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# BUFFALO COUNTY

NEBRASKA

AND ITS PEOPLE

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ILLUSTRATED

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VOLUME II

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*M. A. Hostetler.*



# BIOGRAPHICAL

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MAX A. HOSTETLER.

With the commercial development of Shelton Max A. Hostetler has been closely associated for many years and he has also become widely known through the state as the representative of the fifty-ninth district in the general assembly, where he has done important committee work and has been identified with much constructive legislation. He was born February 7, 1857, in Broadhead, Wisconsin, and after attending the rural schools made his initial step in the business world at farm work in Kearney county, Nebraska. He afterward formed a partnership with a brother for the conduct of a general mercantile business at Lowell and since 1878 has been the owner of a dry goods store in Shelton. Thirty-seven years have since come and gone, during which he has been continuously connected with the commercial activity of the city, and his progress has been based upon thorough study of the trade and the employment of modern commercial methods, leading to the attainment of honorable success. He has figured prominently in business circles not only of Shelton but of the state. He was the first president of the State Federation of Retail Merchants, to which position he was elected in 1906, serving for three years. He has since been its treasurer and is also treasurer of the Federated Merchants Mutual Insurance Company. Aside from the conduct of the Daylight Store, by which name his Shelton establishment is known, he is interested in other business enterprises, all of which profit by his sound judgment and the spirit of advancement which he infuses therein.

On the 21st of September, 1880, at Gibbon, Nebraska, Mr. Hostetler was married to Miss Ella M. Doggett, a daughter of Cary Armsted and Mary (Huffman) Doggett, both of whom were representatives of old Virginia families, the former of Scotch-Irish descent, while the latter came of German and French lineage. The ancestral line of the Doggett family in America can be traced back to 1670, when representatives of the name lived in Lancaster, Virginia, and their history is found in the Congressional library in Washington. The great-grandfather served in the Revolutionary war and the grandfather served in the War of 1812 under two enlistments, while Cary Doggett became an officer in the American army in the Mexican war and held the rank of first lieutenant in the First Ohio Cavalry during the Civil war. Mrs. Hostetler has been very prominent in club and lodge circles in the state for thirty years and is now president of the Mothers' Day Association and of the Legislative Ladies' League. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hostetler hold membership in the Presbyterian church and fraternally he is connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen, of which

he was financier for many years, and with the Modern Brotherhood of America. His political allegiance is given to the republican party. He was the president of the first commercial club in Shelton and served in that capacity for many years. He was elected president of the State Commercial Club Association at its organization and served in that capacity for one year, declining reelection. His interest in all matters pertaining to the public welfare is deep and sincere and has been manifest in many tangible ways whereby the substantial growth and development of the city has been augmented. He was a member of the town council of Shelton for twelve years and is now serving for the second term as a member of the Nebraska legislature, taking his seat in 1913 and serving again through the session of 1915. He is a member of the committees on claims and deficiencies, judiciary, school lands and funds, and during his connection with the legislature has given careful consideration to all vital questions coming up for settlement. He regards a public office as a public trust and is ever true to any trust reposed in him. He has therefore made an excellent official and his legislative work reflects credit and honor upon the constituency that has honored him with election to office.

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### JOHN HENNING.

John Henning is an honored pioneer settler of Buffalo county and a retired farmer now living in Kearney. He was born in Logan county, Ohio, November 10, 1838, was reared in Union county, that state, and pursued his education in the public schools near his father's home. Through the periods of vacation he assisted in the work of the farm, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He continued upon the farm until, feeling that his duty to his country was paramount to all else, he enlisted for service on the 17th of August, 1861, as a member of Company F, Thirty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for two years, seven months and nine days, when he was honorably discharged on account of disability. He participated in the hard fought battles of Perryville, Stone River and Chickamauga and a number of hotly contested skirmishes and was twice hit with spent balls but was not wounded. However, he suffered injuries owing to the rigors and hardships of war, for he has never fully recovered his health and his army service has caused deafness in the left ear. For a time he was in the hospital at Chattanooga and also at Nashville, and at the latter place was honorably discharged.

After returning home Mr. Henning worked for a time and then rented a farm in Ohio, upon which he resided until March, 1872, when he came to Nebraska and homesteaded in Buffalo county in town 9, range 16, his place being located on section 14. This he at once began to develop and improve and thereon he continued to follow general farming until he retired in 1910 and came to Kearney, since which time he has sold the farm property. He brought his fields to a high state of cultivation and was regarded as one of the representative agriculturists of the community. His well directed labors brought him

substantial success and he is now the possessor of a competency which supplies him with all the comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

On the 29th of April, 1865, Mr. Henning was married to Miss Eliza Jane Ballinger, who was also born in Logan county, Ohio, July 25, 1845, and was there reared and educated. She came to Buffalo county in 1872 and is numbered among the pioneer women of this part of the state. To Mr. and Mrs. Henning were born ten children, of whom four died in infancy. Those who survive are: Lucy Belle, who first wedded John B. Mallady, and after his death became the wife of Ira Knipedt; Eva Ellen, the wife of David Wellington, of Sac City, Iowa; Mary Alice, the wife of John Tattum, of Lincoln, Nebraska; William E., who follows farming in Logan county, Colorado; Nathan Thomas, who is engaged in farming in Buffalo county; and Rachel Grace, the wife of John Vance, a farmer of Federal, Wyoming.

The parents were among the first members of the Methodist church of Kearney and few of the charter members of that organization are now living. They have always contributed generously to its support and done everything possible to promote its growth and extend its influence. Mr. Henning holds membership in Sedgwick Post, No. 1, G. A. R. of Kearney and has held most of its offices save that of commander, which he declined to fill on account of his hearing. His wife is connected with the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic. Both are held in highest esteem, having a circle of friends that is coextensive with the circle of their acquaintance. They have lived to see practically the entire development and growth of this section of the state and have borne their part in bringing about those changes which have wrought for the substantial improvement of town and county. Mr. Henning is now in the seventy-eighth year of his age and is one of the most highly respected of Kearney's representative pioneer citizens.

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### C. S. FIELDGROVE.

Among the men who are contributing to the development of Sharon township along agricultural lines is C. S. Fieldgrove, who owns and operates an excellent farm on section 35. He was born in Lawrence county, Pennsylvania, on the 31st of January, 1866, and is a son of Henry and Margaret A. (Mires) Fieldgrove, natives of Germany and Pennsylvania respectively. The father came to the United States in the '50s and settled in Pennsylvania, where he was married. At the time of the Civil war he served in the Union army and in times of peace was also willing to make personal sacrifices to promote the public good. After the close of the war he returned to Pennsylvania but in 1871 removed to Nebraska and became the owner of a good farm in Sharon township, Buffalo county, on which he lived until his demise in 1904. His wife has now reached the advanced age of eighty-four years. Five of their eight children are living.

C. S. Fieldgrove received a college education and also gained valuable training in agriculture through assisting his father with the farm work. He remained at home until he was twenty-seven years of age, when he bought one

hundred and sixty acres on section 35, Sharon township, where he has since lived. He also owns an interest in a fifty-six acre tract, and his farming and stockraising activities leave him little time for outside interests. He has given especial attention to the breeding of high grade stock and as the years have passed he has accumulated more than a competence. He has increased the value of his property by erecting fine modern buildings and he is financially interested in the Farmers Elevator at Shelton.

Mr. Fieldgrove was married in 1890 to Miss Sarah Boyer, a native of Michigan, by whom he had four children: Floyd H.; Blanche, who is a graduate of the State Normal School and is now engaged in teaching school; Grace, a high school student; and Charles M., at home. Mrs. Fieldgrove died on the 1st of November, 1902, and her demise was sincerely mourned by her many warm friends. In 1904 Mr. Fieldgrove was united in marriage to Mrs. Maggie (Johnson) Turton, who was born in Pleasant Plain, Iowa, and is a daughter of James W. Johnson. Mrs. Fieldgrove had two children by her first husband: Leona, who is now attending the State Normal School; and Bertha, who died in infancy.

