop approached Mr. Switzer's house he discerned them coming afar off over the plain and, mistaking the soldiers for a band of Indians on the war path, shivered at the thought of the possible fate of his helpless family. To this day Mr. Switzer declares that his hair literally stood on end when he first discerned the troop and before he discovered that the horsemen were not redskins.

Mr. Switzer prospered in his farming operations, becoming one of the most substantial and useful men in his community, and his home was well established when, in 1884, his wife died. To their union five children were born, of whom but one is now living, Percy E., born in 1871, now superintendent of the Savage Tire Manufacturing Company at San Diego, California, who married Carrie Osborn and has three children, Earl, Ettatha and Mary. Lawrence P. Switzer, born in 1868, died in June, 1911, at Seattle, Washington, where he had been for some time engaged as superintendent of the construction force of a large bridge erecting company. The other three children died in infancy, Charlotte at the age of eighteen months, Clarence at the age of eight months and Morris at the age of six weeks.

On January 18, 1885, Alexander M. Switzer married, secondly, Anna Ingham, who was born in the town of Beckett, in Massachusetts, daughter of William M. and Sarah (Hopkins) Ingham, who emigrated from the East to Kansas during territorial days out here, settling at Tecumseh. In the fall of 1871 William M. Ingham and family moved from Tecumseh to Hutchinson and in the latter city Mr. Ingham built a store building on the west side of the main street, just four doors north of where the First National Bank now stands, and opened a grocery store as a partnership concern, under the firm name of Norman & Ingham. In those days the chief "natural product of the soil" hereabout was buffalo hides and bones and of the

former product Mr. Ingham bought carload after carload during the early days. Mr. Ingham continued in business at Hutchinson until 1894, in which year he and his wife moved to Shawnee, Oklahoma, where they are now living retired, the former at the age of eighty-four and the latter, seventy-four.

Alexander M. Switzer was a progressive farmer and early became a leader in his neighborhood. He set out seventy acres of fruit orchard and made a success of his fruit culture in addition to carrying on the general work of the farm with much success, and raised the first strawberries grown in Reno county. From the very first he took an active part in the county's civic affairs and in the fall of 1878 was elected county commissioner from his district, serving in that important capacity for a period of six years, during which time the iron bridge was erected across the Arkansas river. At the end of his second term in 1885 Mr. Switzer was presented by the citizens of the county with a handsome gold watch valued at one hundred and twenty-five dollars, as a mark of their appreciation of his valuable public services. In 1896 he was the candidate of the Republican party for the office of state senator from this senatorial district, but went down with the rest of the ticket in the populistic "tidal wave" which swept over Kansas in that memorable year. For many years he served his party as precinct committeeman and further served the public as township treasurer and as justice of the peace, in which latter capacity he served for twelve years.

In 1905 Mr. Switzer sold his farm to advantage and, not being content to retire, bought a store which had been opened at a point on the railroad now known as Yoder, the "town" then consisting of the said store and one dwelling house. In that same year Mrs. Switzer was made postmistress of Yoder, a position which she still holds, and both proceeded to "boom" the place. The next year, 1906, Mr. Switzer platted the village and a considerable sale of lots followed, the village now having a population of about seventy-five, with a most promising future, Mr. Switzer being the chief merchant of the town, which, as a result of his persistent representations to the railroad company now has a railroad station and is quite distinctly "on the map." In the fall of 1914 when Lincoln township was divided, Mr. Switzer led in the fight to have the new township named Yoder township and he won his contention, his own town of Yoder now being situated in the township of the same name. It was also through Mr. Switzer's efforts that the Farmers State Bank of Yoder was organized and he is the vice-president and a director of that concern.

To Alexander M. and Anna (Ingham) Switzer two children have been



born, daughters both, Gladys, born on November 29, 1890, who married Roland F. Brock and lives in Hutchinson, and Ethel, August 18, 1896, a teacher in the Reno county public schools. Mr. and Mrs. Switzer are members of the Harmony Baptist church and take a warm interest in the affairs of that organization, as well as in all good works in their community, and are held in high esteem throughout that section of the county, where they are so well known. In the earlier days of his residence in this county, Mr. Switzer was a Methodist and he hauled the sand for the construction of the first Methodist church erected in Hutchinson. For sixteen years he was superintendent of the Sunday school held in the Fairview school house in Lincoln township and was one of the county's most active Sunday school workers. Mr. Switzer is a member of Joe Hooker Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Hutchinson and is a thirty-second-degree Mason, a member of the blue lodge of that order at Hutchinson, of the commandery at the same place and of the consistory of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Masons at Wichita, as well as a member of Midlan Temple, Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, in the latter city, in the affairs of all of which divisions of Masonry he takes a warm interest.

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#### LIEUT. MARTIN HOAGLAND.

Lieut. Martin Hoagland, an honored veteran of the Civil War, one of the earliest pioneers of Reno county, a homesteader of 1871; former street commissioner of Hutchinson, who for years past has lived comfortably and pleasantly retired in Hutchinson, ever thoughtfully concerned in the advancement of the affairs of the community at large, is a native of Illinois, but has been a resident of Kansas since 1871, in which year he came to this county and became one of the organizers of Valley township, being elected first township trustee. He drove through from his old home in Illinois, bringing with him, besides his household goods and some essential farming implements, some fine chickens and three pure-bred Berkshire hogs. Lieutenant Hoagland has always maintained that he never suffered any pioneer hardships, but that is believed to be merely an expression of pioneer modesty, for it is doubtful if any of the real "old-timers" hereabout escaped the hardships common to the days of the grasshopper scourge and the burning winds and the withering droughts. Before coming here he had saved some money and was thus able, however, to tide over the period of losses of crops and

all save hope in the early seventies. It is certain that many there were who were grateful to him in those trying days for material assistance which enabled them to "pull through" and preserve their homestead claims in the face of adversities which would have daunted any but the true pioneer breed of men. For years Lieutenant Hoagland was master of the local Grange and one of the most influential agriculturists in this region. Upon moving to town he continued taking a prominent part in affairs and for some time served as commissioner of the city's streets and also for two terms as city police judge. In 1888 he erected three houses in the block in which he lives in Hutchinson and in one of these, 216 Fifth avenue, West, has since made his home.

Martin Hoagland was born on a farm adjoining the corporation line of the town of Bardolph, in McDonough county, Illinois, December 18, 1843, son of Oakey and Emily (Collins) Hoagland, the former of whom was born in Kentucky, son of Oakey M. and Ellen (Batterton) Hoagland. Oakey M. Hoagland, a native of Scotland, came to this country in his youth and was married in Kentucky. To him and his wife five children were born, those besides the father of the subject of this sketch having been Belle B., who married T. J. Creel, a merchant, of Bardolph, Illinois, for many years postmaster of that place; Kate, who married George McCabe, of Gibson City, Illinois; Michael H., who went to the Pacific coast in 1849, enlisted in the United States army in 1861 in Oregon, saw much arduous service and met his death in a terrible storm while acting as an escort to the United States mail, and Prof. B. S. Hoagland, who for years was manager of the Kansas Musical Jubilee at Hutchinson.

Oakley Hoagland was born at Frankfort, Kentucky, April 1, 1803. About 1836 he moved to Beardstown, Illinois, where for three years he was proprietor of a general store. He then moved to Bardolph, same state, where for eight hundred dollars he bought a half section of land adjoining the corporation line and there established his home. He was one of the organizers of the Presbyterian church at Bardolph and for years served as an elder of the same. He died on July 15, 1875. To him and his second wife, who was Emily Collins, a native of Connecticut, three children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch was the youngest, the others being Oakey M., a veteran of the Civil War, member of Company I, Fifty-seventh Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and Willie, who died at the age of twelve years.

Martin Hoagland was reared on the home farm in Illinois and supplemented the schooling he obtained in the local schools by a two-years' course

in Branch's Academy at Macomb and two years at the Prairie City Academy. On December 5, 1861, he then being not quite eighteen years old, he enlisted in Company I, Fifty-seventh Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the Civil War. Going out as a corporal he was gradually promoted until he was commissioned first lieutenant of his company and at the Grand Review at Washington at the close of the war was in command of a company. The Fifty-seventh Illinois saw much activity and Lieutenant Hoagland was in the thick of it all, several times having very narrow escapes from death, but he came through without serious wounds. Once he was thrown to the ground by the concussion of a large shell bursting near his head, his left ear being rendered useless by the force of the shock. Another time a musket ball carried away one of his knuckles; his watch in his waistcoat pocket once saved him from being pierced by a bullet and another time he was saved by the stock of his gun, which he was carrying front and which was struck by a bullet.

Upon the completion of his military service Lieutenant Hoagland returned to his home in Illinois and began farming, presently buying an eighty-acre farm west of Bardolph. On November 26, 1867, he was united in marriage to Emma Evans, a school teacher, who was born in Ohio and who was teaching school in the Bardolph neighborhood. Early in 1871 Lieutenant Hoagland disposed of his interests in Illinois and came to Kansas, locating in Reno county. He entered a homestead claim in section 30, Valley township, and there erected a frame building a story and a half high, sixteen by twenty-four feet, which, with twenty-five dollars in money, six months' provisions and the household goods, was whisked out of sight by a cyclone on May 15, 1873. In the house erected to take the place of the missing domicile the Hoaglands lived for three years and then Lieutenant Hoagland erected a substantial brick-lined dwelling, which served as a residence for him and his family until his retirement from the farm. Lieutenant Hoagland was an excellent farmer and it was not long until he was looked upon as one of the most substantial and influential residents of that part of the county. Upon the organization of Valley township he was elected township trustee and in that capacity did much for the advancement of the common interest thereabout. When the Grange was organized he took a prominent part in the affairs of that organization and for years was master of the same. In the fall of 1872 he brought to this county a carload of young trees from Illinois, thus being the first man to introduce nursery stock into Reno county, and his example in that direction, quickly followed

by others, was of incalculable benefit to the community. He set out a ten-acre orchard and demonstrated the adaptability of the soil hereabout to fruit culture; in 1879 being awarded seventeen premiums on his fruit at the Reno county fair. He also engaged extensively in the breeding of pure-bred Berkshire hogs and did much toward getting a good strain of swine introduced among the pioneers of this county. For eighteen years he was a member of the school board.

In 1883 Lieutenant Hoagland began buying grain for C. B. Myton at Windom and continued thus engaged until the death of Mr. Myton, after which he moved to Hutchinson and bought the Central restaurant, which then stood at the present site of the A. & A. drug store. A year later he bought the old Ohio House, then a popular hotel, and a year later bought an interest, with W. R. Morrison, in the Queen City meat market. Three years later he went with the Hutchinson Meat Packing Company as superintendent of the delivery department of that concern. In 1898 Martin Hoagland was elected a member of the Hutchinson city council and served two terms in that capacity. In 1900 he was appointed to the office of street commissioner and in that capacity rendered excellent service. He later served two terms as city police judge and in other ways has done his part in the public service. Lieutenant Hoagland is a life-long Republican and for years has been regarded as one of the leaders of that party in the county.

For twenty-six years Lieutenant Hoagland served as the local correspondent for the agricultural department at Washington and for eighteen years was correspondent to the *Orange Judd Farmer* from this section. He is past commander of Joe Hooker Post No. 17, Grand Army of the Republic, and has filled every office in that patriotic organization, for years serving as quartermaster. He is a charter member of Reno Lodge No. 140, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and of the local lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and for eight years was treasurer of the local organization of the Knights and Ladies of Security.

To Lieutenant and Mrs. Hoagland eight children have been born, as follow: Walter B., one of the proprietors of the Forsythe-Hoagland clothing store at Hutchinson; Arthur C., manager of that store; W. Louis, who was graduated from the Medical University of Kansas City in 1899 and is now physician for the Central Coal and Coke Company at Carsons, Louisiana; David R., an employee of the Adams Express Company at St. Louis; Olive C., a graduate of the Chicago Conservatory of Music, who married H. A. Lloyd, proprietor of an amusement park at Lawton, Oklahoma; Nellie, a graduate of the high school at Hutchinson, now a teacher in the



public schools of that city; Rose, who died in her graduating year, in 1899, and Floy, who received an excellent musical education and is now a teacher of music at Hutchinson, making her home with her parents.

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### MRS. ELIZABETH SKEEN.

Mrs. Elizabeth Skeen, widow of the late William Moore Skeen, and the proprietor of a well-kept and profitably cultivated farm on the edge of Brandy lake in Valley township, this county, has been a resident of Reno county since 1885 and is one of the best-known women in that part of the county in which she has long resided.

Elizabeth Warlow was born on a pioneer farm near the town of Danvers, in McLean county, Illinois, daughter of Jonathan and Catherine (Hay) Warlow, the former of whom was born in Massachusetts in 1814 and the latter in Kentucky, January 3, 1812. Jonathan Warlow when a lad moved with his parents from Massachusetts to Ohio, where his youth was spent. In 1834, he then being twenty years of age, he pushed on West and became one of the earliest settlers of McLean county, Illinois, at that time entering a tract of "Congress land" there which is still in the family name. In 1835 the family of Catherine Hay moved from the Hopkinsville (Kentucky) neighborhood and settled in McLean county, Catherine Hay then being a young woman. She and Jonathan Warlow were presently married and early became regarded as among the most substantial and influential residents of that community. Jonathan Warlow prospered in his farming operations and became quite wealthy, adding to his land holdings in McLean county until he was the owner of five hundred acres of land there, besides a farm of two hundred and forty acres in this county, which he bought in the early eighties. He was a Democrat and was influential in the political life of his community. He and his wife were earnest members of the Christian church, which he served as an elder for many years and he also was superintendent of the Sunday school for sixteen years. Jonathan Warlow died in 1900. His wife had predeceased him about fifteen years, her death having occurred in 1885. They were the parents of six children, namely: George L., a prominent lawyer of Fresno, California, which city has been his place of residence since 1888; Elizabeth, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Mary, who married Jesse Brainard, now living retired at Hutchinson, this county, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this







WILLIAM MOORE SKEEN.



MRS. ELIZABETH SKEEN.



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM W. McCANDLESS AND SON JAMES.



volume; Celia, who married George L. Johnson and died at Fresno, California, in 1913; Mrs. Della Rowell, a widow, now living at Fresno, California, and Ida, who married Harvey Abbots (now deceased) and continues to make her home on the old Warlow home place in McLean county, Illinois.

Elizabeth Warlow was reared on the home farm near Danvers, Illinois, receiving her elementary education in the local schools, which she supplemented by a course in Eureka College, from which she was graduated, after which she began teaching school in her home county, continuing, however, to make her home with her parents, and was thus engaged to the time of her marriage on December 25, 1879, to William Moore Skeen, of Bloomington, Illinois. It was a double wedding at the old Warlow home that Christmas Day, Elizabeth Warlow's sister, Ida, and Harvey Abbots being united in marriage at the same time. William M. Skeen was born in Downingtown, Pennsylvania, and when he was sixteen years old accompanied his parents to Bloomington, Illinois, where he grew to manhood. Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Skeen had their home on the latter's parents farm for about five years, at the end of which time, in 1885, they came to Reno county and took charge of Mr. Warlow's two hundred and forty acre farm in Valley township, arriving there on April 2 of that year, and there William M. Skeen spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on February 7, 1906, he then being sixty-seven years of age, having been born on March 27, 1839. His widow continues to reside there, she having inherited eighty acres of the original tract at the time of her father's death, and is very pleasantly situated. Brandy lake washes her farm on the east and in early days the fine grove on her place was a popular picnic-ground.

Mr. and Mrs. Skeen had no children, but they reared from childhood William W. McCandless, who, with his family, makes his home with Mrs. Skeen and operates her farm, besides renting a considerable tract of adjoining land, which he cultivates quite profitably. William W. McCandless was born in Kentucky, May 4, 1876, son of James McCandless and wife, the latter of whom was a Mitchell, and was a babe in arms when his parents came to Kansas in 1877. The family settled near the town of Raymond, where James McCandless was engaged as foreman of the local section of the Santa Fe railroad. In 1884 Mrs. McCandless died and her bereaved husband sent his children back to Kentucky, where they remained with kinsfolk until his marriage two years later, after which they were returned to Kansas. These children were as follow: Claud, a farmer of this county; Gaither, section foreman for the Santa Fe Railroad Company at Raymond, in the neighbor-



ing county of Rice; Minnie, who married O. W. Bottorf and lives at Fresno, California, and William W., who, in 1891, he then being fifteen years of age, was taken into the Skeen home, which he ever since has regarded as home, although he has been away for considerable periods at various times. In April, 1899, he enlisted in the Fifth Cavalry, United States Army, for service in Porto Rico, and served for three years with the army. In 1902 he re-enlisted, this time in the Twelfth United States Infantry, and served for three years with the army in the Philippines, being mustered out in June, 1905. Since the death of Mr. Skeen in 1906 he has been operating the Skeen farm and is doing very well. Mr. McCandless, when sixteen years of age, saved a man from drowning in Brandy lake, while many people were boating. The man had gone under twice, and Mr. McCandless, having presence of mind, went out to him in a boat and rescued him as he went down the third time. All the newspapers lauded him on his brave act.

On July 24, 1911, William W. McCandless was united in marriage to Cora Mae Reed, who was born in Camden county, Missouri, February 20, 1886, daughter of George and Sarah (Seaton) Reed, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of Iowa, who now live on a farm in Clay township, this county, where they have made their home since 1909, and to this union one child has been born, a son, James Earl, born on April 5, 1912.

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### FRANK A. MARTIN.

Frank A. Martin, one of the best-known, most progressive and most substantial ranchmen of Sylvia township, this county, former mayor of the town of Sylvia, who has witnessed the development of Reno county and the region hercabout since pioneer days, and who in the summer of 1915 moved into a splendid country house on his great ranch, a striking contrast to the sod shanty on the plain, in which he established his home upon setting up for himself in Sylvia township, is a native of Illinois, having been born on a farm in Piatt county, that state, January 15, 1861, son of Daniel Louis and Jane (Snyder) Martin, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Ohio.

Daniel L. Martin moved, as a boy, with his parents from New York to Ohio and in the latter state he grew to manhood and married. In 1850 he and his bride emigrated to Illinois, locating in Piatt county, where Mr. Martin homesteaded a quarter of a section of land and established his home.

In 1861 he enlisted as a private in Company H, One Hundred and Seventh Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served valorously during the Civil War until he met a soldier's fate at the battle of Franklin, Tennessee, being killed during that engagement on November 30, 1864, his widow and children being thus bereft of a kind husband and indulgent father. There were six of these children, namely: William Andrew, who lives at Waldron, this state; Daniel, who died at his home in Stafford county, this state, on March 28, 1908; Elizabeth Jane, who married Andrew J. Darr and died at her home in this county in 1882; Abigail, widow of Martin Sims, of Stafford county; Frank A., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, and Mary Alice, who married Sam B. Hammond, of Reno Hill, in Reno county, both of whom are now deceased.

After the death of her soldier husband in 1864 Mrs. Martin disposed of her interests in Piatt county, Illinois, and with her six small children returned to the home of her father, Mary Snyder, in Scioto county, Ohio, where, in 1873, she married, secondly, W. P. Stockham, who came to Kansas with his family in 1876, arriving in the neighboring county of Stafford on February 22, of that year. Mr. Stockham homesteaded a tract of land on the Reno county line in section 2, of Fairview township, Stafford county, and there established his home on the plains, he and his family thus becoming counted among the earliest settlers of that section. Mrs. Stockham died there on March 2, 1893, at the age of sixty-four, and Mr. Stockham then went to Nebraska, where his death occurred a few years later.

Frank A. Martin was about three years old when his father was killed in battle and he spent his boyhood on the farm of his grandfather in Ohio, receiving his education in the neighboring district school. He was fifteen years old when the family came to this state and he grew to manhood on the homestead place on the Reno county line, over in Stafford county, living in one of the few frame houses in that section at that time. When he arrived there there was not another house within sight of their homestead in any direction and no school anywhere near, the first school in that district being a subscription school organized by the neighbors who later came in, the pupils receiving their instructions seated on rude benches placed in the Stockham granary. During the days of Frank A. Martin's young manhood there still were numerous Indians hereabout, though no hostile bands. For the first few years one of the "chief products of the soil" was buffalo bones, and as "ready money" was mighty scarce hereabout then Mr. Martin was glad to gather up the bones off the plains and haul them by ox-team to Hutchinson, thirty-five miles away, where he

received six dollars a ton for the same. While thus engaged, he cleared the site of the present flourishing city of Piatt of the bones lying thereabout. The nearest market for the family then was Sterling, thirty-three miles away.

Mr. Martin remained at home until his marriage in 1882, after which he homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 6 in Sylvia township, this county, constructed a sod shanty on the plain and there established his bride. He was successful in his farming operations, in addition to his grain farming going in rather extensively for cattle raising, keeping his herds on the open range, and after having improved his place sold out to advantage in 1888 and for a short time made his home in Stafford county. He then returned to Sylvia township and bought section 17 in that township, later buying the east half of section 19, and is now established there, the owner of nine hundred and sixty acres of as good land as lies in Reno county. During all his farming career Mr. Martin has been heavily engaged in cattle raising and has prospered as a cattleman. He also puts out about five hundred acres of wheat each year and is regarded as one of the most substantial ranchmen in his section of the county. In 1900 Mr. Martin retired from the farm for a season and removed to Sylvia, where he built a hotel, which he operated for a couple of years and then sold. He then organized the Farmers' Telephone Company at Sylvia and for five years was manager of that concern. He also is a stockholder of the Citizens' State Bank of Sylvia and is the custodian of all the valuable papers belonging to that institution. He also is one of the directors of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Sylvia and in other ways has shown his interest in the general enterprises of his local community. Shortly after moving to Sylvia Mr. Martin was elected mayor of the town, in which capacity he served for one term. He also rendered public service as a member of the city council for four years, being elected on the Democrat ticket. In 1915 Mr. Martin built a fine new modern county house on his farm two and one-half miles west of Sylvia and in April of that year moved into the same, now being as comfortably situated as anyone thereabout.

On June 12, 1882, Frank A. Martin was united in marriage to Dena Kreie, who was born in Missouri, daughter of Conrad and Henrietta Kreie, natives of Germany, who was settled in Missouri, later coming to this county, and to this union six children have been born, as follow: Mabel Blanche, who married Ora E. Eichelberger and lives at Sylvia; Grover Cleveland, who is managing a part of his father's farm; Guy E., who also

manages another part of his father's farm; Jessie Jane, who married Oscar R. White and lives in Woodward county, Oklahoma; B. Albert, a student in the county high school at Nickerson, and Daniel C., also in school. The Martins ever have taken a warm interest in the social affairs of their community and the family is held in the highest esteem by all. Mr. Martin is a member of the Masonic fraternity, in the affairs of which he takes an active interest.

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### CHARLES H. BUSH.

Charles H. Bush, traveling salesman for the Grovier Produce Company, of Hutchinson, Kansas, and a member of that firm, was born in Salem, Ohio, May 29, 1866, being a son of David W. and Margaret J. (Halliday) Bush. David W. Bush was born in Ohio, September 16, 1844, and was a farmer. In 1870 he left Ohio and went to Iowa, locating in Taylor county, where he homesteaded a claim of one hundred and sixty acres and lived for a number of years. His death occurred in Denver, Colorado, in October, 1906. Margaret J. (Halliday) Bush was a native of Pennsylvania, born on March 14, 1842, and is still living on the old homestead in Taylor county, Iowa. The father was born in Pennsylvania, September 15, 1817, and died on December 28, 1875. Her mother was born in Pennsylvania, March 14, 1818, and died on September 5, 1909.

Charles H. Bush is one of a family of six children, the others being as follow: Minnie, who was born in Ohio, April 3, 1868, died in Ohio in 1869; Franklin V., born in Ohio, January 29, 1870, married Alma Stroud, December 7, 1904, is now a farmer on the original homestead with his mother in Taylor county, Iowa; Vesta Lydia, born in Iowa, May 26, 1873, is a teacher in the public schools of the state of Washington; Lawrence A., born in Iowa, October 10, 1877, married Elnora Huss, October 12, 1904, is also a farmer in Taylor county, Iowa; Mary B., who married Ernest M. Posten, November 20, 1902, lives in Taylor county, Iowa, where her husband is engaged in farming.

Charles H. Bush received his elementary education in the common schools located near his home in Iowa and later attended the Western Normal College at Shenandoah, Iowa. He studied there during the years of 1884-5-6, being graduated in the latter year after having completed his studies in shorthand, typewriting and book-keeping. He came to Hutchinson, Kansas, February 8, 1887, and accepted a clerkship in the law



offices of George A. Vandever and F. L. Martin, remaining with those gentlemen for two years. He next was in the office of E. E. Barton, president of the Barton Salt Company, remaining there about two and one-half years. He next entered the office of the Hutchinson Packing Company, with whom he remained eight years and he then became associated with the Sentney Wholesale Grocery Company, remaining in that connection for twelve and one-half years. Through some of his business connections, Mr. Bush had become acquainted with the Grovier Produce Company, of Great Bend, this state, and at his suggestion that company established a branch office in Hutchinson on June 2, 1913, Mr. Bush being made manager of this branch. In latter years he resigned as manager to become a traveling salesman in their employ. The business has grown to such proportions throughout this section that the Hutchinson office is now the home office and the original office but a branch. Mr. Bush has become a member of the firm and largely through his efforts the business has grown to its present proportions. They deal in general country produce and the firm has furnished an outlet for much of the produce of this section, which would not be handled otherwise.

In the latter part of the year 1893, when land values were low, Charles H. Bush, with the assistance of B. W. Underwood, manager of the Hutchinson Packing Company, purchased a house and six lots on Sixth avenue, East, in the city of Hutchinson. There he lived with his family until April, 1, 1909, when, desiring to secure the pleasure of country life for his boys and girls, Mr. Bush traded his city property for a farm in Reno county, securing from Colonel Chapman, of Great Bend, the Jones farm located in Reno township, consisting of one hundred and sixty-six acres, where he has since made his home. This farm is located about four and one-half miles west of Hutchinson, being the northwest quarter of section 8, township 23, range 6. Mr. Bush was married at Hutchinson on October 2, 1887, to Flora A. Cline, born in Wirt county, West Virginia, March 25, 1869. Mrs. Bush is a daughter of Edward G. and Sarah Jane (Gough) Cline, being one of their family of eight children. Her sister, Clara Theresa, born on December 12, 1871, in Wirt county, West Virginia, is the wife of Oscar W. Hartman, of Hutchinson; Nora Ethel was born on January 18, 1874; Henry Thomas, September 26, 1876, and Edward Marshall, February 28, 1878, all these first having seen the light of day in Wirt county, West Virginia. Hattie Elizabeth and Grace were both born in Russel county, this state, the former May 26, 1880, and the latter February 13,



1882, while Myrtle Belle, the youngest of the family, was born in Harvey county, this state, May 16, 1885, and died on September 26, 1898, at Pleasant Vale, Coshocton county, Ohio. Edward G. Cline, father of this family, was born in Ohio county, West Virginia, on February 2, 1831, and died in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, October 10, 1914. The mother was also a native of West Virginia, born in Gilmore county, February 27, 1846, and died in Cambridge, Ohio, September 30, 1896.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Bush have a family of seven children, as follow: Rena Gladys, born on December 8, 1888, the wife of Roy Dillen, a farmer of Carrollton, Illinois; Victor Harvey, April 30, 1891, a mechanic residing in Hutchinson; Alta Bell, July 15, 1893; Arthur Charles, August 9, 1896; Roy Orville, June 11, 1898, a farmer in Reno county; Clara Margaret, February 10, 1901, and Flora Alice, June 12, 1903; all the children being born in the city of Hutchinson. In politics, Mr. Bush votes independently, choosing the man rather than supporting any party ticket. He holds fraternal affiliation with the Modern Woodmen of America and takes a commendable interest in the work of the order. He is a man of ability and high standing, well worthy of the high esteem in which he is held.

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### JOHN RAY SANDERS.

John Ray Sanders, a prominent and prosperous farmer of Yoder township, is the offspring of an ancestry that originated in Scotland, France and Virginia, merged in Kentucky, and traveling westward, sojourned for years in Indiana and Illinois, to finally bring up in Reno county, Kansas, in the person of Mr. Sanders, who was born in Clark county, Illinois, November 17, 1854, and is the son of Frank and Jane (Berkeley) Sanders.

Frank Sanders was born at Dry Ridge, Kentucky, and died in 1881, at the age of fifty-four. His father was a Virginian, but in early pioneer days, perhaps about 1815, he crossed the mountains to Kentucky. He married there, and several of his children were born there preceding his removal to Marion county, Indiana, which occurred in the early thirties. He settled on a farm eight miles south of Indianapolis, Indiana, where his death occurred at the advanced age of one hundred and three years.

Jane (Berkeley) Sanders was born in Martin county, Indiana, and died in May, 1911, at the age of ninety years, in Marion county, Indiana. Her father, George Berkeley, a native of Scotland, after his arrival in the United

States, married a French girl, and settled on a farm in Martin county, Indiana.

Frank Saunders grew up on his father's farm in Marion county, Indiana, but in 1853 he moved to Clark county, Illinois, where he owned and lived on a farm for five years. In 1858 he sold his farm in Illinois, and returned to Marion county, Indiana, where he purchased his father's farm of two hundred and forty acres, and there he lived and cared for his parents the remainder of their lives, and there he and his wife resided the rest of their days. Both were faithful and earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

John Ray Sanders was the only son of his parents, but he had six sisters. He was only four years old when his parents moved back to Indiana from Illinois. He attended the public schools, but being the only son, spent most of his youth helping his father on the farm. Through his own efforts, however, he has a good general education. When he attained his majority, he went to Jasper county, Illinois, where he worked at farm labor for six months. He then returned to Indiana and remained until 1880. He did construction work on the Monon railroad, between Indianapolis and Chicago all the time that road was being built. He spent another season in Illinois, and joined his sister, Mrs. John Wittorff, of Reno county, Kansas, in 1883. John Wittorff came to Kansas in 1872, and was the first Granger to deposit money in the First National Bank at Hutchinson. Mr. Sanders worked for John Wittorff and other farmers until 1888, when, on June 13, he was married to Ella Mae House, a native of West Virginia, and the daughter of Abraham House and wife, of Lincoln township, now both deceased. For twelve years after his marriage Mr. Sanders rented a farm south of Hutchinson, and during seven years of that time operated a threshing machine each season in Reno county. In 1900 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Clay township, where had been located the first postoffice in Reno county. The postmaster was Mr. Carwell, an early settler.

In 1914, when Yoder township was formed, the farm was included in it. Mr. Sanders has since purchased eighty additional acres. He paid twenty-six hundred dollars for his farm, and now, fifteen years later, has refused sixteen thousand dollars for it. After releasing the mortgage on his farm, he erected a comfortable and commodious house and resides there, carrying on general farming. He and his family belong to the Clay Valley Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Sanders is a Democrat in politics, while fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

Mr. and Mrs. Sanders are the parents of two children, Alice and Howard. Alice is the wife of C. B. Eales. They live in Montana, and have one son, John. Howard Sanders married Opal Woodruff, and lives on the home farm with his father, assisting in the management of the place.

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### ED. G. HOWELL.

Ed. G. Howell, the son of William E. and Rebecca J. (Culley) Howell, was born in Kimmundy, Illinois, on May 13, 1874. William H. Howell, a native of Kimmundy, came to Kansas in August, 1882, and settled in Reno county, seven miles from Nickerson. He farmed on rented land until 1899, at which time he purchased two hundred acres, which he later sold to his son, Thomas. Rebecca J. (Culley) Howell was born in Mt. Vernon, Indiana, where she grew to womanhood. She and Mrs. Howell are Dunkards and take much interest in all the work of the church.

To William H. Howell and wife have been born the following children: Fred, a retired farmer at Nickerson; Thomas, a farmer in Reno county; Mattie, at home in Reno; Albert, in the transfer business at Kansas City, Missouri; Bessie, who died at the age of one year, and Mary, the wife of R. L. Dilley, a farmer at Partridge.

Ed. G. Howell received his education in the schools of Nickerson and McPherson, Kansas. Since leaving school he has always been engaged in farming. He first purchased two hundred acres of land in Sylvia township, which he still owns. For the past few years he has devoted much of his time to the real-estate business, with his office in the Sun building at Sylvia. He is progressive and takes much interest in the social, business and religious life of the town, being a member of the Commercial Club, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Methodist Episcopal church.

On June 20, 1906, Ed. G. Howell was united in marriage, in Kansas, to Jessie M. Carter, the daughter of John L. and Eva (Grimes) Carter. Mrs. Howell is a native of Stafford, Kansas, where she was born on November 15, 1884. John L. Carter is a native of Illinois and came to Kansas as a young man. He now lives at Dodge City, where he is engaged in the grain business. Mrs. Carter was born in the state of New York and died at Mackville, Kansas on January 31, 1909. To John L. Carter and wife were born the following children: Bernice, the wife of Charles M. Hillary, the superintendent of schools of Humboldt; Inez, at home in Dodge City;

Louis, farmer and grain dealer at Dodge City; Earl and Ronald, at home in Dodge City.

Ed. G. Howell and wife, the parents of three children, all born in Sylvia township: Eldon Carter, born on January 10, 1909, Kenneth Ed., June 30, 1911, and Vera Madeline, January 9, 1915.

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### HARRISON AUGUSTUS HILL.

Harrison Augustus Hill, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Huntsville township, this county, an honored veteran of the Civil War and one of the real pioneers of Reno county, having been a resident here since 1873, is a native of the great Empire state, having been born in Jefferson county, New York, December 11, 1846, son of George Washington and Mary (Boyse) Hill, the former a native of that same state and the latter of England, whose last days were spent on their farm in New York.

George Washington Hill was the son of Daniel and Peggie (Short) Hill, both natives of New York state, the former of whom was trained as a shoemaker, but later became a farmer. Daniel Hill and wife were members of the Baptist church and their children were reared in that faith. There were six of these children, Walter, George W., Leonard, Jefferson, Harrison and Margaret. Though his boyhood schooling was of the meagerest sort, George W. Hill was a great reader and became a very well-informed man. Reared on a farm, he became a farmer on his own account, the owner of one hundred and twelve acres in Jefferson county, New York, where he spent his last days. He was twice married, his first wife having been Elizabeth Boyse, a native of England, to which union one child was born, a daughter, Jane. Upon the death of his first wife, George W. Hill married her sister, Mary Boyse, who was five years old when she came to America from England with her parents, and to this union were born ten children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the eldest, the others being George Washington, Abbie (deceased), Frances, John (deceased), Elwin, Adelia, Cora, Verna and Alice, and of whom Cora was the only one besides the subject of this sketch who came to Kansas. The father of these children died in 1902, at the age of eighty-seven, and his widow survived until 1914, she being eighty-six years of age at the time of her death. They were members of the Methodist church and their children were reared in that faith.

Harrison A. Hill was reared on the home farm in Jefferson county,



New York, and received his elementary education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home. When just past seventeen years old, one day in December, 1863, he left his dinner pail at the door of the school house and instead of pursuing his studies slipped off to a recruiting station and enlisted for service in the Union army during the continuance of the Civil War. He was accepted, despite his youth, by the Fourteenth New York Heavy Artillery and served in that command until the close of the war, being mustered out as a sergeant. In the first battle of Petersburg he was severely wounded in one of his legs and in the second battle of Petersburg his right shoulder was so severely bruised by the recoil of his gun which he kept firing almost incessantly throughout that engagement, that for years his shoulder gave him trouble and even after he had settled down in this county he was compelled to leave his wife and two small children and return to New York, where he was under treatment for his shoulder trouble for eighteen months.

Upon the completion of his military service, Harrison A. Hill took a course in the high school at Clayton, New York, and in 1866 moved to Illinois. In 1873 he came to Kansas and located in Reno county. In November of that year he homesteaded a quarter of a section in Huntsville township and pre-empted an adjoining quarter section, both of which he still owns and where he ever since has made his home. When Mr. Hill located his homestead there was not another settler within a radius of ten miles of his place and the buffaloes were still ranging about the plains, providing an easy and ample supply of meat and robes for the pioneer. Cornstalks and buffalo "chips" served him for fuel and he not infrequently added to his none too liberal supply of cash by gathering a load of buffalo bones off the plains and hauling the same to Hutchinson, where those "natural products of the soil" had a well-established market value. In 1876 he married and thereafter had a real home instead of the lonely bachelor quarters he had set up on the plain. As his farming and stock-raising operations prospered Mr. Hill gradually added to his land holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres, which he still owns and which he has brought up to a high state of cultivation. Mr. Hill is a Republican and from the very beginning of his residence in this county has taken an active part in local civic affairs. He has held all the township offices at one time and another, helped lay out the highways in his part of the county and was one of the chief factors in the organization of the school system in his home township. He helped organize the first voting precinct in Huntsville township in 1876 and for years has been regarded as one of the leaders in his party thereabout. Mr. Hill was one of the organizers of the Plevna-Hunts-



ville Telephone Company, is a stockholder in the bank at Plevna and owns real estate in the city of Huntsville. He was one of the leaders in the movement which resulted in the construction of a bridge across the river south of Sterling, and in other ways has taken an active part in all worthy local enterprises.

It was on February 29, 1876, that Harrison A. Hill was united in marriage to Martha Elizabeth Freeman, who died in December, 1890, leaving five children, Mark F., Harry A., F. Roy, Ivan and Florence. On February 8, 1894, Mr. Hill married, secondly, Anna Elizabeth Tucker, who was born on a farm in the neighborhood of Springfield, Illinois, August 10, 1859, daughter of Robert and Sarah Tucker, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Lloyd Glenn. Mr. Hill is a member of the Masonic order and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

In the year 1874 Mr. Hill was the innocent cause of an Indian scare reaching from Sun City to in and around Mr. Hill's neighborhood. He had occasion to go to Wichita by wagon. Several of his bachelor neighbors wanted to go with him and as there was but one woman and child in the neighborhood they took her along and someone started the alarm that they were fleeing from the Indians, but Mr. Hill and his associates knew nothing about it until they got back and found the whole county in arms. Mr. Hill was criticised because he took so many with him that it gave the impression they were fleeing.

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### SAMUEL HASTON.

Samuel Haston, a well-known and well-to-do farmer and stockman of Walnut township, this county, owner of a fine farm in that township, where he makes his home, and another fine farm in Hayes township, is a native of Virginia, having been born on a farm in Botetourt county, that state, January 25, 1866, son of John and Frances (Lyle) Haston, both natives of that state, and the parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the seventh in order of birth, the others being Bettie, James, John, Margaret, Susan, Pearl, Jessie and Oden. John Haston died on July 28, 1871, and his widow married the Rev. James Neal, of Eaton, Ohio, which second marriage, was without issue.

Samuel Haston was reared on the home farm in Virginia, receiving his schooling in the neighborhood schools and remained at home until he was twenty-one years old, when, in 1887, he came to Kansas and located in Reno

county, joining his elder brothers, James and John, who had come here the previous year. In a biographical sketch relating to the elder of the Haston brothers, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is set out in detail something of the genealogy and history of this family, to which the attention of the reader is respectfully invited for additional information in this connection. Samuel Haston engaged in farming upon coming to this county and prospered in his operations, finally buying, in 1895, the farm of four hundred acres on which he now makes his home in Walnut township, besides which he also is the owner of a farm of two hundred and forty acres in Hayes township, this county. Mr. Haston, in addition to his general farming, has given considerable attention to stock raising and for years has dealt largely in Hereford cattle, Duroc hogs and mules. During the early stages of the European War of 1914 many of Mr. Haston's mules helped supply the market created by that war.

On February 14, 1889, Samuel Haston was united in marriage to Emma J. Conley, who died on April 20, 1879, leaving three children, A. C., Maud E. and Roy M. Mr. Haston married, secondly, on August 21, 1907, Isabel Smith, daughter of Mary A. Smith and a native of Illinois, which union has been without issue. Mr. Haston is a thirty-second degree Mason and a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine since 1896. He has been a member of the Knights of Pythias for more than twenty-five years and in the affairs of these organizations takes a warm interest.

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#### WILLIAM B. REAM.

William B. Ream, a prominent real-estate dealer at Turon, this county, who for eighteen years was engaged in the newspaper business in that thriving town and who is one of the best-known men in Reno county, is a native of Iowa, having been born on a farm in Benton county, that state, June 7, 1874, son of George W. and Sarah A. (Brubaker) Ream, both of whom were born in Summit county, Ohio, the former on March 18, 1839, and the latter, October 20, 1843.

George W. Ream was reared on a farm near Greensburg, Ohio, and in 1864, not long after his marriage, moved to Iowa, settling in Benton county, where he bought a quarter of a section of land and there made his home until in November, 1886, at which time he and his family came to Kansas. Mr. Ream homesteaded a quarter of a section in Scott county and

entered a timber claim to a quarter of a section in Gove county and became a well-to-do farmer and stockman. In 1894 he retired from the farm and moved to Garden City, this state, but after living there about a year bought a quarter of a section of land near Arnold, in Ness county, and moved onto the same, spending the rest of his life there, his death occurring on April 15, 1915. His widow is now living at Arnold. She is the mother of seven children and has twenty-four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. The seven children born to George W. Ream and wife, besides the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, are as follow: Alice, who married Cyrus Sherwood, a farmer, living near Arnold, this state; Flora, who married J. E. Stout, station agent and telegraph operator for the railroad company, at Reno, Nevada; Norman S., of Berkeley, California, superintendent of the Shell Oil Company of Rodeo; Lydia, who married C. J. VanAntwerp, assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Scott City, this state; Mary, who married Henry Yasmer, a farmer of Ness county, this state, and Lottie, who married John C. Mitchell, a real-estate dealer at Scott City.

William B. Ream was reared on the home farm in Benton county, Iowa, where his boyhood was spent, receiving his elementary education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home there. He was twelve or thirteen years of age when his parents came to Kansas and he learned the printer's trade at Scott City, becoming a very proficient printer and acquiring a thorough acquaintance with the newspaper business. In March, 1895, Mr. Ream came to Reno county and was engaged as manager of the *Weekly Press* at Turon, this county, for three or four years, at the end of which time he bought the paper and continued as editor and publisher of the same until in October, 1913, at which time he sold the paper and has since then been engaged in the insurance and farm loans business, manager of the real-estate and insurance department of the Farmers' State Bank of Turon, with offices in the bank building, and has built up a fine business in that line. From the very beginning of his residence in Turon Mr. Ream has taken an active and a prominent part in the civic affairs of that thriving town. Before the town was incorporated he held the office of township clerk and then he was elected justice of the peace, an office which he held for two terms. He was the first police judge of Turon and then held office as city clerk for one term. He was a member of the city council for two terms, among the second term of such service serving also as acting mayor, and was then elected mayor, serving as chief executive officer of the city when the electric-light and water plants were installed. Mr. Ream is a

substantial citizen of Turon, the owner of real estate there besides his pleasant home on East Chicago street, and takes an active interest in all movements designed to advance the general welfare thereabout. He is a Republican and long has been regarded as one of the leaders of the party in that part of the county.

On September 29, 1898, at Pratt, this state, William B. Ream was united in marriage to Jennie McNickle, who was born at Mt. Pleasant, West Virginia, in April, 1873, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Wolfe) McNickle, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Meigs county, Ohio, who came to Kansas in 1885, locating in Stafford county, where Mr. McNickle later bought three hundred and twenty acres of land, where he still lives and where his wife died in August, 1912. To William B. and Jennie (McNickle) Ream three children have been born, Etna, born on May 19, 1900; Lloyd, October 20, 1901, and Arnold, December 29, 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Ream take their proper part in the social and cultural life of the community in which they live and are held in high esteem by all thereabout. Mr. Ream is a past grand master of the Odd Fellows lodge and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, in the affairs of both of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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#### HENRY KELLING.

Henry Kelling, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of South Hayes township, this county, proprietor of a well-kept farm of three hundred and twenty acres in sections 6 and 7, of that township, where he has lived since settling there in pioneer days, is a native of Indiana, having been born in Laporte county, that state, April 16, 1847, but has been a resident of Kansas since 1872 and a resident of Reno county since 1875. His father, Joseph Kelling, came from Germany to the United States about 1842 and located in Laporte county, in the northwestern part of Indiana, where he spent the rest of his life. Henry Kelling is now the only survivor of the family of Joseph Kelling.

Henry Kelling grew to manhood at Laporte and in 1870 was united in marriage there to Augusta Deitrick, who was born in Germany and who had come to this country with her parents, Joseph Deitrick and wife, and had settled with them at Laporte. In 1872, two years after their marriage, Henry Kelling and his wife came to Kansas and settled in Montgomery

county, but three years later, in 1875, came to Reno county and located in the northeastern part of what is now South Hayes township and there have made their home ever since. Mr. Kelling homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 6 and the northwest quarter of section 7 and proceeded to develop the same, in good time bringing the farm to its present state of improvement and cultivation, long having been looked upon as one of the most substantial farmers of that part of the county.

When Mr. Kelling settled in this county he had to face the privations incident to the lives of the pioneers hereabout and to endure the common hardships of the time, but he "stuck to it" and it was not long until he recognized the fact that he had acted very wisely in putting in his lot with that of the early pioneers of this part of the state. In the early days buffalo "chip" and cornstalks were his fuel and he found it convenient at times to haul a load of buffalo bones, gathered off the plains, to the market at Hutchinson, where he could exchange the same for a bit of ready money. He occasionally would join in a buffalo hunt as a means of replenishing the supply of meat and knew the plains hereabout for many miles around. Mr. Kelling is a Republican and has served the public as a member of the township board and as school director.

To Mr. and Mrs. Kelling two children have been born, Jennie, who married J. A. Hull and lives in Stafford county, this state, and Lollie, who married Henry Sour and lives in Sylvia township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Kelling are members of the Christian church and take an active interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in all neighborhood good works.

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#### GEORGE W. LEE.

County Clerk George W. Lee, of Reno county, is a native of Seneca county, Ohio, where he was born on April 27, 1860, son of Thomas David and Melinda (Russigie) Lee, the former of whom, born near the town of Pen Yan, in Yates county, New York, in 1814, died in 1868, and the latter, born at Poughkeepsie, in Dutchess county, New York, in 1815, died in 1881.

Thomas David Lee grew to manhood in his native county and when twenty years of age married, he and his wife settling in Seneca county, Ohio, where they entered a tract of land from the government and created a pioneer home in the then wilderness and there spent the remainder of





*Geo W Lee*



their lives. Thomas D. Lee was an ardent Democrat and took an active interest in the political affairs of his home county. He served for many years as justice of the peace in his township and was occupying that position when he died. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Eight children were born to them, the subject of this sketch being the youngest of this family.

George W. Lee was but eight years of age when his father died and he grew to manhood in the town of Bloomville, Ohio, his early education being secured in the schools of that place. He engaged in the livery business, also in the buying and selling of horses, and was thus engaged for nine years, or until 1885, in which year he came to this county and bought a tract of land in Bell township, which he speedily improved and there he made his home for eighteen years, becoming known as one of the most progressive farmers in that part of the county. In 1903 he sold that farm and removed to Medora township, where he bought another place which he made into a fruit and stock farm, and which he enlarged by later purchases until now he is the owner of four hundred and eighty acres, one-fourth of which is set out in orchard fruits. In 1909, Mr. Lee retired from the farm and moved to Hutchinson, where he engaged in the real-estate business, and in 1910 was elected county assessor on the Republican ticket, in which office he performed such acceptable service that he was re-elected and is still holding that office, this making him the incumbent in two county offices, for in 1914 he was elected clerk of Reno county, which office he also is holding, the respective duties of the two offices not being in conflict. Ever since his arrival in Reno county, Mr. Lee has been interested in civic affairs and during his residence in Bell township was township trustee, a position to which he also was elected up on his removal to Medora township. He also served the public as school director and as school clerk.

On December 19, 1878, George W. Lee was united in marriage to Ella E. Paul, who was born in Crawford county, Ohio, daughter of Lyman and Mary Paul, well-to-do farming people there, both of whom now are deceased, and to this union seven children have been born, as follow: Vernon P., a farmer of Bell township, this county; Gretta M., wife of M. D. Hatch, a prominent business man of Lincoln, Nebraska; Lloyd T., a farmer of Arlington township, this county; Ernest and Pearl (twins), the former of whom is a farmer of Bell township and the latter is assistant to her father in the county clerk's office; Roy, who is attending the public schools, and Florence, also in school. Mr. and Mrs. Lee are earnest mem-

bers of the First Christian church, in the faith of which their children were reared and the congregation of which Mr. Lee long served in the capacity of a deacon, and the family is interested in all good works hereabout.

Mr. Lee is a Republican and for years has been regarded as one of the leaders of that party in this county. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in the affairs of which order he takes an active interest. The Lees live in a very pleasant home at 1324 North Main street, Hutchinson, which was erected in 1913.

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### CORNELIUS BRADSHAW COPELAND.

Cornelius Bradshaw Copeland, township trustee of Sumner township, this county, secretary of the Farmers' Telephone Company at Haven, first president of the Haven Elevator Company, a prosperous farmer of that neighborhood and for years one of the leaders in the life of that community, is a native of Illinois, but has lived in this county since he was nine years old and is thus very properly regarded as one of the pioneers of Reno county. He was born in the town of Wapella, Dewitt county, Illinois, October 20, 1867, son of Milton N. and Zerilda (Long) Copeland, both natives of Ohio, the former born in Monroe county on August 17, 1825, and the latter in Hamilton county, December 26, 1828, whose last days were spent in this county, for years prominent and useful residents of the Haven neighborhood.

Following their marriage in Ohio on November 7, 1850, Milton N. Copeland and wife moved to Illinois, settling in Wapella in 1858. Mr. Copeland was a blacksmith and wagon-maker and operated a shop with four forges in that town, long actively engaged in the wagon-making industry. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted for service in the Union army and served for three years in Company A, One Hundred and Seventh Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, being mustered out as a sergeant of his company. On January 8, 1874, he and his family came to Kansas and located in Wichita, where Mr. Copeland opened a wagon-making shop. In July, of that year, he filed a claim on a homestead in section 4, Sumner township, Reno county, and in 1876 moved out from Wichita and established his home on that tract. He erected a frame house on his homestead tract upon locating there, that being a time when most of the homesteaders were still living in sod houses or dug-outs, and also put up a blacksmith shop, which latter he operated for twenty years. He early took an active

part in the civic affairs of the community and was a man of much force and influence in pioneer days. He was a Republican, but when the Populists were organized with so much force in this state he became a member of that party and served as a member of the central committee of that party. For seven years he served as township treasurer and in other ways rendered valuable aid to the common cause in the neighborhood of his home. During their residence in Wichita, Milton N. Copeland and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church, but later became members of the Congregational church at Haven. Mr. Copeland was a Mason and took an earnest interest in Masonic affairs. He died on November 20, 1897, and his widow survived until April 3, 1909. They were the parents of two sons and four daughters, namely: Cornelius B., the subject of this sketch; George L., who is engaged in the grocery business at Hollywood, California; Carrie, born in Illinois, May 15, 1852, died at Wichita, October 15, 1884; Fannie, born in Illinois, May 20, 1855, died at Wichita, September 24, 1894; and Celia and Ellen, who died in infancy.

Cornelius B. Copeland was seven years old when he came with his parents to Kansas and was nine years old when they came to Reno county in 1876. In the following winter he attended the first school opened in Sumner township, the same being conducted by Mrs. Hattie Dickey in a building eight by twelve feet in floor dimensions, which served as a school house until April 30, 1879, when a new district school house was opened one mile west of the Copeland homestead. This latter building served the school house in district No. 74 until December 9, 1912, when the present fine district standard school on a corner of Mr. Copeland's farm was opened. Cornelius B. Copeland grew up on the homestead farm, gradually assuming the responsibilities of the management of the same as the weight of his father's years increased, and since the death of his parents has been the owner of the place. Mr. Copeland is a Socialist and supports that party in voting the national ticket, voting independently in local elections. Since 1897 he has served the public as trustee of Sumner township, having been elected in each succeeding election through all the various changes in political power, and claims thus to hold the record in Kansas for length of tenure in the office of township trustee. Mr. Copeland's interest in behalf of the public service also has been demonstrated in other ways and since the time of its foundation, in 1903, he has been a member of the board of trustees of the Reno county high school at Nickerson and for four years has been treasurer of the board. When the Haven Elevator Company was organized he was elected first presi-



dent of the same and held that office for seven years. He was one of the most active promoters of the local telephone company at Haven and for years served as secretary of the same.

On September 16, 1908, Cornelius B. Copeland was united in marriage to Helen Jane Vanlandingham, who was born in Covington, Kentucky, and whose father died when she was an infant, her mother now living at Cincinnati, Ohio, and to this union three children have been born, Helen, born in 1909; Gordon, 1913, and Richard Milton, 1916. Mrs. Copeland is a member of the Baptist church and takes an active interest in the various beneficences of the same. Mr. Copeland is a member of the local organization of the Sons of Veterans and has long taken an active part in the affairs of that patriotic organization.

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#### GEORGE H. YUST.

George H. Yust, the well-known and popular editor and proprietor of the *Sylvia Sun*, published by him at Sylvia, this county, is a native-born son of Reno county, having been born on a pioneer farm in Hayes township on January 31, 1876, third in order of birth of the nine children of Fred and Dora (Kreie) Yust, prominent pioneers of Reno county, both of whom are still living on their fine farm in Hayes township, honored and respected by all thereabout.

Fred Yust, who is an honored veteran of the Civil War and one of the largest landowners and most substantial farmers of this county, was born at Graefenhinchen, Prussia, Germany, September 30, 1844, and was eleven years old when he came to this country with his parents, Fred and Annalia (Roemer) Yust, the family settling at Canton, Missouri. The elder Fred Yust was a weaver in Germany and he and his wife were born on the same day, December 29, 1817. In 1855 they emigrated with their children to America, landing at New Orleans after a voyage of nine weeks in a sailing vessel. They proceeded thence by river steamer to Canton, Missouri, arriving there in December, 1855, and there the eldest Yust became engaged as a stone mason and continued thus occupied until the Civil War broke out, when he and his two eldest sons, Fred and Charles, enlisted in Company A, Twenty-first regiment, Missouri Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for two years, participating in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, Tupelo, Nashville and lesser engagements and in the siege and capture of the fort on

Mobile bay. Upon the conclusion of his military service, the elder Yust returned to his home in Canton and resumed his occupation as stone mason and was thus engaged until 1874, in which year he came to Kansas, settling in Hayes township, this county, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their days, highly respected pioneers of that neighborhood, his death occurring on May 27, 1900, his widow surviving until March 14, 1904. They both were earnest members of the German Methodist church and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, as follow: Fred, a prominent resident of this county, father of the subject of this biographical sketch; Charles, a veteran of the Civil War and for years a well-known resident of Reno county, who died in 1890; Amalia, who married Julius Bandbauer and died at her home in Hayes township, this state; Minnie, wife of Peter Birke, who is engaged in the agricultural implement and hardware business at Canton, Missouri; John, a well-known farmer of Hayes township, this county; Louisa, who also lives in Hayes township, widow of Wid Clothier, and Henry, also a resident of Hayes township.

The younger Fred Yust was eleven years of age when he came to this country with his parents and had had five years of schooling in the schools of the Fatherland. In his new home at Canton, Missouri, he helped his father, he being the eldest son of the family, and when he was sixteen years old enlisted in the Home Guards for service during the Civil War, later enlisting in Company A, Twenty-first Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Infantry, the same regiment in which his father had enlisted, and was with that regiment until the close of the war, thus giving four years of his life to the service of his adopted country. Fred Yust was not only a good soldier, but he was a temperate lad, being addicted neither to the use of tobacco nor liquor, and was frugal and saving, withal, and when he returned from the war and the larger part of his pay as a soldier, intact. This fund he presently invested in a small farm in the Canton neighborhood and in the fall of 1868 married and established his home on that farm, where he lived until the fall of 1874, at which time he and his brothers, Charles and Henry, and their father and mother, came to Kansas, driving through in wagons, and settled in this county. Fred Yust, the younger, homesteaded a tract in Medford township, now included in Hayes township, and later took a timber claim in the same township. After awhile he traded his farm in Missouri for another quarter of a section in this county, and thus gradually enlarged his holdings here until now he is the owner of sixteen hundred and eighty acres of choice land in Hayes township, one of the best and most highly-

developed farms in Reno county. Mr. Yust has made much money in wheat and is regarded as one of the most substantial citizens of this county.

Ever since settling in this county, Mr. Yust has been actively interested in the civic affairs of his neighborhood and early served as township trustee and as township treasurer. Since 1900 he has been justice of the peace in and for Hayes township and is noted for the fairness and justice of his decisions on such questions as come up for adjudication in his court: his services as a mediator, it ever having been his policy to compromise neighborhood disputes without litigation, if possible, being widely appreciated throughout that whole community. Mr. Yust is a Republican and for years has been one of the leaders of his party in that part of the county. He ever has taken his proper part in movements designed to advance the common good thereabout and is one of the directors of the company controlling the farmers' elevator at Sylvia. He is an active member of Sylvia Post No. 386, Grand Army of the Republic, and in the affairs of that patriotic organization ever has taken a warm interest. Both he and his wife are earnest members of the German Methodist church in Haven township, which they helped to organize and Mr. Yust was for years a class leader in the church. Mr. and Mrs. Yust have been active in all good works, even from pioneer days, in that region, and are held in the highest esteem throughout the entire countryside.

On September 24, 1868, Fred Yust was united in marriage to Dora Kreie, who was born in St. Louis, Missouri, daughter of Conrad and Henrietta (Hartmann) Kreie, both natives of Germany, the former of whom emigrated to the United States in 1848 and the latter in 1849, in which latter year they were married in St. Louis, they having had a previous acquaintance in the Fatherland. In the next year, 1850, the cholera epidemic prevalent at that time drove the Kreies out of St. Louis and they settled on a farm in the neighborhood of Franklin, Iowa, where they remained until 1856, in which year they moved to Kahoka, Missouri, in the vicinity of which town Mr. Kreie bought a small farm and there he and his family made their home. In 1885 Mr. Kreie moved to this county and bought a farm in Hayes township, where he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, his death occurring on January 22, 1906. He was born on May 31, 1822, and was therefore nearly sixty-four years of age at the time of his death. His widow, who was born on September 24, 1831, survived him until June 26, 1911, she being in her eightieth year at the time of her death.

To Fred and Dora (Kreie) Yust were born nine children, namely:

William F., born on November 10, 1869, who is performing a fine service as librarian in the public library at Rochester, New York; Kate Elizabeth, July 2, 1872, who married Samuel Snowbarger and lives in Hayes township, this county; George H., the immediate subject of this sketch; Edward Philip, November 12, 1877, who is a well-known farmer in Hayes township; Clara Matilda, August 14, 1880, who married George Snowbarger and lives in Hayes township; Lydia R., June 5, 1883, who married M. W. McElroy and lives in Hayes township; Emma Dora, October 25, 1886, who married Carl C. Coleman and lives in Hayes township; Annie Laurie, October 28, 1887, who married Oscar H. Werner and lives in New York City, and Benjamin Harrison, December 29, 1891, who died on November 20, 1910.

George H. Yust was reared on the homestead farm, where he was born, in Hayes township, this county, and received his elementary education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, supplementing the same by a three-years course in the Central Wesleyan College at Warren-town, Missouri. He then entered Chicago University and after a two-years scientific course in that institution took a course in Bryant & Stratton's Business College at Chicago, following which he was employed for a few months as bookkeeper for the Champion Harvester Machine Company in that city. He then married in 1900 and returned to his home in this county and for two years thereafter lived on the farm which his father gave him in Hayes township. When he and his brother, Edward P., bought the flour-mill at Sylvia, which, under the firm style of the Yust Brothers Milling Company, they operated for three years, at the end of which time George H. Yust sold his interest in the mill and on September 1, 1905, bought the *Sylvia Sun*, at Sylvia, this county, which excellent paper he ever since has been conducting, being both editor and proprietor. The *Sylvia Sun* was established in December, 1901, by George Walker, and Mr. Yust bought the paper from Charles M. Coleman. When Mr. Yust bought the paper it was a five-column quarto, but he has enlarged it to six columns and is publishing a fine, newsy, wide-awake country newspaper, which has a wide circulation throughout that section and is immensely popular in the neighborhood which it serves so admirably. Though Mr. Yust is a Republican, his newspaper is conducted along independent lines, so far as the political policy of the paper is concerned, and its editor is ever an advocate of all proper movements designed to advance the common interest thereabout. In 1910 Mr. Yust erected a fine brick building on the west side of Main street in Sylvia, as a home for his newspaper, and has a commodious, well-equipped and up-to-



date printing plant, a model of its kind and a credit to the community. For five years Mr. Yust was secretary of the Southwest Kansas Editorial Association and the sixth year was president of the association. Mr. Yust still owns his farm in Hayes township, which he rents to advantage, and is quite comfortably situated.

On April 25, 1900, George H. Yust was united in marriage to Edna Ruth Hall, who was born in Chicago, Illinois, daughter of W. Edward and Sarah Hall, who are now living at Downers Grove, a suburb of Chicago. For years Mr. Hall has been employed as a traveling salesman for an Iowa glove house. Mr. and Mrs. Yust take an active interest in the social and cultural life of this community and are held in the highest esteem by their many friends. They are earnest members of the Methodist church at Sylvia, Mr. Yust being a trustee and a steward of that church. Since 1907 he also has acted as superintendent of the Sunday school and is one of the active factors in all good works in his community.

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#### PERES ELLIS.

Peres Ellis, a well-known and prosperous retired farmer of Yoder township, this county, a veteran of the Civil War and a pioneer settler of the section in which he has made his home since the days of the very beginning of a social order thereabout, to whom has come, in the gradual course of the years, the distinction of being the oldest resident of Reno county now living on a farm originally homesteaded by himself, is a native of Maine, having been born on a farm in Oxford county, that state, January 5, 1838, son of Benjamin and Jane (Houston) Ellis, the former a native of that same county and the latter a native of the state of New Hampshire, both families having been residents of that section for generations, the state line separating them.

Benjamin Ellis was reared as a farmer and was a man of herculean build and of exceptional physical vigor. In 1856 he and his family left the ancestral neighborhood in Maine and came West, settling in Boone county, Illinois, where he bought a farm and established a new home, he and his wife living there until their retirement from the farm in their latter days, their last days being spent in the home of a daughter at Stephens point, Wisconsin, where Mrs. Ellis died in 1888, at the age of eighty-four, Benjamin Ellis surviving until 1896, he being ninety years of age at the







time of his death. They were the parents of nine children, five sons and four daughters, of whom but four are now living, as follow: Charles, a prosperous attorney of Medicine Lodge, this state, he having been a pioneer of that city; Peres, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Susan, widow of William Gilchrist, living at East Aurora, New York, and Adaline, who married Jason Wadsworth and lives at Medicine Lodge.

Peres Ellis was a good student and had acquired an excellent education in the district school in the neighborhood of his native home in Maine by the time he came West with his parents and the others of the family in 1856, he then being eighteen years of age. Upon settling in Illinois he took his part in the work of developing the new farm and was thus engaged until September 17, 1861, at which date he enlisted in the Fourth Wisconsin Battery for service during the Civil War, enlisting in a Wisconsin organization for convenience, his home then being near the state line. Mr. Ellis served for three years in the Union army, his battery being attached to the department of Fortress Monroe and for the most part was engaged in service up and down the James river in Virginia. On the day he enlisted in the army Mr. Ellis and his sweetheart, a winsome neighbor girl, were married and at the close of his military service he returned home to his wife and resumed his labors on his father's farm, where he made his home until he came to Kansas.

In 1872 Peres Ellis came to Reno county, his brother, Charles, having previously located here, and on the 20th of September of that same year homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 30, in Lincoln township. That winter he stayed in Hutchinson and the next spring his family joined him and he erected a small frame house on his homestead tract and there established his home, he and his wife having lived there since, as noted above, being thus the oldest continuous resident homesteaders in this county. Mr. Ellis was a good farmer and he lost little time in developing his homestead, which, at the time he settled there was an apparently arid tract bearing a scant growth of buffalo grass. He planted a liberal grove and set out a double row of Lombardy poplars flanking the driveway to his house and it was not long until he had one of the most attractive places in that section of the county. He timber-claimed an "eighty" adjoining his homestead, went in somewhat extensive for cattle raising and presently was regarded as one of Reno county's most substantial farmers. In 1893 he erected the present comfortable farmhouse in which he still he makes his home, he and his son, Edward P., doing most of the work in the construction thereof.

and for years has been very pleasantly and comfortably situated. In 1907 he sold his farm to his son-in-law, Andrew Hendershot, who is now operating the same, though Mr. and Mrs. Ellis continue to make their home there, enjoying, in the genial "sunset time" of their lives, many evidences of the high esteem in which they are held throughout that entire neighborhood. In 1911 Mr. and Mrs. Ellis celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage, the "golden wedding" celebration being held on the ample lawn surrounding their home, and was the occasion of general rejoicing in the neighborhood.

On September 17, 1861, Peres Ellis was united in marriage, in Boone county, Illinois, to Margaret Elizabeth Reser, who was born in New York state, and who had moved to Illinois when a child with her parents, Joseph and Rachel Reser, who spent their last days in Boone county. To that happy union three children were born, Edward P., now a prosperous farmer living six miles northeast of Burrton, in Harvey county, this state, who is married and has four children: Charles F., a farmer of the Port Arthur neighborhood, who is married and has five children, and Edna C., who married Andrew J. Hendershot, who now owns the old Lincoln township Ellis homestead, now situated in the new township of Yoder, and is successfully operating the same. Mr. and Mrs. Hendershot are the parents of three children and take an active part in the community life of their neighborhood, being held in high regard by all thereabout.

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### GEORGE NICHOLSON.

George Nicholson, a well-known farmer of Castleton township, this county, proprietor of a well-kept farm of one hundred and sixty acres about five miles north of Pretty Prairie, is a native of Illinois, having been born on a farm in Clinton county, that state, November 1, 1859, son of William and Anna (Kitchen) Nicholson, both natives of England, who became pioneers of Reno county, where their last days were spent.

William Nicholson was born on April 9, 1810, and was reared in England. He married there and to him and his wife five children were born in that country. Then, with a view to enlarging his prospects, he came to the United States and located in Clinton county, Illinois, where five years later his wife and their children joined him, and there they made their home for about twelve years, during which time the subject of this sketch was born.



The other children of this family were Thomas, William, Joseph, Margaret and Elizabeth. Of these the first named enlisted in 1861 for service in the Union army during the Civil War and six months later was killed during a skirmish at Cairo, Illinois. George Nicholson has a Bible that was given to his brother Thomas by the late Lord Wharton.

Shortly after the close of the Civil War, William Nicholson and his family came from Illinois to Kansas and settled in Miami county, where they made their home for about five years, at the end of which time, in the winter of 1872-83, they came to Reno county and homesteaded the quarter section in Castleton township where George Nicholson now lives. There William Nicholson established his permanent home and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, becoming valuable members of the community. They were members of the Episcopal church and took an active part in local good works. William Nicholson died on his homestead farm on February 9, 1894, and his widow survived until June 12, 1891.

George Nicholson was about fourteen years old when he came to Reno county with his parents in the winter of 1872-73 and therefore may properly be regarded as one of the pioneers of this county. He grew up on the homestead farm and on November 1, 1884, married Clara May Robinson, who was born in Illinois, January 8, 1867, daughter of Oscar and Caroline (Smith) Robinson, the former of whom was born in Orange county, New York, March 9, 1820, and the latter in 1829. Oscar Robinson was a carpenter. He moved to Ohio and thence to Dewitt county, Illinois; later to Champaign county, same state, from which place he came to Kansas in 1878, settling on a farm in the Pretty Prairie neighborhood, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring on February 24, 1885, and hers in 1904. Oscar Robinson was a master Mason. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children: Benjamin, who gave three years of service to the Union army during the Civil War; Elizabeth, Newton, Sarah, Eunice, Harriet, Ella, Florence, Clara May, Hill (deceased), Edgar and William.

After their marriage, in 1884, George Nicholson and wife made their home on the old Nicholson homestead and have continued to live there ever since, Mr. Nicholson having acquired the interests of the other heirs in the same, and are very pleasantly situated, Mr. Nicholson having built a new house and barn and made other improvements in keeping with the same. Mr. Nicholson is a member of the Fraternal Aid Society and he and his wife are earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the various benefi-



cences of which they take an active interest. They are the parents of five children, as follow: Grace, who married David Wallace and lives at Des Moines, Iowa; Ninon, of Hutchinson, this county, who married Clarence Dillman and has one child, a daughter, Mildred; William, of Buffalo, Oklahoma, who married Maud Rogers; Caroline, who married Harvey Givens, of Castleton township, this county, and has two children, Harvey Thomas and Helen, and George.

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### ARTHUR W. JOHNSON.

Arthur W. Johnson, well-known merchant at Sylvia, this county, member of the progressive and well-established firm of Brewer & Johnson, is a native of Illinois, having been born in McLean county, that state, son of Decatur and Lucinda (Conway) Johnson, both natives of Ohio, the former of whom was born in Scotio county, that state, and the latter in Darke county, whose respective parents were early settlers in McLean county.

Decatur Johnson was reared on the pioneer farm in McLean county and married there, after which he rented a farm and there made his home until 1883, in which year he and his family came to Kansas, locating in Reno township. Mr. Johnson bought a quarter section of land in Grant township, which his wife's parents, William Lucinda Conway, had homesteaded in 1875, and there he made his home for twenty years, at the end of which time he sold his farm and bought another in Sylvia township, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1913, he then being about seventy years of age. His widow, who was born in 1848, is still living. Decatur Johnson was a Democrat and he and his wife were members of the Methodist church and were active among the founders of the Mitchell Methodist church in Grant township, before that church was built having been prominent among the faithful band which maintained services in the school house there. To Decatur Johnson and wife three children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being A. B. Johnson, of Hutchinson, this county, and David, a miller at St. Joseph, Missouri.

Arthur W. Johnson was ten years old when he came to this county with his parents and the schooling which was interrupted by his removal from Illinois was resumed in the district school in Grant township, which course was followed by three years attendance at the high school in Hutchinson, after which he took a course in the Salt City Business College at Hutch-

inson. On Christmas Day, 1899, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage to Nora M. McMillan, who was born in Wilmington, Ohio, daughter of Oliver McMillan and wife, who came to this county from Ohio as pioneers of Reno county. After his marriage, Mr. Johnson rented a farm three miles north of Hutchinson and engaged in farming and dairying there for one year, at the end of which time, in 1900, he moved to Sylvia, where he worked as a clerk in a grocery store for five years. During that time Mr. Johnson thoroughly familiarized himself with the business, and in 1907 bought his employer out and continued the store alone. In 1911 he associated with him in business, as a partner, Gipp M. Brewer, under the firm name of Brewer & Johnson, which firm ever since has been conducting the business with much success. In 1911 the firm built a concrete store building, twenty-six by ninety feet, and has a very completely stocked store, carrying a full line of groceries and hardware, fresh meats and sundries, and operates a machine shop at the rear of the store.

Mr. Johnson is a Democrat and has for years taken an active part in local politics. For six years he served as a member of the Sylvia city council and has ever since locating in that pleasant little city been among those foremost in promoting all movements designed to advance the town's best interests. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and takes a hearty interest in the affairs of that popular order. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are earnest members of the Congregational church and are interested in all good works in their home town and neighborhood, being held in high regard by their many friends thereabout. Three children have been born to them, Theodore R., born in 1899; Celesta May, 1901, and Eva, 1909.

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#### LEWIS W. COLEMAN.

Lewis W. Coleman, a well-known and progressive building contractor of Sylvia, this county, who has been a resident of Kansas since the year 1888, is a native of Indiana, having been born in Pike county, that state, October 16, 1859, son of Francis Henry and Elizabeth (Parker) Coleman, both natives of that same county, members of pioneer families, whose respective parents were settlers in that section of Indiana in territorial days.

Francis H. Coleman was a son of Conrad and Nellie Coleman, who emigrated from Kentucky in 1806 and settled in Pike county, where they spent the remainder of their lives, becoming prominent in the pioneer life

of that community. Conrad Coleman was one of the county's first settlers and was also known far and near as an auctioneer of most persuasive eloquence. Francis H. Coleman grew up on the paternal farm and married Elizabeth Parker, daughter of Lorenzo and Elizabeth Parker, also early residents of that section of the Hoosier state. He became a farmer and extensive landowner and a man of influence. He never was of a particularly robust type and when the Civil War broke out enlisted twice for service in the Union army, but both times was rejected on account of the state of his health. He and his wife were the parents of six children, whom they reared in the faith of the Baptist church. These children were as follows: Lewis W., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Catherine, who married Robert Montgomery and lives near Aline, Oklahoma; Monroe, a prosperous stockman of Sylvia township, this county, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; John, who lives near Aline, Oklahoma; Joseph G., an electrical engineer, who lives at Owensboro, Kentucky, and Lawrence, superintendent of schools in one of the provinces of the Philippine Islands. The mother of the above children died in 1886, at the age of forty-two and Francis H. Coleman married, secondly, Mary Dawson, to which union two children were born, Mrs. Elizabeth Ferguson and Eva. Francis H. Coleman died in Pike county, Indiana, in 1896, at the age of fifty-four.

Lewis W. Coleman was reared on the home farm in southern Indiana. After completing the course in the high school at Lynnville, in the neighborhood of his home, he entered the ranks of public school teachers and taught school for three years, at the end of which time he became a marble polisher and was thus engaged for five years at Oakland City, Indiana. He then learned the carpenter's trade and in 1888 came to Kansas, locating at Sterling, in the neighboring county of Rice, in the neighborhood of which he rented a farm and for a time was engaged in farming there. He then came to Reno county and rented a farm on Peace creek, in Hayes township, where he made his home for nine years, or until 1898, in which year he moved to Sylvia and resumed work at his trade as a carpenter and has since that time been thus engaged, having become a very successful building contractor. In 1911 he rebuilt his home at Sylvia and he and his family are very pleasantly situated there.

In 1880, in Indiana, Lewis W. Coleman was united in marriage to Sarah Sandusky, who was born in Kentucky, and to this union two children have been born, Charles, who is connected with a wholesale house in Wichita,

this state, in which city he makes his home, and Wayne, who is a druggist with Evans Smith, wholesale druggists, Kansas City, Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Coleman are members of the Congregational church at Sylvia, Mr. Coleman being a trustee of the church, and have hosts of friends there, all of whom hold them in high esteem. Mr. Coleman is a Republican, but has never been a seeker after office. He is a Mason and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in the affairs of both of which orders he takes a warm interest.

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### JAMES C. KELLAMS.

James C. Kellams, son of Gideon Riley and Maria (Egnew) Kellams, was born on February 12, 1854, in Spencer county, Indiana. Maria Egnew was the daughter of James and Elizabeth (Varner) Egnew, pioneers of Spencer county. John Kellams, the grandfather of James C., married Catherine Gunthurman, and they lived in Spencer county, where she died. Later, John Kellams married a second time and lived in Martin county, Indiana, where his death occurred. His children by his first marriage were: Elvira, Amanda, Elizabeth, George and Gideon Riley.

Gideon Riley Kellams was a pioneer school teacher of Indiana. He read law and was admitted to the bar of Spencer county in 1874, but had been a farmer previously. In 1861 he enlisted for service in the Civil War, in the Forty-second Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served four years. He was first lieutenant of Company H, was promoted to the rank of captain, then to that of major, then to lieutenant-colonel, then was brevetted colonel by President Lincoln. He was with the army of the Cumberland in Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama, and went with Sherman to the sea. His only injury during all his service was a flesh wound. He participated in the battles of Lookout Mountain, Stone's River and Atlanta. After the close of the war he took up farming for a time, then became a merchant in Gentryville, Indiana. He later practiced law as a pension attorney. His death occurred on January 19, 1902, while his wife died just two days prior to this, and the two were buried in one grave. Their children are Francis A., Henry L., James C., John S., Wesley W., Elizabeth H., Catherine, Sophronia Maria, Martha B., Amanda and Ida.

James C. Kellams received his education in a select school in Spencer county, Indiana. After leaving school he engaged in farming and came to



Reno county, Kansas, in March, 1876. He settled in Medford township, now Enterprise township, where he pre-empted a timber claim of two hundred and forty acres. At that time he used corn stalks and cow chips for fuel. He has put many and varied improvements on his place, and now has a well-improved farm and comfortable residence.

On February 22, 1876, James C. Kellams was married to Emily A. Allen, who was born in Sumner county, Tennessee, June 4, 1851, and died on August 25, 1910. Her parents were William and Mary (Harder) Allen, farmers of Warrick county, Indiana. William Allen was a soldier in the War of 1812. Mr. and Mrs. Kellams were the parents of the following children: Roy A., Bessie M., Rupert C., Walter W., James C., Gideon, Edward and Lester W. Mr. Kellams has always been active in local affairs, and has served as a member of the school board for many years.

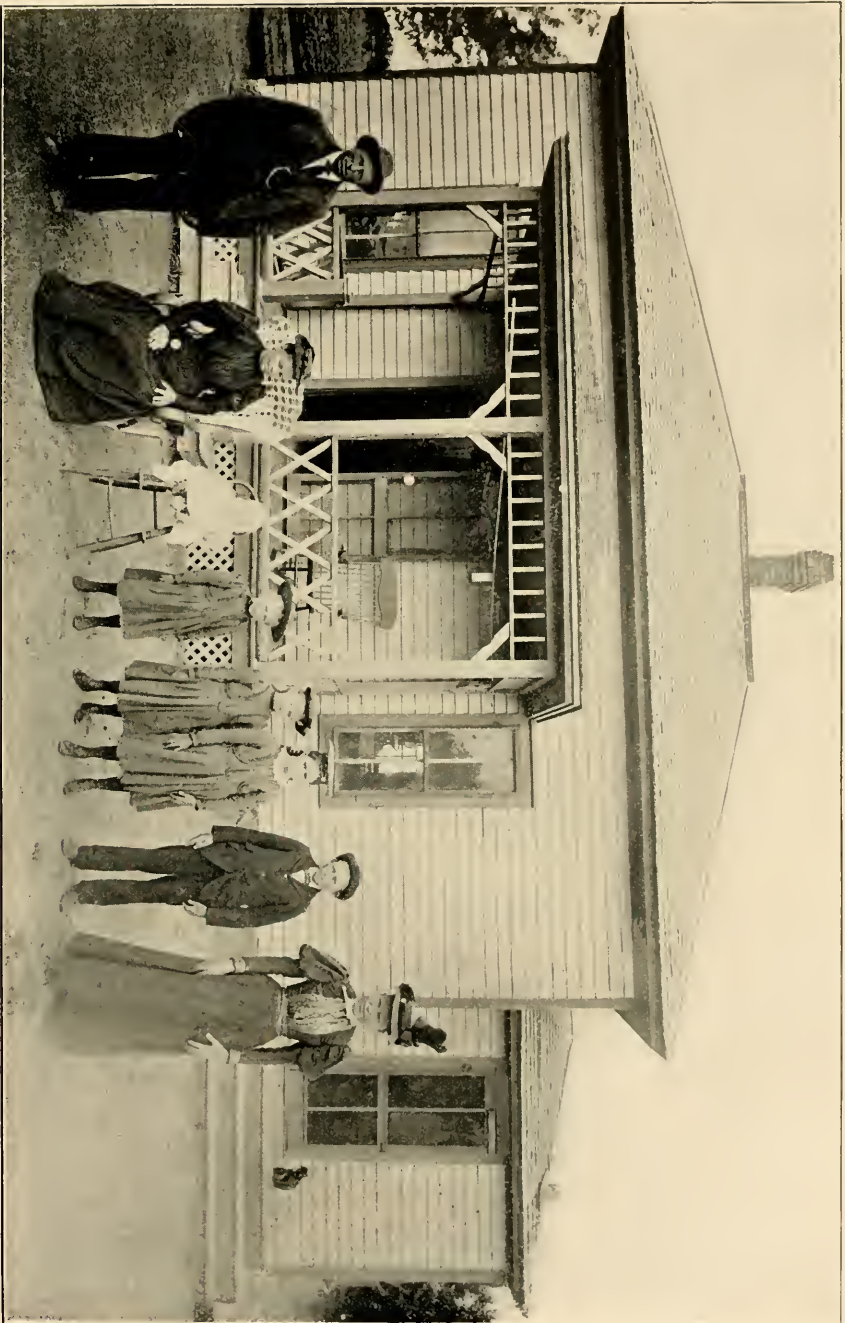
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### JAMES NELSON.

James Nelson, a prosperous and progressive farmer of this community, owner of a well-tilled and profitable quarter-section farm in Clay township, is a Dane, who was born on a farm three miles west of the flourishing city of Oolhaus, in the very central part of the kingdom of Denmark, on April 25, 1858, son of Nels Anderson and Mettie (Jansen) Miller, both natives of the same district.

Nels Miller was a thrifty and well-to-do farmer, who also operated a blacksmith shop on his farm, he being a skilled smith, conducting the smithy while his sturdy sons managed the farm. He was a veteran of the war of 1848-50, in which Denmark triumphed over Prussia, and was wounded three times during that historic struggle, once through the mouth, once in the shoulder and once in the scalp. The rugged veteran was an intense patriot and in the later war between Denmark and Germany, in the early sixties, when the fair province of Schleswig-Holstein was wrested by force of arms from Denmark, he lamented because he could not take part in the conflict, he then being an old man and nearing his grave. He was confined to his bed when the news came of the defeat of the Danish arms and when the vanquished army returned home he asked to be laid in the doorway that he might watch the marching troops pass by and sorrow with them. Not many days later, in the year 1863, Nels Miller died, a heart-broken, sorrowing veteran, lamenting his nation's woe. His widow





JAMES NELSON AND FAMILY.



presently married Sohn Fonson, a blacksmith, and lived to be eighty-one years of age, her death occurring in 1911. Nels Miller and his wife were earnest members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were six of these children, of whom James, the subject of this sketch, is the fourth in order of birth, the others being as follow: Sophia, who married and lived in Denmark; Sena, who also married and lives in Denmark; Anders, now deceased, who was a blacksmith and spent all his days in his native land; Anton, who emigrated to far-away Australia and is now a wealthy building contractor there, and Christian, who owns a large wholesale grocery establishment in Denmark and is also well-to-do.

James Nelson received his education in the government school in the neighborhood of his home, which he attended until he was fifteen years old. He early took his part in the operation of the home farm and also became a skilled smith, under his father's capable instructions, a craft which stands him in good stead, even to this day, for he has for years maintained a little smithy on his farm in this county, in which he has been accustomed to make all his own repairs to his farm machinery and implements. In 1882 he married a neighbor girl and began farming on his own account. His wife's brother, August Valine, had come to America and had settled in this county, which he found very much to his liking. Valine's letters back home created a desire on the part of James Nelson to try his fortune also in this country and in 1887 he bought a ticket for himself and family straight through from Copenhagen to Hutchinson, Kansas, U. S. A. After an uneventful and safe half way across this continent he and his family arrived in Reno county and set about creating a new home here. For a time after his arrival here and while "getting the lay of the land," Mr. Nelson worked as a farm hand, but presently rented a farm and began farming on his own account and on that place he lived until 1898, in which year he bought the northeast quarter of section 15, township 23, range 5 west, in Clay township, this county, and ever since has made his home there. When he bought the farm he did not have a cent to pay on his purchase, his increased equipment having exhausted his ready money, but he was given easy terms and straightway began paying out, the place now all being paid for and well-improved. Mr. Nelson paid two thousand six hundred and seventy-five dollars for his place and but recently declined an offer of one hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre, or twenty thousand dollars, for the same. He has made all the improvements on his place, including an attractive and comfortable farm house, which, in common with his other

buildings, always is kept well painted and in excellent repair, and has also planted many trees which add to the value and attractiveness of his farm. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Nelson gives proper attention to stock raising and keeps high-grade stock on his place, being content with nothing but the best in the live-stock line. In Denmark he always was accustomed to handling only the best strains of stock and his early training would permit of nothing less high-class on his farm here.

On August 23, 1882, James Nelson was united in marriage to Christina Johnsdater, who was born in the kingdom of Sweden and who moved to Denmark, where for two years she was employed in the domestic department of the same farm on which James Nelson was employed, and to this union six children have been born, namely: Mary, who married Howard Church and lives on a farm in Clay township, this county; Nels M., who is operating a laundry in the city of Chanute, Kansas; Sena, who received a normal-school education and has been a teacher in the schools of this county for the past nine years; Mattie, who married Earl Lee and lives in Platt county, Kansas; Jeanne, who married Blen Hill and lives on a farm in Clay township, and Ernest, at home, a valued assistant to his father in the operation of the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are earnest members of the Swedish Lutheran church at Hutchinson and their children have been reared in that faith.

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### JOHN J. MARKHAM.

John J. Markham, a well-known and well-to-do retired farmer of this county, now living comfortably retired at his pleasant home adjoining the town of Partridge; an honored veteran of the Civil War and former township trustee and justice of the peace of Center township, is a native of Ohio, having been born on a farm in Jackson county, that state, November 9, 1835, son of Richard and Eleanor (Evans) Markham, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of the gallant little land of Wales.

Richard Markham was born in Bedford county, Virginia, son of Stephen Markham and wife, the former of whom was a native of England who had come to this country when a child with his parents, the family settling in the colony of Virginia. Stephen Markham became a well-to-do farmer in Virginia, where he spent his last days. Two of his brothers were killed while serving as soldiers in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War. Richard Markham grew to manhood on the home place in Virginia and when

a young man moved over into Ohio, settling in Jackson county, where he married Eleanor Evans, who had come to this country when three years old with her parents, John Evans and wife, from Wales, the family settling in Jackson county, Ohio, where John Evans became a substantial farmer. Richard Markham was the owner of an eighty-acre farm in Jackson county, Ohio, where he made his home until old age, when he and his wife moved to Pike county, same state, where their last days were spent, the former dying in 1896, at the age of eighty-five, and the latter in 1900, she then being eighty-six years of age. Richard Markham and wife were earnest supporters of the Methodist church and did much to extend the influence of that faith throughout the section of the state in which they lived. Mr. Markham was a Democrat and held various offices of public trust and responsibility. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, all of whom lived to maturity, the first to go having been thirty years of age at the time of his death. Of these children, seven are still living, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest. But one other member of the family ever came to Kansas, the late David O. Markham, who died in Butler county, this state.

Being the eldest child in the family John J. Markham early began to help his father on the home farm and grew up to a full practical knowledge of farm work. Though his educational advantages were extremely limited in his youth, his schooling having been confined to three or four months in the year during the early period of his youth, he has become a highly self-educated man, broad minded and well informed. In 1861 John J. Markham enlisted in Company E, Fifty-Sixth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for service during the Civil War and served to the close of the war. When the company was organized he was made an orderly sergeant and was shortly promoted to the rank of second lieutenant and later to the rank of first lieutenant. The first battle in which he participated was at Ft. Donelson. He then fought at Shiloh, under General Grant, and took part in the siege of Corinth, under General Halleck; then on to Memphis and after the fall of that city took part in the general Arkansas campaign for nine months, after which he participated in the siege of Vicksburg. He then was stationed at New Orleans, under Brig.-Gen. W. T. Sherman, and at the close of the war was detailed to duty in the quartermaster's office at Nashville, Tennessee, where he was on duty until November, 1865.

Upon the conclusion of his military experience, John J. Markham came West and located in Doniphan county, this state, where he and his uncle,



Vinton Evans, bought a farm in partnership and there, in the summer of 1867 he married, shortly after which he sold his interest in the farm he held jointly with his uncle and bought another farm in the same county, where he established his home and there continued to live until 1874, in which year he came to this county, arriving here on April 28, of that year. He bought the relinquishment to the homestead right to the northwest quarter of section 20 in Center township, a discouraged settler selling the same to him for fifty dollars, and there he established his permanent home. When Mr. Markham took the place there was a cottonwood shack on it and for a time he and his family made their home in that shack, but after they got things going fairly well they erected a more fitting residence and for many years have been very comfortably and pleasantly situated. Mr. Markham was one of the earliest settlers in Center township and from the very beginning of his residence there took an influential position in the community. He gave much attention to cattle raising, from which he derived considerable profit in addition to carrying on general farming on an extensive scale, and as the years rolled by he prospered largely, presently coming to be regarded as one of the most substantial citizens of that part of the county.

In 1908 Mr. Markham turned the farm over to his son, James O., and he and his wife retired to a pleasant home on the outskirts of the thriving village of Partridge, where they are now living. Their home is surrounded by sixteen and one-half acres, a portion of the old Dilley homestead, in the exact geographical center of Reno county; in early days it having been expected that the county seat would be located there. Mr. Markham is a Republican and for many years was looked upon as one of the leaders of his party in the county. He served as trustee of Center township for five terms and for many years served as justice of the peace in and for that township, while he also served as census enumerator for that township during two decades. He has ever taken an active interest in the affairs of the Grand Army of the Republic and is now attached to the Joe Hooker post of that patriotic order at Hutchinson. He was commander of the Hatch Post of the Grand Army of the Republic during the existence of that post at Partridge.

On June 27, 1867, John J. Markham was united in marriage to Maria C. Hulan, who was born in Franklin county, Missouri, daughter of Osborn and Elizabeth Hulan, and who came to this state with her parents in 1854, the family settling in Doniphan county, and to this union two children were born, James O., now residing on the old home place in Center township, and

Louis A., who died in 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Markham are members of the Methodist church and ever have been diligent in good works in their community, all worthy enterprises receiving their hearty encouragement and assistance.

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### SUPERINTENDENT JUSTUS O. HALL.

Superintendent Justus O. Hall, who has been serving most effectively in the important position of superintendent of the Hutchinson city schools since 1909, is a native of Ohio, having been born on a farm in Washington county, that state, on February 27, 1870, son of George W. and Elizabeth (Harvey) Hall, both natives of Ohio, the former of whom is now living at Albuquerque, New Mexico, at the age of sixty-nine, and the latter of whom died in 1900, at the age of fifty-one.

George W. Hall was a farmer and carpenter, who, in 1885, came to Kansas, with his family, from Ohio and bought a farm in the neighborhood of Olathe, in Johnson county, where for a few years he engaged in farming, after which he devoted his whole time to carpenter work. He is a Republican and he and his wife were earnest members of the Baptist church, in the faith of which their children were reared. There were six of these children, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch is the eldest, the others being as follow: W. L., expert accountant who lives in Dallas, Texas; Charles E., who died in Cherokee county, Kansas; Joseph A., who lives in Cherokee county, where he is in the employ of the Frisco railroad; Rosa, who married Paul Anema and lives at Iola, Kansas, and Mamie, who died at the age of twenty-four.

Justus O. Hall was fifteen years of age when he came to Kansas with his parents and for a time he worked on the farm in Johnson county, spending his winters in the graded schools of Olathe. In 1890 he entered the railway mail service and was thus engaged for three years, first on the Kansas City & Denver R. P. O. and then on the Kansas City & Springfield R. P. O. Determining then to broaden his education he went to Lawrence, this state, and, preparatory to matriculating at the Kansas State-University, entered the high school there, from which he presently was graduated, after which he entered the State University, and, by long hours and extra work, actually succeeded in finishing the four-years high school course and the four-years college course in five years, being graduated from the university in 1898, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He then was engaged as assist-

ant principal of the high school at Olathe, where he served for one year, after which he was called to Horton, where he served as principal of the high school for two years, at the end of which time he was elevated to the position of superintendent of schools of that city, a position which he held for four years, after which he was called to Beloit, this state, where for four years he served as superintendent of the city schools. In 1909 the school authorities of Hutchinson engaged him as superintendent of the schools of that city and he ever since has been serving in that capacity, having done most excellent work during his incumbency. During his term of service at Hutchinson, Superintendent Hall has expanded the vocational department of the schools and has instituted gymnasium work in the high school, besides having, in many other ways, broadened the scope of the schools. The general growth of the Hutchinson schools since Superintendent Hall took charge in 1909 is revealed in the statement that the teaching force has increased seventy per cent during that time and, in every way, the schools are up-to-date and showing progress along all lines.

Superintendent Hall is a charter member of the famous and exclusive Kansas Schoolmaster Club, one of the most noted organizations of the kind in the country, the membership of which is elective and limited to sixty, including only the leading school and college men of the state. He also is an active member of the National Education Association, in whose annual meetings he takes a warm interest, and is also a member of the National Society for the Scientific Study of Education and of the American Historical Association. He is now one of the directors of the Kansas State Teachers Association and has served as president of both the North Central Kansas Teachers Association and of the Central Kansas Teachers Association. Superintendent Hall is a frequent and valued contributor to educational journals and was, together with ex-State Superintendent George W. Winans, for three years, editor of the *Interstate Schoolman*. Finding this editorial work too arduous, however, in connection with the exacting duties of his professional work, he was compelled to give it up. He also is occasionally called upon to address classes in the Kansas State Normal and other places and is one of the best-known educators in the state.

On August 31, 1904, Superintendent Justus O. Hall was united in marriage to Bertha Kelley, who was born in Indiana, daughter of William and Kate Kelley, the former of whom is now deceased. Superintendent and Mrs. Hall are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and in 1914 Superintendent Hall was president of the official board of that church. They

live at 21 Eleventh street, East, in a pretty home erected in 1910, and take their full part in the general social and cultural life of the community.

Superintendent Hall is a Republican, though in local political questions he is more inclined to favor individual candidacies, with respect rather to the fitness of the office seeker than to the party emblem. He is a Mason, having attained to the Knights Templar degree, and is past eminent commander of the commandery and past king of the chapter and past master of the blue lodge. He also is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which order he has "passed through all the chairs" and takes a warm interest in the affairs of these several organizations.

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### ARTHUR MILLER BEAR.

Arthur Miller Bear, born at Manchester, Summit county, Ohio, January 28, 1871, is the son of Henry C. Bear, also a native of Summit county, Ohio, and Mary Cathrine Vanderhoof, born at Canal Fulton, Stark county, Ohio. His grandfather, Benjamin Bear, of Holland-Dutch descent and Pennsylvanian nativity, took up land in Ohio about 1803. His mother's father, John Vanderhoof, owned and operated canal boats on the canal from Cleveland to Akron, Ohio.

Henry C. Bear grew up and married in Ohio; learned carriage painting and owned a shop; prospected at Newton Kansas, in 1878, and was joined by his family in 1879. He bought a quarter section of land in McPherson county, near the Reno county line. Hutchinson was his market town. His sons operated the farm, while he continued to work at his trade, owning a shop in Hutchinson. In the early nineties he moved to Liberty, Missouri, but returned to Reno county later, where his death occurred in 1895, at the age of forty-four years. He was an ardent Republican, and was the second postmaster in the town of Medora, serving in this capacity for two years. He was prominent in local politics, holding at different times nearly all the different township offices of Medora township. He was the first trustee of Medora township. His children are as follow: Arthur M., the subject of this review; Carrie, the wife of Lem Paddock, of Independence, Kansas; Anna, wife of I. W. Poulton, of Medora township; John, jeweler and farmer, of Romaine, Montana; George W., of Athena, Oregon, and Orson, who was killed while working as fireman on the Oregon Short Line railway.

Arthur Miller Bear came to Kansas when eight years old. He at-



tended the schools of McPherson county, and assisted his father with the work on the home farm, later working on farms in the neighborhood, and still later as a section hand on the railroad. In 1898 he bought his present home in Medora township, a quarter section of land, for which he paid twelve hundred dollars. The same land could not now be bought for twelve thousand dollars. Later he bought another forty acres, and is a general farmer and stock raiser, specializing in purebred Hampshire hogs. Beside his farming operations, Mr. Bear and his partner, Mr. Price, do an extensive business drilling wells.

Mr. Bear is a life-long Republican, and has served as justice of the peace and also as school director of his township. For three terms he served as township trustee of Medora township. He was one of the organizers and is now the president of the Medora Mutual Telephone Company. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

On November 22, 1893, Arthur Miller Bear married Eliza Poulton, a native of Reno county, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Ellsworth) Poulton, the former of whom was one of the very earliest settlers of Reno county, and they are the parents of one daughter, Ethel, born on January 4, 1895, now the wife of Ed. J. Shea, a farmer of Medora township. Mr. and Mrs. Shea have one son, Lawrence Patrick.

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#### HON. WILLIAM Y. MORGAN.

While the people of Reno county appreciate the honor that was conferred upon William Y. Morgan, editor of the *Hutchinson Daily News*, by his election, in the fall of 1914, and re-election in 1916, to the distinguished office of lieutenant-governor of the great state of Kansas, and feel that this civic distinction came to him as a very proper and fitting reward for his long and unceasing service in behalf of the people of the state, they will ever feel that his chief title to distinction is that of editor of the leading newspaper in central Kansas. As banker and legislator, and now as second in executive rank in the state of Kansas, Mr. Morgan has indeed been a man of affairs, justly entitled to the high honors which have been conferred upon him, and it is as editor that the people know him best; as the conscientious publicist who, consistently and intelligently, for years has fought their battles; the faithful editor whose newspaper ever has been his medium of





*W. J. Morgan*



expression in behalf of all things of good report hereabout since the day he arrived in Hutchinson, and it is this intimate and close relation to them that the people of central Kansas ever will regard as Mr. Morgan's chief claim to distinction, for he has served them well.

Lieut.-Gov. William Y. Morgan, editor of the *Hutchinson Daily News*, is one of the leading representatives of the newspaper interests of central Kansas. For forty-five years he has made his home in Kansas and since 1895 has been a resident of Hutchinson, seat of government of Reno county. William Y. Morgan was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on April 6, 1866, and was only four years of age when his parents came to the Sunflower state. His father, William A. Morgan, of Cottonwood Falls, who was for many years publisher of the *Chase County Leader*, was a native of Ireland, but was reared in America, having been but four years of age when his parents came to the United States and settled at Cincinnati, where he early learned the printing trade, with which he has been connected throughout the most of his life. Upon the breaking out of the Civil War, William A. Morgan enlisted in the Union Army as a member of the Twenty-third Regiment, Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, and saw much active service. He served as department commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, department of Kansas, and took an active interest in everything tending to advance the welfare of his comrades who wore the blue. A man of strong mentality and marked force of character, William A. Morgan left the impress of his individuality upon many lines of thought and action since coming to Kansas in 1871 and attained no small degree of distinction in civic life, having performed excellent service in the state Legislature, to both branches of which he had been elected at one time or another. His death occurred on March 24, 1917. His wife, whose maiden name was Minnie Yost and whom he married in Cincinnati, was prominently connected with the work of the Woman's Relief Corps in this state and was department president. She died in 1910.