Mr. Fieldgrove casts his ballot in support of the republican party and has been called to office, having served as township treasurer and as a member of the school board. He is well known in local Masonic circles, belonging to the blue lodge at Shelton and being also identified with chapter and commandery at Kearney. He has also taken the thirty-second degree in the Scottish Rite and is identified with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. The success which he has gained is the more enviable in that it is the result solely of his own efforts and good management.

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#### FREEMAN MERRYMAN.

The farming interests of the county find a worthy representative in Freeman Merryman, who resides on section 9, Center township. Moreover, he is a veteran of the Civil war and has ever been a loyal citizen, as true to his country in days of peace as when he followed the stars and stripes on southern battlefields. Illinois claims him as a native son. He was born in Richland Grove township, Mercer county, June 15, 1845, his father being David D. Merryman, while his grandfather was Timothy D. Merryman, who was in possession of the coat of arms of the family. The first entry of lands by any of the family in Maine was made in the year 1641. The grandfather removed from Maine to Illinois in 1834 and subsequently settled in Mercer county, casting in his lot with the pioneer residents of that part of the state. He had previously served his country as a soldier in the War of 1812. His son, David D. Merryman, wedded Miss Phoebe Hibbard, who was also descended from Revolutionary ancestry, the family having been represented in the war for independence by John Hibbard and a Captain Rowe. David D. Merryman was a farmer by occupation and followed that pursuit in Illinois until 1882, when he removed to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and established his home in Kearney, where he lived retired until his death in 1891.

Freeman Merryman, spending his youthful days under the parental roof,





Freeman Merryman



attended the public schools of Mercer county to the age of seventeen years, when his patriotic spirit was aroused and he enlisted for service in the Civil war, being enrolled with the boys in blue on the 6th of August, 1862. He was assigned to duty with Company C, One Hundred and Second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was honorably discharged on the 14th of June, 1865. He had been wounded at the battle of Resaca, Georgia, on the 15th of May, 1864. He participated in the campaign through Kentucky and Tennessee under Generals Thomas and Rosecrans and subsequently served under General Sherman until the Grand Review at Washington, D. C., in which he took part. He had participated in the engagements at Resaca, Cassville, Dallas, New Hope Church, Lost Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, crossing the Chattahoochee, Peach Tree Creek and the siege of Atlanta. In 1864 he had served under Fighting Joe Hooker, and as he and his comrades were armed with the Spencer seven-shot repeating rifles, they were kept in the thick of the fray. Following the Atlanta campaign Mr. Merryman took part in the engagements at Averysboro and at Bentonville, North Carolina, and thence went to Raleigh, where his regiment was stationed at the close of the war. He marched with Sherman's army in the Grand Review in the capital city, where the victorious Union troops marched through the streets of Washington, cheered by the thousands who watched the parade and welcomed the return of the veterans.

After receiving his discharge Mr. Merryman returned to Mercer county, Illinois, and worked upon his father's farm for a year. He then married and located in Moline, Illinois, and for seventeen years was in the employ of the John Deere Plow Company, spending five years of that time as foreman of the wood department and three years as a contractor. When he left the company he was receiving a salary of four thousand dollars annually but was obliged to resign his position on account of his health. He then came to Nebraska in June, 1883. He had visited the state in 1879 and had bought out holdings. On his removal to the state four years later he took up his abode in Kearney, for his property interests were in Buffalo county. He now owns one thousand and fifty acres of land, none of which is upon the market. For the past twelve years he has resided in his country home one mile south and three miles east of the business center of Kearney and from this point he superintends his invested interests, which are extensive and important and which return to him a most gratifying annual income.

In 1866 Mr. Merryman was united in marriage to Miss Alcinda B. Van Meter, of Richland Grove, Mercer county, Illinois. To them were born four children, three of whom survive, as follows: Minnie E., the wife of Walter R. Gamble, of Kearney, Nebraska; Arthur F., who follows farming in Center township; and Nellie E., at home. The wife and mother passed away on the 16th of May, 1892.

For the past twenty years or more Mr. Merryman has done nothing save look after his property holdings and other interests. He has also spent considerable time in travel and on his trips has become acquainted with many of the notable public men of the day. In politics he is a republican, while fraternally he is connected with the Masons and with Sedgwick Post, No. 1, G. A. R., of which he served for one year as commander. He has also been junior vice department commander of Nebraska and he served as chief of staff of the department of Nebraska and as aid-de-camp on the staff of General D. J. Palmer and others.

He is one of the well known residents of Buffalo county and is a representative of our best type of American manhood and chivalry. By perseverance, determination and honorable effort he has overthrown the obstacles which barred his path to success and has reached the goal of prosperity, while his genuine worth, broad mind and public spirit have made him a director of public thought and action. At all times he is ready to lend his aid and cooperation to any movement calculated to benefit this section of the country or advance its wonderful development.

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#### KERSEY O. HOLMES.

For the past thirty years Kersey O. Holmes has been a resident of Buffalo county, during which period he has been identified with commercial and financial interests in a manner that has contributed not only to his individual success but to the promotion of public prosperity as well. Born in Columbiana county, Ohio, on the 21st of August, 1842, he is a son of Dr. Jesse Holmes, a native of Virginia, who in young manhood removed to Ohio, settling in Columbiana county. Determining upon the practice of medicine as a life work, he obtained his professional education in Columbus, Ohio, previous to which time, however, he had proven a successful and capable teacher. He taught for a considerable period, almost exclusively in those schools conducted by the Society of Friends, or Quakers, of which sect he was a representative. In fact he became well known as one of the prominent ministers of that society. In various places he continued his educational labors and displayed marked ability in imparting readily and concisely to others the knowledge that he had acquired. He married Rebecca Hanna, an aunt of Marcus Hanna, who afterward became United States senator from Ohio. Three children were born of this union, of whom two are yet living, the elder being Elizabeth, the wife of David Townsend, a resident of California. The wife and mother passed away in 1847 and Dr. Holmes afterward wedded Mercy Lloyd, while his third wife was Sarah M. Paxson, who bore him three children, of whom two are now living: Mrs. John N. Dryden, of Kearney, Nebraska; and Dr. Jesse H. Holmes, a member of the faculty of Swarthmore College of Pennsylvania, occupying the professorship of Biblical literature. The father, Dr. Jesse Holmes, removed to Iowa and for a time practiced his profession at Mount Pleasant and later at West Liberty. In 1879 he became a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska, where he resided until his death, about 1885.

Kersey O. Holmes spent his early days in Ohio and with his father removed to Mount Pleasant, Iowa, in 1857. His primary education was obtained in the public schools of his native county, followed by further study in the public schools of Mount Pleasant. By competitive examination, which was then the rule, each county being entitled to a scholarship, he earned the right of admission as a student to the State University at Iowa City, where he was in attendance for about three years. He read law at Davenport, Iowa, with the firm of Putnam & Rogers, and later with Edmunds & Ransom of Iowa City. In 1865 he was admitted to the bar and for a short time was engaged in the practice of law in Louisa and Muscatine counties, after which he removed to Des



Moines, where he engaged in practice until his removal to Audubon, Iowa, where he practiced until ill health led to his relinquishment of professional activity.

In 1886 Mr. Holmes came to Kearney, Nebraska, where he has since lived. For twenty-nine years he was engaged in mercantile pursuits and figured as one of the most prominent business men of the city in which he now makes his home. He also served as postmaster for four years during the administration of President Roosevelt. Since its organization he has been a stockholder of the City National Bank and called to official position is now serving as vice president. His judgment in business affairs is sound, his sagacity keen, his integrity unassailable and his enterprise unfaltering.