William Y. Morgan is a graduate of the University of Kansas. In college he took high rank and is a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. As a boy, William Y. Morgan learned to set type in his father's newspaper office and thus early became connected with the "art preservative of all arts." Upon completing his course at college, he became connected with the "local" department of a Lawrence newspaper and there earned his spurs as a reporter. Following this connection, he purchased a newspaper at Strong City, which he edited and published for four years, at the end of which time he bought the *Gazette* at Emporia. His work in connection

with that now famous paper was very successful and he brought the *Gazette* up to the rank of first class newspapers, which it has ever since occupied. In 1895 he sold that paper to William Allen White and came to Reno county, locating at Hutchinson, where he organized the Hutchinson News Company and entered upon the publication of the *Hutchinson Daily News*, he being the president of the company and the principal stockholder. From the very beginning of this now notably successful journal, Mr. Morgan assumed the active management of the same and has made it one of the leading newspapers in the state.

Mr. Morgan from the days of his boyhood has been a staunch Republican and his newspaper ever has been one of the most earnest supporters of the principles of that party in the West. When only twenty years of age he was made secretary of the Douglas county Republican convention and in whatever community he has since lived he has been honored with the secretaryship or chairmanship of the Republican central committee. In January, 1899, the Kansas Legislature elected him to the office of state printer, which office he held for two terms. He was four terms a member of the Legislature from Hutchinson and in the fall of 1914 was elected lieutenant-governor of the state. He was re-elected in 1916. In business affairs Mr. Morgan has also been an active factor in the general life of Hutchinson and Reno county, and in 1902 was elected president of the State Exchange Bank of Hutchinson, in which position he served for some years very acceptably. He has been identified with all the public affairs of the city.

On November 20, 1891, William Y. Morgan was united in marriage at Strong City, to Colie Adair, daughter of Wit Adair, of that city, and he and Mrs. Morgan, who takes an active and earnest interest in the social and cultural life of Hutchinson, have a fine home at No. 420 Sherman street, the highest point on that street of fine residences. Mr. Morgan is a thirty-second-degree Mason and a Knight Templar. He is also a member of the grand lodge of the Knights of Pythias, and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He is known all over the state in connection with his services in behalf of the Sons of Veterans and was commander of this patriotic organization.

Mr. Morgan ranks high among the leading men of central Kansas and is widely known and honored for his genuine worth as a man, a citizen and a publicist. He has written three books of travel, the record of his observations on journeys to Europe and the Near East. All of these books, "A

Journey of a Jayhawker," "A Jayhawker in Europe," and "The Near East" have had large sales. In 1914 he was elected a director of the Associated Press and he gives much of his time to that important organization.

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### ROBERT T. SPECHT, JR.

Robert T. Specht, Jr., editor and proprietor of the *Turon Weekly Press*, comes of vigorous German parentage, and both by heritage and training has been well fitted for the work he is so admirably carrying on in newspaperdom. His father, Robert T. Specht, has had a varied and interesting career. He was born on March 4, 1837, in Hamburg, Germany, emigrated to America in 1854, and engaged in the printing business in Cleveland, Ohio. There he remained until the outbreak of the Civil War. In 1861 he was given a commission as second lieutenant in Company E, Fifty-eighth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served in this capacity until 1863, commanding Company E, when he was made lieutenant of marines on board the ironclad "Dekalb," and remained in the naval service until after the fall of Vicksburg when he was appointed assistant provost marshal of Vicksburg. He returned to Cleveland, and ten years later, moved to Kansas, where he remained until 1877, when he removed to Chase, Rice county, Kansas, and engaged in farming for the next ten years. He became one of the most useful and influential citizens of Rice county. In 1888 he began the publication of the *Chase Record*, and also engaged in a private banking business there. He was probate judge of Rice county from 1888 to 1890. For the next nine years he was both farmer and banker. In 1899 he retired from active labor and moved to Ellinwood, Kansas, but in 1915 he changed the family home to Topeka, and is still living in that city. He is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church.

Robert T. Specht's wife was Katie R. Schneider. She was born in Liverpool, Medina county, Ohio, on April 19, 1842, and died in Ellinwood, Kansas, on July 16, 1915. She also was a devoted member of the Evangelical Lutheran church.

Robert T. Specht, Jr., was born at Topeka, Kansas, on February 2, 1873. His education was received in his younger days from his parents and at the age of ten began in the graded schools of Chase, Kansas, graduating at the age of fourteen. After leaving school, he mastered two very useful trades, printing and telegraphy. He served as station agent and operator



on the Santa Fe railroad for three years, after which he engaged in the newspaper business, conducting the *Newton Journal*, in Harvey county, Kansas, for five months, and the year following he was editor of the *Nickerson Argosy*, in this county. At the end of that time he went to Chicago to work for his brother in the publishing business, remaining in that city until October 1, 1915, when he came to Turon, Kansas, and purchased the *Turon Weekly Press*. In politics he is a Republican, and is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

Mr. Specht's brothers and sisters are Florence, wife of Frank S. Salls, a banker of Topeka; Josie B., wife of Frank N. Masemore, a real-estate dealer of St. Joseph, Missouri; Carl H., of Chicago, publisher and junior partner in the firm of Harnegnies & Howell.

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### CARR W. TAYLOR.

Carr W. Taylor, the son of Thomas Thomson and Margaret Antoinette (White) Taylor, was born in Georgetown, Brown county, Ohio. Thomas Thomson Taylor was born on the "Stone House Farm" in Monmouth county, New Jersey, on the north side of the "Burlington Path" and about four miles west of Freehold, on November 27, 1836. Thomas Taylor was a representative of the eighth generation from John Taylor, of Windsor, Connecticut, who came to America from the town of Haverhill, Suffolk county, England, with the colony of Governor Winthrop in 1630. He settled at Lynn, Massachusetts, the same year. Thomas Taylor was the son of Hiram and Mary (Thomson) Taylor. Thomas Taylor was married to Margaret Antoinette White at Georgetown, Ohio, on January 17, 1858. To this union the following children were born: Miles, Thomas Thomson, Jr., Carr White, Sarah Elizabeth, Hiram, Bruce Linville, George Searing and Edgar Clarence.

Margaret Antoinette White was born in Georgetown, Brown county, Ohio, and died at Hutchinson, September 29, 1913. Mrs. White was the daughter of John D. and Margaret R. (Baker) White, both of whom were natives of Virginia.

In April, 1867, Thomas Taylor moved to Edina, Knox county, Missouri, and after remaining there six years, on account of poor health removed to Kansas where he made his home for twenty years. Here he built for himself and family a most substantial home and became the possessor of

eleven hundred and twenty acres of land, where he engaged in general farming and the raising of cattle and hogs.

Thomas T. Taylor received his education in the schools of Freehold and Bordentown, New Jersey. After completing his education he was an apprentice in a grocery store for some time and then studied law in the office of Major William Wall, an uncle, after which he was admitted to the bar at Columbus, Ohio, on December 8, 1857. In April, 1858, he was elected an alderman of Georgetown and the same year, he was appointed a member of the county board of school examiners. Later he was appointed prosecuting attorney of Brown county and later was elected to that position, in 1860. Upon his return from the army, at the close of the Civil War, he was appointed a justice of the peace and the same year he declined the nomination for district judge. Some time later he was appointed assistant collector of internal revenue for the sixth district of Ohio. He served as swamp land commissioner and assistant United States marshal for Missouri and in 1870 was supervisor of the census in Knox county. In 1873 he located in Kansas, where he served three terms as state representative from Reno county and one term as state auditor. In 1875 he was deputy prosecuting attorney for Reno county and was for three years a member of the state board of charities, by appointment of Gov. Thomas A. Osborn, and was reappointed by Gov. John P. St. John. He was for two years the president of the board. During the Indian trouble, Governor Osborn appointed him brigadier-general of the state militia. The seventh congressional district of the state selected him as the elector, in the Blaine and Logan campaign. Mr. Taylor was a director of the Kansas State Horticultural Society for several years and was elected a life member of the society. In January he became the general counsel for the Kansas City, Watkins & Gulf Railroad with headquarters at Lake Charles, Louisiana. In February, 1902, he received the appointment of referee in bankruptcy for the western district of Louisiana. He died on February 15, 1908, at Lake Charles, and was buried with high military honors in the Arlington Cemetery, at Washington, D. C.

On April 16, 1861, Thomas Taylor volunteered in the Union army at Georgetown, Ohio, and on May 4, 1861, was elected as first lieutenant of Company I, Twelfth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry. On August 7, 1861, he became Captain of Company F, Forty-seventh Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and in December, 1862, was promoted to the rank of major. He later became a lieutenant-colonel, colonel and brigadier-general.

His advancement was in recognition of his gallant service. He served as chief of staff with Generals M. L. Smith and W. B. Hazen. He was chief of outpost until he was wounded at McAlister, Georgia, on December 13, 1864, and was ordered to Grant's officers' hospital at Cincinnati. During his convalescence he was ordered to sit as a member of the military court, at Washington, D. C., where he served for several months, the youngest member of the court. After regaining his health he served on the staff of General Hazen in charge of the judiciary department. At the siege of Atlanta and on the march to the sea was in charge of a brigade, which position he filled with distinction and honor.

Thomas T. Taylor for a time conducted and owned a newspaper at Georgetown, Ohio, and later was the editor and publisher of the *Edina Sentinel* at Edina, Missouri. In 1883 he entered into partnership with S. B. Zimmerman for the practice of law, and continued in the practice until he removed to Lake Charles.

Thomas T. Taylor was a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and was active in the York rite. He was an influential member of the Methodist Episcopal church and took much interest in all church work. Politically, Mr. Taylor was a Republican and took much interest in all the campaigns of his party, he being a prominent and influential worker.

Carr W. Taylor received his education in the public schools of Reno county and from his father. He later attended the University of Michigan, for two years, after which he was admitted to the bar at Hutchinson, on July 8, 1887, to the Supreme Court of Kansas at Topeka, on June 1, 1897, and to the Supreme Court of the United States on February 25, 1908. Since being admitted to the bar Mr. Taylor has practiced law at Hutchinson and at Topeka. He has served as prosecuting attorney for Reno county, from 1899 to 1903, and attorney for the Kansas board of railroad commissioners, at Topeka, from 1905 to 1907. He has his office at 604 First National Bank building, his residence being at 801 Sherman avenue, East.

At the first sound of the tocsin of the Spanish-American War, Mr. Taylor, who at the time was first lieutenant of Company E, Kansas National Guard, organized a company and when a call for volunteers was made, went to Topeka, where he tendered to Governor Leady the first organized company. The governor refused to accept the company and proceeded to issue orders for the mustering out of all the Kansas guard and then to organize regiments for the service, with his own henchmen as officers.

On June 30, 1903 Carr W. Taylor, was married at Hutchinson, to Mrs. Eva (Thompson) Heathcote, the daughter of Leander H. and Cisnae

(Ament) Thompson. Mrs. Taylor is a native of Nokomis, Illinois, while her father was born in Kentucky and her mother in Missouri. Mrs. Taylor is the mother of one child, Waldemar Lea, by a former marriage. Waldemar is at home with Mr. and Mrs. Taylor.

Fraternally, Mr. Taylor is a York rite Mason, a member of the Knights of Pythias, an Elk and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Politically, Mr. Taylor is a progressive Republican, and was an alternate delegate to the National Republican convention in 1904, when Theodore Roosevelt was nominated for president. In 1914 he was the candidate on the Progressive ticket for attorney-general of Kansas.

Carr W. Taylor is the author of a treatise relating to the regulation of public-service corporations, under the title "The Railroad a Public Servant." The work has been well received and much favorable comment has been given to it.

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#### ARTHUR H. SCHLAUDT.

Arthur H. Schlaudt, vice-president and general manager of the Knorr-Schlaudt Wholesale Company, of Hutchinson, Kansas, and who is actively connected with the business interests of that city, is a native son of Kansas, having been born in Topeka, the state capital, in 1879, son of Henry and Sophia Schlaudt, who for years have been prominent residents of Hutchinson, Mr. Schlaudt, senior, being head of the Fair Mercantile Company, of this city.

Until moving to Hutchinson, Arthur H. Schlaudt attended the schools of Topeka, and supplemented same with a course in a business college. He later attended the Hutchinson high school, graduating with the class of 1899. At an early age he became active in business life, being associated with his father in conducting the Fair Mercantile Company, which was one of three stores in which Mr. Schlaudt, senior, was interested, the other two being at Topeka and Lawrence, Kansas. Arthur H. eventually acted in the capacity of buyer for three stores, making regular trips to the eastern markets. In 1905 the Knorr-Schlaudt Wholesale Company was organized and Arthur Schlaudt was elected secretary of the same. This company grew and enlarged until in 1908 they moved into their present building which was erected for their purpose at 223-5-7 South Main street. The stock handled by this company consists of furnishing goods and staple notions. In 1912 the Knorr-Schlaudt Company established a factory for the manufacture of



overalls, work shirts, etc., and now employs a force of thirty workmen in their factory department alone. The company has a force of seven traveling salesmen, and covers the territory comprised in southwestern Kansas, eastern Colorado, western Oklahoma and parts of New Mexico and Texas. Mr. Schlautdt is now vice-president of the Knorr-Schlautdt Wholesale Company, and also acts as treasurer of the Fair Mercantile Company.

On September 25, 1906, Arthur H. Schlautdt was married to Inez Lillian Handy, daughter of the late E. S. Handy and wife, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, and to this union two children have been born: Gretchen, born in 1910, and Sylvia, born in 1914. The Schlautdts have a very pleasant home at 718 Sherman avenue, East.

Mr. Schlautdt is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to political affairs, but has never sought an office of any kind. He is a Knight Templar and thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the United Commercial Travelers' Association, a member of the Hutchinson Rotary Club and Gridiron Club, and a director of the Young Men's Christian Association, in which organization he takes a warm interest. For a number of years Mr. Schlautdt was active in the National Guard of the state, serving as battalion adjutant of the Second Regiment for seven years.

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#### IRVIN W. POULTON.

Irvin W. Poulton was born in Courtland county, New York, April 19, 1865. His father, William Poulton, was born at Gloucestershire, England, and his mother, Elizabeth Ellsworth, in Yorkshire, England. They were twelve and ten years old, respectively, when their families settled in Courtland county, New York. After their marriage they owned and operated a farm in New York state.

William Poulton enlisted in the spring of 1861 in the First United States Regular Artillery, and served three years in the Civil War. At the battle of Warrenton, a cannon, rolling over him, injured his legs. He re-enlisted in the One Hundred and Sixty-fifth Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, and served in this until the close of the war, receiving a bullet wound in the hand. In November, 1872, he became a Kansas pioneer, hunting buffalo near Medicine Lodge. He first settled near Wichita, but in May, 1873, came to Reno county and homesteaded a quarter section, and timber-claimed half that acreage in Medora township. His father, Solomon





Ervin M. Boulton

Anna M. Boulton



Poulton, had homesteaded eighty acres there, and after the latter's death, William finished proving up on it. He was one of the first settlers in this section and soon became a leader in affairs. The sod house he built was replaced by a four-room, one and one-half story frame building, large for that time. He farmed and raised stock until 1887, when he engaged in the lumber and hardware business at Medora. With foresight he purchased one hundred and sixty acres, which he sold to the town company for the site of Medora when the Rock Island railway went through. His death occurred on May 28, 1910, at the age of seventy-four years. His wife, who was an Episcopalian in religious belief, died on July 26, 1905, aged sixty-five years. Their children are as follow: Irvin W., the subject of this review; Alice, the wife of William McIlwain, of Texas; Eliza, wife of Arthur M. Bear, of Medora township; Arthur, a farmer of Medora township; Eugene, section foreman for the Rock Island railway, living at Medora; Emma, the wife of Ira Hostetler, of Grand Junction, Colorado; Teresa, who was the wife of O. A. Kinley, died on April 3, 1908; Florence, widow of Elmer Fulk, who died at Grand Junction, Colorado, is a teacher in the schools of Maxwell, New Mexico.

Irvin W. Poulton was educated in the public schools of New York, later attending the district school at Auburn, in Medora township, and still later the school in district No. 45, near his home, the latter school having been partly founded by his father. This school was first held in an old sod house, primitively furnished, located on the Zimmerman place. Irvin Poulton remained with his parents, operating the home farm until he was forty years old. In 1905 he moved to the quarter section of land which he had bought before his marriage, having sold another quarter to clear the debt. He has improved his land in many ways, and stocked his farm with registered Red Polled cattle.

On June 12, 1902, Irvin W. Poulton was married at Kansas City, Missouri, to Anna Bear, who was born in Ohio, April 8, 1878, the daughter of Henry and Catherine (Vanderhoof) Bear, both of whom are now deceased. To this union have been born two children, Catherine, born on June 23, 1903, and Clyde, born on September 15, 1905, both of whom are in school. Mr. Poulton is an Episcopalian in religious belief, while his wife is a Presbyterian, and both are active in the Medora Union church, which they helped to build some years ago. Mr. Poulton is a trustee of this church, while his wife is superintendent of the Sunday school.

Mr. Poulton is a generous, hardworking farmer, and very popular in

his community. He is a Republican in politics, and active in local affairs, having served five years as school director, and is now serving his third term as clerk of the township. He is a member of Inman Lodge No. 379, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, to which he has belonged for twenty-four years. He is engaged in the raising of purebred Polled cattle and general farming, he having as fine a herd as there is in the state, having about forty head.

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### GEORGE KIRTLEY FERNIE.

Among the successful ranch men of Reno county is George Kirtley Fernie who came to this county in the boom days of the early eighties and cast his lot with the pioneers, entering immediately into the life and activities of the cattlemen, and is now comfortably situated in his pleasant home on his extensive country place in Lincoln township.

George Kirtley Fernie was born on January 19, 1864, in Derby, England, the son of John and Arabella Fernie, the former of whom was born in Cupar, Fife, Scotland, and was educated in Edinburgh, where he was trained as a civil and mechanical engineer. When twenty-five years of age he went to England and worked as a civil engineer on the Midland railroad. Later he was a partner in the Clarence Iron Works in Leeds, England. In 1881, John Fernie brought his family to America and located at Philadelphia, where he lived, retired, for several years. Subsequently he returned to England where he died in 1904.

George Fernie attended school in England and on the continent, and finished his education at University College, London. When the family moved to Philadelphia he spent three years as an apprentice in a machine shop. In 1883 Mr. Fernie moved to Sedgwick county, Kansas, where he lived with friends on a ranch and learned the business. Three years later, John Fernie bought a half section of land in Lincoln township, this county, for his son and he started in the cattle business. His brother, Robert, joined him and they operated the ranch together.

Robert William Fernie was born in Derby, England, December 5, 1857, and was educated in Leeds and the Isle of Wight, and finished at the University College, London. He studied practical engineering on the Midland railroad and came to this country in 1880, locating in Philadelphia where he was with the Baldwin Locomotive Works. From there he went to the Lehigh Valley railroad in Wilkesbarre, and then came to Reno county.

Both brothers are married, George remaining on the ranch and Robert living in Hutchinson.

Fernie ranch now comprises 2,730 acres; they have about four hundred head of cattle, all high grade Herefords, and the wheat acreage has been increased from year to year until now they have 1,100 acres sowed to grain and alfalfa. Fernie brothers were among the first to build silos in this section and they have three concrete ones with eight hundred tons capacity. They were also among the first to introduce alfalfa into Reno county. They have always taken great pride in the quality of their cattle and were pioneers in the production of baby beef, which with wheat are still their main interests. The Santa Fe railroad runs through the ranch and they have the advantages of a station and stock yards on their own place.

During the national tractor demonstration in Hutchinson, in 1915, Mr. Fernie donated the use of portions of his land for the tractor plowing. Over one hundred different tractors competed, each pulling plows to break a certain acreage, before a large crowd of spectators. George Fernie has more than a local reputation as a successful farmer and cattle raiser and has had a large part in bringing the agricultural and social conditions of this region up to their present high standard.

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### WILLIAM H. JOHNSON.

William H. Johnson, the well-known funeral director and undertaker at Hutchinson, this county, is a native of New York state, having been born in the city of Lockport, that state, January 17, 1873, the son of William L. and Mary A. Johnson, the former of whom, born in Massachusetts, died at his home in Hutchinson, April 26, 1908, at the age of sixty years, and the latter, born in Lockport, New York, is now living at Hutchinson, in her sixty-third year.

William L. Johnson was a small boy when his parents moved from Massachusetts to Lockport, New York, and he grew to manhood in the latter city and there learned the undertaking business, in which he was engaged practically all the time during the remainder of his life. He was an expert cabinet-maker and excelled as a coffin maker in the days before the great coffin factories of the country did away with the making of coffins by hand. In 1858 he and his brother engaged in the undertaking business at Lockport and were thus engaged for eight years, at the end of which time William L.



Johnson resumed his vocation of cabinet-making. His health failing him, he moved to New York City and for a couple of years operated a harbor boat there, for the purpose of getting out in the open. In 1886, attracted by reports of the fine climate of this section, he moved his family to Hutchinson, where he entered into partnership with Davis & Krenrich in the furniture and undertaking business and was thus engaged for three years, at the end of which time, in 1889, he opened an undertaking establishment of his own in the room in East Sherman street now used by the *Hutchinson Daily News* as a press room. The next year he moved his establishment to 14 Sherman street, West, where it ever since has been located, the business having been continued by his sons since his death. William L. Johnson was a Democrat, a great admirer of William Jennings Bryan, and took a warm interest in political affairs. He was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Court of Honor, the Knights of Pythias, the Knights and Ladies of Security and the Sons and Daughters of Justice. In 1895 he bought a home at 124 Avenue B, West, where his widow still resides. William L. Johnson and wife were the parents of three children, Ida F., who is at home with her mother; William H., the immediate subject of this sketch, and Stephen F., who is married and lives at the number adjoining the home of his mother, 126 Avenue B, West.

As a boy William H. Johnson attended the schools of Lockport, New York, and then for two years attended the schools in New York City, during the time his parents lived there. Upon his arrival in Hutchinson in 1886, he entered the old Sherman street school. When eleven years of age he had begun learning the undertaking business under his father's careful and competent direction and continued working right along with him during the vacation of his school. When he reached his majority his father made him a partner in the business in Hutchinson, and this mutually agreeable connection continued under the firm name of Johnson & Son, until the father's death in 1908, and since that time, in deference to the memory of the elder Johnson, the old firm name has been continued. After his father's death Mr. Johnson admitted his younger brother, Stephen F. Johnson, as a partner in the business and has made a great success of the same, the undertaking firm of Johnson & Son being regarded as the leading business of the kind in this immediate section of the state. The firm possesses a complete and up-to-date equipment, including the largest private garage in the state of Kansas for the care of the extensive automobile equipment, a mechanic being employed constantly taking care of the numerous machines which make

up the rolling equipment of the firm. Among these cars is a fine auto-ambulance, a motor first-call wagon, equipped with pulmotor and all modern devices for life saving in cases of drowning, suffocation, fire or injury, a motor hearse, a motor casket wagon and touring cars, besides a full equipment of horse-drawn carriages.

Mr. Johnson is a member of twenty-one lodges and fraternal societies. He was married on February 22, 1916.

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### GEORGE R. WINSOR.

George R. Winsor has lived an eventful and useful life, as soldier in the Civil War, as Kansas farmer, as school trustee, and as the father of a large and interesting family. His parents were James and Charity (Feathers) Winsor, of Troy, New York, where his birth occurred on May 14, 1840.

The parents of Mr. Winsor were both natives of New York. James Winsor, who fought in the Civil War, was a lumberman in the New York home, and also in Pennsylvania, where the family lived for some years. He later moved to Kansas, where he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land in Grove township, Reno county, section 16, township 25, range 10, where he developed a fine farm, and on which he lived until about 1895, when his death occurred.

George R. Winsor received his education in the district schools of Lewis county, New York. He was operating a large dairy farm, milking from twenty to thirty cows daily, when the call to arms was heard in 1861, and responding to that call, he enlisted for the service in Company B, Fourteenth Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, at Boonville, Oneida county, New York. At the end of his first enlistment of ninety days, he re-enlisted under Col. Charles Wheelock, in the Ninety-seventh Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry. Belonging to the Army of the Potomac, he had the distinction of fighting under such prominent generals as McClellan, Burnside, Hooker and Meade. On September 14, 1862, Mr. Winsor was wounded at South Mountain, Maryland. He was given an honorable discharge at Syracuse, New York, in August, 1865, after participating in the Grand Review at Washington, D. C. David Winsor, a brother, was also a soldier and is now an inmate of the soldiers' home at Fort Dodge, Kansas.

When George R. Winsor emigrated from New York to Kansas, in

October, 1874, he rented a farm in Butler county, for one year. At the end of his lease he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres. A little later he purchased the same amount of land, both quarter sections being located in Grove township, Reno county. The first was the northwest quarter of section 34, township 25, range 10, and the latter was the southwest quarter of section 27, township 25, range 10.

It was on October 21, 1868, that Mr. Winsor was married to Flora A. Perkins, at Turon, New York. She was the daughter of John and Caroline (Smith) Perkins, both natives of the Empire state, and was born in Lewis county, New York, in 1853. To Mr. and Mrs. Winsor were born six children: John, a well driver, of Laken, Kansas; Arthur, a hardware clerk, of Bucklin, Kansas; Myrtle, the wife of Warren H. Thorp, a carpenter and builder of Millersville, Kansas; Fred, a farmer still living at home; Fay, of Omaha, Nebraska, who has been in the United States navy for five years, and who was on board the battleship "Nebraska," when the Atlantic fleet sailed around the world; Maud, wife of Benton Myers, farmer, of Grove township, Reno county.

Mr. Winsor is a Republican in politics, and has well served the educational interests of his district, No. 70, as trustee for the past seventeen years.

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#### REV. WILLIAM B. STEVENS.

Perhaps no minister of the Gospel message in Reno county has had a larger part in advancing the interests of the church than the subject of this sketch, Rev. William B. Stevens, who came to this county in 1904, applied himself with energy to the task of organizing churches in various parts of the county, and is now continuing his labor of love in behalf of distressed bodies and souls as general superintendent of the Hutchinson Methodist hospital and as field secretary of the Hutchinson Methodist district.

William B. Stevens was born on December 25, 1866, near Corydon, in Harrison county, Indiana, the son of E. P. and Nancy (Hancock) Stevens, both of whom were natives of Indiana. Nancy Hancock was the daughter of John and Lucy Hancock, natives of North Carolina, who emigrated to Harrison county, Indiana, in pioneer days. E. P. Stevens was the son of John and Mary Stevens, natives of New York state, who were also early settlers of Harrison county.

E. P. Stevens was born in 1833, and was reared on his father's farm. At the age of thirty-six he entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church and for forty years was a local preacher of that church, acting as a circuit rider among the country churches of southern Indiana. His first wife was Nancy Hancock, and to this union were born five children. Mrs. Nancy Stevens died in 1867, at the age of thirty-four years, and Rev. E. P. Stevens was married, secondly, to Mrs. Sarah (Goldsbury) Hancock, to which union were born two daughters and one son. Mrs. Hancock had six children by her first marriage and thus Rev. E. P. Stevens had the care of fourteen children. He died in 1909, at the age of seventy-six years.

William B. Stevens attended the public schools in Harrison county, Indiana, after which he went to the Central Normal College, at Danville, Indiana. He then taught school in Harrison county for five years, at the close of that service returning to his father's farm, which place he managed until October, 1903. In 1901 Mr. Stevens had obtained a local preacher's license in the Methodist Episcopal church, and in 1903 he became a circuit rider and had charge of seven preaching points on the Branchville circuit in southern Indiana, which paid him one hundred and fifty dollars for eight months' service, with his parsonage next door to a saloon. In 1904 Reverend Stevens was transferred to Abbeyville, Reno county, Kansas, where he was pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church for three years. He was moved to Hutchinson, in 1907, and placed in charge of two country churches—one at Mitchell, in Grant township, and the other at Poplar, in Reno township. Reverend Stevens established a mission at South Hutchinson which in time grew to a regular church organization with a building of its own. In 1911 he erected a parsonage there and two years later spent the greater part of his time with that church. He also established the Little Valley church in McPherson county.

When Reverend Stevens came to Hutchinson in 1907 the minister was paid seven hundred dollars a year and there were only two churches. In 1914 the field had been so developed that there were three ministers paid three thousand two hundred dollars a year, having charge of six churches. For this remarkable growth Reverend Stevens deserves the principal credit, as it was on account of his zeal that the churches were built and the membership increased. Outside of his regular church work he held a great many evangelistic meetings over the county with very satisfactory results. Rev. William B. Stevens was the first pastor in southwestern Kansas to adopt the automobile and his machine has traveled many miles each week facilitating his work throughout the county.



In August, 1915, the Methodist church took over the leading hospital in Hutchinson, and it is now called the Hutchinson Methodist Hospital. Reverend Stevens is a member of the board of managers of the hospital, of which board Doctor Able, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Hutchinson, is chairman. Reverend Stevens has general supervision of the hospital from the standpoint of church ownership, and is field secretary for the church in the Hutchinson Methodist district.

On February 19, 1890, William B. Stevens was united in marriage with Hannah B. McPheters, who was born in Washington County, Indiana, the daughter of Dr. J. D. McPheters, a prominent citizen of that county. To this union was born one child, Lucile, who was born on March 1, 1892, Lucile Stevens was graduated from the Hutchinson high school, where her rank as a student secured for her a scholarship at Southwestern College, from which institution she was graduated with honor. Reverend and Mrs. Stevens have endeared themselves to this community and are held in high esteem.

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#### PATRICK SHEA.

Patrick Shea, son of John and Catherine Shea, was born on December 3, 1861, in County Kerry, Ireland. His parents were both natives of the same country. John Shea was a horse dealer and live-stock buyer in his native land and died there in middle age, while his widow died on March 30, 1916.

Patrick Shea, reared in an Irish Catholic home, had few educational advantages. When fourteen years of age he enlisted in the English navy, remaining one year and four months. While in the navy, he circled the globe, visited many foreign ports while on the British man-of-war. In 1878 he emigrated to Boston, Massachusetts, the first of the family to come to America, and for a few months worked in a brick-yard in Boston. Later he went west to Iowa, where he was engaged as a section hand on the railroad at Washington. For seven years he worked in the gas business in Iowa, but later engaged in the retail grain, coal and wood business. He next took up railroad building, becoming in time, as great a contractor as any in the United States. He followed railroad construction work for twenty-five years, working for the Rock Island and other lines. He made







PATRICK SHEA.



MRS. ANNA SHEA.



large contracts and sublet the work, managing the whole, and sometimes controlling several hundred workmen, with great executive ability. He led in bringing Mexicans into Kansas for railroad construction work. He is justly proud of the fact that he has never been required to give a bond for any of his work.

In April, 1908, Mr. Shea, who was living in Kansas City, bought a section of land in Medora township, on the old townsite of Medora, on which to pasture the horses and mules used in construction work. In 1908, on account of rheumatism, he settled on his farm and is still living there. He has become a fine judge of live stock, and has bought and shipped much of it. He feeds many cattle and fine Hampshire hogs. He has made many and various improvements on his farm, such as grain elevator, barns, cement walks and floors, and cow barns.

Mr. Shea is a Democrat in politics, but has never sought office. He is a liberal contributor and member of the Roman Catholic church at Hutchinson, and is a member of the Catholic order, Knights of Columbus. He is generous to a fault and exceedingly popular.

On September 10, 1890, Patrick Shea was married to Annie Elizabeth Farrell, have been born the following children: John, deceased; George, who married Vina Thurman, lives on his farm near Medora; Edward, who married Ethel Bear, and has one son, Lawrence, lives on his farm near Medora; Sarah, Nellie, Francis, Maurice, Thomas, Robert and William (twins), still living at home with their parents. Mr. Shea is interested in the commission business in Kansas City.

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#### JOE F. BAILEY.

Joe F. Bailey is a native of Rock Island, Illinois, having been born there on June 6, 1874, the youngest child in a family of five children reared by Thomas and Rebecca (Posey) Bailey. Thomas Bailey, was born in the state of Kentucky, in 1824, and came to Ohio with his parents when he was a child, and there grew up on his father's farm. Thomas Bailey was well known in railroad circles throughout Ohio as one of the first conductors on the Chicago, Hamilton & Dayton railroad. During the Civil War he was obliged to change his residence and as a consequence, settled in Cincinnati, Ohio. Later, after moving to Rock Island, Illinois, he became a conductor



on the Rock Island & Peoria railroad and was finally promoted to the position of station agent at Galva, Illinois. In 1882 Thomas Bailey decided to take up farming as an occupation, and bought a farm near Independence, Kansas, where he became a prominent stock raiser. He was well thought of among the citizens of that section of the state and was elected county commissioner of Montgomery county, Kansas, where he served the public for a number of years. His political interests were with the Republican party and in religious affairs he supported the Congregational church. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bailey were the parents of the following children: Harry, the eldest son, died at the age of forty years; Fred, resides in Colorado; Thomas is a successful druggist in Joplin, Missouri; Jesse, who married Mrs. F. W. Crans, resides in Independence, Kansas, and Joe F., the subject of this sketch. Mrs. Bailey was born in Ohio in 1841 and died in 1904.

When Joe F. Bailey was eight years old the members of his family moved to Montgomery county, Kansas, where he received his education in the public schools. He made his home on the farm with his parents until he was twenty-one years old when he went to work in a drug store at Galena, Kansas. During the five years of his employment in this locality he learned every detail of the drug business and at the end of that time when he went to Hutchinson, Kansas, he received on account of his ability, a position as traveling salesman for a wholesale drug company. He visited towns in the vicinity of Hutchinson and Kansas City and has continued the work until the very present time, when he is considered one of the best salesmen in that line of work in the state. He maintains his headquarters in Hutchinson, where he erected a beautiful home at 211 East Second avenue, in March, 1909.

In September, 1912, Mr. Bailey bought out the interest of Mr. Hodges in the retail drug store of Hodges & Adams, at 205 North Main street. Since that time the firm has been known as Bailey & Adams. Although Mr. Bailey still follows the occupation of a traveling salesman, he gives one day in each week to his personal interests in the store, which is one of the best equipped as well as the most up-to-date stores of its kind in Hutchinson. Mr. Bailey, aside from his business activities is prominent in fraternal circles. He is a member of the Elks Lodge and the United Commercial Travelers.

The marriage of Joe F. Bailey to Aura Rowland took place on October 23, 1901. Mrs. Bailey is a native of Washington County, Ohio, the daughter of Rufus and Lottie (Rood) Rowland, both of whom were natives of Ohio.

Her father, who followed the occupation of a farmer, moved to Reno county, Kansas, in 1879, where he homesteaded in Center township. In 1885 he retired from the active duties of the farm life and moved to Hutchinson where he still resides. His wife passed away in December, 1905. The couple attended the Christian church and contributed liberally to its support. Mr. Rowland is known to many residents of Hutchinson as a former hotel manager of that place. Two sisters of Mrs. Rowland still reside in Kansas. They are Lova, the wife of John Wellows, who makes her home in Rice county, and Anna, the wife of William Johnson, of Hutchinson. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Bailey are Thelma, who was born in 1903; Mildred and Joe, Jr.

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#### JAMES H. SPROUT.

James H. Sprout is not only one of the most substantial farmers of Reno county, but he has figured prominently in the school interests of his community. He was born in Grundy county, Missouri, on December 28, 1872, the son of Francis M. and Sophia (Newlin) Sprout, an account of whose lives is given in the sketch of John Sprout, presented elsewhere in this volume.

James H. Sprout was educated in the district schools of his native county. When he was about twenty years of age he moved with his father from Missouri to the Sunflower state, and settled in Grove township, Reno county, where he lived on rented land for six years. In the spring of 1899 he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 34, township 25, range 10, and ten years later he erected thereon one of the finest residences in that county, where he has since resided.

In November, 1896, James H. Sprout was married, in Hutchinson, to Minnie Ellison, the daughter of James and Nannie (Oliver) Ellison. Illinois was the native state of Mrs. Sprout, where her birth occurred on October 3, 1877. Her father was born in Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Sprout are the parents of two children: Eileen, born on July 22, 1899, and Gilbert, born on November 3, 1910.

Mr. Sprout has been treasurer of the school board of his district, No. 70, for the past fourteen years. He has also held the trustee office in Grove township for a period of two years. In politics, he has always affiliated with the Republican party.

## HARVEY J. RICKENBRODE.

Harvey J. Rickenbrode was born in Clarion county, Pennsylvania, August 8, 1856. His father, Adam Rickenbrode, was born in Berks county, and his mother, Susannah Masters, in Clarion county, Pennsylvania. Adam Rickenbrode died in 1863, having been a farmer near Fryberg, Pennsylvania. His wife married John Daum, a cabinet-maker, who owned five acres of land, on which was his shop. In 1865 the family moved to Lake county, Indiana, and bought a farm, on which they lived until the death of John Daum in 1883. His wife, who was a Methodist, died in 1897, aged sixty-three years. Her children, by her first marriage, were as follow: Jurilla, who was married to William King; Harvey J., the subject of this review; Agnes, wife of John King, of Turon, Kansas. To her second marriage there were born eight children.

Harvey J. Rickenbrode was seven years old when he moved to Indiana, and received his early education in the schools of Lake county, Indiana. Later he was a student in the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso, Indiana. At the age of seventeen he began teaching and had pupils larger than himself. In 1878 he bought and operated a threshing machine outfit at Ellsworth, Kansas. He afterward worked in the Ellsworth post-office for six months, clerked for one and one-half years in a grocery for I. W. Phelps, clerked eight months in a dry goods store, then worked as a bookkeeper for two years, and was manager and bookkeeper for the H. F. Hoseman Hardware and Implement Company for twelve years. From 1896 until 1901 he rented and operated a dairy farm in Porter county, Indiana. He then bought the general store of J. J. Harrison, at Medora, Kansas, was elected postmaster and has held this office since. He has enlarged the store and carries an entire farm supply stock. He helped organize the Farmers' Mutual Telephone Company, and has since held the office of treasurer of that company.

Mr. Rickenbrode is a Republican in politics, and is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, both of Hutchinson. He owns and rents a quarter section in Ness county, and owns his residence in Hutchinson.

Mr. Rickenbrode was married on November 14, 1881, in Ellsworth, Kansas, to Mattie L. Holmes, a native of New York, and the daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Holmes. Charles Holmes was a farmer near Ellsworth, Kansas, but later was engaged in the hotel business at Geneseo, Kan-

sas. His death occurred in 1878. To Mr. and Mrs. Rickenbrode have been born the following children: James Earl, an operator of Neodesha, Kansas, married Maggie Folk; Celia P., wife of J. E. Trent, manager of the Kansas Lumber Company, of Medora; Cyril Guy, who married May Egy, is ticket agent for the Rock Island railway at McFarland; Howard Reed, stenographer for the Interstate Commerce Commission, at Washington, D. C., and Clifford Dwight, who is employed in his father's store.

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### FRED W. ASH.

Fred W. Ash, former mayor of Haven, this county, and for years one of the most earnest promoters of the interests of that up-to-date and thriving little city, his home and the pride of his heart, for he was one of the founders of the town, is a native of England, having been born in the great city of London, June 11, 1840, son of Fred and Isabella (Hill) Ash, both natives of that same city and the parents of five children, Isabella, Fred W., Jessie, Henry and Arthur. The elder Fred Ash was the proprietor of an engraving and die-sinking establishment in London and lived in good circumstances. He died in 1854, at the age of thirty-seven years.

Fred W. Ash left home when he was nineteen years of age and he has lost all trace of his family. He was fourteen years old when his father died, and after that he went to work as printer's "devil" in the office of the *London Times*, a position he held for two years, at the end of which time he started in to learn the wood-turning and house-painting trades, becoming quite proficient in both, working at wood-turning during the winters and at house-painting during the summers. Early in 1859, he then being nineteen years of age, Fred W. Ash left the city of his birth and emigrated to Canada, locating at Ottawa, where he established a shop for wood turning, and there he remained until 1863, in which year he came to the United States and located at Chicago, and for a time did contract painting. He married in 1864 and became the foreman of a planing-mill and sash-and-door factory. In 1871 he bought the sash-and-door department of that concern and operated the same until 1873, in which year he came to Kansas on a visit, and was so well pleased with the appearance of things in this part of the state that he bought the relinquishment of a homestead right to a quarter of a section one mile north of Andale, in Greeley township (now Sherman township), Sedgwick county, this state, to which place he moved



his family and there he made his home until 1878, in which year he came to this county and bought a quarter of a section on land in Haven township and there established a new home. In 1882 he added to his holdings there by the purchase of a quarter of a section of railroad land just south of his place and was definitely on the way to his present state of comfortable affluence.

Fred W. Ash was the original pioneer dairyman of Reno county, the first man to bring to butter making that degree of attention it should receive, and he is properly proud of his record in the dairy line. In 1881 he established on his farm the first private creamery in Reno county. His dairy herd consisted of thirty fine cows and he gives proper direction to the enterprise. The Hutchinson dealers offered him but twelve cents the pound for his superior butter, the market price. Not content with this, he shipped the butter to St. Louis, where the superior quality of his product was at once recognized, the dealers there paying him thirty-one cents, and from that time forward he received the top price for his butter. In 1884 Mr. Ash retired from the farm and moved to Hutchinson, where he lived for eighteen months, during which time he was actively engaged in promoting the route of the old Wichita & Colorado railroad, now the Missouri Pacific, and was one of the organizers of the company that founded and promoted the town of Mt. Hope, on the line of the proposed road. When it became certain that the road would strike Mt. Hope, Mr. Ash sold out his interests there to advantage and then acted as an intermediary in securing the right-of-way for the road through this county, and piloted the railroad commission that was to decide the course of the road through Haven township. In April, 1886, Mr. Ash helped organize the Haven Town Company, which paid five thousand one hundred dollars for the quarter of a section of land on which the original plat of Haven was laid out, and in July of that year the road was constructed through the new town, the efforts of Mr. Ash having been mainly responsible for the route thus selected. Mr. Ash became the active agent for the town company and was the first man to build a house and make his home on the town site, Haven ever since having been his place of residence. Soon after the town was definitely on its way, Mr. Ash erected a two-story business block, which was destroyed by fire in 1894. He then built a comfortable residence two blocks east of Main street, where he still lives, and in 1915 built a pretty, modern house adjoining the same, for his son, William F.

Since 1884 Mr. Ash has rented his farm in Haven township and



during all the years intervening has had but four tenants on the place; two of those had done so well under his generous landlordism that they have been able to buy a farm. Mr. Ash was one of the organizers of the predecessor of the old Citizens' Bank, the first bank established in that place, and later was vice-president of the State Bank of Grant. In 1887, with a one-third interest in the concern, he helped organize and build the Haven mill, and later, from 1891 for several years, was active manager of the mill. Mr. Ash was also instrumental in the organization of the Haven Creamery Company, of which he was the secretary, and the affairs of which he very successfully managed for the first year or two of its existence. Mr. Ash is an ardent Republican and for years has taken an active part in the political affairs of the county. From 1893 to 1899 he served as mayor of Haven and later served as a member of the town council. In all ways he has been an unceasing "booster" for the pretty and up-to-date little city which he helped to found and the advantages of which he has ever extolled, unselfishly and without desire for gain. He has communicated his zealous spirit to many others there and the town is widely noted hereabout for the fine public spirit manifested by its people. Neither the town of Haven nor the township of that name has a cent of public debt hanging over it, and Mr. Ash modestly feels that he has done much toward contributing to this desirable result.

On February 29, 1864, Fred W. Ash was united in marriage to Lottie E. Pierce, who was born near Ogdensburg, New York, in 1846, daughter of Ontario and Jane (Town) Pierce, the former a native of New Jersey and the latter of New York state. Ontario Pierce was a baker, who died in 1852, his daughter, Lottie, then being but six years of age. Mrs. Pierce died in 1888. To Mr. and Mrs. Ash five children have been born, as follow: Nellie C., born on February 7, 1865, who died on November 2, 1903, the wife of Doctor Blue; Jessie L., August 8, 1866, who married W. C. Willhite, a carpenter, of Haven; William F., September, 1868, proprietor of a jewelry store at Haven, married Maud Talbot; Herbert E., July, 1872, a banker at Amboy, Indiana, married Lessie Pierson, of Amboy, and Minnie, February 17, 1875, who was married in Kansas to Frank Hill, formerly a banker at Greentown, Indiana. Mrs. Ash was a member of the Methodist church, and Mr. Ash is an attendant at the services of the same. He is a member of the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization. Mrs. Ash died on January 25, 1916, after a short illness. Mrs. Ash was a lovable, kindly woman,

who was admired for her charitable disposition, always ready to assist in sickness and distress; loved and honored by all who knew her, she will long be remembered by her many friends and neighbors.

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### GEORGE T. KROEKER.

George T. Kroeker, born in Russia, May 25, 1869, was the son of A. B. and Maria (Thiessen) Kroeker, both probably natives of the same country. The father was a wagon-maker. Because of religious persecution, his Mennonite ancestors moved from Holland to Germany. Two generations later Germany withdrew its promise of military exemption and the Mennonite colony settled on the banks of the Sea of Azof in Russia. Thirty-five years later, Russia withdrew a similar promise, and the Mennonites, whose religion forbade military service, began to look elsewhere. Mr. Schmidt, Santa Fe land agent, and now in Kansas, went to Russia in 1873 and induced them to settle in Kansas.

a native of Iowa, both of whose parents are now deceased. To this union in 1874, A. B. Kroeker and family, in the colony of Rev. Dietrich Gaeddert, a Mennonite leader, located on section 17, Little River township, Reno county, Kansas. In 1895 they moved to McPherson county, where A. B. Kroeker died in 1898, aged fifty-three years. His wife, aged sixty-eight, is still living. He was a Mennonite bishop and preacher. For years he operated a threshing machine outfit in his community. His children are George T., the subject of this review; Abe, a farmer living in California; Jacob, deceased; Mary, wife of H. T. Epp, a merchant of Inman, Kansas, and John, a farmer living in McPherson county, Kansas.

At the age of six, George T. Kroeker came to Kansas. His parents lived in a sod house with slough grass roof, and suffered the usual hardships of the pioneer farmers of Kansas. He lived at home, attending the neighborhood schools until grown, always a worker, money-maker and a leader. He rented land until he had saved enough money to make a first payment on a farm in Little River township. In 1908, he bought the Poulton homestead, a quarter section in Medora township, and has since made this his home. He has remodeled the dwelling and erected a large and commodious barn. His lovely home, built on a hill, is in view for miles around. He now owns three hundred and sixty acres in the two townships. He was one of the builders and is a member of the official board of the



George T. Throcker  
Agnes Throcker



Mennonite school at Inman. He is a Republican in politics, and has served as trustee and school board director. He started the Farmers' Elevator at Buhler, and was engaged in the retail hardware business there from 1898 until 1902. He is a trustee and member of the Inman Mennonite church, and is one of the most progressive men in the community. In 1907 he and Abe Buhler, went back to Russia to visit the old home.

On April 24, 1891, George T. Kroeker was married to Agnes Rampel, a native of Illinois, a daughter of John Rampel. To this union have been born the following children: Abe, who married Agatha Esan and lives on his father's farm; George Jr., living at home; Mary, the wife of George Schirling, of McPherson county, Kansas, and Edward, John, Marta, Astor and Herbert.

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#### EDSON L. TEED.

Edson L. Teed, cashier of the Central State Bank of Hutchinson, this county, is a native of Wisconsin, born in 1858, son of Lewis and Caroline (Palmer) Teed, both natives of New York state, where they were married. Not long after their marriage they emigrated to Wisconsin and entered a homestead tract in the neighborhood of Port Washington, in Ozaukee county, on which they lived until 1877, in which year they came to Kansas, settling in Barton county, where they again entered a homestead tract and proceeded to make a new home, spending the remainder of their lives there. Mr. Teed dying in 1900, his wife having preceded him to the grave the year before. Lewis Teed was a veteran of the Civil War, having served more than a year as a member of Company I, First Regiment, Wisconsin Heavy Artillery.

Edson L. Teed received his early education in the public schools of Wisconsin and was nineteen years of age when he came with his parents to Kansas. For some time he worked on his father's farm and then learned telegraphy in the Santa Fe railroad offices at Great Bend, becoming night operator and the night station agent there. He took an active part in Republican politics in Barton county and presently was elected county clerk, in which capacity he performed excellent service in behalf of the public for a period of four years, at the end of which time he became a traveling salesman for a big printing house, selling county office and bank supplies and other forms of stationery. In 1893 he moved to Hutchinson, which place



ever since has been his home. Mr. Teed continued his service as a traveling salesman until the time of the organization of the Central State Bank at Hutchinson, which was opened for business on July 26, 1915, at which time he was made cashier of that institution and is now serving in that capacity.

Mr. Teed for years has taken much interest in "the sport of kings," and has given close attention to the development of the racing strain in horses, for the past eight years having been secretary of the Kansas and Oklahoma Circuit and Horse Breeders' Association. He is a Mason, a member of the chapter and of the commandery, and takes much interest in the same. He also is a member of the United Commercial Travelers' Association, the Modern Woodmen and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

On June 22, 1887, Edson L. Teed was united in marriage to Lena S. Schermerhorn, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Albert S., who was graduated from the Kansas State Law School and is now a promising young lawyer of Hutchinson as well as assistant secretary of the Hutchinson Commercial Club. Mr. and Mrs. Teed are members of the Presbyterian church and are interested in all good works hereabout.

Mrs. Teed is the eldest child and only daughter of Albert C. and Eliza M. (Dougan) Schermerhorn, the former of whom was born in Saratoga county, New York, on October 14, 1840, and the latter in LaSalle county, Illinois, November 12, 1844. Albert C. Schermerhorn grew up in his native county and learned the saddler's trade under the direction of his father, in the latter's saddlery shop at Crescent, New York. Upon the first call for volunteers to put down the rebellion of the Southern states he enlisted for the three-months service and at the close of that term of service re-enlisted in the Fourteenth Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, and served, under General McClellan, until 1862, when he was honorably discharged on a physician's certificate of disability due to illness. He then went to La Salle county, Illinois, where he worked in the railway station until the spring of 1864, when he enlisted as a first lieutenant in the One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, for one hundred days, the regiment being quartered at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, putting down Indian troubles. At the close of this service Mr. Schermerhorn returned to Illinois, engaging in the saddlery business at Lostant and was married there in January, 1865. In 1874 he and his family came to Kansas, locating in Barton county, where Mr. Schermerhorn entered a soldier's homestead not far from Great Bend, which he proceeded to prove up. Not long afterward

he was appointed clerk of courts of Barton county to fill a vacancy in that office, and in 1880 moved to Great Bend, being thrice elected clerk of the court on the Republican ticket after that. Following his public service, Mr. Schermerhorn opened a furniture and undertaking establishment at Great Bend, which he conducted there until 1893, in which year he moved his business to Hutchinson and conducted the same there until he sold out and retired from business in 1901. He died on October 29, 1903, and his widow is making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Teed. They were the parents of three children, Mrs. Teed having had two brothers, Edward D., who died at the age of eleven years, and Robert D., who is drapery clerk in the Roraboagh-Wiley department store in Hutchinson.

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#### FAY SMITH.

It may be news to many friends of Fay Smith, one of the few really "old timers" now remaining in this county, former county sheriff, former clerk of the county courts and former county commissioner, to know that the name by which he was formally christened was John Lafayette, but it has been so many years since he was known by that dignified name, and so long has it been since he has signed his name any other than "Fay," that it shall so remain in this formal biography of one of Reno county's most interesting and prominent pioneers.

Fay Smith is a native of Iowa, having been born in Jackson county, that state, on November 27, 1852, son of John L. and Matilda (Smith) Smith, who, however, were not related by ties of blood, both of whom were born in Tennessee where they grew up in the same neighborhood and where they were married, shortly after which they emigrated to Jackson county, Iowa, where they spent the remainder of their lives. John L. Smith was a vigorous, energetic man and became one of the most extensive farmers in the section of the country in which he settled, having been the owner of eight hundred acres of land. Mrs. Smith was a member of the Methodist church and her children were reared in that faith. There were nine of these children, of whom but three now survive, Fay Smith having one brother and one sister now living, Rufus P., a retired farmer of Taylor county, Iowa, and Mrs. Susan Kingkade, of Winfield, this state. The only one of the nine children here mentioned, besides the subject of this sketch, who

came to Reno county was George A. Smith, who came here in 1874, but later removed to Taylor county, Iowa, where he became a prosperous farmer.

Fay Smith was reared on the paternal farm in Iowa, receiving his elementary education in the district schools of his home neighborhood, supplementing the same by a course in the schools of Bellevue, the nearby town, and at twenty years of age started out for himself, making his way to Kansas and very wisely deciding to stop in Reno county. That was in 1872, not long after the beginning of a social order hereabout, and Mr. Smith filed a homestead claim to a quarter of a section of land in Lincoln township, this county, and there established his home, continuing his residence in Lincoln township for eight years, at the end of which time he moved to Hutchinson, the county seat, having accepted the appointment as deputy sheriff under Capt. J. M. Hedrick, and thereby hangs a tale.

Not long after Fay Smith had entered his homestead claim in Lincoln township, he and his neighbor, Robinson, decided to trade tracts. In order properly to effect this transfer it was necessary for them to relinquish their homestead claims. Before they could perfect their new titles, a man of the name of Pierce, who had been awaiting the opportunity, filed an entry for Mr. Smith's quarter section and took possession, boldly "jumping" the claim, and coolly proceeded to erect a house on the same. This insolent bit of effrontery so incensed Mr. Smith's neighbors that about thirty of them met at a nearby house, elected Captain Hedrick leader and in military order marched to the place of the claim jumper. Pierce was at work on the roof of his new domicile when the "vigilantes" arrived. He leaped to the ground and made a dash for his wagon, in which there were stored several firearms, but before he could open fire he was overpowered and at the mercy of the indignant homesteaders, who told him that unless he immediately signed a release of his claim and left the country they would drown him in the nearby creek. Upon his refusal to do as commanded, the party dragged him to the creek, a number of the men armed with poles with which to hold the body under water until all struggling had ceased. A detachment then seized Pierce, prepared to throw him into the water. "One, two, three; ready!" cried Captain Hedrick, and the terrorized Pierce was swung back and forth preparatory to the final plunge. As Captain Hedrick's calm and determined cry "Ready!" rang out the wretched claim jumper "caved." "I'll sign; I'll sign," he screamed, whereupon he was placed on his feet, the papers were quickly signed and he left the country, never to return. It was thus that Fay Smith, then little more than a boy, retained his homestead and

at the same time formed an abiding friendship with Captain Hedrick, which eight years later led to his appointment as deputy sheriff.

It was in 1880 that Fay Smith became deputy sheriff of Reno county. Four years later, in 1884, he was elected sheriff, to succeed Captain Hedrick, and in this official capacity served very acceptably for four years, at the end of which time he engaged in the livery and feed business in Hutchinson and continued thus occupied until his election to the office of clerk of the courts of Reno county in 1896, in which public capacity he served four years, 1897-1901, continuing the excellent record in the public service he had made in the sheriff's office. In 1906 Mr. Smith again was called to the public service, he having been elected in that year to the responsible and important office of county commissioner, in which capacity he served for eight years, up to and including 1914. In 1905 Mr. Smith bought a very desirable tract of sixty acres within the city limits of Hutchinson, in the east part of town, north of Fourth avenue, and there he erected his house, 1410 Fourth avenue, East, where he still makes his home. He platted thirty acres of this tract and during the last few years has been actively engaged in the real-estate business, promoting the sale of the lots in that addition.

On January 2, 1886, Fay Smith was united in marriage to Alice B. Lewis, who was born in Putnam county, Indiana, daughter of S. C. and Louisa Lewis, who came to Reno county in 1883 and bought a farm in Troy township, where they made their home for some years, later moving into Hutchinson, where Mr. Lewis died in 1907 and where his widow still makes her home. To Mr. and Mrs. Smith two children have been born, Harry L., born in 1887, who is now living in southwest Georgia, and Susie, 1889, who married Prof. O. W. Hunter, professor of bacteriology in the college at Manhattan, Kansas.

Mr. Smith is a Democrat and from the time of his location in Reno county, the year after the town of Hutchinson was laid out, has been an active force in the political affairs of the county as well as taking a deep interest in district and state politics. He has been a delegate to numerous state conventions of his party and is widely known among the leaders of the party in this state. He is a member of the Woodmen of the World and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that order.

In a biographical sketch of Fay Smith, presented in the "History of Central Kansas," published in 1903, it is stated that the paternal grandfather of Mr. Smith, Alexander Smith, was a native of the South, as was his wife, who came from North Carolina. He was of English-Irish lineage



and she of Dutch. Two of his sons were soldiers during the Civil War, one fighting for the preservation of the Union and the other taking up arms in favor of the Secessionists; and in the battle of Gettysburg they fought against each other. John Lowry Smith, father of Fay Smith, although born in North Carolina, was reared in Tennessee, and in 1839 went to Iowa. The following year he moved his family from White Oak Springs, Illinois, to Iowa, where he took up a timber claim and partially improved the same, but later made a home for his family out on the prairie. He spent his remaining days in his adopted state and passed away at the age of fifty-nine years. He had become a successful grain and stock raiser, having acquired about five hundred acres of land. Fay Smith is identified with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Hutchinson. He is a very active supporter of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which both he and his wife are members.

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#### WILLIAM M. CONNELLY.

William M. Connelly, one of the best-known lumber men in this section of the state, and a resident of Hutchinson, this county, since the spring of 1905, is a native of the Keystone state, having been born near the town of Marietta, in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, on May 29, 1864, son of John D. and Sarah E. (Miller) Connelly, both natives of that same county, the former of whom, born in 1844, died in 1907, and the latter, born in 1844, died on March 14, 1915.

John D. Connelly was the eldest son of Francis David and Barbara (Difffenbach) Connelly, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter, of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, who were the parents of three children, George, who died at the age of six; Sarah, who died at the age of eighteen, and John D. Francis D. Connelly became a contractor of public works. He built the waterworks plant at Boston and constructed a part of the Maryland Central railroad. While engaged in railroad construction in Pennsylvania he met and married Barbara Difffenbach. Later he and a partner secured the contract for the construction of a railroad in Indiana, but by reason of some legislative quibble the bonds that had been voted to provide for the construction of the road were declared invalid and in consequence Mr. Connelly was rendered practically bankrupt. He then was made superintendent at the Pennsylvania canal, which position he held until the



beginning of the Lincoln administration, when the President appointed him to a good post in the United States treasury department, which he held until Cleveland's second administration.

For some time after his marriage to Sarah E. Miller, John D. Connelly was employed in a bank at Strasburg, in Lancaster county, nearby the home farm of the Millers, on which he made his home and on which the subject of this biographical sketch was born. In 1867 he was made the cashier of the Bair & Schenck bank at Lancaster and moved to that town and was there engaged in banking many years, his first banking connection having been followed by appointment to the position of cashier in the Farmers' National Bank at Lancaster, which position he held until his retirement from business in 1900, his death occurring in that city seven years later. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church and for years were active in good works. They were the parents of four children, namely: William M., the subject of this sketch; Frank D., superintendent of maintenance of the Conastoga Traction Company, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania; George W., who is living retired in the same city, and Mrs. Martha A. Graybill, a widow, also of Lancaster.

William M. Connelly was reared at Marietta, Pennsylvania, receiving his elementary education partly in the public schools of that city, but mostly in a "pay school," supplementing the same by a course in the Episcopal Institute at that place, later taking a comprehensive course in a business college. As a young man he engaged in the lumber business with his uncle, Joseph Miller, at Marietta, Pennsylvania, a business which his grandfather had established there in 1843, and was there three years, making his home with his Grandmother Miller. Previous to going to Marietta, William M. Connelly had left school, in 1883, and taken a trip to Kansas, going to Wichita with a man who had been reared in the family, but in the fall of that year he returned to Pennsylvania and entered the employ of his uncle, as noted above. In 1886 he returned to Kansas and entered the employ of the Rock Island Lumber and Coal Company, with which extensive concern he has been connected ever since. At the beginning of this employment he was given the position of office manager for a local branch and from time to time was transferred to the management of various offices of the company in this state until, in April, 1909, he was given charge of the company's office at Hutchinson and has been located there ever since, serving as general manager of the company's extensive interests in this section. In 1907, under his direction, the company erected a new covered lumber yard

and office at 215-21 South Main street and has a very well-equipped establishment.

On July 3, 1888, William M. Connelly was united in marriage to Adeline M. Buntz, who was born at Des Moines, Iowa, daughter of J. E. and Adeline Buntz, the former of whom, now deceased, was a millwright, and to this union three children have been born, William D., born in 1889, now in the jewelry business at Liberal, Kansas, who married Bernice Donner and has one child, a daughter, Adeline; John E., 1892, living in Hutchinson, who married Vina Taylor and has one child, a son, Ted, and George F., who is at home, a student in the high school. The Connellys have a very pleasant home at 539 A avenue, East, which has recently been remodeled in a very attractive manner.

Mr. Connelly is a thirty-second-degree Mason, a member of the consistory at Wichita and is also a member of Midian Temple, Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs.

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### WILLIAM A. LOE.

William A. Loe, an old newspaper man and for years the manager of the Home theater in Hutchinson, this county, is a Virginian by birth and has been a resident of Hutchinson since 1885, having arrived there on the crest of the "boom." He was born in Wheeling, Virginia, (now in West Virginia) on April 8, 1855, son of William and Jane (Lopman) Hornbrook Loe, both natives of Pennsylvania, the former of whom was the son of Welch parents and the latter of Irish parents, Mr. Loe's grandparents on both sides having been born on the other side of the Atlantic.

William Loe was a prominent contractor and builder in Wheeling and erected the largest brick building built in his day in that city. He was twice married, his first wife, who was a Thomas, having borne to him two children, Catherine and Thomas, both of whom are now deceased. He then married Mrs. Jane Hornbrook, widow of F. B. Hornbrook, who died leaving her with one child, a son, Francis B. Hornbrook, who died some years ago in Boston. To this second union there was born but one child, a son, William A., the immediate subject of this sketch, whose father died in 1856 when he was thirteen months old. Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Loe established herself in the millinery business in Wheel-

ing and was quite successful. In 1865 she moved to Athens, Ohio, with her children, in order that her elder son might have the advantage of attendance on the university at that place, and lived there for six years, at the end of which time she returned to Wheeling, where she remained for two years, at the end of which time she moved with her sons to Sistersville, West Virginia, where she spent the rest of her life, her death occurring there in 1875.

Upon the arrival of the family in Sistersville, William A. Loe worked for a time in a planing mill and then engaged in business for himself in the grocery and confectionery line. Later he engaged in the newspaper business and as editor and proprietor of the *Sistersville Independent* immediately began to exert a wide influence for good thereabout and it was not long until he was one of the best-known men in that section of the state. He was elected to the city council and also served as postmaster for four years, during the Garfield-Arthur administration. Through the columns of his newspaper he so vigorously and so insistently advocated the construction of the proposed Ohio River railroad between Wheeling and Parkersburg, West Virginia, that the road became a reality and the people and the railroad officials gave him, and yet give him full credit for making the road a success.

In 1885, attracted by the fine reports then being heard in the East concerning the amazing development of Hutchinson and of Reno county in general, Mr. Loe disposed of his interests in Sistersville and came to this county, locating in Hutchinson, arriving there on March 1, of that year. He at once opened a job-printing establishment, his place of business being in the old Opera House block, and there he continued in business for seventeen years. In 1892, in connection with his printing establishment, he founded the weekly newspaper, *The Clipper*, which he published and edited for about twelve years, at the end of which time he sold it Sheridan Ploughe. In 1892, the same year in which he started *The Clipper*, Mr. Loe leased the Hutchinson opera house, at that time the only theater in the city, and considered at the time it was built as the best opera house in the state of Kansas. He managed that theater very successfully until 1904, in which year he became manager of the new Home theater, at the corner of B avenue and Main street and has ever since been in charge of the same. Mr. Loe is an active and energetic citizen and has been interested in various enterprises during his residence in Hutchinson. In 1887, in connection with his general printing business, he started the first newspaper in the town of Partridge, this county, *The Cricket*, which he owned but nine weeks, at the

end of which time he had secured some very attractive contracts for public printing and accepted a proposition to sell at a handsome profit. In 1900 he bought out all the bill boards in the city of Hutchinson for advertising purposes and has operated the same ever since. He at once improved the general appearance of the bill boards and did this work so effectively that in 1915 he received the first prize of the National Billposters Association for the most attractive bill boards in the country.

On July 12, 1875, William A. Loe was united in marriage, at Sistersville, West Virginia, to Anna Eliza Totten, who was born at New Martinsville, same state, and to this union two children have been born, Josephine E., who died aged three years and six months; Cora, who married Charles R. Sterling, who owns an art store at Phoenix, Arizona, and has two children, daughters, Elizabeth and Dorothy. Mr. and Mrs. Loe reside in a very pleasant home at 222 First avenue, west, and take a proper interest in the social and cultural life of the city. Mr. Loe is a Republican and gives his intelligent attention to the political affairs of both the city and county. He is a member of the Woodmen of the World and for four years was recorder of the Ancient Order of United Workmen in Hutchinson.

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### JOHN S. ZIMMERMAN.

John S. Zimmerman, son of Isaac and Mary (Stuckey) Zimmerman, was born on October 2, 1882, in Livingston county, Illinois. Isaac Zimmerman was born in Boddish, Germany, and came to America in a sailing vessel when eighteen years old. He located near Fort Wayne, Indiana, and there married his first wife, whose name was Mary Sommer. They were the parents of one child, Elizabeth. His second wife was Mary Stuckey, and their children are as follow: David, Solomon, Noah, Jacob, Joseph, John S., Amos and Levi. Mr. Zimmerman moved from Fort Wayne to Livingston county, Illinois, where he lived six years. At the end of that time he moved to Reno county, Kansas, where his brother, Joseph, was living. His wife died in 1901, and he survived her two years, his death occurring in 1903. Both were active members of the Mennonite church. He had purchased four hundred acres of land in Reno county, but disposed of part of this land, owning at the time of his death about three hundred and twenty acres.

John S. Zimmerman received most of his education in the country schools of Reno county, and attended the high school at Nickerson for a



short time. He took up farming as a vocation, and that he has met with a very fair measure of success is attested by the fact that he is the owner of two hundred and sixty acres of well improved land, and in 1911 built a beautiful modern residence on his farm. All his farm buildings are good and equipped with all the up-to-date appliances for scientific farming. His large and commodious barn is lighted with electricity, and his farm is equipped with silos, in which he stores feed for his live stock, as he makes a specialty of raising and breeding fine hogs and cattle.,

On May 13, 1903, Mr. Zimmerman married Pearl A. Leslie, a native of Kansas, the daughter of J. F. and Agnes Leslie, who were pioneer farmers of this county, coming here in the early days from Missouri. To this union have been born four children: Irene, Leslie, Devera and Ardris.

Mr. Zimmerman has served his township on the school board, and is president of the Farmers Elevator Company at Sterling. The family are all active workers and members of the United Brethren church.

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#### VERNON M. WILEY.

Vernon M. Wiley, one of the best-known merchants in Kansas, is a man who believes in doing things when the time arrives for doing them. When the capacity of his big dry-goods store at Hutchinson, even then the largest store in that town, became strained, he set about providing larger quarters and as a result of his energetic action, Hutchinson today has one of the largest and finest commercial and office buildings in the Southwest, the Rorabaugh-Wiley building, which is familiar to nearly everyone living in Reno county, at least to all who ever have occasion to visit the county seat.

Vernon M. Wiley was born in Monroe county, Ohio, August 27, 1877, son of William J. and Sarah A. (Meek) Wiley, both natives of that same county, the former of whom was born on November 29, 1838, and the latter, in 1848, both of whom still are living. William J. Wiley is the son of John and Mary Wiley, natives of eastern Pennsylvania, who moved to eastern Ohio, settling in Monroe county, where they entered a farm from the government in the northwestern portion of that county and proceeded to make a home for themselves in the then forest wilderness, and there they reared their family.

William J. Wiley grew up on this pioneer farm and gave such studious attention to his books during his school days that as a young man he began



teaching school. He married Sarah A. Meek, also a school teacher in that neighborhood, daughter of Henry Meek and wife, early settlers of that section, the latter of whom was a native of Ireland, and bought a farm, undertaking to pay for the same out of his wages as a school teacher and from the earnings of the farm. For fifteen years William J. Wiley continued as a teacher in that neighborhood, his wife at the same time continuing her teaching, and this without interrupting the development of their farm, to which, of course, they gave their undivided attention during the summers. It was their custom during this trying period to rise early, attend to the duties of the farm and the household and then start for their respective schools, Mr. Wiley having eight miles to walk to his school and Mrs. Wiley walking four miles to her school, the wearisome trip to be repeated on the return home in the evening. In this way they paid for their farm, having bought it without a dollar on hand. William J. Wiley early began to pay attention to the possibilities of profit in sheep and became an extensive sheep raiser, at the same time buying wool all through southeastern Ohio. He and his wife were devout Presbyterians and were the prime movers in the organization of the Presbyterian church in their home village, Jerusalem. In 1892, Mr. and Mrs. Wiley retired from the farm on which they had lived many years and moved to Emporia, Kansas, where they are now living, enjoying many evidences of the respect and esteem in which they are held by all who know them. On April 20, 1915, Mr. and Mrs. Wiley celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, they having lived loving, prosperous and Christian lives together for fifty years. To them six children were born, all of whom save one are living and all doing well their respective parts in the world, these children being, in the order of their birth, as follow: Myrtle, wife of Prof. H. H. Van Fleet, superintendent of schools at Aspen, Colorado; Vernon M., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; William Harold, treasurer of the Gushard Dry Goods Company at Decatur, Illinois; Herman P., a real-estate dealer at Garden City, Kansas, who died in 1913; Grace, wife of Dr. Harry C. Nutting, a well-known physician of Emporia, this state, and Geneva, who is at home with her parents.

Vernon M. Wiley was fifteen years of age when he came to Kansas with his parents in 1892. He had received an excellent elementary education in the schools at Jerusalem, Ohio, his home village, and upon locating at Emporia entered the preparatory department of Emporia College, which he attended for two years, after which he took a course of two years general schooling in the college. He then entered the dry-goods store of John Hark-

ness at Emporia, as a clerk, working for five dollars a week, and there he remained for two years, at the end of which time he transferred his services to the store of A. O. Rorabaugh, in the same city, where he remained two years. Mr. Rorabaugh then took him into a partnership for the purpose of opening a branch of the Rorabaugh stores in Hutchinson, and on January 1, 1901, he arrived in the latter city, county seat of Reno county, and here he has remained ever since and has been remarkably successful in his commercial and other enterprises. The Rorabaugh-Wiley store began as a small concern, employing but eight clerks, and was opened in the room now occupied by the Jenkins music store, next door to where then was located the Martin dry-goods store, at that time the largest and best dry-goods establishment in Hutchinson. In 1904 Mr. Wiley's firm bought the Martin store and merged the two concerns, speedily realizing an increase of business which presently necessitated more ample quarters. With a view to securing the same, Mr. Wiley set about the organization of a building company and soon the Rorabaugh-Wiley Building Company was incorporated, Mr. Wiley being made secretary-treasurer of the same. This company bought a seventy-five-foot front at the corner of First and Main streets and erected an eight-story office building, which was completed in 1913, the Rorabaugh-Wiley Dry Goods Company occupying the first four floors of the same, with an up-to-date department store, by far the finest and largest in Reno county, employing an average of one hundred and thirty-five clerks and other attaches, Vernon M. Wiley, secretary and treasurer of the Rorabaugh-Wiley Dry Goods Company, being the general manager of the same. Mr. Wiley also is financially interested in the Rorabaugh stores at Wichita and Emporia and is regarded as one of the most active and enterprising young merchants in the state. In addition to these large business interests, Mr. Wiley is a director of the Hutchinson Building and Loan Company, a director of the Commercial Club and a director of the Young Men's Christian Association.

On June 24, 1903, Vernon M. Wiley was united in marriage to Mary Lena Crowley, who was born in Missouri and reared in Council Grove, this state, daughter of A. S. and Augusta Crowley, who located in Council Grove when their daughter Mary Lena was six months of age. For years A. S. Crowley, now deceased, was a well-known dry-goods merchant at Council Grove, where his widow still resides. To Mr. and Mrs. Wiley two children have been born, Philip, born on July 19, 1905, and William Edward, November 29, 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Wiley have a lovely home at 612 A avenue and take a proper part in the city's social activities, being held in high esteem

by their many friends. They are earnest members of the First Presbyterian church and take an active interest in all good works hereabout.

Mr. Wiley is a Republican and gives thoughtful attention to local political affairs. He is one of the most active promoters of the interests of the Young Men's Christian Association, whose fine building in Hutchinson is one of the best of the kind in the state, and is a thirty-second degree Mason, attached to the consistory at Wichita, and a life member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

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### JAMES LEE DICK.

James Lee Dick, prominently identified with the great Carey industries at Hutchinson, this county, and one of the most enterprising and energetic of the younger business men of that city, is a native of Iowa, born in Lucas county, that state, August 19, 1880, son of Samuel and Della Ann (Strong) Dick, who are now living, comfortably retired, at Los Angeles, California. Samuel Dick was a merchant in Iowa and in 1881 came to Kansas and located at McPherson, where he was engaged in the mercantile business until 1908, in which year he retired from business and moved to Los Angeles, where he and his wife are now living.

James L. Dick was but a babe in arms when his parents came to Kansas in 1881 and all his active life therefore has been spent in this state. Upon completing the course in the public schools at McPherson he entered Northwestern University, which he attended for three years. During his university course, Mr. Dick was active in the affairs of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and took honors in the mile run in track work for the 'varsity. In 1901 he went to Hutchinson, in the employ of the Guymon-Petro Wholesale Grocery Company, with which concern he remained for eighteen months, at the end of which time he transferred his services to the Carey interests and has been associated with the same ever since, having in that time become one of the most active factors in the development of the Carey industries, holding the position of secretary of the Carey Salt Company, treasurer of the Hutchinson Salt Company, secretary of the Carey Ice and Cold Storage Company and secretary of the Hutchinson Interurban Railway Company.

On May 7, 1907, James L. Dick was united in marriage to Cara Jeanne

Handy, who was born in Hutchinson, daughter of Edward S. and Minnie A. (Hale) Handy, the former of whom, now deceased, was one of the pioneers of Reno county, former county clerk and for years prominently connected with the real-estate interests of Hutchinson. Mrs. Handy, who is still living, is the daughter of Marshall Hale, one of the earliest pioneers of this county, all of which is set out in a memorial sketch of the late Edward S. Handy, presented elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Dick have a very pleasant home at 428 First avenue, East, and take an interested part in the various social and cultural activities of their home town. Mr. Dick is a Mason, a member of the Hutchinson Country Club and a member of the United Commercial Travelers' Association, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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#### WILL S. THOMPSON.

Will S. Thompson, a former city councilman and past president of the Hutchinson Commercial Club, successfully engaged in the real-estate and insurance business at Hutchinson and prominently identified with numerous enterprises in and about that city, is a native of Missouri, but has been a resident of Hutchinson since 1894 and for years an active supporter of all measures designed to advance the best interests of that flourishing city.

Mr. Thompson was born in the city of St. Louis and received his education in that city. He early began his business career as an employee of the wholesale dry goods firm of the Hargadine McKittrick Dry Goods Company in that city and remained with that concern until he came to Kansas, locating at Hutchinson on September 19, 1894. There he engaged in the retail dry-goods business, opening a store at 112 North Main street, where he remained in business for one year and six months, at the end of which time he sold his store and engaged in the real-estate and insurance business, in which he ever since has been quite successfully engaged, with offices in the Rorabaugh-Wiley block. Mr. Thompson has not confined his business interests wholly to the one line. He is a director of the Kansas Chemical Manufacturing Company; a director of the Kansas State Fair Association, as well as a director of the Hutchinson Young Men's Christian Association. He is public spirited and enterprising and is identified with all forward-looking movements in the city. As a Republican he was elected to the city council



and served in that body for six years before the change to the commission form of government. He is now and has been for nearly twenty years a director of the Hutchinson Commercial Club and has served for three terms as president of that important organization, 1904-1906 and 1909.

In 1896, two years after locating in Hutchinson, Will S. Thompson was united in marriage to Maria L. Donnell, who was born in St. Louis. Mr. Thompson is a member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Thompson is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the blue lodge at Hutchinson and of the consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, at Wichita. He also is a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and of the Workman Lodge.

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### CHRISTIAN STECHER.

Christian Stecher, justice of the peace in and for Haven township, this county, a prominent and prosperous farmer of that township, secretary of the phenomenally successful Farmers Grain Company of Haven, former trustee of Haven township and for the past ten years or more officially connected with the State Bank of Haven, is a native of Germany, having been born on a farm near the town of Salzgitter, twenty miles from Hildesheim, in the kingdom of Hanover, January 7, 1854, son of Andrew and Dina (Swanaka) Stecher, both natives of Hanover, who became early residents of Reno county, where their last days were spent.

Andrew Stecher was reared on a farm in the sugar-beet country of Hanover and there married and became a small farmer. In 1859 he went to Australia, where he worked in the gold mines for seven years, at the end of which time he returned home and eight months later, in 1867, came with his family to the United States, landing at Baltimore after a voyage of six weeks and four days on a sailing vessel. The family at once proceeded to Christian county, Illinois, where Andrew Stecher bought a farm and established his home, remaining there until 1882, in which year he and the other members of the family joined the eldest son, the subject of this sketch, who had located in Reno county five years before. Andrew Stecher bought a farm in Haven township and there he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on May 27, 1896, he then being seventy-three years of age. His wife had died three years before, her death having occurred on May 21, 1893, at the age of sixty-eight. They were devout members of the Lutheran





*C. Stecher & Wife*



church and their children were reared in that faith. There were three of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, he having a sister, Henrietta, wife of R. Coleman, a well-known resident of Haven, this county, and a brother, Henry, a retired farmer of South Dakota.

Christian Stecher was thirteen years old when he came with his parents to this country. He had received an excellent elementary education in his native land and upon coming here entered the school in the neighborhood of his new home in Illinois and very readily acquired an excellent command of English, quickly becoming as good an American as any. In the fall of 1876 he and his brother-in-law came to Kansas, stopping at Halstead, in Harvey county, from which point they looked the country over, finally deciding to locate in Reno county. In January, 1877, they bought school land in Haven township, this county, Christian Stecher's selection being the northwest quarter of section 16 of that township. Until his marriage, five years later, Mr. Stecher made his home with his sister and her husband, who had settled nearby. He presently added to his original purchase by the purchase of the quarter section adjoining on the south and after his marriage in 1882 established his home on the latter quarter, where he lived until 1892, in which year he sold that farm and bought a quarter of a section near Mt. Hope, where he lived for three years. In the meantime his father's advancing years necessitated the retirement of the elder Stecher from the active duties of the farm and in July, 1895, Christian Stecher sold his farm and moved onto his father's place assuming the management of the same. Upon the death of his father he bought the interests of other heirs in the estate and still lives there, long having been regarded as one of the most substantial and progressive farmers in that neighborhood. In 1903 Mr. Stecher erected a very pretty and comfortable farm house on his place and he and his family are quite pleasantly situated. He has enlarged his holdings and now owns three hundred and twenty acres surrounding the home place, besides a valuable tract of pasture land along the Arkansas river; a quarter section along the Ninnescah river and one hundred and ten acres in section 1, in Haven township.

Mr. Stecher is a Republican and from the time he came to this county has given his earnest attention to local political affairs. In 1886 he was elected township trustee of Haven township, later serving in turn as township treasurer and as clerk, after which he again was elected township trustee and served in that capacity during the period 1905-08. He then was elected justice of the peace and is still holding that position, having made a wide

reputation as an adjuster of local disputes out of court. For ten years or more Mr. Stecher has been officially connected with the State Bank of Haven and is secretary and one of the directors of the Farmers Grain Company at Haven, a concern which has been a great success from the very day of its inception, its stock now selling at sixty dollars, the par being twenty dollars, much of this success undoubtedly being due to the board of directors and their management. Mr. Stecher looks after his extensive interests in a thoroughly businesslike manner.

On December 21, 1882, Christian Stecher was united in marriage to Otilie Baumann, who was born in Prussia, Germany, and who was a babe in arms when she came to this country with her parents, August and Minnie Baumann, who became early residents of Reno county. To this union seven children have been born, as follow: Walter, assistant cashier of the State Bank of Haven, married Minnie Meyer; Minnie, who married Herman Kranz, a Haven township farmer; Ella, who married Frank Wittorff and lives on a farm near Inman, in McPherson county, this state; Arthur, who lives on a farm in Haven township; Esther, who married William Kranz and also lives in Haven township; Edwin, at home, and Harold, also at home. Mr. and Mrs. Stecher are earnest members of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church near Haven, and their children have been reared in that faith. Mr. Stecher is president of the church board and moderator of the congregational meeting and takes a warm interest in the various beneficences of the church.

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#### LEVI RAYL.

Levi Rayl, well-known stockman, of Reno township, this county, and the largest landowner in Reno county, is a Hoosier, having been born on a farm in Howard county, that state, seven miles northwest of the town of Kokomo, on November 20, 1864, son of Thomas and Julia Ann (Conwell) Rayl, the former of whom was born near the city of Louisville, in Jefferson county, Kentucky, in 1833, and died in 1891, and the latter, born near the town of Lafayette, in Madison county, Ohio, in 1838, died on July 8, 1906.

Thomas Rayl was the son of Elijah Rayl and wife, both natives of Kentucky, who settled in Howard county, Indiana, in 1835, being among the earliest pioneers of that section of Indiana, there having been but three houses in Kokomo at that time. Elijah Rayl bought one thousand acres of

swamp land from the government, paying for the same twenty-five cents an acre and proceeded to drain and develop the same. In passing, it may be fitting to state that that once despised land is now worth two hundred dollars an acre or more. Elijah Rayl's industry proved profitable and before his death, at the age of eighty-eight, he had seen his land, which originally had been but a swamp wilderness, rated as among the very best bits of farm land in north central Indiana. He was the father of five sons and one daughter, to each of whom he gave one hundred acres when they married, as a mark of his appreciation of their efforts in helping to develop the home farm.

Thomas Rayl was the youngest of these sons. He grew up amid the pioneer conditions then existing in the neighborhood of his home and upon his marriage received one hundred acres of land from his father on which to establish a home of his own. His wife, Julia Ann Conwell, also had been reared in that section of Indiana, her parents, Reason Conwell and wife, having emigrated from Ohio and settled there in 1835, about the same time the Rayls settled there, also becoming wealthy farmers. Reason Conwell lived to be ninety-two years of age and his wife lived to be eighty-six. Thomas Rayl lived on the farm which his father had given him for fifteen years, at the end of which time he moved to Kokomo, where he at once took a prominent part in the affairs of the then rapidly growing county seat and for a time served as mayor of the town. He also served for years as a county commissioner of Howard county and in other ways aided in the development of his home county. He was a Democrat and was influential in the councils of his party in that part of the state. Among his interests was the possession of an extensive stone quarry west of Kokomo, which he operated quite profitably for some years, having been engaged in the building of turnpikes and concrete streets. In 1873, attracted by the many promising reports emanating from this section of Kansas, he came to Reno county with his family and bought a half section of railroad land in Reno township, the same being the north half of section 9, township 23, range 6 west, and on that place he spent the remainder of his life, the original homestead being now occupied by his son, Levi Rayl, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch. Thomas Rayl had quite a bit of money when he came to Reno county, but the grasshopper scourge which swept over this section the year after he located here, practically ruined him, although he held on to his homestead and later developed it into a fine farm. He was a strong, rugged man and his sons grew into the same type of vigorous, self-reliant,



persevering men, the great success which has attended their agricultural operations being but the natural result of their boundless energy and industry. Thomas Rayl retained his physical vigor practically unimpaired until the time of his death, he then being nearly seventy years of age, his death being caused by lock-jaw, the result of a wound received when he stepped on a rusty nail. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, five sons and two daughters, all of whom are living, save one, as follow: William M., a prominent farmer of Clay township, this county; Harless, who now makes his home in Hutchinson; Katie E., now deceased, who married W. A. Brown; Elijah, who owns an extensive fruit-tree nursery at the edge of Hutchinson; Mary J., who married Fred Mallick and lives on a farm in Reno township; Levi, the immediate subject of this sketch, and Thomas, also a Reno township farmer, all of whom are living very well circumstanced.

Levi Rawl was eight years old when he came to this county with his parents, the date of their arrival here being on May 10, 1873, and he grew up on the pioneer farm, suffering with the other members of the family all the vicissitudes and hardships which attended the earlier years of their residence here. Even as a boy he worked with his brothers helping their father develop the farm and his schooling was therefore much neglected, although he did attend several terms of district school after coming here. He remained at home until after his father's death in 1891, after which his mother managed the farm, her sons continuing to operate the same. Levi and his brother, Elijah, were in partnership in the operation of the farm for ten years. They had bought one hundred and sixty acres of the home place, which they converted into a fruit-tree nursery. In 1892 Levi and his brother dissolved partnership and Levi gradually enlarged the enterprise until he set out and had under successful way five hundred and fifty acres of apple trees. Levi Rayl then sold his interest in the nursery to his brother, Elijah, and still held the orchard. He gave his attention to this and raising of stock, in which he already had become largely interested, having even then acquired considerable grazing land. For the past twenty years Mr. Rayl has fed from two hundred to twelve hundred cattle annually and for the past few years has been feeding more than fifteen thousand sheep each year, raising most all the grain and hay for the same on his own broad acres. During this time he has been gradually enlarging his land holdings until now he is the owner of three thousand five hundred acres of choice land in Reno county, the most of which lies in Grant, Reno and Clay township, and is rated as the greatest individual landowner in this county.

On February 28, 1892, Levi Ray was united in marriage to Clara Effie Coberly, who was born near the town of Fayetteville, Ohio, in 1873, daughter of Edward and Electa Melvina Coberly, who came to Reno county in 1887 and settled in the Arlington neighborhood, and to this union the following children were born: Thomas, born on April 27, 1893, an efficient aid to his father in the latter's extensive ranch operations; Nellie Electa, October 10, 1894, a very capable young woman, who, since the death of her mother on February 14, 1914, has been her father's housekeeper as well as a veritable mother to the younger children, her little sisters; May, October 28, 1900; Clara Lee, October 30, 1908, and Marjorie Jane, August 29, 1910. Mr. Rayl is a Democrat, as was his father before him, and ever has given close attention to the political affairs of the county, though never having been included in the office-seeking class, his continually growing personal business having required the closest application of his undivided endeavors.

In its issue of October 1, 1915, a Hutchinson newspaper carried the following interesting bit of information regarding Mr. Rayl's extensive farming operations: "Levi Rayl, who owns two or three fine farms within a few miles of Hutchinson, does things on a big scale. This year Levi Rayl probably holds the following records: Biggest flock of sheep in the county; biggest crop of peaches in the county; one of the biggest wheat crops in the county; biggest pear orchard in the county; and first prize on apples at the state fair.

"Mr. Rayl is feeding at present three thousand six hundred sheep—'only thirty-six hundred,' is the way he puts it. But he has ten thousand and more bought down in New Mexico, or somewhere else, and now on the way for fattening on his farm west of the city.

"This summer the Rayl peach orchards produce several thousand bushels of luscious peaches. He now has ready for marketing an orchard of as fine pears as were ever seen. At the state fair he pocketed one hundred and twenty-one dollars in real cash as premiums on fruit, and carried off first prizes on Jonathans and others. The *News* editorial force knows his Jonathans were prize winners, because they ate some of them yesterday.

"And besides all this the Rayl farms produce some of the biggest wheat crops of the county. And there are a few other irons in the fire at the Rayl farm, such as poultry and swine and cattle and alfalfa and cowpeas and kafir, and such like."

Mrs. Rayl was a member of the Presbyterian church, a member of the

West Side Social Club, and very active in those as well as in all good works. She was a great help to her husband all her married life and took an interest in everything pertaining to her home and family. Mr. Rayl is proud to acknowledge that his wife was his equal in assisting him in making the fortune they accumulated. A loving wife and mother and good Christian woman she will long be remembered in the community.

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### GRANT CHAMBERLAIN.

Grant Chamberlain, note teller in the First National Bank, of Hutchinson, this county, and one of the most popular men in the commercial and social circles of that city, is a Hoosier, having been born on a farm near the village of Windfall, in Grant county, Indiana, on July 16, 1871, son of William and Elizabeth Susan (Linsday) Chamberlain, the former of whom also is a native Hoosier and the latter a native of Ohio, who moved to Indiana with her parents in the days of her girlhood and grew up in the Windfall neighborhood.

William Chamberlain was reared on the paternal farm in Grant county, Indiana, receiving such education as the local schools of that time and place afforded, and when seventeen years of age, in 1864, enlisted in an Indiana regiment for service in the Civil War and served until the end of the war in the Army of the Cumberland. Some time after the close of the war he married and in 1874 he and his family and the parents of his wife, John C. Linsday and wife, left Indiana and came to Kansas, locating in the then pioneer village of Hutchinson, this county, that being but three years after the town site had been staked out. Grandfather Linsday and Mr. Chamberlain erected a small grist-mill on Cow creek, which they operated for several years, at the end of which time Mr. Chamberlain engaged in the retail meat business in Hutchinson, which he continued for years, finally retiring from business, and in 1913 he and his wife went to Salem, Oregon, in which city three of their children had been residing for some time, and there they are now residing. They are the parents of five children, namely: Grant, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Josephine, who married Charles Stewart and lives in Hutchinson; Mrs. Gertrude Brown, a widow, who resides at Salem, Oregon; Lodica, who married Jesse Campbell, who is connected with the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, and lives

at Salem, Oregon, and Anna Blanche, who married T. H. Galloway, who is connected with the Ladd & Bash Bank, also of Salem.

Grant Chamberlain was but a little more than two years old when he was brought to Kansas and became one of the "pioneers" of Hutchinson and hence very properly may be regarded as an "old settler," though his years belie the title. It was in March of 1874 that he became a resident of Reno county's chief city and he has lived there ever since. He was graduated from the Hutchinson high school with the class of 1888 and for some time thereafter assisted his father in the retail meat business. In 1894 he was employed to do some extra work on the books of the First National Bank of Hutchinson, the expectation being that it would be but a two-weeks job, and he has been actively connected with that bank ever since. His bit of extra bookkeeping proved so satisfactory to the bank officers that he was kept in the bank as a relief man, then was presently advanced to the position of regular bookkeeper and in 1910 was promoted to the position of note teller, a position he still holds, having now been connected with the bank continuously for more than twenty-one years.

On December 22, 1897, Grant Chamberlain was united in marriage to Florence May Williamson, who was born in West Virginia, daughter of Walter and Cecila Williamson, who became residents of Hutchinson twenty-eight years ago. Walter Williamson was a ship builder in the East and upon locating in Hutchinson engaged in the blacksmith business. He died in October, 1913, and his widow is living in South Hutchinson with a son. Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain have a pleasant little home at 18 Eleventh avenue, East, which they built in 1907. They are charter members of the Hutchinson Country Club, in the affairs of which they take much interest, Mr. Chamberlain being the secretary of the club and one of the most active promoters of its various interests. He is quite fond of all outdoor sports and is an ardent huntsman and golfer. He has taken part in every state golf tournament ever held in Kansas and has helped to win quite a number of team trophies, besides which he is the possessor of several cups won in local tournaments. His fondness for duck hunting takes him to the hunting grounds early every season and he is somewhat more than locally noted as a wing shot. Another of his ardent interests in the way of recreative pastimes is his love for band music and he has played in the municipal band of Hutchinson for the past twenty years. He is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and of the Modern Woodmen, in the affairs of both of which orders he takes an earnest interest.



## DIETRICH MEYER.

Dietrich Meyer, farmer, director and treasurer of the Farmers Grain Company, of Kansas, is a living example of what a thrifty foreigner can accomplish by industry in this country. He is the son of Henry and Margaret (Wiebe) Meyer, and was born near the town of Rethern, in the province of Hanover, Germany, September 29, 1867. He was named for his paternal grandfather, a farmer, who lived and died in the Fatherland, and who spelled his name Diedrich, but the spelling was later changed to Dietrich. His father, Henry Meyer, was a small landholder in what was then the kingdom of Hanover. His birth occurred in 1829. The mother, Margaret Wiebe, died in 1871, and later the father married, secondly, Catherine Heers, who lived only one and one-half years after her marriage.

Young Dietrich Meyer, left motherless at the age of four years, had to shift for himself, but he was compelled to attend school until he was fourteen years of age. The following year, 1882, when he was fifteen, in company with a family named Lueders, with whom he was living, he emigrated to the United States, and located in the state of New York. They stayed there only one year, going farther west to Minnesota. When he was seventeen, Dietrich began the life of a farmhand, going from one farm to another.

In 1886 Henry Meyer sold his farm in Germany and emigrated to Sedgwick county, Kansas, where he and his eldest son, Henry, bought a farm north of the town of Cheney, and there his death occurred in 1897. On his arrival he was joined by his son, Fritz, who remained with him until his death in 1888.

Dietrich Meyer came to Kansas and went to work for Fred Warning, of Haven township, Reno county, in 1891. Soon afterward he purchased eighty acres two miles southeast of the town of Haven and here he built a beautiful modern home sixteen years later. The large white farmhouse, surrounded by well-kept shrubbery and commodious barns, is among the many show places of the county and is visible for miles. With one hundred and sixty acres of land which his wife inherited, and with additional purchases, the Meyer holdings amount to four hundred acres. Like the remainder of his family he is a member of St. Paul's German Evangelical church, of which he was an elder. He is director and treasurer of the Farmers Grain Company, of Kansas, which under the management of its directors, has been a very profitable company for the stockholders. By keeping the price





*J. Meyer & Wife*



of grain higher than the surrounding markets it has proven a boon to the farmers, no less than to the merchants of Haven, to whom it has thrown much business. Mr. Meyer also helped organize the Farmers Telephone Company. One sign of his prosperity is the handsome seven-passenger Mitchell car which he drives.

Dietrich Meyer was married on October 13, 1892, to Mary Harms, the daughter of John W. Harms, of Wisconsin. They are the parents of three children: Minnie, the wife of Walter Stecher, assistant cashier of the State Bank of Haven; Ella and Alvin.

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F. M. DUNN.

F. M. Dunn, one of the best-known and most progressive farmers of Enterprise township, this county, proprietor of a fine farm of five hundred and sixty acres in that township and former trustee of Enterprise township, is a native of Iowa, but has lived in this county ever since he was brought here as a baby in 1873 by his parents, who were among the very earliest settlers of the west central part of Reno county, and may thus be properly accounted as one of the pioneers of this county. He was born in Decatur county, Iowa, August 20, 1871, son of John P. and Mary A. (Anderson) Dunn, who later became pioneers of Reno county and are now living comfortably retired in the pleasant village of Abbyville, this county.

John P. Dunn was born near the town of Somerset, Kentucky, September 22, 1842, son of Martin and Emily (Acton) Dunn, both natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was born in 1811 and the latter in 1816. Martin Dunn sold his farm in Kentucky about 1852 and emigrated with his family to Iowa, becoming a pioneer of Decatur county, that state. He had just established his family there when his death occurred in 1853. His widow kept the family together and survived for more than twenty years, her death occurring on July 15, 1875. They were the parents of six children, Thomas, John P., William, James, George W. and Elizabeth, who were reared in the faith of the Methodist church.

John P. Dunn was about ten years old when his parents moved to Iowa and he grew to manhood in that state. Being the second son in the family he was of large assistance to his widowed mother in the work of developing the home farm and became a very proficient farmer. On August 19, 1863,

he enlisted for service in the Union army in Company C, Ninth Iowa Cavalry, with which he served for two years and seven months and with which he was mustered out at the close of the war. Though he saw much active service and was in numerous hot engagements he escaped without a wound. Upon the completion of his military service, Mr. Dunn resumed his place on the home farm in Iowa. In the spring of 1867 he married and in October, 1873, came with his family to Kansas, settling in Reno county, which had been opened for settlement not long before that time, he thus being one of the real pioneers of this county, and homesteaded one quarter of section 34 in Enterprise township, where he established his home. As he prospered in his farming operations Mr. Dunn gradually added to his holdings until he became the owner of five hundred and sixty acres and was regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that part of the county. In 1900 he retired from the farm and moved to Abbyville, where he was engaged in the mercantile business for four years, at the end of which time he returned to the farm, but after a four-years further residence there again returned to Abbyville, where he built a comfortable home and where he is now living in pleasant retirement. He still retains two hundred and forty acres of land in Enterprise township and a small tract of land adjoining the village of Abbyville. Mr. Dunn is a Republican and for some years served as treasurer of Enterprise township and for many years served as a member of the school board. He and his wife are members of the Methodist church, of which he was a steward and is now a trustee of the church, and their children were reared in that faith.

It was on February 3, 1867, that John P. Dunn was united in marriage to Mary A. Anderson, who was born on February 29, 1844, daughter of William D. and Sarah Anderson, natives of North Carolina, the former of whom was born on February 19, 1813, and the latter, November 24, 1812, and to this union four children have been born, namely: G. W., born on May 15, 1868; F. M., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Pearl, December 26, 1878, who died on July 12, 1897, and Daisy M., March 24, 1883, who married Ernest Palmer.

F. M. Dunn was just past two years old when his parents came to Reno county from Iowa and he grew to manhood on the homestead farm in Enterprise township, where he is now living, and where he has spent all his life, long having been regarded as one of the leading farmers and most substantial citizens of that part of the county. He was educated in the common schools of his home neighborhood and from early boyhood proved a valu-

able assistant to his father in the development of the home farm. In 1896 he married, continuing to make his home on the homestead farm and is now the owner of the same, owning not only the original quarter section, but enough adjacent land to comprise a well-improved and profitable farm of five hundred and sixty acres. Mr. Dunn is a Republican and has long given his earnest attention to local civic affairs, having served for some time as trustee of his home township and in other ways contributed of his services to the common good thereabout.

On January 8, 1896, F. M. Dunn was united in marriage to Cora Crow, who was born in the state of Missouri, daughter of William Crow, one of the first men who traveled through Reno county on his way to the California gold fields in 1849, and to this union have been born seven children, Flora, Charles, Harry, Mary L. (died aged nine months), Carl, Darrel and Walter. Mr. and Mrs. Dunn are members of the Abbyville Methodist Episcopal church and take an active interest in all neighborhood good works. Mr. Dunn is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Abbyville and a member of the Woodmen of America, in the affairs of which organization he takes a warm interest.

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#### MARTIN A. AELMORE.

Martin A. Aelmore, son of John P. and Matilda C. (Sanquist) Aelmore, was born in Clay township, Reno county, Kansas, February 24, 1887. His father was born in Rumsquilla, Jonkoping, Sweden, July 8, 1854, and was the son of Swan Aelmore, who was born in Sweden, February 22, 1827, and Eliza Catherine Johnson, born in Locksbo, Sweden, May 24, 1825. Both were members of the Lutheran church. The father was a farmer by occupation. The mother of the subject of this sketch was born in Sandsjo, Safsjo, Sweden, November 22, 1863. She was the daughter of Andreas Sanquist, born in that same town, who followed the occupation of a farmer in his native country.

The father of the subject of this sketch came to America in 1869, and settled in Henry county, Illinois, in May of that year. He remained in that county for two years and then removed to Rock Island, Illinois, where he worked on a farm for three or four years. About the first of February, 1874, he removed to McPherson county, Kansas, and located a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in that county. He made some improvements on this land and lived on it for a year and one half, when he sold



out and removed to Rock Island, Illinois, where he attended Augustana college for two years. Returning to McPherson county, Kansas, he engaged in teaching school during the years 1881 to 1884. In 1882 he bought eighty acres of land in Clay township, Reno county, and farmed until 1890, when he removed to Hutchinson and engaged in the restaurant and house building business for about two years. In 1902 he was sub-contracted in United States mail messenger service until 1906; then in the retail grocery business until 1913, when he retired from business. From January, 1891, to November, 1892, he had charge of the Swedish Lutheran church, in Hutchinson, as lay preacher; and when the First Swedish Lutheran church (now Immanuel) was built, he was a deacon and an influential member. He was a member of the Republican county central committee, of Reno county, in 1882 and 1883; was a delegate to the Republican county convention several times; was justice of the peace in Clay township one term, and a member of the school board in that township for one term. He was always an active and an influential worker in the republican party and devoted a liberal share of his time and means for the success of candidates of that party.

The mother of the subject of this sketch came to America in 1883, at the age of twenty years, and lived with her father's uncle, John Peterson, at Enterprise, Dickinson county, Kansas, until 1886, when she removed to Reno county. She was married to Mr. Aelmore, May 5, 1886. She died in Hutchinson, January 1, 1891. She was a member of the Swedish Lutheran church.

Martin A. Aelmore was educated in the grade and high schools of Hutchinson, completing the course and graduating in 1906. He then took the United States civil service examination and was in the postoffice in Hutchinson from July, 1908, to July, 1913. In the meantime he had applied himself to the study of law, with the view of entering that profession. He studied law under the tutelage of Fairchild & Lewis, prominent attorneys of Hutchinson, for three and one half years in their office. He passed a creditable examination under direction of the state bar, at Topeka, Kansas, July 3, 1913, and was admitted to the practice on that date. His office is in the First National Bank building, where he has a good library and every necessary equipment for a successful practice.

Mr. Aelmore is an ardent advocate of the principles of the Republican party; was secretary of the County Republican Central Committee in the campaign of 1914. He is a Mason, and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is one of the live, progressive citizens of Hutchinson.

## GEORGE W. DUNN.

George W. Dunn, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Enterprise township, this county, owner of a fine farm of six hundred and forty acres in the Abbyville neighborhood and an active participant in all public enterprises thereabout, is a native of Iowa, but has lived in this county since he was five years old, having been brought here in 1873 by his parents, who were among the earliest settlers of that part of the county where he ever since has made his home. He was born in Decatur county, Iowa, May 15, 1868, son of John P. and Mary A. (Anderson) Dunn, the former of whom, a native of Kentucky, settled in Iowa with his parents, Martin and Emily (Acton) Dunn, when he was about ten years old. There he grew to manhood, served for two years and ten months during the Civil War as a member of Company C, Ninth Iowa Cavalry, married in 1867 and in 1873 came with his family to Kansas, locating on a homestead in Enterprise township and became a large landowner there, residing on the farm until his retirement about 1908, since which time he has been making his home in the village of Abbyville, where he and his wife are very pleasantly situated. To them four children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch was the eldest. In a biographical sketch relating to F. M. Dunn, former trustee of Enterprise township and a brother of the subject of this sketch, further interesting details regarding the genealogy and history of this prominent pioneer family are set out in full and to that sketch the reader is respectfully referred for additional information in this connection.

It was in October, 1873, that the Dunns came to this county and homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in Enterprise township. George W. Dunn, who then was five years old, therefore received his schooling in the pioneer schools of that township and was a witness to the development of the bleak plain to its present high state of cultivation. He grew up on the home farm, a valuable assistant to his father in the development of the same, and presently engaged in farming on his own account. His affairs prospered from the very start and he gradually enlarged his holdings until he now is the owner of a full section of land in his home township and is looked upon as one of the most substantial farmers and public-spirited citizens of that part of the county. His farm is well improved and admirably cultivated, the operations on the same being carried on in accordance with the latest methods of modern farming.

George W. Dunn married Sarah Catherine Hendricks, who was born

in Indiana, daughter of Henry Hendricks, who is now living in the state of Missouri, and to this union four children have been born, Henry, Amos, Bessie and Wilbert. Mr. and Mrs. Dunn are members of the Abbyville Methodist Episcopal church and take an earnest interest in all neighborhood good works. Mr. Dunn is an Odd Fellow and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes a warm interest in the affairs of both those organizations.

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### THOMAS JACKSON FRASER.

Thomas J. Fraser, a large landholder of Reno county, is a native of Marion county, Illinois, where his birth occurred on December 25, 1866. He is a son of Thomas and Mary (Hardesty) Fraser. Thomas Fraser was born in Kentucky, but lived in Missouri at the time of the Civil War, and in 1866 removed to Marion county, Illinois. In 1878 he moved to Kansas, making the trip by wagon, requiring six weeks to make the journey. He purchased land in Westminster township, Reno county, and here he resided until his death in 1895. His wife's death occurred in 1899. They were the parents of two children, J. A. and Thomas J.

Thomas Jackson Fraser was educated in the common schools of his native county in Illinois, and with his father moved to Reno county in 1878. He took up farming as a vocation and is now the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of well improved land. He moved to his present location in 1900. In 1902 his home was destroyed by fire, together with most of his household goods. He rebuilt at once on the former site, and has a most comfortable and handsome home.

Thomas J. Fraser was married in 1891 to Theresa Mahuren, a daughter of James W. Mahuren, and to this union have been born the following children: Edward, Frank, Charles and Raymond. Frank married Wella Cox, and they have one child, Edward.

James W. Mahuren was born in Clark county, Indiana, about seventy-five years ago. His parents, James W. and Malinda Mahuren, were natives of Kentucky. In 1872, James W. Mahuren moved to Reno county, Kansas, where he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land, the northwest quarter of section 2, in Medford township. His marriage occurred thirty-five years ago, and his children are as follows; Joseph A.; Robert E., who was killed by lightning; Theresa M., wife of Mr. Fraser; Fritzena; Mary E., wife of Philip King, and Thomas. On January 1, 1862, Mr. Mahuren

enlisted in the Civil War, serving three years. He was a member of the Fifty-ninth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He served under General Pope, of Missouri, was at the siege of Corinth and in the battles of Vicksburg, Champion Hill and Chattanooga.

Mr. Fraser and family are earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is independent in politics and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

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### FRANK F. FIREBAUGH.

Frank F. Firebaugh, a well-known and progressive farmer of South Hayes township, this county, proprietor of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres lying eight miles north of Sylvia, is a native Hoosier, a fact of which he never has ceased to be proud, having been born on a farm in Owen county, Indiana, May 8, 1859, son of William and Nancy (Arter) Firebaugh, both natives of that same county, who spent all their lives there.

William Firebaugh was the son of the Rev. Daniel Firebaugh, a native of Harrison county, Ohio, born on September 16, 1831, and died on March 8, 1894, in Indiana, who emigrated to Owen county in 1854, thus having been one of the pioneer preachers in that section of Indiana. He was of German extraction and for many years exerted a wide influence upon the life of his community. William Firebaugh was reared as a farmer in his native county and remained there all his life, an active farmer and the owner of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He married Nancy Arter, daughter of Thomas Arter, a native of Georgia, who moved north into Kentucky and thence into Owen county, Indiana, where he spent the rest of his life, and to this union four children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch is the youngest, the others being Byron, Ambrose and Louvada. The mother of these children died in 1864 and William Firebaugh married, secondly, Mrs. Mary Fiscus, to which union three children were born, Martin, Bertha and Ebenezer. William Firebaugh died in 1896, at the age of sixty-two. He was an active member of the church and a man of good influence in the community.

Frank F. Firebaugh was reared on the paternal farm in his native county in Indiana, receiving his educational in the nearby log school house, and grew up a farmer. In 1883 he married and the next year he and his wife came to Kansas, arriving in Reno county on December 4, 1884. For the first year after his arrival here Mr. Firebaugh lived on a rented farm, getting the lay of the land, and in 1885 bought his present farm of three hundred and



twenty acres in South Hayes township, where he has lived ever since and where he has done very well, long having been looked upon as one of the most substantial farmers of that section of the county. When he took the place it was almost wholly unimproved and he has improved it in good shape and brought it up to a high state of cultivation. From the first Mr. Firebaugh has given his earnest attention to local civic affairs and for three terms served as trustee of his home township. He also has been a member of the local school board for years and in other ways has done his part in the direction of affairs in his home community. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that popular organization.

Mr. Firebaugh has been married twice. His first wife, who was Lucy Sunderland, of Owen county, Indiana, died, leaving three children, Roy, Guy and Hazel, and he married, secondly, Lydia Kreie, of this county, to which union three children have been born, William, Wilma and Frank. Mr. and Mrs. Firebaugh take an earnest interest in general community affairs and are active in all local good works.

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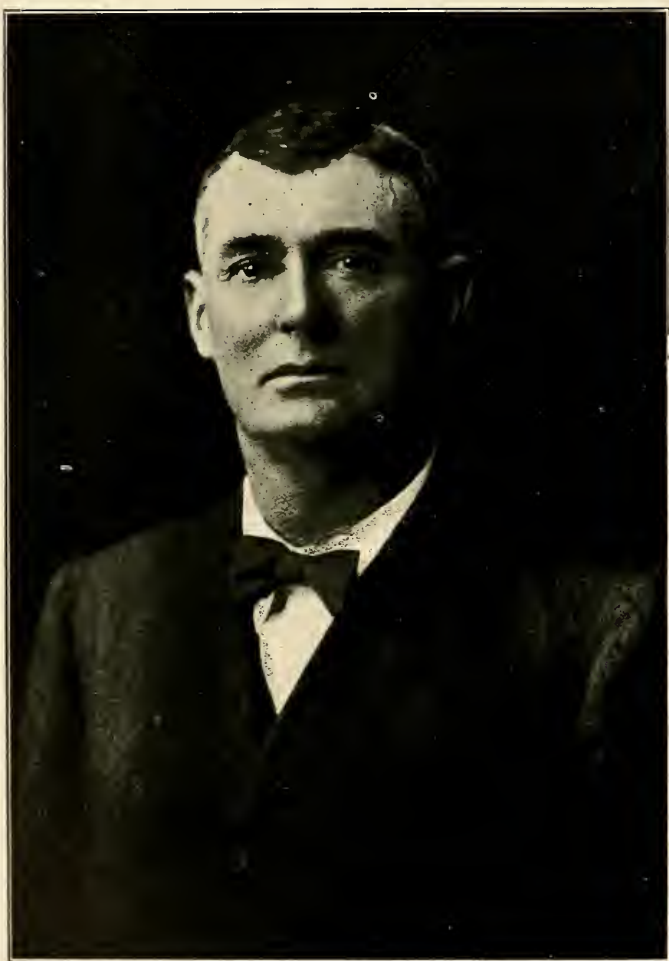
### JAMES GREEN.

James Green, president of the Farmers State Bank of Yoder, this county, and a prominent dealer in live stock at that place, is a Hoosier, a fact of which he never has ceased to be proud, having been born on a farm in the Pekin neighborhood, ten miles south of the city of Salem, in Washington county, Indiana, September 2, 1866, eldest child and only living son of Lorenzo Dow and Sarah Ann (Evans) Green, both natives of that same county, the former of whom was born on the same farm as was his son, the subject of this biographical sketch.

Lorenzo D. Green was the son of John B. Green, who was born in North Carolina, in 1801, son of William Green, a native of Germany, who moved from North Carolina into Indiana Territory in 1809, seven years before Indiana was admitted to the Union, and pre-empted a quarter of a section of "Congress land" in what later became Washington county, part of which homestead farm is still in the family, James Green continuing to own an interest in the same. John B. Green, who was about eight years old when his parents moved into Indiana Territory, was reared on the homestead farm and became a prominent citizen of that section of the







*Gas. Green*



*Sarah E. Green.*



state. He was a great exhorter in the United Brethren church and exerted a wide influence upon the thought of his pioneer neighbors. He continued a farmer on the old home place all his life, living to be ninety years of age. His son, Lorenzo D. Green, grew up on the home farm and became a strong and vigorous man, six feet and two inches in height, a family characteristic. During his young manhood he owned a saw-mill at Pekin, in the neighborhood of his home, and cut out a great deal of the hardwood timber in that section. During the progress of the Civil War Lorenzo D. Green enlisted for service in the Union army and served for two years and ten months, or until the close of the war, in the Eighty-first Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He participated in the battles of Nashville and was with General Sherman's army for two years. Upon the conclusion of his military service he returned to the home farm and there spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in December, 1912, he then being at the age of seventy-five years and one month.

Lorenzo D. Green married Sarah Ann Evans, who also was born in Washington county, Indiana, daughter of Isaac Evans and wife, who later moved to the state of Iowa, but presently returned to Indiana, where their last days were spent. To this union five children were born: James, the subject of this sketch; Alice E., widow of Samuel Wilson, still making her home on the old Indiana homestead; Clara M., who married Robert Wilson and lives at "Ridge Farm," in Illinois; John A. died at the age of two years, and Nettie P. died when nine months old.

James Green was reared on the old Green homestead farm in Washington county, Indiana, and in boyhood learned the value of hard work. Being the only son who grew up he was a valuable assistant to his father in the work on the farm. When he was eighteen years old he decided to come to Kansas, but spent another winter in high school and then, in February, 1885, came West, locating at Hutchinson, in this county. For five years after his arrival in this county he worked "by the month" on the farm of Dr. James Myers, in Lincoln township, and then rented the White farm in that neighborhood, continuing, however, to make his home with Doctor Myers for thirteen years, and two years later he rented the Myers farm, which he operated until 1897, in which year he bought the southeast quarter of section 28, then in Lincoln township, now a part of Yoder township. He made many improvements to that place and continued to live there until in March, 1915, at which time he moved to the town of Yoder, bought a house there and has continued to make that pleasant village his home since.



In 1905 James Green began buying live stock, in connection with his general farming, and has since then been extensively negaged in the live-stock business, his chief shipping point being at Yoder. In 1907 he bought an "eighty" adjoining his quarter section and later bought a tract o feighty acres in Castleton township, both of which tracts he still owns, though he sold his original farm in 1914, and in 1916 he bought a well-improved half section in Ford county, nine miles southwest of Dodgeville. When the Farmers State Bank of Yoder Was organized in 1910 Mr. Green was one of the chief movers in the organization of the same and was elected president of the bank, a position which he still holds. He was one of the chief factors in the movement which resulted in the creation of the township of Yoder in 1914 and for years has been regarded as one of the most substantial and progressive residents of that part of the county. He formerly was secretary of the Farmers Alliance of Lincoln township; served two terms as township trustee, two terms as township clerk and was on the school board for eighteen years, having been elected to his official positions on the Republican ticket. One of his early acts after coming to this county was that of assisting in laying out the town of Elmer, he having carried the surveyor's chain while that town was being platted.

On December 20, 1892, James Green was united in marriage to Sarah E. Farthing, who was born in Union county, Kentucky, January 26, 1868, daughter of Sylvester and Cassie (Hobbs) Farthing, pioneers of Lincoln township, this county, both of whom are still living on their old home there and a history of which interesting family is set out in a biographical sketch relating to their son, P. Rice Farthing, a prominent farmer of Salt Creek township, presented elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Green are members of the Baptist church and Mr. Green is a member of the board of trustees of the church and treasurer of the same.

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#### THOMAS K. KENNEDY.

Thomas K. Kennedy is one of the most successful and prominent business men of Haven, Kansas. He was born on June 10, 1875, near Wintersville, Sullivan county, Missouri, and is the son of William D. Kennedy, a Civil War veteran, and his wife, Susan M. (Webb) Kennedy.

William D. Kennedy was born on November 3, 1830, in Tennessee. When he was eleven months of age his parents settled in Johnson county,

Indiana, near the Brown county line, and there he grew up on his father's farm. On October 9, 1854, he was married to Susan M. Webb, who was born on June 27, 1835, near Edinburg, Johnson county, Indiana. They went to housekeeping on a rented farm in the same county, where they remained until five years later, when they purchased a farm in Sullivan county, Missouri, to which the family removed. On November 10, 1861, William D. Kennedy enlisted in Company G, Twenty-third Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Infantry, and saw active service for three years in the Fourteenth Corps, Army of the Cumberland, rising to the rank of first sergeant of his company. With his regiment, he participated in several engagements in Missouri against the Confederate General Price, the chief of which was at Franklin. He was also in the battle of Shiloh and assisted in the Chattanooga campaign. His regiment accompanied Sherman on the Georgia campaign until Atlanta was taken. Then with the Army of the Cumberland he returned to Tennessee to assist in defeating General Hood. He was last located at Louisville, and was finally mustered out at St. Louis, November 12, 1864.

After the close of the war, William D. Kennedy returned to his farm in Missouri, but in 1877 removed to Reno county, Kansas, and purchased the southeast quarter of section 15, township 25, range 5 west, railroad land, located in Haven township. He made the purchase of Messrs. Brown and Briggs, of Hutchinson, and paid five dollars an acre for the land, paying ten dollars down, with six years in which to pay the balance. He later bought the southwest quarter adjoining his farm, and here he carried on general farming until 1907, when he retired from active farm life, and moved into Haven. His wife died on January 14, 1910, and since that time he has lived with his son, Thomas K. He is a staunch Republican and is very proud of the fact that he voted for Abraham Lincoln. He has served his township as trustee, and is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Haven. He contributes generously to the support of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife was a member. In 1912 he divided his estate among his children, who are as follow: John M., a gardener, of Topeka; David W., of South Hutchinson; Stephen A., deceased, who was a farmer of Wheeler, Oklahoma; James E., of Haven; Mary, wife of Isaac Taylor, who died in 1896, in Galena, Kansas; Addie K., wife of M. C. Smith, a farmer of Lambert, Oklahoma; William F., of Haven; Thomas K., of Haven, and W. D., Jr., a farmer of Stafford county, Kansas, and who with his brother, Thomas K., bought one hundred and sixty acres of the old home place.

Thomas K. Kennedy was two years old when his parents settled in Kansas. His education was received in the district schools in Reno township. He assisted his father on the farm until a short time before his marriage, when he purchased a farm in Haven township. After living there one year he moved to Haven, where, in partnership with George Hoffer, he engaged in the hardware business. In 1909, his health becoming impaired by indoor work, he disposed of his interest in the business to his partner, and went on the road as a salesman for the International Harvester Company. On January 1, 1910, he purchased a sole interest in the hardware store owned by Mr. Hoffer, and still operates this business very successfully. He has enlarged the business, having bought two adjoining lower floors, the buildings being of brick, fifty by one hundred and forty feet. Here he carries on a large trade in heavy hardware, implements, buggies, etc.

Thomas K. Kennedy was married in 1902 to Ida Hoffer, the daughter of Henry Hoffer and wife, who were early settlers in Haven township, and who still reside in Haven. Mrs. Kennedy was born near Joliet, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy are the parents of two children: Ruba A., born on November 26, 1902, and Theodore Kermit, April 1, 1905. The family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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### HON. FRANK VINCENT.

The Vincents, represented in Reno county by the family of the Hon. Frank Vincent, of Hutchinson, former mayor of that city, former state senator from this district and one of the most potent individual forces in the financial and industrial life of this section of the state, are of French descent. The family had its origin in the West with the emigration to Iowa from Ohio, in 1853, of the Rev. John Vincent, a pioneer minister, a "circuit rider," of the Methodist church, who, with his family, settled at Keokuk, where he became an immediate and powerful influence for good in that, even then, rapidly developing frontier community. With the Rev. John Vincent and his wife, Margaret, came their children and the respective families of the latter, the Vincents thus, with the passing generations, having become a numerous connection in the Middle West. Rev. John Vincent arrived in Keokuk on November 30, 1853, and the rest of his life was spent in the performance of good deeds thereabout.

Among the sons and the daughters who accompanied Rev. John Vin-

cent and his good wife from Ohio to Iowa was Jonathan Pratt Vincent and his wife and their son, Frank, then a babe in arms, the latter of whom shall hereafter, for the purposes of this review, be regarded as the immediate subject of this biographical sketch. Jonathan P. Vincent was born near the city of Pittsburgh, in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, in 1826, and was reared in that state, beginning his active life as a school teacher, later emigrating with his parents to southern Ohio, where, in Brown county, he became a merchant and farmer. There he was married to Sophia Miller, who was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, in 1828, daughter of David J. and Mary Miller, who also had emigrated to southern Ohio and who later, joining the Vincent colony, emigrated to Iowa, settling in Lee county, a year later moving to Lucas county, where, near the town of Sheridan, they spent the remainder of their lives. To Jonathan P. and Sophia (Miller) Vincent two children were born, one of whom died in infancy, Frank, the subject of this sketch, being the only survivor. In 1855, two years after the family had settled in Lee county, Iowa, Mrs. Sophia Vincent died, whereupon Mr. Vincent moved to Lucas county, in the same state, and there married, secondly, Caroline Moorhead, to which union five children were born, as follow: Rachel, widow of J. L. Payne, who died in 1894, living in Seattle, Washington; John F., who lives in Boise City, Idaho; William E., an attorney, of Salem, Oregon; W. G., a fruit grower at Salem, Oregon, and Otis, who has charge of the Santa Fe stock yards at Dodge City, Kansas. Following his removal to Lucas county, Jonathan Vincent became an extensive farmer and one of the most influential men in that section. For some years he served as sheriff of Lucas county and in other ways was active in the civic life of that community. He and his wife were earnest members of the Methodist church and ever were interested in good works, their influence in many ways being helpful to their pioneer neighbors. They lived on their farm in Lucas county until 1883, in which year they sold the same and moved to Hutchinson, this county, where their last days were spent in the home of their son, Frank, Jonathan Vincent dying on May 29, 1898, and his widow two years later, in 1900, at the age of sixty-eight.

Frank Vincent, only surviving son of Jonathan and Sophia (Miller) Vincent, was born in Brown county, Ohio, on May 6, 1853, and was six months old when his parents emigrated to Iowa. He was reared in Lucas county, receiving his early education in the district schools of that county and in the public schools of Sheridan. Until he was of age, he remained



on the paternal farm, assisting his father in the management of the same, and in 1874 came to this county, locating at Castleton, where for four years, in connection with a partner, under the firm name of Vincent & Wallace, he operated a store and hotel. At the end of that time he sold the place and spent the following summer on a farm, after which, in the fall of 1879, he located at Hutchinson, the county seat, having been made deputy register of deeds of Reno county, and there he has resided ever since. After two years spent in the register's office, Mr. Vincent engaged in the real-estate and loan business until the spring of 1888, at which time he organized the Hutchinson Salt Company, of which concern he was made the general manager, a position he has held ever since, though he sold his interest in the same on January 1, 1890. This concern, which now is operating under the corporate title of the Morton Salt Company, was started in a small way, with a daily capacity of about three hundred barrels, but it gradually has been enlarged under the efficient direction of Mr. Vincent, until it now produces about four thousand barrels a day and is one of the chief industries of Reno county.

In addition to caring for his extensive business interests, Mr. Vincent has given much attention to public affairs and long has been regarded as one of the most influential politicians in this section of the state. He is a staunch Republican, even as his father and his grandfather before him were, and from the very beginning of his residence in this county has taken an active part in the affairs of that party. For twenty years, successively, he was a delegate to the Kansas Republican state conventions and was a delegate from the seventh Kansas congressional district to the national convention which nominated William McKinley for the Presidency in 1896. For four years, 1901-05, he served the people of this district as a member of the upper house of the Kansas General Assembly, during which time he exerted a strong influence in the Senate, making a fine reputation throughout the state as a constructive statesman. Previous to that period of service, in 1898, he had been elected mayor of the city of Hutchinson and so satisfactory did his administration of the affairs of the chief executive's office prove that he was re-elected twice, thus serving three consecutive terms of two years each. In 1910 Senator Vincent was again elected mayor and gave the people of Hutchinson another term of experience and valuable service.

On August 20, 1874, Frank Vincent was united in marriage to Anne C. Payne, who was born in Galesburg, Illinois, daughter of the Rev. John



and Elizabeth Payne, the former of whom for forty years was a minister of the Methodist church, and both of whom spent their last days in Hutchinson, a most excellent couple, held in the very highest esteem by all.

To Frank and Anne C. (Payne) Vincent seven children have been born, namely: Elizabeth, who is in the employ of the Morton Salt Company at Kansas City; Frank, Jr., unmarried, an orange grower at Phoenix, Arizona; George, associated with his brother, Frank, in the orange industry in Arizona, married Minnie York; Mary L., who married Russell Mervine, who is engaged in the express service in Hutchinson, this county; Esther, at home with her parents; Louise, who married H. E. Obey, a clerk in the offices of the Morton Salt Company at Hutchinson; and Jay, head of the shoe department of the Rorabaugh-Wiley Company, who married Emily Martin. Senator and Mrs. Vincent are members of the Presbyterian church and their children were reared in that faith, the family holding a high position in the social and cultural life of the community.

Senator Vincent is a thirty-second-degree Mason, a member of the consistory of the Scottish Rite of that order at Wichita and of Midian Temple, Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs. For thirty-three years he has been a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and also takes an active interest in the affairs of that popular organization. In addition to his extensive manufacturing and other interests, Senator Vincent takes much interest in a valuable farm which he owns five miles north of Hutchinson and where for years he has been actively engaged in the raising of pure-bred Black Angus cattle, his herd being one of the best known hereabout. He is vice-president of the Hutchinson Ice Company and was one of the organizers and for several years was vice-president and one of the directors of the Hutchinson National Bank.

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#### L. D. HODGE.

L. D. Hodge, a pioneer of Reno county, Kansas, was born in Putnam county, Indiana, August 11, 1847. He is the son of Sheton and Janette (Dix) Hodge, the latter of whom was a daughter of John Dix, a farmer, who lived and died in Kentucky.

Luther Hodge, paternal grandfather of L. D. Hodge, was a native of Kentucky, but died in Putnam county, Indiana. Sheton Hodge also went from Kentucky to Putnam county and died in 1895, after spending thirty

years in the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church. In addition to his preaching, he also owned and operated a farm. His children are Arthur, Charles, Lewis, Samuel, George and L. D. Samuel, Charles and L. D. settled in Kansas.

On September 12, 1867, L. D. Hodge married Amanda Trent, daughter of W. L. and Lydia J. (Williams) Trent, who was born in Owen county, Indiana. Her grandfather, William Trent, a South Carolina farmer, moved to Indiana, and later to Guthrie county, Iowa, where his death occurred. W. L. Trent was a Baptist minister for many years in Owen county, Indiana, and his marriage and death occurred in that county.

L. D. Hodge, with his family, spent six weeks en route overland from Indiana to Reno county, Kansas, when in 1874, he took up a soldier's homestead of a quarter section, previously selected, four miles west of his present home. At that time there were only two stores in Hutchinson. The family endured many hardships, and were true pioneers in the full sense of the term. Their fuel consisted of buffalo chips. Their nearest neighbors on the west were seventy-five miles away. For seventeen years they remained on this homestead, then moved to Sterling, and in 1901 they purchased and occupied an additional quarter section across the road from the original homestead. Mr. Hodge has been retired from active farm life for three years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hodge have been born the following children: Ulva S., born on May 11, 1870, married Bertha Knouse, and they reside in Sterling; Florence, July 23, 1872, is the wife of Warden Bishop, of Medford township; William, May 6, 1888, married Mattie Snook, and lives with his parents. Mrs. Hodge is a member of the Baptist church, and is an active member of the Knights and Ladies of Columbia.

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#### FINLEY D. HORNBAKER.

Finley D. Hornbaker, a well-known, prosperous and progressive farmer of Lincoln township, this county, an honored veteran of the Civil War, who has been a resident of Kansas since the year 1877, is a Hoosier, having been born on a farm three miles from Bloomington, seat of Indiana University, in Monroe county, Indiana, January 8, 1848, son of John W. and Polly (Finley) Hornbaker, prominent residents of that community, both natives of Kentucky, who had moved from the latter state to Indiana

*W. H. Thompson  
and family*





when children and who had grown up in the same neighborhood in the old Hoosier state and there married. The Hornbaker family in this country had its origin in Pennsylvania, the first of the name in America having been an early settler in that state, and the family, now a very large connection, holds annual reunions at Scranton, in that state.

John W. Hornbaker grew up on the farm in central Indiana upon which his mother had settled upon moving from Kentucky and married Polly Finley, a neighbor girl who also had entered Indiana by way of Kentucky, and then began farming on his own account, becoming a well-to-do farmer and stock raiser in Monroe county. He and his wife were members of the Christian church and took a warm interest in all good works in their community. They were the parents of three children, James M., who resides in Oklahoma; Finley D., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, and America J., who died in her early womanhood. Upon the death of the mother of these children, her death occurring when they still were quite young, John W. Hornbaker married again and to his second union six children were born. In 1877 Mr. Hornbaker disposed of his holdings in Indiana and with his family came to Kansas, locating in Harvey county, where he bought a tract of railroad land and there established a new home, spending the rest of his life there, his death occurring in 1893, he then being seventy-five years of age. He was quite an extensive feeder of cattle and hogs and was a very substantial farmer, and honored pioneer of the community in which he settled in this state.

Finley D. Hornbaker was reared on the home farm in Indiana, receiving his education in the excellent neighborhood school in the vicinity of his home, and in October, 1863, when he was but sixteen years old, he enlisted as a soldier in the Union army for service during the Civil War and served until the close of the war as a member of Company I, One Hundred and Forty-fifth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, attached to the army of General Sherman. With that famous command he marched to Atlanta, Georgia, and there the division to which his regiment was attached was sent to Macon, Georgia, and thence to Andersonville in an attempt to release the Union prisoners in the notorious Confederate prison pen at that place. At the close of the war Mr. Hornbaker returned to Indiana and resumed his place on his father's farm. In 1872 he married and thereafter assumed the management of the home place until the family's emigration to this state in 1877.

Upon coming to Kansas Finley D. Hornbaker bought a tract of "railroad" land west of Newton, in Harvey county, and lived there until 1885, in which year he sold his place in that county and came over into Reno



county and bought the southeast quarter of section 27, in Lincoln township, where he established his home and where he became a very successful farmer. Upon taking possession of the place Mr. Hornbaker found a board "shack" on the farm and in that humble abode they made their home-for a year while they were having a comfortable and commodious farm house erected. Mr. Hornbaker prospered from the very beginning of his farming operations in this county and early began enlarging his holdings, with the able assistance of his sons, until now he and his sons are the owners of two thousand eight hundred acres of fine land in this part of the state, Mr. Hornbaker retaining a personal estate of six hundred and forty acres in Lincoln township. In 1910 he and his wife retired from the active labors of the farm, built a pretty little house in the southwest corner of section 23, in Lincoln township, and there have lived ever since, being very comfortably situated, the old home place having been turned over to one of the sons upon their retirement. There are nine children in the Hornbaker family, all living and doing well. Four of the sons taught school as young men and nearly all the children attended college or normal school. Mr. Hornbaker is a Democrat and ever since locating in this county has taken an earnest interest in local political affairs, though never having been a seeker after public office, and has served his party well in the capacity of a precinct committeeman from time to time.

In February, 1872, Finley D. Hornbaker was united in marriage to Dicy L. Wesner, who was born in Greene county, Indiana, January 7, 1850, daughter of John and Eva (Killion) Wesner, natives of Indiana, who spent all their lives in that state, and to this union nine children have been born, as follow: John Edgar, born on April 15, 1873, at Newberry, Indiana, who married Nellie Case and since 1904 has been engaged in the general merchandise business in Grand River valley, Colorado; Frank E., January 26, 1875, who married Addie Allen and is a successful farmer in Stafford county, this state; Charles C., September 19, 1877, who married Mabel Logan and operates a general store at Castleton, this county, near which place he also owns a fine farm; Omer F., June 7, 1880, who married Emma Huffman and owns a farm in Lincoln township, this county; Walter, January 27, 1882, who married Marie Emmert and lives at Artesia, New Mexico, at which place he owns a fruit and alfalfa farm in the irrigated belt; Lulu B., February 29, 1884, who married Roy Walden and lives on a farm in Oklahoma; Oscar Clyde, August 13, 1886, unmarried, who was graduated from the Kansas State University and from the Chicago Law School and is now practicing law

in Chicago; Vernon W., January 7, 1889; who married Laura Rundell and lives on the old home farm in Lincoln township, and Bertha, February 3, 1891, who married Clarence Rundell and lives on a farm adjoining that of her parents in Lincoln township. The Hornbakers ever have been regarded as among the leaders in the various social activities of their neighborhood and are held in high esteem thereabout. Mr. and Mrs. Hornbaker were reared in the Christian church, but as there is no church of that denomination in their vicinity they attend the Dunkard church. Mr. Hornbaker is an active member of Joe Hooker Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Hutchinson, and a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, in the affairs of both of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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#### DELMAR E. BAY.

Delmar E. Bay, a progressive and enterprising young farmer of Roscoe township, this county, proprietor of a fine and well-cultivated farm of three hundred and twenty acres in that part of the county and one of the best known young men in the county, is a native son of Kansas, having been born at Kingman, in the neighboring county to the south on January 11, 1886, son of C. M. and Maggie (Sloan) Bay, both natives of Ohio and for many years prominent residents of Reno county, large landowners and influential citizens of the southern part of the county.

In a biographical sketch relating to C. M. Bay, presented elsewhere in this volume, there are set out histories of the Bay and Sloan families and the reader is respectfully referred to the same for genealogical data with reference to the subject of this sketch. Delmar E. Bay was but a child when his parents resumed their residence on the farm in Roscoe township, from which they had moved to Kingman, where for some years the elder Bay was prominently connected with the real-estate business, and he grew up on the farm, early qualifying himself to take his part in the management of his father's extensive interests. At the time of his marriage, in 1909, his father gave him a half section of land adjoining the old home and there he has since made his home, being regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that neighborhood. His present comfortable farm house was built in 1910 and the improvements on the place are in keeping with the same, all being admirably adapted to the requirements of modern agricultural methods. Mr. Bay carries on his operations on an extensive scale and is doing very

well, his place being looked upon as one of the model farms of Reno county.

On April 28, 1909, Delmar E. Bay was united in marriage to Pearl Victoria Smith, who was born in Reno county, daughter of S. L. and Mary Jane (McCray) Smith, pioneer farmers of that county, and to this union one child has been born, Dean, born on December 11, 1914. Mr. Bay is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes a warm interest in the affairs of these popular organizations.

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### WILLIAM A. LEATHERMAN.

William A. Leatherman, son of James K. and Jane (Bell) Leatherman, was born on May 29, 1873, in Ringgold county, Iowa. His maternal grandparents were Allen Bell, a native of Ohio, and Mary A. Bell. Their children were Isaac, William, Frank, Mattie, Emma, Nora and Jane. Allen Bell was a farmer in Ohio, moved west and lived in Iowa several years, but returned to Ohio after his wife's death.

James K. Leatherman was born on July 29, 1844, near Mt. Blanchard, Ohio, and died on May 1, 1892. His wife was also a native of the same place, born on January 22, 1849. To them were born the following children: Frank, William, Jesse, Viola and Clyde. After his marriage James K. Leatherman resided in Sidney, Iowa, for five years. He then homesteaded land in Rush county, Kansas, but on account of repeated droughts, left this land after five years and moved to Reno county. For two years he lived two miles south of Nickerson, and then moved to a farm northeast of Hutchinson.

William A. Leatherman attended the public schools of Reno county when a lad, and took up farming as a vocation. Soon after his marriage he settled on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Medford township, it being the northwest quarter of section 17, township 22, range 8. Mr. Leatherman has placed many improvements on this farm in the way of buildings, fences, etc., and here he is engaged in general farming and stock raising.

On September 1, 1898, William A. Leatherman was married to Ruth Burke, who was born in Rice county, Kansas, March 31, 1880. Her parents were John and Jane (White) Burke. Her maternal grandparents were Levi and Frances (Harvey) White, of Illinois, who came to Medford township in 1874, where they lived the remainder of their lives. Levi White served

in the Civil War for three years, receiving a slight wound in the leg while in the service. He died on January 23, 1885. John Burke was a son of William Burke, a native of Ireland, who reared his family in his native land, then brought them to America. His sons, Thomas, Robert and William, served in the Civil War and William was killed while in the service. John Burke was born on January 16, 1845, and immigrated to New York state sixty-five years ago. He lived in New York about sixteen years, coming to Reno county, Kansas, in 1873. He was married, October 31, 1876, at the Reno House, Hutchinson. He was one of the pioneers of this locality and helped in the construction of the Santa Fe railroad. He homesteaded land northeast of Hutchinson, and lived on this farm for nine years. He then bought a quarter section of land in Medford township, and was the owner of a half section when he retired from active life. He and his family were prominent in the Methodist church. He died on November 13, 1898, survived by his widow and the following children: Ruth, John, Earle, Mary and Laura. Mr. Leatherman and his wife are the parents of the following children: Alva B., born on August 12, 1900; Floyd, November 17, 1907, and Willard, October 3 1909. The family are all active members of the Methodist church and Mrs. Leatherman teaches in the Sunday school. She is a member of the Yeomen and Royal Neighbors.

Mr. Leatherman is a Republican in politics and has served as township clerk, and also as a member of the school board. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Yeomen.

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#### HENRY P. HARTMANN.

Henry P. Hartmann, chief clerk in the freight offices of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad at Hutchinson, this county, and who has been a resident of Hutchinson since 1883, is a native of Ohio, having been born in the city of Tiffin, in Seneca county, that state, August 13, 1862, son of John George and Charlotte (Bloom) Hartmann, both natives of Germany and both of whom are now deceased.

John George Hartmann, who was born in Bavaria, came to America with an elder brother who died shortly after they had settled at Cincinnati. They crossed the ocean on a sailing vessel, which was blown far out of its course by adverse winds and instead of landing at the port of New York, the vessel's original destination, they landed at New Orleans, after a voyage



of one hundred and five days, and from that point made their way by river to Cincinnati. From Cincinnati John G. Hartmann presently made his way to Tiffin, Ohio, where he married Charlotte Bloom, who had come to this country when a small girl with her parents who had settled near Tiffin, where they engaged in farming. In 1862, following the death of his wife, Grandfather Hartmann, father of John G. Hartmann, came to America and proceeded to the gold fields of Nevada, where he made a "strike" in the region about Ft. Churchill, becoming the owner of quite a valuable mine there. He died in 1864 and his children were notified of the existence of the estate, but on account of the difficulty and hazard of travel over the plains in that day never made claim to the same and the family thus never derived any benefit from the rich mining claim.

John G. Hartmann became a prosperous merchant in Tiffin and spent the rest of his life there, his death occurring in 1877. His widow survived him many years, her death occurring in 1908, at Tiffin, at the age of sixty-eight. They were the parents of three children, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, both of whom reside in Tiffin, Miss Mary, who has been a teacher in the high school there for thirty-six years, and Dora, who is the wife of Dr. B. R. Miller, a prominent physician of that city.

Henry P. Hartmann received his education in the public schools of Tiffin and early learned the carriage-blacksmith trade. In 1883 he came to Kansas, locating at Hutchinson, this county, where he worked at his trade during that summer. He then moved on to Kingman, this state, where he was employed at the same trade for a little more than a year, at the end of which time he returned to Hutchinson and in October of 1885 began working for the Santa Fe railroad as baggageman at the railway station, at that time there being but three or four men employed about the station, and has ever since been in the service of that same company, having been a witness of the company's growing interests in Hutchinson all these years, the company now having one hundred and ten men employed about the freight and passenger stations. Shortly after taking service with the Santa Fe, Mr. Hartmann was transferred to the freight department, with which he ever since has been connected and in the office of which he has been chief clerk since the year 1900. During this long period of faithful service in the company's behalf Mr. Hartmann has received numerous flattering offers of employment elsewhere, but he has preferred to remain in Hutchinson, proud of the educational advantages his children have enjoyed there. He ever has taken a warm interest in the promotion of the affairs of the local schools and for some time served with painstaking care on the school board.



On July 2, 1885, Henry P. Hartmann was united in marriage to Anna Bussinger, who was born near Loogootee, Indiana, whose father was killed while serving the Union as a soldier during the Civil War, and to this union three children have been born, Leonora, who received an excellent musical education at Oberlin College, in Ohio, and who married Arthur W. Smith, night ticket agent for the Santa Fe at Hutchinson; Minor L., who, after his graduation from the Hutchinson high school attended the Kansas State University for two years, after which he entered the University of Arizona, from which he was graduated in chemistry, after which he attended the University of Illinois one year and then went to Harvard University, from which institution he received his master degree after an attendance of two years, and is now, at the age of twenty-six, professor of chemistry in the State School of Mines at Rapid City, South Dakota, and Lucille, who is in her last year in the Hutchinson high school. Mr. and Mrs. Hartmann are members of the Universalist church and reside in a very pleasant home at 321 First avenue, west, which they bought in 1899. Mr. Hartmann is a Democrat and ever gives a good citizen's attention to the political affairs of the city and county.

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#### BENJAMIN F. BALLARD.

Benjamin F. Ballard, the son of Jesse and Sarah (Hathaway) Ballard, was born in Marion county, Illinois, September 30, 1856. Jesse Ballard, was a native of Tennessee, who moved as a young man to Marion county, Illinois, and there he married. He was a soldier in the Mexican War, and received a bullet wound in the leg during his period of service. He passed through Kansas during that war. He died in Marion county, Illinois, in November, 1915, while his wife died in 1871. Their children are as follow: Jerry, deceased; Christopher Columbus, of Monon county, Illinois; Charles Edward, of Bloomington, Illinois; Jefferson, deceased; Margaret, Annis and Benjamin F.

Benjamin F. Ballard was educated in the common schools of his native county. He came to Reno county, Kansas, in 1882, and purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land, on which the family are still living. He has improved this farm in various ways and here carries on general farming and stock raising.

Mr. Ballard was married in Illinois to Esther Bonnet, a daughter of Peter Bonnet. To this union have been born three children: Grace, the wife

of Jesse Lyonbault; Mary, the wife of Charles Quirfield; Ray, living at home with his parents.

Mr. Ballard is a Democrat in politics, and has served on the school board of Medford township, and has also been constable of the township for several terms. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. Mrs. Ballard is a member of the Methodist church.

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### JOHN W. GRAYSON.

John W. Grayson, one of the largest landowners and most substantial citizens of Ninnescah township, this county, owner of a fine farm of six hundred and forty acres in the Pretty Prairie neighborhood, and an active participant in all public enterprises thereabout, is a Virginian, born in Ritchie county, a part of West Virginia since the days of secession, April 29, 1849, son of Felix and Lucy Ann (Wilson) Grayson, farming people of that community, whose last days were spent there.

Felix Grayson was the son of Ambrose Grayson, a sailor. He was reared a farmer and farmed all his life. He was twice married, his first wife, Lucy Ann Wilson, having been a daughter of Joseph Ambrose Wilson, a Virginia farmer, also a resident of Ritchie county. To that union four children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch, the third in order of birth, is the only one now living, the others having been J. A., Sarah E. and James H. Upon the death of the mother of these children, Felix Grayson married, secondly, the Widow Smith, which union was without issue. Felix Grayson died in 1886 at his home in West Virginia. Sarah E. Grayson married a Mr. Patton and was accidently killed on June 3, 1900, at the crossing of Main street and the Santa Fe railroad in Hutchinson.

John W. Grayson was reared on the home farm in Ritchie county and received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood. He was living with his Uncle during the Civil War and the Rebels came up the valley taking all stock. Mr. Grayson tried to drive his uncle's cattle to safety and ran by the Rebels. They went after him and shot at him six times and hit him three times after which they captured him and later in an attack on them by Bushwhackers they ran off and left him and he was taken home. He grew up a farmer and in 1875 married and continued farming there until in 1887, when he came to Kansas with his family and settled in Reno county, joining his brother, who had preceded him here some time before. Starting



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J. W. GRAYSON AND RELATIVES IN ATTENDANCE AT THE FUNERAL OF MR.  
GRAYSON'S ONLY SISTER, SARAH E. PATTON, WHO WAS KILLED BY A  
SANTA FE RAILROAD TRAIN, JUNE 13, 1900.



with practically nothing he prospered in his farming operations until now he is the owner of this large tract of land in Ninnescah township and long has been counted as among the leading men of his community. Mr. Grayson's well-kept farm is marked by one of Reno county's most distinctive pioneer land-marks, the old stone house erected there by John Defreace when that energetic pioneer filed on that claim back in the days of the Ninnescah township's earliest settlement, and which house is still standing, with in twenty rods of Mr. Grayson's home, giving promise of being able to weather the storms of many a year to come.

It was in 1875, in Ritchie county, West Virginia, that John W. Grayson was united in marriage to Mary Ebert, who was born on August 7, 1851, and who died at her home in this county on April 7, 1890, leaving six children: J. Ambrose, Roxie Della, Hiram K., Morris E., Mary Dorothy and Felix N., of whom Hiram and Morris are still at home with their father, assisting in the management of the latter's extensive estate.

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#### CHARLES S. WINCHESTER.

Charles S. Winchester, founder and head of the Winchester Packing Company and general manager of the extensive meat-packing plant maintained by that company at Hutchinson, this county, is a native of Vermont, but has been a resident of Kansas since 1879 and a well-known resident of Hutchinson since 1893. He was born on a farm in Rutland county, Vermont, in the same house in which his father was born, on the place his great-grandfather had bought, as virgin land, from the government and which has been in the continuous possession of the family to the present generation, without ever a mortgage on it. The date of his birth was April 4, 1854, and he was the second in order of birth of the four children born to his parents, Norman and Harriet (Lyon) Winchester, the latter also a native of the state of Vermont.

Norman Winchester was born in 1820, son of Joel Winchester, who had inherited the homestead farm from his father, Andrew Winchester, a native of Connecticut, who had entered from the government a virgin timber tract in Rutland county in the previous generation and had there spent the remainder of his life. Andrew Winchester spent all his life on that farm, as did his son, Joel, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch. For



many years Norman Winchester was selectman of his home township, the office corresponding to township trustee in this state, and was a man of wide influence in his community. He was selectman during the Civil War period and had charge of the recruiting in that township; it being a matter of prideful note in that community that it never became necessary to enforce the draft in that jurisdiction and that the township emerged from that trying period without a cent of debt. Norman Winchester and his wife were members of the Congregational church. He died in 1905. She was born in 1826 and died in 1912, she thus living to be past eighty-five years of age. Their children were Emma, who married L. F. Denio and lives in Springfield, Massachusetts; Charles S., the subject of this sketch; Fred, a hardware merchant at Pawlet, Rutland county, Vermont, and Gertrude, who died at the age of nine years.

Charles S. Winchester received his schooling in the neighborhood school two miles from his home and at the age of seventeen went to Medina, New York, where for three years he was engaged as a clerk in a hardware store. He then returned home, married in 1877 and in 1879 came to Kansas, settling in Russell county, where for three years he was engaged in buying and selling cattle. He then located at Manhattan, this state, where for nine years he was engaged in the retail meat business, after which, in 1893, he came to Reno county, locating at Hutchinson, where he established the "Old Fulton Market" at 409 North Main street, which he conducted until 1903, in which year he sold the place and established the plant of the Winchester Packing Company at 16 F avenue, west, and there has ever since been successfully engaged in business, his operations covering not only the local field, but a wide shipping field west. His only son, S. Allen Winchester, is engaged with him in the business and the firm also comprises the Kansas Hide Company, which handles as much as fifteen carloads of hides annually.

On March 13, 1877, Charles S. Winchester was united in marriage to Emma A. Hevener, who was born in Medina, New York, daughter of Peter Hevener and wife, both now deceased, the former of whom was a cigar manufacturer, and to this union two children have been born, S. Allen and Inez. S. Allen Winchester was born in 1880, the year after his parents came to Kansas, and was about thirteen years old when the family located in Hutchinson. For five years previous to becoming associated with his father in the Winchester Packing Company he was in the employ of Emerson Carey, in the coal and hide business. He married Edith Carey and has four children, Alene, Stanley, Dorothy and Nancy Jane. His home is at

127 Tenth avenue, east. Inez Winchester, born in 1883, married J. F. Robleder, a dealer in hides in Hutchinson, and lives at 129 Thirteenth avenue, east. Charles S. Winchester and wife live at 1219 North Main street, where Mr. Winchester erected a good house in 1911. He is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has never been an aspirant for public office.

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### ALFRED REUBEN SCHEBLE.

Alfred Reuben Scheble, of the well-known Richards-Scheble Candy Company, of Hutchinson, this county, is a native son of Hutchinson, having been born there on October 3, 1882, son of the Hon. Alfred R. and Dora Belle (Martin) Scheble, who were among the most prominent residents of that city in their day and the memory of whom is cherished to this day throughout this county.

Alfred R. Scheble, Sr., was born in Delaware county, Ohio, and his wife was born in Henry county, same state, where they were married. He was graduated from the law school of the University of Ohio and began the practice of his profession at Napoleon, Ohio, during his residence there taking so prominent a part in civic affairs that he was twice elected to represent his district in the General Assembly of that state, serving with distinction in that capacity, although quite a young man at the time of his election. Failing health warned Mr. Scheble to seek a change of climate and he and his wife moved to Ft. Worth, Texas. After a short residence there, they decided that the climate of Colorado might prove more beneficial to the invalid and started for that state. On their way they stopped at Hutchinson to make a visit with the Bigger family, with whom they had a previous acquaintance, and were persuaded by them to settle in Hutchinson. That was in 1877, during the period of Hutchinson's early and substantial development and Mr. Scheble's talents immediately brought him into prominence in the community. He engaged in the practice of law and soon became one of the leading lawyers of Reno county. Continuing here the political activities which had brought him prominence in his native state, Mr. Scheble presently was elected to represent this district in the Kansas state Legislature and thus enjoyed the rare distinction of having served in the General Assemblies of two sovereign states. In addition to his extensive law practice he was active in other affairs and for some time was the publisher of

the *Hutchinson Herald*, through the columns of which paper he consistently and with effect advocated all proper movements designed to advance the welfare of the community. He was constantly busied in local affairs and was regarded as one of the leaders in the councils of the Democratic party hereabout. His active service as a member of the school board undoubtedly did very much to elevate the standards of education in the growing city of Hutchinson. Death, however, all too soon, put an end to his earthly activities, and there was much mourning at his passing, for he had been a good citizen, whose life had been useful in many ways. Hon. Alfred R. Scheble died in December, 1885, at the age of thirty-six years. His widow survived him many years, her death occurring in Hutchinson in May, 1912, at the age of fifty-four years. They were the parents of three children who grew to maturity, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch, who was named for his father, was the youngest, the other two being Max Carl, who was graduated from the Colorado School of Mines at Golden, Colorado, and is now a mining engineer in Mexico, and Elma Janet, who married Charles Colloday, of Hutchinson, member of the large wholesale hardware firm of Colloday & Company.

Alfred R. Scheble, Jr., was but three years of age when his father died. Following his graduation from the Hutchinson high school he became an advertising solicitor for the *Hutchinson Daily News* and thus early acquired an extensive and valuable acquaintance with the business men and commercial affairs of the city. In the fall of 1902 he and D. Earl Richards formed a partnership for the manufacture and sale of candy, their venture, which was begun on a small scale with only one "hand" in the factory besides themselves, proving a success from the very start, and on May 1, 1903, the Richards-Scheble Candy Company was incorporated with a capital stock of one thousand dollars. Since then the company has been recapitalized for one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, employing as many as seventy-five people, with ten salesmen on the road, covering three-fourths of the state of Kansas, northern Oklahoma, northwest Texas, northeast New Mexico and eastern Colorado, the product of this firm being a general favorite among all persons in possession of a "sweet tooth" throughout that extensive territory, the "Donita" chocolates, a leader of the company, in particular, being almost a household word wherever that toothsome delicacy has been introduced. In 1906 the Richards-Scheble Company erected a fine two-story brick factory building, forty-eight by one hundred and ten feet, at 400 Second avenue, east, having long outgrown the one room over Talbott's

grocery store in which the business was begun. This new plant was destroyed by fire in July, 1911, but the energetic proprietors at once rebuilt and shortly were installed in a better brick building on the same site, sixty-six by one hundred and ten feet, three stories in extent and have there been located ever since.

In June, 1909, Alfred R. Scheble was united in marriage to Junia Belle McCandess, who also was born in Hutchinson, daughter of A. W. McCandess, who located in Hutchinson during the time Mr. Scheble's father was at the head of the school board and applied to the latter for a position as teacher. Though it may now be admitted that the position of teacher in the Hutchinson schools at that time was no sinecure, the schools of that day having been regarded as "pretty hard to handle," Mr. Scheble gave the applicant the position he sought and he straightway proceeded to "make good," and long was regarded as one of the city's ablest teachers. To Mr. and Mrs. Scheble one child has been born, a daughter, Janet, born in 1911.

Alfred R. Scheble is recognized as one of the leading young business men of Hutchinson. He ever is interested in any measure calculated to advance the city's best interests and in 1914 gave excellent service as president of the Hutchinson Commercial Club.

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### KONRAD C. BECK.

Konrad C. Beck, proprietor of the popular Riverside Amusement Park at Hutchinson, former sheriff of Reno county, expert authority on the habits of wild water fowl, noted collector of water fowl and wild animals, producer of musical comedy companies and general "live wire," is a native of Iowa, but has lived in this county since he was three years old and therefore very properly may be regarded as one of the pioneers of Reno county. He was born at Bellevue, Iowa, January 31, 1876, son of John and Magdalena (Beck) Beck, both natives of Germany, born in the kingdom of Wurtemberg, who became pioneers of Reno county and the latter of whom is still living at her home in Nickerson, this county.

John K. Beck grew up in his native land and became a talented artist. In 1865 he came to the United States and settled in Galena, Illinois, moving thence to Bellevue, Iowa, where he met and married Magdalena Beck, also a native of Wurtemberg, who had grown to young womanhood in her native land, one of the nineteen children born to her parents, nine of whom are



still living. Her mother lived to be ninety-nine years old. Both of her parents spent all their days in the old country. It was in 1871 that Magdalena Beck came to the United States and soon after her arrival at Bellevue her marriage to John K. Beck took place. In 1879 Mr. Beck and his family came to Nickerson, Kansas, where he lived ten years, then moved to a farm in Salt Creek township, later moved to a farm in Medford township, this county. He lived there until 1911, when he moved back to Nickerson, where he died on January 20, 1912. His widow still survives and is making her home at Nickerson. They were the parents of nine children, five of whom are living; the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being as follow: John J., who is associated with his brother, Konrad, in business at Hutchinson; Lena, who married Robert Arnold and lives at Nickerson; Fred, who lives on the old home place in Medford township, and Otto Bismark, unmarried, who makes his home with his mother in Nickerson.

Konrad C. Beck was but three years old when his parents came to this county in 1879 and he was reared in Nickerson, Salt Creek township, and Medford township, helping his father on the farm and in the vineyard as a boy. He attended school until he was fourteen years old, but from the earliest childhood his mind was interested in the wild animal life of this section and he early became an expert hunter and trapper. After his marriage in 1899, he then being twenty-three years old, he began trapping in earnest, with a definite end in view and in 1911 established "K. C. Beck's Sportsman's Show" at Nickerson, with a famous collection of water fowl and wild animals, with winter quarters at Nickerson. For eight years he traveled with this collection, making all the state fairs he could cover during the season and invariably made a fine impression wherever he exhibited. Instead of paying concessions to fair managements, Mr. Beck always received a bonus for exhibiting his collection, on account of its highly educational features and because it proved such a drawing card to the fair grounds. Finally the show became so large he no longer could accommodate it in his quarters at Nickerson and in 1908, when the Riverside Park Association established the amusement park at the foot of Main street in Hutchinson, Mr. Beck leased the place for five years and installed his wild animals and water fowl therein. He added various amusement features to the place and from the very start was successful in his venture of providing for Hutchinson a permanent, high-grade amusement enterprise. Presently he bought the park outright, paying therefor twelve thousand five hundred dollars, and has since added thirty-five thousand dollars worth of improvements, includ-



ing a large theater, where, during the park season, he produces vaudeville and musical comedies.

In the meantime, Mr. Beck has never neglected his real ambition in life and he has traveled all over the United States, South and Central America collecting water fowl, becoming one of the most widely recognized authorities in the world on the habits and habitats of these creatures. He keeps constantly a representative on the Amazon river and in other select places trapping water fowl to fill orders which come to him from zoos, not only in this country, but in Europe, having thus contributed to such noted collects as those contained in the Bronx Zoo at New York, the Lincoln Park Zoo at Chicago and the great Zoological Gardens at Hamburg, Germany. Mr. Beck is a Democrat and for years has taken an active part in local political affairs. He was elected sheriff of Reno county and served for two terms.

In 1899 Konrad C. Beck was united in marriage to Alta Barnes, who was born in Illinois, and to this union five children have been born, Olive, Beulah, Konrad, Georgia and Clyde. Mr. Beck is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the consistory at Wichita, and is also a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and a Knight Templar. He also is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Elks, the Owls and the Eagles and in the affairs of all these organizations takes a warm interest.

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#### WILLIAM L. HODGSON.

William L. Hodgson, son of William and Ellen (Ware) Hodgson, was born on September 3, 1881, on the farm now occupied by his father, in section 20, Reno township, Reno county, Kansas. His father, William Hodgson, is one of the pioneer settlers of Reno county and served with marked distinction during the Civil War. As a boy, the subject of this sketch attended the Welton district school in Reno township and later assisted his father with the work on the farm.

In 1899, Mr. Hodgson came to Hutchinson, Kansas, where he worked at the carpenter's trade for four years. In 1903 he returned to his father's homestead, where he has charge of one hundred and thirty acres of land. Mr. Hodgson is a man of untiring energy and progressive spirit. He takes a prominent part in fraternal affairs of the community in which he lives

and is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and for four years has been connected with the state militia of Kansas.

The marriage of William Hodgson to Jessie F. Phillips, the daughter of Frank and Dee Phillips, took place on November 10, 1903. Frank Phillips is a well-known farmer of Reno county. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hodgson are: Hallie, who was born in 1904; Melvin, who was born in 1906; Mildred Lucile, who is seven years old, and Wilma, who was born in March, 1915.

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### PETER RICE FARTHING.

Peter Rice Farthing, a progressive and energetic young farmer of Salt Creek township, this county, is a native of Kentucky, having been born on a farm in Union county, that state, on April 30, 1874, the only son in the family of eight children born to Sylvester and Cassandra (Hobbs) Farthing, the former of whom was born near the town of Clarksville, Tennessee, on April 22, 1849, and the latter, in Jefferson county, Kentucky, April 3, 1852, both of whom are still living, pioneer residents of this county.

Sylvester Farthing is a son of Peter Farthing, a Tennessean, who as a young man was engaged in the river trade, running a packet up and down the Mississippi, and who later became a large landowner and slaveholder in Union county, Kentucky, where he lived until 1876, in which year he was seized with an attack of "Kansas fever" and came to this state. He bought a quarter of section of "railroad" land in Lincoln township, this county, and there established a new home, living there until 1884, in which year he disposed of his interests in this county and went to Coffeyville, Kansas, where his last days were spent. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, four sons and four daughters, but only three of these children came to this state.

Sylvester Farthing was but a child when his parents moved from Tennessee to Kentucky and he therefore grew up on the plantation in the latter state. After his marriage he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Union county, not far from the paternal home, and was doing well, but when his father came to this state in 1876 he also had an attack of "Kansas fever," and sold his place in Kentucky at a sacrifice and the next year, 1877, followed his parents to this county. For the first year of his residence here he rented an eighty-acre farm near his father's place in Lincoln township, but the next year he bought a quarter of a section of "railroad" land in

Lincoln township and there he has lived ever since. He hauled lumber from Wichita, sixty miles away, with which to build a little house of two rooms being but fourteen by twenty-four feet. Then came the drouths and a succession of crop failures and he and his family gladly would have returned to Kentucky if they had had enough money to provide the way. But they had nothing and therefore were compelled to "stick it out," which in the end proved well, for presently the prairies began to smile on their efforts and they prospered, their herds of cattle increasing each year, until eventually they became quite well-to-do and long have been regarded as among the substantial residents of that section of the county. Mr. Farthing is independent in politics and he and his wife are members of the Harmony Baptist church, near their home. To them eight children have been born, of whom the subject of this sketch, the third in order of birth, is the only son, the daughters being as follow: Sallie, who married James Green, president of the bank at Yoder, this state; Leona May, who died at the age of twenty-two; Pearl, who married Albert Stewart, both of whom now are deceased; Ella, who is at home with her parents; Edna, widow of Judson Stewart, living in Yoder, this state; Carrie, who married Eugene Moore and lives in Lincoln township, this county, and Eula, who married Floyd Moore and is now deceased.

Peter R. Farthing was but three years of age when his parents came to Reno county in 1877 and he consequently may be regarded as one of the "pioneers" of this county. He grew up on the home farm in Lincoln township and from the time he was ten years old was doing practically a man's part in helping develop the place, herding cattle winter and summer and doing such other things as fell to his lot, and, he being the only boy in the family, aided his father very materially in getting the farm on a paying basis. He received but little schooling in his boyhood, his attendance on the short terms of the district school being restricted by the necessity of helping on the farm and herding cattle. When he was twenty-one years of age he began working on his own account, renting land and farming for himself until 1902, in which year he bought the southwest quarter of section 11, in Salt Creek township, and began developing the same, with a view to making a home. He erected all the buildings on the place and planted all the trees which now adorn it, and in the fall of 1905 was married, after which he had a home, indeed, and is still living there, having made his farming venture pay big returns on the investment. His chief interest is grain farming, paying little attention to stock. In the summer of 1913 Mr. Farthing's barn

was destroyed by fire, but he immediately built a new and better one. Like his father, Mr. Farthing is independent in his political views, preferring rather to support candidates for office with respect to their personal fitness than to the particular party emblem which they represent.

On November 15, 1905, Peter R. Farthing was united in marriage to Edith Edna Armstrong, who was born in Peoria county, Illinois, on October 1, 1872, daughter of the Rev. Ebenzer and Martha (Walliker) Armstrong, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter born on June 15, 1843, in Muscatine county, Iowa. Rev. Ebenzer Armstrong came to Kansas from Illinois, with his family, in 1886, settling in Pawnee county, where he bought a quarter of a section of land ten miles north of Larned, on which he and his family lived until 1890, in which year they came to this county and located in Hutchinson, where he and his wife spent the rest of their days, his death occurring on January 29, 1901, at the age of sixty-seven. His widow survived him for about thirteen years, her death occurring on January 8, 1914, she then being seventy-one years of age. Rev. Ebenzer Armstrong was a well-known minister of the Baptist church and remained active in the ministry until 1900, in which year he retired. To Mr. and Mrs. Farthing four children have been born, as follow: Louis Sylvester, born on September 18, 1906; Nina, July 11, 1908; Edna, December 8, 1910, and Stanley, August 1, 1913.

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### JOHN F. SMITH.

Since the year 1885 the veteran real-estate dealer, John F. Smith, has been one of the most potent factors in the development of the city of Hutchinson, county seat of Reno county. During his long residence and period of activity in Hutchinson he has laid out and promoted the sale of many of the important additions to that city, besides having had a hand in many of the most important realty deals throughout the county generally. In other ways, too, he has been active in the promotion of the best interests of the city and long has been looked upon as one of the leaders in the business life of the county seat.

John F. Smith was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, July 30, 1848, son of H. B. and Harriet M. (Sumner) Smith, the former of whom, born near the city of Cleveland, Ohio, in 1821, died in April, 1905, and the latter, born in Elkhart county, Indiana, in 1821, died in 1862. H. B. Smith was a son of John F. Smith, who for many years was a well-known figure up



and down the Cuyahoga valley, a singing-school master, one of the "old school" sort, who went about the country thereabout holding singing schools and was held in high repute as a music teacher in his day. His whole life was spent in Ohio and in his later years he was much afflicted with rheumatism. He was a farmer and on his farm his son, H. B. Smith, was reared, going thence, as a young man, to Elkhart county, Indiana, where he married Harriet M. Sumner, daughter of pioneer residents of that section, and in 1841 moved to Tazewell county, Illinois, where he entered a tract of government land on which he made his home and which he brought under cultivation, the tract having been virgin prairie when he secured it. There he lived until 1851, in which year he sold the farm and moved to Eureka, in Woodford county, Illinois, in order that his sons might have the advantage of attendance at the college which the Christian church maintained at that point. Later he returned to Tazewell county and bought a farm in the neighborhood in which he originally had settled and there his last days were spent. He was one of the forceful characters in that neighborhood and long served the community as a justice of the peace. He and his wife were members of the Christian church and their children were reared in that faith.

To H. B. and Harriet (Sumner) Smith three children were born, all sons, namely: Greenville A., who following the completion of the course in Eureka College came to Kansas; at the age of twenty-two and homesteaded a tract of land, shortly after which he and another man started on a trip to Baton Rouge, by flatboat, and died there of swamp fever; Charles S., who died at the age of sixteen, and John F., the subject of this biographical sketch. Upon the death of his wife in 1862, H. B. Smith married again and his second wife, Murilla, bore him one son, Fred C., who is now a carpenter and building contractor at Pekin, Illinois.

The elementary education of John F. Smith, received in the district school, was supplemented by a course in the excellent old sectarian college at Eureka and at the age of eighteen he began teaching school and for five years, or until he was married, was thus engaged. He then, in 1872, went to Nebraska, settling near Greenwood, where he farmed for a couple of years, after which he returned to Illinois and opened a general store at Eureka which he conducted until 1879, in which year he came to Kansas, locating at Axtell, in Marshall county, where for five or six years he was quite successfully engaged in the real-estate and insurance business. In 1885 he came to this county, locating at Hutchinson, soon thereafter buying an interest in the real-estate business of Puterbaugh & Company, continuing



that connection until 1887, in which year, following the death of Mr. Puterbaugh, he was appointed administrator of the Puterbaugh & Company estate and was occupied until 1890 closing up the estate. He then became a member of the firm of J. J. Woodward & Company, which connection continued until Mr. Woodward's death in 1900, since which time Mr. Smith has conducted his real-estate and insurance business alone. During his long connection with the realty business in Hutchinson, Mr. Smith laid out many additions to that city, under the name of the Sunflower Town Company, helped lay out and sell all the lots in Smith's, Puterbaugh's, Woodward's, Harris' additions to South Hutchinson and laid out and conducted the sale of lots in the town of Plevna, this county. He was one of the organizers of the Hutchinson Commercial Club and was the first permanent secretary of that useful organization. Upon the adoption of the commission form of government for Hutchinson, Mr. Smith was made commissioner of public utilities for the city and is still occupying that important position. He is a Republican and for years has taken a prominent part in local politics.

On November 30, 1873, John F. Smith was united in marriage to Mary J. Lucas, who was born in Peoria county, Illinois, daughter of William M. and Mary Lucas, the former of whom, a veteran of the Civil War, is a merchant at Axtell, this state, and to this union four children have been born, as follow: Stella, who married C. A. Leonard and lives in Hutchinson; William McCoy, who is an electrician at Chicago; Mary Grace, who married Allen H. Hester and lives in Jefferson, Iowa, and Clara, who attended art school at Chicago and is now at home. The Smiths have a very pleasant home at 14 Sixth street in the city of Hutchinson.

In addition to his extensive real-estate and insurance business, Mr. Smith is interested in various other enterprises in and about Hutchinson, among which connections is that of a director of the Reno State Bank of Hutchinson.

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### GEORGE W. SIEGRIST.

George W. Siegrist, a well-known grain merchant at Whiteside, this county, is a native of Illinois, having been born on a farm in Tazewell county, this state, son of John and Elizabeth (Yontz) Siegrist, both natives of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, the former of whom died at his home in this county in the fall of 1909, at the age of eighty-four years, and the latter, born on February 12, 1831, is still living.

John Siegrist, whose parents were natives of Switzerland, who settled in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, where they spent their last days, grew up in that county and was married there. In the late forties he and his wife emigrated by wagon to Tazewell county, Illinois, where they bought a tract of land, later increasing their holdings there to a full half section of land and there they made their home until 1876, in which year they and their family came to Kansas, locating in this county, where they bought a section of school land in Salt Creek township and the south half of section 27, township 23, range 6 west, in Reno township, on which latter tract they made their permanent home and where John Siegrist spent his last days, becoming one of the most active and influential of the pioneers thereabout. He had also bought a half section of land two and one-half miles west of Burrton, but later sold that tract to advantage. He was a successful farmer and was also widely known as a successful raiser of hogs, his specialty being Berkshires. His widow, who still survives him, is a member of the Methodist church and her children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, namely: Jacob, who lives on the home place in Reno township; Abraham, a former well-known merchant of Hutchinson, who died in 1912; George W., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Mary, who married George Spangenberger and lives on a farm in Reno township; Hettie, who married William Hodgson and lives at Harrington, this state; Anna, who married Claud Epperson and lives on a farm in Lincoln township, this county, and John, who died at the age of six months.

George W. Siegrist was fifteen years of age when he came with his parents to this county and he grew to manhood here, rendering valuable assistance to his father in the work of developing the pioneer farm. In 1885 he went over into Finney county and entered a claim in the Garfield neighborhood and helped in the organization of that county. The next year he returned to Hutchinson and traded his Finney county claim for lots in Park addition to the city of Hutchinson, which later he was able to turn over at considerable profit. Upon his return to this county he rented a tract of his father's land and began farming for himself. Upon his marriage, in 1890, his father gave him the southeast quarter of section 36, township 23, range 7 west, in Salt Creek township, and there he made his home, developing the same until 1901, in which year he built a store on the Santa Fe railroad, midway between Hutchinson and Partridge, at what is now the village of Whiteside, and has ever since conducted a general store there. At the same time he began buying grain at that point for the Hutch-

inson Flour Mills, which established an elevator at that point, and is still engaged in that business, having been quite successful in his operations. In 1905 Mr. Siegrist built a fine home at Whiteside and he and his family are living there in substantial comfort. During recent years, Mr. Siegrist has practically retired from the more active duties connected with the management of his extensive affairs, as he is in a position to take life easy. In January, 1914, he turned his store over to his daughter, who now owns it and has full charge of the same. At the same time he made his eldest son, George H., a full partner in the grain business, and the latter is practically manager of that department. Mr. Siegrist is a Democrat and takes a good citizen's interest in political affairs, but never has been a candidate for office.

On August 24, 1890, George W. Siegrist was united in marriage to Lavina Spangenberg, who was born at Dayton, Ohio, on June 30, 1865, daughter of Valentine and Clara (Stephenhafer) Spangenberg, and to this union four children have been born, as follow: May Esther, born on January 17, 1893, who is making a success of her general store at Whiteside; George B., September 8, 1896, manager of the Siegrist elevator at Whiteside, who married Mildred Garrison and has one child, Ollie, born on May 4, 1914; Turah L., May 16, 1898, and Edwin T., January 4, 1899. Mr. and Mrs. Siegrist and their children are members of the Poplar Methodist Episcopal church and are active in all good works in the neighborhood in which they live.

Mrs. Siegrist's father, Valentine Spangenberg, was born along the river Rhine, in Germany, and was brought up to the trade of a blacksmith, to which he served an apprenticeship of three years. When twenty years of age he came to America, locating at Cincinnati, where for a time he worked at his trade, later going to Eaton, in Preble county, Ohio, where he married Clara Stephenhafer, who was nine years old when she was brought to this country by her parents, John and Clara Stephenhafer, natives of Germany, who located at Eaton, where John Stephenhafer worked as a cooper. Later, John Stephenhafer and his wife and his other children, Adam and Christina, moved to Logansport, Indiana, where the father and son engaged in the cooperage business, which they successfully operated there for years, and where the elder Stephenhafers spent their last days. Adam Stephenhafer also died there and his sister, Christina, who married Chris Cuppy, is still living at that place. The Stephenhafers were devout Catholics, and Clara Stephenhafer was reared in the faith of the mother church, but upon her marriage to Valentine Spangenberg, who was a member of the Lutheran church, she changed her faith to conform to his.

From 1855 to 1861 Valentine Spangenberg conducted a blacksmith shop of his own at Eaton and then moved to the village of New Hope, in the same county, where he opened a blacksmith shop, where he died, he then being forty-five years of age. A few years later the Widow Spangenberg married Henry Biehl, who had learned the blacksmith trade in the shop of Valentine Spangenberg, and in 1867 they joined her son, George, who had located in Mason county, Illinois, where Mr. Biehl opened a blacksmith shop. Mrs. Biehl died in Peoria, Illinois, in March, 1908, at the age of seventy-five. She was the mother of six children, namely: George Spangenberg, who married Mary E. Siegrist, sister of the subject of this review, and lives on a farm in Reno township, this county; Adam, a trained machinist, now deceased, who came to Reno county in 1878, later going to Las Vegas, New Mexico, where he assisted in the construction of the Union Pacific railroad, and later was in the cattle business in the West, as well as a successful prospector in the Klondike gold region; Catherine, who married Henry Singery and lives in Hutchinson, this county; Clara, widow of Jacob Shappoch, of Elkpoint, South Dakota; William, who is a blacksmith at Peoria, Illinois, and Lavina, who married Mr. Siegrist.

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#### LEE BONNET.

Lee Bonnet, son of Peter and Mary (Turner) Bonnet, was born in Reno county, Kansas, January 17, 1884. He is of Italian ancestry, his grandparents, John and Mary Bonnet, emigrating from Italy and settling twenty-five miles south of Springfield, in Madison county, Illinois. His father, Peter Bonnet, was three years old at that time. The family later moved to Montgomery county, Illinois, where John Bonnet died, at the age of seventy-one years. His wife still lives there on the home farm. Both were members of the Methodist church. Their children are Mary, Rachel, Peter Paul, Esther, David, Anna and Stephen.

Peter Bonnet's wife was Mary Turner, born on May 19, 1860, the daughter of Dennis and Sarah (Goss) Turner, who were farmers and members of the Methodist church, who emigrated from Clark county, Indiana, to Reno county, Kansas, in 1883. Dennis Turner served in the Civil War one hundred days. Since his wife's death, twelve years ago, he has had no permanent home, but is now living at Lahoma, Oklahoma, at the age of eighty-six years. His parents were Joseph and Martha (Bowers) Turner,



who lived in Indiana, and later moved to Decatur, Illinois, where Joseph Turner died. Peter Bonnet and wife were married in Illinois, on February 23, 1881, and emigrated to Reno county, Kansas, where they bought a quarter section of land and resided there until Peter's death. Their children are Lula, Lee and Oliver, the last named being now deceased. Peter Bonnet was a member of the Knights of Pythias, and his death occurred on September 15, 1895, at the age of thirty-nine years. His wife later married E. S. Huffman, and lives near her son, Lee.

Lee Bonnet was married in 1908 to Retta Shafer, a daughter of W. W. Shafer, a farmer of this county. They are the parents of one daughter, Alberta. Mr. Bonnet is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of fine farming land, on which, in 1913, he erected a modern, handsome dwelling.

Mr. Bonnet is a Democrat in politics, and has always been active in all measures having for their object the welfare of his home community. He is a member of the Anti-Horse Thief Association.

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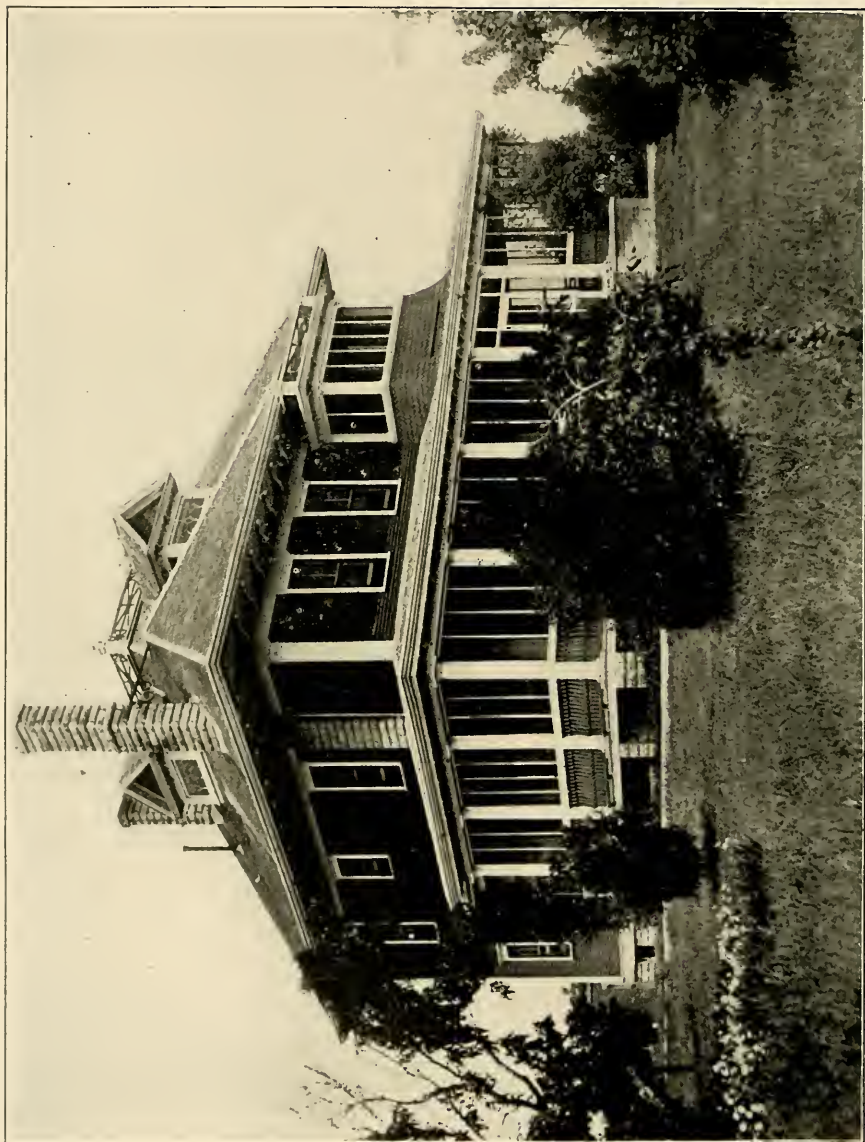
#### C. M. BAY.

C. M. Bay, one of the best-known farmers of Reno county, a successful ranchman and business man and a large landowner in Roscoe township, where he makes his home, is a native of Ohio, having been born at Gallia, that state, April 26, 1858, son of Joseph N. and Emily (Campbell) Bay, both natives of that same state, who later moved to Iowa and became prominent residents of Monroe county. Joseph N. Bay was an extensive farmer and stock raiser, an active member of the Methodist church and a member of the Masonic fraternity. He was the father of four children, the subject of this sketch, Samuel E. and two who died in youth. The mother of these children died in 1866 and Mr. Bay married twice thereafter, without further issue. He died on November 28, 1914, at the age of eighty-three years.

C. M. Bay was a child when his parents moved from Ohio to Iowa and he received his education in the public schools of the latter state, and was reared to the life of the farm. In the fall of 1876 he married and began farming for himself on a tract of eighty acres which he bought in Wayne county, Iowa. In 1878 he sold that farm and with two teams of horses and wagons for the transportation of his family and household goods came to Kansas, locating in Reno county. He traded one of his teams and a wagon for the southwest quarter of section 19, in Roscoe township, on which he







RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. C. M. BAY.



MR. AND MRS. C. M. BAY.



threw up a sod shanty and there he established his home. He also took a timber claim in the same section and planted thirty-five acres of catalpa trees. His operations prospered and two years later, in 1880, he bought four hundred acres in sections 28 and 29, same township, and moved to the latter section, where he built another sod house, but presently moved to his present location in section 18. In 1883, during the height of the real-estate "boom" in this part of the state, Mr. Bay rented his farm and moved to Kingman, where he engaged in the general real-estate and loan business and where he made, between the years of 1884 and 1887, one hundred thousand dollars. When the "boom" collapsed in 1887 all he was able to save out of the general wreck of his fortune was his original timber claim in section 19. In 1891 Mr. Bay returned to the farm and resumed his general farming and cattle raising and it was not long before he again was on the highway to affluence, being at the time of his retirement from the active operations of his ranch the owner of four or five sections of land, a good portion of which he has since divided among his children. For four years during the rise of the automobile Mr. Bay was also engaged in the auto-sales business at Kingman, conducting his operations in that line from his farm, driving back and forth from his home. He also has been active in civic affairs and has served his township in the capacity of justice of the peace and in other public offices. For some time Mr. Bay has been an invalid and unable to give personal attention to his former extensive affairs.

On September 27, 1876, C. M. Bay was united in marriage to Margaret Sloan, who was born in Miami county, Ohio, November 6, 1858, daughter of H. R. and Charlotte (Gibson) Sloan, natives of Scotland, who came to America from Glasgow, where Mr. Sloan was a policeman, in 1855 and settled in the neighborhood of Dayton, Ohio, where they remained on a farm until 1860, in which year they moved to Iowa, buying a farm near Corydon, in Wayne county, and there established their permanent home. H. R. Sloan, who was born on July 5, 1821, died in March, 1907. His widow, who was born on October 16, 1833, is still living.

To C. M. and Margaret (Sloan) Bay five children have been born, as follow: Lottie, who married Emmet Hutton, a well-known resident of this county; James, deceased; Clyde, who married Ruby Denzel and lives on a farm adjoining the old home place in Roscoe township; Delmar, who married Pearl Smith and also lives on a farm adjoining the home place, and Lawrence deceased. Clyde and Delmar Bay are progressive young farmers and biographical sketches of them are presented elsewhere in this volume.



C. M. Bay is a member of many years standing of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of America and during the period of his activity took much interest in the affairs of these organizations.

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### WILLIS J. CHUBBUCK.

Willis J. Chubbuck, who is prominently and actively connected with the Central Mercantile Company, of Hutchinson, this county, he having been treasurer of that company since the date of its organization, in 1899, is a native of Pennsylvania, having been born in Bradford county, that state, on February 6, 1857, son of C. J. and M. M. (Woodruff) Chubbuck, both natives of that same county, the former of whom was born on the same farm as was his son, the subject of this sketch.

C. J. Chubbuck was born in 1828 and his wife was born in 1829. She died in 1900 at her home in Fremont, Nebraska, to which place they had moved in 1878 and where Mr. Chubbuck engaged in the transfer business, in which he was actively engaged until after the death of his wife, when he retired from business and lived at Carroll, Iowa, where he died on October 7, 1915, at the age of eighty-seven. He and his wife were the parents of three sons.

Willis J. Chubbuck was reared on the ancestral farm in the woods of Bradford county, Pennsylvania, and in his youth became an expert woodsman, timber cutting being the chief occupation there about, the farm lands being none too rich on the mountain sides. His schooling was limited to a short term of three months during the winters, but in spite of these limitations he managed to pick up a pretty good general education. In 1876, he then being nineteen years of age, he determined to follow Horace Greeley's advice and "go West," the possibilities of the then rapidly developing West appealing to his imagination in terms that could not be resisted. His first stop, upon reaching the "promised land," was at Tecumseh, Nebraska, in which city he made his home for three years, doing such things as his hand found to do, railroad work, carpenter work and clerking in a store. Then he went on to Pawnee City, same state, where for three years he was employed as clerk in a general store, after which he went to Fremont, his parents meanwhile having located there, and for a year worked in a wholesale hardware store there. Then, in 1883, he came to Kansas, locating at Anthony, where he found employment as a bookkeeper, in which position for

some time he worked literally day and night. This arduous indoor life inspired within him notions of getting "back to the soil" and, pursuing this notion, he entered a claim in Harper county, on which he remained until he had it "proved up," at the end of which time he sold the homestead to advantage and pushed on into Arizona. There he was employed as superintendent of the Indian school in the Casa Grande Ruin reservation, a position which he held for one year, a decidedly interesting experience, at the end of which time he returned to Anthony, this state, where he entered into a partnership with a friend in the retail hardware business, under the firm name of A. H. Davis & Company. In 1886 he sold his interest in that concern and went to Wichita county, where he opened a hardware store of his own and was there very successfully engaged in business for a period of twelve years, at the end of which time he sold out and for a year took a rest from business cares, spending that time in Port Arthur, Texas. In September, 1899, attracted by a promising business proposition emanating from Hutchinson, this county, he came here and joined his forces with the men who were organizing the Central Mercantile Company, wholesale grocers, at Hutchinson, subscribed for a liberal block of stock in the concern, was elected treasurer of the same and ever since has been thus engaged, being one of the active members of the company, and is found in his office every day, being generally recognized as one of the most progressive and public-spirited business men in that city.

On January 1, 1879, Willis J. Chubbuck was united in marriage at Pawnee City, Nebraska, to Mary Cummins, who was born at Leon, Iowa, daughter of Samuel H. Cummins and wife. Samuel H. Cummins was a farmer and was county treasurer in Pawnee county, Nebraska, and then moved to Anthony, Kansas, where he conducted a furniture store and then moved to Ashland, Kansas, later moving to Pond Creek, Oklahoma, where he became postmaster for two years. His last days were spent in Hutchinson, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Chubbuck are members of the Baptist church and take an active interest in all movements designed to advance the general welfare of the community. But one child has been born to them, a daughter, Jessie, who died when four months of age. They have a pleasant home at 417 First avenue, East, which they built in 1905.

Mr. Chubbuck is an ardent Republican and during his residence in Wichita served for two terms, 1891 and 1893, as a member of the Kansas Legislature from that district. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the blue lodge, the chapter, the council and the commandery of that

order at Hutchinson and of the consistory, Scottish Rite Masons, at Wichita. He also is a member of Midian Temple, Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, in the latter city, and takes a warm interest in Masonic work. He also is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

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### JOHN NAFZINGER.

John Nafzinger, a well-known and substantial farmer of Reno township, this county, who came to Reno county in 1884, is a native of Maryland, having been born on a farm in Baltimore county, that state, fourteen miles north of the city of Baltimore, on November 25, 1859, son of Peter and Lydia (Yoder) Nafzinger, the former of whom was an Alsatian by birth, who was brought to the United States by his mother when he was two years of age and who grew to manhood in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania.

Peter Nafzinger's parents started from their home in Alsace for America in 1817 with their six children. The father died during the voyage and was buried at sea. The widowed mother arrived at the port of Philadelphia with her six small children, forlorn and knowing no one there, a stranger in a strange land. She met a kindly German in port, who advised her to join the considerable German colony then existent in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and thither she went, seeking a home in the new country. Upon arriving there she placed her children advantageously in hospitable homes, good-natured settlers agreeing to care for them until they had arrived at self-supporting stages in life, and it was thus that Peter Nafzinger came to be reared in Lancaster county. His son, John, the subject of this interesting review, has in his possession an old flint-lock pistol that his grandfather, the ambitious Alsatian who was seeking a new home for his family in America, but who died on the way, his ambition ungratified, brought from the old country. This ancient fire-arm became the property of Peter Nafzinger, by descent, and was, in turn, inherited by his son, John, who prizes the century-old relic very highly.

Peter Nafzinger was reared to the life of a farm in Pennsylvania and after his marriage bought a farm fourteen miles north of the city of Baltimore and there he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1908, at the age of eighty years. His widow is still living there, at the age of eighty-two. Peter Nafzinger and wife early became associated with the

Mennonites and their children were reared in that simple faith. There were five of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: Fannie, who married Isaac Hertzler, and lives near Newport News, Virginia; Moses, who lives on the old home place in Maryland with his aged mother; Elizabeth, who married J. Z. Mast and lives on a farm near Denby, Virginia, where she and her husband also conduct a hotel, and Anna, who died unmarried in 1905.

John Nafzinger received his education in the public school in the vicinity of his boyhood home in Maryland and remained on the farm assisting his father until he was twenty-two years of age, after which, in the spring of 1883, he went to Ohio and for a year worked on a farm in Champaign county, that state. The next spring, 1884, his attention having been attracted to the stories of the wonderful possibilities awaiting energetic settlers in this portion of Kansas, he came to Reno county and stayed here a year, "getting the lay of the land." He then went over into Kiowa county and entered a claim there, remaining on the same until he had "proved up," after which he returned to Reno county, married and settled on a tract of land which he rented in that section of the county which later became Yoder township, and there he lived for four years, prospering meanwhile, and at the conclusion of that tenancy bought a farm of eighty acres in the same section. There he made his home for four years, after which he rented a larger farm, and in 1903 sold his eighty acres and bought a quarter section in Reno township, on which he ever since has made his home and where he has done very well in his farming operations, in addition to his general farming paying considerable attention to the raising of fine Holstein cattle. The year after buying his present farm, Mr. Nafzinger moved the house which then stood on it to its present location, subjected the same to extensive remodeling and improvement and has a very pleasant home, in which he and his family take much comfort and pleasure.

In February, 1889, John Nafzinger was united in marriage to Emma Young, who was born in Montgomery county, Missouri, daughter of Elisha and Lydia Young, the former of whom has been dead for some years, and the latter of whom now makes her home with the family of her daughter, Mrs. Nafzinger, and to this union six children have been born, namely: Alma, born on November 14, 1891, was married on December 29, 1915, to D. S. Lauver, of Emporia, Kansas; Frank H., March 20, 1893; Hattie M., February 21, 1894; Lewis P., June 12, 1898; Lena B., April 15, 1902, and John L., February 27, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Nafzinger are members of the



Poplar Methodist church and their children have been reared in that faith. Mr. Nafzinger is a Republican, but reserves to himself a certain independence in his political views and votes for the man instead of the party in local elections.

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### RAY G. STREETER.

Ray G. Streeter, advertising manager of the Carey Salt Company, of Hutchinson, and one of the most affable and energetic young business men of that city, is a native of the Empire state, having been born on April 30, 1887, in the village of Weedsport, Cayuga county, New York, the son of Albert E. and Viola (Hunter) Streeter, both natives of that same county, the former of whom was born at Weedsport on February 5, 1850, and the latter at Conquest, March 9, 1848, both of whom are still living and have for years made their home in Hutchinson, this county.

Albert E. Streeter is the son of Joseph B. and Adaline G. (Eldridge) Streeter, both natives of Cayuga county, New York, the former of whom fell a victim to the deadly tropical fever while crossing the isthmus of Panama, en route to the gold fields of California, in 1851, and whose body was buried on the isthmus. Albert E. Streeter was but one year old when his father died and his widowed mother was left in comparatively destitute circumstances. Early in life, therefore, he began working in an effort to help his mother, even at nine years of age beginning to contribute to the family support, and was his mother's main dependence during the rest of her life, she making her home with him after he had established a home of his own, spending her last days in his home in Hutchinson, where she died in 1909, at the advanced age of eighty-five years. In the early part of his young manhood, Albert E. Streeter worked as a teamster and as a farm laborer and after his marriage, in 1872, engaged in the coal and lumber business at Weedsport, his native town, and was thus engaged until 1887, in which year he and his family came to this county, locating at Hutchinson, where they established a permanent home. Mr. Streeter had learned the confectioner's trade during his boyhood and upon his arrival in Hutchinson opened a confectionery shop and restaurant at 18 South Main street, later in the same year opening the Streeter hotel at the same number and there continued in business until 1902, in which year he bought the New York hotel, at the corner of Avenue A and Main street, which he successfully conducted until in December, 1911, when he sold out and has since been



living retired from active business, a portion of his time being pleasantly occupied in a labor of love on behalf of the Hutchinson "refuge home," a most commendable local charity, for which he acts gratuitously as steward, his long experience in the hotel business giving a particular value to his service as a buyer for the home.

On December 19, 1872, Albert E. Streeter was married to Viola Hunter, born in the same county as himself, daughter of John and Anna Jane (Emerson) Hunter, the former of whom was born in the north of Ireland, coming to the United States during the days of his young manhood, settling in Cayuga county, New York, where he became a successful blacksmith and the owner of two farms. To this union four children were born, namely: Inez, who died at the age of eight months; Lila Blanche, who died at the age of three weeks; Iva M., who married Miles M. Stephens, proprietor of a plumbing establishment in Hutchinson, and has one child, a son, Kenneth M., and Ray G., the immediate subject of this biographical review. Mr. and Mrs. Streeter are members of the Hadley Methodist church and their children were reared in that faith.

Ray G. Streeter was but an infant when his parents moved to Hutchinson, hence he was reared in that city. Following the completion of the course in the public schools, he attended the Hutchinson high school one year, after which he entered the Salt City Business College at Hutchinson, from which he was graduated, and on May 1, 1903, entered the employ of the Carey Salt Company, as a stenographer. He presently became a bookkeeper for the same company and later was promoted to the responsible position of secretary to Senator Emerson Carey, head of the great Carey interests, which position he occupied until 1908, in which year he was further promoted to the position of advertising manager of the Carey Salt Company, a position which he still holds, having performed admirable work in that connection. In addition to this, Mr. Streeter is secretary of the Hutchinson Salt Company, a subsidiary of the Carey interests, and in other ways makes himself useful in behalf of the Carey industries. He has gained a fine reputation among advertising men throughout this section and takes an active part in the deliberations of the National Association of Advertising Managers, among the members of which he is deservedly popular.

On November 20, 1912, Ray G. Streeter was united in marriage to Edith May Hunter, who was born at Port Byron, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Streeter have a very pleasant home at 411 Sixth avenue, East, and take a proper and influential interest in the social and cultural affairs of the city,

and are members of the Hutchinson Country Club, Mr. Streeter<sup>9</sup> being an enthusiastic golfer, a form of relaxation in which he takes much delight. He is a member of the Masonic lodge and takes much interest in Masonry.

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### ELMER EVERETT.

Elmer Everett, a prominent, well-known influential and well-to-do retired farmer and stockman of Center township, an honored veteran of the Civil War and a pioneer of Reno county, is a native of Ohio, having been born on a farm in Trumbull county, that state, August 7, 1842, son of Benjamin and Catherine (Lowery) Everett, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Ohio, whose last days were spent in Knox county, Illinois, Benjamin Everett dying at his farm home there on December 25, 1886, at the age of seventy-seven, and his widow, less than a year later, July 16, 1887, at the age of sixty-eight, both having been long honored and respected residents of that section of Illinois.

Benjamin Everett was reared on a farm in New York state and when twenty-one years of age went to Trumbull county, Ohio, where he married a young woman who had been born and reared in that county and bought a farm, remaining there until 1852, in which year he sold out and with his family moved to Illinois, buying a farm in Knox county, that state, where he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. Benjamin Everett was a steadfast, sober citizen, faithful in all the relations of life. He originally was a Whig, but upon the organization of the Republican party transferred his political allegiance to that party and ever thereafter was a stanch Republican. He and his wife were earnest members of the Christian church and their children were reared in that faith. There were six of these children, of whom the subject of this biographical review was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: Lucretia, who married Elijah Woolson and died in Knox county, Illinois; Ezra, former judge of probate for Greeley county, this state, a wealthy retired ranchman, now living at Tribune; Lucy, who married Adam Martin and who is now deceased, both she and her husband having spent their last days in California; Amos, a prosperous ranchman, of Santa Anna, California, and Bishop, a farmer of the Partidge neighborhood in this county, who died in 1910.

Elmer Everett was about ten years old when his parents moved to Knox county and he grew to manhood on the home farm there. On August



*Elmer Everett and Wife*



1, 1862, he then being not quite twenty years of age, he enlisted in Company K, Eighty-third Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, for service during the Civil War and served with that regiment until it was mustered out at Nashville, Tennessee, on July 26, 1865. The Eighty-third Illinois participated in the second battle of Ft. Donelson and for a year thereafter was assigned to guard duty at that fort, attached to the Army of the Cumberland, and was sent thence into Georgia and Alabama, taking part in the campaigns against the Confederate generals, Wheeler and Forest. Mr. Everett served under Generals Thomas, Rosecrans and Sherman and bore the part of a true soldier throughout all the years of his service. He is an active member of Joe Hooker Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Hutchinson, in the affairs of which he for years has taken a warm interest, and has not missed taking part in every state and national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic for many years.