On the 19th of November, 1866, Mr. Holmes was married to Miss Etta Raymond, a daughter of Kendall Raymond, of Monroe county, New York. Mrs. Holmes is a graduate of the Iowa State University, and by her marriage has become the mother of two sons, Ernest Raymond and Loring J., both deceased.

In his political views Mr. Holmes is a republican and has never voted any other ticket. He was elected and served a part of two terms a member of the board of supervisors of Buffalo county and it was during his term that the present courthouse was erected, Mr. Holmes being made chairman of the building committee. He has never wavered in his allegiance to the religious faith of his father, being still a Quaker in belief, and he has always been an active worker for the cause of temperance. His life has at all times been upright and honorable, exemplifying the traits of sterling manhood and citizenship. The consensus of public opinion places him in the front rank among Kearney's leading men and wherever he is known he is held in highest regard.

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#### R. F. CRUIT.

R. F. Cruit is a resident farmer of Center township, his home being on section 7. His residence in the county covers a period of more than three decades, during which time he has seen this district emerge from pioneer conditions and take on all the evidence of a progressive and modern civilization. He was born near Lancaster, Ohio, July 28, 1862, and is a son of George W. and Sarah (Young) Cruit, both of whom passed away in the Buckeye state. The mother died when her son R. F. was but seven years of age and the father, who was a farmer by occupation, afterward married Miss Margaret Moyer.

R. F. Cruit was reared under the parental roof and acquired his education in the public schools and as a student in the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio. In 1882 he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, settling on his present home farm, which his father had previously purchased, George W. Cruit having become the owner of three quarter sections in this county at different times during the late '70s. R. F. Cruit engaged in teaching through five terms of school after locating in Buffalo county. During that time he also built a house and barn upon his land and improved his farm, thus making a start in the work of converting raw prairie into a valuable farm property. In 1891 he wedded Miss Hattie Pool, of Buffalo county, a daughter of Achish Pool, who was one of the early pioneers of this part of the state. Mr. and

Mrs. Cruit became parents of two children: Beulah Gertrude, now a teacher in the city schools of Loup, Nebraska; and Robert Leroy, who is attending the Nebraska Wesleyan University at Lincoln. The wife and mother passed away in 1896 and in 1899 Mr. Cruit wedded Miss Bertha Smith, a native daughter of Buffalo county. Her father, James M. Smith, arrived in this county from Iowa in 1873 and homesteaded a quarter section of land in Thornton township, on which he built a sod house, which was the birthplace of Mrs. Cruit and in which she spent the first seven years of her life. To the second marriage have been born four children, Clarence F., Ruth L., Helen V. and Mabel Lois.

Mr. Cruit now owns two hundred and forty acres of land in his home farm and also another tract of two hundred acres in Grant township near Amherst. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company at Kearney and the Farmers Elevator at Glenwood. He likewise owns stock in the Kearney Canning Company and in the Union Valley Telephone Company and is a business man of marked enterprise. He closely and thoroughly studies every situation and guides his actions by a sound judgment that leads to success. His discernment is keen, his enterprise unflinching, and his energy has brought him to a prominent position among the agriculturists of Buffalo county.

In his political views Mr. Cruit is a republican and has served as a member of the school board and also as town treasurer for one term. Fraternally he is connected with the Woodmen of the World, with the Highlanders and with Buffalo Lodge, No. 37, I. O. O. F. He and his wife are consistent Christian people, the former belonging to the Methodist Episcopal church, while the latter is of the Evangelical faith. They are widely known and highly esteemed in the community where they reside, having a large circle of warm friends who entertain for them the deepest regard.

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### WHEELER WEBSTER.

Wheeler Webster, an up-to-date and able farmer residing on section 10, Gibbon township, was born in Ripley county, Indiana, in March, 1852. His parents, Thomas and Nancy (Dowers) Webster, were both natives of that county, whence in 1888 or 1889 they came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and during the remainder of their lives made their home among their children.

Wheeler Webster attended the common schools but as he was the eldest son and had to go to work at an early age his opportunities along educational lines were limited. When twenty years of age he rented land in Indiana, which he cultivated until 1883, when he removed to Buffalo county, Nebraska. After renting for several years he purchased land and now owns two farms, one of eighty acres and the other of one hundred and twenty acres. However, he resides on the J. B. Adams farm on section 10, Gibbon township, which comprises three hundred and twenty acres and which he has operated for twenty-four years. He understands farming thoroughly and as he is energetic and willing to profit by the discoveries of investigators along agricultural lines he seldom fails to secure good crops.

In March, 1873, Mr. Webster was married to Miss Rachel Young, also a

native of Ripley county, Indiana, and they have become the parents of five children, namely: Carl, who is operating one of his father's farms; George, who is engaged in the grocery business in Gibbon, Nebraska; Herbert, who operates his father's second farm; Chester, who assists his father in the operation of the Adams farm; and Nellie, the wife of Clyde Scott, a farmer of Gibbon township.

Mr. Webster supports the republican party at the polls and for about eight years served as road supervisor, his services in that capacity proving very acceptable. He holds membership in Gibbon Lodge, No. 138, K. P., and is loyal to the teachings of that organization concerning human brotherhood. The gratifying measure of success which he has gained is proof of his enterprise and good judgment, for since beginning his independent career he has depended solely upon his own resources.

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#### HON. PETER WINK.

Hon. Peter Wink, for thirty-one years a resident of Buffalo county, and at present engaged in the real estate business in Kearney, was born in Wright county, Minnesota, on the 25th of September, 1859. The parents, Valentine and Catherine (Peters) Wink, were farming people and in pioneer times the father took up a homestead claim in Wright county, Minnesota, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits until his removal to Juneau county, Wisconsin, where his remaining days were passed, his death occurring in 1904.

Peter Wink is the second in order of birth in a family of four children, all of whom are yet living. In his early boyhood he attended the neighboring district schools and when old enough he began to earn his own living, being variously employed. For a considerable time he rafted lumber from the pineries south on the Mississippi river and he was also engaged in digging two tunnels for the Northwestern Railroad Company. During harvest seasons he would hire out to farmers, receiving as high as five dollars per day for his services. This period of his life was filled with an abundance of hard work and was passed among real people who were struggling to get ahead in the world. This was the period perhaps which most largely developed and determined his character. While untiring labor was the order of the day this was also a period of enjoyment, for youth, virile and compelling, made little of obstacles. Mr. Wink saved considerable part of his earnings, the inherent thrift of his German forbears undoubtedly teaching him the importance of saving for the proverbial rainy day. He became foreman on a farm in Clinton county, Iowa, and occupied that position for two years.

It was in the year 1879 that Mr. Wink was united in marriage to Miss Mary Farrell, and in 1884 he removed to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and purchased two hundred and forty acres of railroad land in Thornton township at four dollars per acre. For twenty-seven years he there resided, devoting his life to general farming and stockraising, during which period he brought his fields to a high state of cultivation and added many modern improvements to the farm, which he still owns. In 1911, however, he left the farm and removed to



Kearney, where he opened a real estate office and has since been engaged in that line of business. He is thoroughly conversant concerning property values and he has negotiated many important realty transfers, being accorded a liberal clientage in his line.