At the close of his military service Mr. Everett returned to the home farm, where he remained for a year, at the end of which time he began working on his own account on farms in that same neighborhood and was thus engaged for three years. He then, in the spring of 1869, married and rented a farm in Knox county and there made his home for five years, at the end of which time, in 1874, he and his family came to Kansas, settling in Reno county, arriving here in September of that year, just after the memorable grasshopper visitation which left not a bit of living plant life in this section of the state. Mr. Everett bought the relinquishment of a homestead right to the southwest quarter of section 14, in Center township, and there established his home. He built a fourteen-by-twenty shanty on his claim and walked clear to the Indian Territory trying to buy a yoke of oxen. He started with nothing, comparatively speaking, but he was a good farmer and a capable manager and his operations prospered from the very beginning. He engaged in wheat farming with his yoke of oxen until he had "proved up" his claim and two years after settling there built a larger and more comfortable house. After establishing his homestead he was able to borrow a bit of money, which he invested in a bunch of heifers and presently had his place well stocked with cattle. As he continued to prosper he was enabled to extend his investments, enlarging both his herds and landholdings, until in 1903, in which year he retired from the active labors of the ranch, he was the owner of one thousand two hundred and eighty acres of choice land in Center and Troy townships and had long been recognized as one of the best stockmen in this part of the state. Mr. Everett's specialty in the live-



stock line was Shorthorns, his cattle for breeding purposes being in wide demand throughout this whole country. He also raised pure-bred Poland China hogs and kept a draft-horse sire and a roadster sire, the services of which did much to improve the strain of horses hereabout. In 1886 Mr. Everett erected the imposing house and barn which still stand on his well-kept homestead tract and which at that time were considered to be the finest buildings in the township. In addition to his large land interests in Reno county Mr. Everett also is the owner of a fine farm in Oklahoma and has made other profitable investments which distinguish him as being one of Reno county's most successful pioneer homesteaders.

In 1903 when Mr. and Mrs. Everett retired from the ranch a division of the land was made among the children, each being given land or the equivalent thereof to the value of ten thousand dollars, the land values being placed low, at that; and Mr. Everett invested the balance of his money in approved municipal bonds, first mortgages and stock of the First National Bank of Hutchinson, the income from which investments provides more than enough for the needs of this excellent couple, who since their retirement have been spending the greater part of their time in Colorado and California, their summers in the former state and their winters in the latter, taking much pleasure in this manner of spending the pleasant "evening time" of their lives. If Mr. and Mrs. Everett live until April 20, 1919, a consummation most devoutly hoped for by their hosts of friends, they will celebrate their "golden wedding" anniversary, their marriage having taken place on April 20, 1869, Mrs. Everett then having been Millie Axtell. She was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, daughter of Joseph Axtell and wife, the former of whom died while he and his family were making their way from Pennsylvania to Illinois. His widow died the following fall in Warren county, Illinois, the daughter, Millie, thus being left an orphan at the age of fifteen years. The latter grew to womanhood in Knox county, Illinois, and there married her soldier husband, to which happy union three children have been born. Arthur C., unmarried, who is the owner and operator of the west half of section 23, township 24, range 7 west, in this county, received by him from his father; Leo, owner, by the same form of gift, of the southeast quarter of section 14, township 24, range 7 west, who married Grace Osborn and has a very pleasant home on his fine farm, and Elvessie, who married Franze Mellberg and occupies the old homestead in Center township. Mr. and Mrs. Mellberg have one child, a daughter, Evelyn Mae.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett for many years have been among the most active

workers in the Methodist church at Partridge and are held in the highest esteem throughout that entire neighborhood, they ever having been earnest in all good works affecting the vicinity whose development they have promoted from the very days of the beginning of a social order thereabout. Mr. Everett for years gave his most earnest attention to the educational interests of that neighborhood and for ten years served as a member of the board of trustees of the Reno county high school at Nickerson. He is a Republican, having been furloughed home from the army to cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, and for many years it was his proud boast that he "always voted the ticket straight," but in recent years, with the changing times, he tries to vote for the best man, irrespective of party. For many years he was precinct committeeman for his party and for six years, from the year 1876, served as a member of the board of county commissioners. Later he served as justice of the peace and in all his public service ever had an eye single to the public good. Mr. Everett is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of Modern Woodmen of America, in the affairs of both of which organizations he has taken much interest.

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#### CHARLES M. SNYDER.

Charles M. Snyder, a well-known hardware merchant of Hutchinson, this county, is a native of Indiana, having been born in Whitley county, that state, on June 23, 1869, only son of Alexander and Victorine (Miller) Snyder, the former of whom, born in Preble county, Ohio, died in 1873, at the age of twenty-eight, and the latter, born in Indiana, died in 1875, at the age of twenty-seven, and both are buried in a county churchyard near Columbia City, Indiana.

Alexander Snyder moved to Whitley county, Indiana, when a lad with his parents, who were among the pioneers of the section in which they spent the remainder of their lives. He was a studious lad and early equipped himself as a school teacher and was engaged in teaching when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted for service in an Indiana regiment and served valiantly until his left arm was shattered by a bullet, the serious character of the wound necessitating the amputation of the arm. He died when his only child, the subject of this sketch, was but four years old and his widow survived him but two years. Thus early bereft of both parents, Charles M. Snyder was taken in charge by his maternal grandparents, Samuel Miller

and wife, who lived on a farm four miles north of Columbia City, Indiana. Grandfather Miller died when his orphaned grandson was eleven years old and one year later, in 1881, the lad came to Kansas to make his home with his uncle, Clark C. Miller, one of the pioneers of Reno county, who is still living on his extensive ranch in Valley township.

During the first two summers he spent in Reno county, Charles M. Snyder herded cattle on his uncle's ranch during the summers and attended the district school in the winters. He has vivid recollections of the great prairie fires of that period and of his labors in helping to fight the sweep of the billows of flame. He lived with his uncle until he was eighteen years of age, after which, for one year, he worked on neighboring farms and then, in 1888, when nineteen years old, he left the farm and located in Hutchinson, where he worked for a few months in a livery barn. In 1889 he began working for the Kansas Grain Company in that city and there his work was performed so well and faithfully that he soon was advanced to the position of supervisor and grain tester. Mr. Snyder remained with that company until 1900, in which year he decided to go farther west and went to Colorado, where he entered a homestead claim in Powers county. Nine months later he sold that claim to advantage and returned to Hutchinson, where he re-entered the service of the Kansas Grain Company. In March, 1902, he formed a partnership with James Madden in the second-hand store business and in June of that same year took an active hand in the management of the store, another partner being taken into the store at the same time, the firm being known as Madden, Snyder & Raun. Presently, Madden sold his interest and a year later Mr. Snyder bought the remaining interest and operated the place alone. He presently changed the line of his business to a retail hardware store, under the name of C. M. Snyder & Company, doing business at 317 North Main street, and has ever since been thus engaged, doing a fine trade in the retail hardware line, also handling paint and hot-air furnaces, with a tinshop on the side, and is regarded as one of the representative and progressive merchants of Hutchinson.

On June 17, 1896, Charles M. Snyder was united in marriage to Hattie Cline, who was born in Augusta county, Virginia, daughter of Samuel and Mary F. Cline, who came from Virginia to Kansas in 1881, first settling on a farm in Russell county and later moving to Hutchinson, where Mr. Cline died and his widow is now living with her daughter, Mrs. Snyder. To Mr. and Mrs. Snyder three children have been born, Paul, born on July 8, 1897, a student in the Hutchinson high school, who also is a valuable assist-

ant to his father in the store; Mary Margaret, April 2, 1908, and Thornton, March 24, 1914. The Snyders live in an attractive home at 226 West Eleventh street. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder are members of the Methodist church, of which Mr. Snyder is a trustee and also as assistant superintendent of the Sunday School.

Mr. Snyder was a Republican until the organization of the Progressive party in 1912, at which time he transferred his political allegiance to the new party. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has served in all the chairs in the local lodge of that order. He also is a member of the encampment of that order and of the Daughters of Rebekah, in all of which he takes a warm interest. For sixteen years he was a member of the Knights and Ladies of Security.

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#### NOAH HARDY.

Noah Hardy, veteran of the Civil War and prominently connected with the real-estate business in Hutchinson, this county, is a native of Illinois, having been born in Mercer county, this state, on March 8, 1844, son of Ashford and Sophia (Morehead) Hardy, pioneers of that county.

Ashford Hardy was born in Virginia and when nine years of age moved with his parents to Muskingum county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood and was married, shortly after which, in 1835, he and his wife emigrated to Illinois, where, in Mercer county, he bought a tract of government land at one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre and there established their home. His wife was a native of Pennsylvania, who had moved to Muskingum county, Ohio, in her girlhood, with her parents. In the party which accompanied the Hardys to their new home in Illinois were five other families from their immediate neighborhood in Ohio and all became pioneer settlers in Mercer county. Ashford Hardy prospered and finally became the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of choice land. He spent the rest of his life there, his death occurring in 1871, at the age of sixty-nine. His widow survived him more than ten years, her death occurring in 1883, at the age of seventy-two years. She had been reared as a member of the United Presbyterian church, but upon going to Illinois became a member of the Christian church. Ashford Hardy was a Whig, but upon the organization of the Republican party became affiliated with the new party and was devoted to its principles until his death. He was an influential citizen of his locality



and for years served as township trustee. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, namely: Albert, deceased; Eleanora, who married J. O. Edwards, deceased; Henry, deceased; John, who died at the age of twenty-four; George, who met a soldier's death while serving in the Union army during the Civil War, as a member of Company I, Seventeenth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry; Sarah, who married Capt. George W. Greenwood, now a retired farmer, living at Topeka, the capital of this state; Noah, the immediate subject of this sketch, and Delila, who married N. G. Guthrie, now retired, living at Aledo, Illinois.

Noah Hardy was reared on the home farm in Illinois and received his education in the district schools of his home neighborhood. When the Civil War broke out he attempted to enlist in Company C, Eleventh Illinois Cavalry, Col. "Bob" Ingersoll's regiment, which was recruited in the neighborhood of his home, but on account of his age he was not permitted to enroll his name. Not daunted by this rejection he finally caught up with the regiment at Memphis, Tennessee, and there succeeded in having his name enrolled as a member of his home company, and with this regiment he served until he was mustered out in October, 1865. This regiment saw service mostly in the states of Tennessee and Mississippi and after eight months of service Mr. Hardy was assigned to detached duty in the headquarters of the Army of Mississippi, stationed at Vicksburg and at Jackson. While serving with his regiment he took part in Sherman's rapid raid to Meridian, Mississippi, during which more than one hundred miles of the Mobile & Ohio railway track was destroyed.

At the close of his military service, Mr. Hardy returned to his home in Illinois and presently became engaged in the live stock business, buying cattle thereabout for the Chicago market. In 1877 he came to Kansas, locating at Oneida, where he engaged in the real-estate business. Not long after locating there he bought the *Oneida Chieftain*, which newspaper he conducted for some years. In 1886, when the town of Jetmore was projected, Mr. Hardy went to that point and started a newspaper, the *Jetmore Sunflower*, which he issued in connection with an earnest campaign he started there for the voting of a bonus to the Santa Fe railroad in order to induce that road to run its line through Jetmore, Mr. Hardy having laid out a very promising addition in the new town. The road struck the town, but the "boom" was of short duration and Mr. Hardy did not profit as he had expected to do. In 1895 he moved to Blackwell, Oklahoma, where he was engaged in the real-estate business until 1902, in which year he came to this



county and located at Hutchinson, which has been his home ever since. Upon arriving in Hutchinson, Mr. Hardy entered the real-estate business and has handled a large amount of property and also has conducted a big immigration business since then. He is largely interested in lands in Mexico and in southern Texas, and has taken numerous inspection parties down there from Kansas. On one of these inspection trips to Mexico, Mr. Hardy and others had more than three hundred people in his party, an entire train of Pullmans conveying the prospective buyers.

On December 18, 1866, Noah Hardy was united in marriage to Lucinda Jane Decker, who was born in Mercer county, Illinois, daughter of Benjamin and Fannie Decker, both of whom now are deceased, pioneers of that county, who had formerly been residents of Ohio. Mr. Hardy formerly was a Republican, but since the organization of the Progressive party has given his allegiance to that party, though he never has been a candidate for public office. He is a member of Joe Hooker Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Hutchinson, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization.

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#### WALTER FRED JONES.

City Attorney Walter Fred Jones, of Hutchinson, the county seat of Reno county, is a native of Emporia, this state, where he was born on November 23, 1883, son of Peter C. and Dora (Knache) Jones, the former of whom was born in the gallant little land of Wales on May 21, 1854, and the latter, in Germany, in June, 1856, both of whom are still living, making their home in Hutchinson, where they have lived for years.

Walter F. Jones received his early education in the schools of Hutchinson and of Emporia, his elementary schooling having been obtained in the old Sherman street school in the former city and continued in the grade schools at Emporia. Upon the return of his family to Hutchinson, he entered the high school there and was graduated with the class of 1903. He then entered the law department of the University of Kansas and after taking the preliminary course there entered the law office of Prigg & Williams, at Hutchinson, and there studied law amid practical conditions, for several months, at the end of which time he went to Idaho, where, in 1905, he took the necessary examination and was admitted to practice in the courts of that state. He remained in Idaho for a short time, but was not much

impressed with the situation of things there and returned to Hutchinson, resuming his studies in the law school of the State University, from which he was graduated in 1906, and in July of that year was admitted to the bar of the Reno circuit court and has been practicing in Hutchinson ever since. Mr. Jones served as deputy county attorney for two years during the incumbency of County Attorney W. H. Lewis and in April, 1911, was appointed city attorney and has held that office continuously ever since, the term of office being for one year. In addition to his law practice, Mr. Jones takes considerable interest in general affairs, commercial and otherwise, and is a director of the Haven Mills Company.

Mr. Jones is an ardent Republican and several times has served as committeeman in his precinct. At the time of the special election in January, 1912, he was county chairman of his party and has been a member of the Republican congressional committee during the past two congressional campaigns. He is a Mason and an Odd Fellow and takes a warm interest in the affairs of those two popular orders.

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### WILLIAM RODGERS PENNINGTON.

William Rodgers Pennington, one of the pioneers of this county, a well-known and prosperous farmer of Reno township, who is living on the place on which he settled as a homesteader in the spring of 1873, being now one of the few real "old timers" remaining in this county, is a native of Pennsylvania, having been born in Sullivan county, that state, on September 13, 1843, son of John R. and Susan (Rodgers) Pennington, both natives of that same state, born in what then was Lycoming county, near the town of Laporte, the former on February 15, 1815. There they grew up as neighbors and were married in 1840, living on a farm in that county until 1855, in which year they moved to Lee county, Illinois, with their family, where they established a new home on a rented farm. In 1866 John Pennington and wife moved to Iowa, their son, William R., subject of this sketch, having gone to that state in the spring of that year, and settled in Jones county, where they bought eighty acres of land, on which they lived until 1870, in which year they joined their son in Marhsall county, same state, where Mrs. Pennington died in the spring of 1873. In 1875 John Pennington married, secondly, Sarah Cole, and he and his wife then resided at Marion, this state, until the late nineties, when they came to this county,

both then being well advanced in years, and spent their last days in the home of the former's son, William R. Pennington, Mr. Pennington dying in 1900. His widow survived him but one year, her death occurring on April 30, 1901. By John Pennington's first marriage there were born four children, namely: Jackson, who died in Marion county, this state; William R., the subject of this sketch; Rachel, widow of John Jeffs, now living in Wichita, this state, and Albert, a retired farmer, living at Hunter, Oklahoma.

William R. Pennington was eleven years old when he moved with his parents from Pennsylvania to Illinois and he grew to manhood on the farm in Lee county, in the latter state. In the spring of 1866, he then being twenty-two years of age, he went to Iowa, where, in Cedar county, he rented a farm and began working on his own account. In the fall of 1868 he married and the next spring moved to Marshall county, same state, where he bought an eighty-acre farm in Logan township and there he made his home until the spring of 1873, when he came to Kansas and located in this county, arriving here on April 8, of that year. He homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 4, township 23, range 6 west, in Reno township, and there he has made his home ever since. The year following the arrival of the Penningtons in this county was the memorable "grasshopper year," but they were not utterly discouraged by that disastrous visitation, as were so many, or by the later trials of drought and hot winds, and stuck by their homestead, eventually making a fine success of their farming operations and taking high rank among the prosperous pioneers of the county. As he prospered in his operations, Mr. Pennington gradually enlarged his holdings by purchase and now owns a half section surrounding his home in Reno township, besides two hundred and forty acres in Salt Creek township. In 1892 he built a large and admirably arranged farm house, to the attractiveness of which he later added by the construction of a broad veranda on two sides and now has one of the pleasantest homes in that neighborhood. Mr. Pennington was the second man in Reno county to set out an extensive orchard, George Cole having been the first, it having been thought previous to that time that the soil of this section was not adapted to the growing of fruit trees. Mr. Pennington set out large orchards and for ten years, from 1880 to 1890, in partnership with J. J. Meazer, conducted an extensive nursery and they were very successful. Mr. Pennington still cultivates a twenty-acre orchard on his farm. He also for some years devoted considerable attention to the cultivation of small fruit, in which he was equally successful.

On November 1, 1868, William R. Pennington was united in marriage

to Lucinda Jeffs, who was born in Canada on April 12, 1849, daughter of Robert and Phoebe (Edmonds) Jeffs, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Vermont, early residents of Illinois and later of Iowa, in which latter state their last days were spent. To Mr. and Mrs. Pennington three children have been born, Leon A., born on August 15, 1869, who married Ora Charles and lives on a farm adjoining that of his parents in Reno township; Rella, September 19, 1871, married George Kearney and lives on a farm in Grant township, this county, and Harold, March 23, 1888, an able assistant to his father in the operation of the home farm. Mr. and Mrs. Pennington are members of the Presbyterian church and their children have been reared in that faith. Mr. Pennington has been an elder in the church for thirty-five years and was one of the active promoters in the movement to erect a Presbyterian church in Hutchinson and a liberal contributor to that good cause. He is a Republican and has served as township treasurer and for years was a member of the school board.

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#### ERNEST DADE.

Ernest Dade, a well-known and prosperous farmer of Reno township, this county, living on rural route No. 5, out of Hutchinson, is a native of Maryland, member of an old Maryland family which for generations had been large landowners in that state, well-to-do and prominent citizens. He was born on a plantation in Montgomery county, Maryland, thirty miles from the national capital, on December 19, 1856, son of Alexander and Susan Ann (White) Dade, both natives of that same county, the former of whom was the son of a major who served during the Seminole Indian War in Florida in 1820.

Alexander Dade was the owner of a plantation of more than four hundred acres and before the war was a large slaveowner. In 1878 he sold his plantation and with his family came to this county, his eldest sons, Joseph T. and Richard G. Dade, having settled here two years before, and bought the southeast quarter of section 21, township 23, range 6 west, in Reno township, and established a new home. He prospered from the very start of his farming operations here and presently enlarged his holdings by buying three hundred and twenty acres of school land, one hundred and sixty of which was along Salt creek, in the same township, and successfully cultivated both tracts, engaging both in general farming and stock raising. Mr.



Dade's wife died at their home in Reno township on December 27, 1895, at the age of sixty-seven, and he survived her for thirteen years, his death occurring on December 18, 1908, he then being eighty-three years of age. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, as follow: Joseph T., one of the pioneers of Reno county, now deceased, who came to this county in 1876, homesteaded a farm which he successfully operated for years and spent his last days, retired, in Hutchinson; Richard G., who came to this county in 1876 and lives on a farm on Salt creek, in Reno township; Ernest, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Melvin, who died in 1880, at the age of twenty-one years; Alexander, who died on October 9, 1886, at the age of sixteen; Robert, born in September, 1864, a retired farmer, now living at Nickerson, this county; Sallie, born in 1868, who married L. B. McClurg and died at her home in Colwich on December 18, 1911; John S., born in 1869, a real-estate dealer, of Prince Rupert, Canada, and Arthur, a retired farmer, now living in Hutchinson, this county.

Ernest Dade received his education in the public schools of Maryland and grew up on the home plantation, the general reorganization of industrial relations in connection with farm labor thereabout following the Civil War necessitating his active assistance in the labor of the farm. He was twenty-two years old when his parents came to this county with their family, rejoining the elder sons who had come here two years before, and he helped his father break up the prairie sod on the homestead farm, he being the eldest of the children then at home. At the same time he homesteaded a quarter of a section of his own in Bell township, near Langdon, and began developing his own interests. He presently sold that quarter section and bought another quarter section in Lincoln township, which he sold in 1892 and bought the quarter section just west of his father's place in Reno township. After the death of his mother in 1895, his father practically retired from the active duties of the farm and he and his brother then operated the home place. After the death of his father in 1908, Ernest Dade bought the interests of the other heirs in the home place and now owns three hundred and twenty acres in the one tract there, besides a quarter of a section of farm land in Salt Creek township. In 1913 he remodeled the old home, making a modern and commodious residence of the same, at the same time building a substantial cement-block garage. He has prospered and the well-kept appearance of his place and the substantial improvements made on the same bear conclusive testimony to the fact.

On June 12, 1902, Ernest Dade was united in marriage to Clara M.



Singley, who was born in Mason county, Illinois, daughter of William Henry and Catherine Singley, who moved from Illinois to Nebraska in 1878 and farmed in Salina county, that state, until 1900, in which year they came to this county and became successful farmers. Henry Singley is a veteran of the Civil War and he and his wife are now living retired, in substantial comfort, in the city of Hutchinson. To Mr. and Mrs. Dade two children have been born, Dwight Russell, born on March 13, 1903, and Philip, February 16, 1905.

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### LOUIS H. OBEЕ.

Louis H. Obee, ex-mayor of South Hutchinson and one of the best-known and most progressive farmers of Reno township, this county, is a native of Reno county, having been born on the homestead farm, four miles east of Hutchinson, on September 6, 1874, son of Henry and Louisa (Raff) Obee, pioneers of this county, both of whom are now deceased, the former of whom was born in England and the latter in Wilmot, Stark county, Ohio, and who for years were honored and respected residents of Reno county.

Henry Obee, son of William and Alice (Foster) Obee, was sixteen years old when his parents came to America and settled with their family of three sons on a farm near Whitehouse, in Lucas county, Ohio. As a lad he had been apprenticed to a shoemaker in his home town in England and had learned that trade, but never followed it after his arrival in this country, the duties attending the development of the new home farm fully engaging his attention during the years of his young manhood. The trip across the ocean on the vessel which brought the Obee family to this country occupied five months, three heavy storms having been encountered, each of which blew the vessel far out of its course. That was in 1856 and the family lost little time in adjusting themselves to the new conditions which faced them in their Ohio home. William Obee and his wife spent the rest of their lives there and one of their sons, John, brother of the late Henry Obee, is still living there, he now being the sole survivor of the family, the third brother having died when young.

In July, 1862, Henry Obee enlisted in Company D, One Hundredth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for service during the Civil War and served for more than three years under General Thomas in the Army of the Cumberland. Soon after enlisting he was promoted to the rank of orderly sergeant; in 1864 was made second lieutenant and following the Atlanta

campaign was raised to the rank of first lieutenant, which was his rank when mustered out with his regiment in Cleveland in July, 1865. Lieutenant Obee participated in some of the most important engagements of the war and was twice wounded, the more serious of these wounds having been received during the battle of Franklin, when one of his feet was badly shattered. He saw service during the siege of Knoxville and all through the Atlanta campaign. While home on a furlough during the latter period of the war, Henry Obee was married on February 28, 1865, to Louisa Raff, who had moved to Ohio from Pennsylvania, with her parents, when a child and had grown to womanhood in Stark county, where she was married. After his return from the war, Mr. Obee resumed life on the farm and remained in Ohio until in February, 1873, at which time he and his wife and the three children who had been born to them in Ohio came to Kansas and settled in Reno county, taking a homestead claim in Clay township, on what is now known as the Fourth Avenue road, four miles east of Hutchinson. Mr. Obee erected a neat frame house on the homestead farm and lived there until 1880, in which year he moved to a place near Partridge, this county, where he lived for a year, after which he traded for a farm of four hundred and eighty-eight acres in Reno township, where both he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, he dying in 1900, at the age of sixty-three years, his widow surviving him but two years, her death occurring in 1902, at the age of sixty-two. Henry Obee was an extensive farmer and stock-raiser and held a high place in the esteem of his neighbors. He was a Republican and was treasurer of Clay township during the time of his residence there and also had served as a member of the school board. He was a Mason and a member of Joe Hooker Post, Grand Army of the Republic, in both of which organizations he took an earnest and active part. He and his wife were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the next to the youngest, the others being Morton C., a resident of Hutchinson, this county; Alice, who married R. P. Hershberger and lives in Hutchinson and Helen, who married S. B. Dana and also lives in Hutchinson. Louis H. and Helen were born in Reno county.

Louis H. Obee grew up on the homestead farm in Reno township, receiving his education in school district No. 65, and lived in the old home until his marriage in 1896, at which time his parents moved to another part of the farm and he and his wife occupied the old home. After the death of his father, Louis H. Obee bought certain of the interests of the other heirs and now owns two hundred and seventy acres of the old home farm, besides

being the owner of a valuable farm in Ninnescah township. In 1911 he bought a home in South Hutchinson, where he lived four years, but now lives on the old home, directing his extensive farming interests. Mr. Obee is a Republican and for years has taken an active interest in political affairs. Shortly after taking up his residence in South Hutchinson he was elected a member of the town council and later was elected mayor of the city, serving in that executive capacity until he resigned to return to his farm. For some time during his residence on the farm he served as trustee of Reno township and for nine years was a member of the school board in district No. 65. He was census enumerator for his home township in 1910 and in other ways has done well his part in local public affairs. During several campaigns he has served as a member of the Reno county Republican central committee. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that order.

On January 1, 1896, Louis H. Obee was united in marriage to Minnie Miller, who was born in Huron county, Ohio, daughter of Peter and Mary Miller, who came to Reno county in the fall of 1885, settling in Reno township, where they spent the remainder of their lives, and to this union three children have been born, Phyllis, born on June 24, 1897; Isabella, July 16, 1899, and Catherine, September 7, 1901, all of whom now are students in the Hutchinson high school. The Obees have a very pleasant home on the farm and take a prominent part in the social life of the community.

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### J. H. BUETTNER.

J. H. Buettner, a well-known and progressive merchant tailor of Hutchinson, this county, is a native of Missouri, having been born in the city of St. Louis, that state, on September 21, 1860, son of Gottlieb and Mary K. Buettner, both natives of Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, the former born in 1832 and the latter in 1834, both of whom are still living, making their home in Hutchinson, this county.

Gottlieb Buettner grew to manhood in Germany and was a skilled tailor when he came to America. He located in St. Louis and there married, his wife also having located in that city after she was grown. When the Civil War broke out Gottlieb Buettner enlisted in Company C, Third Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Infantry, and served for three months, the term of his enlistment, in the home guards. At the close of this military experience he

resumed his work as a tailor and remained in St. Louis until the fall of 1887, when, at the solicitation of his son, the subject of this sketch, who, meanwhile had located in the tailoring business in McPherson, this state, he came to Kansas and opened a tailoring shop in Hutchinson and ever since has made his home in that city. Though he has long been retired from active business he still is skilled with his needle and at the age of eighty-three still makes a good "hand," as occasion may require, in the shop of his son. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran church. They are the parents of six children, as follow: J. H., the subject of this biographical review; Louisa, who married Paul Nest, a tailor, who is employed in the shop of his brother-in-law at Hutchinson; Martha E., who married Benjamin F. Dunkle and lives at Los Angeles, California; John, a tailor, who works for his brother in Hutchinson; Charles, a jeweler, who lives in St. Louis, and Emma, who married William C. Burch and lives in Los Angeles.

J. H. Buettner received his early education in the German private schools at St. Louis, later attending the public schools, and learned the tailor trade in his father's shop, after which for some time he worked as a journeyman tailor in Chicago, Buffalo and Philadelphia, later returning to St. Louis, where he was associated with his father in business until 1887, in which year he came to Kansas and for eight months was located at Wichita. Recognizing the possibilities of the region then rapidly developing hereabout, he persuaded his father also to come to Kansas and the family located at Hutchinson, the elder Buettner opening a tailor shop at 127½ North Main street, J. H. Buettner at the same time opening a shop at McPherson, where he remained two years, at the end of which time, recognizing the fact that Hutchinson was making a much better growth than McPherson, he moved to Hutchinson and began working for his brother, John, who meanwhile had succeeded his father to the business. In 1897 J. H. Buettner started a shop of his own and has been in business for himself in Hutchinson ever since. In 1913 he erected a two-room brick store building at 412 North Main street in one-half of which he has his tailoring establishment, renting the other half for store purposes. He ever has catered to the better class of trade and has been quite successful in his business.

On May 21, 1890, J. H. Buettner was united in marriage to Elizabeth Buettner, who was born in Germany, daughter of Henry and Kate Buettner, no blood connection of the family of J. H. Buettner, and to this union two children have been born, May K. and Mildred E., both of whom are students in the Hutchinson high school. The Buettners live in a pleasant home at 700 West Twentieth street, erected in 1908.



Mr. Buettner is a Republican and has served for three years as a member of the Hutchinson city council. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the blue lodge at Hutchinson and of the consistory of the Scottish Rite at Wichita. He also is a member of Midian Temple, Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Wichita, and a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Hutchinson, in all of which orders he takes a warm interest.

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### ALBERT S. FOUNTAIN, M. D.

Dr. Albert S. Fountain, of Castleton, this county, one of the best known physicians in Reno county and a resident of this section since pioneer days, is a native of Illinois, having been born on a farm in Sangamon county, that state, on October 31, 1869, son of J. H. and Cassandra (Maxwell) Fountain, the former of whom was born in Madison county, Indiana, on August 16, 1831, and is now living retired at Arlington, this county, where he has made his home since his retirement from farm life in 1900. His wife, who died on February 11, 1888, at her home in this county, was the daughter of Jeremiah Maxwell and wife, who came to this county from Illinois in the early eighties, bought an eighty-acre farm in Lincoln township and lived there until their retirement to Hutchinson, where their last days were spent. J. H. Fountain and wife were active workers in the Methodist church, and he was prominent in the political life of Reno county in earlier days, having served as a member of the board of county commissioners, he having been elected on the Populist ticket about 1890. They were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being Jessie, who married E. Adkins, of Laredo, this state; George, Carl, Homer, Lulu, Leo and Newell.

Albert S. Fountain was about six years of age when he came to Reno county from Illinois with his parents, arriving here on March 16, 1875, and he was reared on the home farm in this county, receiving his elementary education in the public schools. In early life he turned his attention to farming, and later he homesteaded a tract of land in Oklahoma, proving up on his claim in January, 1901. While in Oklahoma, he took an active and interested part in the development of his community, and the town of Fountain, in that state, is named for him.

In 1902, A. S. Fountain decided to make the practice of medicine his profession, and in that year entered the medical college at Keokuk, Iowa,







*A. S. Fountain M D*



MRS. A. S. FOUNTAIN



from which he was graduated in 1906, with a degree of Doctor of Medicine, and immediately afterward opened an office in Castleton, where he has since been very successfully engaged in the active practice of his chosen profession. He has prospered in his practice, as well as in his real estate deals, and is the owner of a half section of valuable land in Dewey county, Oklahoma, besides property in his home town. Doctor Fountain gives a good citizen's attention to civic affairs, and takes an active interest in local politics.

On November 11, 1894, Albert S. Fountain was married to Maude Wolf, who is a native of Ohio, her birth having occurred in that state on February 26, 1871. She is a daughter of Roman and Ruth (Hedrick) Wolf, who came to Kansas in 1873, and settled on a farm about ten miles south of Hutchinson, thus being among the pioneers of the county. Mrs. Fountain's father is now living retired in Canton, Oklahoma. Besides Mrs. Fountain, Mr. and Mrs. Wolf were the parents of two children, William R. and Ralph H.

Doctor Fountain is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of America, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of both these popular organizations. Both he and his wife are earnest members of the Methodist church.

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### JAMES MCKINSTRY.

The late James McKinstry, who for many years was an acknowledged leader among the legal fraternity of this section of the state and one of the most forceful personalities ever connected with the bar of the Reno county courts, was a native Hoosier, born in Putnam county, Indiana, on November 10, 1845, son of Hugh and Cecelia (Lewis) McKinstry. He died at his home in Hutchinson, this county, on March 15, 1904, after many years of activity at the bar, during which time he had done well his part in the development of the social and cultural life of the community, he having been a resident of the county seat town from pioneer days there, having settled in Hutchiusion in 1876, but four years after the townsite had been staked out.

The McKinstrys are of Scottish descent. On account of the ban under which they were placed by reason of their active participation in the revolution led by the Young Pretender, the family immigrated from Scotland to the north of Ireland and in 1760 William McKinstry, grandfather of James McKinstry, came to America and located in the colony of Virginia. He



served as a soldier in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War and at the close of that long struggle emigrated to Hamilton county, Ohio, in the neighborhood of Ft. Washington, now known as Cincinnati, where he developed a pioneer farm, some years later pushing even further along into the wilds, locating in Putnam county, Indiana, in the Greencastle neighborhood, where he established and operated the first nail factory started west of Cincinnati, and there he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1825.

Hugh McKinstry, son of William McKinstry and father of James McKinstry, was one of a family of eleven children born to his parents. He was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, in 1804, later removing with the family to Putnam county, Indiana, where he established himself as a merchant tailor. He married Cecelia Lewis, whose father had immigrated from England to America with his family, locating at New Orleans, where he died of yellow fever in 1810, after which his family made their way north by river and settled in Indiana. In 1854 Hugh McKinstry moved to Coles county, Illinois, in the Charleston neighborhood, where he became a substantial farmer and where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1873. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, of whom James McKinstry was the eighth in order of birth.

James McKinstry was but nine years of age when his parents moved from Indiana to Illinois and the most of his elementary schooling therefore was obtained in the schools of Coles county in the latter state, which he attended during the winter months, assisting with the work of the home farm during the summers. In 1862, when but seventeen years of age, he enlisted in Company C, Sixty-eighth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, attached to the Army of the Cumberland, and participated in various engagements in the Civil War until September, 1863, in which month he was disabled and, upon a physician's certificate of disability, received an honorable discharge and returned home. During the time of his illness at the front a comrade, John P. St. John, took care of him, showing him many kindnesses, a warm friendship between the two growing out of this incident of the war. Long afterward Mr. St. John became governor of Kansas and he and Mr. McKinstry ever remained firm friends and close political associates. In the spring of 1864, having fully recovered from the disability incurred by reason of his illness, James McKinstry re-enlisted for further service in the Union army and for three months was attached to Company I, One Hundred and Thirty-fifth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, engaged in guarding railroads in Missouri against guerilla attack.

At the close of the war, James McKinstry returned to his home in Coles county, Illinois, and in 1866 left the farm and went to Georgetown, Missouri, where he took a two-years course in Forest Grove Academy, after which he entered the Illinois Normal University at Bloomington, where he remained until 1870, in which year he was made the principal of the West Side public schools at Charleston, Illinois, which position he held for three years, in the meantime using his spare moments in reading law, his ambition to become a lawyer receiving warm encouragement on the part of an old lawyer at Charleston who placed his extensive library at the disposal of the ardent student. Mr. McKinstry also served as principal of the schools at Mattoon, Illinois, for one year, at the end of which time he was admitted to the bar, after which he went to St. Louis and engaged there in the practice of his profession, not in the least daunted by the fierce competition he knew would meet him there among the members of the legal fraternity. Mr. McKinstry was a man of commanding presence, six feet in height, of extraordinary physical development, dark hair and blue eyes, features of the true classic mold, high forehead and of fair complexion; a man who attracted attention wherever he went, and it was not long before he had won a place for himself at the St. Louis bar, among his more important connections being that of attorney for the Cairo Short Line railroad. The climate of St. Louis, however, did not prove agreeable to Mr. McKinstry's health and in 1876 he decided on a change of climate, determining upon California as his future place of residence. En route, he stopped at Hutchinson, this county, to make a brief farewell visit with his sister, who shortly before had settled in the new town on the Kansas prairies, and so agreeably impressed was he with the town and its apparent possibilities as a place of residence that he decided to remain there, instead of pursuing his journey to California. Opening a law office in Hutchinson, he resumed the practice of his profession and there he spent the remainder of his life, for more than a quarter of a century being recognized as a leader of the bar.

Mr. McKinstry was a Democrat and from the days of his early manhood had taken an active part in political affairs, though never having been an office seeker. In the three states in which he had lived, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas, he had been a delegate to congressional and state conventions and his counsels in the deliberations of the party managers ever were received with consideration and respect. The only elective office he ever held was that of county attorney for Reno county, a position to which he was elected as a Democrat at a time when the county was strongly Republican, men of

all parties uniting to elect him, and in that office he performed a most excellent public service, succeeding in bringing about better methods in the administration of county affairs. His party nominated him as its candidate for attorney-general of Kansas and while he led a forlorn hope valiantly he was defeated, the state being overwhelmingly Republican. His party also honored him by making him one of Kansas Democracy's "big four" at the national convention of the party at Chicago in 1896, the convention in which William Jennings Bryan made his sensational debut into American politics. As a lawyer, Mr. McKinstry ranked very high in the estimation of his colleagues throughout this section of the state. While during the most of the years of his active practice he had practiced alone, he, at one time and another, had been associated, variously, as a partner, with Mr. Wise, Mr. Scheble, Mr. Fairchild and Mr. Williams.

On October 29, 1879, at Hutchinson, this county, James McKinstry was united in marriage to Martha Hellawell, who was born in Youngstown, Ohio, daughter of Law and Mary (Bird) Hellawell, both natives of England, the former of whom was born in Yorkshire and the latter in Staffordshire. Law Hellawell came to America with his parents and settled in eastern Ohio, where he became a tuyere maker in an old-time blast furnace in the town of Youngstown. Mary Bird had come to America with her parents when thirteen years of age, the family settling in Mercer county, Pennsylvania. She married Law Hellawell in Youngstown and there she and her husband reared their family. In 1878 Mr. Hellawell's health became impaired and the family came to Kansas, seeking the benefit of a change of climate in his behalf, and located in Hutchinson. Shortly afterward Law Hellawell, leaving his family in Hutchinson, went on to Colorado. His condition became so much worse there that he was brought home and was an invalid the rest of his life, his death occurring ten years later. He and his wife were members of the Episcopal church and their children were reared in that faith. There were three of these children, of whom Mrs. McKinstry, widow of James McKinstry, is the eldest, she having a brother, William, a farmer, of Liberal, this state, and a sister, Elizabeth, who married William Pierce, a farmer in the neighborhood of Boise, Idaho.

To James and Martha (Hellawell) McKinstry six children were born, namely: Mary Cecelia, who died at the age of eight months; George C., of Hutchinson, traveling freight agent for the Santa Fe Railroad; Hugh, who died at the age of four years; Phyllis Bird, who died at the age of one month; Dorothy, who is taking a course in nursing at St. Luke's hospital

in New York City, and James, who is connected with the freight office of the Santa Fe Railroad at Hutchinson.

George C. McKinstry, first son and eldest living child of James and Martha (Hellawell) McKinstry, was born in Hutchinson in 1883. He was taking his third-year work in the Hutchinson high school when his father died and he then quit school to go to work. In the fall of 1904 he started to work in the local division offices of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Company and has been connected with that company ever since. He started in at the bottom, working in various capacities in the office until in February, 1909, he was made chief clerk. In the fall of that same year, in October, he was promoted to the position of traveling freight agent, which position he still holds, and is making a great success of railroad work. Mr. McKinstry is unmarried and makes his home with his widowed mother in Hutchinson.

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#### HON. FRANK F. PRIGG.

The Hon. Frank F. Prigg, district judge and for years one of the best-known lawyers at Hutchinson, this county, is a Hoosier, having been born on a farm in Madison county, state of Indiana, June 5, 1853, son of Edward and Harriet (Curry) Prigg, the former of whom was born in Ohio in 1825 and died in 1908 and the latter, born in Indiana, died in 1860, both having spent their last days on their farm in Indiana.

Edward Prigg was the son of William Prigg, of Welsh descent, a tanner at Havre de Grace, Maryland, who performed conspicuous service for the government during the War of 1812, for which he received a considerable grant of land in Ohio, to which he moved and from which he later emigrated to Indiana, entering a tract of "Congress land" in what is now Madison county, that state, where he made his home and became a prominent factor in the development of that region. Edward Prigg was but a lad when his parents emigrated to Indiana and he grew up on the pioneer farm, becoming a man of much force in the community, in addition to being a substantial farmer being also a country physician of wide local note. He and his wife were members of the Christian church and were helpful in all good ways throughout that community. They were the parents of four children, Judge Prigg having two sisters, Mary and Helen, and a brother, Rollin, of Salamanca, New York, a train dispatcher for the Erie Railroad Company.



Frank F. Prigg was bereaved by death of his mother when he was seven years of age. His elementary education was received in the local school situated two miles from his home, in which a three-months course was conducted during the winters, the instruction received there being constantly supplemented by the instruction and admonition of his good father, and when little more than a boy himself he began teaching district school and was so engaged for three winters, at the end of which time he took a teacher's course in the normal school at Valparaiso, Indiana, which was followed by a full scientific course at the Central Normal College at Danville, Indiana, from which he was graduated in 1879, after which for four years he was a teacher in the graded schools. In the meantime he had been studying law under instruction, both at Danville and at Middletown, Indiana, and in 1882 he was admitted to the bar at Danville. The next year, 1883, he was called to Hutchinson, this county, as superintendent of the schools of that city, in which capacity he performed excellent service for two years, at the end of which time, in the spring of 1885, he opened an office and began the practice of law in Hutchinson. In 1896, he formed a partnership for the practice of law with Hon. C. M. Williams, of Hutchinson, which mutually agreeable connection continued until December 1, 1912, at which time the partnership was dissolved by mutual consent. Judge Prigg assumed his present position on the bench of the district court, January 13, 1913, to which he had been elected in the November election preceding. This is the first elective office Judge Prigg has ever held, although earlier in the days of his practice in Hutchinson he had served seven consecutive terms as city attorney, under appointment of the city council. In 1891 he received the nomination of the Republican party as a candidate for the office of judge of the district court of the ninth judicial district, a nomination both unexpected and unsolicited, he not even having been present at the convention which nominated him, and which, after careful consideration, he declined to accept. Judge Prigg is an earnest Republican, who for years has given his thoughtful and studious attention to civic affairs in this section of the state. His election to his present important and highly responsible position came as the unanimous call of both the Republican and Democratic parties, he being elected without opposition.

In 1879, in Indiana, Frank F. Prigg was united in marriage to Minnie Garrard, who died before Mr. Prigg came to Kansas, to which union one child had been born, a daughter, Edna. On April 6, 1884, Mr. Prigg married, secondly, Laura A. Van Winkle, who was born in Henry county, Indi-



ana, daughter of Austin Theodore and Diana (Veach) Van Winkle, both now deceased, the former of whom was born in Ohio the year in which his parents emigrated to Indiana and he became a teacher and farmer in Henry county, that state.

To Frank F. and Laura A. (Van Winkle) Prigg three children have been born, Jesse G., who died in infancy; Lucile, who married Arthur Eichhorn, now deputy county assessor at Miles City, Montana, and has one child, a daughter, Alice Cordelia, and Mayme B., who married W. G. Burris, now a pharmacist at Phoenix, Arizona, and has two children, Sarah Jane and Betty. Judge and Mrs. Prigg have a pretty home at 112 Twelfth avenue, west, erected in 1907, which is locally noted for the charming character of its genial hospitality.

Judge Prigg is a thirty-second degree Mason, member of Blue Lodge No. 140, at Hutchinson, and a member of the chapter and council of that order, also at Hutchinson; of Reno Commandery No. 26, Knights Templar; Wichita Consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, and Midian Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He also is a member of the Elks and of the Knights of Pythias. Judge Prigg owns no stock in any corporation, but he is the owner of considerable tracts of land lying in Clay, Valley and Bell townships, this county, and in Burrton township, in Harvey county, in which he takes much interest, his horticultural experiments particularly attracting him. In the summer of 1915 Judge Prigg raised five hundred and thirty acres of wheat, corn and alfalfa.

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#### HERBERT L. SCALES, M. D.

Dr. Herbert L. Scales, a well-known and successful physician at Hutchinson, this county, is a Hoosier, having been born at Buena Vista, in Gibson county, Indiana, January 14, 1870, son of Dr. William and Emma (Badger) Scales, both natives of that same state, who later came West and located at Sedalia, Missouri, where the elder Doctor Scales died in 1898.

Dr. William Scales was a man of excellent training in his profession and had practiced for years in Indiana before moving to Missouri. When a young man he enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War, but three months later was discharged on a physician's certificate of disability and never saw active service. He then attended the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati and upon receiving his diploma entered upon the prac-

tice of his profession at Boonville, Indiana, and was there engaged in practice for twenty-five years. In 1890 he and his family moved to Sedalia, Missouri, where he died eight years later, at the age of fifty-eight. They were the parents of two children, the subject of this biographical sketch having a sister, Daisy, who married Lester Watrous and lives at Winfield, Kansas.

Herbert L. Scales received his common-school education at Boonville and upon completing the course there entered the Louisville Medical College, from which he was graduated in 1892. He came West with his father and the two were in practice at Sedalia together until the death of the elder Doctor Scales. For two years thereafter Dr. Herbert L. Scales continued to practice alone in Sedalia and then, in 1900, came to Kansas, locating at Mt. Hope, where he remained until 1906, in which year he moved to Hutchinson, where he ever since has been very successfully engaged in the practice of his profession. Doctor Scales makes a specialty of treating the diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat and confines his practice wholly to those organs. Doctor Scales is a member of the American Medical Association, the Kansas State Medical Association and the Reno County Medical Society.

On June 3, 1896, Dr. Herbert L. Scales was united in marriage to Hortense McVey, a native of Missouri, and to this union two children have been born, Marjorie, born in 1897, a graduate of the Hutchinson high school, and William, 1900, a student in the high school. The Doctor and his family have a very pleasant home at 506 A avenue, east, and take an interested part in the various social and cultural activities of the city.

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#### CAPT. GEORGE T. COFFMAN.

Capt. George T. Coffman, an honored veteran of the Civil War and a substantial retired farmer of Hayes township, this county, now living quietly and comfortably in his pleasant home in the delightful village of Sylvia, is a native-born Hoosier, having been born on a farm in Marion county, Indiana, May 5, 1842, son of Barton and Mary (White) Coffman, both natives of Granger county, Tennessee, who moved to Indiana in the late thirties, settling in Marion county, in the neighborhood of Indianapolis, where they establish their home on a farm and there spent the remainder of their lives, the former dying at the age of seventy-five and the latter at the age of eighty-six. Barton Coffman and wife were earnest members of



CAPT. AND MRS. GEORGE T. COFFMAN.





the Baptist church and their children were reared in that faith. There were eight of these children, four sons and four daughters, of whom the subject of this sketch was next to the youngest.

George T. Coffman was reared on the home farm near Indianapolis, his youth being devoted to attendance at the local schools and to such assistance as he was able to give his father in the labors on the farm. In September, 1862, he then being twenty years of age, he enlisted as a private in Company K, Sixty-third Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for service during the Civil War. He was elected first company clerk and shortly thereafter was elevated to the rank of sergeant. In 1863 he was commissioned captain of Company K, which rank he held until the regiment was mustered out at the close of the war. During his military service Captain Coffman participated in such notable engagements as the battles of Ft. Henry, Ft. Donelson, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain and the siege and capture of Nashville. The Sixty-third Indiana was attached to Sherman's army and after the siege of Nashville was transported to Washington D. C., and thence to Ft. Fisher, North Carolina, and performed service in that state until the close of the war. During the battle of Kenesaw Mountain Captain Coffman was severely wounded in his arm.

At the close of the war Captain Coffman returned to his home in Indiana, where he remained a short time, after which he went to Hancock county, Illinois, where he bought a farm and where, August 27, 1866, he was united in marriage to Deborah Tracy, who was born in that state, and who died on October 20, 1880, leaving one child, a daughter, Luella, who married Schuyler George and died at her home in Dodge City, this state, in 1900. On April 13, 1881, Captain Coffman married, secondly, Mrs. Anna (George) Huff, also a native of Illinois, and in 1883 sold his farm in Illinois and came to Kansas, locating in Shawnee county, where he lived on a rented farm for two years, at the end of which time, in 1885, he came to Reno county, having the year before bought a farm of two hundred and forty-eight acres in Hayes township, and there made his home until 1902, in which year he and his wife retired from the farm and moved to Sylvia, where they since have made their home and where they are very pleasantly situated, enjoying many evidences of the esteem in which they are held by the entire community. Captain Coffman not only was a good farmer, but he soon became widely known as an extensive stock raiser and his operations prospered from the start. In addition to his considerable



land holdings in this county, Captain Coffman also is the owner of a fine farm in Oklahoma and is regarded as quite well-to-do.

Captain and Mrs. Coffman are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Sylvia and long have been active in all good works thereabout. Captain Coffman is a Republican and has served his township as school treasurer. He is a member of the Masonic lodge and of the lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Sylvia and in the affairs of both of these popular organizations takes a warm interest. Captain Coffman is a fine old gentleman, now living the quiet, reminiscent life of a retired soldier, modestly conscious that his work in the world has been well done, and he enjoys the full confidence and respect of the entire neighborhood.

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#### HUNTER J. DUVALL, M. D.

Coming to this county in 1892, Dr. Hunter J. Duvall located in Abbyville, where he was engaged in the practice of his profession for five years. He then moved to this city, establishing himself in the hearts of the people of the city and the adjacent country as only a faithful physician can, and has long been recognized as one of the leading physicians in this part of the state.

Hunter J. Duvall was born in picturesque Brown county, Indiana, three miles from the town of Nashville, on March 29, 1867, son of William R. and Sarah E. (Carter) Duvall, both of whom were born in Belmont county, Ohio, the former in July, 1844, and the latter in 1847, and both of whom died in Blackwell, Oklahoma, the former on March 26, 1904, and the latter on February 2, 1914.

William R. Duvall was the son of Jason Duvall, born in Pennsylvania in 1812, who was one of the early settlers of Belmont county, Ohio, where he became a person of prominence and means, and it was on the paternal farm in that county that William R. Duvall spent his youth. Evincing unusual aptitude for his studies he was sent to Indiana State University at Bloomington at the age of seventeen and it was while engaged in his first-year work in that institution that he enlisted in Company H, Eighty-second Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for service during the Civil War, and in this regiment he served until the close of the war, participating in some of the most difficult campaigns of the war. At the close of his military service, William R. Duvall returned to Bloomington and re-entered college.

Before completing the course he married and, in order to secure funds with which to pay for his continued college work, began teaching school and was thus engaged for several years, alternating his labors in the school room with his work in the college, meanwhile making his home in Brown county, where the most of his teaching experience was gained. Upon completing his college course, during which he had paid special attention to civil engineering, Mr. Duvall moved to a farm in Illinois and lived there until 1879, in which year he came to Kansas and bought a farm in McPherson county, which he operated quite successfully. In 1888 he was elected county surveyor of McPherson county and for ten years served the people of that county most usefully in that office. In 1898 he retired from office and moved to Blackwell, Oklahoma, where he died in 1904. His widow survived him ten years, her death occurring in 1914. William R. Duvall was an ardent Republican and both he and his wife were earnest members of the Christian church, in which faith their children were reared. Of these children, four in number, the youngest of whom died in 1915, the subject of this biographical sketch is the eldest. His brother, Ambrose E. Duvall, also is a resident of Hutchinson, and his sister, Florence, who married Charles Millikin, lives at Wichita, this state.

Hunter J. Duvall was eleven years of age when his parents came to Kansas and his youthful education therefore was continued in the schools of McPherson county, being rounded out by three years in the high school at McPherson, after which he entered the University of Kansas, which he attended for three years, 1886-7-8. He then entered Kansas City Medical College and between his junior and senior years practiced medicine for one year, parts of 1892 and 1893, after which he resumed his college work and was graduated in 1894. Doctor Duvall then served for one year as an interne in the Kansas City general hospital, after which he went to Abbyville and was there engaged in the practice of his profession for two years more, or until 1897, in which year he located in Hutchinson, where he ever since has resided and where he has become widely known as an excellent physician. Doctor Duvall is chief surgeon for the Anthony & Northern Railroad and from the time of the organization of the Stewart Hospital Association at Hutchinson he has been a director of that beneficent institution. He is a member of the Kansas State Medical Society and of the Reno County Medical Society and in the affairs of both takes an interested part.

On May 27, 1891, Hunter J. Duvall was united in marriage to Amy Norlin, who was born in Cloud county, this state, and to this union three

children have been born, Eugene, who owns a ranch in Colorado; Alice, who is a student in the University of Kansas, and Hunter J., Jr., who is a student in the Hutchinson high school. Doctor and Mrs. Duvall have a very pleasant home at 531 Sherman avenue, east, in Hutchinson, and take their proper place in the social and cultural life of the city. Doctor Duvall is a member of the Masons and of the Modern Woodmen, in both of which orders he is warmly interested.

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### WILLIAM J. SPONSLER.

William J. Sponsler, a well-known retired farmer, now living at Hutchinson, and one of the real pioneers of Reno county, is a native of Pennsylvania, having been born in Perry county, that state, June 12, 1840, son of Lewis and Maria (Wolfe) Sponsler, the former of whom also was a native of that same county, son of Lewis Sponsler, Sr., who was said to have been a descendant of a French army captain who settled in Philadelphia at the close of the French and Indian War, and there established his home.

Lewis Sponsler, the second, was born on October 3, 1825, and in his youth learned the trade of a wagon-maker. In 1848, in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, he married Maria Wolfe, who was born in Lancaster county, that state, September 22, 1827, daughter of Christian and Sarah (Stoner) Wolfe, the former of whom was the son of Henry Wolfe, a Revolutionary soldier. In 1856 Lewis Sponsler and his family moved from Pennsylvania to Illinois, locating at Keithsburg, in Mercer county, that state, where for four years he was engaged as a carpenter. He then bought a farm seven miles east of that place and there made his home until 1881, in which year he retired from the farm and moved to Aledo, in the same county, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring in 1893, and his wife's in 1913. They were the parents of seven children, of whom three came to Reno county, Kansas, the subject of this review, and his brother, Alfred L. Sponsler, who still lives at Hutchinson, and a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume, and John L. Sponsler, a former well-known newspaper man of Hutchinson, now a prominent attorney at Muskogee, Oklahoma.

William J. Sponsler was about six years old when his parents moved to Illinois, and he grew up on the farm there, remaining at home until he was twenty-four years of age; as the eldest son being of much assistance in the labors of developing the home place. In March, 1874, he and W. T.

Hare, now of Nickerson, chartered a railroad car and brought to this county a stand of live stock, farming implements and such chattels as would be required in making a start as farmers in a new country. Mr. Sponsler homesteaded a tract of land in Medford township, which he sold in the fall of 1875, and following his marriage in December of that year, established his home on a quarter section owned by his wife in Reno township. To this they later added until they were the owners of a half section of fine land in that township, which they still own, and which Mr. Sponsler has very successfully farmed ever since, also owning a quarter section of land in Salt Creek township. Mr. Sponsler has served as clerk, assessor and trustee of Reno township at various times, ever taking an active interest in local political affairs. In June, 1915, he retired from the active life of the farm and moved to Hutchinson, where he and his family are now very pleasantly situated at 123 First avenue, east.

On December 15, 1875, William J. Sponsler was married to Mary Hodgson, who was born in Massachusetts, daughter of Hetherington and Rebecca (Smithson) Hodgson, both natives of England, who were married in their native land and had three children when they came to the United States, about 1846, locating in Massachusetts, and ten years later removing to Steele county, Minnesota. In 1871 four of their children, Harry, Thomas, Jennie and Mary, came to Kansas and located in Reno county, securing all of section 20, in Reno township, which they homesteaded, thus being among the very earliest settlers in this section of Kansas, C. C. Hutchinson being engaged on the construction of the first house in the city which bears his name at the time of their arrival here.

Mrs. Sponsler may properly claim to be one of the very few women, if not the only woman, now living in this county who shot a buffalo. Not long after her arrival here she became a member of a hunting party that went out after buffalo, and she shot one of the huge animals in the vicinity of what is now Langdon township. Her brothers and the sister who accompanied her to this county in 1871 all took an active part in the early affairs of the county. Harry Hodgson served as clerk of the district court of Reno county for three terms, and became a prosperous cattleman here and in the Indian Territory, and later for many years in Montana, where he was killed in a railway accident at Youngspoint, September 25, 1908. Thomas Hodgson is now a practicing physician at Middleboro, Massachusetts. Jennie Hodgson was the first school teacher in Hutchinson, teaching the first school on Main street, and for several years teaching in the county schools of Reno county. She died on October 20, 1902. William Hodgson, a veteran of



the Civil War, another brother, came here in 1873, and became a substantial farmer in Reno township, where he is still living. Sarah Hodgson, another sister, came to Reno county on a visit to her brothers and sisters and died here, April 19, 1878. Mrs. Sponsler herself taught school in this county and in the state of Minnesota.

William J. Sponsler and wife are the parents of four children: Ethel, who is the wife of Frank Myers, a farmer of Salt Creek township; Harold, known among his friends as "Hal," who is operating the home farm in Reno township; Anna and Gertrude, who are living with their parents. Mr. Sponsler is a member of the Universalist church, and takes an active interest in the affairs of the same.

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#### ROBERT F. McDERMED.

One of the most active dealers in real estate in this county is Robert F. McDermid, of Hutchinson, who arrived in that city in 1887, then a young man of about twenty-four, and who has spent practically all of his time since then in Hutchinson, becoming one of the leading factors in the development of the city.

Robert F. McDermid was born in Roanoke county, Virginia, on January 28, 1863, son of Oliver H. P. and "Mollie," or Mary Frances (Barnes) McDermid, the former of whom, born in Roanoke county, Virginia, in 1833, died in Arkansas in 1886, and the latter, born at Salem, in Roanoke county, Virginia, in 1835, died at her home in Hutchinson, this county, on January 6, 1914. Oliver H. P. McDermid was a son of William McDermid and wife, the former of Scottish descent and the latter of English descent. William McDermid was one of the wealthiest and most influential men in the Shenandoah valley, the owner of an estate of more than two thousand acres, a prominent attorney, who for years served as county attorney for Roanoke county. "Mollie" Barnes also was a member of one of the most prominent families in the Shenandoah valley, her father for years having held a seat in the United States Senate, as senator from the state of Virginia, and was one of the most influential figures in governmental circles in his day.

Reared on the paternal estate, Oliver H. P. McDermid was an apt pupil at school and became a school teacher, serving thus for several years. In 1857 he married and made a wedding trip to Kansas. Attracted by the situation at LeCompton, he settled there and he and his brother-in-law, "Jack,"



or John A., Barnes, took over the Southern hotel at that place and for a time operated the same very successfully, at the same time engaging in trade with the Indians, their profits running from two hundred to three hundred dollars a day. At that time John Brown, of Osawatomic, was running the opposition hotel at Lecompton. Those were the days of turmoil and doubt throughout that section, Kansas at that time being "bleeding Kansas," indeed, and, at the earnest solicitation of his father, who did not like the idea of his son being exposed to the hazard of border strife, Oliver McDermied gave up his growing interests in Kansas and returned to Virginia, where he engaged in mercantile business in Richmond, being the proprietor of a large store there at the time the Civil War broke out. He enlisted in the service of the Confederate states, a member of Gen. Jubal Early's dashing cavalry, and for more than three years was attached to the army of General Lee, during which time he was taken prisoner by the Federal forces and was confined in the Union prison at Ft. Delaware. At the close of the war Oliver McDermied found himself practically bankrupt. After an ineffectual struggle to recoup his fallen fortunes in Richmond, he, in 1871, accompanied by "Jack" Barnes, his brother-in-law, moved his family to Arkansas, where, in Prairie county, they took over forty-five hundred acres of land and engaged in raising cotton on a large scale, meeting, however, with only indifferent success. The climate was inimical and two of his daughters died there of the fever that then was prevalent throughout that section. That estate was left behind, following Oliver McDermied's death in 1886, and the next year, in May, 1887, the widow McDermied and her six boys came to this county, locating at Hutchinson, where she spent the remainder of her life, her death occurring in 1914.

To Oliver H. P. and Mary F. (Barnes) McDermied eight children were born, namely: William E., who lives at Los Angeles, California; John Andrew, who lives on a farm in this county; Robert F., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Luton, a well-known grocer in Hutchinson, this county; Frank M., a Hutchinson capitalist, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; J. Emery, who lives at 429 A avenue, west, Hutchinson, this county, and two daughters, who died during the time of the family's residence in Arkansas.

Following his arrival in Hutchinson in 1887, Robert F. McDermied was employed at the salt works for two or three years, at the end of which time, in 1890, he and his brothers, Frank and Emery, opened a grocery store at 213 South Main street. At the end of two years thus connected Mr.

McDermied sold his interest in that store and opened a grocery store at 15 South Main street, where he was engaged in business until 1902, in which year he sold out and went to Los Angeles, where he bought a furniture store. He retained that connection, however, but eight months, at the end of which time he returned to Hutchinson and bought the tract of thirty acres on which the town of Yoder is now situated, built the first residence there, established a creamery and elevator on the site and successfully promoted the sale of lots, at the same time engaging in the grain business. In 1903 he returned to Hutchinson and opened another grocery store in South Main street, which he operated until 1906, in which year he sold it and engaged in the real-estate and insurance business, in which he is still engaged.

On August 26, 1895, Robert F. McDermied was united in marriage to Anna B. McCullough, who was born at Melvin, in Hot Springs county, Arkansas, daughter of Hugh McCullough, first clerk of that county, a position which he held until his death in 1901, and to this union three children have been born, Robert, born on March 3, 1897; Albert Cecil, in August, 1902, and Ruby, July 29, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. McDermied are members of the Baptist church, in which Mr. McDermied is one of the office bearers.

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### J. B. CLOTHIER.

J. B. Clothier, one of the best-known and most substantial pioneer farmers of Reno county, proprietor of eight hundred acres of fine land in South Haynes township, now living practically retired from the active labors of the farm by reason of an unfortunate affliction which left him almost blind some time ago, is a native of Wisconsin, but has been a resident of Reno county since 1874 and has thus been a witness to and a participant in the wonderful development that has marked this section of the state within the past generation. Though now shut out from a view of the scenes which long were so familiar to him, Mr. Clothier continues to retain a most active interest in affairs and his mind is as alert and progressive as ever. He was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, August 13, 1848, son of Chauncey and Mary Jane (Hall) Clothier, whose last days were spent in this county, they having become pioneers of Reno county in 1874.

Chauncey Clothier was born on a farm in the state of New York, December 25, 1818, son of Artemas Clothier, a native of that same state, whose whole life was spent there, and he grew to manhood there, after



J. B. CLOTHIER AND FAMILY.





which he went to Illinois, where he married Priscilla Sherman, who died, leaving two sons, Nelson W. and Newton S. To Chauncey Clothier's union with Mary Jane Hall thirteen children were born, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch is the eldest, the others being Samantha, Millard, Milton, Sarah E., Ida M., Ernest, Lucy, Albert C., Marion E., Wilford E., Nina Viola and Eddie Lula. From Illinois, Chauncey Clothier moved to Wisconsin, settling in Rock county, but after awhile moved over into Iowa and after a residence of some years in that state moved down into Missouri, settling on a farm in Bates county, where he remained until 1874, in which year he came to Kansas with his family and settled on a homestead in the northwest quarter of section 18 of what is now South Hayes township, this county, where he spent the rest of his life, becoming one of the leading pioneers of that section and the owner of six hundred and forty acres of land. He died in April, 1897, and the widow survived him for more than ten years, her death occurring on January 30, 1908. They were earnest members of the Christian church and for years Mr. Clothier had been a preacher in that denomination, a leader in all good works in his neighborhood.

J. B. Clothier was reared on a farm and from boyhood was a valuable assistant to his father in the latter's farming operations. When sixteen years old, on July 1, 1864, he enlisted in the Eighth Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and saw active service in the latter part of the Civil War. At the siege of Spanish Fort, near Mobile, Alabama, he was under fire for thirteen days. Mr. Clothier was honorably discharged from the army on May 26, 1866. While living in Bates county, Missouri, he married, December 24, 1868, Anna Elizabeth Marshall, who was born in Jefferson county, Kentucky, in the vicinity of Louisville, in 1851, daughter of Jonathan and Eliza A. (Brown) Marshall, both natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was a cabinet-maker, but later in life became a farmer and moved to Bates county, Missouri, thence to Cass county, same state, where both he and his wife died in April, 1885. They were the parents of two daughters, Mrs. Clothier having a sister, Margaret A. Jonathan Marshall, who was a son of William H. Marshall, had been twice married, his first wife, Agnes Kidd, having borne him four children, John, Charlotte, Henry and Jonathan.

For five or six years after his marriage Mr. Clothier continued to make his home in Bates county, Missouri, and then, in 1874, came to Kansas, locating in this county at the same time his father homesteaded here. He homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 8 in what is now South Hayes township and there established his home and has lived there ever since, for



many years having been regarded as one of the most substantial and influential residents of that community. Mr. Clothier was on the ground here during the great grasshopper visitation of 1874 and was compelled to face other hardships in the way of drouth, hot winds and prairie fires in the early days, not infrequently being compelled to go out on the plains and gather up buffalo bones to haul to the market for a bit of ready money, but he presently began to prosper and gradually added to his holdings until now he is the owner of five quarter sections, a valuable farm of eight hundred acres, well improved and under profitable cultivation. From the very beginning of his residence in this county, Mr. Clothier has ever taken an active interest in civic affairs and has been a member of the school board ever since his school district was organized. He is a Republican and for three terms served as trustee of his home township. He also has served as justice of the peace in and for that township and in other ways has contributed to the public service.

When Mr. and Mrs. Clothier came to Reno county they had four children and thirteen others were born to them on the homestead place, these seventeen children being as follow. Clarence W., Charles M., Sarah Agnes, Wiley A., U. V., Bert M., Benjamin L., Gertrude (deceased), Cecil M., Melvia, Elbert M. and Delbort (twins), Grace F., James E., Perry O., and two who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Clothier are earnest members of the Christian church and leaders in local good works.

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#### WILBUR B. EASTMAN.

Wilbur B. Eastman, a well-known farmer of the Hutchinson neighborhood, in Reno township, this county, is a native of Vermont, who was born in the town of Underhill, in that state, in October, 1851, son of Amos and Julia (Crissy) Eastman, both natives of the Green Mountain state, farming people and earnest members of the Congregational church, to whom were born five children, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch, the last in order of birth, is the only survivor, the others having been as follow: Elizabeth, who married Doctor Kingsbury and died in Holbrook, Massachusetts; George, who died at his home in this county in 1883; Albert, a physician, who died in Massachusetts in 1885, and Jennie, who died unmarried in Vermont.

The mother of the above-named children died when her last born was

two years old and Amos Eastman then married, secondly, Sophronia Crissy, his deceased wife's half-sister, who is still living, and to this second union were born five children, all of whom are still living.

Wilbur B. Eastman received his elementary education in the public schools of his home in Vermont, supplementing the same by a three-years' course in an academy there and at the age of eighteen went to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where for some time he was engaged in canvassing, under the direction of his elder brother, George. He then returned East and for four years was engaged as a salesman at Lynn, Massachusetts. While living there, in 1874, he married Carrie Choate, who was born there, and shortly afterward went to Chicago, where he engaged in the mercantile business in partnership with his brother, George, the firm doing a fine business. In 1876 Mr. Eastman's wife died, leaving one child, a daughter, Grace, who is now a well-known teacher in the schools of Hutchinson, this county. In 1882 George Eastman's health failed and he and his family left Chicago and came to this county, settling on a farm in Reno township, southwest of Hutchinson, where Mr. Eastman sought recuperation in a change of occupation and climate. In this expectation he was disappointed, however, his health gradually continuing to fail, and the next year, in 1883, Wilbur B. Eastman sold the store in Chicago and came to this county in order to be of assistance to his invalid brother. George Eastman died soon thereafter and his brother took charge of the farm of one hundred and forty acres, on behalf of his widow. In 1884 he erected a new house on the farm and gradually brought the place up to a high state of cultivation, continuing to make his home there. In 1905 Mr. Eastman married his deceased brother's widow, who was born Louisa Foster, at Whitehouse, Ohio, and who, by her first marriage, is the mother of two children, Byron A., a well-known farmer of this county, at present the trustee of Reno township, and Mrs. Linnie Moore, who lives on a farm adjoining the Eastman place, in Reno township. Mr. and Mrs. Eastman are members of the Presbyterian church and for years have been regarded as among the leaders in all good works in their neighborhood. They have a very pleasant home on their well-kept farm and live in comfort.

Mr. Eastman is a Republican and ever since coming to Reno county has displayed his interest in political affairs. In 1890 he was elected trustee of Reno township and performed excellent service in that capacity. He has ever taken a warm interest in educational affairs and for fourteen years served as school director in his district, in many ways laboring to advance the standards of education thereabout.

## OVERTON HICKMAN.

Overton Hickman, treasurer of Reno county, is a native of West Virginia, having been born in the town of Fayetteville, that state, on October 23, 1874, son of John and Mary (Huddleston) Hickman, the former of whom, born in old Virginia, March 15, 1821, died in January, 1906, and the latter, born in that section of Virginia known, since the war period, as West Virginia, April 27, 1844, died on March 15, 1901, both having spent their last days in this county.

John Hickman was the son of William Hickman, a Virginian, who was the son of an Englishman who came to America in 1755 and later fought in behalf of the colonies during the Revolutionary War, William Hickman, in his generation, also having fought against England, during the War of 1812. John Hickman was a merchant and hotel keeper at Fayetteville. In 1882 he and his wife and three children came to Kansas, settling in Miami county, where they lived for two years, at the end of which time, in 1884, they came to Reno county and bought a quarter of a section of land in Medford township, where they established a permanent home, Mr. Hickman and his wife spending the remainder of their lives there. They were Baptists in their religious persuasion and Mr. Hickman was a Democrat in his political belief and a Mason in his fraternal affiliations. He and his wife were the parents of three children, the subject of this sketch, who was the second born, having two sisters, Anna, wife of Minor A. Chappel, a retired farmer now living in Hutchinson, this county, and Sarah, who married Frank Hamilton and is also a resident of Hutchinson.

Overton Hickman was eight years of age when his parents moved to this state and was ten when they came to Reno county, consequently his youth and early manhood was spent on the farm in Medford township, where he remained until his marriage in 1901. Some time later he bought a farm in that same township, on which he made his home until 1909, in which year he moved to Hutchinson, the county seat, where he became a salesman for the International Harvester Company. In 1911 he was appointed deputy sheriff of Reno county, in which capacity he served for a year and in 1912 he engaged in the automobile business, he and his partner having the agency for the "Overland" car in this section.

Ever since the days of his early manhood, Overton Hickman had given thoughtful attention to political affairs in Reno county and for years served as precinct committeeman in behalf of the Democratic party. During his

residence in Medford township he had served as township clerk and also had served the public to advantage as a member of the school board, during which latter incumbency he helped to organize and inaugurate the first consolidated graded school established in Reno county. In 1912 the Democrats of Reno county made him their nominee for the office of county treasurer and he was elected in the ensuing election in the fall of that year. So satisfactory did his services in this important office prove, that he received a second nomination in 1914 and was again elected and is now serving his second term in that office, making one of the most popular officials in the court house.

On June 16, 1901, Overton Hickman was united in marriage to Emma (Hodges) Wyatt, a widow, who died on August 29, 1909, leaving two children, Clarice, born on August 30, 1903, and Norena, August 18, 1905, and on February 15, 1911, Mr. Overton married, secondly, Anne (Love) Chenoweth, who was born in the state of Mississippi, daughter of William A. Love, now a well-known farmer of Westminster township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Hickman are members of the Congregational church and take an active interest in all good works hereabout. Mr. Hickman is a member of the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America, in the affairs of which orders he takes a warm interest. He is the owner of a quarter of a section of good land in McPherson county, besides his interests in this county, and is considered quite well circumstanced.

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### BEN S. HOAGLAND.

Ben S. Hoagland, whose valuable connection with the musical and cultural life of this county has been established for years and who is also one of the best-known real-estate dealers and realty promoters in the city of Hutchinson, in which business he has been engaged for years, is a native of Illinois, having been born in McDonough county, that state, in the house originally built for and for a time occupied by Joseph Smith, the Mormon leader, his father having bought the house after the incensed neighbors of the Smith colony had driven those religionists over to Nauvoo. This house, which was the administration house of the original Mormon colony, was built in the old Mormon style, with a wide hall through the center and large, high-ceiled rooms on either side of the same. Mr. Hoagland's parents both were Kentuckians, his father, O. M. Hoagland, having emigrated from that state to Illinois, locating in Schuyler county, in 1828, and his mother, who,



before her marriage was Mary A. Stapp, having emigrated with her parents to McDonough county in 1832, both having been among the earliest settlers of the respective communities in which they grew to maturity. In the biographical sketch relating to Martin Hoagland, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is set out in greater detail further particulars of the genealogy of the Hoagland family, to which the reader is respectfully referred in this connection.

Ben S. Hoagland was reared on the paternal farm in Illinois, his elementary education being received in the local schools of that neighborhood. At eighteen years of age he began teaching school and for several years was thus engaged in that vicinity. Even as a boy he had displayed an unusual aptitude for music and was the possessor of a voice of much strength and rare quality, and from the beginning of his teaching career made much of the instructions in music, with particular reference to voice culture. As a boy he had been a member of a quartet, singing second tenor, and after his voice had changed became a basso of much power. Mr. Hoagland recalls very vividly the singing of the quartet to which he was attached upon the occasion of the departure of the first troops from his neighborhood for service in the Union army during the Civil War, though he did not then understand the full seriousness of the situation. Upon the return of these soldiers at the close of the war, the missing places in the ranks of the returning veterans were noted and the pathos of the songs and the general solemnity, mingled with rejoicing, of the occasion filled every eye with tears. In addition to his work in the school room, Mr. Hoagland also taught singing schools throughout the surrounding country, his nights being thus employed, and he became one of the most familiar personages in that section of the state. On Sundays his fine voice would find exercise in directing the choir in the Presbyterian church. In 1871 Mr. Hoagland was married and in 1874 he came to Kansas, locating at Emporia, where he was engaged to teach singing in the normal school there and also in the public schools, and for a year was thus engaged, working about eighteen hours a day, which strain so impaired his health that his physician advised him to get out of doors. In pursuance of these instructions he came to Reno county in 1875 with the expectation of buying a farm here, near the place of his brother, Martin Hoagland, who had located here but a short time before. At Hutchinson, then a village of but a few straggling houses, Mr. Hoagland fell in with C. C. Hutchinson, founder of the town, who strongly urged him to invest in a tract of eighty acres near the town site, lying in the corner south of what is now Fourth street and east of Lorraine. On that tract Mr. Hoagland



erected a brick house and established a new home for himself and wife. At that time Joe Talbott, who is still living in Hutchinson, was the only drayman in the town and he declined to haul Mr. Hoagland's lumber out to his place, declaring that it was too far away from town, the nearest house in the then village being more than half a mile away.

Following his arrival in Hutchinson and awaiting the development of his promising town-lot section, Mr. Hoagland taught music and held singing school of nights at the McGuire school house in the country, which became the social center of the new community. Presently Mr. Hoagland was a teacher in the Hutchinson schools, a position he held for three years, during which time the first graduation exercises in the Hutchinson schools were held. He then began teaching in the schools of the county and for ten years served as a teacher in the county teacher's institute, at the end of which time he was called to Iola, where for two years he taught music in the public schools of that place, after which, for several years, he traveled over the states of Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa, introducing school music. By this time he recognized that the time was ripe for the development of his town-lot tract at Hutchinson and in 1886 he actively entered the Hutchinson real-estate field, in which he ever since has been a conspicuous figure. In the way of development he gradually built thirty-five houses on his tract, to which the town was rapidly advancing by that time, which he readily sold on installments, and has since promoted two additions to the city out of his land. In 1893 he joined the Hutchinson Commercial Club and for three years was secretary of that useful organization.

On September 6, 1871, in McDonough county, Illinois, Ben S. Hoagland was united in marriage to Hattie E. Rae, who was born near Marietta, Noble county, Ohio, whose father, a well-to-do merchant and stockman, was killed in 1861 in a railway accident, following which his widow and her daughter settled in Illinois, the widowed mother years later dying in the home of the Hoaglands in Hutchinson. To Mr. and Mrs. Hoagland one child has been born, a son, Rea S., who, after his graduation from the Hutchinson high school in 1898, entered Kansas City Dental College, from which he was graduated in 1902, following which he established an office in Hutchinson and is there very successfully engaged in the practice of his profession. Rea S. Hoagland married Lila R. Gowdy and has three children, George Benjamin, Ruth A. and Lila. For some years Mrs. Ben S. Hoagland has been an invalid and Mr. Hoagland has devoted much time to her care. Mr. and Mrs. Hoagland are members of the Presbyterian church, with which he has

been connected for more than fifty years, and of which he has been a deacon for years.

Mr. Hoagland is a Republican and for several years was a member of the city school board and also a member of the county examining board. For forty-four years he has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in the affairs of which popular order he ever has taken an active interest. It is as a promoter of high-grade music in Hutchinson that Mr. Hoagland is best known in this community and his unceasing endeavors for many years in that connection have had a far-reaching effect upon the musical and cultural life of the community. He was the main agency in organizing and maintaining the Musical Jubilee which for years endeavored once a year to bring some of the best musical talent in the world to Hutchinson.

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### OSCAR R. SLAVENS.

Oscar R. Slavens, owner and manager of the stockyards at Hutchinson, operated under the name of the Union Stockyards Company, of which he is president, and one of the best-known cattlemen in the entire cattle country, is a native Virginian, born in Pocahontas county, that state, now a part of West Virginia, May 25, 1860, son of John Randolph and Margaret Priscilla (Wooddell) Slavens, the former of whom was a son of Jacob G. Slavens, whose father, John Slaven, was of Scotch-Irish descent and settled at Meadowdale, Highland county, Virginia, in 1774, and built the little brick Presbyterian church which still stands and where he is buried.. At one time Jacob G. Slavens was the owner of the most extensive plantation and the greatest number of slaves of any man in Virginia. John Randolph Slavens inherited a portion of the great ancestral estate in Pocahontas county and there spent all his life, a prosperous farmer and stock raiser, having several farms in the blue grass country. He died in 1889, in his fifty-ninth year, and his widow survived for ten years, her death occurring in 1898, she being sixty-seven years of age at the time of her death. They were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch was the eldest, the others being Guy, who died in Kansas; Josephine, who married Squire L. Brown, who for twenty-one years was clerk of his home county in West Virginia; Alice, who married Hon. L. M. McClinick, an attorney and former member of the West Virginia Legislature, and three sons who died in early youth.



*Alvan R. Stevens*



Oscar R. Slavens was reared on the home farm, receiving his schooling in the schools of his home neighborhood, and remained on the home place, very materially assisting in the conduct of the affairs of the same, and for a time teaching school, until October 26, 1883, at which time he left home and came West. After prosecuting a bit in Nebraska, Iowa and Texas, he located in Ottawa county, Kansas, July 9, 1885, and there connected with J. W. L. Slavens Company, of Kansas City, that being the first packing company of Kansas City, and then entered the cattle business himself and remained for six years, at the end of which time he for six years was successfully engaged in farming, at the same time paying considerable attention to cattle raising. He then determined to enlarge his cattle interests and went into the business on a large scale, in Texas, Colorado and Indian Territory, in partnership with C. W. Gates and W. R. Patterson, at one time having as many as thirty-two thousand head of cattle. In the meantime he had moved to Kansas City and resided there three years and then moved to Hutchinson, for during his travels over the cattle country no section carried to Mr. Slaven's heart a stronger appeal than that section comprised in Reno county and no city seemed to him so desirable as a place of residence as did Hutchinson, therefore in 1899 he moved to Hutchinson and has ever since made his home in that city. In 1902 he bought the Hutchinson stock yards and has ever since owned and operated the same. He also continues extensively engaged in the cattle-breeding business on his large ranch in Colorado, making a specialty of Herefords. There is hardly a town in the whole cattle country where Mr. Slavens is not known and where he has not friends. He has bought cattle all over northern Mexico, western Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska and Kansas and is one of the best-known cattlemen in the business. Mr. Slaven is a Democrat, but has never taken an active part in political affairs; that is, not as an aspirant for public office, his own extensive affairs having engrossed his attention to the exclusion of other matters.

On November 20, 1888, Oscar R. Slavens was united in marriage to Etta Kuhn, who was born in Youngstown, Ohio, daughter of William Kuhn and wife, and to this union three children have been born, Lillian, born on July 18, 1900, who is now attending a private school at Lindenwood, a suburb of St. Louis; John Randolph, who died at the age of fourteen months, and Margaret, born on December 9, 1905. The Slavens live at 122 Sixth avenue, East, and are very pleasantly situated. Mr. and Mrs. Slavens are members of the Presbyterian church and take an active part in the various



beneficences of the same. Mr. Slavens is a thirty-second degree Mason and a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, as well as a member of the Elks, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and in the affairs of these several organizations takes a warm interest.

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### JOHN S. SHUYLER.

John S. Shuyler, a well-known farmer of Reno county, was born in Spencer county, Indiana, in 1846. The exact date is not known, as his step-sister, while playing with the family Bible, when a child, cut out that page. The first Shuyler of the family to emigrate from Germany was Philip, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. Michael P. Shuyler, the father of John S., was born about 1798, in Bucks county, Pennsylvania. He was a mechanic by trade, having learned the edged-tool trade at Pittsburgh, but was engaged in blacksmithing during his residence at Taylorsport, Indiana. He died in Spencer county, Indiana, in 1853. His wife died when John S. was only a few weeks old, and he afterward married Malinda Richardson, who bore him two children, Lewis and Saleta. The children of his first marriage were George, Eliza, D. M., Rosan, W. H., Jane, J. A., Mary, Samuel, Nancy and John S., all of whom are deceased except John S.

John S. Shuyler was educated in the country schools of Spencer county, Indiana. He lived with his brother until he was fifteen years of age, when he enlisted for service in the Civil War as a musician in the Sixty-second Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, January 16, 1862. This regiment later was consolidated with the Fifty-third. Mr. Shuyler served three and one-half years. Through exposure his throat and hearing were impaired. After the close of the war Mr. Shuyler farmed in Spencer county, Indiana. In 1873, accompanied by his bachelor brother, Joseph A., Mr. Shuyler moved to Reno county, Kansas, driving through with two teams and covered wagons, spending six weeks on the road. In the same year he homesteaded his present farm in section 2, township 23, range 8. His land now includes three hundred and twenty acres, on which he has a handsome and comfortable home.

On March 27, 1867, Mr. Shuyler was married to Julia M. Allen, a native of Tennessee, the daughter of William and Mary (Harder) Allen. Mrs. Shuyler's mother made her home with Mr. Shuyler for sixteen years,

her death occurring at the advanced age of ninety years. Mr. and Mrs. Shuyler are the parents of the following children: William P., Adelia A., Omar C. (deceased), Florence, Floyd, Harry, Mabel, Reynold, Mildred, Dean, and two who died in infancy.

In 1875, Mr. Shuyler helped organize a class in the Methodist church, of which he is an active member, and to which his family belong. He is a Prohibitionist in politics, and served for years on the school board of his township. He was also justice of the peace for eight years. He is now retired from active life, but forgets not the early days when he hunted buffalo on the plains and also hauled buffalo bones to market for a living.

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### DAVID ALONZO MOORE.

David Alonzo Moore, who may very properly be regarded as the dean of the real-estate and insurance business in Hutchinson, the county seat of this county, from the fact that he has been connected with the same longer than any other person thus engaged in that city, is a native of Sullivan county, Missouri, where he was born on January 6, 1861, eldest son of William T. and Rachel (Ellis) Moore, both natives of Tennessee, the former of whom, born in 1834, died on November 30, 1892, and the latter, born in 1834, died in 1912, both having spent their last days in Hutchinson, this county.

William T. Moore and wife, shortly after their marriage in eastern Tennessee, emigrated, in 1858, to Sullivan county, Missouri, and settled on a farm four miles west of the town of Milan. When the Civil War broke out Mr. Moore enlisted in behalf of the Union cause in the First Missouri Cavalry and served for three years and six months, seeing much active service during that period, a considerable portion of which was spent in warfare against Quantrill's guerillas, at the battle of Warrensburg, Missouri, receiving a severe wound in the knee. At the close of the war he returned to his place in Sullivan county and remained there until 1873, in which year he came with his family to this county, settling in Valley township, where he homesteaded a quarter of a section of land and bought a quarter of a section adjoining, his purpose being to have a sufficient tract on which to rear his family of five sons and five daughters. There he remained until 1888, in which year he and his wife retired from the farm and moved into Hutchinson, where their last days were spent, his death occurring four years later,

in 1892, his widow surviving him for twenty years, her death occurring in 1912. William T. Moore was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and his wife was a birthright Quaker. They were the parents of ten children, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch is the eldest, the others being as follow: Dr. J. J. Moore, of Concordia, Kansas; Dr. J. D. Moore, dentist, of Pueblo, Colorado; William W., a furniture dealer in Salem, Oregon; Thadeus, a farmer, of McPherson county, this state, who died at the age of forty-eight; Isadora, who married J. A. Reed and lives on the old home farm in Valley township, this county; Kate, who married J. W. Merris and lives in Prescott, Arizona; Cora, who married Frank W. Roberts and lives at Greensburg, this state; Laura, who married Lawrence McNeely and lives in Los Angeles, California, and Lillie, who married J. E. Long and lives at Little Rock, Arkansas.

David A. Moore was eleven years of age when his parents came to this county and established the new home for the family and his elementary education thus was continued in the Dodge district school in Valley township. He remained on the farm until grown and in 1881 went to Colorado, where he was engaged in gold and silver mining in the White Pine district, for two years, at the end of which time he returned to this county and located in Hutchinson, where he entered the employ of J. A. Grayson, in the agricultural implement and feed business, continuing that connection until the fall of 1886, at which time he engaged in the real-estate business. Hutchinson's far-famed "boom" came on the next year and Mr. Moore profited greatly thereby in that and the immediately succeeding years and has ever since been actively engaged in the same business, in addition to which he does a large business in the way of insurance and loans. Mr. Moore has been in the realty business longer than any man now thus engaged in the city of Hutchinson and is known far and near throughout this part of the state for the extent of his transactions in that line. His business now is largely confined to city property, of which he owns quite a bit in his own name. He is a director of the Haines-Miller Paint and Glass Company, of Hutchinson, and has been secretary, as well as a trustee and director of the Eastside Cemetery Association for the past twenty-two years.

On November 4, 1887, David A. Moore was united in marriage to Nettie Hinds, who was born in Paris, Illinois, daughter of William H. and Martha Hinds, both now deceased, the former of whom was a harness maker who located in Hutchinson in 1886, and to this union three children have been born, Anna R., born on November 2, 1890, who married Robert A.

Parrott, now of Baltimore, Maryland, and has one child, a son, Robert; Ruth, November 4, 1894, a graduate of the Hutchinson high school, who also attended Ohio Wesleyan University and is at home with her parents, and Esther, May 12, 1897, who was graduated from the Hutchinson high school with the class of 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Moore are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, the congregation of which Mr. Moore has served as steward, trustee and in other official capacities and of which he for years was treasurer, and in many ways they have demonstrated their interest in behalf of the general welfare of the community.

Mr. Moore is a Republican and ever since the beginning of his business career in Hutchinson has taken a warm interest in civic affairs, for six years having served on the board of education. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Sons and Daughters of Justice, in the affairs of both of which orders he takes an active interest.

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### RICHARD JUSTICE.

Richard Justice, a well-known, progressive and prosperous farmer of Reno township, this county, is a native of Massachusetts, having been born in the city of Boston, that state, on June 19, 1863, son of Richard and Susan (Copithorn) Justice, both natives of Ireland, who came to this country with their respective parents in their youth and were married in Boston. The elder Richard Justice was engaged in the wholesale flour business in Boston and he and his wife made their home there until 1883, in which year they came to this county and their last days were spent in the home of their son, the subject of this biographical sketch, who had settled here in 1880, the mother's death occurring on October 3, 1891, she then being sixty-eight years of age, and the father's in March, 1908, he then being ninety-seven years of age. He was born in 1810 and, his parents having died when he was quite young, he was reared by his paternal grandparents. He and his wife were members of the Episcopal church during their long residence in Boston, but upon locating in Hutchinson became affiliated with the Presbyterian church. They were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this review is the youngest, the others being John, now deceased; Elizabeth, who married James Dukelow, a wealthy retired farmer, now living in Hutchinson; Kate, who died aged twelve years; Mary, who married C. J. Noyes, and William, who resides in Chicago.



The younger Richard Justice was reared in Boston, receiving his education in the public schools of that city, and when eighteen years old, in 1880, he came to Kansas and for two years made his home with his elder sister, Mrs. Dukelow, and her husband in this county. A couple of years later he bought the unimproved southwest quarter of section 10, in Reno township, and proceeded to improve the same. The next year his father and mother joined him on his farm, substantial buildings were erected on the place and there Mr. Justice has made his home ever since. In 1886 he married and since then has enlarged and remodeled the farm house, the family now having a very comfortable and roomy country home. One of his first acts upon buying the farm was to set out a forty-acre orchard and from the trees then planted he still is gathering some very fine fruit. The farm is well kept, well improved and highly cultivated and Mr. Justice is regarded as one of the substantial farmers of his neighborhood. He is a Republican and takes a warm interest in local civic affairs, having served as treasurer of the township and as a member of the school board.

On March 9, 1886, Richard Justice was united in marriage to Louise Greenway, who was born in the city of Birmingham, England, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Horner) Greenway, and who had come to this country with her parents when she was four years old, the family settling for a time in New Jersey, after which they moved to Brooklyn, New York, where Mr. Greenway was engaged in the piano business for several years. In 1885 the Greenways came to Kansas, settling on a farm four miles west of Hutchinson, in this county, where they lived for three years. Mr. and Mrs. Greenway then moved to St. Louis, where Mr. Greenway died a few years later and his widow is now making her home at Ft. Worth, Texas.

To Richard and Louise (Greenway) Justice nine children have been born, as follow: Mabel, who married H. E. Round and lives in Hutchinson; Alfred, an expert automobile mechanic, who married Ruth Lyman and lives at Anthony, this state; Elmer, who married Ethel Giles and lives in Hutchinson; Emma, who married Harold A. Pennington and lives in Reno township, this county, and Percy, George, Edith, Walter and Ruth, at home. The Justices take an active interest in the various social activities of their home neighborhood and are held in high regard throughout that section of the county. Mrs. Justice is a member of the Presbyterian church at Hutchinson and is earnestly interested in the general beneficences of the same. Mr. Justice is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and is warmly interested in the affairs of that organization.



## THOMAS JENNINGS.

Thomas Jennings, far better known by the familiar name of "Tom," sheriff of Reno county and a veritable terror to the crooks and evil-doers of this section of the state, is a native son of the Buckeye state, having been born on a farm in Noble county, Ohio, June 29, 1869, son of George N. and Mary Jennings, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio.

George N. Jennings was a well-to-do farmer in Noble county, Ohio, the owner of several farms and a man of influence in his community, taking an active part in Democratic politics, and a faithful member of the Presbyterian church. His first wife, Mary, died in 1872, leaving three children, those besides the subject of this sketch being William, who is now farming the old home place in Ohio, and Albert, an Oklahoma newspaper man. George N. Jennings married, secondly, Susannah Smith, who is still living in Ohio, and to this union three sons were born, Clarence, a clerk in a store at Hutchinson, this county, and Harry, a resident of Galveston, Texas. The father of these five sons died at his home in Ohio in 1901.

Tom Jennings received his boyhood schooling in Ohio and when seventeen years of age came West. For several years he followed railroading, in the employ of the Baltimore & Ohio and the Chicago Northwestern, for five years of that time being a conductor. Tiring of railroad life, Mr. Jennings leased a farm near Elm Creek, Nebraska, and remained there two years, at the end of which time he returned to the old home in Ohio and for six years was engaged in farming there. In 1896 Mr. Jennings returned West and for five years was engaged in farming for Emerson Carey in Clay township, this county. Then he rented a farm for several years in Clay township, where he was living at the time of his election to the office of sheriff of Reno county, on the Democratic ticket, in 1914. Upon taking charge of the sheriff's office, Tom Jennings instituted several changes in the system of administering the affairs of that important office, which have greatly increased the efficiency of that department of the county government. In the matter of the care which Sheriff Jennings devotes to the collection of evidence the cause of justice has been greatly advanced in numerous important cases and the records of the court show a largely increased percentage of convictions of those charged with crime since he has had charge of the sheriff's office. None of his prisoner's ever have escaped and his stanch loyalty to the law makes him a terror to the crooks. "boot-leg-

gers" and other offenders in these parts. Sheriff Tom Jennings for years has been a member of the Anti-Horse Thief Association and even before entering upon the duties of his office as sheriff was widely known throughout this section of the state as a law-and-order man. He also is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

In 1887 Thomas Jennings was united in marriage to Hattie Moore, who was born in Ohio, and to this union six children have been born, Don, Mack, Carl, Mabel, who married Lloyd Hammond; Beulah and Mary.

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### WILLIAM HENRY HINSHAW.

William Henry Hinshaw, a retired farmer of Sylvia, this county, is a native of Missouri, having been born on a pioneer farm near Pleasant Hill in Cass county, that state, November 6, 1853, son of Nathan and Mary (Sloan) Hinshaw, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of Missouri.

Nathan Hinshaw was ten years old when his parents, Benjamin and Sarah Hinshaw, moved from North Carolina to Missouri. Benjamin Hinshaw entered a tract of land in Cass county, in the latter state, from the government, paying for the same one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre, and there established his home, he and his wife spending the remainder of their lives there. Nathan Hinshaw grew to manhood on that homestead farm and married Mary Sloan, daughter of Jeremiah Sloan and wife, pioneers of that same county. He bought a tract of land there from the government and became an extensive cattle raiser. During the Civil War he was a member of the home guards and saw service fighting guerillas. Nathan Hinshaw died about 1857, at the age of forty-nine and his widow later moved to Kansas, with her younger children, and died in March, 1910, at the age of seventy-two. To Nathan Hinshaw and wife nine children were born, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being as follows: Thomas N., who died in Missouri; Martha Ann, who married Thomas Holcomb and lives at Plevna, this state, a widow; Theophilus, a physician, of Winifield, this state; J. Nathan, a retired farmer, merchant, lumberman and banker, of Plevna; Sarah L., who married Harry Henderson and lives at Stafford, this state, a widow; Mrs. Mollie G. Roach, of Hutchinson, this county; Lillie, who married John



W. H. Henshaw  
Elizabeth Henshaw



Prater and lives at Stafford, and Emmet W., who conducts a general store at Plevna.

William H. Hinshaw was reared on the home farm in Cass county, Missouri, and the days of his youth and young manhood were devoted to helping his father on the farm. He has distinct recollections of the Civil War period, he then having been about ten years old, and recalls particularly the battle of Lone Jack, which was fought but nine miles away from the Hinshaw place, the roar of the cannonading being distinctly heard at that distance. As a boy he hauled stone for the culverts for the first railroad entering into Kansas City, the Missouri Pacific, late in 1865, and about that same time hauled many loads of soldiers returning north by way of Kansas City to the latter point. In the fall of 1872 he married and bought a farm, working the same, in addition to a small tract which his father had given him, until in February, 1879, at which time he and his family came to Kansas, settling in Reno county. Mr. Hinshaw homesteaded a tract in the southern part of Hayes township, also entering a timber claim in the same neighborhood, and there he made his home for twenty years, in the meantime becoming a very successful farmer and stockman, gradually adding to the home place until he was the owner of two thousand three hundred acres of choice land in Hayes township. The year following his settlement in this county Mr. Hinshaw went back to Missouri and traded his farm there for cattle with which to stock his Reno county place and thus started his career as a stockman, thereafterward for years being one of the most extensive cattlemen in the county, annually raising and feeding large numbers of cattle for the market; also doing an extensive business in horses and mules. In 1899 Mr. Hinshaw retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to the town of Sylvia, where he and his son, Odon G., reorganized the State Bank of Sylvia, which had failed and had been closed for two years and Mr. Hinshaw was elected president of the bank, a position which he held until the fall of 1913, at which time he and his son sold three-fourths of their holdings in the institution to Homer Myers and Mr. Hinshaw retired from the presidency, since which time he has been doing quite an extensive business in the way of private loans and is known as one of the most substantial capitalists in the county. About 1900 Mr. Hinshaw organized the first telephone line in Sylvia and brought the same up to a good working standard and then sold out. Mr. Hinshaw is a Republican, but is rather independent in his political views and ever since locating in this county has taken an earnest interest in public affairs, ever having been an



active exponent of all measures looking to the perpetuation of the principles of good government.

On September 25, 1872, William H. Hinshaw was united in marriage to Elizabeth Hood, who was born in Franklin county, Missouri, daughter of Wiley and Elizabeth (Jamison) Hood, the former a farmer and stockman of that same county, who died there, his widow spending her last days at Sylvia county. To Mr. and Mrs. Hinshaw two children have been born, Fairy Green, wife of Dr. Robert Heylman, a prominent physician at Long Beach, California, and Ordonia Guldenloo, president of the State Bank of Sylvia and a partner in the Sylvia Milling Company, who married Lorine Ritter and has two children, Maurine and Ordonia. The Hinshaws are members of the Methodist church at Sylvia, Mr. Hinshaw having been for years a trustee and a steward of that church, and all are held in the highest esteem in the neighborhood.

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#### A. J. DEATZ.

A. J. Deatz, well-known wholesale grocer, manager of the Central Mercantile Company, of Hutchinson, this county, is a native of Illinois, having been born in Henry county, that state, on November 17, 1858, son of John and Lydia Deatz, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Pennsylvania.

In the forties John Deatz and his wife emigrated from Pennsylvania to Illinois, becoming among the early settlers of Henry county. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War, John Deatz enlisted in the Ninth Illinois Cavalry, in which he served for about a year. He was wounded in battle, after which he received his honorable discharge and returned home. In 1878 he came to Kansas and entered a soldier's homestead claim in Edwards county, which he "proved up" and later returned to Henry county, Illinois, where he lived to be ninety years of age. His wife lived to be eighty-five. They were members of the Methodist church and their children were reared in that faith.