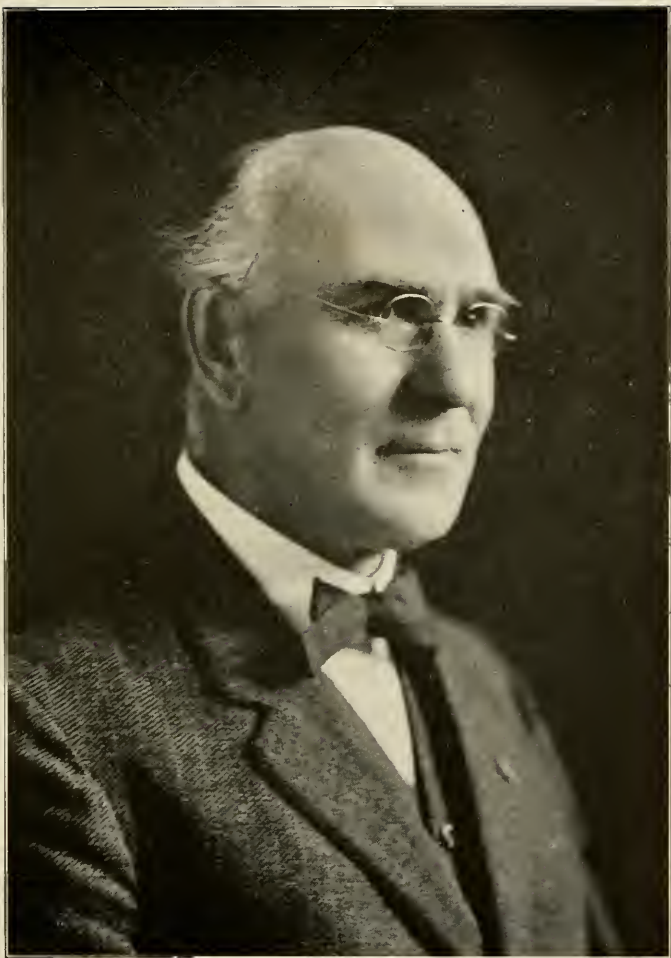
As the years went on Mr. and Mrs. Wink became the parents of four children: Frank, John, Clara and Alice, but the last named is deceased. The mother passed away in May, 1909, and for his second wife Mr. Wink chose Miss Bertha Vermeulen. In religious faith Mr. Wink is a Roman Catholic. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party and in 1913 he was elected state senator from the twenty-second senatorial district comprising the counties of Kearney, Buffalo and Sherman. He was reelected in 1915 and is now serving for the second term. During both sessions he has been a member of the ways and means committee and during the session of 1915 he was chairman of the committee on irrigation and water power. He took an active part in constructive legislation and was the author of several bills that were passed and are now found on the statute books of the state. He has labored persistently for the benefit of the community and of the commonwealth and his efforts have been far-reaching and resultant.

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### JOHN N. DRYDEN.

John N. Dryden was born on a farm in Dane county, Wisconsin, June 1, 1856. His father, Nathaniel H. Dryden, and his mother, Emily Balch Dryden, were of southern stock, the former from Tennessee and the latter from Alabama. At an early date they removed to Illinois where they were married September 10, 1840. They subsequently became pioneers, successively, in Wisconsin, in Iowa, and lastly in Nebraska, where they settled in Custer county in 1875. There were nine children, five of whom are now living. Nathaniel H. Dryden held local offices, such as school director, county supervisor, etc. He was a Christian citizen and exercised a strong constructive influence in building the foundations of the new social order in the localities where he lived. In 1884, the family moved to Kearney where they continued to reside until Mr. Dryden's death, which occurred April 13, 1907, at the ripe age of eighty-eight years, the wife having passed away at the age of eighty-three years, September 26, 1901.

John N. Dryden was educated in the common schools of the neighborhood, attended the Gibbon Academy for three years, from 1876 to 1879 and the following three years, the Nebraska State University. He was admitted to the bar at Kearney, in 1886, since which time he has been engaged in the active practice of his profession at the same place. He has sought no official preferment, having occupied no political office except that of member of the board of education and of the public library, in his home city. He is a member of the American Bar Association, and at present, president of the Nebraska State Bar Association. Mr. Dryden is a republican in politics—a progressive republican and an active, lifelong opponent of the open saloon. For more than thirty-five years he has been an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, twice has been elected



JOHN N. DRYDEN



delegate to the general conference of that organization and for twenty years has been a trustee of the Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Mr. Dryden is familiar with many aspects of pioneer life in Nebraska. During his boyhood days while a resident of Custer county, he drove the Star Mail Route from Kearney to Loup City, and thence to New Helena, a distance of one hundred ten miles, making weekly trips at a time when the houses in some instances, were thirty miles apart, and many of the streams unbridged. On such trips he has seen as many as seventy-five elk in a single drove, and is acquainted with and had a practical experience in almost every phase of pioneer life in central Nebraska. He has been an interested witness of the changes which have occurred and has helped to bring about the present conditions of civilization and development, happiness and prosperity to our people.

He was married to Helen M. Holmes, a daughter of Dr. Jesse and Sara M. P. Holmes, at Lincoln, Nebraska, January 31, 1884. Two children were born to these parents, Ruth Holmes Dryden, now Mrs. Herbert W. Kendall, of Fremont, Nebraska; and Kenneth H. Dryden, of Kearney, Nebraska.

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#### GEORGE C. LUNGER.

George C. Lunger has devoted his life to farming and has gained a gratifying measure of success, now owning two hundred and forty acres of fine land in Valley township. A native of Pennsylvania, he was born in Columbia county on the 23d of March, 1855, of the marriage of Jacob and Sarah (Hodge) Lunger, who were also born in that state. The father followed the carpenter's trade for fifty-five years and was widely known as an expert workman. Both he and his wife died in the Keystone state.

George C. Lunger is one of a family of twelve children, nine of whom are living. He was educated in the public schools and remained at home until he reached mature years. He then began learning the mason's and plasterer's trades, which he followed for about four years, but in 1878 he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and took up a claim. After living thereon for two years he traded that place for a farm of two hundred acres on section 17, Valley township, which he still owns. He has made many improvements upon the place and has brought his land to a high state of cultivation. A small town known as Butler has grown up opposite his farm and for eight years he served as postmaster, discharging his duties to the satisfaction of all concerned. He has interests aside from his farm, as he is a stockholder and director of the Commercial State Bank at Gibbon and a stockholder and vice president of the Grange Elevator Company at Gibbon.

Mr. Lunger was married in 1882 to Miss Ida M. Wilson, who was born in Pennsylvania and is a daughter of Augustus and Katherine (Esler) Wilson, the former of whom was born in Maine and the latter in Germany. Both are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Lunger have become the parents of six children, namely: Waldron J., who is a graduate of the Grand Island Business College and is now bookkeeper for the George Sickles Lumber Company at Kearney; Roscoe, assistant cashier of the Commercial Bank at Gibbon; Weaver, who is

operating the homestead; Beulah, attending the State Normal School at Kearney; Almira, who died when two years old; and Josephine, who died at the age of three years.

Mr. Lunger is a stalwart democrat and has served for a number of years as a member of the township committee of his party. For twenty years he has been on the school board and for two terms he held the office of county supervisor. He is identified with the Grange and has been quite active in its varied work, believing in the value of organization and cooperation among farmers. Both he and his wife are members of the United Brethren church, which indicates the principles which govern their lives. When he came to this county he had but eighty-five dollars, but he was not discouraged and resolutely set about to gain prosperity. His efforts have been richly rewarded and he is now one of the substantial men of his community.

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### ROSCOE LUNGER.

Roscoe Lunger, the second son of George C. Lunger, was born in Buffalo county on the 28th of March, 1887, and was here reared. He completed the course offered in the common schools and subsequently attended the State Normal at Kearney, thus further preparing himself for the responsibilities of life. On leaving school he entered the City National Bank at Kearney as bookkeeper, but five years later, in 1912, came to Gibbon and with a partner purchased the Commercial Bank, of which he is now serving as assistant cashier. He has been a factor of no little importance in building up the business of the institution and is recognized as a banker of experience and ability. He also owns the garage building at Gibbon and derives a good financial return from that property.

Mr. Lunger was married on the 6th of November, 1912, to Miss Grace Carlson, a native of Buffalo county, and a daughter of Alford and Clara (Rizer) Carlson, who are still living on their farm in this county. Mr. Lunger is a democrat and is now serving as township trustee. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge and of the Highlanders, and both he and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church. He is one of the popular and highly respected young men of Gibbon, and his enterprise and capability insure his continued success.

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### GEORGE W. SMITH.

Every community has within its borders those who are recognized as promoters of public progress through the channels of business activity. In this connection mention should be made of George W. Smith, the cashier of Meisner's Bank of Shelton, who is a courteous and obliging bank official, carefully safeguarding the interests of the institution which he represents and at the same time extending every possible aid to its patrons.



He was born <http://stores.ebay.com/Ancestry-Found> at Cass county, Iowa, on the 22d of February, 1876, a son of Edwin L. and Carrie N. (Kitson) Smith, both of whom were natives of Cook county, Illinois, where they were reared and married. Two or three years later they removed to Cass county, Iowa, where the father engaged in farming for seven years. He then took his family to Chicago, where he entered upon the study of medicine, matriculating in Rush Medical College, from which he was graduated with the class of February, 1884. In the following May he arrived in Shelton, Nebraska, where he followed his profession up to the time of his death, which occurred in February, 1912. He was accounted one of the foremost citizens of Shelton, not only because of his ability and success in the professional field but also because of his activity along other lines. He became one of the organizers of the Shelton electric light plant, of which he was made president, and in that capacity he served until the time of his death. He was also identified with his son George in the drug business for several years and he possessed the determination and energy which enabled him to carry forward to successful completion whatever he undertook. In his earlier years he gave his political allegiance to the republican party, and in after life became a Bryan democrat. While he was quite influential in local political circles, he never sought nor desired office as a reward for party fealty. At the time of the Civil war he espoused the cause of the Union and went to the front in defense of the stars and stripes. In Masonry he attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite and was also a member of the Mystic Shrine at Omaha.

George W. Smith spent his youthful days in his parents' home and obtained his education in the public schools, completing a course in the Shelton high school with the class of 1891. He then took up the study of pharmacy and was graduated from the pharmaceutical department of the University of Illinois at Chicago in the class of 1897. In January, 1898, he established a drug store in Shelton and has since been identified with that line of business. His establishment was incorporated in 1915, under the name of the Smith Drug Company, and a liberal patronage is accorded by reason of the honorable business methods followed and the earnest effort put forth to please patrons. On the 1st of October, 1913, Mr. Smith extended his efforts into other fields by purchasing an interest in Meisner's Bank, of which he was made cashier, since which time he has served in that capacity. Many of the most important business interests of the district have felt the stimulus of the cooperation and sound judgment of Mr. Smith, whose carefully directed efforts seem to take cognizance of every opportunity. He was one of the organizers of the Shelton Electric Light Company, of which he was made secretary and treasurer. The first meeting of the Farmers Home Telephone Company was held in his drug store and he became its secretary, occupying the position for two years, when he disposed of his stock. He was also one of the organizers of the Farmers Elevator Company, of which he became the first secretary. For a number of years he owned a third interest in the Shelton Mills and he is the owner of some valuable farm lands in this part of the state.

In 1900 Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Blanche Lee, her father being Mark G. Lee, vice president of Meisner's Bank and one of Shelton's foremost citizens. Our subject and his wife have three children, Bernadine A., Edwin L. and Elenora.

In his political views Mr. Smith is a democrat but has never sought nor desired public office. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian church. They are both held in high esteem and their sterling traits of character have gained for them warm and enduring regard. Mr. Smith is most alert, energetic and enterprising. Few men are more prominent or more widely known in Shelton and this part of the county. He has been an important factor in business affairs and his prosperity is well deserved, as in him are embraced the characteristics of an unbending integrity, unabating energy and industry that never flags. He seems to have a genius for devising the right thing at the right time, joined to everyday common sense which ever proves the balance wheel of talent.

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### HON. GEORGE W. BARRETT.

Hon. George W. Barrett is the president of the Farmers Home Telephone Company of Shelton, which he was largely instrumental in organizing. He has also been prominently identified with agricultural interests and is a representative business man, actuated at all times by a spirit of determination and enterprise that enables him to overcome all the difficulties and obstacles that bar the path of business progress. Mr. Barrett was born in Washington county, Indiana, December 22, 1850, and is a son of Elijah and Helen (Prather) Barrett, both of whom were natives of Washington county, Indiana, where they resided until 1866. They then removed to Iroquois county, Illinois, where the father passed away in the year 1877. Later the mother removed to Kansas, where her death occurred in 1892.

George W. Barrett was reared at home with the usual experiences of the farm lad. His school privileges were very limited, as he had the opportunity for attending only a part of the three months' winter term, which was the extent of the term in his district in Indiana at that time. He was a lad of sixteen years when his parents removed to Illinois and there he resided until the fall of 1875, when he came to Nebraska. He took up his abode in Shelton township, Buffalo county, and for two years operated rented land. In 1878 he purchased a relinquishment on a tree claim, which he homesteaded and developed, proving it up. Upon that place he has since continuously resided, his farm being pleasantly located about three miles southwest of Shelton. It comprises three hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land, in addition to which he owns another farm of one hundred and thirty-five acres. He has brought his fields to a high state of cultivation, adding the equipments and accessories of the model farm of the twentieth century, and his labors annually result in the gathering of good harvests. Agriculture, however, is but one phase of his business activity, for to other lines he has extended his efforts, proving equally successful. He was the principal factor in the organization of the Farmers Home Telephone Company of Shelton, of which he was made the president and in that capacity has continued. The business is kept up to a high standard, so that excellent service is rendered to patrons of the line and the enterprise is one which proves of the utmost benefit and convenience to the district. Mr. Barrett was also one of the



HON. GEORGE W. BARRETT





organizers of the Farmers Elevator Company of Shelton, of which he served as president for two years.

In 1878 Mr. Barrett was united in marriage to Miss Melvina Smith, of Sharon township, this county. To them have been born four children, as follows: Schuyler, who is deceased; Effie, the wife of William Oliver, who follows farming in Shelton township; Charles, a resident of North Yakima, Washington; and Leroy, who operates the old homestead.

Mr. and Mrs. Barrett are members of the United Brethren church, in the work of which they take an active and helpful interest, contributing generously to its support. Mr. Barrett is serving as one of the board of trustees of the church and fraternally he is connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In politics he is an earnest republican and for one term he served as township treasurer, while for several years past he has been a member of the school board. In 1907 he was elected to represent his district in the state legislature and in 1909 received indorsement of his first term's service in a reelection, so that he remained a member of the house for four years, during which time he was connected with much important and constructive legislation. He ever stood fearlessly in support of what he believed to be for the best interests of the commonwealth, nor did he hesitate to oppose any measure which he believed inimical to the general good. His life in its various relations and phases has been of value and benefit to the community in which he lives and his course at all times has been an honor and credit to the community which has honored him.

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### FRED BARGMANN.

Fred Bargmann, residing in Riverdale, Nebraska, is one of the foremost residents of the town, conducting a banking, real estate and insurance business, being president of the State Bank. He is a self-made man whose enterprise and determination have led to his success. Each year has chronicled his advancement in business matters, for step by step he has steadily worked his way upward. He was born in Hanover, Germany, November 24, 1862, a son of Henry and Rebecca Bargmann, both of whom were natives of that country, where they spent their entire lives. There they reared their family of five children, of whom four are yet living.

Fred Bargmann spent his boyhood and youth in Germany and in the year 1879, when seventeen years of age, bade adieu to friends and native land and sailed for the new world. He did not tarry on the eastern coast but made his way across the country to Cook county, Illinois, where he secured employment as a farm hand, working in that way until 1886, when he removed to Columbus, Nebraska. He was there employed for two years, at the end of which time he and his brother embarked in the dairy business and continued actively therein for ten years. They then sold out and Fred Bargmann turned his attention to general agricultural pursuits, carrying on farming with success until 1905. He brought his fields to a high state of cultivation, converting his land into a productive tract from which he annually gathered good harvests. In 1907 he removed to Riverdale, where he established the State Bank, of which he has

since been the president. He has made this a substantial financial institution and it has been accorded a liberal patronage, so that the business of the bank has grown year by year. It has ever followed a safe, conservative policy and has proven a profitable undertaking. Mr. Bargmann also handles real estate and insurance and these branches of his business are proving substantial sources of income. In addition to his other interests he is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator at Riverdale. He is the owner of a bank building in Riverdale and also of one hundred and sixty acres of good farming land in this county.