A. J. Deatz received his schooling in the common schools of his native county in Illinois and when twenty years of age, in 1879, came to Kansas, joining his father on the Edwards county homestead, where he worked for a couple of seasons, in the meantime marrying, after which he and his wife's brother bought a threshing outfit and operated the same in that section for a

couple of seasons. He then for a time owned a general store in that neighborhood and then went to Garden City, where he operated a grocery store for three years, at the end of which time he entered the service of the Syms Grocery Company, of Atchison, Kansas, as a traveling salesman, his territory restricted to Kansas, and was thus engaged for ten years. In 1895, while thus engaged, he located at Hutchinson, this county, for better convenience in covering his territory, and ever since has made his home here. In 1897 he started a small wholesale produce business at Hutchinson, his first place of business having been in a room at the rear of a butcher shop on Main street. The business rapidly grew and presently Mr. Deatz took in as a partner C. W. Payne, at the same time moving to a building which then occupied the site where the Campbell hotel now stands, and there enlarged the capacity of the business, the firm being known as C. W. Payne & Company, Mr. Deatz not desiring to have his name appear publicly in connection with a business which was, in a way, a rival of that of the company by which he was employed. At first this business was a mere local jobbing affair, but presently it branched out into a general wholesale business, in the produce way, and gradually expanded into the general wholesale grocery business. At that time there was but one other wholesale grocery store in Hutchinson and Mr. Deatz recognized the possibilities of an extension of the business in that line. He was able to interest several others in the business and on August 12, 1899, the Central Mercantile Company, wholesale grocers, was organized, with the following board of officers: A. J. Deatz, manager; W. Meisenhouer, president; E. R. Lord, vice-president; W. J. Chubbuck, treasurer, and C. W. Payne, secretary. This officary has continued ever since and the business has grown until the Central Mercantile Company has come to be regarded as one of the leading wholesale grocery firms in Kansas, as it is the oldest in continuous existence in Hutchinson, the firm which antedated it having since been dissolved. The offices and warehouses of the Central Mercantile Company are located at the corner of Avenue D and South Main streets and the company employs a traveling force of ten expert salesmen and an office and warehouse force of twenty persons.

In October, 1879, A. J. Deatz was united in marriage, in Edwards county, Kansas, to Matilda Summers, who was born in Henry county, Illinois, daughter of Francis and Catherine Summers, pioneers of that section, and to this union three children have been born. Edward, who is in charge of the cable department of the Bell Telephone Company at Atlanta, Georgia;

Chester, who is connected with the offices of the Bankers Life Insurance Company at Kansas City, Missouri, and Harry, a registered pharmacist in the "A. & A." drug store at Hutchinson. The Deatzes have a very pleasant home at 18 Sixth avenue, east, in the city of Hutchinson, where they are very comfortably situated. Mr. and Mrs. Deatz are earnest and active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, Mr. Deatz being chairman of the finance committee of the same and a member of the board of stewards, as well as an active worker in the Sunday school, in connection with the men's Bible class, and is the present president of the Methodist Brotherhood in Hutchinson. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen, in which society he also takes an active interest.

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### SAMUEL MARTIN CROTTS.

Samuel M. Crotts, one of Reno county's best-known citizens, for years a prominent and energetic farmer and auctioneer living in Center township, now and for some years past making his home in the city of Hutchinson, where he has a very pleasant home at 111 Fifth avenue, east, is a native of Illinois, having been born in Hancock county, that state, February 18, 1863, son of Thomas J. and Melinda (Martin) Crotts, both of whom were born in Washington county, Indiana, the former in 1833 and the latter in 1837, and both of whom are still living, being very comfortably situated in their delightful country home in Center township, this county, still living on the place which they homesteaded from the government there in 1873.

Thomas J. Crotts grew up on a pioneer farm in southern Indiana and about the year 1856, shortly after his marriage to Melinda Martin, member of another pioneer family of that same section of the Hoosier state, moved to Hancock county, Illinois, where he bought a farm and established his home. He picked up the blacksmith trade and became a proficient artificer in iron, setting up a smithy on his farm, in which he manufactured plows and the like for his neighbors. In the early spring of 1873 he and his family came to Kansas, arriving in Hutchinson on March 25 of that year. Mr. Crotts lost little time in selecting a location after he had reached Reno county and homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 8, in Center township, three-fourths of a mile west of where the town of Partridge is now situated, and there he and his wife have made their home ever since, being thus the oldest continuously resident homesteaders in that township. Upon

making his location Mr. Crotts constructed a sod shanty on his place and in the fall of 1873 moved his family into the same. He also erected a little smithy and his labors as a blacksmith there for some years, in addition to his labors as a farmer and stockman, were much appreciated by his pioneer neighbors.

Thomas J. Crotts was a good farmer and it was not long until he began to see very tangible evidences of the soundness of the judgment which prompted him to come to Kansas. His sons were of large assistance on the farm, herding the cattle in boyhood and aiding in the sterner work of developing the place as they grew older, and presently the Crotts' place was being looked upon as one of the best kept and most prosperous thereabout. There were still plenty of buffaloes in this section at that time; in fact, Mr. Crotts' uncle Samuel Martin, killed a buffalo in the streets of Hutchinson not long after his arrival there, and he early became known as one of the mightiest hunters of buffalo in the county. T. J. Crotts also kept a pack of greyhounds for use in hunting wolves during the bleak winter seasons. The old "Sun City" trail cut through one corner of the Crotts homestead and the Crotts house, for the sod shanty on the plains soon was supplanted by a more commodious and substantial structure, was long a sort of headquarters and stopping-place for the many travelers and "prairie schooner" caravans that daily passed on the trail, there hardly being a day during those early years that the Crotts' house was without unexpected guests, to whom the hospitable host and hostess ever extended a welcome, never exacting a charge for such simple entertainment as their home afforded, all wayfarers being free to come in and cook their meals and find refreshment from their toilsome journey. Thomas J. Crotts is one of a family of eight children born to his parents, he having had three brothers and four sisters, two of these brothers having given up their lives on the altar of liberty as soldiers of the Union during the Civil War. Mr. Crotts for years was a Republican, but during the height of the Populist movement put in his lot with those of that political faith and upon the subsidence of the Populists transferred his allegiance to the Democratic party, with which he is now affiliated. He and his wife are members of the Congregational church and ever since locating in this county have been held in the highest respect and esteem, their invariable kindness having won for them a high place in the regard of their neighbors. They are the parents of six children, namely: A. D., office man for the Central Mercantile Company at Hutchinson; Lyman T., a partner in the Crotts Brokerage Company at Hutchinson; Samuel M., the imme-



diate subject of this biographical sketch; Thomas S., a partner in the Crotts Brokerage Company; Mayette, now deceased, who married Joseph Hemp-hill, and Mary, who married Joseph L. Bartlett and lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Samuel M. Crotts was ten years old when he came to this county with his parents in 1873 and he has made his home here ever since. As a boy he had started to school in Illinois, but when his family located here the nearest place of abode to their dugout was another sod shanty three miles east, occupied by the Teeters family, hence there was no thought of schools for some time, but presently, as settlers began pouring in, schools began to be established and he completed his schooling in the Franklin district school near his home. He grew up on the homestead farm and when he was twenty-one years of age he bought a quarter of a section of school land where the town of Partridge now stands. Two years later he sold the place to the company which platted and promoted the town and bought the southwest quarter of section 18, in the same township, and there made his home, "off and on," for twenty years, it not being long before he was recognized as a progressive and substantial farmer. He presently enlarged his holdings there by the purchase of another quarter section adjoining and in 1900 bought a quarter of a section in Westminster township. In addition to these holdings, Mr. Crotts is the owner of a thirty-five-acre tract south of Partridge, and is reputed to be quite well-to-do.

In 1899 Samuel M. Crotts, who for some time then had been recognized as an auctioneer of more than usual ability, serving in such a capacity often, as a mere accommodation, turned his attention seriously to that line and soon had established a flourishing business as an auctioneer, the demands for his services from all parts of the county keeping him busy. In 1906 he practically relinquished the active labors of the farm to responsible tenants and moved to Partridge, where he made his home until 1910, in which year he moved to Hutchinson, where he is now living, though far from being "retired," in the common acceptance of that term, his farm and other interests giving him quite plenty to occupy his time when he is not hunting or fishing, two pet indulgences in which he does not stint himself.

On February 18, 1890, Samuel M. Crotts was united in marriage to Minnie Cassidy, who was born near Cumberland, in West Virginia, daughter of Robert T. Cassidy and wife, who came to Reno county in 1875, Mr. Cassidy buying up the relinquishment of a homestead right in Center township, later moving to Partridge, where he operated a hotel and livery barn



for some time, still later moving to California, where his last days were spent. To Mr. and Mrs. Crotts two children have been born, daughters both, Bessie, who married John Bertche, and Effie, who is still at home with her parents. Upon moving to Hutchinson in 1910, Mr. Crotts built a pleasant home at 111 Fifth avenue, East, where he and his family are very comfortably situated. All are members of the Congregational church, Mr. Crotts being one of the trustees of that church, and are held in the highest esteem by their many friends in the city and throughout the county generally.

The Crotts family is not only one of the oldest families in Reno county, but is one of the most substantial and influential. The venerable Thomas J. Crotts has witnessed the development of this county from pioneer days and has done much to contribute to the general advancement of social and economic conditions hereabout. When he came to Reno county there were but five families living in Center township, where he settled, and he early took a prominent position in the pioneer life of that section. Thomas J. Crotts is a man of the true pioneer breed and was a natural leader in frontier days. He was born on a pioneer farm in southern Indiana, his father, David Crotts, a native of Tennessee, having located in Washington county, that state, at an early day in the settlement of that section, having been but a boy when his parents moved from Tennessee to Indiana. There David Crotts married Mary Ann Strain, who was born in that county, her parents having been among the earliest settlers thereabout, and to this union nine children were born, namely: William, a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War, who died in service; Thomas J., the Reno county pioneer, father of the subject of this sketch; Hiram and Harvey, twins, the former of whom died in California and the latter of whom died while serving as a soldier of the Union during the Civil War; Mrs. Mary Chenowith, deceased; Mary Jane, who married Doctor May, of Hutchinson, both now deceased; Susan, widow of Isem Maxidon, of Cunningham, this state; Maria, wife of Doctor Avery, of Cloverdale, this county, and Elizabeth, deceased. The mother of these children died in 1870 and David Crotts married, secondly, Mrs. Glover, a widow. His last days were spent at the home of his son, Thomas J., in this county, his death occurring in 1888, he then being seventy-five years of age. Mrs. Thomas J. Crotts is also of old pioneer stock and has been an important factor in the development of the social life of the community in which she has lived so many years. She was born in Washington county, Indiana, January 3, 1836, daughter of

Stephen and Nancy Martin, pioneers of that section, the former of whom was a native of Virginia and the latter of Kentucky, whose last days were spent on their homestead farm in southern Indiana. During the many years of their residence in Reno county Mr. and Mrs. Crotts have never locked the doors of their hospitable home, which in early days, as noted above, was freely opened to all comers and this pioneer hospitality has been maintained all the days since.

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### EDWARD E. SHIRCLIFF.

Edward E. Shircliff, son of Bernard C. and Sarah H. (Turner) Shircliff, was born in Haydenville, Ohio, March 6, 1871. His father was born in Baltimore, Maryland, October 22, 1823, and died in Chatauqua county, Kansas, March 10, 1894, his death being the result of an accident caused by his team running away. He followed the occupation of a farmer and coal miner; was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and a member of the Methodist church. His political affiliation was with the Democratic party. Sarah (Turner) Shircliff was born in Baltimore, Maryland, March 23, 1835, and died July 12, 1911. Her father was among those who were attracted by the California gold fever in 1849, and was one of the pioneer settlers in that state. He died in California in 1856. Besides the subject of this sketch Mr. and Mrs. Shircliff were the parents of the following children: Frank, born in Haydenville, Ohio, in 1856; died at that place in 1873. William H., born in Haydenville, Ohio, September 23, 1858; he is now in the government employ in the agricultural department, at Washington, D. C. Homer W., born in Haydenville, Ohio, April 11, 1866; he is a farmer in Chatauqua county, Kansas. John, born in Haydenville, Ohio; he was killed in a railroad accident. Charles B., born in Haydenville, Ohio, May 7, 1873; he is a farmer in Douglas county, Washington. Mary E., born in Haydenville, Ohio, June 3, 1875; married James E. Ferguson, a wholesale grain dealer in Hutchinson, Kansas; the name of the firm being the Ferguson-Shircliff Grain Company.

Edward E. Shircliff moved to Chatauqua county, Kansas, in 1881, with his father. He attended the district schools in that county and worked on the farm during the busy season. In 1894 he secured employment in the Fridge and building department of the Missouri Pacific Railroad, and continued in that service until 1907, when he engaged in the grain business with

James E. Ferguson, at Winfield, Kansas. In 1908 the firm removed to Hutchinson, where the business has since been continued. The Ferguson-Shirecliff Grain Company have offices in the First National Bank building, No. 508, and is doing a prosperous business.

Mr. Shirecliff is a member of the Hutchinson Commercial Club and the Hutchinson Board of Trade, and is otherwise identified with the business enterprises of the town and county. He is a member of the Masonic lodge, at Fort Smith, Arkansas; he is independent in politics. On March 31, 1907, he was married, in Elk City, Kansas, to Myrtle G. Barnes, daughter of John A. and Angelina (Gregory) Barnes; she was born in Osborne county, Kansas, December 6, 1883. Her father was a farmer, and was born in Indiana; her mother was born in Iowa.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Shirecliff: Myrtle L., born in Winfield, Kansas, December 31, 1907; and Emmett E., born in Hutchinson, February 10, 1913.

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#### WARREN D. JEWELL.

Warren D. Jewell, one of the best-known pioneers of Reno county, a prominent retired farmer of Valley township, now living comfortably situated in the pleasant village of Haven, is an honored veteran of the Civil War and for many years was one of the leading men of affairs in that part of the county in which he so long resided. He was born on a farm in Clinton county, Ohio, November 13, 1843, son of Reuben and Mary (Van Zant) Jewell, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Ohio, who later became pioneers of this section of Kansas.

Reuben Jewell was born in Onondaga county, New York, March 3, 1815, son of Warren D. Jewell, an Englishman, who had come to the United States with two of his brothers. He settled in New York state; one of his brothers settled in Massachusetts and the other in New Jersey. Reuben Jewell became a shoemaker and when twenty-three years old, in 1838, moved to Ohio, locating in Hillsboro township, Highland county, where he worked at his trade and where he married Mary Van Zant, who was born in Ohio in 1818. In 1846 Reuben Jewell and his family moved from Ohio over into Indiana and for a time lived in Ripley county, later moving to the city of Richmond, in Wayne county, where Reuben Jewell was working at his trade when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted in Company K, Fifty-seventh

Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, attached to General Buell's command, and served until honorably discharged on a physician's certificate of disability incurred in line of duty. Upon the conclusion of his military service he returned to his home at Richmond and remained there until 1870, in which year he came to Kansas with his family, locating in Butler county, whence, the following year, he moved over into Sedgwick county, where he entered a soldier's homestead, which he improved and after holding the same a few years, sold and returned to Butler county, whence, later in life, he moved to Hutchinson, this county, where he died at the home of his son, George E. Jewell, June 17, 1899.

To Reuben and Mary (Van Zant) Jewell eleven children were born, namely: Sarah J., deceased; John William, also deceased; Warren D., the subject of this biographical sketch; Mary E., who married Spencer Stringham, who is a well-to-do farmer in Texas; Jacob Henry, a painter, living in Oklahoma; Anna Eliza, who married Zachariah Hodson, a farmer of Edwards county, this state; George Edward, for years prominently identified with the salt industry at Hutchinson, who died in that city on June 19, 1915; Margaret L., a widow, living in Colorado; Samuel, died in infancy; Willie A., a farmer in Oklahoma, and Carrie, wife of J. L. Moore, of Oklahoma City.

Warren D. Jewell was about three years old when his parents moved from Ohio to Indiana and his early education was received in the Richmond subscription schools, the tuition fee for his last year of schooling being paid with money earned by himself working on farms. He was but eighteen years old when, August 20, 1862, he enlisted in Company I, Eighty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for service during the Civil War, and served until the end of the war, his regiment being mustered out at Nashville, Tennessee, June 14, 1865, then returning to Indiana, where he received his final honorable discharge about the 1st of July following. The Eighty-fourth Indiana was engaged in some of the bloodiest battles of the war, and Mr. Jewell was right in the thick of things, participating in the battles at Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and thence on into the Atlanta campaign with Sherman; later being transferred to General Thomas's command and participating in the battle of Franklin, generally regarded as having been the bloodiest battle of the Civil War, then to the battle of Nashville, thence into Alabama and from there taking part in the general advance on Richmond, which was happily interrupted by word of the surrender of Lee at Appomattox.



After the close of the war Mr. Jewell returned to his home in Indiana, and in 1868 came West, locating in Tama county, Iowa, where he worked on farms until the spring of 1872, when, in company with a party of relatives and friends he came to Kansas, driving through Wichita on the Fourth of July, that year. Mr. Jewell, upon arriving in Reno county, entered a soldier's claim to the northeast quarter of section 8, in Albion township, and proceeded to develop the same. That was the year after the opening of this county to settlement and buffalo were still plentiful hereabout. Mr. Jewell passed the first summer as a member of the household of his brother-in-law, but in the fall constructed a dug-out on his place and "bached it" until his marriage, in the spring of 1874, when he erected a frame house twelve by fourteen feet ground dimensions, the lumber for which he had hauled from Wichita. In 1879 he moved from that homestead to another in section 7, Valley township, where he established his permanent home and where he lived for many years. From the very beginning he did well in his farming operations and as he prospered added to his original quarter section in Valley township until he became the owner of more than six hundred and forty acres there. He also presently became a heavy investor in Hutchinson town property, but later traded that property for farm lands, which he sold to advantage. Mr. Jewell was an excellent farmer and his home place in Valley township became one of the best-improved farms in that part of the county. As his children grew up and began operations for themselves he was able to give them all a good start, at the same time retaining a very handsome competence for his declining years. On November 1, 1910, Mr. Jewell retired from the farm and since then has made his home in Haven, where he is very pleasantly situated. Mr. Jewell is a Republican and from the days of his boyhood has taken an earnest interest in the affairs of that party, long being regarded as one of the leaders of the party in this county, though he has never been included in the office-seeking class.

On May 6, 1874, Warren D. Jewell was united in marriage to Sarah Seley, who was born in Cass county, Michigan, February 21, 1844, daughter of Isaac L. and Sarah Jane (Price) Seley, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Ohio. Isaac L. Seley was a son of Jeremiah Seley, a soldier in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War. It was in 1872, the same year in which Mr. Jewell came to Reno county, that Sarah Seley, against the advice of her parents, who had also come to Kansas, homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 8, in Albion township, this county, adjoining the claim entered by Mr. Jewell. The expenses at-



tending the settlement of her claim exhausted all the money she had brought with her and in order to make money to pay for the labor of breaking her land, she engaged in trapping and became a very successful huntress, her fame in that line spreading throughout the state until she became widely known as "the lady trapper of southern Kansas." With the money thus earned and also by engaging in teaming between Wichita and this county, she was able to pay for developing her claim and was one of the first persons thereabout to set out an orchard. Her parents, who had settled in the southern part of the county, did not live long after coming to this county, Isaac L. Seley dying in 1878 and his widow in 1875.

To Warren D. and Sarah (Seley) Jewell seven children were born, as follow: Lanetta, who married Alexander Culberson and lives on a farm given her by her father; Charles L., who lives on a farm in Salt Creek township, this county; James R., who died in 1891; Alfred W., who lives on a farm in Valley township; Alonzo W., who lives on a farm in Sumner county, this state; Oscar M., who lives on the old home place in Valley township, and Sylvia H., who married John Imel and lives in Harper county, this state. The mother of these children died on March 12, 1914, and on June 21, 1915, Mr. Jewell married, secondly, Mary A. Tooley, who was born in Illinois and who for some years had been a resident of Liberal, this state. Mr. and Mrs. Jewell have a very pleasant home at Haven and take an earnest interest in general community affairs. Mr. Jewell is a Mason and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, in the affairs of both of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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### ROBERT S. JONES.

Robert S. Jones, a well-known and progressive farmer, the owner of a quarter of a section of well-tilled land in Reno township, this county, is a native of the great Blue Grass state, having been born on a farm near the town of La Grange, in Oldham county, Kentucky, February 8, 1861, son of John G. and Elizabeth (Anderson) Jones, both natives of that same state, who owned a small farm in the La Grange neighborhood, both of whom are now living in Hutchinson, this county, the former having entered his eighty-sixth year in 1916 and the latter her seventy-seventh year.

John G. Jones remained neutral during the progress of the Civil War and remained on his farm in Kentucky until 1887, in February of which

year he and his family came to Kansas, having disposed of their interests in Kentucky, and homesteaded a farm in Hamilton county. Seven years later Mr. Jones sold that farm and moved to Brazoria county, Texas, where he remained two years, after which he moved to Kickapoo county, Oklahoma, where he entered a tract of school land and where he remained a year, at the end of which time he sold out and he and his wife, in 1899 moved to Hutchinson, this county, where they are still living. They are members of the Baptist church and their children were reared in that faith. There were ten of these children, namely: Margaret, who married James L. Gill and lives in Albany, Missouri; Robert S., the subject of this biographical sketch; J. F., a farmer, living northwest of Great Bend, in this state; William G., a house painter, living in Hutchinson; James A., who died in 1912; Mrs. Jennie Hendrickson, who died in California in 1912; Mary, who married T. L. Downing and lives in Brazoria county, Texas; Walter, a Missouri farmer; Atha, deceased, and Clarence A., a carpenter, living at Hutchinson.

Robert S. Jones was reared on the home farm in Kentucky and being the eldest son of the family his youth was spent in assisting his father, his schooling being limited to about one month in the year. Consequently, his education was much neglected in his boyhood, but he has since "picked up" a very good and quite serviceable education. He was twenty-six years old when the family came to this state and he assisted in getting his parents established on the homestead farm in Hamilton county. Two years later, in 1889, he came to this county and located at Hutchinson, in order to work at "day's work," so that he might be able to send back some ready cash to his father. For a few months he worked for John Rowland, in Clay township and then worked by the day, putting up hay and husking corn, being engaged in the latter occupation all that winter. In the spring of 1890 he worked on the farm of Dr. James Myers, in Lincoln township, and then for two years was employed in the salt works at Hutchinson. Then he married, went in debt for a team of horses and a set of harness and rented a farm. In this latter vocation he prospered, and in 1906 bought the southwest quarter of section 6, in Reno township, this county, where he established his home and where he ever since has resided. He has greatly improved the farm and has long been regarded as one of the substantial citizens of that part of the county. Mr. Jones is a Democrat and in 1914 stood for the nomination for sheriff of Reno county, but was defeated at the primaries. He is a member of the district school board and takes a good citizen's part in public affairs.

On October 1, 1891, Robert S. Jones was united in marriage to Rebecca Nuckolls, who was born in Iowa, and her parents died in Indiana when she was a young girl. In 1884 she came to Reno county with her brother, William, and seven years later was married to Mr. Jones, to which union six children have been born, as follow: Bessie, born on August 7, 1892, who married John Armstrong and has two children, Leota M. and Ruby R.; Walter, December, 1895, who is at home; Leota, in October, 1897, who is at home; James, December 19, 1908, also at home; Harry and Harold, twins, born on October 20, 1905, and Joseph C., April 12, 1901, died on November 17, 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are members of the Baptist and Methodist churches, respectively, and Mr. Jones is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Anti-Horse Thief Association, in the affairs of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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### ARCHIBALD W. McCANDLESS.

Archibald W. McCandless, member of the firm operating the extensive plant of the Hutchinson Lumber and Planing Mill Company, former deputy county treasurer of Reno county, one of the pioneer school teachers of Hutchinson, formerly and for years actively identified with the banking interests of Hutchinson and for more than thirty years a member of the school board of that city, is a native of the great Keystone state, but has been a resident of this county since 1879, when he came here as an earnest young school teacher from Illinois. He was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, April 19, 1855, son of Allen and Mary Jane (Shingles) McCandless, both natives of that same county, who later moved to McDonough county, Illinois, where the mother died in 1861.

In 1862 Allen McCandless enlisted in Company I, Seventy-eighth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and went to the front as sergeant of his company. He was killed in battle at Griggsville, Tennessee, in 1863, leaving three young children orphaned, indeed, the subject of this sketch having had two younger sisters, Belle, who married C. C. Woodworth and lives at Rock Falls, Illinois, and Emma, who died in young womanhood. Archibald McCandless was about eight years old when he was left an orphan and he was sent back to Pennsylvania, where for two years he made his home with an uncle; then was sent back to Illinois, where he was given a home in the family of his uncle, J. P. McCandless, at Macomb. There he

completed his common-school education and was graduated from the high school, after which he began teaching school and was thus engaged, at the same time serving as deputy clerk of courts of that county until 1879, in which year he came to Kansas and secured a position as a teacher in the schools of Valley township, Captain Hoagland, a war comrade of his father, being trustee of that township at that time. The next year Mr. McCandless was called to a position in the Hutchinson high school and ever since he has taken a conspicuous and useful part in the educational affairs of that city. Two years later Mr. McCandless was appointed deputy county treasurer and two years later was made cashier of the private bank of James F. Readhead in Hutchinson. In the meantime, in 1882, he had married and after serving as cashier of the Readhead bank for a year his father-in-law, James St. John, bought the bank, retaining Mr. McCandless as cashier, and operated the same under the firm name of the James St. John Company, this arrangement continuing until the bank was sold in 1898. In 1900 Mr. McCandless and Mr. St. John organized the Hutchinson Lumber and Planing Mill Company and established their present plant at 13 Sherman street, West, where they ever since have been successfully engaged in business, doing a general milling and house contracting business. Mr. McCandless is a Republican and ever since coming to this county has taken a prominent part in the affairs of that party, for some time having served as treasurer of the county Republican committee. In 1885 he was elected a member of the Hutchinson school board and has been retained in that important position ever since, during which time he has had a hand in the erection of all the school buildings now doing service in Hutchinson and has been a useful and influential factor in the development of the Hutchinson public school system to its present high state of efficiency.

In 1882 Archibald W. McCandless was united in marriage to Anna St. John, of Hutchinson, who was born in Iowa, daughter of James and Margaret St. John, early and prominent residents of Hutchinson, and to this union four children have been born, as follow: Junia, who married A. R. Scheble, one of the proprietors of the Richards-Scheble Candy Manufacturing Company, of Hutchinson, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Margaret, at home; Forest, who is engaged with his father in the affairs of the lumber company, and Allen W., a student in the high school.

Mr. and Mrs. McCandless are members of the Presbyterian church, of which Mr. McCandless is an elder, and take an earnest part in the various



social and cultural activities of their home town. Mr. McCandless is one of the directors of the Mutual Building and Loan Association of Hutchinson and is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Modern Woodmen of the World, in the affairs of which organization he takes a warm interest.

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### OSCAR S. WESPE.

Oscar S. Wespe, well known throughout all southwestern Kansas as general manager of the district offices of the International Harvester Company, with headquarters at Hutchinson, this county, was born in Chicago, son of Frank and Catherine (Kistner) Wape, the former of whom was a native of Switzerland and the latter of Germany.

Frank Wespe was reared as a farmer in his native country and when twenty years of age came to America, locating at Chicago, where he became connected with the building trades and was thus engaged until some years after his marriage, when he moved to a farm near Homewood, Illinois. Catherine Kistner, whom he married in Chicago, had come to this country with her parents when she was eighteen years of age, the family locating in Chicago. The Wespes lived at Homewood until 1877, in which year they came to Kansas, locating in Reno county, which then was but very sparsely settled, and bought a tract of railroad land in Lincoln township, where Frank Wespe spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1901, at the age of eighty-three years. His widow is still living in Wichita and is past eighty-seven years of age. To Frank Wespe and his wife five children were born, as follows: Valentine, who lives at Honeywell, this state; Oscar S., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Henry, who lives on a small tract of land near Hutchinson; Rosa, who married H. W. Metcalf.

Oscar S. Wespe received his elementary education in the public schools of Chicago, and the public schools of Reno county. He accompanied the family to this county upon their removal here in 1877 and assisted in the development of the home farm in Lincoln township until 1886, in which year he married and engaged in the live stock and farm implement business at Partridge, this county, and was thus engaged for three years, at the end of which time he bought a quarter of a section of land in Center township and moved onto the same, with the expectation of becoming a practical farmer. His wife's health, however, at that time was not equal to the strain





Oscar S. Hespe



of farm life and in 1890 Mr. Wespe moved to Hutchinson, where he took charge of the implement department for the Frank Colloday hardware and implement store and was engaged in that business until 1898, in which year his services were engaged by the McCormick Harvester Company as a salesman. After two months of service for that company he revealed such admirable capacity for the work in hand that he was given charge of the company's sales in the territory of southwestern Kansas, his position technically being known as that of a "blockman," and he remained thus employed in the interests of the McCormicks until that company was reorganized and taken over by the International Harvester Company of America in November, 1903, at which time his services were transferred to the latter company, with which he ever since has been employed. He continued his position as "blockman" until 1905, in which year the company made him assistant general agent for southwestern Kansas, with headquarters at Hutchinson. In 1908 Mr. Wespe was made general agent of all the business of the International Harvester Company in that large stretch of territory west of Hutchinson, along the Santa Fe railroad to the Colorado line; all south of that road to the south Kansas line and four counties in Oklahoma. The company's offices and warehouses in Hutchinson, over which Mr. Wespe has charge, are situated on D avenue, a plant covering two hundred by one hundred and fifty feet, a part of which is three stories in height, the remainder two stories, where all sorts of up-to-date farming implements are handled. Mr. Wespe has under his direction from twenty-five to fifty traveling salesmen, according to the season, and in the warehouse there are employed thirty-five men during the busy season.

On September 25, 1886, Oscar S. Wespe was united in marriage to Anna Smith and to this union two sons have been born, Orville S., who attended St. Mary's College and is now advertising manager of the *Beaumont Journal*, and Earl F., who is employed in the claim department of the Illinois Central Railroad at Chicago.

Mr. Wespe is an active, energetic business man and is connected with various other enterprises in and about Hutchinson in addition to his extensive connection with the International Harvester Company, among which may be mentioned his directorship in the Central State Bank and directorship in the companies controlling the plants of the strawboard works and the box-board works. He is one of the most active members of the United Commercial Travelers Association and also is a member of the Modern Woodmen.

## FREDERICK D. LARABEE.

Frederick D. Larabee, of Hutchinson, this county, president of the Larabee Flour Mills Company, proprietor of the famous "Mills of Larabee," with mills at Hutchinson and Stafford, this state, and at Clinton, Missouri, operating tributary elevators at Macksville, Belprey, Seward, Isabel, Greensburg and Kingsdown, one of the greatest milling systems in the state of Kansas, is a native of the great Empire state. He was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, in 1868, son of Joseph D. and Angeline C. (Oyer) Larabee, who later became prominent residents of Stafford, this state, where they spent the remainder of their lives.

Joseph D. Larabee moved to Erie county, New York, about the year 1880 and there engaged in the manufacture of milling machinery, remaining there until 1886, in which year he came with his family to Kansas, locating at Stafford, where he and his sons, Frederick D. and Frank S., engaged in the banking business. They established the Farmers' National Bank of Stafford and Joseph D. Larabee was connected with that institution until his death, in 1913, at the age of eighty-two years. His widow survived him about two years, her death occurring on July 11, 1915, she then being seventy-six years of age.

Frederick D. Larabee was but a youth when his parents moved to Erie county, New York, and he received his education in the schools of Springville, that county. When but a boy he entered the bank at Springville, with a view to acquiring a general knowledge of the banking business, it having been determined that the family should presently go West for the purpose of engaging in the banking business. Frederick D. Larabee was eighteen years old when the family came to Kansas and located at Stafford, where they established the Farmers' National Bank,—Joseph D. Larabee, president; Frank S. Larabee, vice-president, and Frederick D. Larabee, cashier, which was a success from the very start. In 1897 the Farmers' National Bank of Stafford was compelled to take over a flour-mill in that city, the company operating the same having fallen upon hard lines, and the Larabees decided to put the mill upon a profitable basis. With that end in view, Frederick D. Larabee and his brother, Frank S., took charge of the mill and soon had it "on its feet." The affairs of the mill prospered so largely that extensions were soon necessary and the Larabees became definitely committed to the milling business and have been very successfully engaged in the same ever since. "The Mills of Larabee" long having had an established

reputation for quality of product all over the United States, as well as in those foreign countries in which an export trade has been established. In July, 1908, the original Larabee mill at Stafford was completely destroyed by fire, but the Larabees immediately rebuilt the same, larger and better than before, constructing the mill of reinforced concrete and installing the very best obtainable domestic machinery.

It was in 1907 that the great mill in the Larabee system was constructed at Hutchinson. When the plans for this mill were being prepared the Larabees decided to erect a mill that should eclipse any other in the United States in point of equipment and that mill today is known from one end of America to the other as the best-equipped milling plant in the United States. The mill is fitted with rolls of the German type, made expressly for the Mills of Larabee, and there are no others of this description in the United States, nor are there any other rolls so large in this country. All other equipments of the mill are in keeping and the great plant is operated by a giant Koerting two-cycle, six-hundred-horse-power natural gas engine, weighing more than two hundred and forty thousand pounds. The mill is of concrete construction, absolutely fireproof throughout and is of the most approved style of architecture for such buildings. The mill grounds comprise six acres of beautiful level ground and the mill building is located just at the head of Avenue A, one of the principal residence streets of Hutchinson. When erected the Hutchinson plant of The Mills of Larabee had a daily capacity of twelve hundred barrels of flour, but this has since been increased until now the plant has a capacity of two thousand barrels daily. Recently the grain-storage capacity has been increased by the erection of three additional steel tanks, each carrying a capacity of one hundred and fifty thousand bushels, giving the mill a present storage capacity of seven hundred and fifty thousand bushels, these great tanks being supplied from tributary elevators at Macksville, Belpre, Seward, Isabel, Greenburg and Kingsdown. The Larabees also have a mill at Clinton, Missouri, which has a capacity of twelve hundred barrels of flour a day. The Stafford mill has a daily capacity of five hundred, the Mills of Larabee thus having a total capacity of three thousand seven hundred barrels of flour a day. The chief brand of this flour is the famous "Larabee's Best," made of hard wheat; the soft-wheat flour, "Miola Brand," being produced by the mill at Clinton, Missouri. In 1906 the company was incorporated as the Larabee Flour Company, and the present officers of the same are: President, Frederick D. Larabee; vice-president, August J. Blute; secretary-treasurer, Frank S



Larabee. For advertising purposes the company is known as "The Mills of Larabee," and the great mill at Hutchinson has painted on its side the legend, "That German Mill," based upon the circumstance that the mill is equipped with German rolls.

Frederick D. Larabee's interests are not confined wholly to his extensive milling connection, but he is interested in several other enterprises in and about Hutchinson, to which city he moved from Stafford in 1908. He is a director of the State Exchange Bank of Hutchinson and a director of the Pontron Loan and Trust Company, besides retaining his connection with the Farmers' National Bank at Stafford. He is a member of the Hutchinson Commercial Club and the Country Club and he and his wife take an earnest interest in the city's general social and cultural activities.

In 1893 Frederick D. Larabee was united in marriage to May Wadsworth, who was born at Springville, New York, and to this union two children have been born, Charles W., who is attending the Western Military Academy, and Angelene, born in 1907. Upon taking up his residence in Hutchinson, Mr. Larabee bought the fine old Eagan home at 555 Sherman avenue, East, and there he and his family are very pleasantly situated.

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### JOHN W. NELSON.

John W. Nelson, head of the Nelson Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of galvanized iron tanks and proprietor of one of the most extensive machine shops in the Southwest, long regarded as one of the leading industries of Hutchinson, though a native of the kingdom of Sweden has been a resident of Reno county since 1872, having arrived here in that year, with his parents, when a boy eleven years old, and may therefore be considered one of the real pioneers of this county. He was born in Elmhult, Sweden, March 29, 1861, son of John and Nellie (Benson) Nelson, both natives of that country, the former of whom, a farmer and small landowner, was born on July 3, 1835, who became well-known pioneers of this section of Kansas.

It was in 1869 that John Nelson disposed of his interests in his native land and came to the United States with a view to making a new home for his family over here. He located in Winnebago county, Illinois, where for two years he worked as a farm laborer, in the meantime familiarizing himself with American conditions and looking about for the location he was

seeking for his family. He then sent for his family to join him there and in the spring of 1872 drove west, arriving in Reno county in May of that year, thus being among the earliest permanent settlers of this county. He entered a homestead claim in Lincoln township and there put up a one-room shanty and broke a little sod. The next year he sold that claim and bought another two miles west, the southeast quarter of section 29, township 24, range 6 west, which he proved up and brought to a high state of cultivation. There the family lived until 1884, in which year they moved to a farm the father had purchased in Castleton township and two years later moved to a valuable tract of land which the elder Nelson had purchased just outside the city limits of Hutchinson, where he spent the rest of his life.

John W. Nelson was eleven years old when he came to Reno county with his parents in 1872 and he grew up on the homestead farm, herding cattle and assisting in the labors of the farm and during his boyhood attending school in the winter seasons. He remained at home until he was twenty-four years old and then began to operate one of his father's farms on his own account, but a year later went to Kingman, where he entered a blacksmith shop, with a view to establishing a machine shop, but after six months abandoned that idea and, in company with his younger brother, Peter A. Nelson, who was born on January 4, 1863, went to Finney county, this state, where both the brothers pre-empted a quarter of a section of land, which they "proved up." They then returned to Reno county and in 1887 John W. Nelson opened a hardware store in South Hutchinson. A year later he admitted his brother, Peter A. Nelson, into partnership, under the firm name of Nelson Brothers, and in 1889 they moved their establishment across the river and established themselves in business in what then was known as the Herner block, but now is known as the Rock Island block. A year later they moved their store to No. 4 South Main street, and as their business continued to grow moved, a year later, into the Welsh building, where they remained four years. They then bought the fine three-story brick building at 6 Main street, the two-story building at 3 Sherman street, East, and a lot on which they erected a storage house. In 1898 Nelson Brothers established the Hutchinson Machine Shop at 14 and 16 Sherman street, West, which has ever since been successfully operated. In 1906 Nelson Brothers dissolved partnership, Peter A. Nelson taking the retail hardware establishment and John A. Nelson the business of the Nelson Manufacturing Company and the plant of the same at 600-620 First avenue, East, which he has gradually enlarged into one of the most exten-

sive manufacturing plants in the Southwest: manufacturing large galvanized iron water tanks, pumps and pump cylinders, grain tanks and the like, his product being shipped to all parts of this country.

On October 8, 1890, John W. Nelson was united in marriage to Pearl M. Stevenson, who was born near Lawrence, this state, daughter of James and Elizabeth (McKinney) Stevenson, and to this union five children have been born, Nellie A., Maria, James B., Robert, and Elizabeth, who died aged seven years. The Nelsons have a fine home at 407 First avenue, East, in Hutchinson, and are very comfortably and pleasantly situated.

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### SAMUEL F. HUTTON.

Samuel F. Hutton, one of Hutchinson's best-known and most prominent business men, long identified with the real-estate and financial interests of the town, is a native of Tennessee, but has been a resident of Hutchinson since 1881 and has therefore been a witness to the real development of Reno county. He was born on a farm near Shelbyville, Tennessee, son of George D. Hutton, a prominent resident of that vicinity, a native of North Carolina, who had married Mrs. Mary Ann (Houston) Whiteside, widow of Russell P. Whiteside and mother of Houston Whiteside, a well-known lawyer of Hutchinson, and a daughter, Annie P., who married William E. Hutchinson, cousin of C. C. Hutchinson, founder of the city of Hutchinson. To George D. and Mary Ann Hutton three children were born, the subject of this biographical sketch having a brother, Emmett and a sister, Leota, the latter of whom married Doctor Conn, and both of whom also reside at Hutchinson.

Samuel F. Hutton was reared on the paternal farm in Tennessee and receiving his schooling in the schools of the neighboring town of Shelbyville. In 1881 he came to Kansas, locating at Hutchinson, where his half-brother, Houston Whiteside, had settled in 1872 and there, at the age of twenty-one, he worked in the wholesale and retail establishment of the Allison Devier Mercantile Company, then located at the corner of Second and Main streets in Hutchinson. A few years later he entered the law office of his half-brother, Houston Whiteside, and was in charge of the commercial and collection departments of that legal firm until Mr. Whiteside retired from active practice, since which time Mr. Hutton has given his attention to his own real-estate interests and to his loan business. Mr. Hutton was one of the organ-

izers of the Hutchinson Country Club and is a director of the same. From the very beginning of the activities of that popular organization Mr. Hutton has taken a warm interest in its affairs and there is no more enthusiastic golfer hereabout than he.

On October 11, 1887, Samuel F. Hutton was united in marriage to Lucie M. Meyer, who was born at Atchison, this state, and who had come to Reno county in 1872 with her parents, Michael and Marie Meyer, and her brother, Eugene L. Meyer, president of the First National Bank of Hutchinson. In a biographical sketch relating to Mr. Meyer, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is set out in detail a history of the Meyer family in this state and to those pages the reader is respectfully referred in this connection. Mr. and Mrs. Hutton have a very pleasant home at 212 East Sherman street and take a warm interest in the various social and cultural activities of their home town.

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#### D. H. MASTELLAR.

D. H. Mastellar, a well-known and well-to-do retired farmer of Langdon township, this county, now living at Arlington, where he is actively engaged in the insurance business, is a native of Pennsylvania, but has been a resident of Kansas since pioneer days. He was born on a farm in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, March 29, 1850, son of Aaron and Elizabeth (Dresher) Mastellar, both natives of that same state. Aaron Mastellar was a farmer in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, and he and his wife were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being Charles B., Sarah and George, who were reared in the faith of the German Reformed church, of which their parents were devoted members.

Receiving a limited education in the district schools of his home neighborhood, D. H. Mastellar grew up as a farmer and remained in his native county until he was twenty-four years old, when, in 1874, he came to Kansas "to grow up with the country." Locating at Minneapolis, this state, he began working on farms in that neighborhood, but presently went down into Texas, where for nearly four years he was engaged in the government service. While in the latter state he also engaged more or less in the real-estate business and did quite well. In 1885 Mr. Mastellar married and came to Reno county to "settle down." He bought a half section of land in Langdon township and there established his home, soon becoming recognized



as one of the most substantial farmers in that part of the county. He improved his place in excellent shape and in addition to general farming engaged quite extensively in stock raising and did well. In March, 1912, Mr. Mastellar retired from the farm and moved to Arlington, where he has since made his home and where he is very pleasantly situated. In order to have something with which to occupy his time after retiring from the farm, Mr. Mastellar took the local agency for the St. Paul Insurance Company and has been quite successful in that line.

It was in 1885 that D. H. Mastellar was united in marriage to Emma A. May, daughter of Andrew May, of Iowa, and to this union three children have been born, Guy, May and Josephine, the first named of whom died in early youth. Mr. and Mrs. Mastellar are members of the Methodist church and during his residence on the farm Mr. Mastellar served as a member of the board of stewards of the local church in that neighborhood for twenty years. In his political views he is "independent," giving his voting preference to fit men rather than to mere party emblems.

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### JOHN U. SCHOONOVER.

No history of pioneer days in Reno county could be regarded as complete without fitting reference to the life and the works of the late John U. Schoonover, one of the pioneers of Haven township, this county, and a man who for many years exerted a wide and wholesome influence, not only upon the lives of his immediate neighbors, but upon the common life of the entire community in this section of the state. An honored veteran of the Civil War, an industrious and progressive farmer and an earnest citizen, ever devoted to the advancement of all movements and measures designed to improve conditions hereabout, Mr. Schoonover did well his part in early days in this county and left a good memory. His widow, who still survives, was a most valuable and competent helpmeet to her husband and also proved a fine force for good during the days of the development of proper social and civic conditions in this now well-established and prosperous community.

John U. Schoonover was born at Kenton, Hardin county, Ohio, March 15, 1844, son of Jacob and Lucy (Walter) Schoonover, both natives of New York state, who settled at Kenton, where Jacob Schoonover was engaged as a carpenter the rest of his life, his death occurring in the early fifties. For thirty-five years he had been a deacon in the Presbyterian church,





John W. Schornover



Emma J. Schornover



of which his wife also was an earnest member, and their children were reared in that faith. There were six of these children, Charles, Edward, George, John U., Lucy and Hattie. The elder brother, Charles, is still living at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The two daughters, both of whom are married and still living, long have made their home in Omaha, Nebraska. George Schoonover died from illness contracted during his service in the Union army at the time of the Civil War. In 1853 the Widow Schoonover moved with her younger children to Nevada, in Story county, Iowa, where she spent her last days, her death occurring in the early sixties.

John U. Schoonover received his elementary education in the schools of Kenton and Nevada, Iowa. He was thirteen years of age when he went to Iowa with his mother, who died three years later. At a little less than eighteen years of age he enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War in Company E, Third Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered in at Keokuk on June 9, 1861. The Third Iowa saw much active service and Mr. Schoonover participated in some of the severest engagements of the war, including the battles of Shiloh and Corinth, the siege of Vicksburg and Hatchies River, and the Yocknay exposition. At the battle of Jackson, Mississippi, July 12, 1863, he was wounded in the arm and the neck and was taken prisoner by the enemy. Declining to go into a Southern hospital, he was sent to Richmond and incarcerated in Libby prison, where he was confined for three weeks, at the end of which time, in August, he was paroled and sent on to Annapolis, at which point he was exchanged and was then sent to Indianapolis, where he was engaged in provost duty until the close of his service, being mustered out in that city on July 9, 1864.

Upon the conclusion of his military service John U. Schoonover returned to Nevada, Iowa, and there began working as a carpenter for his elder brother, Charles, who was a contracting carpenter at that place. When the Union Pacific railroad was being constructed he was engaged as a carpenter on that line and was kept busy building hotels, stations and round-houses all along the line as far west as Ogden. In the meantime, in the winter of 1868, he married and early in 1872 drove through by wagon from Iowa to Kansas with a fine team of horses and settled in Reno county. After looking over the land a bit he homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in Haven township and threw up a sod shanty on the same. It was in March that he entered his homestead and on April 26 he was joined by his wife, she having come through by train as far as Newton and by stage and team to the homestead, and the Schoonover home was established there in the little sod shanty on the plain. The first summer Mr. Schoonover

got out twelve acres of corn. The following winter some miscreant poisoned his fine team of horses and he was left poor indeed, being compelled to secure the assistance of a neighbor, Henry Scheele, to rent his place and put in his wheat. In addition to his early farming operations, Mr. Schoonover did considerable carpenter work for the earlier settlers, not a few of whom he had helped to locate on their claims, and gradually became pretty substantially established in the pioneer community. He organized the second school district in Reno county, but as the records were not made up until some time later that district appears on the record as the fourth district. At the time he located on his homestead the county government had not been organized and his humble abode was the last habitation on the trail northwest from Wichita until the Hutchinson settlement was reached. Mr. Schoonover was an ardent Republican and from the very start took an active part in local political affairs. In 1875 he was elected justice of the peace and with the exception of a period of four years, held that office in Haven township continuously until the time of his death, being known throughout this entire region as "Judge" Schoonover; and in his official capacity rendered an extraordinary service to the community, prospective litigants coming to him from all parts of the county to secure an adjustment of their differences out of court, his services as a mediator averting many a lawsuit. Judge Schoonover was mainly instrumental in securing the establishment of the first post-office in Haven township in the early seventies, the office, known as "Haven," being located at a farmhouse in a convenient locality. His wife had received an excellent education and had been for some years a school teacher and was thereafter amply qualified to take a leading part in the promotion of proper social conditions in the pioneer community, she and her husband being recognized from the very start as leaders in the local life of the pioneers. During the horrid visitation of the grasshopper plague in 1874 and later their intelligent direction undoubtedly resulted in the alleviation of much distress in their vicinity, Mr. Schoonover performing admirable service as recording secretary of the relief committee for Haven township.

Mr. Schoonover gradually brought his homestead to a profitable state of cultivation and early began the raising of fine cattle, being one of the first farmers in the county to have a herd of full-blood Red-Polled Durham cattle. As he prospered he added to his land holdings until he became the owner of six hundred and forty acres in Haven and Sumner townships. Soon after the town of Haven was established he opened a hardware store there and later bought a general store in the same village, presently moving the

former store to South Hutchinson. At one time he was a partner in the Haven Milling Company and was one of the organizers of the Haven Creamery Company, of which latter concern he was the president during the first eight years of its existence. In August, 1908, Mr. Schoonover retired from the farm and moved to Haven, where his death occurred the following spring, March 21, 1909. His widow is still living at Haven, where she has a very pleasant home and where she enjoys many evidences of the high regard in which she is held by the entire community.

On December 15, 1868, John U. Schoonover was united in marriage at Nevada, Iowa, to Elma J. Heacock, who was born at Medina, Ohio, September 18, 1846, daughter of Dr. Jacob and Lydia (Rawson) Heacock, both natives of Ohio and the parents of three other children, a son, Howard, of California, and two sisters, Celistine Michener, who died in Iowa, leaving two children, George and Eva, living in El Monte, California, and Eveline, wife of Doctor Williams, who died in California, in September, 1908, leaving four boys, all living in California. Doctor Heacock died in 1854. His wife had predeceased him in 1848 and their daughter, Elma, was thus left an orphan at the age of eight years, being cared for thereafter in the home of her father's niece at Vernon, Indiana, where she lived until she was twelve years old, at which time the family moved to Marshall county, Iowa, after moving to the town of Nevada, in Story county, that same state, where she completed her common-school education, after which she spent the winter of 1864-65 at the Iowa State University. For two years, between the ages of fourteen and sixteen, she had clerked in a dry-goods store and upon leaving the university began teaching school and was thus engaged until her marriage to Mr. Schoonover, she then being twenty-two years of age. Upon coming to this county Mrs. Schoonover took an active part in the development of the pioneer school system and for six years rendered admirable service to the public as a member of the school board, while in many other ways she contributed of her talents to the creation of proper social conditions hereabout.

To John U. and Elma J. (Heacock) Schoonover nine children were born, as follows: Susie Ethelyn, born on October 18, 1869, who married John Duke (now deceased) and later married Lewis Martin, resides at Kansas City, Missouri; Charles Oliver, January 21, 1871, who married Eliza Rau and lives at Kingsdown, Ford county, this state, where he is an extensive farmer; Mary Elma, the first girl born in Haven township, who married James M. Forker and lives in Haven township, this county; William Edward,



January 4, 1874, who died on March 28, 1874; George Howard Ray, unmarried, a well-known farmer of Sumner township; Hattie Josephine, married George Moreland and lives in Ninnescah township, this county; Lucy Rebecca, who lives with her mother in Haven; John Jacob, who married Georgia Jordon and lives on the old Schoonover homestead farm in Haven township, and Robert Rawson, November 5, 1885, who died on October 2, 1887.

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### HENRY W. HARMS.

Henry W. Harms might well be said to have grown up in partnership with his father and the possession of his broad acres came to him no less by the inherent right of labor than by heritage.

John Harms, father of Henry W. Harms, was born in Dallenburg, Hanover, Germany, October 8, 1839. After growing up on a farm in that country, he emigrated to the United States when he was twenty-six years old. He worked as a farm hand in Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa, and was also employed in construction and section work on railroads. In 1872, seven years after he landed in America, he decided to go to Kansas and take up a claim. Accordingly, with his chum, George Schlickau, he came by train to Newton, where they were joined by John W. Schoonover and Joe Kennick. Traveling across the country, the four arrived in Haven township, Reno county, March 21, 1872. Reno county at that time was minus a railroad and no government had been organized. The first settlers arrived the preceding year, only three or four families living in Haven township.

John Harms homesteaded eighty acres in section 8, township 24, range 5 west, and his friend, George Schlickau, took the land adjoining. Harms built a dugout. He had little money and no team and he and his chum bought an ox apiece and tended their land with these. While working in Wisconsin, Mr. Harms had met and courted Mary Meier, who was born at Dallenburg, Germany, December 21, 1849. As soon as he could save enough money, which was not until 1873, he sent for her to join him and they were married in Kansas. Their son, Henry W., was born on the farm August 17, 1874. Their only other child is Mary, wife of Dick Meyer, a farmer of Haven township.

They were frugal, hard-working Germans of the peasant type, but at the time of the father's death, March 31, 1914, he owned seven hundred

and twenty acres in Haven township and was financially independent. In 1902 he built a fine country home. He was instrumental in the building of St. Paul's German Evangelical Lutheran church, adjoining the homestead. For years he was an elder and served one term as president of the congregation. He was a stockholder in the Citizens' State Bank of Haven and in the Farmers' Elevator Company, of Haven. He carried on mostly grain farming. At the time of his death he was in far different circumstances to those of the German youth, who started out with little means, braved the discomforts of treeless Kansas, the grasshopper plague of 1874 and the droughts. His wife died on August 24, 1909.

Henry W. Harms was educated at the Germania school under the control of the Lutheran church, and also attended the district school near his home. He helped his father with all the work, and was rewarded when of age, with a full partnership. When his father died he willed him the homestead, now one hundred and sixty acres, where he now resides, and several other farms, where he carries on general farming. He is a director in the Citizens' State Bank of Haven and stockholder in the Farmers' Grain Company, of that place. Like his father, he is a Democrat. He and his family are Lutherans and he has served as president of the congregation.

Henry W. Harms was married on May 18, 1899, to Bertha Helen Scheele, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Beste) Scheele. They have one son, Herman Roland, born on March 2, 1900. He is attending the high school in Haven.

Henry Scheele, the father of Bertha (Scheele) Harms, was born on October 14, 1847, at Leahburgh, Hanover, Germany. He was the son of John and Lena (Burminster) Scheele, both natives of Hanover, Germany. John Scheele was a tailor by trade and is described as a modest little German Lutheran. His wife died in 1865 and he did not marry again. He was the father of six children, two of whom died in Germany. Henry was the eldest and is the only living child. The other three were William, who came to America in 1869, and was killed in a runaway in Haven township, having settled there in 1873; Fritz, who died in Haven; Lena, wife of Charles Astle, who died in Haven in 1913.

Henry Scheele grew up in Germany and attended school as prescribed by law, until he was fourteen years old. He then worked with farmers until he was of age in 1869, when he came to the United States and located in Wisconsin, near the Illinois line and did farm work. He was married there in December, 1872, to Dora Harms, who died two years later. They moved

to Kansas in 1873, and he homesteaded on the north half of the northeast quarter, section 12, township 24, range 5 west, in Haven township. He first built a dugout, then three months later a sod block house and finally a twelve hundred dollar frame building adorned the homestead. By means of general farming he has increased his holdings to three hundred and twenty acres in the same township. His farm is set out with large orchards. In 1906 he built a fine home and in 1910 he built a smaller home for his own use, his son, Herman, moving into the large house.

Mr. Scheele's second marriage occurred on December 3, 1875, to Elizabeth Beste, daughter of Henry and Christian Beste. She was born in the province of Waldeck, Germany, where her mother died. In 1872 her father brought his family, consisting of four daughters, to Joliet, Illinois, and three years later to Reno county, Kansas, where he later died at the home of William Mueller.

Mr. and Mrs. Scheele's children are Bertha, wife of Henry W. Harms, of Haven township; Anna, wife of Emil Tonn, a Lutheran minister of Aienzville, Illinois; Otto, died at the age of one year; Carl, died when five days old; Herman, who married Freda Miller and runs his father's farm on shares; Martha, wife of Titus Sene, of Laporte, Indiana; Ada, fifteen years of age, attending school.

Mr. Scheele had very little money when he came to Kansas. The first year in America he worked for only ten dollars a month and the next two years for two hundred dollars per year, but he has become one of the most prosperous farmers of Reno county.

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#### MORRIS R. CAIN.

Morris R. Cain, deputy United States revenue collector for the Leavenworth district, with headquarters in Hutchinson, this county, is a native of Ohio, having been born on his father's farm, near the town of Caldwell, in Noble county, this state, on September 14, 1859, son of James and Rosanna (Racey) Cain, both natives of Ohio. James Cain was a school teacher during the earlier years of his manhood, who later bought a farm, on which he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1889, at the age of seventy-six years. His wife had preceded him to the grave about four years, her death having occurred on December 25, 1885, at the age of sixty-six. Both were earnest and active members of the Presbyterian church, in

which Mr. Cain had served as a deacon for many years. They were the parents of ten children, eight sons and two daughters, five sons and two daughters now living, three sons dying in infancy.

Morris R. Cain's boyhood was spent on the paternal farm in Ohio. Evincing an unusual aptitude for his studies he early acquired an excellent common-school education and at the age of seventeen years began teaching school near his home and was thus engaged for five years. He was married in the fall of 1880 and in the fall of 1885 he came to Kansas, locating at Eudora, where for four years he was engaged in the publication of the *Eudora News*, a sprightly sheet, which he printed on a Washington hand press. In the fall of 1888 he sold that paper and accepted a position in the circulation department of the *Hutchinson Democrat* and he and his wife moved to that city. They bought a house at 107 Twelfth avenue, West, which then was regarded as being quite "out in the country," but which now is the very center of the most desirable residence section of the city, and there they still reside, in 1911 having built a new house, which is very comfortable and modern in every respect. Mr. Cain remained with the *Democrat* for two years, at the end of which time he took charge of the *Clipper*, acting for William Loe, the owner of the same, and for several years was publisher and manager of that paper. He then took charge of the publication side of a Democratic newspaper, issued by McKinstry & Hutton, and was thus occupied until in January, 1901, at which time he received the appointment of chief clerk in the office of the secretary of state at Topeka. For one year and six months he filled that position and then, in response to a telegram from the Standard Oil Company, offering him the position of auditor of sales in that company's Wichita office, at a much larger salary than the state was paying him, was in the employ of that company for seven years and six months. He then transferred his services to the Slade & Kinsy Woolen Mills Company and for one year was a traveling salesman for that company. The Hirschberger & Rosenthal Cigar Company, of Kansas City, then made him a flattering proposition and he transferred his services to that company and for four years was employed by it as a traveling salesman, his territory covering Kansas, Oklahoma and a part of Texas, terminating that employment to accept the position of stock salesman and assistant general manager of the strawboard and boxboard factory which was established in Hutchinson about that time, and he remained with that company for four years, or until his appointment, in October, 1914, to the position of deputy United States revenue collector for this district, under the collector,



W. H. L. Pepper, of Leavenworth, a position which he is still holding and in which he has performed most efficient service for the government.

In November, 1880, Morris R. Cain was united in marriage to Martha Hesson, who was born on a farm in Noble county, Ohio, daughter of Solomon and Margaret Hesson, both of whom now are deceased, and to this union four children have been born, as follow: Elizabeth Deane, who is at home with her parents; Quintella Dale, who married Clarence Yetter and lives at Detroit, Michigan; Leslie A., a retired shoe merchant, of Hutchinson, of the firm of Cain & Campbell, and Anna, who also is at home.

Mr. Cain is an ardent Democrat and for years has taken an active part in local politics, but never has been a candidate for office. He is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and of the United Commercial Travelers' Association and takes much interest in the affairs of both these popular organizations.

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#### DAVID H. KING.

David H. King, one of the representative agriculturists of Reno county, Kansas, was born on May 7, 1849, in Suffolk county, England, and is the son of James and Susan (Morley) King, also natives of England. James King was a butcher by trade, which business he followed until death, in his native country. He was the father of the children whose names follow: Henry, Samuel, Emma, Hannah, Mary, Louise, David, James, George Frederick, and Isabella. James and George were twins. David, James and Frederick are the only ones of the family who immigrated to America.

David H. King received his education in his native country and, after six weeks on a sailing vessel, landed in Quebec, Canada, in 1869. The three years following his arrival he spent working for a wholesale firm in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. This same firm sent him to Colorado, on July 2, 1872, as manager of a sheep ranch which they owned and he remained with them in that capacity for nine years. In 1881 he drove sixteen hundred sheep through to this county and has remained here ever since, following the sheep business as a permanent issue. The creamery business has also been a profitable undertaking, seventy-five gallons of milk a day having been sent to Swift & Company at Hutchinson. This business he continued for three years, discontinuing it in 1908.







DAVID H. KING.



MRS. DAVID H. KING.



On September 27, 1880, David H. King was united in marriage to Susan Nation, a native of London, England, and to them have been born three children, whose names follow: Richard J., born on November 25, 1881, died on June 20, 1882; Charles F., who married Emmie Kettle and now resides on his father's farm; William D., June 12, 1884, who lives at home, and Susan, August 13, 1886, who married Samuel McLaughlin and is the mother of three children, Benjamin, Samuel and Eleanor.

Although David H. King has always been very active in civic and commercial life, he has never aspired to office, but has served his community in the capacity of township treasurer as well as a member of the township school board. As a citizen and man he stands high in the respect of his fellow citizens and numbers many friends among the residents of this section.

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### JAMES C. POTTER.

Township Trustee James C. Potter, of Sale Creek township, is a native of the state of Iowa, but has lived in this county ever since he was thirteen years old, with the exception of about nine years, during which he was developing a claim he took up in Oklahoma during the "rush" that followed the opening up of "the strip" there. Ever since he arrived at a voting age he has taken an active and an interested part in the political affairs of this county and is widely known throughout the county.

James C. Potter was born in Johnson county, Iowa, on February 6, 1865, son of Adam and Rosannah (Layman) Potter, who later became pioneers of Reno county, the former of whom was born in October, 1826, and the latter January 13, 1835. The mother is still living on the old homestead farm in Loda township, which they pre-empted in 1877. The father died on February 4, 1916. Adam Potter was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, and when a lad of eleven years moved with his parents to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, where he grew to manhood on a pioneer farm. He was apt at his studies and for some years taught school. He also learned the miller's trade and for some time was thus engaged. When the Civil War broke out he sought to enlist in an Indiana regiment, but on account of a slight "limp," due to the improper setting of a broken leg some years before, was rejectd. He married in Indiana and made his home in Tippecanoe county until the fall of 1864, when he and his family moved to Johnson county, Iowa, where they bought a farm and made their home until the



spring of 1878, when they came to this county. In the spring of 1872, shortly after Reno county was opened to settlement, Adam Potter had made a trip through this section of Kansas and had taken admiring and appreciative note of the countless buffaloes roaming the apparently inexhaustibly fertile prairies hereabout and he then and there became inoculated with a severe case of "Kansas fever." In 1877 he returned here and pre-empted a quarter of a section of land in Loda township, to which he and his family removed in the following spring and there have resided ever since, until his death, becoming, in all the years that since have elapsed, one of the best-known and most substantial families in the county. Upon coming here his eldest daughter and two of his sons also pre-empted a quarter of a section each, the Potter holdings thus being considerable from the very time of the family's settlement here.

Adam Potter was a Democrat of the progressive type, an ardent admirer of William Jennings Bryan and took a warm interest in political affairs in a local way. He and his wife ever have been earnest members of the Christian church and were mainly instrumental in effecting the organization of the Christian church in Loda township, not long after their settlement there. To them ten children have been born, namely: John, who died in infancy; Jane, who died in early womanhood; Ada, who married W. H. Snell and lives on a farm in Kingman county, this state; Jacob W., who came to this county in 1877, but presently returned to Iowa and is now living in Johnson county, that state, a prosperous farmer; Frank, who died at the age of three years; Willard, who lives on a farm adjoining that of his father in Loda township; James C., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Alice, who married G. W. Baker and lives in Loda township; Elmer R., who operates a seven-hundred-acre wheat farm in Haskell county, this state, besides a large farm in Colorado; Iowa, who died in 1912, married Thomas J. Nall and lives in Oklahoma, and Ida, who married William Heck and lives near Wellington, this state.

James C. Potter was thirteen years of age when he came to Reno county with his parents and for several winters after coming here attended school in the little sod school house in the neighborhood of his home in Loda township, in which dried corn stalks were used as fuel. He remained at home, assisting in the work of developing the homestead, until the time of his marriage in 1889, at the age of twenty-four, when he bought a farm of eighty acres in Loda township, besides which he rented other land, and there he lived until the "strip" was opened in Oklahoma in 1893. He was

among those who participated in the memorable "run" to that section and was able to locate a claim in Woods county, in the new state. He then tore down his house in this county, transported the material to his new claim and there re-erected it, making his home there until 1902, in which year he traded his Oklahoma farm to advantage for one hundred and sixty acres in Salt Creek township, this county, the northwest quarter of section 16, township 23, range 7 west, and there he since has made his home. He later bought an adjoining quarter section, which he sold three years later at a profit of three thousand five hundred dollars. Upon taking possession of his farm in Salt Creek township he built a handsome and comfortable farm home and he and his family are very pleasantly situated. In addition to his home quarter section, Mr. Potter also profitably manages a farm of four hundred acres nearby, which he has leased, and is looked upon as one of the big farmers thereabout. Besides these holdings, he is the owner of thirty acres in the suburban gardens of Houston, Texas, and is a director in the Farmers' Elevator Company at Partridge, this county, and is an active man of affairs.

On September 22, 1889, James C. Potter was united in marriage to Eva B. Dix, who was born in Meriden, this state, daughter of the Hon. J. W. and Nancy A. Dix, both of whom now are deceased, the former of whom was a veteran of the Civil War and a former representative in the Kansas Legislature from Reno county. To Mr. and Mrs. Potter five children have been born, as follow: Edna A., born on July 6, 1890, who married W. J. Richardson and lives in Bell township, this county; Edith, December 20, 1892, who married P. A. Herron and lives in Salt Creek township; Clarence, October 15, 1897, an able assistant to his father in the latter's extensive farming operations; Charles C., October 24, 1899, still a student in the county high school at Nickerson, and Rhea Irene, August 31, 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Potter are earnest and influential members of the Christian church and their children are all members of the same. Mr. Potter has been a member of the church since he was sixteen years of age and is one of the elders of the church at Nickerson, in the affairs of which church he takes an active interest.

Mr. Potter is a progressive Democrat and from the time he attained his majority has taken a warm personal interest in political affairs, having been precinct committeeman for his party for many years, and a constant attendant at Democratic conventions. During the time of his residence in Oklahoma he carried his political interest with him and was elected the first

trustee of the new township in which his claim there was located and during the last year of his residence there he served as deputy sheriff of Woods county. For years he was township clerk in Loda township and is now trustee of Salt Creek township. Mr. Potter ever has taken an active interest in the educational interests of the county and has been a member of the school board even from the days before his marriage. There is no ground for any misunderstanding of Mr. Potter's position on the liquor question and all his life he has been a most earnest advocate of the principal of prohibition. He is warmly interested in all movements having to do with the general betterment of conditions hereabout and has for years been one of the prominent members of the Anti-Horse Thief Association.

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### HENRY RABE.

Henry Rabe, a prosperous and substantial farmer of Salt Creek township, this county, one of the most influential members of the sterling Menonite colony of that section, and one of the real pioneers of Reno county, is a Hanoverian, having been born in the kingdom of Hanover, now a part of the German Empire, on February 28, 1842, son of John Henry and Margaret (Ekoff) Rabe, both natives of Hanover and both of whom died of smallpox when their son, Henry, was two years old, leaving four children, all of whom are still living, the others being as follow: John, a wealthy retired farmer, living near Peabody, this state; Mrs. Elizabeth Otten, who lives at Oldenburg, in the province of Prussia, Germany, and Mattias, who lives in Carlinville, Illinois.

Henry Rabe was reared in the family of his guardian, Mattias Teuton, in Hanover, and attended the government schools until he was fourteen years of age. At sixteen he left his guardian's roof and worked as a farm hand until twenty-four years old. In 1866 he came to the United States and joined his brothers, John and Mattias, at Carlinville, Illinois, they some time previously having settled there. There Henry Rabe hired out as a farm laborer and for seven years was thus engaged in that neighborhood. In 1872 he accompanied William Lawrence, a veteran of the Civil War, on an overland trip to Kansas, their objective point being Reno county, and they were four weeks driving through with a team of mules. Upon their arrival here, Mr. Rabe homesteaded eighty acres in section 4, Salt Creek township, and Mr. Lawrence took a soldier's homestead claim on the quarter

section adjoining. Henry Rabe constructed a dugout on his place and in that primitive form of tenement lived during the time he was proving up his claim. He was one of the first settlers in that section and during the first few hard years of his residence there suffered all the hardships to which the pioneers hereabout were subjected, hardships which aroused the sympathies of the whole nation. What with the grasshoppers and the hot winds and the droughts, Mr. Rabe felt that there was small chance ever to win out, but he stuck to it and presently was greatly rewarded, for when Kansas did begin to smile on the settlers she "smiled all over," her fertile soil rendering to them rich rewards for their toil and for all they had suffered. For the first few years of his residence here, Mr. Rabe had nothing which he could turn into money, the only money he could earn being such trifling sums as could be gained by hauling buffalo bones to Hutchinson. One year he went to within twelve miles of Wichita to put out a crop. He presently replaced his dugout by a shack, which was little better or more comfortable as a place of habitation and which possessed the added disadvantage of being the subject of destruction every time a good stiff breeze came sweeping over the prairie. But he presently began to prosper, his indefatigable industry being rewarded by good crops, and in 1884 he built a comfortable home, in which he still lives.

About that time Mr. Rabe bought the southwest quarter in the same section, and on November 5, 1889, he married Mary Yaggy, who had come to this county from Indiana in 1884. Mr. and Mrs. Rabe are both members of the Mennonite church and are substantial and highly respected members of their community. In 1900 Mr. Rabe took a trip back to Europe to visit his sister in Oldenburg and enjoyed every hour of his outing.

Mrs. Rabe was born near the city of Canton, in Stark county, Ohio, on November 5, 1849, daughter of John and Anna (Schloneger) Yaggy, the former of whom, born in France on December 3, 1817, died on October 21, 1909, and the latter born in Switzerland, September 16, 1813, died on August 8, 1897. Both came to the United States with their respective parents when young and were married in 1839 in Stark county, Ohio. In 1853 they moved to Allen county, Indiana, to join the Mennonite colony there, and there they spent the remainder of their lives on a farm. They were the parents of four sons and six daughters. In 1884 one of these sons, John Yaggy, came to this county, accompanied by his sister, Mary, now Mrs. Rabe, and bought a farm in Salt Creek township, where he spent the rest of his life.



## GEORGE R. GANTZ.

George R. Gantz, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Walnut township, this county, who for years served as justice of the peace in that township and who in other ways has been an active participant in civic affairs thereabout, is a native of Ohio, born on a farm in Morrow county, that state, September 9, 1864, son of John and Margaret (Rule) Gantz, who later moved to Marshall county, Indiana, where they are still living.

John Gantz was born in York county, Pennsylvania, son of George and Penelope (Lightfoot) Gantz, both born in Pennsylvania, the former of Pennsylvania-Dutch parentage and the latter a half-blood Indian, who moved to Morrow county, Ohio, where they established themselves on a farm and there spent the remainder of their lives. George Gantz and wife were the parents of five children, Hannah, Caroline, Catherine, Matilda and John, of whom the latter is now the only survivor. John Gantz was reared on the home farm in his native county and there grew to manhood. He married Margaret Rule, also a native of Morrow county, daughter of George Rule, a farmer, who later moved to Marshall county, Indiana, where he spent his last days, his death occurring in 1890, at the age of eighty-four. Some time after their marriage John Gantz and his wife moved to Marshall county, Indiana, with their children, and they are still living there, long since retired from the active labors of the farm, and very comfortably situated. John Gantz enlisted for service during the progress of the Civil War, but was not called into active service. He and his wife are earnest members of the Methodist church and their children were reared in that faith. There were six of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being Frank, Martha (deceased), Hannah, Eva and John.

George Gantz was but a child when his parents moved from Ohio to Indiana and he grew to manhood in Marshall county, in the latter state, receiving his schooling in the public schools of that county, finishing in the high school. Reared on a farm, he became an excellent farmer and when twenty-three years old, in 1887, came to Kansas with a view to "growing up with the country." He located in Reno county and in the spring of 1891 married here. That same year he bought a farm of eighty acres in Walnut township and there established his home. As he prospered in his farming operations he gradually added to his holdings until now he is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres and has a fine home with general



improvements and surroundings in keeping with the same, he and his family being very well situated. Mr. Gantz has given considerable attention to stock raising and his farm is well stocked with mixed cattle and Poland China hogs. He has given thoughtful attention to local civic affairs and for eleven years served as justice of the peace and clerk in and for Walnut township.

It was on May 24, 1891, that George Gantz was united in marriage to Mary Wright, daughter of A. A. Wright, one of the pioneers of Huntsville township, this county, and to this union have been born eight children, Jessie, Clarence, Frank, Albert, Minnie, Esther, Elsie and Hazel. Mr. and Mrs. Gantz are members of the Methodist church and take an active part in the various beneficences of the same. For years Mr. Gantz was a teacher in and superintendent of the Sunday school at Huntsville. He also has taken an active interest in the affairs of the public schools and for fifteen years or more has served the public very effectively as a member of the local school board.

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#### M. L. BARRETT.

M. L. Barrett, editor and publisher of the *Arlington Enterprise* at Arlington, this county, and one of the best-known newspaper men in Reno county, is a native of Ohio, born in the town of Conneaut, that state, February 26, 1866, son and only child of J. M. and Catherine Barrett, who became early settlers at Arlington, this county, where they spent the rest of their lives.

M. L. Barrett received his education in the academy at Pierpont, Ohio, and upon completing his schooling entered a tin shop and served an apprenticeship to the tinner's trade, at which he worked for more than three years. On October 1, 1893, he bought the *Arlington Enterprise*, at that time published by J. E. Eaton, and has ever since been editor and publisher of the same. Mr. Barrett has made a success of his newspaper and is also the proprietor of a well-equipped job-printing plant, which he operates in connection with the newspaper.

On September 10, 1885, M. L. Barrett was united in marriage to Jessie M. Hayes, and to this union two children have been born, sons both, Charles H., who married Lillian M. Gordley, of Arlington, and Ross J., both of whom are associated with their father in the publication of the *Arlington Enterprise*, in the operation of the job-printing plant. The Barretts are

members of the Presbyterian church at Arlington. Mr. Barrett is a Republican and ever since coming to this county has taken an active interest in civic affairs.

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### GEORGE THOMAS FALL.

George Thomas Fall, better known throughout Reno county as "Tom" Fall, superintendent of the county farm, on rural route No. 5, out of Hutchinson, is a Hoosier, having been born on a farm in Boone county, Indiana, in November, 1860, son of Abraham and Delilah (Asher) Fall, the former of whom was born in North Carolina, of German descent, and the latter in Indiana.

Abraham Fall was about fifteen years old when he arrived in Indiana with his parents, who settled in Boone county in 1840, they having been among the very earliest settlers of that region. They were compelled to camp in the woods until they could clear a patch in the deep timber on which to erect a log cabin to serve as their first place of residence there and had to remain on guard through the nights, armed with firebrands with which to ward off the threatened attacks of the packs of howling wolves which then infested that region. It was amid these primitive conditions that Abraham Fall grew to manhood. He married a neighboring girl, who had been born in Indiana, and then bought a farm of eighty acres on which he lived until 1872, in which year he and his family migrated to Iowa, settling at Eddyville, where he bought a coal mine, which he operated for two years, at the end of which time he traded the mine for a farm nearby and there made his home until 1877, in which year he came to Kansas and bought a tract of school land in Castleton township, this county, where he made his permanent home, becoming one of the best-known farmers thereabout. He was a Republican and he and his wife were members of the Christian church and their children were reared in that faith. His faithful helpmate died in 1888 and in his later years he made his home among his several children, his death occurring in 1910, at the age of eighty-four years.

To Abraham and Delilah (Asher) Fall six children were born, namely: Merrit, who is superintendent of the great Colinwood ranch in Meade county, this state; "Tom," the subject of this biographical sketch; James A., a well-known farmer of Castleton township, this county; Ed F., also a Castleton township farmer; Libbie, deceased, and Icy, also deceased.



GEORGE T. FALL.



"Tom" Fall received a limited education in the schools in the neighborhood of his early home in Indiana and later in the schools in the vicinity of his second home in Iowa. He was twelve years old when his family moved to Iowa and his time there was mainly spent helping his father in the latter's coal mine and later on the farm. He was seventeen years old when the family settled in Reno county and he has lived here ever since. For several years after coming here he gave valuable assistance in the labor of developing the home farm and then he became foreman of the noted Stewart cattle ranch in Castleton township and for seven years performed valuable service in that capacity. In 1889 he moved to Castleton, where he engaged in the grain buying business, in addition to carrying on quite extensive farming operations, and was thus engaged until 1906, in which year he was appointed superintendent of the county farm, a position of public trust and responsibility he has held ever since. Though a Republican and appointed under a Republican county administration, Mr. Fall has been retained in the office he holds even through Democratic administrations, his peculiar qualifications for the position being recognized and admitted by both parties, his management of the county farm having been very successful.

On October 6, 1881, "Tom" Fall was united in marriage to Libbie A. Glick, who was born in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, daughter of Samuel and Arietta Glick, who settled in Castleton township, this county, in 1877, being among the earliest settlers thereabout, that also having been the year in which the Falls settled there, and Mr. Fall courted and wed<sup>d</sup> his wife in the little sod house on the plain, which served as the first home of the Glicks in this county. Samuel Glick died in 1889 and his widow died on December 22, 1915. To Mr. and Mrs. Fall four children have been born, as follow: Howard, a cattle buyer, who married Cora Holloway and lives in South Hutchinson; Nettie, who married W. F. Redman, now city clerk of Victor, Colorado; Robert, who is manager of a store in Victor, Colorado, and Norman, a brilliant young physician, who is practicing his profession at Geuda Eprings, Kansas. Dr. Norman Fall is regarded as a young man of unusual intellectual aptitude. He entered the Hutchinson high school at the age of twelve years and was graduated before he was seventeen, immediately thereafter entering Louisville Medical College, from which he was graduated four years later, at the age of twenty-one, since which time he has been practicing his profession at Geuda Springs and has been very successful. Doctor



Fall married Nellie Keir, who, at the time of her marriage, was a graduate nurse and who is an admirable helpmate in his practice.

Mr. and Mrs. Fall are members of the Methodist church and their children were reared in that faith. Though ever having taken a close interest in local politics, Mr. Fall never has been a candidate for elective office. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen and takes a warm interest in both of those orders.

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### ATLEE M. BUSER.

Atlee M. Buser, one of the best-known and most successful traveling salesmen in Kansas, who has been a resident of Hutchinson, this county, since 1885, having made his home there during the "boom" days, is a native of Ohio, having been born at Xenia, August 12, 1848, son of John and Susan (Haines) Buser, the former of whom was a native of Virginia and the latter of Maryland.

John Buser was born in 1800. Though he was but a lad when the War of 1812 broke out, he enlisted for service in that second war of American independence and served through the war. In 1823 he married Susan Haines, a grandniece of Chief Justice Tawney, of the United States supreme court, noted for his decision in the celebrated Dred Scott case, and the next year emigrated to Ohio, driving across the Alleghany mountains, and settled in the Xenia neighborhood, in Green county, where he created a new home in the then forest wilderness. His wife was reared in Maryland, her father having been a large slaveholder. John Buser's farming operations in Ohio prospered and he eventually became the owner of a considerable tract of land in Greene county, but the desire to move farther west prompted him to sell out and in 1853 he sold out and moved to Boone county, Indiana, near the town of Lebanon. A few years later he moved to the town of Thorntown, in that same county, and there spent the remainder of his days, his death occurring in 1861. John Buser was a "natural born" mechanic and was a skilled carpenter and cabinet-maker, as well as a good farmer, and his services were in wide demand among his pioneer neighbors, particularly as a coffin-maker, and many a night he would be found occupied making a coffin for the final disposition of the remains of a neighbor. He and his wife were members of the German Reformed church and were pious, Christian people. Mrs. Buser's last days were spent in Waverly, Iowa, and

her remains are buried there. To John Buser and his wife ten children were born, five sons and five daughters, of whom three sons and three daughters are still living. Their eldest son, John H. Buser, became a German Reformed minister and established several churches in Iowa.

Atlee M. Buser was five years of age when his family made the change of residence from Ohio to Indiana and in the latter state he received his education, his schooling being completed with a course in the Thorntown Academy. As a young man he clerked in a store at Lahoga, afterward for years at Waveland, going from there and taking employment as a traveling salesman for an Indianapolis wholesale dry-goods firm. In 1876 he moved to Rock Island, Illinois, where he began work as a carpenter, a form of occupation for which he had a natural aptitude, and became a skilled carpenter and successful building contractor. In 1885, being attracted by the "boom" then on in Hutchinson, this county, he moved here and immediately entered upon a successful career as a building contractor in this city, continuing in that business until 1913, many of the best residences in Hutchinson today bearing lasting evidence of the substantial character of his work. In 1914 Mr. Buser returned to the life of "the road," having cherished a liking for the life of the commercial traveler ever since the days he was thus engaged in the interests of his early Indianapolis employers. He took a position as traveling salesman for the John Morrell Packing Company, of Ottumwa, Iowa, and has been quite successful in that line of endeavor, probably selling more meat than any other salesman traveling out of Hutchinson. Though now getting well along in years, Mr. Buser retains all his former energy and perseverance and is regarded as one of the best salesmen in the meat line in the West.

In 1882, at Aledo, Mercer county, Illinois, Atlee M. Buser was united in marriage to Cynthia Messenger, who was born and educated at Greenville, Ohio, daughter of Madison Messenger and wife, the former of whom was killed during the battle of Chickamauga while serving in the One Hundred and Thirteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. The Widow Messenger later moved with her family of small children to Rock Island, Illinois, where she kept them together and, at the cost of many personal hardships, enabled them to get a good start in the world. To Mr. and Mrs. Buser three children were born, Myrtle, who is principal of the Fourth Avenue school in Hutchinson; Bess, who married R. W. Ellis and lives at Concordia, this state, and Lee, a prosperous builder, of Clearwater, Florida, who married Lillian Avery and has one child, a daughter, Mary Alice. The mother

of these children died in 1914, greatly respected and loved by all who knew her. She was an active member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and Woman's Relief Corps.

Mr. Buser cast his first vote for the thirteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States and ever since has voted the Republican ticket, ever having given a good citizen's attention to political affairs, though never having been a candidate for public office. He is a Mason and a member of the Woodmen; in fact, he organized Camp No. 566 at Hutchinson, in both of which orders he takes a warm interest. He and his family are members of the Presbyterian church and he lives at 317 Tenth avenue, which has been his home since the year 1892.

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### JOHN FRANK LESLIE.

John Frank Leslie, a well-known and progressive farmer and rancher of Walnut township, this county, owner of eight hundred and eighty acres of land in that township and an active participant in the general enterprises of that community, is a native of Missouri, having been born in Clark county, that state, August 28, 1860, son of Alexander and Elizabeth (Carman) Leslie, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Kentucky, who later became pioneers of Walnut township, this county, where their last days were spent.

Alexander Leslie was born in Montgomery county, New York, December 19, 1804, son of an Irish emigrant, who had come to this country with his three brothers and who married in New York state and there spent the remainder of his life. Alexander Leslie grew up in that state and as a boy worked on the Erie canal. He then came West and at Fairfield, Iowa, married Elizabeth Carman, whose father, Joseph Carman, a native of Kentucky, who had moved with his family to Iowa, later moved to Missouri, becoming a considerable landowner in Clark county, that state, where he spent his last days. Alexander Leslie established his home in Clark county, Missouri, and was living there when the Civil War broke out. For five months he served as a teamster in the Union army, but was unable to continue in service on account of ill health. Not long after land in Reno county was opened to settlement he came here with his family from Missouri and homesteaded the east half of section 30, in Walnut township, at the same time taking a pre-emption to a timber claim and was becoming well estab-

lished on his homestead when his death occurred on July 1, 1878. His widow kept the family together, continued the management of the homestead and survived for many years, her death not occurring until May 17, 1913. She was the mother of eight children: Martha (deceased), Sarah, Louise, Lucy (deceased), J. F., J. H., C. E. and G. M. Alexander Leslie was a Republican and he and his wife were members of the Methodist church, in which faith their children were reared.

John F. Leslie received his schooling in the schools of his native county in Missouri and was a well-grown boy when his parents came to this county and settled in Walnut township. He proved a valuable aid to his widowed mother in the labors of developing the homestead farm and early became recognized as an energetic and progressive farmer. He married in the spring of 1882, and in 1887 bought the place on which he is now living, a fine tract of four hundred and eighty acres, well improved and profitably cultivated. In addition to his home farm, Mr. Leslie is the owner of four hundred acres elsewhere in Walnut township and is regarded as one of the most substantial farmers and stockmen in that township. His present commodious and comfortable home was built in 1908; the modern barn in 1912 and the silo was erected in 1915.

It was on May 14, 1882, that John F. Leslie was united in marriage to Mary Agnes Geist, who was born in Pennsylvania, November 4, 1865, daughter of William and Mary (Snyder) Geist, who left their farm in the Keystone state in 1878 and came to Kansas, settling in Reno county. William Geist homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in Walnut township and there established his home, becoming an influential pioneer of that section. He was a veteran of the Civil War, having served for four years as a member of a Pennsylvania regiment in the Union army, and took a prominent part in civic affairs in the early days of this community. He and his wife were members of the Evangelical church in Pennsylvania, but upon coming to this county became affiliated with the United Brethren church and were active in all good works. To them nine children were born, of whom Mrs. Leslie was the fourth in order of birth, the others being Franklin, Emma, Edward, William (deceased), Charles, Anna, Nellie and Harvey.

To John F. and Mary Agnes (Geist) Leslie six children were born, as follow: Pearl, born on July 22, 1883; Frank, July 22, 1885; Ethel, April 14, 1892; Verna, January 1, 1894; Eston, April 3, 1899, and Zella, October 17, 1901. Pearl Leslie completed her schooling in Cooper College and the remainder of the children in the county high school at Nickerson. The mother of these children died on November 12, 1915. Pearl, the eldest daugh-



ter, married J. S. Zimmerman, of Medford township, this county, and has four children; Ethel married Lewis W. Dietz, of that same township, and Verna married Olin Bramley, of Huntsville. Mr. Leslie is a thirty-second degree Mason and a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, and his son, Frank, is a Knight Templar Mason, both taking an earnest interest in Masonic affairs. Mr. Leslie having been actively affiliated with that order for more than twenty years.

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### E. R. HURD.

E. R. Hurd, farmer and citizen of Grant township, Reno county, Kansas, was born on August 3, 1850, in Gloucestershire, England, near the town of Bristol, and is the son of James and Jane (Lawrence) Hurd, both natives of the same country. James Hurd, the paternal grandfather of E. R. Hurd, was also a native of England and followed the vocation of farmer until his death, which occurred in his native land. His son, James Hurd, Jr., was indebted to the common schools of England for the education which he received and, although his schooling was somewhat limited, he was one of the best read men of his locality. He was thoroughly conversant with English politics, as well as with the politics of other countries, especially those of the United States. He and his wife were the parents of three children, namely: Samuel, E. R. and William. The parents of these children lived to a ripe old age, the father's death occurring in 1905, at the age of eighty-four years and his wife followed him in 1909. James Hurd, Jr., was a farmer and lived and died in his native land.

E. R. Hurd was educated in the graded schools of England, after which he removed to Toronto, Canada, while still a very young man. After remaining in Canada for a period of two years, he removed to the city of Buffalo, New York, thence to Chicago for three years and finally located in Cheyenne, Wyoming, with the intention of remaining but one night, but instead became a resident of that place for twenty years. Various enterprises engaged his attention while he sojourned there, among them being the drug and lumber business. During the financial crisis of 1893, he sold his business and removed to Reno county, Kansas, where he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in Grant township and established his present home.

On March 26, 1888, E. R. Hurd was united in marriage to Lillian



Troxell, daughter of Rubin Troxell, a native farmer of Allentown, Pennsylvania, and to them were born two children, Beatrice and E. R., Jr. Lillian (Troxell) Hurd was born in New York. Her death occurred in 1903. E. R. Hurd, Sr., is well known in fraternal circles, being a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and is affiliated with the chapter and the Knights Templar. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

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### WILLIAM H. H. HICKMAN.

William H. H. Hickman is one of the prominent farmers of Reno county. He was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, October 26, 1852. His parents were Thomas and Harriett (Wilson) Hickman, whose family history is presented elsewhere in this volume, in the sketch of Martin H. Potter.

Mr. Hickman, before becoming a farmer, was for four years a school teacher in Decatur county, Iowa, having been educated in the district schools and in the Leon Teachers Normal School of that county. When his father moved to Kansas, in the fall of 1874, he left his school work and accompanied him. After teaching one year in Reno county, he took up the southwest quarter of section 5, and also "timber claimed" the southeast quarter of section 6, Miami township, where he has developed a fine stock farm. During the early days of his Kansas life he engaged in teaming to Hutchinson and to Sun City and Lake City on the Medicine river. On his outgoing trips he carried farm products and buffalo robes, and returning, took home supplies from Hutchinson and timber posts from the other towns.

On Christmas Day of 1881 William H. H. Hickman was married to Anna M. Potter, daughter of John B. and Margaret (Bright) Potter, at the town of Huron. She was born at Casstown, Miami county, Ohio, on February 12, 1858. To this union the following children have been born: Bessie H., born on December 17, 1882; Stella B., May 15, 1886, died on July 9, 1886; Lena, April 10, 1888, died on July 26, 1888; Leonard G., July 5, 1890. Bessie H. attended the graded schools of Turon and later graduated in instrumental music at the Nickerson high school. She has been a student at the Kelso Conservatory of Music at Wichita, and assistant teacher of music at the State Normal School at Alva, Oklahoma. Leonard G. received his education at Turon, and was also a student of the Nickerson high school. He has been cashier of the State Bank, and also served as deputy treasurer of Reno county from October, 1913, to May, 1915. Bessie H. and Leonard

G., during the summer of 1915, took up claims of three hundred and twenty acres each in Colorado, and have erected buildings thereon.

Mr. Hickman's brothers and sisters are: Kimball, of Battle Creek, Michigan; Andrew J., farmer of Lenora, Oklahoma; Lavis J., wife of Martin H. Potter, of Turon.

William H. H. Hickman is a member of the Masonic lodge at Turon. He is a charter member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Turon, has been an active worker in the lodge, has filled all the offices, and has been its representative in the grand lodge of Kansas. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Hickman and his wife and daughter are earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Ever since the organization of the township Mr. Hickman has held some office and is now justice of the peace. For eighteen years he was a member of the school board.

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#### E. F. DANFORD.

E. F. Danford, a well-known and prosperous farmer and ranchman, of Reno township, this county, is a native of Ohio, having been born on a farm in Noble county, that state, on September 9, 1869, son of Isaiah and Eliza E. (Groves) Danford, both natives of that county, the former of whom is now living in Hutchinson, this county, and the latter died at her home in that city in November, 1909. To them ten children were born, all of whom are still living, namely: J. L., who rents a large cattle ranch near Kinsley, this state; Anna, who married Ben Meyers, who conducts a dairy in Hutchinson; E. F., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; William C., who lives in Oklahoma; Lavina Della, who married L. S. Kent, an auctioneer, of Hutchinson; L. P., who owns a two-hundred-and-forty-acre farm in this county; Mary, who married A. T. Maupin, who is in the dairy business; Carrie, who married Robert Carlyle, of Stafford, this state; Rosanna, who married Patrick Hamilton, and Ella, who married W. D. Kennedy.

During his residence in Ohio Isaiah Danford was the owner of a two-hundred-acre farm, which he disposed of in the spring of 1887 and moved with his family to Kansas, locating in this county, where he bought a quarter of a section of land in Lincoln township, the general operation of which, from the first, he turned over to his sons, while he the next year opened a hotel, the Ohio House, named in honor of his native state, in Hutchinson. He conducted that popular hostelry for several years, at the end of which



*Ed. F. Hanford*



time he retired from business and has since been living retired in Hutchinson, though for a time he was engaged, in partnership with Ben Meyers, in the dairy business. He is a Republican and since coming to this county has given his intelligent attention to political affairs, though never having been a candidate for office.

E. F. Danford received his schooling in the public schools of his native county, in Ohio, and was eighteen years of age when he came with the family to this county. For years he was the eldest son at home and thus the responsibility of managing the farm fell largely upon his shoulders. After his marriage, two or three years later, he bought a quarter of a section of land in Reno township, which place he presently sold and bought the southwest quarter of section 17, township 23, range 6 west, in the same township and there he has made his home ever since, having improved and cultivated the place until it is one of the most productive and attractive farms in that section of the county. He has enlarged the home farm by the purchase of the ninety-acre tract adjoining, in section 16, of the same township, and also owns two hundred acres in section 16, Reno township. In 1910 he erected on the home place a thoroughly up-to-date and commodious residence and he and his family are very comfortably situated there. In addition to his valuable holdings in this county, Mr. Danford and his two sons, C. W. and C. L., rent a twenty-five-hundred-acre ranch in Kiowa county, Kansas, five hundred acres of which is given over to cultivation, the remainder being used as a cattle range, and the same managed by his sons, Clyde L. and Charles W. A few years ago Mr. Danford started a Guernsey dairy, two miles southwest of Hutchinson, in partnership with J. W. Black, and the latter is now quite successfully operating the same.

On December 25, 1889, E. F. Danford was united in marriage to Lizzie E. Crow, and on Christmas Day, 1914, their silver wedding anniversary was celebrated amid much pleasant merry-making on the part of their friends. Mrs. Danford is a daughter of Isaac Crow and wife, pioneers of Reno county, further details of whose family history are set out in the biographical sketch relating to their son, George Luther Crow, presented elsewhere in this volume. To Mr. and Mrs. Danford four children have been born, as follow: Charles, born on November 5, 1890, who married Ada Black, and has two sons, Robert J., born on June 22, 1914, and Eugene I., January 13, 1916, is farming in Kiowa county, Kansas; C. L., June 14, 1892, on his father's big ranch in Kiowa county, Kansas; Ada, July 8, 1898, is attending the Hutchinson high school, and Paul Stewart, August 17, 1904. Mr. and



Mrs. Danford are members of the Poplar Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Danford is a member of the board of trustees of that church.

Mr. Danford is a Republican and ever since coming to this county has given his thoughtful attention to local political affairs. For some time he served the people of Reno township very efficiently as township trustee and as a member of the local board and in other ways has been faithful to his obligation as a good citizen.

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### WILBUR F. PRESBY.

Wilbur F. Presby, deceased, who was a fine example of the well-educated farmer, was the son of a Methodist minister. His parents were both New Englanders. The father, Solon Bruce Presby, who was born at Bradford, New Hampshire, on October 8, 1832, became an ordained minister at Boston, Massachusetts, after graduating there from the Boston Theological Seminary. He returned to his native hills to preach, having married Lucina Austin, of East Highgate, Vermont, and it was while he was filling a charge at Nashua, New Hampshire, that his son was born, December 9, 1860.

In 1870, Rev. Solon B. Presby moved his family to Kansas. He was located for three years at Cottonwood Falls, and then went to Hutchinson, where he occupied the pulpit of the First Methodist Episcopal church for one year. He went to Grove township, Reno county, in 1874, and later had charge of churches at Halstead and Florence. His wife, who was born at East Highgate, Vermont, on March 20, 1833, died February 9, 1911. Besides the subject of this review, their only other child was a daughter, Myrtle J., who is the wife of C. W. Learned, a Grove township farmer.

Wilbur F. Presby's early education was received in the Sherman street school of Hutchinson, Kansas. He was one of the eight original pupils of that school. Following his attendance there, he spent two years at the State University in Lawrence, and one year in Cornell University. After his return from the East, he was connected for some time with the J. B. Watkins Land Mortgage Company, of Lawrence, Kansas. In 1906 he moved to a farm in Grove township, Reno county, where he lived until death claimed him, October 25, 1912.

Mr. Presby was twice married. His first wife was Mary Elizabeth Gamble, and they were married in Topeka, Kansas, on September 3, 1881.

She was the daughter of James Gamble and wife, and was born in Pennsylvania. Her parents were also natives of Pennsylvania. To this union one child was born, Laura, who was born at Lawrence, October 5, 1883. The death of Mrs. Presby occurred at Lawrence, on May 18, 1889.

On April 5, 1893, Mr. Presby was married, in New York City, to Emma E. Hazlitt, who was born in Ireland, November 25, 1868, daughter of James Hazlitt, a native of Ireland. She died in Turon, Kansas, May 22, 1914, leaving one child, Wendell Phillips, who was born at Brooklyn, New York, January 25, 1904.

Wilbur F. Presby was the owner of five hundred acres of rich Reno county land. In 1892 he purchased of his aunt, Mrs. Dora Ann Wallace, the northeast quarter of section 35, township 25, range 10, Grove township; in 1899, from the Leeds estate, he bought lot 2, of the northeast quarter and lot 3 of the northwest quarter in section 2, township 26, range 10, in Miami township. In 1911, he half-inherited and half-purchased from his sister, Mrs. C. W. Learned, the southeast quarter of section 35, township 25, range 10, Grove township. This land is now all owned and farmed by his children.

Mr. Presby was a Democrat in politics, and religiously, he belonged to the church whose doctrines his father so zealously promulgated.

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### MARTIN H. POTTER.

Martin H. Potter might justly be called the father of Turon and of Miami township, having named the town, which was built on part of his farm, for Turin, Italy (afterward changed to Turon by the United States postoffice department), and the township for his native county in Ohio. In addition to this distinction, Mr. Potter has varied business interests and is widely known for his commercial and financial prominence. He is the son of John B. and Margaret (Bright) Potter, and was born on May 7, 1854.

John B. Potter was born on April 2, 1826, at Clinton, Vermillion county, Indiana. He was a farmer, and in 1866, after having fought in the Civil War, purchased an eighty-acre farm in Decatur county, Iowa, where he resided until 1875. In the latter year he moved to Kansas and took up a quarter section of land in Langdon (now Miami) township, Reno county. Ten years later he founded a grocery business in Turon, and on July 18, 1887, he was elected to the presidency of the State Bank of Turon, which

office he held until September 18, 1888. At the time of his death, which occurred on May 31, 1890, he was president of the Turon Town Company. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic post, and had also passed all the chairs in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge. His funeral was one of the largest ever held in Turon. The procession, of which one hundred Odd Fellows from the home and surrounding towns were a part, extended for over a mile in length. In religion, John B. Potter was a Universalist, and in politics, he was a Democrat.