Since becoming a naturalized American citizen Mr. Bargmann has been a stalwart advocate of republican principles and has served on the township board. He is a self-made man and deserves much credit for what he has accomplished. He has taken two trips back to his native land, thus renewing the acquaintances and friendship of his youth and viewing again the scenes amid which his boyhood days were passed. He has never regretted his determination to come to America, for here he has found the opportunities which he sought and in their development has reached a most gratifying point of prosperity.

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### JOSEPH BUCK, JR.

Joseph Buck, Jr., who is following agricultural pursuits on section 15, Shelton township, was born in that township, on the old Buck homestead, on the 16th of November, 1872. His parents, Joseph and Mary Ann (Singleton) Buck were natives of England but in 1869 and 1870 respectively emigrated to the United States and located in Buffalo county, Nebraska. The father homesteaded land which he cultivated until 1906, when he removed to Shelton, where he is still living at the age of seventy-six years. His wife died in 1908. Seven of their fourteen children have passed away.

Joseph Buck, Jr., remained at home during the period of his minority and after completing his common school education attended the Gibbon Normal School. In the spring of 1894, when about twenty-two years of age, he began farming for himself and for eight years rented land. In 1902 he invested his savings in one hundred and seventy acres of good land on section 27, on Grand Island, Shelton township. In 1904 he removed to that farm and there made his home until January, 1910, when he took up his residence upon his present home place, on section 15, Shelton township, which he had purchased five years previously. He has erected a handsome residence, a commodious barn and out-buildings, and all of the improvements compare favorably with those on other farms in the county. He owns in all two hundred and twenty-five acres of land in Shelton township and as he has managed his affairs well he is one of the well-to-do men of his locality.

In 1903 occurred the marriage of Mr. Buck and Miss Clara M. Maurer, a daughter of the late W. H. Maurer. Five children have been born to this union, namely: Eva W., J. Gordon, Viola H., Martin; and an infant son unnamed.

Mr. Buck votes the republican ticket and works loyally for the success of

his party but has never desired to hold office as his farming interests make heavy demands upon his time and energy. He was one of the incorporators and first secretary of the Farmers Telephone Company. His entire life has been passed in this county and many of his staunchest friends have known him since boyhood.

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### J. E. CHARLSON.

J. E. Charlson, who is the proprietor and manager of the Kearney Floral Company at No. 1938 Second avenue, two blocks west of the opera house, has built up a large and flourishing business and is recognized as a man of ability and energy. He was born in Joliet, Will county, Illinois, but when six years of age the family removed to Phelps county, Nebraska, and settled on a farm.

Mr. Charlson attended the public schools and also gave much time to assisting his father. For four years he engaged in teaching the district schools but at the end of that time he continued his education, attending Doane College at Crete, Nebraska, for one term. He then again turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, farming on his own account in this state until February, 1913, when he came to Kearney and purchased a half interest in his present business, becoming sole owner in October, 1915, when he bought out his partner. There are about fifteen thousand feet of glass in his greenhouses and his equipment is modern throughout. He raises all kinds of potted plants, which he sells at both wholesale and retail not only in Kearney but also in neighboring towns. He specializes in carnations and his flowers are noted for their size, fragrance and beauty of color.

On the 1st of September, 1910, Mr. Charlson was married to Miss Ida Davidson, a native of Phelps county, Nebraska, and they have a daughter, Ruth. Fraternally he is connected with the Mystic Workers. He has gained a gratifying measure of success in his business and has not only won financial prosperity for himself but has also contributed to the commercial advancement of Kearney.

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### ELMER E. TINGLEY.

A farm of four hundred acres pays tribute to the care and labor bestowed upon it by Elmer E. Tingley, who is one of the progressive agriculturists of Buffalo county, where he is extensively engaged in the feeding of sheep and hogs. He is a native of Kansas, his birth having occurred at Burr Oak, Jewell county, on the 16th of April, 1876, his parents being Leroy M. and Rosa (Briggs) Tingley, the former a native of Kentucky. They were married in Jewell county, Kansas, and in 1884 removed to Buffalo county, settling on Elm Island in Platte township. There the father carried on general farming until 1911, when he removed to Boise City, Idaho, where he is now living retired.

Elmer E. Tingley was a lad of eight years when he removed with his parents

to Buffalo county. Here he was reared and the district schools afforded him his educational privileges, his time being divided between the work of the school-room and the duties of the fields. He remained at home, assisting on the farm, until 1899, when he took up railroad work and for five years was fireman and subsequently engineer on the Burlington and on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe. In 1904 he went across the line into old Mexico, working in the smelter at Aguascalientes, where he was employed for eight and one-half years. There he was made floor foreman in the sampling mill. Subsequently he served for three years as foreman on copper converters and later was foreman of the blast furnaces. In July, 1912, he returned to Buffalo county. He left Mexico twice on account of troubles in that country and resumed farming on the land where he now lives, this farm belonging to his father-in-law. He cultivates four hundred acres and is extensively engaged in the feeding of sheep and hogs, feeding all the produce raised upon his farm and also buying both hay and corn extensively. He is one of the leading stock dealers of this locality and is a most enterprising and progressive business man.

On the 14th of June, 1910, Mr. Tingley was united in marriage to Miss Carrie E. Manfull, her father being John Manfull, one of the substantial farmers of Platte township. Our subject and his wife have three children, Margaret Rosalind, Elmer Manfull and Anna Barbara.

In his political views Mr. Tingley is independent, having never sought nor desired office nor does he feel himself bound by party ties. He concentrates his energies upon his business affairs and his progressive spirit, keen discernment and indefatigable energy are bringing to him substantial success. His life has been a busy and useful one, characterized at all times by well defined purpose and honorable effort.

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#### CHARLES LUCAS, M. D.

Dr. Charles Lucas has the reputation of being one of the foremost physicians and surgeons of Shelton and Buffalo county. He fully recognizes the responsibilities and obligations which devolve upon him in his professional capacity and he is continually putting forth effort to advance his knowledge and promote his efficiency in the administration of remedial agencies to check the ravages of disease. Indiana claims him as a native son, his birth having occurred in Monroe county, that state, on the 19th of November, 1866, his parents being Peter and Elizabeth J. (Floyd) Lucas, both of whom were natives of Indiana, where they were reared and married. In 1880 they became residents of Lucas county, Iowa, and the mother passed away there in the same year. In 1884 the father came to Nebraska, establishing his home in Custer county, where two of his sons and a daughter were residing. He continued his residence there up to the time of his demise, which occurred in 1888.

Dr. Charles Lucas is indebted to the public school system for the early educational opportunities which he enjoyed. Passing through consecutive grades, he was at length graduated from the high school at Chariton, Iowa, with the class of 1886 and in December of that year he came to Nebraska, where he



took up the profession of teaching, spending three years as a teacher in the schools of Custer and Lincoln counties. During one year of that time he was principal of the schools at Chappell, Nebraska. He regarded this, however, merely as an initial step to other professional labor and in the fall of 1888 entered upon the study of medicine under the direction of Dr. John Murray of Arnold, Nebraska. In the fall of 1889 he entered the Omaha Medical College, now the medical department of the Nebraska State University, pursuing his studies there for a year. He then suspended his college work for a year, during which period he was engaged in teaching and in clerking in a drug store in North Platte, thus obtaining the funds which enabled him to continue his preparation for the practice of medicine and surgery. During that period of clerkship he passed the civil service examination and a month later received an appointment in the war department at Washington, remaining for four years in the government service. During that time he continued his medical studies by attending night lectures at the University of Georgetown in Washington, D. C., from which institution he was graduated with the class of 1893. He remained in the government position for two years longer and continued to attend lectures and clinics, but in 1895 he resigned his position in Washington to return to Nebraska, since which time he has engaged in the practice of his profession in Shelton, building up a large and enviable practice. He is a thoroughly skilled physician and surgeon, his capability being demonstrated in the excellent results which have attended his efforts as he has ministered to the needs of the sick and suffering in this part of the county.

On the 7th of September, 1893, Dr. Lucas was united in marriage to Miss Lida E. Campbell, of Garfield, Lincoln county, Nebraska. To them have been born three children, two of whom survive, Mary Gertrude and Charles Sinclair.

In politics Dr. Lucas is independent, voting for men and measures rather than party. For four years he has served as a member of the board of health of Shelton and for the past seven years has been a member of the school board, putting forth effective effort to promote the interests of education. Fraternally he is connected with Shelton Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and along strictly professional lines he is connected with the Buffalo County Medical Society, which he joined on its organization, and with the Nebraska State Medical Society. His practice is free from hasty and ill formed judgments. He studies closely the needs of every individual case and never allows anything to interfere with the performance of his professional duties.

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#### E. S. HARTE.

E. S. Harte, station agent at Gibbon and well known as a courteous and obliging official, always willing and ready to render aid in every possible way to the traveling public, has occupied this position since 1896. He was born in New Salem, Pennsylvania, on the 9th of April, 1866, a son of Samuel and Mary (Stover) Harte, both of whom were natives of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where they were reared and married. In 1870 they removed to Dixon, Lee county, Illinois, and the father, who was a shoemaker, there worked at his

trade for six or eight years. Subsequently he turned his attention to the butchering business, in which he actively continued up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1888, when he was sixty-one years of age. His wife passed away in 1907, at the age of eighty-three years.

E. S. Harte acquired a common school education and at fifteen years of age took up the study of telegraphy, working in various offices of the Chicago & Northwestern system. He was employed in the city of Chicago and at various points throughout Illinois and in 1896 came to Gibbon, Nebraska, as station agent for the Union Pacific Railroad Company, in which position he has since continued, being the sixth oldest man in the service as agent and operator, having represented the company in that capacity for almost three decades. 'Twenty years' service at Gibbon establishes his position as one of the popular operators on the line, for he has the warm regard and goodwill of his fellow townsmen, who recognize in him an obliging official. He is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of farm land in Norton county, Kansas, and he has an attractive home in Gibbon.

In 1890 Mr. Harte was united in marriage to Miss Ella Lape, of Somerset, Pennsylvania, by whom he has two children, namely: Lloyd W., an assistant engineer on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, located at Lincoln, Nebraska; and Bruce S., a graduate of the Gibbon high school who is now a student in Creighton College of Omaha.

Mr. Harte is a democrat in his political views and has served for nine years as a member of the school board, while for some years he has been a member of the village park board. Fraternally he is identified with Excalibar Lodge, No. 138, K. P., of Gibbon, and Gibbon Lodge, No. 137, I. O. O. F. He is loyal to the spirit of these organizations and exemplifies in his life their beneficent teachings. Gibbon knows him as a man of sterling worth and as a representative citizen and as such he deserves mention in the history of Buffalo county.

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### JOHN SWENSON.

John Swenson resides at No. 2327 T street in Lincoln, having established his home in the capital city four years ago. The greater part of the period of his manhood has been spent in the new world and no native son of this land is more loyal to the interests and traditions of the republic than he. His has been an active, useful and well spent life and he has a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance. He was born in Sweden in September, 1838, and has therefore passed the seventy-seventh milestone on life's journey. He acquired his education altogether in his father's home, having no opportunity to attend school, but in the school of experience he has learned many valuable lessons and become a progressive business man.

When twenty-two years of age he bade adieu to friends and native country and sailed for the United States, making his way to Illinois. He was located at Geneva, that state, when in 1861 civil war was declared and after watching the progress of events and becoming convinced that the south had no right to disrupt the Union, he enlisted in support of the stars and stripes, joining Company



*John Swenson*





D of the Fifty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He participated in a number of hotly contested engagements, including the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh and Corinth. In the last named engagement he had his left arm shattered, forcing amputation. After his recovery he did duty in assisting the quartermaster at brigade headquarters. He served in all for four years and was honorably discharged and mustered out in July, 1865.

Realizing the need and value of educational training as a preparation for life's practical and responsible duties, Mr. Swenson then attended the college at Fulton, Illinois, where he won the Bachelor of Science degree. His residence in Buffalo county dates from 1874, when he cast in his lot with its pioneer settlers. Comparatively few had penetrated into what was then the western wilderness, but he saw the opportunities that might be improved here and became identified with the early development and improvement of this section of the state. He homesteaded twelve miles north of Kearney and lived thereon for three years, on the expiration of which period he removed to Sartoria township, on the Loup river, purchased land and engaged in stock-raising. Success attended his efforts and as he prospered in his undertakings he added to his property from time to time until he is now the owner of over nineteen hundred acres. His possessions are very extensive and from his property he derives a most gratifying annual income.

Mr. Swenson was twice married. His first wife bore the maiden name of Eva Jane Thornton and was a native of Washington, Iowa. After her demise he wedded Miranda Powers, who passed away in Lincoln, leaving a son, John, an estimable and popular young man of nineteen years who is now attending school in Lincoln.

During his residence in Buffalo county Mr. Swenson served for four years as superintendent of schools but aspired to no other office, and although often solicited to become a candidate for the legislature, refused to do so. He was reared in the Lutheran church and still clings to that faith. In 1911 he removed to Lincoln, where he now makes his home, being pleasantly located, his income supplying him with all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life. He deserves much credit for what he has accomplished, as all has been secured through his persistent, earnest efforts directed by sound judgment. His energy has ever been unfaltering and what he has undertaken he has carried forward to successful completion. His life history may well serve to encourage and inspire others, for it indicates that the field of opportunity is open to all and that the fruits of labor are certain.

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#### FRANK F. ROBY.

For sixteen years Frank F. Roby has been a resident of Kearney and throughout the entire period has been actively identified with interests promoting its material welfare and progress. He is today conducting an extensive milling business, being one of the leading flour manufacturers of this section of the state. He also engages in the manufacture of ice and for both commodities finds a ready sale on the market.

Mr. Roby is a native of Carroll county, Ohio, born February 11, 1861, the only child of Luther M. and Sarah (Knight) Roby, who were also natives of Ohio and of English descent. The father is living in Kearney, hale and hearty at the advanced age of eighty-one years. Frank F. Roby passed his youth at home, attending the district schools. He never worked for wages in his life. As a boy he would take various jobs but never at regular wages. When nineteen years of age he determined to follow the advice of Horace Greeley, who said: "Go west, young man, go west," and accordingly he left home, making his way to Colorado Springs, Colorado, at which time the place contained a population of but eight hundred people. For a time he worked for his board and later he became the first student to enroll his name in the metallurgical department of Colorado College and was the first to successfully pass the examination and receive a degree from that department. He was also the first to assemble an assay outfit from that school, loading it on a prairie schooner, after which he drove one hundred and seventy-five miles into the mountains, where he put his outfit into effective operation. He conducted his assay plant for three years and then owing to failing eyesight embarked in the general grain and brokerage business in Colorado Springs. Subsequently he became connected with the promotion of mining properties and various other business interests. He was likewise interested in ranching in Colorado and made his home in Colorado Springs until 1899. During the intervening period he visited every mining camp of importance in the west and in 1879 he made the trip to Pike's Peak, it then requiring three days to reach the summit. When Cripple Creek first entered upon its boom Mr. Roby was among the first to reach the camp, there being only three tents there at the time of his arrival. He also located the camp and laid out Red River City, New Mexico, and he was one of the first to locate claims at Bonanza, Saquache county, Colorado. There he established his first assay office. His experiences on the frontier alone would fill a volume if written in detail and would present a most interesting and accurate picture of life in the west, for he is thoroughly acquainted with all that constitutes the early history of Colorado, with all its romance of development and the tragedy of its lawlessness and loss of life. He witnessed the early lynchings and the riots and saw the birth of what seemed likely to be a future city and saw the opening of what came to be a great mining age. He has likewise seen many of the cities and mining camps collapse and fade into comparatively nothing and become but a recollection of the past.