Mrs. Margaret (Bright) Potter died in Turon, December 27, 1878, her birth occurring on November 2, 1830, in Augusta county, Virginia. She and her husband were second cousins and their marriage occurred in Miami county, Ohio, on July 18, 1852. Besides Martin H., their children were Mary Catherine and Lillie Rose, both of whom died in infancy; Edgar B., who died in 1884; Anna M., wife of William H. H. Hickman, a farmer of Miami township; Florence E., wife of Irvin Decker, a California merchant; George B., lumber and hardware merchant of Preston, Kansas; Gulielma M., wife of J. E. Young, a merchant of Supply, Oklahoma; Alice J., wife of Frank Whittle, farmer living near Oakland, California, and Lillie B., wife of Mr. Tompkins, jeweler at Oakland, California.

Martin H. Potter was educated in the district schools of his birthplace. He accompanied his father to Iowa, where he engaged in various pursuits until the family removed to Kansas, and soon afterward he homesteaded and "timber-claimed" three hundred and twenty acres of land, the homestead being the west half of section 9, township 26, range 10, and the timber claim being the southeast quarter of section 9, township 26, range 10. He later purchased his father's east half of the west half of section 9, township 26, range 10, all of which he still owns, excepting that part which is in the city of Turon. He reserved one block in the city, where he built a home, in which he has lived since 1875, with the exception of his summers, which he spends in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Here he owns a house and office. He is general manager and a stockholder of the Potter Mercantile Company, which is the outgrowth of a country store which he opened in 1880. The capital stock and surplus of this company amounts to seventy thousand dollars. In 1887 Mr. Potter widened his business interests when he became cashier and part owner of the State Bank of Turon. Ten years later he became president and sole owner. In 1898 the bank was incorporated under the state laws with a capitalization of five thousand dollars, and Mr. Potter was elected president and still holds that office. In January, 1904, the stock was doubled, and in March, 1910, it was increased to fifteen thousand dol-

lars. This bank also does a large amount of business in insurance, farm loans and real estate.

Mr. Potter is president of the Botner Motor Company, partner in the Potter Drug Company, of Turon, and in the Lumber and Implement Company, of Preston, Kansas. He has served on the Turon board of education for more than twenty years. He was the Turon postmaster from 1882 until 1896. For four years he presided over the Turon Commercial Club. On the death of his father, in 1890, he became president of the Turon Town Company, and is still an incumbent of that office. He and his brother-in-law, William H. H. Hickman, introduced the first threshing machine outfit into Reno county.

Martin H. Potter was married on September 17, 1876, in Langdon township (now Turon, Miami township), to Lavis J. Hickman, who was born on May 19, 1858, in Dubuque county, Iowa, the daughter of Thomas W. and Harriet (Wilson) Hickman.

Thomas W. Hickman was a farmer and was born in Licking county, Ohio, and removed, in 1856, to Jones county, and two years later to Decatur county, Iowa. In 1874 he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land in Langdon (now Miami) township, Reno county, located in the northwest quarter of section 8, township 26, range 10, and also pre-empted an adjoining timber claim of one hundred and sixty acres. Here he lived until 1898, when he sold his land and moved to Turon, where he held the position of vice-president in the State Bank. He was a Universalist in religious faith, and a Democrat in politics. His death occurred on March 23, 1904. His wife, who was a Pennsylvanian by birth, died at the family home on January 19, 1902.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Martin H. Potter, John W. and Dora L. John W. was born at Turon, June 28, 1877, educated in the public schools of his native town, and also at the State Normal School at Emporia, Kansas. He has taught school in Turon and in the schools of Miami township, but is now serving as president of the Potter Mercantile Company. Dora L. is the wife of Dr. M. S. Thacher, of Turon. She was born on what is now the city of Turon on February 24, 1879. She attended the home schools and was also a student at the State Normal at Emporia, and is a graduate in kindergarten work, and has taught in the schools of Turon and Miami township.

Martin H. Potter holds to the faith of a Methodist and is a Republican. Fraternally, he is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Modern Woodmen of America and has been identified with the Inde-



pendent Order of Odd Fellows for twenty-eight years, having received all the honors of his home lodge and was its first secretary.

Martin H. Potter was always among the first to subscribe to the building of every church within ten miles of Turon, and has been liberal with his means to advance the interest in developing and making southwest Reno county what it is today.

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### JOHN WITHRODER.

John Withroder, a well-known and prosperous farmer of Huntsville township, this county, owner of a fine ranch in the Plevna neighborhood and accounted one of the most substantial citizens of that part of the county, is a native of Indiana, born on a farm in Clay county, that state, September 18, 1848, son of Michael and Magdaline (Berkharde) Withroder, natives of Germany, who came to the United States not long after their marriage and for a time resided in Ohio, but presently moved over into Indiana, settling in Clay county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Michael Withroder died on October 28, 1884, and his widow died on July 30, 1907. They were members of the German Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were five of these children, Charles, Barbara (deceased), John, George and Emma.

Reared on his father's farm in Clay township, Indiana, John Withroder obtained his schooling in the public schools of that neighborhood and remained there until 1875, in which year he came to Kansas, with a view to becoming a farmer on a somewhat larger scale than seemed possible back home. Upon arriving in Reno county he homesteaded a tract of land in section 18, Huntsville township, in addition to which he pre-empted a timber claim, and proceeded to improve and develop the same. Ten years later he married and established his home on his homestead tract, to which he meanwhile had been adding by purchase of adjoining tracts, and as he continued to prosper he added further tracts until now he is the owner of a fine farm of two thousand two hundred and sixty acres in Reno county and six hundred and forty acres in Lipscomb county, Texas.

It was on September 29, 1885, that John Withroder was united in marriage to Agnes Keddie, who was born in Scotland and who was but eighteen months old when her parents, Thomas and Janet (Taylor) Keddie, both natives of that country, came to the United States. Thomas Keddie, who for years has been one of the best-known residents of Reno county, was



born on June 21, 1844, son of John Keddle, a carpenter, and his wife was born on August 9, 1844, daughter of Henry Taylor, an expert horseman. Upon coming to this country with his family, Thomas Keddle located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he made his home for eight years. In 1876 he came to Kansas and homesteaded a tract of land in Huntsville township, this county, where he established his home, and at the same time preempted a timber claim. He prospered in his operations and is now the owner of twelve hundred acres of well-improved land in this county. Mr. Keddle is a well-known preacher in the Holiness church and has also taken an active part in the political affairs of the county, having been at one time a representative in the Legislature from this district. To him and his wife six children have been born, of whom Mrs. Withroder is the eldest, the others being George, Jessie, Anna, Henry and Thomas.

To John and Agnes (Keddle) Withroder six children have been born, namely: Thomas, born on December 30, 1886; Eddie, January 2, 1889; Everett, February 11, 1891, who died on November 5, 1913; George, July 6, 1893; Elleta, June 14, 1900, and Gladys, August 25, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Withroder are active members of the United Brethren church and take an earnest interest in all neighborhood good works.

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### JAMES E. BUSKIRK.

James E. Buskirk, of Hutchinson, is a native of Kansas, and a splendid example of the young American business man who ever keeps pace with progress and assists in upbuilding the community. He is the son of Alfred D. and Molly (Lewis) Buskirk, who came from Indiana to Kansas in 1879. He was born on October 15, 1884.

Alfred D. Buskirk first located in Troy township, Reno county, in 1883, where he purchased one hundred acres of Santa Fe railway land. He was born in Greene county, Indiana, February 22, 1840. His wife was born on January 15, 1857, in Putnam county, Indiana. They now reside in Grant township, Reno county. Their other children are: Paul C., of Hutchinson, overseer of the Reno county roads; Clifford L., farmer and stock raiser, of Harvey county, Kansas; Alice, a teacher in the schools of Sylvia, Kansas, and Mrs. Meda Newton, wife of F. O. Newton, of Newton, Kansas.

James E. Buskirk, after attending the district schools, took a business

course in Nickerson College. He was then employed by the American Steam Laundry at Hutchinson, for five years, after which time he went to Annistad, Union county, New Mexico, where he engaged in the mercantile business for four years, and where he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he still owns. For the last six years he has been located with the Central Mercantile Company, of Hutchinson. In April, 1913, he was elected commissioner of public improvements of Hutchinson for two years, and in April, 1915, he was re-elected for the same length of time.

His marriage to Florence E. Minner occurred in Hutchinson, February 19, 1907. She is the daughter of Christ C. and Ledora (Fry) Minner, and was born in Harrington, Kansas. Her father, who is now deceased, was engaged in the salt business. Mr. and Mrs. Buskirk are the parents of one daughter, Elva, who was born in Hutchinson, February 20, 1912.

Mr. Buskirk belongs to the Congregational church, and is a Republican in politics. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and of the United Commercial Travelers. His home is located at 412 Campbell street, East, Hutchinson, where the family have lived for about seven years.

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### GEORGE VON LEONROD, M. D.

Dr. George Von Leonrod, of Hutchinson, this county, one of the best-known physicians in southwestern Kansas, is a Bavarian, having been born in Munich, capital of that kingdom, on April 5, 1870, son of the Baron John and the Baroness Kunigunda (Von Schroddenberg) Von Leonrod, the former of whom, born in Munich in 1826, died in March, 1912, and the latter, born in the castle of Schroddenberg, Frankonia, only daughter of her father, the baron, in 1836, died in October, 1912.

The Baron John Von Leonrod was a famous soldier in the Bavarian army and served with valor in the wars between 1866 and 1872. During the Franco-Prussian War he was staff surgeon in the army of Prince Frederick Karl, of Bavaria, and was wounded three times, once through the lungs, once in the flesh of his left arm and once through the thigh. As a reward of valor, by royal decree his estates forever were exempted from taxation. At the close of the wars he engaged in business in Munich and became even more wealthy than he was before. He was the eldest son and thus the inheritor of his father, the baron's estate of Wachenroth, which carried a castle and all that goes therewith. The Baron Von Leonrod, father of



*Geo Von Lemrad A.*



Doctor Von Leonrod, was one of the best-known men in Munich, a noted scholar, an expert swordsman and a famous duelist. He and his wife, the baroness, were the parents of six children, as follow: Pedro, who is now (1916) a colonel in the Fourth Army Corps of the German army, under the crown prince, fighting in the general European war; George, the immediate subject of this biographical review; Adam, captain of the German battleship, "Brandenburg en Kiel," now engaged in the defense of Germany's coast line; Anna, living at Nurenberg, Bavaria, who has never married, her betrothed having been slain in a duel eight days before the day set for their wedding, she ever since having remained faithful to his memory; Babeta, who married the Baron Von Hoellein, of Saxony, and Margaret.

George Von Leonrod's elementary education was received in a convent school in Zurich, Switerland, after which he entered upon his medical education and for seven years was in attendance at medical schools, completing the course at Heidelberg, following which he spent one year in the army, attached to the Fourteenth Infantry, at Munich, at the end of which service he made the grand tour of Europe, traveling in all nine months, and then came to America, which ever since has been his home. Doctor Von Leonrod arrived in Brooklyn, New York, in 1892, and for nine months resided there, becoming acquainted meanwhile with the great metropolis across the river and presently became attached to the medical staff of Bellevue hospital in New York City, which connection continued for a period of three years, at the end of which time he went to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. A short time later he went to Los Angeles, California, and was located there a year or more acting as assistant physician, under Doctor Kurtz, in a general hospital. Doctor Von Leonrod then came to Kansas, locating at Hutchinson in 1895 and has since that time been very successfully engaged in the practice of his profession in that city, having long been recognized as one of the foremost authorities on the treatment of chronic diseases hereabout.

In 1897 Dr. George Von Leonrod was united in marriage to Anna Weigel, who was born on a farm nine miles west of Hutchinson, this county, daughter of Louis and Jane Weigel, Pennsylvanians and early settlers in Reno county, both of whom are still living, and to this union three children have been born, Kunigunda, born on January 2, 1900; Margaret, August 5, 1906, and Anna, in March, 1908. The Von Leonrods have a beautiful home at 1020 North Main street in Hutchinson, built in 1912, of "classic-colonial" style, presenting a very attractive appearance on the prominent corner which it occupies. Doctor and Mrs. Von Leonrod take a proper part in the social



and cultural life of the city and are concerned in all movements designed to promote the general welfare of the community.

Doctor Von Leonrod is a member of the American Medical Association, in the affairs of which he takes a deep interest and ever keeps abreast of the advances being made in his exacting profession.

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### GORDON S. RUTHERFORD.

Gordon S. Rutherford, the son of William and Elizabeth (Jackson) Rutherford, was born in Montreal, Canada, October 19, 1875. William Rutherford was born in Jedburgh, Scotland, and emigrated to Canada as a young man, where he established the William Rutherford & Sons Lumber Company. He was successful in business and the company did a large business. He died at his home in Montreal on July 30, 1903. Elizabeth Rutherford is a native of Bigger, Scotland, and is still living, at her home in Montreal.

Gordon S. Rutherford was educated in the graded and high school of Montreal, after which he took a course in the McGill University and then received his diploma from both the high school and the university. The latter institution conferred on him the degree of Bachelor of Applied Science.

In April, 1897, Gordon S. Rutherford became associated with the Tecumseh Salt Company at Detroit. After two years he was engaged by the Sarnia Salt Company at Sarnia, Ontario, and remained with them for thirteen months. On July 1, 1900, he associated himself with the Solvay Process Company and was stationed at Detroit, Michigan, until May 1, 1908. From 1908 until May, 1912, he was with the company at the main works at Syracuse, New York, when he was transferred to the Hutchinson plant, as manager, which position he still holds.

The local plant was originally the Hutchinson Chemical and Alkali Company and later reorganized as the Kansas Chemical Manufacturing Company, being operated for a time under that name by the Solvay Process Company, then leased in 1913 by the later company for ten years, with the privilege of purchasing the same, at the end of that time.

The plant is located in the northeast part of the city and comprises two hundred and fifty acres. G. T. Lee is the engineer, L. C. Hughes, chief chemist, Otto N. Stevens, work superintendent, L. W. Apgar, chief clerk and E. C. Moore has charge of the traffic.

The principal product manufactured by the plant is soda ash, which is used extensively in the making of glass and crockery wares, soaps and all washing and cleaning compounds. The soda ash is obtained from salt and limestone, the salt being obtained in this vicinity, while the limestone comes from the company's quarries at Moline, Kansas, being shipped in the cars of the company. One of the things that makes the plant a possibility in this section, is the abundance of water supply, which is necessary in the cooling process in the manufacture of the soda ash.

The company employs two hundred men at the plant in Hutchinson and one hundred at the quarries in Moline, thus making them the largest single employers of labor in Hutchinson. The company does not carry any liability insurance for its men, but from the time of any accident, all medical attention, hospital fees and medicines are paid by the company, and the party receives half pay for the time disabled.

The Solvay Process Company is incorporated under the laws of the state of New York and is capitalized at fifteen millions of dollars. The Kansas Chemical Manufacturing Company is capitalized at seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars. It pays twelve thousand dollars in taxes to the city, county and state, which is more than any other company in the city of Hutchinson.

Gordon S. Rutherford is a thirty-second degree Mason, a Knight Templar and a Shriner. He is a member of the Commercial, Country and Rotary Clubs of Hutchinson and a sustaining member of the Young Men's Christian Association. He is a member of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Rutherford owns a handsome residence at 528 Sherman avenue, East, where he and his family reside.

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### JOHN WITTORFF.

Among those citizens of Danish birth and lineage who have played an important part in the development of the agricultural resources of Reno county, Kansas, is John Wittorff, who came to this county during the early stages of its growth. He was born in Schleswig-Holstein, when that part of Germany belonged to Denmark, on February 27, 1846. He is the son of Claus and Katherina (Karson) Wittorff. The Wittorff family were ancient landholders of Holstein and founded the town which bears their name. The first member of the family to leave the town of Wittorff was the

grandfather of the subject of this sketch. Timm Wittorff, who settled in Kellinghusen, in another section of Denmark. Born in a land bounded on two sides by the sea it is only natural that the Wittorffs became seamen; those members of the family nearest in line to the subject of this sketch were employed on the river boats that ran on the Stear river, a small tributary of the Elbe, near the North Sea. Each member of the family was a devout member of the Lutheran church. The maternal grandfather of John Wittorff was Hans Karson who followed the occupation of a shepherd. He was a man of unusually strong physique and handsome countenance. Claus Wittroff, who was born in 1805, was married twice, his second wife being Katherina Karson, who died in 1906, and the husband lived to be ninety-one years old. To this couple the following children were born: John, the subject of this sketch, who is the eldest child; Hans, who came to the United States in 1869 and who follows the occupation of a farmer in Inman, Kansas; Anna, who became the wife of Claus Steinbock and who remained in Germany with her husband until her death which occurred in 1913, and Katherine, the wife of John Geotje, who resides in the city of Kiel, in Holstein, Germany.

The life of the subject of this sketch has been as full of adventure as it has of interest. He was educated in the government schools of his native land and upon completing the course prescribed, worked for two years with his father on the river boats. Later he received employment in a brewery, where he worked for two years. After working at the carpenter's trade for a short while, he learned the process of making wooden shoes, an occupation that was profitable at that time. The wages paid to laborers in Denmark and Germany were so meager as to seem almost incredible to those of this country. The subject of this sketch, as a boy, received two cents a day for hired farm work and after he reached the age of seventeen worked as a farmer during the entire year for the sum of twenty-one dollars.

In the year 1867, when the German government began to draft men for the army, John Wittorff, after being drafted, ran away and after many days of travel found himself in Hull, England. From Liverpool he sought passage on one of the immigrant ships and after a voyage of several weeks landed in New York. From that point he went West to Chicago, and arrived in that city with just fifteen cents, with no knowledge of the English language and with no friends that he knew of on this side of the Atlantic. From the time of his arrival in this country, the fortitude and firm purpose

of achievement of the subject of this sketch became evident and his adaptability to the customs of this country was remarkable. In less than a year he had saved enough money to send for his brother, Hans, who seized the opportunity to visit the United States and who landed here in 1869.

The first employment in which John Wittorff was engaged in this country was on the old Vincennes railroad which ran between Indianapolis and Vincennes and after that he received work with a Quaker preacher who resided near West Baden, Indiana. After the arrival of Hans Wittorff, the two brothers worked for Ezra Alleman in Morgan county, Indiana, and when they had saved sufficient funds for transportation, sent for their two half-brothers, Claus and Henry, to come over from Denmark. Claus Wittorff died in Indiana in 1877, and his brother Henry passed away in 1914, at Medora, Kansas.

The two brothers, John and Hans Wittorff, came to Kansas on September 1, 1870. The trip was made on the Santa Fe railroad to Emporia, from which point they rode in a mail coach to Chase county, where they went to work for Rufus Ice. The following year, John Wittorff came to Reno county, to look for a suitable homestead. While stopping at the place where the town of Hutchinson now stands, the subject of this sketch saw C. C. Hutchinson, founder of the town which bears his name, and had a conversation with him. Mr. Hutchinson asked Mr. Wittorff to report as soon as located as he wanted to organize the county and said, "We will have a nice little town here some day." Upon this another man spoke up, "And I will have a store here and some goods coming on a wagon from Newton." Then Mr. Wittorff asked if he had "anything that you can sell us now." And he replied, "I have nothing but a fifty-pound sack of cornmeal, but I will divide with you for a dollar." The subject of this sketch thereupon bought half a sack of the meal for a dollar, and this is recorded as the first purchase of merchandise ever made in Hutchinson.

On January 6, 1872, John Wittorff began his task of homesteading upon land located in the southwest part of section 34, in Superior township, McPherson county, Kansas. He was the first settler in Superior township and for three years lived in a dugout which was later replaced by a sod house. During the years spent on this tract of land he endured many of the hardships of that locality and period. After he had successfully passed through the grasshopper plague of 1874, he was obliged to fight the floods of that section of the country and one year had his crops burned out by the hot winds. When the floods became more frequent he decided to move and



in 1878 went to Little Valley township, McPherson county, and settled in section 36. Upon this land he lived until 1908, when he returned to Reno county, and here in Yoder township built a beautiful country home, which is surrounded by one hundred and eighty acres of land in Medora township, one hundred and sixty acres in Centerprize township, one hundred and sixty acres in Texas county, Oklahoma, and eight hundred and seventy-two acres in the Panhandle of Texas. He has given up most of his attention to gardening which he followed for some time and devotes the greater part of his time to cattle and hog raising. In his political interests, Mr. Wittorff votes independently of any party, and has served in the county as justice of the peace.

The marriage of John Wittorff to Jennie Sanders, a native of Marion county, Indiana, and the daughter of Francis and Nancy (Berkely) Sanders, took place on May 11, 1870. Mr. and Mrs. Wittorff are the parents of the following children: Katie, who was born on October 16, 1872, became the wife of J. B. Hodge and is now living in Denver, Colorado; Oscar, who follows the occupation of a silversmith, lives in Oregon; Carl is an automobile mechanic and resides in Hutchinson, Kansas, and Edna, the youngest child, died at the age of two years.

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### JOSEPH WALTER KING.

Joseph Walter King, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Center township, this county, now living at Partridge, from which place of residence he directs his extensive farming operations, is a native son of Reno county, having been born in Center township, this county, January 11, 1875, son of Rufus and Ella (Cecil) King, the former a native of Tennessee and the latter of Illinois, who were pioneers and prominent residents of this county, having been among the earliest settlers in Center township.

Rufus King was but a baby when his parents moved from Tennessee to Illinois, and in the latter state he grew to manhood. His mother died when he was a child and his father married again, after which the boy, Rufus, left home, he being then but nine years of age. When sixteen years old he enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War, enrolling in the Ninety-sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for four years, during which time his most serious casualty was the loss of the end of one of his fingers, which a bullet clipped off. He was cap-



tured by the enemy at one time and for several months suffered incarceration in Libby prison. At the close of the war, Rufus King returned to Hancock county, Illinois, and there married Ella Cecil, who was born in that county on March 17, 1855, after which he rented a farm and there made his home until he came to Reno county. It was in the spring of 1872 that Rufus King and William Cecil came to this county on a prospecting trip and were so well pleased with the outlook that they decided to put in their lots with those of the pioneers on this frontier. Rufus King homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 22, in Center township, constructed a dugout on the place and then returned to Illinois for his family, shortly thereafter installing them in the little sod shanty on the plain, and it was there that the subject of this sketch was born. Rufus King was an excellent farmer and from the very first prospered in his farming and cattle operations, presently becoming the owner of nine hundred and twenty acres of fine land. In 1886 he and his wife retired from the farm, having given to each of their four sons a quarter of a section of land, and erected a fine house in Partridge, a village just being organized in the center of the county, where they were very comfortably situated and where Rufus King died on July 7, 1909, he then being sixty-nine years of age. His widow, who still survives him, is now making her home at Arlington, this county. They both were earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church and were among the leaders in the organization of the Asbury Methodist church.

To Rufus and Ella (Cecil) King four children were born, sons all, namely: C. Edward, a well-known farmer living in Arlington township, this county; George, now retired, living at Orange, California; Joseph W., the subject of this biographical sketch, and Ira, a retired farmer, now living at Arlington.

Joseph W. King was reared on the homestead farm in Center township, receiving his education in the Partridge schools, and remained at home until his marriage, at which time he received, in the distribution of the estate, the old homestead quarter section, including the old home, which he still owns and which, by the way, is said to be the only quarter section in Center township that has never had a mortgage on it. Mr. King made his home there until in February, 1907, at which time he and his family moved to Partridge and have since then lived in the house his father erected in that village. He has done well in his farming operations, and in addition to his homestead farm is the owner of an eighty-acre tract one-half mile south of there. He rents out his farm and directs the operation of the same from his established home in Partridge.

On December 28, 1899, Joseph W. King was united in marriage to Ivy Bowles, who was born in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, daughter of John and May (Johnson) Bowles, who came to this county in 1881. John Bowles was a good farmer and became the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres. His wife died in 1908, at the age of forty-six years, and he is now living at Arlington, this county. To Mr. and Mrs. King two children have been born, Milton, born on February 21, 1901, and Helen Marie, February 23, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. King are members of the Methodist church and take an earnest interest in the general welfare of the community in which they live.

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### LORENZO V. WHINERY.

Lorenzo V. Whinery, one of the generous and most popular farmers in Reno county, sprang from substantial Quaker stock of Ohio. Born near Guerneyville, Clinton county, Ohio, May 26, 1864, he is the son of Zimri W. and Annie (Brand) Whinery, both natives of that county and both members of the Society of Friends.

Lorenzo Whinery's paternal grandfather was also named Zimri. His great-grandfather came from Ireland to Pennsylvania, where became a Quaker. Zimri, Sr., who early settled in Clinton county, Ohio, was a prominent Friend of that place, and it was in his old age that he moved his family to Marshall county, Iowa, where he died. Lorenzo Whinery's maternal grandparents were Vinson and Maria Brand, farmers of Clinton county, Ohio.

Zimri Whinery, Jr., grew up in that county and owned a farm after his majority, near Guerneyville. He was, during the Civil War, "a squirrel hunter" as the people of the part of Ohio were called, who took up arms to drive back General Morgan during his famous raid. In 1878 Zimri Whinery took his family and five hundred dollars in money and settled in Reno county, Kansas. He arrived at eleven o'clock at night. The next morning he "got busy" and by evening he had purchased a farm and had moved out to it with a team, wagon and plow. The purchase was made of Brown & Brigger, of Hutchinson, and consisted of one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land, located in the southwest part of Reno township.

In 1881, a combination of droughts and grasshoppers destroyed almost everything and Zimri Whinery had no way to make a payment on his mort-





*Longo Whinery and Family*



*James Wherry and Family*





gage, and was in danger of losing his farm; so he and his family set out to seek work further west. He obtained a place as foreman of a tramway in the mines at Buena Vista, Colorado, near Leadville, while his wife cooked for his gang of men, of whom Lorenzo was one. In this way they were enabled to return home with sufficient means to pay off the mortgage.

When the Ben Blanchard South Hutchinson boom went flat, in 1889, Zinri Whinery bought a dwelling that had cost thirty-five hundred dollars and moved it to his farm. He remodeled it and it yet stands as the house on the home place, which was sold by the heirs in August, 1915. He also owned one hundred and sixty acres in Little River township. He was a Republican. Although reared a Quaker, he joined the Methodist church after coming to Kansas. He served for a time as township trustee, then as justice of the peace in Reno township. From 1893 to 1896, inclusive, he was clerk of the courts of Reno county. He was very active in political and public affairs all his life. He was very influential. Everyone had confidence in his word and he was consulted about everything of importance that came up in the county. He was a very successful farmer; perhaps not accumulating so much as he might on account of his exceeding generosity. He died on January 2, 1906, aged sixty-one. His wife died on May 31, 1915. Their children were Lorenzo V., Eva, whose first husband was Merton Mertz, second J. K. Johnson, and she is now married to Walter Johns, living in Cleveland, Ohio; Clifford, a farmer of Dodge City, Kansas; Clara, married William Reeves and lives in Kansas City, Missouri.

Lorenzo V. Whinery was educated at Guerneyville, Ohio. He was fourteen years old when the family moved to Kansas. This was in the treeless, pioneer state of Kansas history, when the Sun City Trail passed his father's door to Hutchinson. At that time there were no roads on the section lines. As the eldest son, his help to his father in paying for the home was of no slight importance. In 1885, at the age of twenty-one, he drove through by ox-team to West Plains, Seward county, Kansas, and proved up a claim. He then rented farms in Reno township until he bought his present farm, the southwest quarter of section 19, township 23, range 6 west. Later he bought the west half of the northwest quarter of section 30, making his home farm contain two hundred and forty acres. He also owns a quarter section in Little River township.

In 1907, Mr. Whinery built a lovely home on his farm and planted his lawn in cedars. He keeps full-blood Shorthorns, and has a herd of one hundred most of the time. He also feeds a large drove of hogs each year. Like his father, he is Republican in political faith and is also very active in poli-

ties. He has served twice as township trustee and eight years as clerk of Reno township. For twenty-one consecutive years he has been school director. He is a director of the Equity Grain Elevator Company, of Whitesides, Kansas. He is up-to-date in every way—from his comfortable home to his automobile. He is amiable, generous and one of the popular leaders of Reno county.

On July 15, 1886, Lorenzo V. Whinery married Priscilla Anna McMillan. She was born in 1868 in Illinois. With her parents she soon afterward moved to Missouri, and in 1872 came to Reno county, Kansas. Her parents were Daniel and Eliza McMillan. They drove through from Missouri to Kansas with team and located on section 18, in Reno township, being among the first settlers south of the Arkansas river. They spent the remainder of their lives on this homestead, her death occurring in 1890 and his in 1896. Mr. and Mrs. McMillan were natives of Pennsylvania, and were members of the Presbyterian church. They came west when young married people, settling first in Mercer county, Illinois, where their daughter, Priscilla, was born. After they came to Kansas they built a pretentious two-story house, which, not long afterward was destroyed by a cyclone, and the family lay between raw buffalo hides until the storm was over. Their son, Thomas McMillan, was a great buffalo hunter and this was the family fare to a great extent for the first years of their Kansas life.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitney have five children, as follow: Lilia, born on June 7, 1887, the wife of Noah Cassity, of Parkridge, Kansas; Glen, November 12, 1889, at home; Zepha and Zella, twins, March 13, 1891, the former of whom is the wife of Samuel Metcalf, of Oklahoma, and the latter is at home; Pauline, November 19, 1900, at home.

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### JOHN HICKEY.

In a work of this character it is but fitting that there should be memorial mention of those brave and sturdy pioneers whose influence in the early days of Reno county's development did so much toward bringing about proper conditions of social and economic life in this then frontier section of the state. Prominent among the early settlers of Castleton township, this county, was the late John Hickey, who came to Reno county in 1876 and in due time became one of the most forceful figures in the life of that township.

John Hickey was a native of the Emerald Isle, having been born in

Ireland on June 1, 1822, son of Andrew and Rachel Hickey, both natives of Ireland, who spent their lives in their native land. When a young man, John Hickey came to the United States and at the age of twenty-eight, while living in New York City, married Mary Bailey, who was born in Ireland, March 25, 1823, daughter of James and Ellen Bailey, farmers of Stagmount. After their marriage, John Hickey and his wife came West and settled at Springfield, Illinois, where for some time Mr. Hickey was engaged as a laborer, later moving to a farm in McLean county, that same state, in 1870. In the summer of 1870 their home there was destroyed by fire, entailing a complete loss. In 1876, disposing of such goods as could not conveniently be transported the distance contemplated, Mr. and Mrs. Hickey and their small children drove through from Illinois to Kansas with a couple of teams and wagons, and settled in Reno county. Here Mr. Hickey traded one of his teams of horses to a "squatter" for a homestead right to a quarter of a section in the southwest part of Castleton township and there he established his home. His children still hold the original grant from the government to that quarter section, bearing the name of President Grant. John Hickey and his wife were earnest citizens and valuable members of the pioneer community. For the first few years their task seemed difficult, but with help from their children in the East and the fact that they possessed the true pioneer spirit they gradually overcame the obstacles that proved disheartening to many of the pioneers of that period. Mr. Hickey gathered buffalo bones off the plains and hauled them to Hutchinson, the money secured from the sale of these "natural products of the soil" being expended for seed wheat with which to get in his first crop. He presently began to prosper and gradually added to his land holdings until at the time of his death, on November 27, 1905, he was the owner of a fine farm of five hundred and seventy acres in Castleton township and had long been regarded as one of the most substantial farmers of that community. His wife had predeceased him about two years, her death having occurred on November 7, 1903. Mr. Hickey took a good citizen's part in the civic affairs of his community and did well his part. He was an ardent advocate of the cause of education and for years rendered excellent service as a member of the school board. Both he and his wife had been reared as Catholics and were earnest members of that church, their children also being reared in that faith, though none now belong to it. There were eight of these children, namely: Dr. Rachael Hickey Carr, formerly head physician in the Cook County hospital at Chicago, now actively engaged in private practice in that city; Mrs. Helen H. Dubois, principal of one of the leading grade schools at Indianapo-

lis, Indiana; Joe H. McVey, of Richmond, Virginia; Margaret, who died in 1890; Mrs. Kate Haines, of this county, and A. J., James and May, who continue to occupy the old homestead and who are the owners of a full section of land surrounding the same. May Hickey was graduated from the Hutchinson high school in 1889 and for six years thereafter rendered admirable service to the public as a teacher in the Reno county schools.

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### CHARLES N. WOODDELL.

Charles N. Wooddell, one of the representative citizens of Reno county, Kansas, and a leading business man of Nickerson, was born on June 8, 1861, in Highland county, Ohio, and is the son of M. and Catherine (Stout) Wooddell, natives of Virginia and Ohio, respectively. Catherine (Stout) Wooddell was the daughter of Capt. John Stout, a veteran of the Civil War, who was from the Missouri district but after his escape joined forces with the Union army. He was a carpenter by trade but followed farming as well, in Highland county, Ohio. The father of Charles N. Wooddell located in Highland county, Ohio, with his mother, his father having died in Virginia previous to their removal from that state. He received his education in the common schools, after which he followed the trade of carpenter. He was the father of these children: Albert, Clara, Charles, Ora, E. C., Mary, Frank and Stella. The mother of these children died and is buried at Nickerson, Kansas.

Charles N. Wooddell was educated in the public schools of Ohio and then engaged in the trade of carpenter. On September 15, 1886, he was united in marriage to Georgette R. McCoy, daughter of D. W. McCoy, of Russell, Ohio, and to them have been born the children whose names follow: D. Earl, Dorothy Elizabeth (deceased), Helen Boyd, Joseph Stout. Georgette R. (McCoy) Wooddell was born on August 27, 1863. Charles N. Wooddell was employed in the car shops at Urbana and Lima. Following this he was in Huntington, Indiana, for two years and then moved to Pullman, Illinois. On July 25, 1884, Charles N. Wooddell arrived in Hutchinson, Kansas, and for nearly one year he engaged in the carpenter business at Hutchinson and Nickerson. In 1885 he went with the St. John & Marsh Lumber Company to Great Bend, Kansas, returning to Nickerson in 1889. In 1890, after some months spent in the employ of S. M. Cooper, he engaged as a locomotive fireman on the Atchinson, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad, in



which position he continued until the strike. In 1894 he bought the elevator of Brinkman Brothers, which he still operates. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of America. His religious affiliations are with the Methodist Episcopal church. He has been a member of the city council and has served in the capacity of mayor for four years. He is also resident trustee of the Reno county high school, which office he has held since its organization.

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### OMAHA T. SHAFER.

Omaha T. Shafer, former mayor of South Hutchinson, a well-known and progressive Reno county farmer and manufacturer, who lives in a pleasant home in South Hutchinson, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Noble county, that state, on February 23, 1868, son of James I. and Mary (Vorhees) Shafer, both natives of that same county, the former of whom, born on October 15, 1837, is now living at Long Beach, California, and the latter died in 1879, at the age of forty-two years.

James I. Shafer was reared on a farm in Ohio and when the Civil War broke out enlisted in Company I, One Hundred and Sixteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war, being a participant in all the stirring engagements in which that regiment took part, including the battles of Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Antietam and others. At the close of the war he bought a farm in his home county and was successively the owner of three different farms there and there he made his home until 1890, in which year he came to Reno county to live with his children, who had located here during the eighties. In 1912 he went to California and has since made his home in Long Beach, where he is very pleasantly situated. He and his wife were the parents of four children, namely: Maggie, who lives at Redlands, California, widow of Frank Robinson; Josie, who married E. G. Crow and died at her home in this county in October, 1909; Omaha T., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, and Carrie, who married J. L. Warnock and lives in Hutchinson, this county.

Omaha T. Shafer was reared on the home farm in Noble county, Ohio, and received his schooling in the local schools of his home neighborhood. When nineteen years of age he came to Kansas, locating in this county,

where for two or three years he worked as a farm hand, his first employment having been on the J. W. Ayr farm near Burrton, for which service he received one hundred dollars for the first six months. He then rented a farm in Salt Creek township and began farming on his own account, later, in 1890, buying a quarter of a section in Lincoln township. He later sold that farm and in 1901 bought the Thomas Hutchinson farm in Lincoln township, which he still owns. In 1903 he moved on to that farm and remained there until 1907, in which year he retired from the active duties of the farm and moved to South Hutchinson, where, in 1909, he built an attractive bungalow on a tract covering a block and a half, where he and his wife have since made their home. While actively concerned in the operation of his valuable farm, Mr. Shafer handled stock to the capacity of his place and did considerable business in cattle, horses and mules.

Mr. Shafer is a Republican and for years has taken a warm and active interest in local politics. It was not long after he moved to South Hutchinson that he was elected to the position of mayor of that thriving municipality and he served in that capacity very acceptably to the people of the town for six years, 1909-1915. Former Mayor Shafer is an energetic and public-spirited citizen and is interested in several important enterprises. He is one of the directors of the Strawboard Manufacturing Company, of Hutchinson; vice-president of the Hutchinson Egg-Case Filler Company and a director of the Central State Bank, of Hutchinson, to all of which concerns he gives his earnest personal attention.

On November 30, 1892, Omaha T. Shafer was united in marriage to Harriet Ferguson, who was born in Macoupin county, Illinois, the daughter of Thomas and Doxie Ann (Mitchell) Ferguson, farmers of that county, the former of whom came to Reno county in 1885, his wife having died in 1876, and bought a farm in Lincoln township, the farm which Mr. Shafer now owns. Mr. Ferguson spent the last nine years of his life with his sons, his death occurring in May, 1915, at the age of eighty-nine. He left three daughters and two sons, Mrs. Shafer having two sisters, Mary, who married H. J. Rexroad and lives on the Shafer farm in Lincoln township, and Mrs. James Kinder, who lives in South Hutchinson; and two brothers, Robert Ferguson, who lives in Odes, Missouri, and William Ferguson, who lives near St. Joseph. Mr. and Mrs. Shafer are members of the Methodist church at South Hutchinson and take an active part in all the good works of that congregation. Mr. Shafer was the treasurer of the building committee which directed the construction of the first Methodist church erected in that town and collected the money required for that important work.

## ROYAL McCONNELL HARVEY.

Royal McConnell Harvey, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Walnut township, this county, proprietor of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres in that township, is a native of Ohio, born on a farm in Preble county, that state, July 1853, son of Samuel and Sophronia (Hazelton) Harvey, the former of whom, a native of Tennessee, moved to Ohio in the days of his young manhood, and bought a farm of one hundred acres in Preble county, where he spent the remainder of his life. Though too old for service in the army when the Civil War broke out he did valiant service as a member of the home guards and when General Morgan made his famous raid into Ohio he shouldered his gun and went out with the guards to meet the invader. He and his wife were earnest members of the Christian church and their children were reared in that faith. There were nine of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last born and the only one living in Reno county, the others having been William Nathaniel, Isabel, Mehitabel, Levi P., Mary, Anna, Martha Jane and Sarah Elizabeth, of whom Isabel Mary and Anna are now the only survivors. Levi P. Harvey was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War, a member of the Seventy-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Royal M. Harvey was reared on the home farm in Preble county, Ohio, and obtained his schooling in the schools in the neighborhood of his home. He became a farmer on his own account and a landowner. In 1879 he married and six years later sold his farm and came to Kansas, settling in Rice county in 1885, but two years later moved over to Reno county and in 1890 bought the farm on which he is now living. His original tract of a quarter section in Walnut township he has added to by the purchase of an adjoining quarter section and now has a valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres, which he has improved in excellent shape and brought to a high state of cultivation. He has a fine, large house, built in 1901, which is lighted by a gas-lighting system and is otherwise up to date, and he and his family are very pleasantly and comfortably situated.

It was in February 13, 1879, in Preble county, Ohio, that Royal M. Harvey was united in marriage to Filena Frances Flora, who was born in that county, November 8, 1859, daughter of John and Mary (Potterf) Flora, who moved from Virginia to Ohio and located in Preble county, where he is still living at the age of eighty-five years. John Flora was but a child when his parents moved to Ohio and there he received his education and

grew to manhood, a farmer. He married Mary Potterf, daughter of David Potterf, a native of Pennsylvania, who had settled in Preble county, Ohio, where his last days were spent, and to this union nine children were born, of whom Mrs. Harvey was the second in order of birth, the others being Jacob, Ida, Anna, Minnie, Lavina, Everett, Edith and Quincy. John Flora and his wife are still living at Eaton, Preble county, Ohio. They are active members of the Methodist church and their children were reared in that faith.

To Royal McConnell and Filena Frances (Flora) Harvey five children have been born, as follow: Orville, of Sylvia, this county, who married Carrie Baker and has two children, Myra and Royal; Walter, a farmer of this county, who married Elsie Denbo and has two children, Ursel and Vera; Elsie, who married Mark Elliott, Jr., of this county, and has two children, Emma and Bernice, and Roy and John, who are still at home with their parents on the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey are active members of the United Brethren church and take a warm interest in all neighborhood good works.

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#### RICHARD G. DADE.

On another page in this volume, in the biographical sketch relating to Ernest Dade, brother of the subject of this sketch, who is now occupying the old Alexander Dade home in Reno township, there is set out in detail something of the history of the well-known Dade family in this country, and it will not be necessary in this connection, therefore, to repeat those details further than to state that Richard G. Dade was born in Montgomery county, Maryland, on January 9, 1854, son of Alexander and Susan Ann (White) Dade, who later became pioneers of this county and spent their last days here.

Richard D. Dade was reared on his father's extensive plantation in Maryland, a flourishing tract of more than four hundred acres within thirty miles of Washington, D. C., and made his home there until 1876, in which year, he then being twenty-two years of age, he came to Reno county, in company with his elder brother, the late Joseph T. Dade, and homesteaded land in Langdon township, Richard's original entry, which he still owns, being the southwest quarter of section 20, township 25, range 91 west, and there he proceeded to establish a home. He quickly brought his homestead under cultivation and in the second summer of his residence in this county,





*Richard S. Dade*



*Clara J. Dade*





in July, 1878, he married and settled down in earnest, in good time becoming known as one of the most successful and substantial farmers in his neighborhood. Soon after homesteading he bought a quarter section on the north side of his homestead and on the latter tract engaged for years quite extensively in cattle raising, most of his money having been made by his attention to that phase of his agricultural operations. Following the death of his father in 1908 he inherited eighty acres and bought a one hundred and sixty acre farm in Salt Creek township and on April 17, 1909, moved to the latter place, where he ever since has made his home, his elder son, Charles, being in charge of the Langdon township place.

On July 17, 1878, Richard G. Dade was united in marriage to Clara Ditmore, who was born in the state of Michigan, daughter of Nicholas and Fannie Ditmore, who came to this county from Michigan in 1876 and homesteaded a farm here. Mrs. Ditmore died in Michigan when Mrs. Dade was nine years of age, and Mr. Ditmore, now eighty-two years of age, makes his home with his daughter, Mrs. Dade. To Mr. and Mrs. Dade seven children have been born, as follow: Ivy, who married Charles Popejoy, a Langdon township farmer; Mrs. Nellie Brooks, who died in 1912; Charles, who lives on and manages his father's farm in Langdon township; Esther, a teacher in the Reno county public schools; Alta, who is at home with her parents; Frank, also at home, assistant to his father on the farm, and Clara, who is still in school.

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#### ELMER E. MARSHALL.

A career guided and governed by the highest principles of citizenship has been that of Elmer E. Marshall, who though a native of Wayne county, Indiana, has been a resident of Reno county for over forty years. He was born on January 9, 1868, and is the son of Isaac and Carlotta (Paxton) Marshall. His mother, who was born near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 12, 1832, followed the customs of living adopted by the Quakers, and came to Indiana in 1843 with her parents, who were also Quakers. The family drove into the Middle West in a covered wagon and encountered many strange and interesting adventures on the trip. They settled in Wayne county, Indiana, where Mr. Paxton bought a farm and where he lived with his family until his death.

Isaac Marshall, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in

Wayne county, Indiana, on October 22, 1832, and received his education in the schools of the county in which he was born. He was married in 1855, but on account of the Civil War, which started a few years later he was obliged to break his home interests and give his services to save the Union. He enlisted in the Sixty-ninth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and during three years and nine months of the war gave active service. He fought at Vicksburg and at Shiloh and in the battle of Chattanooga had a prominent part. At the siege of Mobile and at Indianola he received some of his most interesting experiences of the war and at the close returned to Wayne county, Indiana, no worse in health for his services. Upon returning to the place of his nativity he rented a farm belonging to David Little, a Quaker, and in 1872, moved with his family to a farm near Topeka, Kansas. The following year he obtained a homestead claim on a farm in Little River township, Reno county, Kansas. The land grant was located in the southwestern part of section 26, township 22, range 4 west, and remained the family homestead until the death of Mr. Marshall, which occurred in November, 1910. After the death of Mrs. Marshall, who passed away in November, 1900, Mr. Marshall married for the second time. Elmer Marshall has two brothers: Joseph, who resides on a farm in Clay township, Reno county, and Isaac, who follows the occupation of a farmer in Oakwood, Oklahoma.

When he was just five years of age, Elmer E. Marshall came with his parents to Reno county, Kansas. He attended the Lakeside district school in Little River township and in his youth had fellowship with labor. He lived on his father's farm until his marriage, which took place in 1886, and after which he went to Gray county, Kansas, to take a homestead claim. After living upon the land for the time required to complete his claim he sold out and returned to Reno county, where he rented his father's farm, consisting of three hundred and twenty acres. In 1900 he moved to Clay township, where he bought a fruit farm of twenty-nine acres, and where ten years later he erected a house of modern construction and attractive design. After a year spent in traveling through the West, Mr. Marshall returned to this county and bought a home at 125 Fifteenth avenue, West, in Hutchinson, where he continues to reside. He takes an active interest in the social affairs of the community in which he lives and is a popular member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

On October 10, 1866, Elmer E. Marshall was married to Emma Gray Holcomb, a native of Mt. Ayr, Ringgold county, Iowa, and the daughter of

Allen and Roxana Holcomb, numbered among the pioneer settlers of Iowa, who moved to Denison, Texas, and later homesteaded in Woodward county, Oklahoma, where Mrs. Holcomb died, March 18, 1907. Two of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Marshall died in infancy, they were, Walter and Irvin. Roxana, the second child, became the wife of Sherman Gilkison, in 1913, and has one child, Marshall Gray Gilkison, who was born on August 22, 1915. The family resides on the farm owned by Elmer E. Marshall, in Clay township, this county.

Mrs. Roxana Holcomb, wife of Allen Holcomb, who died in 1870, married R. I. McMaines in 1872. Her people were from Virginia and North Carolina. She was a cousin of E. C. Marshall, once a United States senator from Mississippi, and cousin of Vice-President Marshall.

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### JAMES M. BUSH.

James M. Bush, the son of Moses and Elizabeth (Bowman) Bush, was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, October 26, 1862. Moses Bush was a native of Northumberland county, where he was born on September 29, 1830. He spent his life in the state of his nativity, where he was engaged in farming, conducting a hotel and operating a foundry. He died in Snyder county on March 22, 1870. Elizabeth Bush was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, June 8, 1835, and died in Uniontown on August 5, 1887.

To Moses Bush and wife were born the following children: James M., born on October 26, 1862; John, June 11, 1855, died on November 27, 1867; George, a farmer of Bellevue, Sandusky county, Ohio; Franklin, the owner of a saw-mill in Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania; Daniel, proprietor of a hotel at Williamstown, Pennsylvania; Mary, deceased, was the wife of John Lamphere, a produce dealer at Williamsport, Pennsylvania; William Wesley, January 15, 1864, died on December 4, 1867; Esther Jane, April 12, 1868, died on June 22, 1869, and Elizabeth, who was the wife of Henry Metz, a farmer of Dauphin county. Mr. Metz died some years ago.

James M. Bush received his limited education at a pay school in Northumberland county, where he attended for less than a year, after which he left home at the age of eight years to work for William Koppenhaver for his board and clothes. He remained there for eight years when he then worked for Adam Trautman for two years at the same remuneration.

He continued with Mr. Trautman for another year and received six dollars and twenty-five cents per month for eight months and did chores for his board for the other four months. He then began work for Preston C. West, receiving seven dollars and fifty cents per month for the first year and eight dollars and fifty cents per month for the second year, receiving pay for eight months each year and doing chores for his board for the other four months. After five months in a general store he returned to Preston C. West where he remained for one year at eight dollars and fifty cents per month, after which he was with his brother George in Sandusky county, Ohio, for two years when he returned to Pennsylvania for six months. He was with William H. Smith for one year in Ohio and then came to Kansas in February, 1886, and here worked for Jacob Schmidt for one year at Halstead. He then rented a farm two miles southwest of Mt. Ridge, McPherson county, where he remained for three years and then engaged with Goering Brothers, general merchants at Mt. Ridge for six months. At this time he joined a party of eighteen on a general prospecting tour to Salem, Oregon, and was gone four months. On his return he again was with Goering Brothers where he remained until 1894, at which time the Goering-Krehbiel Mercantile Company was incorporated and they established a branch store at Pretty Prairie and made Mr. Bush the manager. He remained with the firm until February 19, 1914, when he bought the store at Pretty Prairie and has conducted the business since that time under the firm name, James M. Bush & Son. The store is on Main street and one of the best locations in the city.

Mr. Bush is a man of much prominence and one who has the confidence of the community in which he lives. He has held the following offices of trust with ability: Clerk of Albion township, treasurer of the township, township trustee, first mayor of Pretty Prairie, county commissioner, clerk of the school district, a member of the school board when the new sixteen-thousand-dollar school house was built and was chairman of and purchasing agent of the board of county commissioners of Reno county. He held the office of commissioner for eight years.

Mr. Bush is a member of the Club of Pretty Prairie, the Elks, the Eagles, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Encampment and the Rebekahs.

On October 30, 1890, James M. Bush was married at Mt. Ridge to Bertha Reusser, the daughter of David D. and Catharina (Bukholder) Reusser. David D. Reusser was born in Wayne county, Ohio, September



15, 1841, and later came to Indiana. Catharina (Bukholder) Reusser was a native of Berne, Switzerland, where she was born on May 28, 1845. She came to America in 1865. Her death occurred on May 15, 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Reusser were married in Adams county, Indiana, September 15, 1865, and in the spring of 1877 they removed to Kansas. To this union the following children were born: Bertha, now Mrs. James M. Bush, was born at Berne, Indiana; Ida, the wife of Daniel Luginbill, a farmer of Goltry, Oklahoma; Daiel, a farmer of Harvey county; Emiel, a painter at Mt. Ridge; Noah, a laborer at Mt. Ridge; Edward, a farmer of Harvey county; Lena, the wife of Daniel Heintbleman, a merchant at Mt. Ridge.

James M. Bush and wife are the parents of the following children: Minnie G., who died some years ago; James R., in business with his father; Edward R., with his father; Lillian E., the wife of Thomas J. Bennett, a baker at Kingman; David W., Earl F., Marvin R. and Wilbert R. The four last mentioned are all in school. James R. Bush was united in marriage on September 1, 1912, to Lillian Stephenson, the daughter of J. C. and Carrie Stephenson, of Hutchinson. To James R. Bush and wife was born one child, Helen, M., born on June 22, 1913.

James M. Bush is the third eldest resident of Pretty Prairie, the other two being, Ex-Senator Frank C. Field and Samuel G. Demoret. Mr. Bush has done much for the business, social and educational life of the town and is ever ready to assist in any worthy cause. His life has been a most active and successful one.

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#### MILLARD FILLMORE BAIN.

Millard Fillmore Bain, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Walnut township, this county, and a pioneer resident of Reno county, is a native of Pennsylvania, born in the city of Philadelphia, July 19, 1856, son of John W. and Caroline (Yeager) Bain, both natives of that same state, who spent their last days there.

John W. Bain was born in Reading, Pennsylvania, September 19, 1810, son of John W. Bain, a native of Scotland, who became a very well-to-do resident of Philadelphia. In the schools of the latter city the junior John W. Bain received his education and early became connected with the coal industry, becoming general superintendent of the Philadelphia & Reading Coal Company, in charge of twenty-one wharves and about three thousand men.

He married Caroline Yeager, who was born at Reading, Pennsylvania, September 7, 1817, and to this union four sons were born, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last-born, and is now the only survivor, the others having been Charles, Milton and John. John W. Bain enlisted for service in the Union army at the outbreak of the Civil War and went to the front with an officer's commission. The second son, Milton, also became a soldier of the Union and died in service, March 24, 1862, at the age of twenty-three years. The third son, John, served throughout the war and was mustered out as a sergeant. John W. Bain originally was a Whig, but upon the organization of the Republican party became affiliated with that party and remained faithful to its principles. He and his wife were earnest members of the Presbyterian church. He died on September 7, 1866, and his widow died on October 22, 1875.

Millard F. Bain was reared in the city of Philadelphia and received his education in the schools of that city. Upon completing the course in the high schools at the age of sixteen he entered the employ of the largest print and dye works in that city and when failing health caused him to leave that establishment five years later he held the second highest position there. In 1877 he came to Kansas in search of health, the reputation of the salubrious climate of the Sunflower state having long before that become well established in the East, and in 1878 homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 22 in Walnut township, this county, later taking an adjoining "eighty," and there he has made his home ever since. When Mr. Bain took the place there was a small sod shanty on the same, but the next year he erected a small frame house, twelve by fourteen feet in ground dimension, and in the fall of that year married and established his home. That small house sufficed for a residence for Mr. Bain and his wife for a number of years, but was after awhile replaced by a better and more commodious home. Mr. Bain prospered in his farming operations and is now the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres, well improved and profitably cultivated. Mr. Bain was one of the most active of the pioneers of that part in local civic affairs. He helped to organize the township and to create the school district in the neighborhood of his home and in other ways was active in the work of creating proper social conditions thereabout in pioneer days. In 1891 he was elected as a member of the board of commissioners of Reno county and served in that important capacity for eleven years. He also served four terms as township trustee.

It was on November 25, 1879, that Millard F. Bain was united in marriage to Ida T. Posey, who was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, Octo-

ber 31, 1862, daughter of Owen H. and Margaret (Linderman) Posey, who came to Reno county in 1879 and are still living here. To Mr. and Mrs. Bain seven children have been born, as follow: Caroline, who married Fred Baker; Anna, who married Martin Haston; Mabel, who married Frank Haston; Edna, who married Walter Johnson; Ethel, who married Charles Johnson; William, who married Nellie Lattimer, and Mildred, who is at home with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Bain are members of the Methodist church and for many years have been active in local good works. Mr. Bain is a Republican and ever since locating in Walnut township has been regarded as one of the leaders of that party in that section of the county.

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### LAWSON WATSON.

In the memorial annals of Reno county few names stand out with more distinctness than that of the late Lawson Watson, a well-known, progressive and public-spirited farmer of Miami township, who was run down and killed by one of his teams of horses at a point a quarter of a mile east of the town of Turon on February 14, 1903. Lawson Watson was a Hoosier by birth, having been born in the city of New Albany, Indiana, across the river from Louisville, August 20, 1865, son of Michael and Margaret (Braden) Watson, natives of Ohio, who later became well-known residents of Reno county.

Michael Watson was born on June 15, 1807, and later moved to the city of New Albany, Indiana, where he married, moving thence to Owensboro, Kentucky, where he made his home until 1885, in which year he came to Kansas with his family and homesteaded a farm in Miami township, Reno county, the same being lot 2 and the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 3, Miami township, where he established his home and where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on December 14, 1897. His widow, who was born at New Albany, Indiana, May 12, 1823, survived him about fifteen years, her death occurring at West Plains, Missouri, June 13, 1912. Michael Watson was a good citizen and took an earnest part in the civic affairs of his community. He and his wife were the parents of three children, the subject of this sketch having had a sister, Louisa, who died in childhood, and a brother, Michael, a farmer, of West Plains, Missouri.

Lawson Watson received his education in the schools of Owensboro,

Kentucky, and was about twenty years old when he came to Reno county with his parents. He immediately devoted his attention to farming and presently bought the southeast quarter of section 10, on which he engaged quite extensively in general farming and stock raising and where he made his home until his tragic and untimely death in 1903. Mr. Watson gave a good citizen's attention to local political affairs and served for two years as trustee of Miami township, to which office he was elected on the Democratic ticket, and was a member of the school board for many years. He was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and in the affairs of that popular organization took a warm interest.

On December 22, 1897, at the home of the bride's parents in Miami township, this county, Lawson Watson was united in marriage to Mrs. Sarah Evans, widow of J. M. Evans daughter of Francis M. and Sophia (Newlin) Sprout, and to this union two children were born, Margaret, born at Turon, this county, December 30, 1900, and Lawson E., also born at Turon, January 7, 1903. Mrs. Watson owns a very pleasant home on the east side of Burns street, between Kansas and Nebraska streets, in Turon, besides two other houses in that thriving little city and two farms in this county and is very comfortably situated.

Mrs. Watson's first husband, J. M. Evans, was a farmer of Grundy county, Missouri, who died at Maywood, Frontier county, Nebraska, June 9, 1893. She was born at Trenton, Missouri. Her father, Francis M. Sprout, a well-known and well-to-do resident of this county and an honored pensioner of the government for distinguished services rendered during the Civil War, was born in Union county, Indiana, May 23, 1836, son of William and Hannah (Nelson) Sprout, natives of North Carolina, who moved with his parents from Union county to Marshall county, Indiana, where he lived for fifteen years. The family then moved to Grundy county, Missouri, and there he made his home for thirty-five years, or until his removal to Miami township, this county. Mr. Sprout is an active Republican and during his residence in Missouri served for four years as trustee of his home township. For four years he held the position of treasurer of Miami township and for three years served on the school board. The service for which Mr. Sprout receives a pension of forty dollars a month from the government was rendered during the Civil War as a member of Company B, Twenty-third Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Infantry, under command of Colonel Grundy. His service covered a period of eighteen months, during which time he spent six months and eighteen days in Con-



federate prisons, having been confined at Macon, Georgia; Mobile, Alabama, and in Libby prison at Richmond, Virginia. At the battle of Shiloh he lost his right arm and later received his honorable discharge.

Francis M. Sprout was twice married, his children by his first wife, who was Sarah Winters and who died in Grundy county, Missouri, on May 26, 1861, being Mary, wife of L. W. Moberly, a farmer of Milan, Missouri, and William, a merchant and banker, of Starbuck, Washington. His second wife, who was Sophia Newlin, was born near Jacksonville, Illinois, daughter of Abraham and Sarah (McAfesh) Newlin, and died at her home in Miami township, this county, February 3, 1907, since which time Mr. Sprout has made his home with his son, John, a prominent farmer of Miami township, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume. To this second marriage eight children were born, namely: Sarah, widow of Mr. Watson; John N., a farmer of Miami township; James H., a farmer of Grove township, a biographical sketch of whom also appears elsewhere in this volume; Minnie, widow of Aurelius Evans, who died suddenly at his home in Miami township on December 13, 1915; Scott, a farmer, of Miami township; Allison, a farmer of Bell township; Emma, wife of Edward Gregg, a farmer of Grove township, and Zed, a farmer of Bell township.

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#### FRANCIS M. WILEY.

Francis M. Wiley, one of the most successful and prominent farmers of Reno county, Kansas, was born in Decatur county, Indiana, on December 10, 1843. He is the son of Thomas and Hester (Critser) Wiley, the former of whom was a native of North Carolina, where his birth occurred in 1816. Hester (Critser) Wiley was born in 1818 in Kentucky, and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Critser, the former of whom was a soldier of the War of 1812, and served under General Hull, in the campaigns along the Canadian border. He was at one time taken prisoner and served his prison sentence along with many others of his comrades. After the War of 1812, Mr. Critser located in Decatur county, Indiana, where he was engaged in farming for a number of years, and where he died in 1895.

The father of Thomas Wiley died when Thomas was but a small lad, and the youngest of three children. Thomas Wiley died in 1863, at the time his son, Francis M. Wiley, was serving his country as a soldier in the Civil



War. Thomas Wiley was much interested in the old school Baptist church, yet he was not a member. He was also interested in the success of the Democratic party, and took an active interest in the political affairs of that time. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wiley were the parents of the following children: G. W., Sarah, Francis M., Mary, Melissa, Henry, Josephine, Cass and Laura, of whom Mary, Henry and Laura are deceased.

Francis M. Wiley was educated in the schools of Clark county, Illinois, where his parents had located when he was but seven years of age. In early life he married Mary J. Taylor, the daughter of George W. and Alena Jackson (McDonald) Taylor, the latter being named for General Jackson. Her people were slave owners and took an active part in the development of the South. Mrs. Wiley has one brother, James C., a prominent farmer of Adrian, Missouri, and a sister, Annie McDonald, now deceased. She also has four half-brothers, Albert, John, Monroe and George and one half-sister, Isabel.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Wiley are the parents of the following children: Clark, Charles, Flora and Vera. Clark married Ida Whittaker, and lives at Macksville, Kansas. They have five children, Harland, Marion, Clytie, Faye and Verda Jean. Charles, a resident of Kinsley, Kansas, married Ada Mann, and they have one son, Horace. Flora became the wife of Ernest L. Nolder, a resident of Dodge City, Kansas, and they have one son, Galen W. Vera Snow, the youngest of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Wiley, is a music teacher by profession, having charge of the violin department in the high school in her home town, and is also assistant piano teacher in the same place.

Francis M. Wiley came to Kansas in 1869, having located first about four miles from Florence. Later he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land in Grant township, Reno county. In 1872 he was married and made his home on the farm in Grant township until ten years ago, when he removed to Nickerson and retired from active farm life. He sold his holdings of eight hundred acres in Grant township and invested in six hundred and forty acres in Ford county, and two hundred and forty acres in Hodgeman county.

Mr. Wiley and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and take an active part in all church work. Mrs. Wiley takes much interest in the Foreign Missionary Society of the church, and was at one time the secretary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, of the Hutchinson district, Kansas. The Francis M. and Mary J. Wiley school Hiingwhan,

China, was named in honor of her active and successful work in the missionary field.

Mr. Wiley served his country as a soldier during the Civil War, from August 14, 1862, until July 12, 1865, under the command of General Thomas. He took part in some of the most important battles of the war and received several injuries while in service.

Mrs. Wiley is the president of the Chautauqua Reading Circle and was the president for four years of the local Foreign Missionary Society. She is a member of the church choir, and has been for five years a district steward of the church at Nickerson, of which Mr. Wiley is a member of the board of trustees.

Two of the children of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Wiley, Clarke and Charles, after having taught school for a number of years, are now engaged in the hardware and furniture business in their home town, and are very successful in their chosen line. In 1916 Charles sold his interests in the store to his brother, and bought a farm near Kinsley, Kansas, where he expects to make his future home.

Mr. Wiley may well be called one of the pioneers of this section, and has done his part in the development of this prosperous county. He can recall many incidents of early life on the plains and himself engaged in the hunting of buffalo on the plains, the hides being sold in Great Bend and Hutchinson at a handsome profit. In the spring of 1916, Mr. Wiley sold all his interesets in Reno county. He purchased property and located in Dodge City, Kansas.

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#### DAVID H. HINDS.

David H. Hinds has for thirty years been one of the prominent farmers and progressive citizens of Reno county. His parents were both of West Virginia stock. His father, John Hinds, was born near Middleburn, West Virginia, in 1837, and settled near New Matamoras, Washington county, Ohio, about 1859. Three years afterward he enlisted at Marietta, Ohio, in Company C, Seventy-seven Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served for four and one-half years. He took part in the battles of Shiloh, Nashville, Mark's Mill and Richmond and was mustered out of the army at Washington, in 1865, after having participated in the Grand Review at Washington, D. C. In October, 1884, he settled in Grove (now Miami) township, Reno county, Kansas, and took up one hundred and sixty acres

of land, being the northeast quarter of section 23, township 26, range 10. He resided in this county until his death, which occurred at Hutchinson, February 14, 1905. He was prominent in lodge circles, being a thirty-second degree Mason and a Knight Templar. He was also a member of the Baptist church and of the Republican party.

David H. Hinds' mother was Margaret Fry, who was born near Wheeling, West Virginia, in 1830. She has the distinction of serving the meal for the first train sent out over the Baltimore & Ohio railroad from Baltimore to Wheeling on the Grafton division. She is of the Baptist persuasion and her present residence is at Colorado Springs, Colorado. She was married to John Hinds in 1860 and they were the parents of a large family, as follow: John F., deceased; Sarah, the wife of Richard Sarson, who is in the express business in Colorado Springs; Lydia, the wife of L. M. Todd, a farmer of near Wellsville, Franklin county, Kansas; Mollie, deceased, who was the wife of Robert Smith, of Leadville, Colorado; William, deceased; Lottie, the wife of James Harrison, a farmer living near Vinland, Douglas county, Kansas; Jennie, wife of Albert Davidson; Rosa, the wife of Robert Stuart, a miner of Goldfield, Nevada; David H., who was born on January 28, 1866, in Washington county, Ohio. He was educated in the graded schools of New Matamoras. He accompanied his parents to Kansas in 1884, and in 1901 he bought one hundred and sixty acres in the northwest quarter of section 23. In 1909 he added eighty acres to this farm, all of which he still owns.

On March 2, 1892, David H. Hinds was married in Grove township to Maggie Dickhut, the daughter of Charles W. and Margaret (Stark) Dickhut. She was born near Quincy, Schuyler county, Illinois, on November 14, 1871.

Charles W. Dickhut was born at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on March 2, 1833. He emigrated to Kansas, in October, 1878, and homesteaded and timber-claimed three hundred and twenty acres of land in Grove (now Miami) township. He was for some time a member of the school board of district No. 119, and also filled the office of township trustee. He was a Mason, a Republican and a member of the Methodist church. His death occurred in Nickerson on October 27, 1907. His wife, Margaret (Stark) Dickhut, was born in East St. Louis, Illinois, November 9, 1837. Her residence is now in Turon, Kansas. Besides Maggie, the wife of David H. Hinds, they had a family of five sons, one of whom is deceased, and five daughters.





H. S. Thompson Mary Thompson



To Mr. and Mrs. Hinds have been born three children, as follow: Otto, born on January 3, 1894, in Miami township, a thresher and lives in Turon; Claude, April 12, 1896, who is a farmer in Reno county; Margaret, January 2, 1907.

The family resides in Turon, but Mr. Hinds personally superintends his farm in Miami township. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics he is independent.

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### HENRY S. THOMPSON.

Henry S. Thompson, president of the Kansas State Fair, one of the most prominent ranchmen of Reno county, the man who fostered the pleasant village of Sylvia from the time it was nothing but a bare plan on a sheet of paper to its present prosperous proportions, and who also has taken a prominent part in most of the forward-looking movements which have added to the general welfare of this region any time during the past thirty years, is a Kentuckian by birth, but has lived in Reno county since 1882, and is very properly looked upon as one of the pioneers in the wonderful work of developing this favored section of the state. He was born in the city of Louisville, Kentucky, on January 13, 1851, son of Alfred and Emily (Hall) Thompson, the former of whom was a well-to-do market gardener, as well as a greenhouse and nursery man, who owned the first nursery in the state of Kentucky, this nursery being located on the ground on which the present city of Louisville is built. Mr. Thompson's father and mother were both of English origin, natives of the Isle of Wight.

Henry S. Thompson received his education in the public schools of Louisville, and in 1882 came to Reno county, Kansas. In company with some other men from Kentucky, he purchased about eighteen thousand acres of land from the railroad company for a cattle ranch, and served as manager of the great ranch known as the "Anderson Ranch." In 1891 this ranch was sold and the land subdivided, and at that time Mr. Thompson purchased his present ranch containing seventeen hundred acres, on which he now lives.

From the very beginning of his residence in Reno county, Mr. Thompson has taken a very active interest in the development of the western part of the county and about 1885, not long after coming here, formed the town company which was organized to build the town of Sylvia. When the

townsite was located he succeeded in having the line of the Kinsley branch of the Atchinson, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad surveyed through Sylvia and the future of the town was thus assured. From the beginning of the days of the old county fair here, Mr. Thompson was one of the leaders in that movement, and when the old fair ground was converted to the uses of the Kansas State Fair, he was one of the most active promoters of the latter enterprise and has been so for years. He now is president of the Kansas state fair, located at Hutchinson, and is very properly looked upon as one of the leading agricultural experts in the Southwest. He is also a member of the state board of agriculture.

On June 13, 1885, Mr. Thompson was married in the house where he now lives to Mary Shepherd, a native of Ohio, the daughter of Nathan and Lucinda (Mardis) Shepherd. Mrs. Thompson's father was an early settler of Reno county, largely interested in cattle while living in Ohio, and served as manager of the "Thompson Ranch" after coming to Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have no children of their own, but have reared to womanhood their neice, Miss Grace Shepherd, a young lady of rare artistic talent. Mr. Thompson has always taken an active interest in politics, and served his district in the Legislature in 1905, 1907 and 1911. He is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Hutchinson, and both he and his wife are earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Sylvia.

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### THOMAS J. DECKER.

Thomas J. Decker, one of the oldest and best-known citizens of Reno county, as well as one of the real pioneers of this community, for many years a prominent resident of Hutchinson and since 1899 a resident of Turon, this county, is a native of Illinois, having been born at Sunbeam, in Mercer county, that state, March 14, 1837, son of Moses and Elizabeth (Reasoners) Decker, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Ohio. Moses Decker was born in 1788 and was twenty years old when he went from New York to Norwich, Ohio, where he married Elizabeth Reasoner, who was born in that place in 1795. They later moved to Illinois and thence to Viroqua, Wisconsin, where they spent their last days. Moses Decker died on August 4, 1860, he then being past seventy-two years of age. His wife had preceded him to the grave, her death having occurred on January 3, 1859, at the age of sixty-four years, eleven months and

sixteen days. They were the parents of fourteen children, of whom but two are now surviving, the subject of this sketch, who is the youngest, and his sister, Eliza, who married Ira Stevens, a farmer of Victory, Vernon county, Wisconsin, and now lives at Williams, in Hamilton county, Iowa.

Thomas J. Decker was but a child when his parents moved from Illinois to Wisconsin and he received his early education in a log school house near the village of Viroqua, in the latter state. He was reared as a farmer and also learned the butcher's trade. On November 1, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company C, Eighteenth Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war. After two years of service he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant and that was his rank when mustered out with his regiment at Louisville, Kentucky. He received his final discharge at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on August 4, 1865. During his long military service Mr. Decker was in nineteen battles, including those of Shiloh, Champion's Hill, Vicksburg and Atlanta, but was never wounded nor captured by the enemy. During a part of his service he was attached to the army of General Grant, but most of his service was performed in the army of General Sherman.

At Viroqua, Wisconsin, February 19, 1862, Thomas J. Decker was united in marriage to Helen Longmire, who was born at St. Johns, New Brunswick, December 30, 1842, daughter of Capt. John W. and Matilda (Parsons) Longmire, both of whom were born in London, England, the former on January 1, 1800, and the latter, March 29, 1813. Captain Longmire was lost at sea on November 28, 1842, and thereafter, for thirteen years, his widow engaged in the fishing business, shipping cargoes from New Brunswick to Boston four times a year. She later moved to Wisconsin, but when the Deckers came to Kansas she accompanied them and died at Huntington on February 17, 1888. Mrs. Decker had a brother, John W. Longmire, who enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War and died of typhoid fever during that service, on October 28, 1861, and was buried in the cemetery at the National Soldiers Home, at Washington, D. C. Fifty years later Mrs. Decker, while on a visit to Washington, located his grave as grave No. 3644 in the National Soldiers Home cemetery.

Upon the completion of his military service Thomas J. Decker returned to Wisconsin, where he remained until in May, 1871, when he and his family came to Kansas, by the "prairie schooner" route, settling at Sedgwick, where they remained only about two months, at the end of which time they came on to Reno county, thus being numbered among the very earliest

settlers of this county. Mr. Decker homesteaded a quarter of a section of land, later known as the Perry Rowland place, in section 34, township 22, range 6, now a part of the city of Hutchinson, and "proved up" the same, farming for a few years, after which he engaged in the retail meat business in the then village of Hutchinson, thus having been one of the first business men in that city. His meat market was first established on the west side of Main street, just north of First avenue, and later on the east side of Main street, where Nelson's hardware store is now located. In 1902 he moved to Turon, where he ever since has made his home, and in the early progress and development of which place he took a prominent part. On February 19, 1912, Mr. and Mrs. Decker celebrated their "golden wedding" anniversary, the occasion being made the time of many kindly felicitations on the part of their friends.

To Thomas J. and Helen (Longmire) Decker three children were born, namely: Harry E., born at Viroqua, Wisconsin, February 3, 1869, received his education in the schools at Hutchinson, being graduated from the high school there in 1887, and is now a traveling salesman, living at San Francisco, California; Edna M., who was born and educated in Hutchinson and is now living with her parents at Turon, where she is engaged in the millinery business, and Bessie, born in Hutchinson on April 26, 1881, was graduated from the Hutchinson high school in 1899, moved with her parents to Turon, where she was married on November 29, 1906, to John W. Potter, a prominent merchant of that place, son of Martin H. Potter, known as "the father of Turon," a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume.

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#### FRANK E. FEARL.

Frank E. Fearl, a well-known and prosperous jeweler of Hutchinson and for years one of the most active and public-spirited business men of that city, a director of the Commercial Club and promoter of various movements which have contributed largely to the betterment of conditions hereabout, is a native son of Kansas and has lived in this state all his life. He was born in the town of Burlington, in Coffey county, this state, March 6, 1864, son of Silas and Dora (Denneke) Fearl, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Massachusetts, for many years prominent and influential residents of Coffey county.

Silas Fearl was born in the great Empire state in 1832 and there he



received an excellent education and was trained to the trade of a blacksmith. He had given considerable attention to the study of law, and when he came to Kansas in 1857, he then being twenty-five years of age, and located at Hampden, in Coffey county, where he started a blacksmith shop, he also put out his "shingle" as an attorney and it was not long before he had gained quite a practice in the law. Not long after locating at Hampden he married Dora Denneke, who had settled in that community with her parents, members of a Massachusetts colony which located in the Hampden neighborhood, and in 1859 he and his wife moved to Burlington, the county seat of Coffey county, where he spent the remainder of his life. Silas Fearl was a Republican and for years took a prominent part in the political life of the state. He was a member of the first Kansas territorial Legislature and for sixteen years served as county attorney of Coffey county.

Frank E. Fearl was reared at Burlington and received his elementary education in the schools of his home town. Upon leaving the high school he entered the State University and after a two-years course there began to learn watch-making, under J. E. Mosier, at Burlington. He married in 1885 and in 1891 moved to Hutchinson, where for a year he was employed in the jewelry store of C. A. Geiger, after which he went to Atchison and thence, after awhile, to Kansas City, but in 1895 returned to Hutchinson, where he ever since has made his home. Upon definitely locating in Hutchinson, Mr. Fearl engaged in business for himself, opening a jewelry establishment at the corner of Sherman and Main streets, where he ever since has been successfully engaged in business, his two eldest sons now being associated with him in the business, under the firm name of Fearl & Sons. Mr. Fearl is one of the directors of the Hutchinson Commercial Club and chairman of the retailers bureau of that important organization. He organized the old Hutchinson Park Association which became the Kansas State Fair Association in 1890, and was director of the Central Kansas Fair Association, which preceded the state association. He also is a member of the Central Kansas Health Association, the National Jewelers Association and is president of the Kansas State Jewelers Association.

In 1885 Frank E. Fearl was united in marriage to Mary M. Dickenson, who was born at Leroy, Coffey county, this state, and to this union four children have been born, as follow: Clarence, one of the partners in the firm of Fearl & Sons, who married Florence McDonald and has two children, Dorothy and Leon; Harry E., unmarried, also a partner in the business of Fearl & Son; Helen, a graduate of the Hutchinson high school, who is



now a student of domestic science in the State Normal at Manhattan, and Philip, who is in high school. Mr. and Mrs. Fearl are members of the First Christian church, of which Mr. Fearl is a deacon. They have a very pleasant home at 219 East Fifth avenue, where they are very comfortably situated. Mr. Fearl is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite at Wichita, and is past grand master in the Grand Lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, of which he also was grand treasurer for five years, and in the affairs of both these organizations takes a warm interest.

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### GEORGE WASHINGTON CANTWELL.

George Washington Cantwell, a prominent farmer of Medford township, was born in Stark county, Ohio, May 2, 1874. His parents were George Washington Cantwell and Martha (Reed) Cantwell. His grandfather, Thomas Cantwell, of Scotland, came to America and married in Pennsylvania. He was a potter by trade, and finally settled in Stark county, Ohio, where he lived on a farm the rest of his life.

George Washington Cantwell, Sr., born in Stark county, Ohio, assisted his father at the pottery trade, but later followed farming. During the California gold fever he spent two and one-half years in the Feather River district, with fair success. He returned to Ohio, but later moved to Owen county, Indiana, where he purchased land, on which he lived for eighteen years. In 1865 he sold out his holdings in Owen county, Indiana, and with his family moved to Jasper county, Indiana, along the Kankakee river. In 1885 the family removed to Reno county, Kansas, where he lived for the most part, retired from active life. He was a member of the Christian church, and was always more or less active in local politics. He was a Democrat in his later years, but before the war had been a Republican. He died at his home in Sterling, in 1903, and his wife died two years later, in Canada. Their children are as follow: George W., the subject of this review; Isabelle, of Canada; Mary, died in Indiana; Minerva, living in Indiana; John, died in Marion, Indiana, and Ole, of Sterling, Kansas; Oscar, living in New Mexico; Theodore, died in California; and Commodore, of Washington.

George W. Cantwell was educated in the log cabin schools of Indiana. On January 20, 1872, he married Joanna Trent, who was born in Owen

county, Indiana, April 11, 1853. Her father was Wilson Trent. Her mother was Lydia, daughter of John Williams, a farmer and a prominent Methodist of Putnam county, Indiana. Her paternal grandfather was William Trent, a farmer, who moved from Owen county to Iowa. He was a Baptist. His son, Wilson, was a Missionary Baptist minister of Owen county. William Trent died in 1883, and his wife in 1903.

After his marriage Mr. Cantwell settled in Jasper county, Indiana, on land which his father gave him. In 1883 he sold his farm in Indiana, and removed to Kansas, where his wife's sister already resided. In 1885 he purchased a quarter section of land in Medford township, where he now resides. He has acquired additional land and now he has a finely improved farm of three hundred and twenty acres. Besides general farming, he has bred fine horses for three years, keeping a Percheron horse and a jack. His handsome home was built in 1907, and the barn in 1909. He has served a number of times on the grand jury at Hutchinson, and is always interested in everything that has for its object the betterment of his community. His wife is a Baptist. Their children are Gertie, Stratton, Della, George, Pearl, Blanche, Ralph, Trent and Luther and Bessie. Ralph and Trent are at home.

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### JESSE W. JOHNSON.

Jesse W. Johnson, a well-known and progressive young farmer of South Hayes township, this county, proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the Sylvia neighborhood, is a native of Illinois, born in Iroquois county, that state, October 6, 1875, son of W. G. and Rachel (Munson) Johnson, both natives of Ohio, who are now living retired in the town of Plevna, this county.

W. G. Johnson was born on August 7, 1841, son of William and Lucinda (Meeks) Johnson, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. William Johnson was the son of John and Jane (Jackson) Jonson, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Ireland, she having come to this country with her parents when she was eight years old. William Johnson moved from Pennsylvania to Washington county, Ohio, and became a farmer in the neighborhood of Grandview, that county, where he reared his family. There his son, W. G. Johnson, grew to manhood and after his service in the Union army during the Civil

War, married Rachel Munson, who was born in that same county, August 7, 1848, daughter of Henry and Caroline (Pinny) Munson, both natives of New York state, the latter of whom was a daughter of Benjamin Pinny, of New York, a prominent Mason. Shortly after their marriage W. G. Johnson and wife went to Illinois, settling in McLean county, later going to Iroquois county, where they lived until coming to Kansas in 1884. W. G. Johnson bought a farm in Huntsville township, this county, and lived there until his retirement from the farm in 1900, since which time he and his wife have made their home in Plevna, where they are very pleasantly situated. Besides his fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Huntsville township, he owns three or four acres of lots in Plevna and is recognized as a very substantial citizen. He and his wife are members of the Congregational church and take an active interest in local good works. Mr. Johnson's service in the Civil War covered a period of two years and six months and he was attached to the Seventieth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. To him and his wife two children were born, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Edna.

Jesse W. Johnson was about seven years old when his parents came to this county from Illinois in 1884 and his schooling was completed in the district school in the neighborhood of his home in Huntsville township. He remained at home until his marriage in the fall of 1896, after which he located on his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in South Hayes township, where he ever since has lived and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Mr. Johnson is an up-to-date and progressive farmer and his farming operations are carried on along the most approved lines, a part of his equipment being a threshing-machine.

It was on October 6, 1896, that Jesse W. Johnson was united in marriage to Anna May Frazey, who was born in Chautauqua county, this state, April 23, 1875, daughter of John F. and Harriet (Dikeman) Frazey, the former of whom, a native of Pennsylvania, son of Samuel T. Frazey, whose whole life was spent in Bedford county, that state, settled in Iowa, where he married, later moving to Illinois and thence, in 1870, to Kansas, locating in Chautauqua county, where he lived until 1881, in which year he and his family came to Reno county, settling near Nickerson. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson one child has been born, a son, Cecil R., born on October 15, 1897. They are members of the United Brethren church at Fairview and take an active part in the work of both the church and the Sunday school, also a warm interest in all neighborhood good works.

## B. McKEOWN.

B. McKeown, the son of Thomas and Marie (McNulty) McKeown, was born in Louisa county, Iowa, July 12, 1868. Thomas McKeown was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1828, and came to America in 1847 and settled in New York, where he worked for three years as a baker. He afterward engaged in farming and stock raising and came to Kansas in 1887, settling in Sheridan county, where he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land. This he relinquished in 1892 and went to Oklahoma, where he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres, near the town of Billings. This farm he left to his family when he died in 1900. Marie (McNulty) McKeown was a native of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and died in Louisa county, Iowa, in March, 1877.

To Thomas and Marie McKeown were born the following children: Thomas, a farmer at O'Neal, Nebraska; Mary, the wife of S. W. Cheney, of Guthrie, Oklahoma; Ella, the wife of J. E. Bangard, of Perry, Iowa; Henry, a stockman, banker and engaged in the cotton and oil business at Agro, Oklahoma; Edward, who died in Sylvia, Kansas, in 1899; Cassie, who died in Oklahoma City in February, 1914; P. H., a farmer, stockman and postmaster at Billings, Oklahoma; Frank, a farmer and stockman, of Billings, Oklahoma; Joseph, a farmer and stockman of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Agnes, who lives in San Francisco, California, and B. McKeown, the subject of this sketch.

B. McKeown was married in Haynes township, Reno county, on November 5, 1892, to Anna M. Krey, the daughter of Fred and Martha (Gross-close) Krey. Her father settled in Hayes township many years ago, where he homesteaded a farm and where he now resides. He has added many acres to the original farm on which he has placed many modern improvements. The mother is still living and enjoying the beautiful home, after many years of the pioneer life.

To B. McKeown and wife have been born the following children: Arthur, who was born on August 6, 1893, in Stanford county, and is at present farming in Grove township; Grace, born on September 24, 1897, in Hayes township; Myrtle, born in Hayes township on March 15, 1903.

B. McKeown was educated in the district schools of Dallas county, Iowa, and the high school of Sheridan county, Kansas. After completing his education he devoted two years to railroad construction, with his brother, in Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa. He then bought an interest in the ice



business at Guthrie, Oklahoma, where he remained for two years after which he came to Reno county where he rented from three hundred to four hundred acres of land and devoted his time to farming. In 1894 he bought one hundred and sixty acres in Hayes township, which he later sold and bought two hundred and ten acres which he now owns, in addition to four hundred and eighty acres in other sections of the state.

Mr. McKeown was treasurer of Sylvia township for two years, and is the present county chairman of the Democratic committee. He is also a director of the Farmers National Bank at Hutchinson and was one of the organizers of the same. At present he is the treasurer of the Home Hail Insurance Company, a member of the Sylvia Commercial Club and a Mason. Mr. McKeown is one of the progressive and active residents of his home town and takes much interest in all the activities of the place.

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### JOHN W. POTTER.

John W. Potter, well-known merchant of Turon, this county, and one of the most active and progressive citizens of that thriving little city, is a native son of Reno county, having been born on a homestead farm in Grove township, occupying the present site of the city of Turon, June 28, 1877, son of Martin H. and Louisa J. (Hickman) Potter, prominent pioneer residents of that section. In a biographical sketch relating to Martin H. Potter, who is commonly known as "the father of Turon," there is set out a considerable detail something of the history of the Potter family in this county and the reader is respectfully referred to the same for further interesting information in this connection.

John W. Potter received his elementary education in the local schools in the neighborhood of his home, supplementing the same by a two-years course in the State Normal School at Emporia, after which he taught school for two years, one term in the Turon schools and one term in the Miami township schools. He then engaged in the hardware and lumber business at Turon and has ever since been very successfully engaged in that business, long having been regarded as one of the leading merchants of that city. Mr. Potter's activities are not confined wholly to his mercantile establishment and he is interested in several other enterprises in and about Turon. He is president of the Potter Mercantile Company, vice-president of the Botner Motor Company, director and secretary of the Farmers Co-



operative Company, manager of the Potter Drug Company, a partner in the Potter and Implement Company of Preston, Kansas, and a director of the State Bank of Turon. Mr. Potter is a Republican and from the days of his youth has given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs. For two terms of two years each he served as a member of the city council of Turon and in other ways has given his best efforts toward the promotion of that city's best interests.

On November 29, 1906, John W. Potter was united in marriage to Elizabeth Decker, who was born at Hutchinson, this county, April 26, 1881, daughter of Thomas J. and Helen (Longmire) Decker, pioneers of Hutchinson, who have been residents of Turon since 1902, additional details regarding which family are set out in a biographical sketch relating to Mr. Decker, presented elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Potter take an earnest interest in the general social and cultural activities of their home city, and are prominent in all movements designed to advance the general interest. Mr. Potter is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the consistory at Wichita and is also a member of the temple of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at that place. He also is an Odd Fellow and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and in the affairs of these several organizations takes a warm interest.

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#### MOWRY S. THACHER, M. D.

Dr. Mowry S. Thacher, of Turon, this county, one of the best-known physicians of Reno county, president of the Commercial Club of Turon and one of the most active and influential citizens of that thriving little city, is a native of the great Empire state, having been born in the town of Alfred, New York, on August 20, 1870, son of Safford M. and Louise (Longworthy) Thacher, both natives of New York state, the former born in the city of Hornell on December 20, 1834, and the latter, in Little Genesee, August 22, 1834.

Safford M. Thacher was for years one of the best-known and most influential citizens of Kansas. He was reared in his home city of Hornell, New York, receiving a liberal education, and early became connected with the *Hornell Times*, becoming a very proficient newspaper man. In 1858 his brother, Dwight Thacher, came West and founded the *Kansas City Journal* at Kansas City, Missouri, and the *Republican*, now known as the

*Journal.* Later, Mr. Thacher engaged in the real-estate business at Topeka and was thus very successfully engaged until he retired from business about ten years before his death, which occurred at Waterville, this state, in November, 1911. His wife had preceded him to the grave about thirteen years, her death having occurred at Topeka on August 10, 1898. They were the parents of four children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Frank, now deceased; Dr. George I. Thacher, a physician at Waterville, and Millie B., deceased.

Mowry S. Thacher received his elementary education in the grade schools at Hornell, New York, and upon moving to Lawrence with his parents entered the high school there, after which he entered the Kansas Medical College at Topeka, from which institution he was graduated, after a four-year course, in 1902, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Thus equipped for the practice of his profession, Doctor Thacher opened an office at Blue Rapids, this state, where he was engaged in practice for four years, at the end of which time he came to Reno county, locating in September, 1906, at Turon, where he has ever since been very successfully engaged in practice, with offices in the Potter block. Doctor Thacher keeps fully abreast of the advancement being made in his profession and in 1913 took a course in the New York Post-Graduate Medical School, receiving a certificate from that institution on August 18 of that year. He is a member of the Reno County Medical Society, the Kansas State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, in the affairs of which organizations he takes a warm interest. Doctor Thacher is a Republican and ever since locating in this county has taken a good citizen's interest in local political affairs. He served for two terms, a period of six years, as a member of the Turon school board and is now a member of the board in control of the county high school at Nickerson. Upon the organization of the Commercial Club at Turon he was elected first president and has held that office since, giving his best and most intelligent attention to all measures designed to advance the common interest of the city. He also is a director of the Potter Mercantile Company of Turon; secretary of the Botner Motor Company and owns an interest in the Potter Drug Company.

On August 7, 1902, at Turon, Dr. Mowry S. Thacher was united in marriage to Dora L. Potter, who was born on the old Potter homestead in this county, now the city of Turon, on February 24, 1879, daughter of Martin H. and Lovisa J. (Hickman) Potter, prominent pioneers of Reno county, a history of which family is set out in a sketch relating to Martin

H. Potter, presented elsewhere in this volume, and to this union two children have been born, Dwight, who died at birth, and Jane Louise, born at Blue Rapids, this state, December 30, 1904. Doctor and Mrs. Thacher have a fine home in Turon, on the site of the original Potter homestead, and take an active and earnest interest in the social and cultural affairs of the city, being held in high esteem throughout that entire part of the county. Doctor Thacher is a thirty-second degree Mason and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, in the affairs of both of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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### JOHN A. COLLINGWOOD.

John A. Collingwood, of Pretty Prairie, this county, one of the best-known ranchmen, wheat growers, grain dealers and bankers in central Kansas and for years head of the extensive interests represented by the firm of J. A. Collingwood & Brothers, is a Hoosier by birth, having been born at Fredonia, on the Ohio river, in Indiana, December 23, 1854. He is the son of Daniel and Mary (Newman) Collingwood, the former of whom at the date above mentioned was the proprietor of a shoe factory and tannery at Fredonia. Daniel Collingwood died in 1866 and in 1872 his widow came to Kansas with her children and located in the Pretty Prairie section of this county and there laid the foundation for the present enormous Collingwood interests throughout this section. Mrs. Mary Collingwood died at her home on February 12, 1916. During her lifetime she enjoyed many evidences of the high esteem in which she was held throughout the entire community. A biographical sketch relating to this earnest pioneer mother, presented elsewhere in this volume, sets out further details of the history of the Collingwood family and to those pages the reader is respectfully referred for additional information in this connection.

John A. Collingwood was about eighteen years old when he made the trip by "prairie schooner" from the banks of the Ohio river in Indiana with his mother and his brothers and sisters to Kansas and upon arriving in this county entered at once upon his part in the development of the large interests which his mother quickly created. Upon reaching his majority he entered a homestead claim, as did all the brothers, all joining in common cause with their mother, who also had homesteaded a place on Pretty Prairie, and prosperity from the very start smiled upon their efforts. Early in the

nineties the joint activities of the Collingwoods became further cemented by the organization of the firm of J. A. Collingwood & Brothers, which firm engaged in banking and a great extension of the milling, grain, live stock and real-estate interests of the family. John A. Collingwood was first president of the State Bank of Pretty Prairie and was head of the firm for years. His younger sister, Ellen, Mrs. S. G. Demoret, now president of the bank, was the first cashier of the same, and from the very beginning the bank has been a success, as have all the other interests touched by the Collingwoods.

On April 30, 1896, John A. Collingwood was united in marriage to D. Vircillah McClellan, who for years was one of Reno county's best-known school teachers, and to this union two children have been born, Alfred John, born on May 18, 1897, and Lelo Paul, December 17, 1898. Mrs. Collingwood was born in Warren county, Illinois, daughter of Robert and Margarette Cassena (Paul) McClellan, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Tennessee. Robert McClellan was born in Perry county, Ohio, May 31, 1820, and was reared a farmer. On September 10, 1844, near Princeton, Indiana, he married Cassena Paul, who was born in Tennessee, December 11, 1820, daughter of William and Rebecca (Carithers) Paul, who had moved up into Indiana from Tennessee. William Paul was born in Knox county, Tennessee, May 30, 1788, son of John and Jane Paul, and was reared a farmer. He served as a soldier during the Black Hawk War and in his early manhood was a school teacher. He married Rebecca Carithers, daughter of Andrew and Esther (French) Carithers, farmers of Tennessee, who, as well as the McClellans and the Pauls, were earnest Presbyterians. Mrs. Collingwood still has in her possession a few interesting relics of the Black Hawk War and of life during that period, handed down by William Paul, as well as a chair made by John Paul; also a pink teacup owned by the John Paul family, from which eight generations have drunk.

Robert McClellan was a veteran of the Civil War, having given his service to the Union cause during that struggle as a member of Company B, Eighty-third Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which command he served for more than three years. He and his wife were the parents of five children, Nancy A., William Wiley, David F., D. Vircillah and Joseph S., all of whom are still living save the first named. Robert McClellan died at his home in Warren county, Illinois, on October 8, 1871. He and his wife were Presbyterians and their children were reared in that faith. After Robert McClellan's death his family remained in their home



in Monmouth. The next year, in 1872, David F. McClellan and his sister, Nancy, came to Kansas and settled in Reno county, and in 1874 their mother and their brothers, William and Joseph, joined them here, the family thus establishing a permanent home in Reno county very early in the settlement of this county. Meanwhile, Vircillah McClellan remained in Illinois, pursuing her studies in Monmouth College, until 1878. She then rejoined her family in this county and was at once welcomed to the ranks of Reno county's pioneer corps of school teachers, in which position she rendered valuable service in the public behalf, continuing as a teacher until her marriage to Mr. Collingwood, the latter part of this service being performed as principal of the schools at Haven, this county, the Haven schools at that time having an enrollment of eighty-three pupils. Mrs. Cassena McClellan is still living in this county, now in her ninety-sixth year, living in her own home, near her daughter, Mrs. Collingwood, at Pretty Prairie. Despite her great age she retains much of her former vigor and has very clear recollections of pioneer days hereabout, and is in full possession of her mental faculties. She is kind and helpful to everyone.

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### JOHN ROWLAND.

John Rowland, by unremitting industry and perseverance, has attained the noteworthy position of one of the largest landowners and most successful farmers and cattle raisers of Clay township. In his life work, he has been ably and faithfully assisted by his wife and children, until today he has one of the best improved estates in the county.

John Rowland, the son of Perry Rowland, was born on July 16, 1865, in Noble county, Ohio. His education was limited, for his help was indispensable on his father's farm. The family emigrated from Ohio to Reno county, Kansas, when he was twenty years of age and here on the pioneer farm he toiled harder than ever. In 1884 he started out for himself and began renting farms in Clay township. In 1887 he purchased the southeast quarter of section 32, in the north end of Clay township, and has since resided there. His comfortable farm-house is located forty rods from the road. Leading up to it is an avenue, lined on either side by trees over two feet in diameter, which the owner planted in years gone by. Little by little he has purchased adjoining land until he own two thousand acres in Clay and Medora townships. For thirty years previous to 1913, he kept a herd



of about three hundred cattle, and also bought them in numbers to feed. He also fed large droves of hogs. Mr. Rowland has a fine apple orchard of forty acres, also a large peach orchard. He often produces over ten thousand bushels of apples per year. He has strong Democratic tendencies and takes a great interest in politics, although he never has sought an office. At one time he was the only Democrat in Clay township north of the Santa Fe railroad. His word is good as gold, and he is highly respected in his county and wherever he is known.

On August 26, 1882, John Rowland was married to his schoolmate, Jane M. Dillon, who was born in 1859, in Noble county, Ohio. Her parents were Martin and Susan Dillon, both deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Rowland have four children, as follow: Edgar, born in 1883, living on his uncle's farm, was married to Marie Lackey, on April 7, 1912, and they have one child, John Curtis; Martin and Perry, twins, still at home; Frank, living on a Clay township farm, and who married Mary Burdick and they have one child, Grace.

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#### FRANK H. COST.

Coming to this county in the fall of 1888, a boy of seventeen, Frank H. Cost, now vice-president and principal buyer of the department store of the Rorabaugh-Wiley Company at Hutchinson, began as a clerk in a paint store in Hutchinson a career of activity in the mercantile line which has brought him his present eminence in commercial circles throughout this part of the state.

Frank H. Cost was born near the village of Keedysville, in Washington county, Maryland, November 24, 1871, son of Alfred Newton and Mary (Bovey) Cost, both natives of that same county, the former of whom, born in 1824, died in 1887, and the latter, born in 1829, died in 1877. Alfred Newton Cost was of German descent, but his family for generations had lived in Washington county, in the neighborhood in which both himself and his son were born, the first of the name in this country having been an early settler in Maryland colony, later members of the family having participated in the long struggle of the colonists to throw off the British yoke during the War of the Revolution. The Costs for several generations had been large landowners in Maryland and were quite wealthy. Grandfather Cost was also the proprietor of a shoe factory at Keedysville, which employed

about forty men, making shoes by hand. Succeeding to this business, Alfred N. Cost continued the same until the gradual use of labor-saving machinery in the manufacture of shoes displaced the old hand method and eventually closed the Cost factory. Alfred N. Cost, who was an active member of the German Reformed church, died when his son, Frank H., the subject of this sketch and the youngest of the family, was fourteen years of age. His wife had died ten years previously. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Harry P., a bookkeeper, who lives at Telluride, Colorado; Barbara, wife of the Rev. Barton R. Carnahan, a minister of the German Reformed church at Mt. Pleasant, Maryland; Elizabeth, wife of Prof. E. L. Payne, who for twelve years was county superintendent of Reno county, but who now occupies the chair of mathematics in the Kansas State Normal School at Emporia; Harvey A., a railway mail clerk, living at Hagerstown, Maryland; Irene, wife of T. J. Pry, of Keedysville, Maryland; Daisy, wife of C. D. Miller, of Hagerstown, Maryland, and Frank H., the subject of this review.

Upon the completion of the course in the village schools at Keedysville, Frank H. Cost went to work as a clerk in the dry-goods store of J. C. Hoffman & Sons at Hagerstown, Maryland, and on November 30, 1888, he then being seventeen years of age, came West and located at Hutchinson, this county, where for the first six months after his arrival he worked as a clerk in the store of Rice & Moorehouse, a firm dealing in paints. He then, in the spring of 1889, transferred his services to the P. Martin Dry Goods Company, at that time conducting in Hutchinson the largest and best dry-goods store in southwestern Kansas. His natural aptitude for mercantile business and the general enterprise he displayed from the time he became connected with the Martin store made his services so valuable to that company that he presently was given an interest in the store and after a few years was made general manager of the same. When in 1904 the Martin store was bought by the Rorabaugh-Wiley Company and consolidated with the latter's establishment, Mr. Cost became a member of the new company and was made treasurer of the same. He has continued this connection since that time and is now vice-president of the Rorabaugh-Wiley Company and from the time of the consolidation has been principal buyer for the great establishment and is also superintendent of several departments of the store.

On September 9, 1898, Frank H. Cost was united in marriage to Louie Adele Osborn, who was born near Adrian, Michigan, daughter of Edwin

Osborn and wife, both of whom now are deceased; and to this union three children have been born, Lucile Frances, born in 1899; Pauline Adele, 1907, and Carol Marguerite, 1910. Mrs. Cost is a member of the Presbyterian church and she and Mr. Cost take a warm interest in all matters pertaining to the general betterment of the community. They have a very pleasant home at 519 A avenue, east.

Mr. Cost is a Mason and is past commander of the Hutchinson commandery of the Knights Templar. He also is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Modern Woodmen, in all of which orders he takes an active interest.

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### CHARLES H. SMITH.

Charles H. Smith is the eldest son of George W. Smith, Jr., and was born in Adams county, Illinois, November 4, 1876. He was only eleven years old when the family left Illinois for Hutchinson, Kansas, and his education was received in the graded schools of this city. At the age of fourteen, when the family moved out to their farm in Salt Creek township, he went to work for his father and received very little schooling thereafter.

On October 24, 1900, Charles H. Smith was married to Jennie Pearson, who is the daughter of William and Ellen Pearson, and was born in Medford township, Reno county. After his marriage, Mr. Smith rented a farm in Reno township, where he lived until his father moved to Hutchinson, when he leased the vacated farm which is just south of South Hutchinson. He also farms other rented land. Mr. Smith is a Republican and is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He and his wife belong to the Presbyterian church.

George W. Smith, Jr., the father of Charles H., is a product of the unconquerable, self-sacrificing stock of which the pioneers of this country were molded, his forebears having originated in Kentucky and braved the discomforts of the early Illinois days. His grandfather, for whom he was named, was a Kentuckian. His grandmother was a substantial German woman, a fit mate of the man who went from Kentucky to settle on the vast prairies of virgin Illinois. Their children were Alexander, John, Celestia and James C., the father of George W. Smith, Jr.

James C. Smith was born in Jefferson county, Kentucky, as was also his wife, Mary Curry. She was the daughter of Thomas and Melinda

Curry, who emigrated from Kentucky to Illinois in the early forties. The Smiths and Currys settled in Adams county, Illinois, and there James C. Smith owned and lived on one hundred and sixty acres of fine land in addition to a quantity of good timber land, and there he spent the remainder of his life. He belonged to the Whig party, and remained with it when it was later merged into the Republican party. His wife was a member of the Christian church.

The children of James C. Smith and wife were: Thomas C., who is an undertaker at Clayton, Illinois; George W., Jr.; Sarah E., wife of John Balloa, of Camp Point, Illinois; Celestia Anne, wife of George McCarty, of Camp Point, Illinois; Elizabeth, wife of Hotha Bennett, both deceased; Isabelle, wife of Warren Omar, of Camp Point, Illinois; Abraham Lincoln, owner of a feed yard at Camp Point, Illinois; James Henry, of Clayton, Illinois; Ida, deceased at the age of sixteen; William, with Critchfield-Taylor Company, an advertising firm of Chicago, Illinois. James C. Smith died on May 3, 1903. His wife died on November 3, 1896.

George W. Smith, Jr., who was born in Adams county, Illinois, March 23, 1848, received but little education, as being one of the elder sons of the family, he was needed on the farm. There he worked until he was married to Fannie E. Hoke, December 17, 1874. She was born in Morgan county, Kentucky, January 26, 1853, and was the daughter of Craven and Harriet (Tucker) Hoke, both natives of Jefferson county, Kentucky. They were farmers and settled in Adams county, Illinois, in 1859. They owned a farm there, but in 1890 they removed to Kirksville, Missouri, and on November 4, 1897, they celebrated their golden wedding there. Craven Hoke died on October 12, 1898, and nine years later his wife died, at the age of seventy-seven.

After the marriage of George W. Smith, Jr., he lived on rented land, six years in Hancock county and four years in Adams county. In 1887 he moved to Hutchinson, Kansas, where for one and one-half years he was employed by the St. John & Marsh Lumber Company. He worked at carpentering for the next one and one-half years. At the end of that time he traded for one hundred and sixty acres of land in Salt Creek township, which he cultivated from 1890 to 1901. He then bought one hundred and twenty acres in Reno township just south of South Hutchinson. In 1907 he moved to Hutchinson, where he has an elegant home, modern in every respect, at 309 Twelfth avenue, East. Here he lives the life of a retired farmer, although occasionally he follows his old trade of carpenter. He



has sold his first farm in Salt Creek township and purchased the same amount of land in Reno township, adjoining the county farm.

Mr. Smith is a Republican and he and his wife are members of the Christian church. Their children are Charles H., born on November 4, 1876; Ira Clay, April 1, 1878, married to Grace Wells, and lives on his father's farm; Ralph E., March 30, 1889, married Carrie Stabler and they live with George W. Smith, Jr., at Hutchinson.

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### JAMES H. McILRATH.

Coming to the state of Kansas at an early day with his father, and having inherited from that sturdy pioneer many of the admirable qualities which made the latter an influence for good in his various places of residence, James H. McIlrath, now residing on a fine farm in Salt Creek township, Reno county, has done well his part in helping to develop this state into the noted agricultural region it is today.

James H. McIlrath was born on June 8, 1865, in Madison county, Illinois, the son of Hugh and Mary Ann (Foster) McIlrath, the former of whom was born near Belfast, and the latter in Donegal, Ireland. The father of Hugh McIlrath was born in Scotland and removed to Ireland. Mary Ann Foster was a descendant of Lady Elliott.

When Hugh McIlrath was a boy he was apprenticed to a storekeeper in Belfast, Ireland, to learn the business. At the age of twenty-one he came to the United States and located at Lucasville, Ohio, where he conducted a general store for some time. Soon after the Mexican War, Huch McIlrath acquired a land warrant and took up a tract in Saline county, Illinois, on the present site of the town of Harrisburg, the court house now standing on what was a part of the original McIlrath land entry. Mr. McIlrath farmed there for eight years and was one of the first settlers in that region. At that time there were no fences and stock wandered on the open range and frequently became too wild to handle.

About 1855, Hugh McIlrath moved to near Venice, Madison county, Illinois, where he was engaged in farming for twenty-five years. In 1880, he moved to Pittsburg, Crawford county, Kansas, and lived there six years, after which he moved to Kiowa county, this state, where he died in 1905, at the age of eighty-four. Mr. McIlrath was a large man physically and a learned and broad-minded man mentally. He was a man of clean moral







*J. H. McElrath*



*Myrta M. M. Drath.*



habits and was never known to utter an oath. Though the greater part of his life was spent under hardships incident to pioneer conditions he always had good health. He was reared in the Presbyterian church, but joined the Methodist Episcopal church on coming to America.

James H. McIlrath, a brother of Hugh McIlrath, and for whom the subject of this sketch was named, was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War and was killed in action at Ft. Donelson. John McIlrath, another brother of Hugh, remained on the home farm in Ireland. He was engaged in horse breeding. Robert McIlrath, a brother, also, stayed in Ireland on the home farm. Martin McIlrath, the youngest one of the five brothers, went to Australia.

Hugh and Mary Ann (Foster) McIlrath were the parents of eight children, as follow: William, who was a farmer in Kiowa county, died in 1898; James H., the subject of this sketch; John, who is a farmer, lives in Kansas; George, who is a carpenter, has lived in California for ten years, now lives in Arizona; Mary, the widow of James Mills, lives in Colorado; Annie, the widow of Doctor Hayes; two sons died in infancy.

James H. McIlrath attended the public schools in Venice, Illinois, and was present on the first day that colored children were allowed to attend the same school as the white children. He was fifteen years old when his father moved to Kansas, and was of considerable help to his father in developing the farm in Crawford county, and also assisted his father in making a farm out of the homestead claim in Kiowa county. He helped in the management of the home place until he was twenty-six years old. His father, Hugh McIlrath, kept a large sum of money in an unlocked trunk at his farm house, but it never was molested.

In 1892, James H. McIlrath was married and started out in life for himself, showing his characteristic courage by taking this step when he had only sixty dollars. The following year he mortgaged three horses which he owned and by securing additional security on the land, purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Kiowa county, Kansas. This was bought for three hundred and fifty dollars and the security given was only about one hundred and twenty dollars in value. He rented other land there and also operated a threshing machine five years. In 1901, Mr. McIlrath moved to the town of Wellsford, Kiowa county, and engaged in the lumber, grain and coal business. While in Kiowa county Mr. McIlrath acquired three hundred and twenty acres of land, a part of which he sold in 1907.

James H. McIlrath came to Reno county in 1905, and purchased one



hundred and sixty acres of land in Salt Creek township. One year later he moved his family to the town of Partridge that his children might take advantage of the superior school opportunities at that place. In 1911, Mr. McIlrath traded one hundred and sixty acres of land in Salt Creek township, together with another quarter of a section which he had previously acquired, for three hundred and twenty acres in Salt Creek township, being the south half of section 33. This is his home place on which is a fine farm house and is otherwise well improved, and here he carries on grain farming.

On May 4, 1892, James H. McIlrath was united in marriage with Myrta M. Jones, who was born in Wisconsin, the daughter of Ira C. and Sarah Jane (Roberts) Jones. Mr. and Mrs. Ira Jones moved to Wellsford, Kiowa county, Kansas, in 1885, and were pioneers in that region. James H. and Myrta M. (Jones) McIlrath are the parents of two children: Hugh C., who was born on September 11, 1893, is at home helping his father on the farm; Donald C., who was born on September 4, 1897, is attending the high school at Nickerson, this county.

Mr. McIlrath is liberal in his political views, and is generally aligned with the Democratic party. He served as township trustee in Kiowa county. Mr. and Mrs. McIlrath are members of the Christian church. Mr. McIlrath is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

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### WALL & WALL.

David L. Wall, only son of Isaac and Susan (Brouse) Wall, was born in Sharon township, Medina county, Ohio, November 26, 1847. His father was an extensive farmer, owning three model farms in Medina county, which included forty acres in the then village of Wadsworth, Ohio. His mother's people are equally prosperous, and quite musically inclined, the members of the "Waltz Brothers' Band" being relatives. His sisters are Sarah, born on January 9, 1839, who is the wife of U. H. Wearstler, a farmer; Lovina, born on October 23, 1841, the wife of William Roth, a farmer, and Ella, born on September 3, 1856, the wife of T. H. Duley, a merchant.

Mr. Wall's father started in married life with nothing; his mother had about five hundred dollars. Together his parents hewed their first farm from out a dense forest in Sharon township; his mother toiling both indoors and out, and a much greater number of hours daily than the men of the farm.



HUGH AND MARY ANN McLANAHAN.



If the mother had died first, the father would have suffered, by the laws of Ohio, not the slightest interference financially. Upon his death, however, which occurred at the age of fifty-seven years, his widow was allowed, by the laws of Ohio, merely the use of one-third of their joint earnings. Except by a voluntary change on the part of her children she would, thus, have been unjustly deprived during her entire remaining life which reached ninety-nine years, seven months and eleven days. She came of a family of long-lived people, her Grandfather Brouse having lived to be one hundred and seven years old.

David L. Wall was educated in the Sharon Academy and Berea College, and after leaving school, was engaged in the general merchandise business at Sharon Center, in the same county, until 1871-72, when he removed to Akron, Ohio, to engage in the dry-goods and carpet business. Later he became the junior member of the firm of Brouse & Wall, their department store being then one of the oldest and largest in that line in Akron. Mr. Wall came to Hutchinson, Kansas, on July 12, 1886, and with his wife, Henrietta Briggs-Wall, established the first exclusively dry-goods house in this city, under the firm name of Wall & Wall. Carpets were later added to the stock, and still later, when there was much building, they opened an exclusive carpet house, closing out the dry goods at Nickerson, an adjoining town. One reason of the change to carpets was their failure to secure united "early closing" among the dry-goods stores in their home city. However, they alone, for two years, had closed their dry-goods store at six o'clock p. m.; Wall & Wall being the pioneer firm in Hutchinson in this reform. After the change to carpets, there suddenly occurred the "bursting of the boom," and many householders, who had come to Hutchinson during the real-estate inflation, were leaving and disposing of their carpets as gifts, or for slight remuneration. This condition of things, the inevitable reaction resulting from undue promotion of towns, left the firm with little business. Then it was suggested that samples of their carpets might be carried by dealers in surrounding towns, and Mrs. Briggs-Wall undertook the business of opening a market of this kind. Samples of their stock of carpets were at once carefully prepared, and she started out to find customers. Commencing at Haven, she visited twenty-five towns, including Anthony, at the extreme south, and Garden City, near the west end of the state. After she had visited seven towns, the larger number of the sales of the firm were out-of-town orders, although the accompanying thorough advertising immediately improved the retail business. So the threatened bankruptcy was

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averted, and the business put on a safe basis by Mrs. Briggs-Wall's venture. This house, one of the first in Hutchinson to branch out, continued to do a wholesale business thereafter, extending its business into Oklahoma and Colorado, and employing several traveling salesmen. The business continued to prosper until it was sold on account of the death of Mr. Wall, which occurred on September 9, 1901.

In addition to his mercantile business, Mr. Wall also speculated extensively in Kansas lands, in Reno, Stafford and Hamilton counties, in the former of which, he early planted orchards of peaches, pears and apples. He took much interest in horticulture, and in farming, giving their Reno county farm his personal supervision. Since her husband's death, tree planting has been continued unremittingly by Mrs. Briggs-Wall, who has added catalpa groves, etc., and she most earnestly advocates the planting of shade trees throughout the entire state, on the south side of all east and west roads, and on the west side of all north and south roads, and equally important, fruit trees on the opposite sides. This, she urges, not merely for the comfort of tourists and the beauty of the country, but for safety as well. Trees benefit the climate in Kansas, and will furnish fuel in time of gas or coal famine. Public road trees add to health and happiness, and, most important of all, children will no longer be deprived of fruit by their thoughtless elders.

Mr. Wall was prominent in musical circles in Akron, Ohio, and also in Hutchinson. With a fine tenor voice he led the singing in the Universalist and Presbyterian churches, respectively, in these cities for many years. He was of the liberal faith, and believed in religious, political, and also, medical freedom. He was a public-spirited citizen, with broad charity and always ready to do his part in any movement or enterprise, which had for its object the benefit of the community or the betterment of humanity. At various times affiliated with the Prohibition or the Republican parties, he was always a prohibitionist, and contributed his full share to advance the cause.

David L. Wall was married on October 28, 1869, to Henrietta Briggs, eldest daughter of Daniel and Julia E. Briggs. She was born in Wadsworth, Medina county, Ohio, but her girlhood was spent in Sharon, the family having removed there when she was but a child. She received her education at the Sharon Academy and the "Encell Select Schools" at Copley and at Wadsworth. Her father, of English descent, was born in Berkley, near Boston, Massachusetts, about 1804, and died in Akron, Ohio, in



August, 1873. Clement Briggs, arriving from England in 1620, in the good ship "Fortune", was his ancestor. Her mother was born in Brookfield, Massachusetts, May 20, 1813, and died in Hutchinson, April 29, 1896, closing a long, unselfish, and most beautiful life. Mrs. Briggs-Wall's mother, her only sister, and her only brother, spent their last years in Hutchinson, leaving her, after the death of her husband, with no relative nearer than a cousin. Her sister, Martha M. Briggs, was born in Sharon township, Medina county, Ohio, on January 1, 1855, and died in Hutchinson, on January 20, 1893. Her brother, Jerome J. Briggs, was born in Sharon township, Medina county, Ohio, October 14, 1857, and died in Hutchinson, October 30, 1886. Both, upright in character, were valued assistants in the upbuilding of the Wall & Wall mercantile business in Hutchinson, and Martha M. Briggs took entire charge of the closing out of the dry-goods stock in the town of Nickerson, Kansas. After the death of Jerome J. Briggs, his widow, Mrs. Belle Bowers-Briggs, returned to Akron, Ohio, where her death occurred about two years later.

Mrs. Briggs-Wall took an active part in the temperance crusade in Akron, Ohio, in the early seventies and, at the state convention of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union at Youngstown, Ohio, she courageously introduced the question of woman suffrage and recommended it as a part of the work of the organization. Being successful, she was then made the first state superintendent of franchise of the Ohio Woman's Christian Temperance Union. In carrying on this work she was at once assisted by John R. Buchtel, founder of the Buchtel College, of Akron, Ohio, who gave one hundred dollars, and Ferdinand Schumacher, also of Akron, and once prohibition nominee for governor of Ohio, who gave liberally. Mrs. Briggs-Wall then gave to each of the more than seven hundred local Woman's Christian Temperance Unions of the state, a copy of the book entitled, "The Duties of Women," by Frances Power Cobbe. Mrs. Wall was a delegate to the first national Woman's Christian Temperance Union convention held in Boston, Massachusetts, and later was appointed national secretary of the franchise department, of which Mrs. Zerelda G. Wallace (step-mother of Gen. Lew Wallace), was superintendent. As national secretary, in addition to much other work, Mrs. Wall raised the money to send her co-worker to the Philadelphia convention and very materially aided in placing Mrs. Wallace on the suffrage platform, where she remained, earnestly useful, until her death. By her own suggestion to Mrs. Wall, who arranged plans for her to speak en route, Mrs. Wallace visited Hutchinson twice. On her

first visit she gave an address in the Christian church at the age of sixty-nine. Three years later, she was again the guest of Mrs. Wall, this time at the latter's home, 810 Avenue A, East, and apparently much younger, as a result of constant public speaking during the intervening years. Much of her work was in the south, where Mrs. Wallace once lived, and where she was especially successful. At the Ohio State Woman's Christian Temperance Union convention in Cincinnati, in pursuance of her franchise department work, Mrs. Wall, herself, gave an address, entitled, "Uncle Sam and Aunt Mary." Other places were provided by those who urged its repetition, but after filling a few engagements, she unexpectedly removed to Kansas to become a woman pioneer in the business world. Immediately upon her arrival in Kansas, however, she was again appointed by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union as state superintendent of franchise, and at once secured the co-operation of the state officers of that organization, with the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association, in united efforts to obtain the municipal ballot for women. In this, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the much larger organization of the two, she, as superintendent of franchise, pushed the petition work which was so essential to success. When an objecting legislator asserted that he would not be representing his constituents, he was immediately confronted with a petition from his own home people asking for the passage of the bill. Mrs. Anna E. Wait, then president of the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association, later informed Mrs. Briggs-Wall that she had thought this phase of the work "providential." The multitude of petitions came, however, largely from the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the united work of the two organizations brought success. For the further extension of the suffrage cause, Mrs. Briggs-Wall designed and had executed a remarkable pastel painting (about four by six feet in size) with Miss Frances E. Willard as the center of the group, and surrounded by an idiot, a convict, an Indian and an insane man. The copyrighted title of the painting is "American Woman and Her Political Peers," and the plain purpose of the picture is to arouse people to the injustice of the fact that women are included with the disfranchised classes. The painting has thus far been exhibited at the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893, at the "Greater America" Exposition in Omaha, in 1896, also at the state and county fairs in Kansas. Copies have gone into many countries of the world. Miss Willard herself did much to further the production of the painting by words of encouragement to Mrs. Wall, who had the sole burden financially, but who was able to appreciate kind words when

the suffrage cause was by no means popular. Having been a teacher, Miss Willard knew the value of an object lesson. Quoting from the letters (written by Miss Willard to Mrs. Wall, and which are in possession of the historian) and referring to the cablegram of consent, sent by Miss Willard (who was spending some time in London) she writes: "I make no charge therefor, let it be my small tribute to the bright enterprise you are setting on foot;" and, later, "I am entirely willing to go in;" and, "I hope you may have a great success."

Again when some of the photographs of the "peers" were found almost impossible to procure in the United States, Miss Willard explained that it would be still more difficult to obtain them in England, as their dependent and delinquent classes were even better protected. Fowler & Wells, of New York City, sent out their sketch artist, and obtained a portrait of John Rouse (the idiot) from a hospital in the city, and copied, from a medical work, the picture of the insane man. The chief of police, McClaughry, of Chicago, by request of Mrs. Helen M. Gougar, sent to Mrs. Wall a collection of photographs of criminals from which to make a selection. Finally the four "peers" were ready for the artist, W. A. Ford, of Hutchinson. Miss Willard sent various photographs of herself, and the one decided upon, was that which most resembled her at the time she was constantly on the public platform throughout the United States. This portrait of her, though in this repellent group, was said by thousands to be the finest in existence. Miss Willard greatly deplored the political classification, portrayed by this picture, and few things more plainly evinced her desire to escape it, than her willingness to thus aid her co-workers. Mrs. Briggs-Wall, who is an enthusiastic admirer of the beautiful in nature, and in art, was grieved to feel obliged to place before the public Miss Willard's unlovely companions in this group, but felt that the unfortunate facts justified the presentation.

As to local work, Mrs. Wall was glad to aid in securing to the Equal Suffrage Association and Woman's Christian Temperance Union, lot 7 on First Avenue, East, in Hutchinson. It is now owned by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and being centrally located, and quite valuable, it is hoped the property may be used by women for the public good.

Mrs. Briggs-Wall has, more recently, had the great pleasure of participating in another, and less serious, phase of pioneer work, viz., the introduction, in Hutchinson, of Shakespearean and other out-of-door plays. This, however, by merely giving the free use of her home and grounds to the

Mother's Club, who, to aid the day nursery, employed the talented actor, Gilmor Brown, to produce the plays. His success was phenomenal and has proven a brilliant beginning in activities so much needed by the work-a-day western world. Mrs. Briggs-Wall was a charter member of the Hutchinson Woman's Club and in 1914 was made a life member.

Martha M. Briggs formerly owned the "Briggs-Wall Place," and just at the close of her life, being asked this question, "What would you like to have done for you?" replied, expressing her last wish in the following words, "help the struggling." Few have more serious struggles than do mothers, with little or no means, who must take the sole care of their children; therefore her sister especially rejoices that the place has, occasionally, been used for the benefit of the day nursery.

Mrs. Briggs-Wall has no extended knowledge of either her mother's or her husband's families. Her paternal grandmother's father was Col. John Hathaway of Berkeley, Massachusetts. Among her Briggs relatives and families, were her father's only brother, Henry Briggs, of Valdosta, Georgia, who was a physician and surgeon, and whose sons were officers in the Confederate army; Judge George Hayden, of Medina, Ohio, who was judge of the common pleas court of the counties of Medina, Summit and Lorain, and who, with both brothers, served in the Union army, one of whom, Henry, lost his life in that great struggle; George G. Briggs, original and well-known pioneer fruit grower of California, with earliest peach orchards, and whose once famous raisin ranch at Davis, is now the state school of agriculture and horticulture. His practical investigations in the vineyards of Spain, resulted in the promotion of Fresno as the home of the raisin. George P. Marsh, who for eight years was United States minister to Turkey, and for twenty-one years to Italy, whose early art collection was purchased by the Smithsonian Institute, containing originals by Rembrandt and others, and from whose later art collection in Italy, was presented to Mrs. Briggs-Wall a large Italian landscape, framed in Florentine moulding, and entitled, "The Overflow of the River Po." When his widow, Mrs. Caroline Crane Marsh, was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Wall in Akron, at the request of Jason Brown, a son of the historic John Brown, she assisted him in his literary efforts to prepare a reply to a magazine article which he thought derogatory to his father's memory. Mr. Brown came also to obtain information from Mrs. Wall concerning her then recent visit to California, to which place he contemplated removal. Later he brought to Mrs. Wall a plant which he had propagated, and named the



"Henrietta Rose," in her honor, thus showing grateful appreciation of the slight information he had received. His subsequent life in California has already been published, also sketches of his parents' home in Akron; Seymour Thomas, artist, another of the Briggs family relatives, whose home was for many years in Paris, and whose portrait of President Wilson was recently placed in the White House. Mrs. Thomas, formerly Miss Helen Haskell, of San Francisco, was also an art student in Paris; Dr. Edward A. Crane, partner in dentistry, and who, with Doctor Evans, published "The American Register" both in Paris and in London for many years. Together, they saved the life of the Empress Eugenie, during the Franco-Prussian war. Still later, Doctor Crane edited the volume, "The Second French Empire," which contains a full account of the above incident; Dr. W. A. Briggs, eldest and best known of a family of five physicians in Sacramento, and whose niece, Phoebe Briggs, saved from an icy lake the lives of three fellow students at Vassar; Col. Alex. B. Crane, attorney, of Wall street, New York, and resident of Scarsdale, Westchester county, was colonel of an Indian regiment during the Civil War; also State Senator Walter D. Nichols, of Berkeley, Massachusetts, and Major Walter D. Nichols, Jr., of Abilene, Kansas, and families.

Mrs. Briggs-Wall is a woman of agreeable personality, and from the brief outline of her work and varied interests in the foregoing sketch, it is easy to believe that she is a woman of remarkable energy and business ability.

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#### O. P. BYERS.

Coming to the state of Kansas at the age of fifteen, O. P. Byers started to work on the railroad, and concentrating his energies on that vocation he has advanced step by step from section hand to president, and is now recognized as one of the leaders among the far-sighted business men who are developing the resources of this state.

O. P. Byers was born near Kokomo, Howard county, Indiana, the son of J. J. and Sarah E. (Archer) Byers, the former of whom was born in Darke county, Ohio, and the latter in Orange county, Indiana. Both are now deceased.

J. J. Byers served in the Union army during the Civil War as captain in the Fifty-ninth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was a physician, and after the war settled in Kokomo, Indiana, where he practiced



medicine until his death in 1888, at the age of fifty-four years. He was an ardent Democrat. J. J. Byers was first married to Sarah E. Archer, to which union were born two children, J. J., Jr., who is a railroad man at St. Joseph, Missouri, and O. P., the subject of this sketch. Mrs. Sarah Byers died when O. P. was an infant, and J. J. Byers was married, secondly, to a Miss Tracy, who still lives in Kokomo, Indiana.

After attending the common school and high school at Kokomo, O. P. Byers moved to Salina, Kansas, in 1878, and went to work as a section hand on the Kansas Pacific railroad (now a part of the Union Pacific railroad system). He next worked as brakeman and then as station agent at different places on the road, and so diligently did he apply himself to the business that he was presently appointed traveling auditor and soon afterward was made train-master.

Mr. Byers then went to work for the Rock Island railroad as station agent successively at different places in Kansas and Texas. His excellent service won him rapid promotion and he was finally made division freight agent, with offices at Hutchinson, Kansas. In 1885, a company was organized to build a new railroad, the Hutchinson & Southern (now a part of the Santa Fe railroad system). Mr. Byers was chosen as superintendent of construction and was active in getting capital interested in the undertaking. He organized the campaigns in the various townships through which the road would pass, to secure favorable action on the bond issue, and the election by which the bonds were secured was carried in 1887. The construction of the new road was started in 1889 and completed in 1890. Mr. Byers had charge of the construction and on the completion of the road he was made general superintendent, which position he held until 1893, when he returned to the employ of the Rock Island Railroad Company, as general freight agent at Ft. Worth, Texas.

In 1905, Mr. Byers retired from railroad service and became connected with the Kansas Flour Mills Company, of which he is now part owner and one of the officers. On December 6, 1912, a new railroad was incorporated and secured a charter. This was the Anthony & Northern railroad, which is being built to cross the state with a north and south line. Practically all the railroads in Kansas, especially in the western part of the state run east and west, so there is a demand for a north and south railroad. Mr. Byers was elected president of the company when the organization was perfected and is the leading spirit in the movement. Construction was begun in May, 1913, and is still being carried on. A number of towns

have been started along the new road, mainly through the efforts of Mr. Byers. The general offices of the railroad are in Hutchinson, and it is the intention of the officers to operate the railroad, when completed, as an independent line.

O. P. Byers is a Republican and takes a good citizen's interest in local and national political questions. He has secured a broad education through practical experience, and enjoys the confidence and esteem of his business associates.

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#### WALTER W. PAYNE.

Walter W. Payne, a well-known and prosperous real-estate dealer of Hutchinson, this county, is a native of Illinois, having been born near the city of Bloomington, in McLean county, that state, on March 1, 1856, son of the Rev. John W. and Polly J. (Gray) Payne, both of whom were born and reared near the town of Bloomington, seat of Indiana State University, in Monroe county, Indiana, and who, not long after their marriage, moved to McLean county, Illinois, where they bought land of the government, paying for the same five dollars an acre, that is now worth three hundred dollars an acre. In 1859 the Paynes returned to Indiana and lived on a farm near the town of Edinburg, in Johnson county, where they remained until September, 1863, in which year they moved to a farm near Plymouth, in Marshall county, Indiana, where they lived for six years, at the end of which time, in 1869, they returned to McLean county, Illinois, where they made their home until December, 1874. They then moved to Iowa and in February, 1878, came to Kansas, locating in Reno county, where they bought a quarter of a section of land in Lincoln township and lived there until 1881, in which year they moved to Holden, Missouri, where Mr. Payne was engaged as a building contractor, at the same time being occupied as pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church there until he received a severe injury in a fall, after which he returned to this county and his home in Hutchinson the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1902, at the age of seventy-two years.

The Rev. John W. Payne, long known as "Uncle Johnny" Payne, was for many years a well-known "local" minister of the Methodist church. In his early manhood he became a lay preacher in the Methodist church and presently was ordained, though never regularly attached to the conference. "Uncle Johnny" Payne was a power in the pulpit. Not only was he an

exhorter of singularly persuasive eloquence, but he was a fine singer and his services ever were in demand during revivals. Though nominally a farmer and carpenter, he ever was active in the pulpit and for many years supplied pulpits at one point or another. He and all the members of his large family took much interest in music and in the various neighborhoods in which they lived from time to time were vital factors in social and cultural development. "Uncle Johnny" Payne also took an active and intelligent interest in civic affairs and was a strong influence for good in the political affairs of the several communities in which he lived during his active years, though never having been an aspirant for public office. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, namely: Mattie, who married James Glover and lives in Beaver county, Oklahoma; Prof. E. L. Payne, who for two terms served as county superintendent of schools in this county and who for the past twenty years has been professor of mathematics in the Kansas State Normal at Emporia; Walter W., the subject of this review; Laura A., unmarried, who lives in Hutchinson; Cora, who married George Abbott and lives at Kansas City, Missouri; Charles N., a well-known real-estate dealer in Hutchinson; Mrs. Nella P. Cowan, who lives in Kansas City, Missouri; May, who lives in Kansas City, Missouri, and Pearl, who lives with her sister, Laura, in Hutchinson.

Walter W. Payne received his education in the public schools of Indiana and early became a teacher. He was twenty-two years of age when he came with his family to this county and for nine years thereafter performed excellent service as a member of Reno county's teaching force, assisting in the work of the home farm during the summer vacations. In the fall of 1885 he went to Kiowa county, this state, where he "proved up" a claim and became one of the important factors in the creation of a social order in that then pioneer region. He helped to organize the county government and was elected the first superintendent of schools of the new county, a position which he held for five years. In 1891 he returned to Reno county and was presently appointed deputy clerk of the district court, at which time he made his home in Hutchinson. He served for four years, 1893-97, in the district clerk's office and then engaged in the real-estate and insurance business, in which he ever since has been engaged. Shortly after taking up this line of endeavor, Mr. Payne moved to Wichita, where for seven years he was successfully engaged in that line and in 1906 returned to Hutchinson, where he ever since has made his home. Mr. Payne has been quite successful in his business affairs and is accounted one of Hutch-

inson's substantial citizens. He handles mostly farm lands and has large interests in Meade county, this state.

On May 1, 1883, Walter W. Payne was united in marriage to Jennie Duncan, who was born near Oil City, Pennsylvania, and who came to Reno county in the fall of 1878 with her parents, Stewart J. and Mary Duncan, who became pioneers of the Arlington neighborhood in this county, the former of whom is now deceased and the latter still living, and to this union six children have been born, as follow: Rex V., who married Arta Jones and is assistant cashier of the State Exchange Bank of Hutchinson; Bernice, who married A. L. Carter, assistant credit man of the Cudahy Packing Company, of Kansas City, Missouri; Inez M., in Kansas City, Missouri; John Clifford, a clerk in the Commercial National Bank of Hutchinson; Russell W., who works for the Kansas Grain Company, and Marian, in high school.

Mr. Payne is a Republican and for years has taken an active part in political affairs. He is a forceful public speaker and his services have long been in demand by his party as a campaign orator. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Modern Woodmen of America, in the affairs of both of which orders he takes a warm interest.

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#### NELSON P. STEVENS.

Nelson P. Stevens, owner of the widely-famed Stevens nurseries at Hutchinson, who also is actively engaged in real-estate speculations in and about that city, is a native of Wisconsin, having been born in the town of Prescott, that state, on May 19, 1857, son of Nelson E. and Sarah E. (Castle) Stevens, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Michigan, both long since deceased.

Nelson E. Stevens was but a child when his father, Plineas Stevens, moved from New York to Illinois and settled in Lake county, where he became the owner of a large tract of land, now built over by northern suburbs of Chicago, and where he spent the remainder of his life. Nelson E. Stevens grew up on the pioneer farm in Lake county, Illinois, and for many years did contract work for the Illinois Central Railway Company, and during the later years of his life made his home near Chicago. His wife was born in Flint, Michigan, and she had four brothers in the Union service during the Civil War, all coming out of the struggle without a scratch.



To Nelson E. Stevens and wife two children were born, the subject of this review having had a sister, Calista, who married Charles Barbee, a farmer of Fayette county, Illinois, and who died in 1914.

Nelson P. Stevens was but a small lad when his parents located at Avon, Illinois, and he obtained his schooling in the public schools of that village, after which he entered the employ of a tile and sewer-pipe factory at that place and learned the business "from the ground up," eventually becoming superintendent of the plant. In 1882 he married and in 1887 resigned his position at Avon and came to Kansas with the expectation of establishing brick and tile plants in Reno county. Locating at Hutchinson, he made a careful analysis of the soil in all parts of the county, but was unable to find any that was adapted to the use he intended and the big factory project was thus abandoned. Mr. Stevens then became engaged in the work of installing machinery for tile and brick plants throughout the Southwest, and was thus employed until 1890, in which year he established his present thriving nursery trade. Starting in a small way, Mr. Stevens has made a great success of the business. He handles all kinds of fruit, forest and ornamental trees and it is doubtful if there is a township in Kansas that is not bearing some of the Stevens trees. Mr. Stevens also has dealt largely in Hutchinson real estate, and has been equally successful in that time, now being regarded as one of the county's most substantial citizens. In 1894 Mr. Stevens constructed the locally famous Stevens swimming pools, which, with the pleasant amusement park surrounding the same, has become one of the most enjoyable of the summer resort places about Hutchinson.

On March 30, 1882, at Avon, Illinois, Nelson P. Stevens was married to Sarah E. Rea, a school teacher, who was born in Ohio, but who had gone to Kansas with her sister, Mrs. B. S. Hoagland, and had been teaching school in Reno county for several years before going to Avon, where she was teaching when she met Mr. Stevens. To this union three children have been born, as follows: Otto N., superintendent of employment at the Kansas Chemical Manufacturing Company in Hutchinson, who married Elsie Martindale, and has two children, Dorothy and Marjorie; J. Franklin, who died when nine years of age, and a daughter who died at the age of eleven. Mr. Stevens is a Republican, and during his residence in Avon, Illinois, served several years as township and city clerk. He has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows since he was twenty-one years of age.



## ALBERT A. DEAN.

In the memorial annals of Reno county there are few names that occupy a higher place on the roll of those hardy pioneers, who made Reno county what it is today, than that of the late Albert A. Dean, of Medford township, one of the earliest settlers of that part of the county, an honored veteran of the Civil War and for years one of the leaders in the agricultural and civic life of the northwestern part of the county. His wife also was one of the early pioneers of Reno county, she having located here with her parents at a very early day in the settlement of the county, and was ever a valuable helpmate to her energetic pioneer husband. Both are now gone from the scenes of human activity, but the memory of their works long will remain in the community in which they labored so long and so well. The work that they projected in the days of their active participation in affairs hereabout is being carried on admirably by the children who survive them and who are doing well their respective parts in the various communities in which they reside.

Albert A. Dean was a native of the state of New York and he grew to manhood in that state. Upon the breaking out of the Civil War he enlisted for service in the Union army and served for four years as a member of the Eighty-fifth Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry. During this service he was captured by the enemy and for nine months suffered the horrors and tortures of Andersonville prison. At the close of the war he received his honorable discharge and returned to his home state, where he remained until 1873, and in June of that year settled in Reno county, which ever afterward was his place of residence. Upon coming to this county Mr. Dean homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 14 in Medford township and there proceeded to establish himself. In the August following one of the adjoining quarter sections, the southwest quarter of section 12 of that same township, was homesteaded by J. O. Wheeler, who for years was regarded as one of the foremost pioneers of that part of the county. Two years later, in June, 1875, Albert A. Dean was united in marriage to Emma Wheeler, daughter of J. O. Wheeler and wife, his neighbors, and established his home on his homestead quarter, where both he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, honored and influential residents of that community. They were members of the Congregational church and were ever active in good works in their neighborhood. Mr. Dean was an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic and was a Knight Templar

Mason, taking a warm interest in the affairs of both of these organizations. He ever took a good citizen's part in the civic affairs of his community and had performed excellent service as township trustee and as a member of the school board. He was a good farmer and a substantial citizen, not only having greatly enlarged his original land holdings, but giving his children a good start when they made homes of their own. There are seven of these children, Frank, Fred, Orra, Clara, Gilbert, Myrtle and Elsie, who, in addition to the old home farm of two hundred and forty acres in Medford township, own one thousand six hundred and eighty acres in Reno, Stafford and Kearny counties. Albert A. Dean died at his home in Medford township in November, 1905, and his widow survived until August, 1912, she being fifty-eight years of age at the time of her death.

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### FRANK D. WOLCOTT.

Frank D. Wolcott, a well-known retired farmer and banker of Hutchinson, this county, is a native of Massachusetts, but has lived in Reno county since 1881 and has therefore been a witness to and a factor in the development of this region. He was born in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, son of Orlow and Mary C. (Couch) Wolcott, both natives of that same state, who later became prominent residents of Hutchinson.

Orlow Wolcott was a farmer in his native state but retired from the farm and for two years was engaged in the hotel business at Waterbury, Connecticut, proprietor of the Wolcott House. In 1871 he and his family came to Kansas and located at Lawrence, where he bought a home near the Kansas State University. Later he bought a farm in the vicinity of that city and engaged in the cattle business there until 1881, in which year he moved with his family to Hutchinson, where he built a house at 106 West First avenue and there he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1891, he then being sixty-four years of age. Mrs. Wolcott later moved to North Main street, where she spent the balance of her life, dying in 1910, she then being seventy-eight years of age.

Upon locating in Hutchinson, Orlow Wolcott bought a farm in Reno township, west of Hutchinson, and there he and his son, the subject of this sketch, engaged in cattle raising and farming in partnership, becoming quite successful. The elder Wolcott was a Democrat and in his native state had served two terms in the Massachusetts state Legislature. Upon coming to

this county he continued to take an active interest in political affairs, but was not included in the office-seeking class.

Frank D. Wolcott was but a boy when his parents came to Kansas and he grew up on the farm near Lawrence. Upon locating at Hutchinson in 1881 he entered actively upon the work of developing the Reno township farm, being practical manager of the same, and most of his time was spent there. Following his marriage in the fall of 1891 he established his home on the farm, but after a residence of three years there moved to Hutchinson and located at his present home, 824 North Main street, where he has lived ever since and where he and his family are very pleasantly situated. Mr. Wolcott has a large farm in Valley township. His specialty during the time he was actively engaged in the cattle business was white-faced Durhams and black cattle and his stock became more than locally noted. He employed an expert cattle feeder to look after his ranch and his stock, and for years made a point of supplying the Christmas market with fancy beef, his stock commanding the top of the market. Mr. Wolcott is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has never been an aspirant for public office. He is a director of the Citizens Bank of Hutchinson and during two different terms served that institution as vice-president.

On September 29, 1891, Frank D. Wolcott was united in marriage to Dora Richardson, who was born in Fulton county, Ohio, daughter of Paul and Esther H. Richardson, who lived on a farm near the city of Toledo. In 1873 Paul Richardson and his family came to Kansas and homesteaded a timber claim in Grant township, this county, nine miles northwest of Hutchinson. Paul Richardson developed his claim and remained there until his retirement from the farm, after which he moved to Hutchinson, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1899. He was born at Lockport, near the city of Buffalo, New York, and was twice married, by his first wife having had two children, Mark, deceased, and Jennie, who lives at Lockport, New York. Upon the death of his first wife Mr. Richardson married Esther H. Rice, who was born in Athens county, Ohio, in 1840, and to this second union two children were born, daughters both, Dora, wife of Mr. Wolcott, and Bianca, who married Frank St. John. For more than forty years Mrs. Esther H. Richardson has been one of Reno county's best-known and most influential school teachers and has been a notable factor in the development of the social and cultural life of this region. Since 1883 she has been a teacher in the Hutchinson public schools and is now instructor

in Latin in the high school. To Mr. and Mrs. Wolcott three children have been born. Mary, born in August, 1892, a graduate of the Hutchinson high school and a student at Lake Forest University; Ruth, born in November, 1893, also a student at Lake Forest, and Esther, born in May, 1899, a student in the Hutchinson high school.

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### E. B. SMITH, A. M.

E. B. Smith, of Nickerson, Reno county, Kansas, is one whose character is a constant expression of a distinctive individuality and sincere purpose. His birth occurred on April 18, 1857, in Steuben county, Indiana, and he is the son of Birge and Marietta (Bennett) Smith, natives of Central New York and of Steuben county, Indiana, respectively. Birge Smith was born in 1834 and his wife in 1837. Marietta (Bennett) Smith was the daughter of Malcolm Bennett who, for many years, was a resident near Syracuse, New York, but removed to Indiana, where he remained until death. He served in the Civil War in Company K of the Forty-fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, contracting typhoid fever while in the service, but died at home in 1862. Birge Smith was a son of Eber Smith, a native of New York and a merchant in a small place near Ithaca. He removed to Indiana about 1848 and engaged in farming in Steuben county. He was the father of these children: Sarah, deceased; Frances, David, deceased; Birge, deceased.

Birge Smith received his education in the common schools and in a New York academy and removed to Indiana with his parents. During the Civil War he enlisted in Company A, Forty-fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, serving as second lieutenant. He contracted typhoid fever and was discharged, but re-enlisted when fully recovered. He was appointed by Governor Oliver P. Morton to serve as captain of the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, but did not serve in that capacity, as General Hovey kept him on the general's staff as acting-adjutant. He died in the army hospital at New York Harbor and is buried in Cypress Hill cemetery. He was the father of two children, Edward Birge and Frank E., who located in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1877 and is now an agent of the Pullman Company. The wife of Birge Smith died on November 5, 1913.

Edward Birge Smith is indebted to Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michi-



gan, and to the University of Kansas, for his education, having received his Master of Arts degree at the last-named institution with the class of 1897. On June 17, 1879, he was united in marriage to Helen E. Merwin, daughter of Calvin and Emily Merwin, both natives of New York, and to this union one child was born, Helen, on May 26, 1887. Helen E. (Merwin) Smith was born in 1859, in Branch county, Michigan. Mrs. Smith has been a teacher for thirty years in the schools with which her husband has been connected.

Edward Birge Smith studied law under John H. Binford at Crawfordsville, Kansas, and was a partner of Judge W. R. Brown, of Hutchinson, Kansas. After two years he removed to Great Bend, Kansas, where he served as president of the Central Normal College for six years, removing in 1898, to Nickerson, Kansas, where he established a private school, which was an independent normal school. This institution by an act of the Legislature in 1899 was given the standing of a college, and has received the support of the county since 1903. It is now the Reno county high school. Helen Smith, daughter of Edward Birge Smith, was a student of the University of Kansas, from which institution she received her Bachelor of Arts degree. Following her degree she was teacher of Latin for one year. She married Judge Hugh T. Fisher of the court of Topeka, Kansas, and they are the parents of two children, Edward W. and David Hugh.

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#### CHARLES ABRAM CONKLING.

The new Reno hotel at Hutchinson, this county, is a handsome brick building, up-to-date in every respect, and has a wide popularity among the traveling men throughout this section of the state. Under the capable and experienced management of its proprietor, Charles A. Conkling, who is noted for his genial manner and cordial, gentlemanly bearing, the house is doing a good business and bears the general reputation of being the best European-plan hotel in the city. The site occupied by the Reno is historic and has never been utilized for any other than hotel purposes since the very beginning of a social order in Hutchinson, the old Reno hotel having for many years occupied the site, many great men having been sheltered there in the early days.

Charles Abram Conkling was born in Oswego county, New York, on June 7, 1857, son of Abram B. and Sarah (Keyser) Conkling, the former



of whom, born at Rochester, New York, in 1818, died at his home in this county in June, 1900, and the latter, born in Schuyler county, New York, in 1820, died at her home in this county in 1887. Abram B. Conkling was reared on a farm in New York state and for many years was a farmer there. In 1867 he moved with his family to Illinois, where he resided until 1872, in which year he came to this county and entered a large tract of land in the western part of the county and also took up a timber claim about where the village of Huntsville is now situated and there both he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives.

Abram B. Conkling became one of the best-known and most influential men in the western part of Reno county and was widely known thereabout, during the early part of his residence there having been one of the best-known stockmen in that section, his specialty having been horses and sheep. He later gave up the raising of sheep and devoted his place to general farming and became quite well-to-do. He died in 1900, at the age of eighty years. His wife, who came of a family prominent in Schuyler county, New York, during the days of the Revolutionary War and were active participants in that long struggle, had preceded him to the grave thirteen years, her death having occurred in 1887. They were earnest members of the Methodist church and he was an ardent Republican. To them nine children had been born, namely: Edward, who enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War, attached to a Michigan cavalry regiment, and died in a Confederate prison at Nicholasville, Kentucky; Peter K., who also served the Union during the Civil War, a member of Company D, One Hundred and Tenth Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, in which he enlisted when eighteen years of age, serving for three years and six months, died in Illinois in 1874; Susan, who married F. M. Glanville, of Hutchinson, this county, died in 1877; Daniel, a well-known ranchman of this county, who makes his home in Hutchinson; Anna, who died in youth and is buried at Utica, New York; Mary, who married Mortimer M. Brown and lives in Chicago; Julia unmarried, who lives at Waterloo, Iowa; Emma J., who married C. L. Bowman, of Hutchinson, both of whom now are deceased, and Charles A., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch.

Charles A. Conkling was but five years of age when his parents moved to Utica, New York, and he received his primary education there, which was supplemented by the schooling received in the public schools of Peoria, Illinois, during the family's later residence of three years in that city. His father then bought a half section of land in Ford county, Illinois, and for

eight years the family lived there, or until 1876, in which year they rejoined the father, who, four years before had homesteaded his place in the western part of this county and had prepared a home for them. Upon coming to Reno county, instead of making his home on the farm, Charles A. Conkling located in Hutchinson, where he became an insurance salesman, acquiring an acquaintance which proved very valuable when presently, during the "boom" days, he and his brother-in-law, C. L. Bowman, engaged in the real-estate business, in which he continued until 1888. In 1891 he became the proprietor of the old Reno hotel and was thus engaged until 1899, in which year he engaged in the furniture business at 101-103 South Main street. This business he sold in 1902 and resumed charge of the Reno hotel, which ever since has been under his capable management. In 1913 Mr. Conkling razed the old hotel and built the present commodious and up-to-date Reno hotel on the site so long occupied by the old house.

On January 12, 1899, Charles A. Conkling was united in marriage to Mrs. Mary Ellen Chambers, who was born in Pennsylvania and who had been a resident of Hutchinson since 1872, in which year she and her first husband became the owners of the old Reno hotel. Charles A. Conkling is a Mason and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that order.

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### MILTON ELLIOTT HINMAN.

Milton E. Hinman, proprietor of the well-known "Plainview Stock Farm" in Plevna township, this county, one of the largest landowners and most extensive stockmen in Reno county and president and general manager of the Sylvia Milling Company at Sylvia, this county, for years active in the general affairs of that community, is a native of Illinois, having been born in Franklin county, that state, November 21, 1873, son of Lemuel Milton and Priscilla Rebecca (Elliott) Hinman, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of Indiana, who were among the early and prominent pioneer settlers of Huntsville township, this county.

Lemuel M. Hinman was the son of Geeter Hinman and wife, who were among the earliest settlers of Franklin county, Illinois, earnest Methodists, sober, earnest farming people, who were long regarded as among the leaders in their community, and was reared on the pioneer farm in that county. In the fifties Lemuel M. Hinman went over into Indiana and married Priscilla Elliott, returning then to Illinois and settling on a farm his

father had given him. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted for service in an Illinois regiment and served during the war. His feet were frozen during the service, causing him disability from which he suffered all the rest of his life. In the early seventies he left the farm and engaged in business in the town of Hadley, in Franklin county, Illinois, and was thus engaged until 1875, in which year he sold his store and, accompanied by his eldest son, drove through to Kansas, locating in this county, where he bought the relinquishment to a homestead right to a quarter of a section of land in Huntsville township. He constructed a sod shanty on the place and then returned to Illinois and brought out the other members of his family and there established his home. Mr. Hinman prospered from the very beginning of his farming operations in this county and soon had a fine and well-developed farm and a very comfortable home there. He had paid fifty dollars for the relinquishment of the homestead right which he developed and an offer of sixteen thousand dollars for that same tract has since been rejected, the Hinman farm being looked upon as one of the best in that section.

Lemuel M. Hinman was not only a good farmer, but was a good citizen in every respect. For years he was an "exhorter" in the Methodist church and he organized the first Sunday school in Huntsville township soon after he located there and later helped found the church near his home. He started the first school in Huntsville township in a house erected just across the road from his house and organized the first school district in that township, serving on the local school board for years. Mr. Hinman was an earnest Republican and took a good citizen's interest in public affairs, but never was an office seeker. As his younger children grew up he moved to Nickerson in order to gain the advantage of the better school facilities in that village and there he died on May 11, 1911, within a few days of his eightieth birthday. His widow survived him and in June, 1915, celebrated the eightieth anniversary of her birth. Mr. and Mrs. Hinman were prominent in all good works in their neighborhood in pioneer days and ever were held in the highest regard thereabout. Nine children were born to them, as follow: Homer, one of Reno county's best-known citizens, now residing in Hutchinson; Olive, who married Daniel Taylor and lives at Edwards, Illinois; Tina, who married Walter Moorman and lives in Salt Creek township, this county; Milton L., the immediate subject of this sketch; Frank, who is connected with the United States government service, stationed in the state of Washington; the late Mrs. M. A. Chappell, of Nickerson, and three who died in youth.

Milton Elliott Hinman was two years of age when his parents located in this county and he was reared on the homestead farm in Huntsville township. He received his elementary education in the Hinman district school, afterward attending the Nickerson schools, and supplemented the course in the common schools by a course in Baker University at Baldwin, this state, from the normal department of which he was graduated in 1898. In the meantime he had begun teaching school when eighteen years of age and for fifteen years was thus engaged, filling in his summers by farming. Mr. Hinman for years was one of Reno county's best-known and most useful educators. He was principal of the schools at Sylvia during the years 1892-95, inclusive; principal of the Arlington schools, 1896-97, and principal of the Plevna schools, 1899-1902, inclusive, and during all this long period of service gave the best there was in him in the way of advancing the educational standards of the county. In the meantime Mr. Hinman's farming and stock-raising operations were prospering and he also became known as one of the county's most progressive farmers and stockmen. He first bought three hundred and twenty acres in Plevna township, which he devoted to stock raising, calling his place the "Plainview Stock Farm," and gradually enlarged the same until he now owns a tract of six hundred and forty acres there, where he raises and feeds large numbers of cattle and hogs. In addition to his fine stock farm Mr. Hinman also is the owner of eight hundred acres of well-developed land in Huntsville township, which he devotes to grain farming, in which form of agriculture he also has been very successful. In March, 1909, Mr. Hinman organized the Sylvia Milling Company at Sylvia, this county, and has since made his home at that place, he being president and general manager of the company, which does a general flour-milling and elevator business, maintaining an extensive elevator at Zenith, as well as at Sylvia. The Sylvia Milling Company took over and enlarged the old flour-mill at Sylvia, which now has a capacity of two hundred and sixty barrels daily, while the company's concrete grain tanks have a capacity of eighty thousand bushels storage. This enterprising company makes a specialty of its "North Pole Flour," a brand widely known throughout this section of Kansas, besides which it does a considerable business in the export trade, maintaining general offices at Hutchinson.

On August 2, 1899, Milton E. Hinman was united in marriage to Blanche Axtell, who was born at Sterling, in the neighboring county of Rice, daughter of Pliny T. Axtell and wife, well-known pioneers of this county, Mr. Axtell having homesteaded a tract of land in Plevna township



in 1872, becoming an extensive landowner and stockman, now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Hinman four children have been born, Helen, born in 1901; Lew, 1903; Dorothy, 1908, and Dorr, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Hinman ever have taken a leading and useful part in the social and cultural activities of their neighborhood and are held in high regard thereabout. Mr. Hinman is a Republican, but has invariably declined to be a candidate for office on the occasions that suggestions of this character have been made to him.

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### FRANK FREEMAN KLEIN.

Frank Freeman Klein, a substantial and well-known farmer of Lincoln township, this county, who has been a witness of the development of the wonderful resources of the county since the days of the pioneers, having been but a babe in arms when his parents came to Reno county in the spring of 1874, is a native of Michigan, having been born on a pioneer farm near Ann Arbor, that state, September 19, 1873, son of J. Peter and Sophia (Sweitzer) Klein, the former of whom also was born in Michigan and the latter in Germany, both of whom are still living, being among the most respected pioneers of Reno county.

J. Peter Klein was born in Washtenaw county, Michigan, April 15, 1842, son of John Peter and Margaret (Sickinger) Klein, both natives of Germany, the former born in Baden and the latter in Berent, both of whom grew up on farms in their native land. As a young man John Peter Klein came to America and located near Washington, D. C., where he married Margaret Sickinger, who had come to the United States from Germany in her girlhood, and in the late thirties the family emigrated to Michigan, where John Peter Klein bought one hundred and twenty acres of timber land near Ann Arbor and there established his home, being one of the pioneers of that section of Michigan, the nearest mill to his place at that time being at Detroit, forty miles away. John Peter Klein and his wife were earnest members of the German Lutheran church, there being a considerable German colony in the neighborhood of their home, and their children were reared in that faith. There were five of these children, namely: Catherine, who died soon after her marriage; Adaline, also deceased; Adam, now deceased, a prominent miller, who spent all his life in Michigan; William, a well-to-do retired farmer, who died at Minneapolis, Minnesota, and J. Peter, who is now the sole survivor of the family. The mother of these



children died in 1872, at the age of sixty-eight, and the father died in 1878, at the age of seventy-two.

J. Peter Klein was reared on the paternal farm in Michigan and remained at home with his parents until his marriage in the summer of 1868, after which he bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Kalamazoo county, same state, where he made his home until 1874, in which year he sold his farm and with his family moved to Kansas, arriving in Reno county in May of that year. He bought three hundred and twenty acres of railroad land in section 5 of Lincoln township (made a part of Yoder township in 1914) and there established his family. He erected a little frame house, sixteen by twenty-four, and got but a little corn that first year, but the grasshoppers came along in August and ate every blade of it. Though many settlers gave up, thoroughly discouraged, and left this section of Kansas after that memorable visitation, Mr. Klein stuck to his place and presently began to prosper largely, from the very start having been recognized as one of the leading pioneers of that section. In 1875 he participated in the neighborhood rising against one Pierce, who had "jumped" Fay Smith's claim, the summary action of the incensed pioneers in that case proving an effectual deterrent to claim-jumpers hereabout. As Mr. Klein prospered he gradually added to his original half-section of land holdings until he now has a fine place of seven hundred and eighty acres, all under excellent cultivation. In 1897 he erected his present comfortable farm house and is now very pleasantly situated, long having been regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in the county.

On July 1, 1868, J. Peter Klein was united in marriage to Sophia Sweitzer, who was born in the province of Wittenberg, Germany, and who came to America as a child with her parents, Jacob Sweitzer and wife, the family settling in the Ann Arbor neighborhood of Michigan about the year 1848. To this union four children have been born, as follow: Christian, a well-known farmer of Yoder township, this county; Frank, the subject of this biographical sketch, a farmer, also well established in the same township; Jacob, an extensive farmer in Montana, and Minnie, who married Grover Bowser, of Elmer, this county, a substantial farmer of Lincoln township.

Frank F. Klein was about eighteen months old when his parents came to Reno county and he consequently has spent all of his active life here, having thus been a witness of the wonderful development of this region from pioneer days. He grew up on the Lincoln township farm, attending

the Fairview district school, and lived with his parents until his marriage in December of 1901, after which he bought the Fowler place of eighty acres adjoining his father's farm and there established his home. He later bought an "eighty" adjoining his place on the east and has developed his farm in fine shape, the same being well improved and profitably cultivated. In 1907 he built a pretty little farm house and there he and his family are very pleasantly and comfortably situated, enjoying the respect and esteem of the entire neighborhood. Mr. Klein is a Democrat and has given much attention to local civic affairs. He is now serving as school treasurer of his home township and has served as a school director and as township clerk.

On December 2, 1901, Frank F. Klein was united in marriage to Viola Commer, who was born in the state of Mississippi and who, at the age of twelve, came with her parents, William and Florence Commer, to Kansas, the family locating on a farm in Reno township, this county. Following the death of William Commer at his home in this county, his widow married George T. Hern, now chief of police of the city of Hutchinson. To Mr. and Mrs. Klein one child has been born, a son, William Harold, born on September 18, 1904. Mr. Klein is a member of the lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America at Hutchinson, in the affairs of which order he takes a warm interest.

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#### LEANDER A. BIGGER.

Anent the passing of the late Leander A. Bigger, Sheridan Ploughe, editor of the *Hutchinson Gazette*, wrote the following appreciation under the heading "Incidents From the Life of a Town Builder:

"L. A. Bigger was the constant factor in the development of Reno county. He was early on the ground and knew all the resources of the Arkansas Valley and was one of the most sought-for men in the county when an Eastern man came here to look for investments. He stayed in the county, although he told me that was not his purpose when he came West, but that the big cattle business was the attraction for him when he first came West.

"He had met Senator Plumb and Major Hood, who sought to interest him in the cattle business in Texas. Before that time the cattle had been driven north from Texas to Abilene, Kansas, over the Chisholm Trail by

the hundreds of thousands of head every year and it opened up a lucrative field for a young man. But when he reached Hutchinson, the big herds were being broken up and the settlers were crowding in to take up the land, and he settled down to help develop the land business instead of the cattle industry. Being in the land business, he secured the agency of the Santa Fe Railroad Company and the firm of Brown & Bigger sold thousands of acres in Reno county to men whose children and whose children's children now cultivate these farms—only a few of the pioneers are left to tell of their purchase of land, but in hundreds of homes the story of how father got the first quarter of land in Reno county can be told.

"Mr. Bigger pointed out to me once a very striking peculiarity in the men who settled in this county. In the fall of 1874 the Santa Fe railroad distributed a great deal of wheat to farmers to sow, that being the grasshopper year. He said that the fall was an ideal one and many people from the East stopped over here and saw the people at his office securing the seed wheat free. He secured the names of the visitors, who saw the conditions of the people, and, by some strange attraction, in a year or two these same visitors were back at his office again buying land of the man whom they saw distributing free seed wheat a year or two before.

"When the state reformatory was located in Hutchinson, a fund of twenty-five thousand dollars had to be secured to buy the land. This was the first big thing Hutchinson tackled. The committee had gone to the limit. Everybody had been pulled for all they could stand and there yet remained five thousand dollars that could not be raised. To end the matter, Mr. Bigger went to Topeka, explained to the Santa Fe Railroad people that the contest had narrowed down between Junction City and Hutchinson—the Union Pacific or the Santa Fe Railroads; and when the Santa Fe people saw that they agreed to put up the last five thousand dollars, and they did.

"Mr. Bigger knew more of the inside history of Reno county than any other man and only in the later days of his life, when no one could be injured by telling it, has he told it."

Leander A. Bigger was born on a farm in Henry county, Ohio, October 1, 1844, son of Matthew and Elizabeth S. (Adams) Bigger, the former also a native of Ohio, born in Jefferson county, and the latter of Pennsylvania. The origin of the Bigger family has been traced to the stewardry of Kirkcudbright, near Dumfries, Scotland, the name having been known near there from the year 1540; but on the records still in existence in Edinburgh the name is traced back to April 26, 1135. On that day one of the Biggers,

then high chamberlain of Scotland, made a visit to King William at Northumberland, the fact being so noted. At that early date the family had, according to the custom of heraldry, a coat of arms—a pretty design on a shield, with the motto, "Giving and Forgiving." The Biggers were all Covenanters and later, upon the union of the various seceding churches, United Presbyterians. Matthew Bigger was a woolen manufacturer in Ohio and all his days were spent in that state. He and his wife were the parents of five children who grew to maturity, of whom Leander A. was the third in order of birth, the others being as follow: Samuel, who is now living retired in Hutchinson, this county; Martha, unmarried, who lives at Lima, Ohio; Eliza A., who married Scott Henry, of Ohio, and died in '1906, and Stephen H., who lives on a farm in Hancock county, Ohio.

Leander A. Bigger was reared on the home farm in Henry county, Ohio, and when seventeen years old answered President Lincoln's first call for volunteers in defense of the Union. He went to Chicago to enlist and served until the close of the war, being mustered out as a first lieutenant in the First North Carolina Volunteers. Upon the completion of his military service he turned his attention to the study of law and presently entered the law department of the University of Michigan, from which in due time he was graduated. Shortly afterward he was attracted by the possibilities presented at the opening for settlement of this section of Kansas and in company with J. B. Brown came to this state and located at the then infant town of Hutchinson, the two there opening a real-estate office. Mr. Brown had had previous experience in the business and the firm at once "went to the front," quickly building up an extensive and lucrative business; in addition to their large personal dealings also acting as agents for the sale of the Santa Fe land grant for this section of the Arkansas valley. The firm of Brown & Bigger was noted for its public spiritedness and large-handed hospitality and from the very first was recognized as a leader in the real-estate business hereabout. Upon the death of Mr. Brown, Mr. Bigger turned his attention more particularly to the tax-title and bond business and continued to prosper largely. He never practiced his profession as a lawyer save in cases involving land titles, though he often appeared before the general land office at Washington and the district land office at Wichita as attorney.

In 1874 Leander A. Bigger returned to Ohio for a helpmate and on Christmas day of that year was united in marriage, at her home in Napoleon, to Mary Irene Chaffin, who for many years presided over the hospitable



home at 305 Sherman avenue, east, which Mr. Bigger erected the year following his marriage. In the early days of Hutchinson, in the seventies, the hotels of the new town were poor and small and Mr. Bigger entertained at his own home many of the Eastern capitalists and writers who came out here to see for themselves just what was the promise Kansas was holding out to the world. Friendships formed in this manner proved enduring and in Mr. Bigger's extensive travels later in life over the United States and in foreign countries, their renewal bore abundant fruit in securing to him the often privilege of visiting places closed to the ordinary tourist.

Leander A. Bigger was one of the men who built Hutchinson and fostered its growth to its present high state of development. For forty years after his arrival there in 1872 he was actively identified with the affairs of the city, leaving no act unperformed which would lead to her advancement. For four terms he served the town as mayor, first in 1878, while the town was yet in its village stage; later, in 1886, 1887 and 1888, during the days of the "boom." It was largely through his urgent instrumentality that the city bought a tract for park purposes, which later developed into a fair-ground and eventually into the establishment of the great Kansas state fair at Hutchinson. It was during his term of office as mayor in the eighties that the city's present sewerage system was planned and begun, Mayor Bigger's farsightedness giving him the ability to see the city's future needs along that line. Through his acquaintance with Eastern capitalists, Mr. Bigger secured the financial aid necessary to the construction of the water and electric-light system and gained for Hutchinson the honor of being the first city in the United States to use electricity in lighting homes. Mr. Bigger was one of the incorporators of the First National Bank and his able services and experience along financial lines made him literally a tower of strength and usefulness in the community, and it was his influence that led to the erection of the handsome six-story building now occupied by that bank. When the Missouri Pacific railroad was being pushed west Mr. Bigger gave months of his time to the labor of securing for Hutchinson a place on the line of that road's survey and succeeded, with the assistance of Senator Plumb, in having the line surveyed through Hutchinson instead of following the original intent of the road builders and striking far south. His intimate association with the Rock Island officials also enabled him to secure that railroad for Hutchinson and he often was called in counsel by the officials of that road in the matter of the location of towns and enterprises in which they were interested. In the early nineties Kansas town-



ship, school and city bonds were woefully depreciated in the bond markets, not a few municipalities having defaulted payment either of principal or interest. To the difficult and serious problem thus presented Mr. Bigger gave his most thoughtful attention, with the result that, with the assistance of his Eastern financial friends and business connections, he succeeded in refunding these securities and establishing a new basis of credit which insured for Kansas a lower rate of interest and placed her bonds on par with the safest and soundest investments.

Mrs. Mary Irene (Chaffin) Bigger, first wife of Leander A. Bigger, died at her home in Hutchinson on May 7, 1896, leaving two daughters, Mary, who married L. E. Fontron, president of the Fontron Loan and Trust Company, of Hutchinson, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, and Diadamia, who married Howard S. Lewis, a Hutchinson lawyer, member of the well-known firm of Fairchild & Lewis, attorneys at law. Howard S. Lewis was born at Glenwood, Missouri, November 16, 1877, son of Thomas S. and Geraldine (Justice) Lewis, the latter of whom died when he was four years old. His father moved to Colorado when he was seven years old and he thereafter made his home with his uncle, Doctor Justice, at Hutchinson. Following his graduation from the Hutchinson high school he entered the law department of Columbia University at Washington, D. C., and was admitted to the bar in Kansas in 1897, since which time he has been successfully engaged in the practice of his profession at Hutchinson.

In 1903 Leander A. Bigger, married, secondly, Mrs. Emma Evarts, of Topeka, this state, who survives him, and together they spent many years in traveling. It had always been the hope of Mr. Bigger to travel extensively and especially to visit foreign lands. With this object in view, for thirty years he had been a close student of history and works of travel and when the opportunity to carry out his cherished design arrived, he knew what to look for and how to gain the greatest advantage on his travels. His first extensive trip was to Alaska in 1903; then came a tour through southern Europe and Asia. A few years later he and Mrs. Bigger made a trip around the world, during which Mr. Bigger wrote home to his daughters a series of such interesting letters that upon his return he was urged to publish the same in book form. This book, "Around the World With a Business Man," written for amusement, is declared by competent critics to be one of the ablest and most instructive works on travel written in recent years. Mr. Bigger had a beautiful home at Cascade, Colorado, an enduring

evidence of his fine and correct artistic taste, and there spent much of his time in the later years of his life, taking much delight in entertaining his friends in his mountain retreat. On the grounds surrounding this palatial home he had expended the most devoted care and had exhausted the skill and art of landscape gardeners in the production of an idyllic scene; many of the ideas thus skillfully worked out having been gained during his tour through Japan. While on a motor trip through California Leander A. Bigger was taken suddenly ill and his death occurred at Del Monte, that state.

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### EDWARD G. CROW.

In the agricultural field of Reno county, Edward G. Crow has attained a place of distinction as well as of public esteem. He is a native of Noble county, Ohio, having been born there on March 28, 1863, and is the son of Isaac and Mary (Calvert) Crow, of whom a full account is given in the biography of Luther Crow in this volume. Suffice it to say at this point that Isaac Crow was one of the most successful farmers and one of the largest landholders of this section of Kansas.

Edward Crow, the subject of this sketch, was educated in the public schools of Noble county, Ohio, and as a boy was trained to the duties of farm life on his father's farm. In 1886, after he had reached the age of twenty-three years, he came to Hutchinson, Kansas, where he made his home with an uncle, Martin Crow, whom he assisted in the farm work. Mr. Crow, desiring to possess a farm of his own, saved enough of his earnings to purchase a farm in Salt Creek township at the cost of two thousand five hundred dollars. The farm was located in the northwest of section 14, township 23, range 7 west. Mr. Crow lived on this farm for fourteen years, and after selling the land bought another farm in the same township, located in section 11, which was known as the Cyrus Libby farm. On the farm just mentioned, the subject of this sketch continues to reside and carries on the duties of the farm along the lines of general farming. He also gives some attention to stock raising.

Mr. Crow is a member of the Republican party, but has never had a desire to seek a political office. He is a member of the Baptist church of Hutchinson, which his wife also attends. Mr. Crow was married on January 5, 1887, to Josie Shafer, a native of Meggs Creek, Noble county, Ohio,

and the daughter of Irvin Shafer, a retired farmer, who resides in California. After the death of Josie (Shafer) Crow, which occurred in September 20, 1909, Mr. Crow married again. His marriage took place on the 16th of September, 1911, to Mrs. Olive A. (Smith) Okey, a widow, who was born in Graysville, Monroe county, Ohio, where her marriage to Mr. Crow also took place. The children born to the subject of this sketch are: Lila L., born on September 15, 1888, who became the wife of Benjamin Wisert, a farmer, in Meena, Oklahoma; Hazel Marie, born on June 15, 1894, who lives with her aunt, Mary Robinson, in California; Roy McKinley, born on March 10, 1896, who lives on the farm with his father, and Hilda, who was born on March 28, 1900, and died in August, 1902.

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### WILLIAM P. CRAWLEY.

William P. Crawley, deceased, was a man who won recognition in many fields of activity not only because of the qualities which made him a born leader of men, but also on account of an inherent force of character which was evident in his personality. He was born in Ireland, January 12, 1839, and immigrated to Saratoga, New York, when two years of age. He was the son of John Crawley, who was a native of England, his ancestors being of English stock and ardent adherents to the Church of England. The mother of the subject of this sketch followed the practices of the Catholic church and spent the last days of her life at Ft. Edward, Saratoga, New York.

The subject of this sketch was the eldest in a family of six children, and as a youth attended the public schools of New York state. At the age of fourteen, imbued with a desire to see the world, he ran away from home and found employment sailing on the seas. After his return home the following year, he again decided to take up a life on the sea and was made a mate on a sailing vessel. Shortly after he reached the age of twenty-one the Civil War broke out and the subject of this sketch returned home to offer his services for the cause of the Union. He enlisted in Company A, Thirty-first Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, in which company he remained for two years. At the end of that time he re-enlisted, and the second time he became a member of Company A, Thirteenth New York Cavalry. Mr. Crawley received recognition for his bravery shortly after he enlisted and





WILLIAM P. CRAWLEY





MRS CAROLINE CRAWLEY



was made first lieutenant, owing to the dauntless courage with which he carried a message through the Rebel lines.

The career of the subject of this sketch as a soldier was one of marked distinction. He was made captain with the privilege of selecting one hundred sharpshooters, and the authority to leave without special orders to annoy the Confederate cavalry under General Mosby. Captain Crawley originated a plan of following Mosby until the time approached when the enemy could be surrounded. He was just about to realize the fruits of this idea when an order came from the Union general to retreat, as a trap was being laid by the Confederates. Captain Crawley continued to follow his own plan, however, confident that the Union general had been mistaken. Another message was received and unheeded until the third message came with the orders that if Captain Crawley did not return with his command he would be cashiered. After the war, in a conversation with General Mosby, Captain Crawley learned that his plan would have been completely successful had he been permitted to carry it out, as the Confederate general confessed that at the time he was at the point of surrendering when the enemy retreated. One of the most interesting as well as thrilling experiences in the life of Mr. Crawley occurred after the death of President Lincoln, when the subject of this sketch was detailed to capture the assassin Booth. He and his command gave chase to Booth and in the end witnessed his capture, although they were not responsible for his surrender. During his services in the Civil War, Mr. Crawley became greatly attached to a beautiful Arabian horse which he captured from the Rebels. The animal was drilled to the finest points of cavalry perfection and at the approach of the enemy would lie down among the underbrush, where he could remain for hours as though dead. The strength of the animal was broken after a number of hasty rides over the Blue Ridge mountains, and at the end of the conflict found him unfit for hard work. Mr. Crawley's widow was paid by the government for two fine horses which were killed while he was riding them.

After the war Mr. Crawley went to Clark county, Illinois, where he spent some time in regaining his health, after which time he moved to the eastern part of Kansas where he lived three years. In the spring of 1872 he came to Hutchinson, Kansas, where he bought four lots on Sherman street, and took up a soldier's homestead in Salt Creek township. The homestead was located in the northeast quarter of section 12, township 23, range 7 west. In May, of the same year, he sent for his wife and her mother, who lived for a time in the home built by Mr. Crawley on Sherman

street. Later the family moved to the farm. During the grasshopper plague which visited the western part of the county in 1874, the subject of this sketch was not to be conquered by disappointment and despair but took charge of a train of freight wagons from Leadville, Colorado, to Canyon City, Colorado, where a mining town was in the first stage of its development. Mr. Crawley was employed by Mr. Myton of Hutchinson, Kansas. This occupation was not destined to last long as the sudden death of Mr. Crawley brought the work to a close on May 20, 1879, when he was found unconscious at the feet of his horses near Canyon City, Colorado. He was taken to a hospital where he died after one day. He was buried in Canon City, Colorado, and on account of a railroad strike was deprived of a burial at his own home. In political affairs the subject of this sketch was prominent in Republican circles, and in the interest of his party made a number of political speeches in Reno county.

After the death of Mr. Crawley, Congressman Ryan, of the seventh district, Kansas, obtained a position for the widow of the subject of this sketch in the postmaster-general's office at Washington, D. C. She became a clerk in the office there and in March, 1880, brought her family to Washington, where she held the position until 1907, when she resigned to move back to the Crawley homestead in Salt Creek township, Reno county, Kansas, where she resides at the present time. Among those who assisted Mrs. Crawley in securing the position in Washington was J. V. Clymer. The children of the subject of this sketch received the advantages of a fine education in Washington, D. C.

The marriage of William P. Crawley to Caroline Tennant, a native of Otsego county, New York, where she was born on October 3, 1841, was solemnized on September 20, 1865. She is the daughter of Colonel Cavallo and Harriet (Morrison) Tennant, the former of whom was a native of Columbia county, New York, and the latter of Otsego county, in the same state. Mr. Tennant, who followed the occupation of a farmer in New York, moved with his family to Fairfax county, Virginia, in 1845, where he bought two hundred acres of land belonging to the old Jackson place. Aside from his interests as a farmer he was a colonel of the militia of Otsego county, New York. Besides his daughter, who became the wife of the subject of this sketch, Mr. and Mrs. Tennant had a son, Albert F., who was a member of the Union army during the Civil War, when he served in Colonel Mott's Artillery. Albert Tennant was wounded in the war and died in one of the Union hospitals at Georgetown, near Washington, D. C. Mr. Tennant died

in 1861 at the age of fifty-seven years and his wife passed away in 1897, at the age of seventy-five years.

Of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Crawley the following information is given: Etta M., who was born on October 3, 1868, first became the wife of Morton M. Libby, of Reno county. Her second husband was Edmund I. Wells, of Reno county. She has attained marked distinction as an artist since completing her education at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D. C. Verna M., born on March 25, 1871, and resides in Washington, married Fred A. Palmer, who is employed in the Navy department of that place, and they have one son, Acker T. William P., who was born on January 12, 1873, married Lillian Champion, and they have four children, Clarence W., Margaret, John C. and Ruth E., who live on the old Crawley homestead in Salt Creek township. Arthur, who was born on January 27, 1876, served in the police department of Washington, D. C., about five years. His health failed and he was granted a pension. Going West to regain his health, he finally pre-empted a claim in Utah, receiving a deed and clear title from the government shortly before his death, May 4, 1908. He was never married. Clarence, born on August 28, 1879, who has never married, is employed as a machinist in the department of agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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#### BYRON A. EASTMAN.

Byron A. Eastman, trustee of Reno township, this county, and a well-known and progressive farmer of that township, living on rural route No. 5, out of Hutchinson, is a native of Massachusetts, having been born in the village of South Brantree, a few miles from Boston, in that state, on August 22, 1872, son of George A. and Louisa (Foster) Eastman, the former of whom was born in July, 1840, and the latter, April 17, 1850.

George A. Eastman, who died at his home in this county on August 8, 1883, was born on a farm at the foot of Mt. Mansfield, Vermont, son of Amos and Sophronia Eastman, both natives of the Green Mountain state. Amos Eastman was a farmer for many years in Vermont, but upon his retirement from the active duties of the farm came to this county in 1888 and located in Hutchinson, where his death occurred in 1903, at the age of ninety-four years. His widow is still living in that city, at the age of eighty-five. George A. Eastman received an excellent education in his youth and for years was a school teacher, first in Vermont and later in Missouri. In the



latter state his pronounced views on the abolition question in the days preceding the Civil War rendered him so unpopular in the district in which he was teaching that he was obliged to leave there. He then went to Massachusetts, where for a time he was engaged in mercantile business, and there married Louisa Foster, who was born in Ohio, daughter of John Foster and wife, the former of whom was a native of England, who came to this country as a young man and settled in Ohio, where he became a farmer. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in the Union army, although over age for military service, and served as chaplain of the Fourteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Later George A. Eastman went to Chicago, where for a time he was engaged in mercantile pursuits, and there his health began to fail him. Seeking the benefit of a change of climate and attracted by the salubrity of the climate hereabout, Mr. Eastman moved, with his family, to Reno county in 1882. He bought the northeast quarter of section 27 in Reno township and there established a new home, but his quest of health was in vain, for he died a few months later. He was a Republican and he and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church. They were the parents of three children, Jennie, who died in infancy; Byron A., the immediate subject of this sketch, and Linnie F., who married E. W. Moore and lives in Reno township, this county. In 1898 the Widow Eastman married her deceased husband's brother, Wilbur B. Eastman, and both are still living on the home farm in Reno township.

Byron A. Eastman was eighteen years of age when his parents came to this county and his schooling was completed in district school No. 65, in Reno township, and one year in the Hutchinson high school. He then taught school for one term, after which he rented a part of his mother's farm and entered actively upon the life of a farmer, which he since has followed with success. In 1906 he bought a fifty-acre farm west of South Hutchinson and has been living there ever since. Mr. Eastman is a Republican and ever has taken a warm interest in public affairs. In 1912 he was elected trustee of Reno township and so satisfactory did his administration of that important office prove to the people of that township that he was re-elected in 1914. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and takes much interest in that society.

On January 16, 1901, Byron A. Eastman was united in marriage to Myrtle M. Siegrist, who was born in Salt Creek township, this county, daughter of Jacob and Libbie A. Siegrist, pioneers of this county, the former of whom now is deceased, but the latter of whom is still living, and to this

union one child has been born, a daughter, Elizabeth, who was born on October 22, 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Eastman are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at South Hutchinson and are properly interested in all good works thereabout.

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### HARLOW B. BROWN.

Harlow B. Brown, one of the best-known young men of Hutchinson, this county, proprietor of the *Gazette* job-printing plant, is a native son of Reno county, having been born on the fine Brown ranch in Roscoe township, April 10, 1889, son of Major Willis L. and Sarah (Blake) Brown, pioneers of that section, who are now living at Kingman, where they have made their home for years, though still retaining their large interests in this county.

Willis L. Brown was born on a farm in Steuben county, New York, January 28, 1854, son of Solomon and Ruth E. (Carpenter) Brown, the former a member of one of the old American families, of Scottish descent, and the latter a daughter of James Carpenter and wife, pioneers of western New York. Solomon Brown died when his son, Willis L., was only twenty months old and the latter was not long afterward orphaned, indeed, by the death of his mother. Thus handicapped his youth was one of struggle, but he was imbued from earliest childhood with a desire for an education and he bravely worked his way through school, being graduated from Woodhull Academy, now known as the Western New York Academy, at the age of fourteen and duly licensed to teach school, a profession upon which he early had set his heart. The laws of the state of New York, however, did not permit anyone under eighteen years of age to teach in the schools of that state and young Brown, nothing daunted by this setback to his youthful ambition, presently pushed out West, where teachers were then in greater demand, and for three years was engaged in teaching at Lynn and at Charlton, Missouri, his service in that connection having begun when he was sixteen years old. With added age and acquired experience, Mr. Brown then returned to New York and was there engaged in teaching and continuing his studies until 1876, in which year, becoming dissatisfied with the East after having had experience in the West, he returned West, coming to Kansas. In that year he entered a claim in Pawnee county, but did not "prove up" the same, soon thereafter going to McPherson county, where he

remained for a time, hunting over the buffalo range, and while there married. He then entered a homestead claim in Kingman county, but presently relinquished the same and in 1883 entered a half section of school land over the line in Roscoe township, Reno county, which he still owns and which is regarded as one of the best-kept stock farms in Reno county or central Kansas. For several years after locating in this county Mr. Brown taught school during the winters, riding six miles, back and forth every day to school and taking his pay for such service in anything of value the residents thereabout could give, which was not much. As he prospered in his cattle business Mr. Brown added to his land holdings, buying a quarter of a section nearby his Reno county place and a half section over the line in Kingman county and has for years been regarded as one of the most progressive and substantial ranchers in central Kansas. He was one of the first men in this county to see the possibility of planting the plains with trees and the veritable forest of transplanted trees and the fine orchards on his several farms attest the wisdom of his decision back in 1886, when other farmers thereabout scoffed at his enterprise, declaring that the soil of this region was not adapted to tree culture. Mr. Brown specializes in Short-horn cattle and Poland China hogs and prospered largely.

In 1893 Willis L. Brown retired from the farm and with his family moved to Kingman, where he ever since has made his home and where he has become one of the most conspicuous figures in the political life of the state. Though still retaining the active oversight of his extensive ranch interests Mr. Brown has found time for activities of another character and his famous sobriquet, "Iron Jaw," was won not long after he moved to Kingman, where, in a city campaign, he was chiefly responsible for the movement which resulted in the effectual ousting of the "tough bunch." Upon moving to Kingman, Mr. Brown, in association with H. H. Isley, started the *Kingman Journal* and was editor of that vigorous newspaper until 1900, during which time he became one of the best-known men in Kansas. As an ardent Democrat he took an active and prominent part in the councils of that party and his paper ever was one of the most effective and vigorous exponents of the principles of the party in this state. He was clerk of the Kansas state Senate during the sessions of 1893-95 and in 1897 was appointed under the Leedy administration president of the state board of charities, in control of the state's charitable and correctional institutions, a position which he resigned in 1898, in order to take part in the Spanish-American War. He recruited men for that service throughout all

central Kansas and was commissioned major of the Twenty-first Regiment, Kansas Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war, although the regiment did not get into the thick of things, being encamped at Chattanooga, when peace was declared. In 1908 Major Brown was elected representative in the Legislature from his district and was twice re-elected, serving with much efficiency during the sessions of 1909-11-13, being speaker of the House during the latter session. Under the Hodges administration in 1913 he was appointed a member of the board in charge of the state's penal and benevolent institutions and in 1913 was a candidate for the nomination for United States senator from Kansas in the Democratic primaries, but failed of the nomination. For years Major Brown has been the acknowledged leader of his party in Kingman county and has wielded a strong influence in the party throughout the state. Major Brown is also one of the leading Odd Fellows in the country. For two years he was grand master of the Kansas grand lodge of that order and for two years was representative of that order from Kansas in the sovereign grand lodge. He also has represented the Kansas Woodmen in several national meetings of the Modern Woodmen and in the affairs of both of these popular orders takes a warm interest. At the encampment of the Kansas department of the United Spanish War Veterans in July, 1915, Major Brown was honored by his comrades by election to the office of commander of that department and is giving his most active and intelligent attention to the affairs of that society.

In July, 1881, Willis L. Brown was united in marriage to Sadie J. Blake, who was born near Rockford, Indiana, August 17, 1860, daughter of Madison and Martha Blake, natives of Indiana, who came to Kansas at an early date in the settlement of this section, locating for a time in McPherson county, where they remained until 1878, in which year the family came to Reno county, homesteading a tract in Roscoe township and becoming prominent residents of that section. Madison Blake, who was a veteran of the Civil War, died at the home of Major Brown, and his widow, who was born on June 4, 1841, is now living at Germantown, Nebraska. To Willis L. and Sarah J. (Blake) Brown three children have been born, Maud, who married Bert Walter and lives at Kingman, this state; Wayne S., who lives on one of his father's farms in Kingman county, and Harlow B., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch. Major and Mrs. Brown are members of the Presbyterian church and their children were reared in that faith.

Harlow B. Brown was four years old when his parents moved from



the farm in this county to Kingman and he was reared at the latter place, receiving his education in the public schools there, which course he pursued through the second year of high school. At the age of thirteen he began learning the printer's trade in the office of his father's paper, the *Kingman Journal*, and in 1908 bought a half interest in the paper, which he sold four years later and then moved to Pratt, this state, where he opened a job-printing office. A year and a half later he moved his plant to Hutchinson and consolidated the same with the job-printing department of the *Hutchinson Gazette*, and ever since has operated that plant with much success, enjoying a flourishing business and long recognized as one of the leading printers in central Kansas.

In August, 1911, Harlow B. Brown was united in marriage at Coffeyville, this state, to Amanda C. Poff, who was born in Missouri, daughter of Robert H. and Simona Poff, the former of whom died in New Mexico, his widow now residing in Columbus, that state. To this union one child has been born, a son, Robert Willis, born on November 17, 1914.

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### LOUIS P. DANFORD.

Louis P. Danford was born in Noble county, Ohio, January 9, 1874, the son of Isaiah and Eliza E. (Groves) Danford, both of whom were natives of Ohio.

Isaiah Danford was born on June 27, 1841, in Noble county, Ohio, where he grew up and was reared to be a farmer. He was among the "Home Guards" during the Civil War. On June 15, 1864, he was married to Eliza E. Grooves, who was born on August 16, 1846. Isaiah Danford was a prosperous farmer and stock raiser and owned three hundred acres of land in Stock township, Noble county, Ohio, one of the best farms in that county in its day. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Danford is a Republican and held local office while living in Ohio.

In 1886, Isaiah Danford sold his farm in Ohio and came with his wife and family, then consisting of eight children, to Hutchinson, Kansas, where he bought the southwest quarter of section 2, township 24, range 6 west, in Lincoln township, this county. Mr. Danford managed the farm and also conducted the Noble hotel in Hutchinson, the hotel being named for his home county in Ohio, and was located where the Star Clothing



store now stands. He carried on the hotel business for three years, driving in from the farm each morning and returning home at night. It was during the boom days and the business was quite profitable. Mr. Danford sold the hotel and devoted his entire time to the farm for a number of years, finally retiring from active work and removing to Hutchinson, where, in 1908, he established the South Hutchinson dairy, which is now being conducted by his son-in-law, Ben Myers.

Isaiah and Eliza (Grooves) Danford were the parents of ten children, as follow: Lincoln, Annie, Eli Franklin, William Collins, Lavina Della, Louis P., Mary Alice, Carrie May, Rosanna and Ella. Lincoln was born on July 11, 1866, and now lives on a ranch in Edwards county, this state. Annie, born on July 8, 1868, married Ben Myers and lives in South Hutchinson. Eli Franklin, born on September 9, 1869, lives on a large farm in Reno township, this county. William Collins, born on May 25, 1871, is an extensive farmer in Oklahoma. Lavina Della, born on October 19, 1872, married L. S. Kent, an auctioneer at Hutchinson. Mary Alice, born on January 31, 1876, married A. T. Moffin, proprietor of the Sunflower dairy, of South Hutchinson. Carrie May, born on January 27, 1878, married Robert Carlisle, who has a general store at Stafford, Kansas. Rosanna, born on August 17, 1880, married Patrick Hamilton and lives in South Hutchinson. Ella, born on October 30, 1881, married Richard Kennedy and lives in Haven, Kansas. Mrs. Eliza Danford died on October 6, 1910. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which her husband is still a member.

Louis P. Danford attended the public schools in Ohio and later attended the Lincoln district school, in Lincoln township, when he came to Kansas, with his parents, at the age of thirteen years. He was reared on his father's farm and after his school days assisted with the work of the home place. He was married in 1894 and continued with his father for two years. In 1896 Louis P. Danford entered into a partnership with the Fernie Brothers, with whom he was associated for eight years, on their ranch in Lincoln township. This proved to be a profitable connection and Mr. Danford accumulated sufficient capital to purchase a farm of his own. In 1905 he bought one hundred and sixty acres of the old Sweetzer place in section 2, in Lincoln township. Later he added eighty acres to the original tract. He now has a fine farm, which is devoted mainly to wheat farming and stock raising. Mr. Danford feeds out a carload of cattle every year, and also keeps a number of dairy cows, selling the milk at wholesale. He

keeps Durham cattle. The place is improved with good barns and a silo.

On February 8, 1894, Louis P. Danford was married to Sarah B. Wheeler, who was born in Washington county, Kentucky, the daughter of David and Martha (Shoemaker) Wheeler, both of whom were natives of that county. David Wheeler was a farmer and came to Kansas in 1885, buying a farm near Winfield, Cowley county, where he lived until his death on December 22, 1903. Mrs. Martha Wheeler still lives on the Cowley county farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis P. Danford have no children of their own, but they have one adopted son, Cleo W., who was born on December 19, 1896. Mr. Danford is a Republican, and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. and Mrs. Danford are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and take an interest in all good works in this community. Their comfortable farm home is the center of much genial hospitality and they are held in high esteem by their many friends.

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#### GEORGE A. ERKER.

George A. Erker, a well-known and prosperous farmer of Sumner township, this county, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of Reno county since the spring of 1879 and therefore may very properly be regarded as one of the pioneers of this county. He was born at Frankfort-on-the-Maine, then a free city, but since 1866 a dependency of Prussia, November 27, 1846, son of Casimir and Christina (Somer) Erker, both natives of Frankfort, who spent all their lives in their native land.

Casimir Erker was a bandmaster and director of an orchestra, a composer of music and a violinist of note, who for many years was a widely-recognized teacher of instrumental music. He was born in 1817 and died in 1881, at the age of sixty-four years. His wife, born in 1819, died in 1898. They were earnest members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch was the second in order of birth, and four of whom survive, Mr. Erker having a brother, Henry, and a sister, Eve, living in Germany and a brother, Adolph, residing in this country, a well-known optician of St. Louis.

George A. Erker received his early schooling in the Catholic parochial schools of his native city and when fourteen years of age entered a three-

years apprenticeship to the machinist's trade, at the end of which he worked for two years as a journeyman machinist. In the fall of 1866, he then being twenty years old, Mr. Erker came to the United States and joined his elder brother, Joseph, who some time before that had located in New York City. There George A. Erker entered the employ of the Singer Sewing Machine Company and for twelve years was thus engaged in New York City. In January, 1870, he married there and in the spring of 1879, attracted by the stories of the success attending the efforts of the energetic homesteaders in Kansas, came with his wife and little children to this state and settled in Reno county. He bought the southeast quarter of section 22 in Sumner township and there established his home in a dug-out and proceeded to develop his place and bring it under cultivation. He and his wife are earnest Catholics and they were prompted in making their selection of a homestead by the announcement of the church that parishes would be established in the new country at points every ten miles west of Wichita. They therefore selected a place of residence twenty miles west of Wichita, knowing that in good time a church would be established thereabout, and this proved to be the case, for in 1881 St. Joseph's church was erected within a mile and a half of the Erker home. St. Joseph's has been twice rebuilt since then, as the growing needs of the parish demanded a larger and finer house of worship, and Mr. Erker has on each occasion been a liberal and willing contributor to the building fund.

Mr. Erker is an energetic and progressive farmer and his labors have been productive of results. As he prospered he gradually added to his land holdings until he now is the owner of a fine farm of one full section of land in one tract in Sumner township and is accounted one of the most substantial farmers of that part of the county. In 1902 he built the present commodious and comfortable farmhouse on his place and he and his family are very pleasantly situated. Mr. Erker is a Democrat and has ever taken a good citizen's part in the political affairs of the community. For two years he served as township trustee and for four years as township clerk and in other ways has done his share in carrying on the affairs of government in his home township.

It was in January, 1870, while living in New York City, that George A. Erker was united in marriage to Katie Fisher, who was born in Germany and whose parents, Christian Fisher and wife, had come to America when she was one year old, settling in New York City. Christian Fisher was a paper-hanger and upholsterer and both he and his wife spent their

last days in New York. To Mr. and Mrs. Erker ten children have been born, as follow: Adolph A., a farmer, living in section 18, Summer township; Joseph G., who lives on a part of his father's section; Frank, who also lives on his father's farm; William, a farmer, living in Sedgwick county, this state; Fred, who farms the home tract on his father's place; Mary, who married Charles Menges and lives at Wichita; Katie, who married Theodore Hilger and lives in Summer township; Annie, who married Henry Ast and lives in section 24, Summer township; Fannie, who married Herman, Hilger, also of Summer township, and Rosa, who married Joseph Hilger, and also lives in Summer township. As noted above, Mr. and Mrs. Erker are earnest members of the Catholic church and their children have been reared in that faith, the family being for years active supporters of St. Joseph's parish.

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#### CLARK C. MILLER AND EUGENE T. MILLER.

Clark C. Miller and his son, Eugene Thornley Miller, prominent and well-to-do residents of Valley township, this county, the former of whom is one of the pioneers of Reno county, and who, in partnership, are proprietors of a fine farm, which they are operating with much success, are regarded as among the most substantial and influential residents of the community in which they live.

Clark C. Miller was born in Ohio on October 2, 1849, and at the age of nine years moved with his parents to Indiana, the family settling in Allen county, in the neighborhood of Ft. Wayne, and there he grew to manhood on a farm. As a young man he went to Illinois and in the neighborhood of Jacksonville, in Morgan county, began to work as a farm hand. In 1873 he married there Tillie Thornley, who was born in Marietta, Ohio, December 15, 1846, and who was visiting kinsfolk in the Jacksonville neighborhood. In 1876, having heard much of the promising conditions in this part of Kansas, Mr. Miller came to Reno county and after looking about a bit bought the southeast quarter of section 7 in Valley township. The next year he brought his wife to this county and they established their home in Valley township, where they ever since have lived, long having been regarded as among the leaders in the local life of that community.

When Mr. Miller established his home on his Reno county farm the place was wholly unimproved and he straightway set about bringing it under cultivation. He set out many trees and presently his place was one of the



most attractive in the neighborhood. He went quite extensively into the cattle business and as he prospered added to his land holdings until he became the owner of four hundred acres along the Arkansas river. But hard times came; he was compelled to pay some security debts, there was a succession of bad years on the cattle range and he lost everything he had save the home quarter section, and even that was heavily mortgaged. By this time, Mr. Miller's only son, Eugene, was well grown and the two began working things out together and have worked as partners ever since, prospering largely in their operations. There were years of hard work before the industrious father and son, but they set about the task of recouping the lost fortune with stout hearts and have long been independent. Clark C. Miller has a winter home at Permona, California, and he and his wife spent the winter of 1915-16 at Ventura, that state. He is an active Republican and has held various township offices.

Eugene Thornley Miller, only son of Clark C. and Tillie (Thornley) Miller, was born on the Valley township farm on which his parents settled in 1876, November 2, 1882, and was reared on the farm. He received his education in the Dodge district school in the neighborhood of his home and as he was the only son he and his father have been "chums" from the days of his boyhood. Eugene Miller has been active and industrious even from the days of his youth and when he was twenty-one years old had saved seven or eight hundred dollars, which he invested, in partnership with Frank Hoskinson, in leasing Indian land allotments in Blaine county, Oklahoma. They went into the business somewhat extensively, but after three years of bad crops and other discouragements gave it up and returned to Reno county pretty heavily in debt. After selling everything he had and applying the proceeds to the liquidation of his obligations, Mr. Miller found himself still owing a Burrtown bank twelve hundred dollars. For a time thereafter he worked for the Santa Fe railroad and while thus engaged married one of the county's best young women school teachers. He then secured a salaried position for both himself and his wife at Des Moines, Iowa, and was preparing to move to that city when his banker persuaded him that the thing to do was to stick to the farm and work out his fortunes in the community in which he had been born and reared, and in order to encourage him in such a step, offered to advance him an additional two thousand dollars, on his own personal security. This good advice was accepted and that fall Eugene Miller and his wife both drove sulky plows, putting in all the wheat they could. The following winter Mrs. Miller taught school, while her husband



rented a mule-power corn-sheller and thus working together they saved six hundred and fifty dollars the first year. He then joined forces with his father and prosperity has attended him every since. He owns the quarter section across the road south of his father's place and in 1916 completed a very pretty, modern dwelling on his farm, the other improvements on the place being in full keeping, including a gasoline engine for operating his barn machinery, an up-to-date cow barn, a large shelter barn for the live stock and two large silos.

On July 12, 1907, Eugene T. Miller was united in marriage to Carrie Young, who was born in Illinois, daughter of Thompson and Sarah (Haley) Young, the former a native of Georgia and the latter of Illinois. Before the Civil War Thompson Young located in Illinois and there he married, continuing to make his home in that state until 1882, in which year he and his family came to this county, settling near the Kingman county line. Mrs. Young died two years later, in 1884, and Mr. Young died in 1906. After her mother's death Carrie Young made her home with an elder sister, Alice, wife of Robert Ferguson, of Murdock, this state, and was engaged as a teacher in the schools of this county when she was married to Mr. Miller. To Mr. and Mrs. Miller two children have been born, Catherine Lucile, born on September 27, 1908, and Clark C., November 2, 1912. Mr. Miller is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the blue lodge of that order at Haven; of the consistory at Wichita and of Midian Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Wichita, in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest. He is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but is not included in the office-seeking class.

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### HARRY E. HOLADAY, D. V. S.

Dr. Harry E. Holaday, well-known dentist and director of the famous Holaday band of Hutchinson, former city clerk of that city and past president of the Central Kansas Dental Association, is a native son of the Buckeye state, having been born on a farm near Westboro in Clinton county, Ohio, in 1874, son of J. W. and Lyda (Williams) Holaday, both natives of Ohio and both of whom spent their last days in Hutchinson.

In the late seventies J. W. Holaday left the farm and moved to Wilmington, the county seat of Clinton county, Ohio, and moved thence after awhile to Springfield, same state, from which city, in 1885, he moved with

his family to Kansas and located at Hutchinson, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives.

Harry E. Holaday thus received his early schooling in the schools of Wilmington and Springfield, Ohio. He was eleven years old when the family located in Hutchinson and his common school education was completed in the schools of that city. Even from childhood he had displayed an intense interest in music and at the age of eleven was a proficient performer on the cornet, for seven years during his boyhood traveling during the summers with circus bands. When sixteen years of age he was made director of the old "Ringgold" band, a musical organization of much note in its day at Hutchinson, and has ever since then been director of a band at Hutchinson, for years having led the Hutchinson band, the name of which, a few years ago, was changed to Holaday's band, in honor of its director, who is recognized as one of the most competent and efficient bandmasters in Kansas. Holaday's band is composed of forty pieces and has a wide reputation throughout the states. In June, 1915, it was chosen by the city commissioners the official band of the city of Hutchinson. It formerly was the regimental band of the Second Regiment, Kansas National Guard, attached to Company E, the local militia company, and as such was on duty during all calls and maneuvers of the regiment.

Doctor Holaday is a Republican and during the years 1900-1901 served as city clerk of Hutchinson. Upon completing his official service he took up the study of dental surgery, attending the Kansas City Dental College, from which he was graduated in 1903, with the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. At the close of his second year in college he successfully passed the state's examination and during the following summer practiced his profession in Hutchinson, returning to college in the fall and completing the course, ever since which time he has been very successfully engaged in practice in his home town. Doctor Holaday is past president of the Central Kansas Dental Association and is regarded as one of the leaders in his profession in this part of the state.

On December 11, 1894, Harry E. Holaday was united in marriage to Esley Davis, who was born in Wilmington, Ohio, and who died in 1898, leaving one child, a son, H. Edmund, born in that year. On July 15, 1905, Doctor Holaday married secondly, Vivian Lytle, who was born near Peabody, this state. The Holadays have a very pleasant home at 724 Avenue A, east, and take an earnest interest in the general social and cultural activities of their home town.

## MRS. MARY M. (LIPPITT) WOODS.

Mrs. Mary M. Woods, who has been a resident of this county since 1884, in which year she made her home in the city of Hutchinson, but who for the past four or five years has been making her home with her aged father and her brother, Samuel L. Lippitt, at beautiful "Cedar Lawn Farm," in Reno township, where she has charge of the household, is a native of Ohio, having been born in Noble county, that state, in the year 1855, daughter of the Rev. Christopher and Sarah Jane (Lorimer) Lippitt, the former of whom, born near the town of Cumberland, in Noble county, Ohio, on June 28, 1827, is now living at his fine place, "Cedar Lawn Farm," in Reno township, this county, and the latter, born at Zanesville, in Muskingum county, Ohio, March 19, 1829, died on November 26, 1909.

The Rev. Christopher Lippitt, who for some years has been living quietly retired at his home in this county, is a veteran of the Civil War and for many years was an active minister of the gospel and a noted evangelist, whose services in behalf of the Baptist church took him into many parts of the country. His parents, Joseph and Milanda (Rice) Lippitt, who were reared in Rhode Island and married in the city of Providence, in that state, emigrated to Noble county, Ohio, shortly after their marriage and became known as among the leading pioneers of that section. They were quite well-to-do for that period and more than a century ago erected at their new home in Ohio a fine fourteen-room brick house, with ample stone porches, which is still standing and is in good habitable condition to this day. Joseph and Milanda Lippitt were the parents of seven children, of whom Christopher was the fourth in order of birth and the only one now living. Christopher Lippitt grew up on the paternal farm in Noble county, Ohio, and early evinced an unusual aptitude for his studies. His parents were earnest members of the Baptist church and his early inclination to enter the ministry of the gospel was encouraged by them. He was sent to a theological seminary at Chicago and after completing the course there was ordained a minister of the Baptist church, which ministry, ever a labor of love to him, he maintained for many years, or until his virtual retirement shortly after the death of his wife in 1905, the loss of his faithful and valuable helpmate having left him much shaken. During the Civil War, the Rev. Christopher served for one year, toward the close of the war, as a soldier in the Union army, his service having been performed with an Ohio regiment. During the early period of his ministry, at Zanesville, Rev.



REV. AND MRS. CHRISTOPHER LIPPIST.





Christopher Lippitt married Sarah Jane Lorimer, daughter of Samuel and Mary Lorimer, natives of Scotland, who had come to this country with their respective parents when children, both families having settled in Muskingum county, Ohio, where they became prominent in the pioneer life of that section. Sarah Jane Lorimer was given every educational advantage in her youth, her parents having been quite well-to-do, and grew up to be a woman of large force of character. She was a woman of strong personality and saw to it that her children had every possible chance in life.

In 1866 the Rev. Christopher Lippitt was called to take charge of the Baptist church at Monmouth, Illinois, and moved to that place, for some years remaining there as pastor. In addition to his pastoral connection he also was a large landowner, being the possessor of two considerable farms near Monmouth, which he rented with profit. He also was the owner of a large farm in Ohio, which he sold at a large profit in the beginning of the days of the oil boom in that state, and thus became quite well-to-do. Upon the conclusion of his pastoral relation with the church at Monmouth, he had two different charges not far removed from his home there, and later settled at Shenandoah, Iowa, where he made his home until 1909, in which year he came to this county, which has been his place of residence since that time. In 1890 he had bought as an investment the quarter section in Reno township, now constituting "Cedar Lawn Farm," on which he now lives, besides which he also owns a valuable farm in Langdon township. Rev. Christopher Lippitt for many years was one of the most active evangelists in the Baptist communion, the calls for his services in that connection coming from all parts of the country, but since taking up his residence in this county he has been practically retired from the ministry, his great age and the consequent infirmities thereof having almost altogether suspended him from the labors in which for so many years he took great delight. He and his wife were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the second in order of birth, the others, all sons, being as follow: Theodore, a large farmer living near Fleming, Colorado; Samuel L., born on August 13, 1857, unmarried, now living with his father and his sister at "Cedar Lawn Farm," in Reno township, this county, which he manages, and on which he located in 1899, previous to which time he had been engaged in business at Wichita, this state, where he was the owner of a book store, and later was a railway mechanic and engineer at Denison, Texas, and Christopher R., who years ago left home and never again was heard from by his family.

Mary M. Lippitt was a growing girl when her parents moved from her native place in Noble county, Ohio, to Monmouth, Illinois, and her education was completed in the latter place, where she received the advantage of the excellent schools of that place. During the period of her girlhood she saw Kansas in its pioneer days, having lived with her brother at Wichita for some time during the early seventies. In 1879 she was united in marriage to Joshua Woods, who was born on May 5, 1850, and who died on May 1, 1912. In 1884 Mrs. Woods came to this county and for many years made her home at Hutchinson. During the last four or five years she has been living at "Cedar Lawn Farm," taking care of her father in his declining years, and expect eventually to rejoin her only son, Earl L., at the latter's home in Seattle, Washington, where she had lived for a few years before coming back to this county to take care of her father.

Earl L. Woods was born on February 22, 1880, and received an excellent education in the Hutchinson schools. He married Dela Trippitt and for some years past has made his home in Seattle, where he is successfully engaged in the creamery business.

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### FRED A. FORSHA.

Fred A. Forsha, manager of the great Forsha ranch in Castleton township, this county, is a native of Missouri, having been born on a farm in Schuyler county, that state, December 2, 1862, son of Alexander L. and Jennie R. (Irvin) Forsha, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Pennsylvania, who became residents of Reno county in 1883.

The late Col. Alexander L. Forsha was for years one of Reno county's leading stockmen and the development of his great ranch in Castleton township was a source of great satisfaction to him. He was born at Oxford, Ohio, son of William and Elizabeth (Lewis) Forsha, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Ohio. William Forsha was a ship builder in the East. He moved to Ohio and there was married, not long afterward moving to the state of Missouri, where he became a large land-owner and stock raiser, continuing thus engaged until his retirement, his last days being spent at Monticello, Missouri. Alexander L. Forsha was about three years old when his parents moved to Missouri and he grew to manhood in that state, completing his schooling in Charles College. At the age of twenty-one he went to Eddyville, Iowa, and at that place he engaged

in the mercantile business. There on February 13, 1862, he was united in marriage to Jennie R. Irvin, who was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, daughter of James M. and Louisa (Castell) Irvin, and after six years of residence at Eddyville sold his business interests there and returned to Missouri, where he took charge of his father's extensive farm and remained thus engaged until 1883, in which year he sold the farm and came to Kansas, locating in Reno county. He had previously bought ten sections of railroad land in this county and upon coming here devoted his time to the development of the great ranch which ever since has borne his name and soon became recognized as one of the most successful cattlemen in central Kansas, the fame of the Forsha ranch extending far and wide. Colonel Forsha also had extensive interests in Hutchinson and was the organizer of the street railway system there. He had a handsome town house in Hutchinson in addition to his commodious ranch house and divided his time between the two, though his great ranch was ever his chief interest and remained so until the time of his death. Colonel Forsha was an ardent Republican and gave his close attention to the political affairs of the county. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity, with which he had been affiliated for many years, and took a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

To Alexander L. and Jennie R. (Irvin) Forsha two sons were born, the subject of this biographical sketch having had a younger brother, the late Samuel W. Forsha, who after his father's death became the manager of the ranch and so continued until his death. Samuel W. Forsha was a thirty-second degree Mason. He was unmarried. Mrs. Forsha, who is still living, continues to make her home on the ranch and takes an earnest interest in affairs generally. She was reared in Missouri, having been but an infant when her parents moved from Pittsburgh to that state. Later, her father removed with his family to Doniphan county, this state, where he became a prominent figure during the time of the border difficulties thereabout. James M. Irvin, Mrs. Forsha's father, was a man of forceful personality and left the impress of his individuality upon the early history of the state. He served as a member of the first General Assembly of the state of Kansas, his work in the Senate making him one of the conspicuous members of that body, and when the Civil War broke out he was commissioned colonel of one of the Kansas regiments and served with distinction throughout the war. He died on March 7, 1900, at Pasadena, California, in which city he for several years had been living a retired life.

Fred A. Forsha was about twenty-one years old when he came to Reno

county with his parents in 1883. He had received an excellent education and was well equipped for the important duties to the performance of which he presently was called. Since 1903 he has been manager of the Forsha ranch, having been called home to take charge of affairs after the death of his brother. Previous to that time he was vice-president of the National Live Stock Company of Kansas City, Chicago and Omaha, with his residence in Kansas City.

On November 12, 1884, Fred A. Forsha was united in marriage to Minerva G. Hill, daughter of Evan M. and Sarah J. (Full) Hill, the former of whom was the son of Ebenezer Hill and wife, of Highgate, Vermont. Evan Hill came to Kansas in 1877 and located in Hutchinson, where he was engaged in the furniture business until the time of his death in August, 1903. His widow survived him more than ten years, her death occurring in August, 1914. They were the parents of six children, E. George, Minerva, Alice F., Arthur M., Gertrude and Leslie. To Mr. and Mrs. Forsha one child has been born, a daughter, Jeane, who married Millard Russell, a sugar broker of Kansas City, and has two children, Frederick F. and Jeane.

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#### CLYDE BAY.

Clyde Bay, one of the best-known and most progressive farmers of Reno county, proprietor of half a section of well-cultivated land in Roscoe township, his place being regarded as one of the model farms in that part of the county, is a native son of Reno county, having been born in a sod shanty on the plain in section 29 of that same township, April 19, 1883, son of C. M. and Margaret (Sloan) Bay, natives of Ohio and pioneers of Reno county, long occupying places of prominence in the life of the community in which they settled in 1878. Elsewhere in this volume, in a biographical sketch relating to C. M. Bay, a history of this well-known family in this county is set out and the reader is respectfully referred to those pages for further genealogical data relating to the subject of this sketch.

While Clyde Bay was an infant his parents moved from the homestead farm in this county to the city of Kingman, where the elder Bay for some years was prominently engaged in the real-estate business, and Clyde's early childhood was spent in that city, but when he was about eight years of age his parents moved back to the old homestead in Roscoe township and in that neighborhood he ever since has made his home. He received a careful



training in the science of modern agriculture and at the time of his marriage in 1906 his father gave him the half section, a portion of the old home tract, on which he since has made his home and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. His present pleasant farm house was built when he took possession of the farm and in 1912 he added to his improvements by the erection of his present up-to-date and well-equipped barn, other buildings and improvements on the place being in keeping with the same, all designed to meet the requirements of the latest advances in agricultural science. Among the equipments of the Bay place is an Emerson "Big Four" gasoline-driven breaking plow, Mr. Bay being one of Reno county's farmers who have realized the advantage of following their vocation along the most advanced lines.

In April, 1906, Clyde Bay was united in marriage to Ruby Denzel, who was born in Kansas City, Missouri, daughter of Thomas Denzel, a prominent grocer of that city, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Kenneth. Mr. Bay is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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#### EADS E. SHIVE.

Eads E. Shive, one of the most active and progressive young bankers of Reno county, cashier of the Farmers State Bank at Turon, and who has been a resident of that thriving little city since 1904, is a native son of Kansas, having been born on a pioneer farm in Harvey county, September 3, 1879, son of John W. and Mary J. (Byers) Shive, the former of whom was born in Barren county, Kentucky, August 1, 1841, and the latter, near Monticello, Iowa, January 4, 1853, pioneers of Harvey county, this state, both of whom are still living, having for years been prominent residents of Burton, this state.

John W. Shive was reared on a farm in Kentucky and when the Civil War broke out enlisted in Company K, Ninth Regiment, Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, for service in the Union army, and served with that regiment until the close of the war, a period of three years and three months. The Ninth Kentucky, Colonel Crider, was attached to the command of General Buell and participated in such notable battles as that at Shiloh and at Stone's River, in which latter engagement Mr. Shive was severely wounded. In 1871 John W. Shive came to Kansas and homesteaded a quarter of a section



of land in Harvey (Lake) county, which he still owns. He became prominent in the early affairs of his community and in 1885 engaged in the banking business in the neighboring city of Burton and has been thus engaged ever since, though for some time past practically retired from active business. He is still hale and hearty and continues to take a warm interest in general affairs and for many years has been regarded as one of the leading citizens of Burton. He is an active member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic, a thirty-second degree Mason and a Knight Templar. To John W. Shive and wife four children were born, those besides the subject of this sketch being Joseph T., a banker at Galesburg, this state; Sallie, who married H. V. Hackley, a real-estate dealer at Hutchinson, this county, and Ella, a bookkeeper in her father's bank at Burton.

Following his graduation from the high school at Burton, Eads E. Shive entered the University of Kansas at Lawrence and after a year there returned home and began to take an active part in the conduct of his father's extensive affairs, taking an interest both in the operation of the farm and the bank, in the latter capacity being engaged as bookkeeper and assistant cashier of the Burton State Bank for five years, at the end of which time he came to Reno county, in February, 1904, locating at Turon, where he assisted in the organization of the Farmers State Bank of that place, which opened for business on March 4, that same year, and has ever since been serving as cashier of the bank. During his residence in Turon Mr. Shive has been an active promoter of every live proposition for the advancement of the best interests of that growing little city and is regarded as one of the best "boosters" in the place, taking as a motto for the bank with which he is so prominently connected: "The bank that made business good in Turon."

At the breaking out of the Spanish-American War in 1898 Eads E. Shive enlisted for service in Company E, Twenty-first Regiment, Kansas Volunteer Infantry, at Hutchinson, and served with that regiment until the close of the war, most of which time was spent in camp at Chickamauga, anxiously awaiting orders from headquarters to proceed to Cuba. Mr. Shive is an active member of the Spanish-American Veterans Association, a thirty-second degree Mason, a Knight Templar, an Elk and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest. He is a Republican and since locating in Turon has given his thoughtful attention to local politics, being deeply interested in the affairs of good government. Besides his handsome home at the northeast corner of Burns and Nebraska avenues, Mr. Shive is the owner of a ten-acre

tract in Turon and is looked upon as a very substantial citizen, one of the leaders in the business life of the community.

On January 4, 1905, at Chase, in Rice county, this state, Eads E. Shive was united in marriage to Flora A. Wade, daughter of Eugene D. Wade, a well-known railway locomotive engineer, and wife, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Virginia, who was born at Turon on December 23, 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Shive take an earnest interest in the general social life of their home community and are held in high esteem by their many friends in and about Turon.

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### NICHOLAS HOUSINGER.

Nicholas Housinger, a well-known and prosperous retired farmer of Sylvia township, this county, and justice of the peace in and for that township, who for some years has been living in his pleasant home in the town of Sylvia, is a native of Illinois, having been born on a farm in Will county, that state, September 11, 1849, son of John and Charlotta (Bront) Dresler Housinger, the former a native of Holland and the latter of Hanover, Germany.

John Housinger grew up as a farmer in his native land, Holland, and was married there. His first wife died childless and he then, in 1847, came to the United States. The call for volunteers for the war with Mexico had just been issued about the time he arrived on this side and immediately after landing at the port of New York he enlisted for service and was sent to the front in Company F of an Ohio regiment attached to the command of Gen. Jefferson Davis. He served for a year and during his service received a severe wound in the thigh. At the close of the war he settled in Will county, Illinois, where he entered a soldier's claim to eighty acres of land. In 1848 while working in a hotel in Cook county, Illinois, in the neighborhood of Chicago, he met Mrs. Charlotta Dresler, a widow, who had come to this country from Germany with her two children the year before, and they were married without much delay, later settling on his soldier's homestead in Will county. Mr. Housinger lost little time in developing his place and made a specialty of the raising of flax for some years. There being no machines for threshing the flax he made one, operative by ox power, which performed the work very well. He had to haul his flax thirty miles to Chicago, where he found an excellent market, and it was not

long until he became a prosperous farmer, gradually enlarging his land holdings until he was the owner of an excellent farm of three hundred and twenty acres, besides which he had invested in one hundred acres of land in Berrien county, Michigan. In 1878 Mr. Housinger, attracted by the glowing word then proceeding out of Kansas, sold his place in Illinois and came to this state, settling in Ellsworth county, where he bought a tract of school land and there he and his wife spent the balance of their days, both living to be eighty-two years of age, she dying in 1888 and he in 1890. To their union two children were born, a son and a daughter, the former of whom is the subject of this biographical sketch and the latter, Minnie, who married Hite Smith, lives in Ellsworth county, this state. The Dresler children, who grew up in the Housinger household, now are both deceased, the elder, William Dresler, having died in Ellsworth county in 1900, and the younger, Mrs. Dora Stanson, in the state of Illinois.

Nicholas Housinger was reared on the home farm in Will county, Illinois, getting his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, where school was held about three months in the year. He remained with his father, assisting in the labors of the farm, until he was of age, after which he rented a farm on his own account and was thus engaged farming for two years, at the end of which time, in the spring of 1872, he married and went to Berrien county, Michigan, where he lived on his father's hundred-acre farm until 1877, in which year he came to Kansas and homesteaded an eighty-acre tract in Ellsworth county, at the same time buying an adjoining "eighty," and later bought a tract of railroad land, which he proceeded to develop. In 1888 he sold his holdings there and came to Reno county and rented a farm in Sylvia township. He liked the situation there so much that he presently bought six hundred and forty acres of land in that township and engaged in general farming quite profitably until the time of his retirement from the farm in 1909, in which year he built a comfortable house in the town of Sylvia and has since that time made his home there, he and his wife enjoying many evidences of the high esteem in which they are held by all their neighbors. Mr. Housinger is a Republican and ever since settling in this county has taken an active interest in public affairs. He is now serving as justice of the peace, an office which he is filling with dignity and the duties of which he is discharging most effectively.

On May 10, 1870, in Illinois, Nicholas Housinger was united in marriage to Frederica Heitschmidt, who was born in the town of Gutzeau, in the province of Pomern, Prussia, November 6, 1848, daughter of John and

Frederica Heitschmidt, who in 1854 emigrated to this country with their family, Mr. Heitschmidt working in a hardware store in Chicago until 1878, in which year he and his wife came to Kansas, settling in Ellsworth county, where they lived until 1888, in which year they moved to Portland, Oregon, where Mrs. Heitschmidt died, after which Mr. Heitschmidt returned to the home of his daughter, Mrs. Housinger, in this county, where he died in 1903, at the age of eighty-two.

To Nicholas and Frederica (Heitschmidt) Housinger six children have been born, as follow: Alvina, born on March 15, 1871, who married Hugh Vester and lives in Sylvia township, this county; Anna J., October 11, 1874, who married Martin Miller and lives in Sylvia township; Arno Carl, December 15, 1876, who lives on a farm in Sylvia township; Adehlia M., April 19, 1879, who married Charles Hopkins and lives in Hutchinson, this county; Walter N., August 18, 1881, who also is a resident of Sylvia township, and Elizabeth, September 18, 1886, who married a Mr. Dixon and lives in Byers, this state. Mrs. Housinger is a member of the Methodist church, of which Mr. Housinger also is an attendant and both are active in good works, they and all the members of their family being held in high regard in that neighborhood.

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### NICHOLAS REICHENBERGER.

Nicholas Reichenberger, a well-known and progressive farmer of Sumner township, this county, one of the largest landowners in that part of the county, a leader in the political life of his neighborhood and for years active in the civic affairs of that community, is a native Kansan, born in Doniphan county, this state, March 2, 1860, son of Peter and Barbara (Leirscher) Reichenberger, both natives of Germany and pioneers of Kansas, the latter of whom is still living at the advanced age of eighty-five years.

Peter Reichenberger was a Bavarian and grew to manhood in his native land, becoming an expert cabinet-maker. As a young man he came to the United States and settled in New York City, where for ten years he worked at his trade and where he was married. In 1858 he and his wife and their two small children came to Kansas and settled in the town of Doniphan, a pioneer village in Doniphan county, where Peter Reichenberger opened a cabinet-making shop and also became an undertaker and coffin-maker, it being the custom in those days to make coffins to order. In 1871 he bought



a farm in the Doniphan neighborhood and in 1874 he and his family moved on to the same. Later in life Peter Reichenberger and his wife moved to Brown county, this state, where he died in August, 1898, and where his widow is still living. They were earnest members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. There were twelve of these children, five of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having three brothers, A. M., F. P. and Benjamin F., Brown county farmers, and a sister, Margaret, unmarried, who lives with her aged mother.

Nicholas Reichenberger was the third in order of birth of the twelve children born to his parents. His early schooling was obtained in the schools of Doniphan and he was fourteen years old when the family moved to the farm, where he grew to manhood, an able assistant in the labors of developing the home place, and became a very efficient farmer. Upon reaching manhood's estate he bought a small farm, rented some other land adjoining and started farming on his own account. When twenty-five years old he married and in July, 1893, bought a half section of land in Sumner township, this county, in sections 25 and 26, where he established his home and where he has lived ever since. Mr. Reichenberger has greatly improved his place and has added to his acreage until he is recognized today as one of the most substantial farmers in that part of the county. He is a broad-minded, progressive, up-to-date farmer and has done well, he and his family being very well situated in their comfortable home in the Mt. Hope neighborhood. Mr. Reichenberger is an ardent Republican and for the past fifteen years has served his party as precinct committeeman. He has served the public as township treasurer and before the days of the direct primary was always a delegate to his party conventions.

On April 14, 1885, Nicholas Reichenberger was united in marriage to Katherine Hess, who was born in Doniphan county, this state, daughter of Nicholas and Kate (Delcude) Hess, both natives of Bavaria, who came to the United States, locating for a time in Pennsylvania, whence they came to Kansas, settling in Doniphan county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. To Mr. and Mrs. Reichenberger eight children have been born, namely: Anna, unmarried, at home; Mary, who married John Ast and lives on a farm in Sumner township; Lucy, who married U. S. Fisher and lives on a farm in Sherman township, Sedgwick county, this state; Clotilda, who married Michael Ast and lives on a farm in Sumner township, and Joseph, Philomena, Ella and Barbara, at home. Mr. and Mrs. Reichenberger are members of the Catholic church, earnest supporters of St. Joseph's



parish, and their children have been reared in the faith of that church, the family being active in parish affairs generally and in all neighborhood good works. Mr. Reichenberger is a member of the Knights of Columbus and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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### ROBERT E. LEE CALBERT.

Robert E. Lee Calbert, a prominent citizen of Medora, Kansas, was born in Simpson county, Kentucky, January 31, 1866. His parents were John Wesley and Jane (Evans) Calbert. His mother, born in Tennessee, died in February, 1886. His father was born in West Virginia in 1834, and still lives in Kentucky with his sons. When very young, John W. Calbert was brought to Kentucky by his father, who was a blacksmith, and here he learned the trade of a shoemaker. He served three years in the Confederate army, and was badly wounded in the service, his leg being almost shattered by a shot. After the war he followed farming and also drilled and blasted wells. His children are as follow: Robert E. Lee, of this review; John C. and Frank, both farmers of Barlow, Kentucky; William, a farmer living near Paducah, Kentucky, and Mary, now deceased.

Robert E. Lee Calbert had little advantages in the way of an education. He attended the subscription schools of his home district for three terms, and at fifteen worked for a year as a farm hand in Tennessee, after which he worked at farm labor in Shelby county, Illinois, until the fall of 1884, when he hired to John Wittorff, a ranchman on the north line of Reno county, Kansas. For four years he worked for Mr. Wittorff, and for various German farmers in that neighborhood. In 1887 he proved up on a claim in Wichita county, Kansas, later trading it for a team of horses and a wagon and harness. He then rented the Knoll farm northwest of Hutchinson, and he and his brother-in-law farmed this place for three years. He then rented farm land in Medora township, and finally purchased eighty acres of land adjoining Medora, farming that and other land. In August, 1910, he purchased the William Poulton hotel and grocery and has since conducted them. About 1900 he became an auctioneer and has cried all the sales for miles around since. While still farming he started a blacksmith shop, which he now operates in Medora. He has managed the Medora grain elevator for a year and a half for the Hutchinson Milling Company.

Mr. Calbert was married on June 10, 1887, to Della W. Flannigan, of

Kalamazoo, Michigan. Her parents were Madison and Caroline (Taylor) Flannigan, the former of whom was a Civil War veteran. In the winter of 1886, Madison Flannigan and his family left Michigan, moving to Reno county, Kansas, and after their daughter's marriage, made their home with her the remainder of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Calbert are the parents of the following children: Bertha, the wife of O. A. Kinley, of Medora, has three children, Dale, Ruby and Hazel; Ruby, the wife of George Mitchell, of Medora, and has one daughter, May; Lee Madison, William, George, Dorothy, Pearl, Cecil Robert and Sidney Lysle.

Mr. Calbert is a Republican in politics, and has served on the Medora school board for seventeen years. He has been a Modern Woodman for eighteen years, and he and his wife, though not church members, helped to raise the largest sum for building the Medora Union church. Both Mr. and Mrs. Calbert are very public-spirited and are earnest promoters of civic welfare, taking great pride in the local schools and church. Largely through their efforts the Medora school has become one of the few standard schools in Kansas.

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### MRS. MARY COLLINGWOOD.

The story of the pioneer is always interesting. Because of the peculiar conditions surrounding Mrs. Collingwood in the early days, conditions that can never exist again and conditions that can arise so seldom in the history of any county, the author of this history desires to make a special mention of Mrs. Collingwood, for it illustrates some of the circumstances of the pioneer that shows a fortitude of character, a determination to take advantage of the "Free Land" that was held out as an inducement for the early settler by the federal government. Today when the "Free Land" is all gone, when a high value is put on every acre of soil in Reno county, the true vision the pioneer saw appears, the faith they had in the county which should stimulate the present generation.

Mrs. Collingwood was not a farmer's wife. She was a city woman, born and reared in Cincinnati, Ohio. She heard that land could be had for the asking in Kansas, and here she came with her family, that she might get the land for her sons. She reached Hutchinson November 18, 1872. She stayed for two weeks after her arrival with Nathaniel Cory in Lincoln township, while she looked for land for herself and sons. They had driven overland from Indiana, a long drive for a woman and nine children. She



MRS. MARY COLLINGWOOD



homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 18, township 26, range 6. She built a house fourteen by sixteen feet in dimensions, boarded up and down, "stripped," and with a shingle roof. At this time there was not a house between her home and Texas. She lived with her children. She established the only boarding house between Hutchinson and Medicine Lodge. She was appointed the postmaster of Pretty Prairie in 1873, when the stage line was established. Charles Collins had had the stage route and mail route from Hutchinson to Medicine Lodge. Collins wanted to name the new town after Mrs. Collingwood, but she objected and suggested the name it now bears, Pretty Prairie. At first Mrs. Collingwood refused to make a charge for her meals, but no traveler would ever receive the hospitality of Mrs. Collingwood without paying for it. With a building fourteen by sixteen feet in dimensions, with nine children, all strangers who stopped at the hotel had to sleep in their own wagons. Some amusing incidents occurred in her house. A party of buffalo hunters from the east, some business men, and some professional men were storm-bound by a bad blizzard that struck them when they reached Pretty Prairie. The storm was so severe that the party had to stay several days at Mrs. Collingwood's hotel. There was only one stove in the house, a cook stove. The fierce wind blew through the house and the only way the people could keep warm was to be close to the stove. There wasn't room enough around the stove for all the visitors and the family to keep warm, so the men made up a purse and paid two of the younger children, Ella, now Mrs. Sam Demorest, and Frank, the younger brother, a dollar and a half apiece a day to stay in bed so they could get close enough to the stove to keep warm.

Mrs. Collingwood had to send to Manhattan for her hogs. She had to haul her flour and meal from Halstead, and her hay and corn from Wichita. The wood was hauled from Medicine Lodge. The wood, however, was only used to help along the fuel of the prairie, "buffalo chips," when they were wet. Mrs. Collingwood had one luxury on her table. She brought with her from Indiana seven bushels of dried apples. The hogs furnished the lard to cook the buffalo meat.

Mrs. Collingwood had considerable money, about twenty-five hundred dollars, she derived from the sale of a farm in Ripley county, Indiana. With this she bought fourteen yoke of oxen. She had five sons old enough to plow and they broke the sod on their claims. There were six quarters of land homesteaded by this family. Mrs. Collingwood had one quarter, Abner, Jennie, Thomas, Joseph and John, each a quarter. Joseph was eighteen years



old and John sixteen when they settled on their claims. While they were under age, the neighbors never allowed anyone to interfere with them. So they all "proved up" on their claims along with the others. A claim could be held seven years without getting title from the government, and their claims showed no transfer, no mortgage ever being placed on them, and the only entry on the title is the one from the government.

In her early life Mrs. Collingwood worked in her husband's boot and shoe factory. She could make every part of a shoe, except putting on the soles. Had she been a man she would have made a great general, or been at the head of some big business enterprises. As mother she was far more than a general. Her children never questioned a thing that "Mother" did. She counseled with her children, advised with them, and there never was a moment when their respect and love ever questioned her decision. She was a typical pioneer—the kind that have transformed the former buffalo range to a thickly settled community, the kind that laid the foundation for the great prosperity that so generously blessed the labor of her hands. She passed to her reward, the end of a long life of labor and love being reached on February 12, 1916. Her body lies in the mausoleum at Hutchinson. The memory of her deeds of kindness will be recalled by her neighbors and friends, the inspiration of her life will lift other lives and will be a blessing to her sons and to her daughters as long as they live. The events that would ordinarily be set down in a sketch are attached to this sketch as outlining the opportunities for good that came to Mrs. Collingwood. But this brief mention of her active life, appealed so to the one who knew of her life, who writes this history of Reno county, and records the deeds of its pioneers, that they who live here now, and those who will come after, may have a small appreciation of what privations were endured by the pioneers, among the worthiest of whom was Mrs. Collingwood.

Mrs. Collingwood's maiden name was Mary Newman. She was a native of Ohio, having been born in the city of Cincinnati, August 24, 1826, daughter of Abner and Elizabeth (Arbigast) Newman, the former of whom, a prominent building contractor at Cincinnati, was born in Ripley county, Ohio, in 1799, and died on June 6, 1871. His wife was born on August 25, 1801. They were married in Cincinnati in 1821 and to that union eight children were born, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch was the third in order of birth, the others having been as follow: Christina, born on May 6, 1822, married Z. H. Mason and died in Orange county, Florida; Joseph, May 19, 1824, died at Oakland, Kansas; Matilda, November 27, 1828, who married Charles Seymour; George, May 21, 1831, who was an

Iowa farmer; Sarah, April 18, 1833, who married a Love and died in Orange county, Florida, October 6, 1914; Emma, August 2, 1836, who became Mrs. Robinson and died in Indianapolis, and David, August 22, 1838, whose last days also were spent in Indianapolis.

On April 23, 1842, at Cincinnati, Mary Newman was united in marriage to Daniel Collingwood, who was born at Wigham, England, December 9, 1817, son of William and Jane (Barrow) Collingwood, who were married in the parish church of St. Peter's, Liverpool, on August 11, 1779. Jane Barrow was the daughter of Thomas and Isabella (Hunter) Barrow, the former of whom died on September 16, 1798, and the latter, February 5, 1807. William Collingwood was a manufacturer of shoes and about 1833 he came to the United States, bringing with him his family, and located at Poughkeepsie, New York, where he engaged in the manufacture of shoes on a somewhat extensive scale. He lived but a few years after coming to this country, his death occurring on March 7, 1837. His widow then moved, with her children, to Cincinnati, in which city the family became domiciled in a house owned by Abner Newman, and it was thus that Daniel Collingwood and Mary Newman met. Mrs. Jane Collingwood spent the remainder of her days in Cincinnati, her death occurring on December 10, 1860. To William and Jane (Barrow) Collingwood seven children had been born, namely: Thomas, born on November 14, 1806, who died on August 16, 1871; William, March 23, 1808, died on December 27, 1820; Isabella, March 16, 1810, died on April 20, 1818; James, March 18, 1813, died in May, 1874; John, August 12, 1815, died on November 23, 1888; Daniel, of whom more presently, and Elizabeth, June 21, 1821, died on December 24, 1894.

Daniel Collingwood was about sixteen years old when his parents came to this country and he was an active assistant to his father in the latter's shoe factory at Poughkeepsie during the time that concern was being operated. When the family moved to Cincinnati he became engaged in the shoe-manufacturing business in that city. In 1845, three years after his marriage, he moved to Connersville, Indiana, where he established a shoe factory and in which city he remained for three years, at the end of which time he moved his plant to Fredonia, on the Ohio river, in Crawford county, Indiana, where he continued in business the rest of his life, his death occurring there on April 25, 1866. Mr. Collingwood took an active part in local political affairs and was a substantial and influential citizen. His first entrance into the field of politics in his adopted country was as a Whig, but upon the formation of the Republican party he became affiliated with

that party and was an ardent exponent of its principles. He was reared an Episcopal, but later became connected with the United Brethren church and was an earnest supporter of the same.

To Daniel and Mary (Newman) Collingwood ten children were born, as follow: William James, born at Cincinnati, May 14, 1844, died on June 17, 1845; Abner, February 12, 1846, at Connersville, Indiana; Jane Elizabeth, December 1, 1847, at Cincinnati, died on February 16, 1915; Thomas, May 9, 1849, at Fredonia, Indiana, married Alice Truesdale; Joseph Gates, November 9, 1852, at Fredonia, married Jeane McKenzie and died on February 3, 1912; John Alfred, December 23, 1854, married D. Vircilla McClellan; James Albert, July 18, 1857, married Zona Young; Clara Isabella, November 27, 1859, married M. E. Updegraff; Daniel Franklin, October 14, 1862, and Sarah Ellen, January 27, 1866, who married S. G. Demarest, of Crawfordsville, Indiana, and lives at Pretty Prairie, this county.

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### SHERIDAN PLOUGHE.

Sheridan Ploughe was born in Howard county, Indiana, near Kokomo, on June 1, 1868. In February, 1876, his parents moved to Hutchinson, Kansas, and located on a farm that now joins Hutchinson. Mr. Ploughe attended the district school, later attended and was graduated from the high school of Hutchinson in 1884. In 1886 he spent one year at the State University, as a freshman, and the balance of his college course was taken at Garfield University at Wichita, Kansas, where he graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He studied law with L. M. Fall and was admitted to the bar in 1891. In 1899 he bought the *Clipper* and changed the name of the paper to *The Independent*, and continued to run it as a weekly paper until 1903, when he bought the *Daily Bee*, consolidating it with the *Independent*, and continuing it under the name of the *Daily Independent*. In 1905 he sold this daily to the Gazette Company, and the combined papers are now published as *The Daily Gazette*.

Mr. Ploughe was married to Eleanor F. Smith on March 5, 1902. Mrs. Ploughe is a native of Iowa and moved to Kingman county, Kansas, in 1883. She was graduated from Lewis Academy, at Wichita, and later attended and was graduated from Mary Thompson Hospital, Chicago, as a trained nurse. She left this hospital and entered the service of the government as a nurse, during the Spanish-American War being stationed part of the time at Lex-



SHERIDAN PLOUGHE.





ington, Kentucky, in the John Blair Gibbs Hospital, where she did special work in typhoid fever. She was then transferred to Cienfuegos, Cuba, with General Bates' Division, on the general field hospital. To Mr. and Mrs. Ploughe have been born four children, Margaret, Mildred, Mary and Matthew.

Mr. Ploughe began gathering material for this "History of Reno County" after he sold his daily paper, and has gathered material for a number of other books, which he expects to complete soon—among them, "A History of the Seventh Congressional District"; another, "Forty Forgotten Cities," a story of boom towns of western Kansas, out of which "Father" expected to get rich, but the tide of fortune turned the townsites into wheat fields; also another book, "The Land of the Buffalo Range," a history of the contest for the supremacy of the Southwest—a story of the first visit of the Spanish, then the story of the French exploration of the Southwest, then the Cowboy, then the Settler; the story of the "Comanche Pool", "The Chism Trail", "The Goodnight Trail," etc. Much of the material for these books has been gathered together.

Mr. Ploughe's father, Alfred H. Ploughe, died in 1892, and his mother, whose maiden name was Preble—a descendant of Commodore Preble, of the United States navy—died in 1903. He has two brothers living, Sherman, a twin, and John V., who lives with him in the old home.

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#### HOWARD WADDLES.

Howard Waddles, one of the best-known and most popular commercial travelers in Kansas, is an Easterner by birth, but has lived in the West ever since he got out of school and has been a resident of Hutchinson, this county, ever since, having thus been a witness to and an active participant in the wonderful development of Reno county during the past quarter of a century. He was born in the town of Emmetsburg, Frederick county, Maryland, November 13, 1865, son of Joseph S. and Sarah E. (Shuff) Waddles, both natives of that same county, members of old families in that section, the former of whom was born in 1826 and the latter in 1829.

Joseph H. Waddles, who was a well-to-do merchant at Emmetsburg, died in May, 1892. He was an ardent Republican, an active member of the Methodist church and a public-spirited and progressive citizen. His

widow is still living at Emmetsburg. They were the parents of four children, the subject of this sketch having a sister and two brothers, Emma, who married William P. Nunamaker, a merchant of Mt. Airy, Maryland; E. S. Waddles, California representative for the Wheeler-Matter Mercantile Company, of St. Joseph, Missouri, and Charles Waddles, general agent for the New York Life Insurance Company at St. Joseph.

Howard Waddles was reared in his native town in Maryland and upon completing the course in the public schools there came West, locating at San Angelo, Texas, where for two years he was engaged as a clerk in the general store of James Moorkens & Company. He then was engaged in buying bronchos at Del Rio for the Eastern market for a year, at the end of which time he went to El Paso, where he was engaged as a clerk in a retail store until July 5, 1886, when he left for St. Joseph, Missouri, arriving there the next day, under engagement to the Wheeler-Matter Mercantile Company of that place, general wholesalers in dry goods, furnishings, notions, carpets and the like, and has ever since represented that company as its Kansas salesman, during which time he has come to be regarded as one of the most successful commercial travelers in the state. In November, 1888, Mr. Waddles made his headquarters at Hutchinson and has ever since been a resident of that city. Until his marriage in the fall of 1893, he made his headquarters at the old Santa Fe hotel, at that time presided over by Captain Young. After his marriage he made his home at 500 Sherman avenue, east, until he built his present handsome house at 501, in that same block, in 1915. In addition to his activities "on the road" Mr. Waddles is a merchant in his own right, having been the owner of a thriving store at Sylvia, this county, since 1904 and is regarded as one of Reno county's substantial citizens.

It was on September 20, 1893, that Howard Waddles was united in marriage at Larned, this state, to Lena Norwood, who was born in Louisville, Kentucky, daughter of Joseph A. and Margaret (Quisenberry) Norwood, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of Kentucky. Joseph A. Norwood, a merchant, went to Kansas from Kentucky in 1877 and established a store at Girard, this state. There his wife died in 1878. In 1882 he moved to Larned and established a general store there, remaining there for twelve years, at the end of which time he came to Reno county and was engaged as manager of the Ruggles store at Sylvia until his retirement from business and removed to Hutchinson, where he died in 1905. To him and his wife two children were born, Mrs. Waddles having a brother, O. F. Norwood, present manager of the Ruggles store at Sylvia. To Mr.

and Mrs. Waddles one child has been born, a daughter, Margaret, now a student in the Hutchinson high school. Mrs. Waddles is a member of the Episcopal church and both she and Mr. Waddles take an earnest interest in the various social and cultural activities of their home town. Mr. Waddles is a Mason, a life member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, a member of the United Commercial Travelers Association, a member of the Hutchinson Commercial Club and the Hutchinson Country Club, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

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### CHARLES A. WELLS.

Charles A. Wells, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of Miami township, this county, proprietor of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres in the Turon neighborhood, is a native of Tennessee, having been born in Marysville, Blount county, that state, January 31, 1870, son of A. L. and Mary L. (Peoples) Wells, the former also a native of Tennessee, born in Blount county, and the latter in Illinois.

A. L. Wells was a farmer and in the fall of 1883 came to Kansas with his family and settled in Kingman county. He homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 1 in Dresden township, that county, and there established his home, becoming a well-to-do farmer. Upon retiring from the farm he opened a general store at Olcott, in this county, and conducted the same for three years, at the end of which time he retired from business and moved to Pratt, later going to Plummer, Idaho, where he died in 1913, and where his widow is now living. They were earnest members of the Baptist church and their children were reared in that faith. There were five of these children, those besides the subject of this sketch being as follow: Stephen R., a farmer, of Plummer, Idaho; Isaac, deceased; Homer, a farmer, of Wyandotte, Oklahoma, and Dora, who married Samuel Grindel, a farmer, and died at Plummer, Idaho.

Charles A. Wells was about thirteen years old when he came to Kansas with his parents in 1883 and his schooling was completed in the schools of Kingman county. He actively assisted his father in the development of the latter's homestead farm and became an excellent practical farmer. He married in the summer of 1890 and continued farming in Kingman county until 1906, in which year he came to this county and has since then made his home on his well-kept farm in Miami township, the same being the west half

of section 36 in that township. Mr. Wells is an energetic and progressive citizen and takes an earnest part in community affairs. He is a Republican and is treasurer of the school board of his home township.

On August 16, 1890, Charles A. Wells was united in marriage to Theresa Pieper, who was born in Bourbon county, this state, daughter of Conrad H. and Mary J. (Sproule) Pieper, for years prominent residents of Miami township, this county, the former of whom was born in Lippe, Germany, December 7, 1841, and the latter, in Iowa, in 1849, who are the parents of six children, Mrs. Wells's brothers and sisters being as follow: Byron E., a farmer of Miami township; Thomas, of Hutchinson; Laura E., wife of John T. Woodson, a traveling salesman, of Jennings, Louisiana; William F., a Miami township farmer, and Leonard, a farmer, of Caddo county, Oklahoma. To Mr. and Mrs. Wells five children have been born, Myrtle, Raymond, Mabel, Everett and Conrad, all of whom are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Wells are members of the Baptist church and take a warm interest in the general good works of the community in which they live.

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#### ISAAC W. HERREN.

Isaac W. Herren has every right to be known as a self-made man, having been entirely orphaned by the time he was four years old, and thrown upon his own resources since the early age of seventeen years. His parents were Winget and Cynthia (Crow) Herren, both of Ohio nativity, and he was born on March 31, 1863, in Noble county, Ohio.

Winget Herren was a farmer until he enlisted in the Seventy-second Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, to fight in the Civil War. He was at home when his son was born, but left for the front three days later, never to return. The mother later was married to Benjamin Phelps. She died in 1867, leaving two sons, Isaac W., aged four, and William Henry, aged six, who went to make their home with their mother's father, Isaac Crow. They remained on their grandfather's farm until 1879, when they both went west to seek their fortunes and arrived in Kansas. Here they worked by the month for seven years, on wages ranging from fourteen to twenty-dollars per month.

In 1886, Isaac W. Herren returned to Ohio, where on March 3, he was married to Matilda Caroline Smith, a native of Monroe county and the daughter of Samuel and Nancy Jane (Sample) Smith, also born in Monroe

county. The former is not living. The latter was the daughter of William Sample. Matilda Caroline Smith was born on the farm where her grandfather, Archibald Smith, first settled.

The children of Samuel and Nancy Jane (Sample) Smith were Porter S., Mary Ellen, wife of Theodore Wilson; Olive A., wife of C. L. Okey; Matilda Caroline, wife of Isaac W. Herren; Albert, Oliver Perry and Willie A.

After their marriage Mr. Herren brought his bride to Reno county, Kansas, and he rented a farm in Salt Creek township. Five years later, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in the southwest quarter of section 12, in the same township, where he still resides and carries on general farming.

The children of Isaac W. Herren are, Clarence Ray, still at home as his father's assistant; William Clinton, who married Alice Griffen, and lives on a farm in Salt Creek township; Perry Arlington, who married Edith Potter and lives also on a farm in Salt Creek township.

Mr. Herren is affiliated politically with the Republican party. For several years he was treasurer of his home township. His brother, William Henry Herren, resides in the city of Hutchinson.

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#### WALTER G. BARR.

Walter G. Barr, a prominent orthodontist of Wichita, Kansas, was born in Lyon county, Kansas, September 1, 1879, the son of Oliver F. and Lydia (Harper) Barr, the former of whom was born in Iowa and the latter in Kansas. Oliver F. Barr was, for many years, a successful farmer and stock raiser, but he and his wife are now living retired in Emporia, Kansas. They have been the parents of seven children, all of whom were born in Emporia and all of whom are living. Besides Walter G., the children are, Mollie, who is the wife of John F. Bergen, a hardware merchant of Inman; Connie, who is at home; Charles F., who is studying dentistry at the Kansas City Dental College and who taught school for some years in Reno county and was a member of the examining board; Maud, who is a teacher in the public schools of Reno county; Olla and Everett, both of whom are at home with their parents.

Walter G. Barr received his education in the public schools of Reno county, going as far as the second year in high school, after which he



attended the Kansas City Dental College for three years, from which he was graduated with the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. After his graduation from the Kansas City Dental College, he took a post-graduate course in the Dewey School of Orthodontia in Kansas City, Missouri, and has specialized in that branch of dentistry for the past four years, practicing in both Wichita and Hutchinson. He formerly lived in Hutchinson at 308 Eleventh Avenue, which residence he owned, but three years ago moved to Wichita, where he has since resided at 517 North Topeka Avenue. His office in Wichita is located at 702 Schweiter building, but he still retains an office in Hutchinson, which is located at 403 First National Bank building, and which he visits every Monday. Doctor Barr is very proficient in his profession and enjoys a large practice in both Wichita and Hutchinson, being well known and highly respected in both cities.

On October 5, 1905, Dr. Barr was married to Addie Robinson, who was born in Johnson county, Kansas, August 4, 1884, the daughter of George and Elizabeth Robinson. Her father was a successful farmer of Johnson county and died there in June, 1906, but her mother is still living in that county. To Doctor and Mrs. Barr has been born one son, Ralph, who was born in Stafford, Kansas, in July, 1907, and died in infancy.

Socially, Doctor Barr is a member of the Hutchinson Commercial Club, the Hutchinson Country Club, the Wichita Country Club, the Wichita Social Club, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and is a thirty-second degree Mason. Politically, he is a Republican, but has never taken a very active part in politics, preferring to devote his time and attention to his profession.

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#### WALTER F. WILLIAMS.

Walter F. Williams, one of the best-known farmers of Roscoe township, this county, and a prominent resident of the Pretty Prairie neighborhood, is a native of the great Empire state, having been born at Beaver Dam, New York, July 3, 1858, son of J. G. and Mary (Smalley) Williams, the former a native of New Jersey and the latter of New York.

J. G. Williams, in his day, was one of the most prominent men in his section of New York state and was a power in politics. At the time Levi P. Morton was inaugurated governor of New York he offered to send a special car to Beaver Dam for Mr. Williams in order that he might ride in

comfort to Albany to witness the inauguration. He was the son of John and Ruth (Ferguson) Williams, the former of whom, with three brothers, sons of Jacob Williams, came from Ireland to the United States and settled at Williamsville, New Jersey. During the War of 1812 John Williams enlisted in behalf of the Americans in their second war of independence against England and served valiantly throughout that struggle. He married Ruth Ferguson, of New Jersey, daughter of Robert Ferguson, a soldier of the Revolution, who had served for six years during the War of Independence, and J. G. Williams was a son of that union. J. G. Williams was reared in New Jersey and became a cooper by trade. At the age of twenty-two he left his native state and went to New York state, where he engaged in farming, later moving to Beaver Dam, where he spent his last days, his death occurring in 1896. He was a life-long and active member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His first wife, Mary Smalley, mother of Walter F. Williams, was the daughter of William and Catherine (Conover) Smalley, the former of whom, a native of England, a miller by trade, came to the United States and settled in New York state, erecting the first water-power mill in the section of the state in which he settled. Though born in England, William Smalley's sympathies were with the people of his adopted country during the War of 1812 and he fought on the American side in that struggle. Mrs. Mary Williams died on December 7, 1869, leaving two sons, the subject of this sketch having had a brother, W. S. Williams, who died at the age of thirty-seven years. W. S. Williams was an accomplished singer and was a traveling salesman for a musical-instrument firm, he having at one time been a resident of Hutchinson, this county. J. G. Williams married, secondly, Catherine Ferguson, which second union was without issue.

Walter F. Williams was little more than ten years old when his mother died and thereafter, until he was fifteen years old, he made his home with his uncle, Edwin Ottley. At the age of fifteen he began work on his own account and in the spring of 1880, he then being about twenty-two years of age, he came to Kansas and bought a quarter of a section of land in the Pretty Prairie neighborhood in Roscoe township, this county, which he immediately set about developing. On March 4, 1886, Walter F. Williams married Augusta Johnson, who was born in Dayton, Ohio, February 10, 1857, daughter of Samuel and Hannah (Hemphill) Johnson, pioneers of Roscoe township, and established his home on his farm, where he ever since has resided and where he and his family are very comfortably and very pleasantly situated. The farm is admirably improved and well cultivated

and Mr. Williams is regarded as one of the substantial figures in his community. To Mr. and Mrs. Williams two children have been born, W. W., now living at Orlando, Florida, and Nellie. Mr. Williams is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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### EDWARD E. BARTON.

Edward E. Barton, son of Aaron B. and Mary G. (Roberts) Barton, was born in Terre Haute, Indiana, February 5, 1857. His father was born in Steubenville, Ohio, May 3, 1820, and died in Terre Haute, Indiana, August 5, 1899. He was engaged in the wholesale leather business and was an extensive real-estate holder in Terre Haute. He was a member of the Masonic order, and an active member of the Congregational church. He was a life-long Republican and took an active interest in the promotion of the principles of his party. He retired from business at the age of forty years. Mrs. Barton, mother of Edward E., was born in Syracuse, New York, and was a descendant of Seth Warner, a Revolutionary hero. The father and mother were married in Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1841; three sons and three daughters were born to that union. The members of this family, other than the subject of this sketch, are: Carrie, who married John Cook, wholesale druggist in Terre Haute, Indiana; she died in 1915. Eliza M., unmarried, living in Los Angeles, California. Helen D., unmarried, living in Los Angeles, California. Frank V., living in Los Angeles, California. William F., died in Mineral Wells, Texas, April, 1898.

Edward E. Barton was educated in the grade and high schools of Terre Haute, and was the youngest high school graduate of his class. He afterward attended the DePauw University, at Greencastle, Indiana, and the Rose Polytechnic school, in Terre Haute. He was passenger agent of the Indianapolis & St. Louis Railway for five or six years, and afterwards went to Ravenna, Nebraska, where he organized a bank and was president of the same for several years. He came to Hutchinson, Kansas, in 1889, and organized a banking and trust company in this place. Salt mines were discovered about that time and Mr. Barton invested in that business. He was sole owner of the Barton Salt Company, which had a productive capacity of eight hundred barrels per day, in a plant located at the corner of Cleve-

land and Campbell avenues, Hutchinson, Kansas. Mr. Barton was president of this company and general manager of the same until his death, which occurred, February 26, 1912. He was also interested in railroad building; was a director and the secretary of the Delaware Western Construction Company, which built the Texas Southern railway, in 1902 to 1904. In all the enterprises in which he engaged he was the leading spirit and manifested most excellent business ability. As a member of the Hutchinson Commercial Club he gave to that organization the benefit of his experience and practical knowledge of business affairs. Through that organization, and in his individual capacity, he contributed largely to the industrial and commercial enterprises of the community of which he was an honored citizen. Fraternally, he was a member of the Masonic order, the Knight Templars and the Elks. His religious faith was that of a Christian Scientist.

Edward E. Barton was married, in Hutchinson, September 25, 1895, to Effie Margaret Stimmell, daughter of Daniel W. and Adelaide (Triplett) Stimmell. She was born in Columbus, Ohio. Her father was also a native of that city, born April 8, 1832, and was a stock raiser. He came west in 1875, and settled in Hutchinson to make his home, but owned a sheep ranch, in Sabine county, Texas. He was engaged in the real estate, business in Hutchinson for many years, but was living in California for eight years before his death, which occurred December 22, 1909. He was a member of the Masonic order, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He was a member of the Presbyterian church; politically, he was a Republican. He was a city official of Hutchinson at various times.

In 1862 Daniel W. Stimmell answered the call of his country by enlisting as a private in Company G, Seventy-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was organized at Peoria, Illinois. He served three years with this company and regiment, and was mustered out at the close of the war, May, 1865. In the battle of Mansfield, Louisiana, April 8, 1864, he was taken prisoner and was confined in Camp Ford, at Tyler, Texas, on Red River, until the close of the war. By virtue of his army service he was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and was actively interested in its affairs. Mrs. Barton's mother was born in Richmond, Virginia, April 12, 1831. Her maternal grandfather (Triplett) was the owner of a large plantation in Virginia, and had many slaves. He had fourteen children, seven sons and seven daughters. He was an Episcopalian and a Democrat.

Mrs. Barton had no brothers nor sisters. She was educated at Nazareth



Academy, Concordia, Kansas, and at Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana. Her church affiliation is with the Episcopalian denomination, which was the faith of her mother and her maternal grandfather. Helen Margaret, born in Hutchinson, Kansas, October 11, 1899, is the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Barton. The family residence for twenty years has been at 607 Sherman avenue; a handsome home with all modern conveniences, located in a popular residence district of Hutchinson.

Mr. and Mrs. Barton had traveled extensively throughout the United States, living for some time in Pasadena and Long Beach, California, and in Daytona, Florida. Their travel and sojourn at these places was largely for pleasure, but in later years was with the object of improving Mr. Barton's health, which had been seriously impaired by his strenuous business activities.

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#### RHYS R. PRICE.

Rhys R. Price, son of John R. and Margaret (Jones) Price, was born in Aberdare, Wales, October 6, 1858; his father was born in Breconshire, South Wales, September 16, 1826. After four years as an apprentice to the trade of stone-cutter, and three years in the building trade, his father came to America in 1861, landing first in New York. From there he went to California, by way of the Isthmus of Panama, to engage in gold mining. He remained there for about six years. In 1867 he settled in Oskaloosa, Iowa, where he remained until 1886, when he removed to Topeka, Kansas. In 1896 he removed to Miami township, Reno county, Kansas, where he owned a ranch containing two thousand and two hundred acres, on which he engaged in the business of stock raising. In addition to his other business he was largely interested in railroad contracting, having built three thousand miles of railroad west of the Mississippi river. He was married in Wales, in 1856, to Margaret Jones, of his own neighborhood; she died in Oskaloosa, Iowa, in 1873.

Rhys R. Price was educated at Oskaloosa (Iowa) College, and afterward was in business with J. Power Davies, who owned commissary stores (coal mining) in Iowa. He was then with Sam Tate, of Memphis, Tennessee, engaged in the building of a railroad at Sherman, Texas. He then became one of the firm of the Price-McGavock Company, of which his father was the senior member, which built the Kinsley branch of the Santa Fe railroad



and the Atlantic and Pacific railroad, an extension of the Santa Fe. In Mexico they built the railroad from the City of Mexico to Vera Cruz, also the Monterey and Gulf railroad. Mr. Price then came to Hutchinson and engaged in the salt business. He was president of the Kansas Salt Company at the time of his death. He was Republican commissioner to the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, from which he resigned on account of ill health, and in trying to regain his health he went abroad and sought the best medical attention of both America and Europe, but he died December 10, 1894. Mr. Price was a man of great energy and exceptional business ability. He was a staunch Republican and contributed liberally of his time and effort for the success of the candidates of that party. Fraternally, he was a member of the Masonic order, a Knight Templar and a Shriner. He had a membership in the Hutchinson Commercial Club; also in the Union League Club, and the Chicago Club, of Chicago. He was interested in the old water power mill, of Hutchinson; the Otero ditch canal, in Colorado, and the Marceline, Missouri, Coal Company. Mr. Price attended the Episcopal church, and at the request of Bishop Thomas, served on the board of finance of the diocese.

Mr. Price married Margaret Davies, daughter of J. Power and Margaret (Hoare) Davies, in Oskaloosa, Iowa. She was born in Beaufort, Monmouthshire, England. Her father was born in Aberdare, Wales, and was of Irish descent.

The mother of Mrs. Price was the daughter of William and Anne (Evans) Hoare; she died in San Diego, California, in 1912. William Hoare

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Rhys R. Price are: Margaret Gyladys, was born in Cornwall, England, and was manager of the iron works at born in Oskaloosa, Iowa; married Edward Stahl, Jr., of Paris, France, Beaufort, England.

junior member of Galay Fils & Stahl (Incorporated), wholesale jewelers and manufacturers, of Geneva, Switzerland, with a branch in Paris, France. The Stahls originally were from Denmark, but for four generations have been from England. Their only son, Edward Rhys Stahl, was born in Versailles, France. Herbert Davies, born in San Diego, California; died in Hutchinson, Kansas, July 14, 1906.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Price were educated in Dresden, Germany, and in Geneva, Switzerland. The son attended the Chateau de Lancy, a well known boys' school in Geneva, for one year; a preparatory school, at Eton, England, for three years, and St. Paul's, Concord, New Hamp-

shire, one year. He was entered for the school of mines of Columbia College, a short time before his death. He always took a keen interest in electricity and mechanics.

Mrs. Price was the fifth child in a family of ten children—five sons and five daughters. She is a charter member of the Women's Club, of Hutchinson; she is a member of the Grace Episcopal church, and first vice-president of the Daughters of the King. She was one of the visitors of the school of the Sisters of Bethany, in Topeka, Kansas, until she went abroad. Mr. Price had two sisters, Cordelia and Jennie, both born in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

The family residence is at 429 First avenue, east, Hutchinson, Kansas, where they have resided for twenty-six years.

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### HARLOW B. BROWN.

Harlow B. Brown, the printer, one of the best-known young men of Hutchinson, this county, is a native son of Reno county, having been born on the fine Brown ranch in Loda township, April 10, 1889, son of Major Willis L. and Sarah (Blake) Brown, pioneers of that section, who are now living at Kingman, where they have made their home for years, though still retaining their large interests in this county.

Willis L. Brown was born on a farm in Steuben county, New York, January 28, 1854, son of Solomon and Ruth E. (Carpenter) Brown, the former a member of one of the old American families, of Scottish descent, and the latter a daughter of James Carpenter and wife, pioneers of western New York. Solomon Brown died when his son, Willis L., was only twenty months old. A few years later the mother married again. Her husband answered Lincoln's call and was one of the many that never came back. Thus handicapped, the youth of Willis L. Brown was one of struggle, but he was imbued from earliest childhood with a desire for an education and he bravely worked his way through school, being graduated from Woodhull Academy, now known as the Western New York Academy, at the age of fourteen, and was duly licensed to teach school, a profession upon which he early had set his heart. The laws of the state of New York, however, did not permit any one under eighteen years of age to teach in the schools of that state and young Brown, nothing daunted by this setback to his youthful ambition, presently pushed out West, where teachers were then in greater demand,

and for three years was engaged in teaching in Linn and in Chariton county, Missouri, his service in that connection having begun when he was sixteen years old. With added age and acquired experience, Mr. Brown then returned to New York and was there engaged in teaching and continuing his studies until 1876, in which year, becoming dissatisfied with the East after having had experience in the West, he returned West, coming to Kansas. In that year he entered a claim in Pawnee county, but did not "prove up" the same, soon thereafter going to McPherson county, where he remained for a time, and while there married. He then entered a homestead claim in Kingman county, proved up the same and in 1883 entered a half section of school land over the line in Loda township, Reno county, which he still owns and which is regarded as one of the best-kept stock farms in Reno county or central Kansas. For several years after locating in this county Mr. Brown taught school during the winters, riding six miles, back and forth, every day to school and taking his pay for such service in anything of value the residents thereabout could give, which was not much. As he prospered in his cattle business Mr. Brown added to his land holdings, buying a quarter of a section nearby his Reno county place and a half section over the line in Kingman county and has for years been regarded as one of the most progressive and substantial ranchers in central Kansas. He was one of the first men in this county to see the possibility of planting the plains with trees and the veritable forest of transplanted trees and the fine orchards on his several farms attest the wisdom of his decision back in 1886, when other farmers thereabout scoffed at his enterprise, declaring that the soil of this region was not adapted to tree culture. Mr. Brown specialized in Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs and prospered largely.

In 1893 Willis L. Brown retired from the farm and with his family moved to Kingman, where he ever since has made his home and where he has become one of the most conspicuous figures in the political life of the state. Though still retaining the active oversight of his extensive ranch interests, Mr. Brown has found time for activities of another character and his famous sobriquet, "Iron Jaw", was won not long after he moved to Kingman, where, in a city campaign, he was chiefly responsible for the movement which resulted in the effectual ousting of the "tough bunch." Upon moving to Kingman, Mr. Brown, in association with H. H. Isley, started the *Kingman Journal* and was editor of that vigorous newspaper until 1900, during which time he became one of the best-known men in Kansas. As an ardent Democrat he took an active and prominent part in the councils of that party

and his paper ever was one of the most effective and vigorous exponents of the principles of the party in this state. He was clerk of the Kansas state Senate during the sessions of 1893-95 and in 1897 was appointed under the Leedy administration president of the state board of charities, in control of the state's charitable institutions, a position which he resigned in 1898, in order to take part in the Spanish-American War, being the first man enlisted and sworn in in the state. He recruited men for that service throughout all central Kansas and was commissioned major of the Twenty-first Regiment, Kansas Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war, although the regiment did not get into the thick of things, being encamped at Chattanooga when peace was declared. In 1908 Major Brown was elected representative in the Legislature from his district and was twice re-elected, serving with much efficiency during the sessions of 1909-11-13, being speaker of the House during the latter session. Under the Hodges administration in 1913 he was appointed president of the board in charge of the state's penal and benevolent institutions and in 1913 was a candidate for the nomination for United States senator from Kansas in the Democratic primaries, but failed of the nomination. For years Major Brown has been the acknowledged leader of his party in Kingman county and has wielded a strong influence in the party throughout the state. Major Brown is also one of the leading Odd Fellows in the country. For two years he was grand master of the Kansas grand lodge of that order and for twelve years was representative of that order from Kansas in the sovereign grand lodge. He also has represented the Kansas Woodmen in several national meetings of the Modern Woodmen and in the affairs of both of these popular orders takes a warm interest. At the encampment of the Kansas department of the United Spanish War Veterans in July, 1915, Major Brown was honored by his comrades by election to the office of commander of that department and is giving his most active and intelligent attention to the affairs of that society.

In July, 1881, Willis L. Brown was united in marriage to Sarah J. Blake, who was born near Rockville, Indiana, August 17, 1860, daughter of Madison and Martha Blake, natives of Indiana, who came to Kansas at an early date in the settlement of this section, locating for a time in McPherson county, where they remained until 1878, in which year the family came to Reno county, homesteading a tract in Roscoe township and becoming prominent residents of that section. Madison Blake, who was a veteran of the Civil War, died at the home of Major Brown, and his widow, who was born on June 4, 1841, died at Germantown, Nebraska, December 30, 1916. To Willis L. and Sarah J. (Blake) Brown three children have been born, Maud,



who married Bert Walter and lives at Kingman, this state; Wayne S., who lives on one of his father's farms in Kingman county, and Harlow B., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch. Major and Mrs. Brown are members of the Presbyterian church and their children were reared in that faith.

Harlow B. Brown was four years old when his parents moved from the farm in this county to Kingman and he was reared at the latter place, receiving his education in the public schools there, which course he pursued through the second year of high school. At the age of thirteen he began learning the printer's trade in the office of his father's paper, the *Kingman Journal*, and in 1908 bought a half interest in the paper, which he sold four years later and then moved to Pratt, this state, where he opened a job-printing office. A year and a half later he moved his plant to Hutchinson and consolidated the same with the job-printing department of the *Hutchinson Gazette*. He is now in the printing business over the "Bon-Ton" bakery.

In August, 1911, Harlow B. Brown was united in marriage at Coffeyville, this state, to Amanda C. Poff, who was born in Missouri, daughter of Robert H. and Simona Poff, the former of whom died in New Mexico, his widow now residing in Columbus, that state. To this union one child has been born, a son, Robert Willis, born on November 17, 1914.

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#### RICHARD A. STEWART, M. D.

Dr. Richard A. Stewart, one of the prominent surgeons in the Southwest, who, with his brother, the late Dr. James E. Stewart, founded the long-famous Stewart hospital at Hutchinson, recently taken over by the Methodists and now known as the Methodist hospital, is a Virginian, a native of Bedford county, that state, where he was born on January 20, 1868, son of Robert B. and Evangeline (Arrington) Stewart.

Richard A. Stewart was but thirteen years of age when his parents came to this state and his elementary education therefore, which had been well begun in the schools of Virginia, was continued in the schools of Rice county. His brother, James E. Stewart, early had entered the practice of medicine at Alden and upon completing his common school studies, Richard A. entered his brother's office and for a year gave close attention to medical studies, at the end of which time he matriculated at the Hospital Medical College, Louisville, Kentucky, from which excellent old institution he



was graduated in June, 1890, after which he returned to Alden and was there associated with his brother in the practice of medicine until March, 1891, at which time the brothers located in Hutchinson, this county, where they speedily became prominently identified with the professional and social life of the city, maintaining offices together and from the very first meeting with large success in their practice. In 1900 the Doctors Stewart founded and built Stewart hospital, which immediately came into favor throughout this section and which in 1906 was taken over by the Stewart Hospital Association, incorporated, which conducted the same until in July, 1915, the hospital was taken over by the Methodists and is now known as the Methodist Hospital, the church maintaining a charity ward in the same.

Dr. James E. Stewart died in October, 1907, and his passing was widely mourned, for he was a man who had given unsparingly of himself to the cause of humanity. Dr. Richard A. Stewart's practice is confined wholly to the practice of surgery and he long has been recognized as one of the most skilled surgeons in Kansas. In 1912 Doctor Stewart admitted to partnership in his general practice, Dr. Robert G. Jones and this mutually agreeable arrangement still continues.

On June 12, 1895, Dr. Richard A. Stewart was united in marriage to Mary C. McCurdy, who was born in Hutchinson, this county, daughter of James P. and Margaret McCurdy, and to this union two children have been born, Margaret, born on May 5, 1896, and John R., August 6, 1898. The Stewarts have a very pleasant home at 801 North Main street and take their proper part in all social and cultural movements designed to advance the best interests of the community. They are members of the Methodist church.

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### J. M. COLLINGWOOD.

J. M. Collingwood, one of the most progressive and energetic young ranchers of Reno county, proprietor of a fine ranch of four thousand acres in the Pretty Prairie neighborhood in Roscoe township, besides being the owner of extensive land interests in Hodgeman county, is a native son of Reno county, having been born in the neighborhood in which he is still living, November 18, 1887, son of Joseph G. and Jeane (McKenzie) Collingwood, the former of whom is now deceased and the latter of whom is now living at Phoenix, Arizona.

Joseph G. Collingwood was born at Fredonia, Indiana, November 9, 1852, son of Daniel and Mary (Newman) Collingwood, the former a native of England and the latter of Cincinnati, Ohio. Daniel Collingwood was a manufacturer of shoes, owner of an extensive plant in Indiana, who died in 1866. Some years later, in 1872, his widow and her children came to Kansas, driving through in a "prairie schooner," and settled in Reno county. Mrs. Mary Collingwood homesteaded a tract of land in the Pretty Prairie section, her sons also homesteading in that section, and thus the great Collingwood interests in Reno county had their origin. Mrs. Mary Collingwood died at her fine home in Pretty Prairie, on February 12, 1916. Her home was next door to that of her daughter, Mrs. S. G. Demaret, president of the State Bank of Pretty Prairie. In a biographical sketch relating to Mrs. Mary Collingwood, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is set out in considerable detail something more of the history of this interesting family in Reno county and to that the reader is respectfully referred in this connection.

In the sketch above referred to prominent mention is made of the extensive operations of the firm of Collingwood Brothers, for years one of the most active factors in the development of this region. Joseph G. Collingwood's active connection with that firm made him a wealthy man and he became the owner of twenty thousand acres of land, besides having other extensive interests. He married Jeane McKenzie, daughter of John McKenzie and wife, Reno county pioneers, who came here from Illinois, and to this union one child was born, a son, the subject of this biographical sketch. Joseph G. Collingwood died on February 3, 1912, and his widow married John A. Coleman, of Phoenix, Arizona, and is now living in that city.

J. M. Collingwood was reared in this county and received his education in the common schools, which he supplemented by a course at the Salina Business College. For a while after his mother's removal to Phoenix he lived with her in that city, but in June, 1915, returned to Reno county to look after the interests of the four-thousand-acre ranch he had inherited from his father, situated four miles west and one mile north of Pretty Prairie. Upon returning here he began the erection of a new ranch house and barn in accordance with approved plans and which are unequalled in the county in the point of fitness and equipment. The house is of modern construction, electrically lighted and steam heated and carries a billiard room in the spacious basement. The great barn, built in the form of a Maltese

cross, one hundred and twenty-two by forty feet in each wing, is specially designed for the care of horses, Mr. Collingwood lately having gone quite extensively into the business of breeding fine horses.

Mr. Collingwood is a thirty-second-degree Mason and a Knight Templar, having attained to the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in 1913. He also is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and in the affairs of these organizations takes a warm interest.

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### SPENCER BROTHERS.

Orlando and Orinaldo Spencer could well say, like the two Dromios,

"We came into this world like brother and brother,

And now let's go hand in hand and not one before the other,"

for they are twins, and, having entered life at the same hour, they grew up inseparable, their interests have ever remained the same, and they bid fair to walk hand in hand to the end.

These farmer boys were born in Cass county, Michigan, June 20, 1848. Their parents were Daniel and Naomi (Van Patten) Spencer. Daniel Spencer was a native of the Empire state, having been born at Petersboro, Madison county, New York. He moved to Cass county, Michigan, in the early thirties and followed the occupation of farming. His death took place in 1908 at the old home in New York. Naomi Van Patten was also born at Petersboro, and is now deceased.

The other children of Daniel Spencer and wife were, Evaline, the wife of William Jolly, a farmer of Madison county, New York, both now being deceased; John J., who has a position in a kodak factory in Rochester, New York; Joel I., deceased, who was a farmer at Pueblo, Colorado; Mary, the wife of a Mr. Coleman, a farmer of Chenango, New York.

It was in January, 1874, that Orlando Spencer left Michigan and went to Kansas. He settled in Grove (now Miami) township, Reno county, where he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land, half of which was located in the southeast quarter of section 17, and the other half in the northeast quarter of the same section. Later he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 13. In the following April his brother, Orinaldo, followed him to Kansas and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in the same township, in the southwest quarter of section 13. Joel I. Spencer

also went to Kansas and took up one hundred and sixty acres in Reno county. This land is now owned half and half by Orlando and Orinaldo, their joint holdings amounting to four hundred and eighty acres.

The farmer twins have never married. They were at one time members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. They are affiliated with the Republican party. The only public office they ever accepted was that of road master.

Living in the world but not of the world, they devote themselves to each other, to the cultivation of their broad acres and to the enlightenment of their minds, both being well read and widely informed on the topics of the day as well as on events of the past. They are among the most highly respected of the Reno county citizens.

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### J. F. JUSTUS.

J. F. Justus, son of John and Anna (Gundermann) Justus, was born on November 13, 1865, in Will county, Illinois. His father, John Justus, was born and educated in Germany. He came to America when a young man before his marriage, and in 1852, went to California in search of gold. Being unsuccessful and becoming separated from his companions, he wandered through the West, throwing his heavy gun away, and at times was fed by the Indians. After a time he returned to his former home in Will county, Illinois, and bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. In 1874, he settled in Reno county, Kansas, and homesteaded section 10, township 22, range 8, in Medford township, and here he lived until about twelve years ago, when he moved to Nickerson, where his death occurred, June, 1913. His widow still lives at the latter place. Both were prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Their children were, J. F., Sophia and Caroline.

J. F. Justus was educated in the schools of Medford township, and remained on the home farm, assisting his father and thus learning all the rudiments of farming. He chose this honorable calling as his vocation in life, and moved to his present home, comprising a half section, in 1912. He has been a very successful farmer and is an extensive landowner, his other holdings being two hundred and forty acres of scattered pasture; a half

interest in a three-fourth section of land in Hayes township, and a half section in Stafford county, Kansas.

Mr. Justus was married on January 1, 1892, to Sallie Ann Carris, the daughter of Lewis and Harriette Carris, natives of New York, who came to Reno county in the eighties. To this union have been born the following children: Bertha, Lewis Howard, Addie, Queenie H., and Herman, all of whom are living with their parents, with the exception of Addie, who is a trained nurse.

Mr. Justus has served on the school board of his township several terms. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and also belongs to the Anti-Horsethief Association.

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### JOHN SPRONT.

John Spront is numbered among the most prominent and influential farmers of Reno county. The son of Francis M. and Sophia (Newlin) Spront, he was born on November 20, 1866, in Grundy county, Missouri, and received his education there.

John Spront's father, Francis M. Spront, is a Civil War veteran, and also the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of fine land in Reno county. His parents were William and Hannah (Nelson) Spront, natives of North Carolina, who emigrated in an early day to Union county, Indiana, where Francis M. Spront was born on May 23, 1836. For fifteen years he lived in Marshall county, Indiana. The next thirty-five years the family spent in Grundy county, Missouri, followed by a removal to Miami township, Reno county, Kansas, in 1893. In 1861, Francis M. Spront enlisted in the Union service at Trenton, Missouri, in Company B, Twenty-third Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Infantry. His commanding officer was Colonel Grundy. He served eighteen months in the war, the battle of Shiloh ending his active career in the service, for here his right hand was shattered, causing the loss of his arm to the elbow. For six months and eighteen days he was confined in the prisons at Macon, Georgia, and Mobile, Alabama, and at Libby prison, Richmond, Virginia. He fought under Brigadier-general Prentice. His pension amounts to forty dollars a month. He is an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic Post at Dunlap, Missouri, and is a stanch Republican in politics. Religiously, he is identified



with the Baptist faith. Before leaving Missouri, he was township trustee for four years. He held the position of treasurer of Miami township for four years, and served on the school board for three years.

Sophia (Newlin) Spront was born near Jacksonville, Illinois, the daughter of Abraham and Sarah McAfesh, of the same state. It was the year following her death, February 3, 1907, at the farm home in Miami township that Francis M. Spront went to reside with his son, John. His other children are as follow: Sarah, wife of J. M. Evans, a farmer of Grundy county, Missouri, who died in Frontier county, Missouri, June 9, 1893; James H., a farmer of Grove township; Minnie, wife of Aurelias Evans, of Miami township, who is deceased; Scott, a farmer of Miami township; Allison, of Bell township.

By his first marriage, Francis M. Spront had the following children: Mary, wife of L. W. Moberly, a farmer living near Milan, Missouri, and William, a merchant and banker of Starbuck, Washington.

On April 8, 1888, John Spront was married to Jennie Kent in Sullivan county, Missouri. She was a native of that county, the daughter of George Kent, a mechanic, who is a native of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Spront's mother, Mary (Jackson) Kent, was born in Kentucky, and died in Sullivan county, Missouri, on April 19, 1905. Besides Mrs. Spront, George Kent and wife were the parents of the following children: William R., a farmer of Sullivan county, Missouri; Mary Etta, wife of William Whan, farmer of Mercer county, Missouri, and Charles F., a farmer of Sullivan county.

Mr. and Mrs. Spront are the parents of a daughter and a son. The former is Etta, wife of E. G. Walker, grain buyer, of Goodwill, Oklahoma. She was born February 25, 1889, in Grundy county, Missouri. The son is Wade F., born in the same place, February 5, 1892. He is employed in a garage in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Spront has a fine farm of two hundred acres in Miami township. In October, 1898, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in the southeast quarter of section 8, township 26, range 10, on which he placed his buildings, and made his home. In February, 1911, he bought an additional forty acres in the northwest quarter of section 16, township 26, range 10. He has served on the school board of his township as treasurer for four years, and has held the office of township treasurer for two years. A loyal Republican, a faithful member of the Christian church, and an Odd Fellow in good standing, he ranks high in the citizenship of Reno county.

## S. LESLIE COOPER.

S. Leslie Cooper, a well-known and energetic young farmer of Salt Creek township, this county, is a native-born son of Reno county, having been born on a homestead farm in Salt Creek township on December 13, 1874, son of Thomas and Mary (Yokum) Cooper, both of whom were born and reared in central Illinois.

Thomas Cooper was reared to the life of a farm in central Illinois, became a farmer on his own account and there married Mary Yokum, a neighbor girl, and made his home there until 1874, in the spring of which year he and his wife and two small children came to this county and homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in Salt Creek township. The grasshopper plague coming on just after their arrival here proved so discouraging to Mr. Cooper that he did not "prove up" his claim. The next year, however, still having confidence in this section, he homesteaded another quarter of a section, this time in Enterprise township, and there established a new home. After their arrival here two more children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, thus giving them four, namely: Charles, a well-known resident of Hutchinson, this county; Cora, who married Will Powell and lives in Hutchinson; S. Leslie, the immediate subject of this sketch, and Ada, unmarried, who lives in Hutchinson. The mother of these children died in 1883, at the age of thirty-three years, and Mr. Cooper married, secondly, Charlotte Wiley, to which union there was no issue. Thomas Cooper remained on his homestead tract in Enterprise township until 1892, in which year he sold out and bought a quarter of a section of land in the north end of Salt Creek township, where he made his home until 1907. He and his wife then retired from the farm and moved to Nickerson, this county, where Mr. Cooper died on December 19, 1911, on the sixty-eighth anniversary of his birthday, and where his widow still makes her home. Thomas Cooper was a Democrat and took an active interest in local politics, having served as township trustee in both Salt Creek and Enterprise townships. He and his wife were active members of the Christian church.

S. L. Cooper received his elementary education in the district school in the neighborhood of his boyhood home in Enterprise township, supplementing the same by later attendance on the graded school at Nickerson, and lived on his father's place until grown. He then rented a farm in Salt Creek township, which he successfully operated for three years, at the

end of which time he bought one hundred and sixty acres in that same township, on which he lived for three years. He then sold that place and for four years thereafter managed his father's farm. Upon the death of his father he inherited twenty acres of the latter's estate and in addition to the cultivation of that small tract operates, under lease, the Jacob Wisart place in Salt Creek township and two hundred acres additional adjoining, and is regarded as a progressive and successful farmer. Mr. Cooper is a Democrat and has served as constable of his home township. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and takes an active interest in the affairs of that order.

In December, 1896, S. Leslie Cooper was united in marriage to Bertha Griffin, who was born in Enterprise township, this county, daughter of John and Emma Griffin, pioneers of that township, who still live there, owners of a farm of four hundred and forty acres, and to this union six children have been born, as follow: Lysle, born on April 22, 1898, assistant to his father on the farm; John, January 13, 1900, a student in the county high school at Nickerson; Clarence, June 2, 1902; Lloyd, June 1, 1904; Charles, September 16, 1906, and Clifford, January 14, 1909.

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### J. N. BAILEY.

J. N. Bailey, son of I. and Nancy (West) Bailey, was born in Crawfordsville, Indiana, June 15, 1861. His father was born in Baden-Baden, Germany, in 1828, and came to America in 1851. He settled in Crawfordsville, Indiana, where he remained until his death, which occurred in 1893. He followed the trade of a stone-cutter. The mother was born in Kentucky, in 1830, and died at her home in Crawfordsville, Indiana, in 1893. She was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church. Our subject's sister, Fannie, married B. Turner, a farmer, of Boone county, Indiana.

J. N. Bailey received his education in the graded schools of Crawfordsville, Indiana, and after leaving school he engaged in farming in Indiana. In 1882, he removed to Linneus, Missouri, where he was engaged in farming until 1888, when he removed to Hutchinson, Kansas. Here he embarked in the real estate and loan business which he continued for about ten years with success. Since 1898 he has been engaged, exclusively, in loans and insurance, with offices at No. 4, Sherman avenue, east. Mr.

Bailey is an enterprising, progressive citizen, interested in every movement that tends to the growth and development of the town and the betterment of the community. All his money is invested in Hutchinson and all his interests are here, which is evidence of his faith and confidence in the future of the city and in the security of his investments.

Mr. Bailey is one of the promoters of Crescent Park addition, which is located between Seventeenth and Twentieth avenues, and Main and Plum streets. The addition consists of fourteen blocks, and has a boulevard (Crescent boulevard) running through the plat in the form of a crescent.

In his fraternal associations Mr. Bailey is a Mason, a Knight Templar, and has for twenty-five or thirty years been a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a member of the Hutchinson Commercial Club, and the Hutchinson County Club. His political affiliation is with the Republican party; he is a member of the Christian church. He was married, September, 1887, in Missouri, to Beulah Jackson, who was born in Bedford, Missouri, August 12, 1867. She is the daughter of James and Minerva (Wolfscales) Jackson, who were both natives of Missouri. Mrs. Bailey is a member of the Christian church. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Bailey are: Cloyd H., born in Aurora, Nebraska, July 7, 1888. He is associated with his father in the loan and insurance business, and is a member of the Presbyterian church in Hutchinson. Archie A., born in Hutchinson, March 3, 1890. He is an evangelical singer, and has been associated in evangelical work with W. T. Brooks and R. C. L. Vawter. He also has a conservatory of music in Marshalltown, Iowa. He is a member of the Christian church. Ledessa Arvilla, born in Hutchinson, February 4, 1896. She has been, for one year a student in the Drake University, at Des Moines, Iowa, studying music, for which she has a talent, and other branches. She is a member of the Christian church.

The Bailey homestead is at No. 16 Ninth avenue, east, and is one of the most handsome residences of Hutchinson. This has been their place of residence for eighteen years.

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### J. W. COOK.

J. W. Cook was born in Knox county, Ohio, February 19, 1859, and is the son of Isaac Newton and Hannah (Bell) Cook. His mother's parents were Isaac and Mary (Harrison) Bell, natives of Ohio and members of



the Christian church. Her father, Isaac Bell, was a farmer and breeder of fine live stock, and a very prominent man in his community. He was elected to the state Senate on the Democratic ticket, where he served with distinction. He reared a large family of children to lives of usefulness and honor.

Stephen Cook, the paternal grandfather of J. W. Cook, was born in Pennsylvania, but moved to Martinsburg, Ohio, where he farmed until his death. He was a descendant of Francis Cook, of Yorkshire, England, who is supposed to have come across with the Pilgrim Fathers in the "Mayflower." His grandson, Jacob Cook, fought in the Indian War against King Philip. Jacob's son, Stephen, was a soldier of the Revolutionary War, and Stephen Cook, the grandfather of J. W. Cook, belonged to a generation or two nearer our present time. The latter was an Ohio pioneer and a Presbyterian. His children, all deceased, were Sarah, Phoebe, Isaac N. and Emeline.

Isaac N. Cook was born in Ohio, in 1823, and died in 1886. He was a graduate of the academy in Martinsburg. He moved from there to Mc-Lane county, Illinois, in 1865. His wife, who was born in 1830, died in 1914. Their children were Stephen B. (deceased), Harrison B., John W., Frank E. and Isaac E.

John W. Cook received his early educational training in the public schools of his home county, and later was a student in Wesleyan College, where he took a scientific course with the intention of becoming a physician, but an attack of the measles settling in his eyes, necessitated his giving up the idea, and he returned to the farm. After his marriage Mr. Cook lived for one year in Cooksville, Illinois, coming to Hutchinson, Kansas, in 1892. He was in the real estate business there for eight years, and was also connected with the Brown Corn and Hay Company, of that city. He is now living on his quarter section of land in Grant township, where he is successfully farming.

John W. Cook was married on December 17, 1891, to Carrie A. Smith, who was born September 15, 1865, in Illinois. Her parents were Rev. Fieldon and Nettie (Cornwall) Smith, the former a native of Kentucky, and the latter a native of New York state. Rev. Fieldon Smith belonged to the Western conference. His death occurred in Avon, Illinois, in 1894. His widow is now living at Los Angeles, California. Mr. Cook and wife are the parents of one daughter, Rowena, born April 14, 1893.



John W. Cook has always taken an active interest in local affairs, having served two terms as township trustee. Mrs. Cook is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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### WALTER F. WILLIAMS.

Walter F. Williams, one of the best-known farmers of Roscoe township, this county, and a prominent resident of the Pretty Prairie neighborhood, is a native of the great Empire state, having been born at Beaver Dam, New York, July 3, 1858, son of J. C. and Mary (Smalley) Williams, the former a native of New Jersey, and the latter of New York.

J. C. Williams, in his day, was one of the most prominent men in his section of New York state and was a power in politics. At the time Levi P. Morton was inaugurated governor of New York he offered to send a special car to Beaver Dam for Mr. Williams in order that he might ride in comfort to Albany to witness the inauguration. He was the son of William John and Ruth (Forgerson) Williams, the former of whom, with three brothers, sons of Jacob Williams, came from Ireland to the United States and settled at Williamsville, New Jersey. During the War of 1812 John Williams enlisted in behalf of the Americans in their second war of independence against England and served valiantly throughout that struggle. He married Ruth Forgerson, of New Jersey, daughter of Robert Forgerson, a soldier of the Revolution, who had served for six years during the War of Independence, and J. C. Williams was a son of that union. J. C. Williams was reared in New Jersey and became a cooper by trade. At the age of twenty-two he left his native state and went to New York state, where he engaged in farming, later moving to Beaver Dam, where he spent his last days, his death occurring in 1896. He was a lifelong and active member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His first wife, Mary Smalley, mother of Walter F. Williams, was the daughter of William and Catherine (Conover) Smalley, the former of whom, a native of England, a miller by trade, came to the United States and settled in New York state, erecting the first water-power mill in the section of the state in which he settled. Though born in England, William Smalley's sympathies were with the people of his adopted country, and during the War of 1812, he fought on the American side. Mrs. Mary Williams died on December 7, 1869, leaving two sons, Walter F. and W. S. Williams, who died at the age of thirty-seven years. W. S. Williams was an

accomplished singer, and was a traveling salesman for a musical instrument firm, he having at one time been a resident of Hutchinson, this county. J. C. Williams married, secondly, Catherine Ferguson, which second union was without issue.

Walter F. Williams was little more than ten years old when his mother died and thereafter, until he was fifteen years of age, he made his home with his uncle, E. Edwin Ottlev. At the age of fifteen he began work on his own account and in the spring of 1880, at about the age of twenty-two years, he came to Kansas and bought a quarter section of land in the Pretty Prairie neighborhood in Roscoe township, this county, which he immediately set about developing. On March 4, 1886, Walter F. Williams married Augusta Johnson, who was born in Dayton, Ohio, February 10, 1857, daughter of Samuel and Hannah (Hemphill) Johnson, pioneers of Roscoe township, and established his home on his farm, where he ever since has resided and where he and his family are very comfortably and pleasantly situated. The farm is well improved and well cultivated and Mr. Williams is regarded as one of the substantial farmers of his community.

To Mr. and Mrs. Williams three children have been born, W. W., now living at Orlando, Florida, and Nellie. Mr. Williams is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

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### CHARLES E. HIATT.

Charles E. Hiatt, son of William and Jane (Barnes) Hiatt, was born in Piatt county, Illinois, August 23, 1865. His maternal grandfather, Samuel Barnes, was a native of Virginia and a farmer. His home was in Pickaway county, Virginia, and there he lived and died. Samuel Barnes and his wife, Susannah Dean, were the parents of two children, Benjamin and Jane, both of whom are now deceased. Susannah Dean had been married previous to her union with Samuel Barnes, and was the mother of two children by her first marriage, Longworth and James, the latter of whom is deceased.

Thomas Hiatt, the paternal grandfather of Charles E. Hiatt, was born in Kentucky, and by occupation was a farmer. His children, all of whom are now deceased, were as follow: John, Thomas, George, William, Anna,

Mary and Catherine. He died in Kentucky. William Hiatt, the father of Charles E., was born in Ohio and received his education there. He died in March, 1912; his wife preceded him in death, dying in 1909. They were the parents of the following children, all of whom are living: Peter J., Sarah Elizabeth, John R., Frank E., and Charles E. William Hiatt was a farmer, and was a hard-working man all his life, the first part of which was spent in Piatt county, Illinois. In 1886 he moved his family to Kansas, and located in Rice county, three miles north of Nickerson. After living here for a few years, he retired from active labor and moved into Nickerson, where his death occurred.

Charles E. Hiatt received his education in the district schools of Piatt county, Illinois, and when his parents moved to Kansas, he accompanied them. He took up farming as a vocation, and in 1903, moved to his present location, which consists of one hundred and eighty acres of fine farming land, which he has improved in various ways, and is ranked among the successful farmers of his section. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' elevator at Nickerson, and takes an active interest in all measures for the uplift of his community.

Mr. Hiatt was married to Julia Wocknitz, a native of Wisconsin and the daughter of William Wocknitz. They are the parents of three children, Hazel N., Ella Jane and Victor C.

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### JAMES HASTON.

The late James Haston, who for years was one of the best-known farmers and stockmen in Reno county, owner of a farm of fourteen hundred acres in Walnut township, on which he was extensively engaged in raising cattle, a prominent member of the board of management of the Kansas State Fair Association, and for years one of the leaders in the general enterprises of the part of the county in which he made his home, was a Virginian, born on a farm in Botetourt county, Virginia, March 25, 1852, son of John and Frances (Lyle) Haston, who were the parents of ten children, six sons and four daughters.

John Haston was born in Botetourt county, Virginia, July 28, 1804, son of John Haston, a native of Scotland, who had come to this country when thirteen years of age and who had served as a soldier in General Wade's command during the Revolutionary War. Upon coming to this country he

had entered the service of a distiller in Virginia and when twenty-one years of age was the owner of a half interest in the business, which business he followed the rest of his life. While serving as a soldier in the patriot army his skull was broken by a cannon ball, but the fracture was skillfully trephined and he lived for many years thereafter with a silver plate in his skull. At the time of his death he was the owner of eight hundred and eighty-eight acres of land in the Blue Ridge. He was born Hastings, but upon coming to this country became known as Hastons, which ever since has been the family name on this side of the water. The junior John Haston was a powerful man, standing six feet, eleven inches in his stockings, and at the age of twenty-one was the overseer on the great plantation of Colonel Preston, in Virginia, a position he held for five years before engaging in farming on his own account. At the time of his death on July 28, 1871, he was the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and eighty-four acres in Botetourt county, Virginia, and had long been accounted one of the leading citizens of that community. He was married in 1844 and to him and his wife ten children were born, six sons and four daughters. His widow, who survived him many years, was born in Virginia in 1837, daughter of Thomas and Susan (Wade) Lyle, both natives of the Old Dominion, the latter of whom was a daughter of Gen. Isaac Wade, of Revolutionary fame. Thomas Lyle was a native of Seaford county, Virginia, and was a man of substance and influence in his community. Two of his sons, William and John, were killed in service during the Civil War. About 1875 the Widow Haston disposed of her interests in Virginia and with her family moved to Ohio, locating in Preble county. There the elder sons rented land and she remained with them until 1886, in which year she married Rev. James Neal and spent the remainder of her life near the city of Eaton, in that county, her death occurring in 1910.

James Haston grew up on the home plantation in Virginia and received his education in the neighboring schools. On April 1, 1874, about three years after his father's death, he left Virginia and went over into Ohio, locating at Seven Mile, in Butler county, where for four years he worked at the carpenter trade. He then moved up into Preble county and located at Camden, where he began working at the same trade and where he married in the spring of 1878. Six years later, in the spring of 1886, he came to Kansas, arriving at Sterling on March 4th of that year. Not long after coming to this section he traded a team of horses and a wagon for a small tract of land in section 5, Walnut township, this county, and there established his home. He prospered in his farming operations from the very



beginning and presently began to add to his land holdings, gradually increasing the same until he became the owner of fourteen hundred acres of fine land in this county and was regarded as one of the most substantial citizens of the Sterling neighborhood. He early went in quite extensively for stock raising and became one of the best-known cattlemen of that section. In 1897 he handled twenty-one thousand head of cattle on his ranch, and though not continuing his live stock operations on quite so extensive a scale was for years heavily interested in the cattle business and annually sold thousands of cattle. He also did quite a business in handling hogs, horses and mules, while he was known as one of the biggest producers of broom corn in that section.

Mr. Haston took an active interest in general public enterprises from the time he settled in this county, and became a man of large influence in his community. He was one of the fifty men who guaranteed the fund for the establishment of the Kansas State Fair Association at Hutchinson, and ever took an active part in the affairs of that organization, of which he had been a member ever since its creation. For ten years he served as one of the directors of the association, a member of the executive committee of the same, and manager of the speed ring, during which time he came to be one of the best-known horsemen in the state. He also gave proper attention to local civic affairs and for some time served as treasurer of Walnut township, and for sixteen years as treasurer of the school board. Mr. Haston was taken ill early in the spring of 1916 with a trouble with his heart. He was under the best medical care but his rugged system was unable to throw off the trouble and he died on July 8. His remains were buried in a cemetery close to his home. One of the largest funerals ever held in Reno county attested the high esteem in which he was held. His death was a distinct loss to the county.

On March 7, 1878, in Preble county, Ohio, James Haston was married to Mary J. Campbell, who was born in that county, April 25, 1858, daughter of John and Martha (Scott) Campbell, well-to-do farming people of the Fairhaven neighborhood in that county, and to that union four children were born, namely: R. L., who married Anna Bain, and has two children, James M. and Ava Elizabeth; Frank B., who married Mabel Bain, and has one child, a daughter, Ethel; Samuel O. and Gladys I. Mr. Haston was a thirty-second-degree Mason, having been admitted to the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Consistory of Wichita, in 1899, and took a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.



## A. R. HOLDEMAN.

A. R. Holdeman, one of the prominent and successful merchants of Pretty Prairie, was born in Wooster, Ohio, on April 21, 1863, being the son of John and Elizabeth (Ritter) Holdeman. John Ritter, the maternal grandfather of A. R. Holdeman, was a native of Pennsylvania, where he was born in 1801. He later moved to Ohio when the daughter Elizabeth was eleven years of age. Mr. Holdeman was a cooper by trade and after some years of residence in Ohio, he moved to Jasper county, Missouri, where he died in 1886. Amos Holdeman, the paternal grandfather of A. R., was a native of Ohio, where he lived his early life and was married to Nancy Yoder. Mr. Holdeman was a prominent farmer and stock man, in which he was most successful. In 1883 he removed to Jasper county, Missouri, where he died in 1887.

John Holdeman, the father of A. R., was educated in the district schools and later studied Greek and Latin at home. After completing his education, he entered the ministry, in which work he was engaged for forty-seven years. He died on March 4, 1900. His widow is still living at Pretty Prairie. To this union six children were born, three boys and three girls.

A. R. Holdeman was educated in the common schools of Ohio, where he grew to manhood. He later came to Jasper county, Missouri, with his parents and here married Sarah Capp, in 1883. To this union were born the following children: J. H., Elizabeth, A. A., Charles, Dora A., Flossie C. and Mamie. In 1889 the family returned to Ohio where they lived at Wadsworth for three years, after which they removed to Reno county, Kansas, and lived on a farm for twelve years. Mr. Holdeman, after leaving the farm, engaged in the mercantile business at Hutchinson, Kansas, with his son. In April, 1915, he left Hutchinson and located in Pretty Prairie, where he conducts a general store and meat market. He is still the owner of two hundred and twelve acres of farm land and has stock in the elevator company at Castleton. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.











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