Overwork at length led to a complete breakdown in health and Mr. Roby was taken out of Colorado Springs on a stretcher, a nervous wreck. He drifted to Kearney, Nebraska, and here he found an altitude in which he could live in comfort. His energy had not all departed and he soon purchased the old milling property in Kearney, thinking it would prove an adjunct to his grain business in Colorado. In the passing of time his business increased in volume to such an extent that although he had come to Kearney as a temporary location he decided to become a permanent citizen. His export business has assumed large proportions and from his mill trainloads of flour have been shipped and the business has become one of the most important productive industries of the county. In addition to the manufacture of flour he also manufactures ice and has a most gratifying patronage in that connection. He still retains extensive interests

in Colorado, comprising ranches, live stock, city property and mining stock and is the largest individual ranch owner in El Paso county, Colorado. His investments have been most judiciously made. His keen sagacity recognizes the value of a business situation, and he has never failed to venture where favoring opportunity has led the way.

In 1897 Mr. Roby was united in marriage to Mrs. Henrietta Quereau. In his political views he is a stalwart republican and fraternally is a prominent Mason, being a Knight Templar and Shriner. Sixteen years' residence in Kearney has made him widely known, while his stalwart qualities as manifest in business, in his public relations and his private life have gained for him the confidence and warm regard of all with whom he has been associated. He has many sterling qualities and while he has furthered individual progress his activities have been of a character which have contributed as well to the general prosperity.

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### VICTOR B. WHELOCK.

Victor B. Wheelock, who is occupying the position of bookkeeper with the firm of Wort & Minton, automobile dealers in Kearney, was born at Freehold, Pennsylvania, November 4, 1869, a son of Matthew G. and Henrietta (Buel) Wheelock. The father was a druggist by occupation. In August, 1885, he removed from Pennsylvania to Grand Island, Nebraska, while later he made his way to Ravenna, in Buffalo county, arriving here in April, 1886. Here he continued to make his home until his death, which occurred in December, 1895. His widow is yet living and makes her home with her children. Mr. Wheelock was a soldier of the Union army during the Civil war, serving as a member of Company K, One Hundred and Fifty-first Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, with which he participated in the battle of Gettysburg and other important engagements and campaigns of the east which led up to the final victory that crowned the Union arms. He afterward maintained pleasant relations with his military comrades through his membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. In his fraternal relations he was a Mason and his religious belief was that of the Congregational church, while his political allegiance was given to the republican party, which found in him a stalwart and unfaltering advocate.

Victor B. Wheelock lived with his parents until the death of his father, and the public schools afforded him his educational opportunities. In 1905 he was elected register of deeds of Buffalo county and by reelection was continued in that position for nine years. That he was chosen for this office at different elections is indicative of the excellent manner in which he performed his duties and the confidence reposed in him. He is now employed by the firm of Wort & Minton as bookkeeper.

On the 2d of June, 1896, Mr. Wheelock was united in marriage to Miss Nellie Teeple and they have two sons D and Jack. The mother is a member of the Congregational church. Mr. Wheelock has exercised his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and fraternally he is connected with the Elks, the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen and the Ancient Order of United



Workmen. He has a wide acquaintance in fraternal circles and through business and social connections and has attractive qualities which render him popular wherever he is known.

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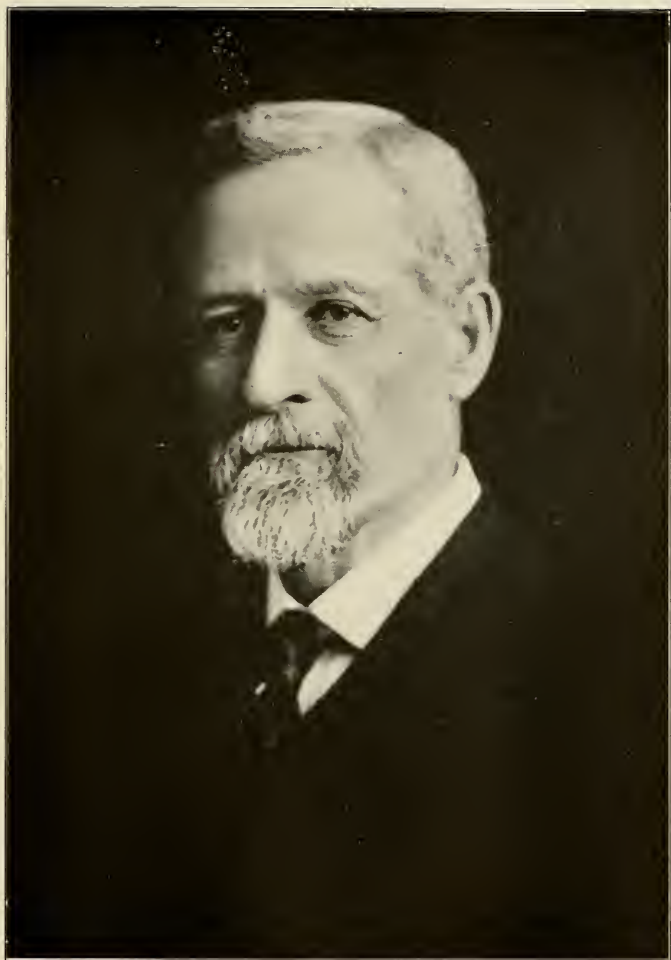
### JOSEPH L. BENNETT, M. D.

Dr. Joseph L. Bennett, physician and surgeon of Kearney, his ability bringing him prominently to the front in the ranks of his chosen profession in Buffalo county, is a native of Howell, Michigan, but when he was eight years of age the family removed to Wyoming, Jones county, Iowa, where he was reared and educated, passing through consecutive grades to the high school. When twenty-one years of age he entered Lenox College at Hopkinton, Iowa, where he devoted two years to pursuing a literary course. When nineteen years of age he left home and started out in life penniless. He worked for his board and the privilege of attending high school and during the summer months was employed at farm labor. He also made his own way through college, teaching in the district schools through the winter months and working in the fields through the summer seasons. After spending two years in college he entered the Eclectic Medical Institute at Cincinnati, Ohio, from which he was graduated with the class of 1874.

Immediately afterward Dr. Bennett located in Hopkinton, Iowa, where he had been a college student for two years. After his marriage, which occurred in Wyoming, Iowa, he removed to Anita, Cass county, Iowa, where he practiced for five years, when he was selected to fill the chair of materia medica and therapeutics in Drake University at Des Moines, delivering the second lecture given in the medical department of that institution. He continued to occupy that chair for five years, after which he practiced for some time. Later he withdrew from practice and in connection with his brother-in-law purchased the Bank of Centerville at Centerville, South Dakota. He remained as president for two years, at the end of which time he sold out and removed to Kearney, Nebraska, where he arrived on the 15th of November, 1888. He came to this city to accept the position of cashier of a bank here, but the plans fell through and it was not organized. He then organized the Midway Loan & Trust Company, of which he became secretary, and also acted as cashier of the savings bank that was connected therewith. They built what is now known as the Federal Annex, the second largest building in the town. Dr. Bennett continued in active connection with the business for two years and then sold out, after which he resumed the practice of his profession, in which he has since been engaged. He keeps thoroughly informed concerning the latest discoveries and scientific researches in the field of medicine and surgery and his ability is being constantly augmented by his wide reading and study.

On the 10th of October, 1876, Dr. Bennett was united in marriage to Miss Clara A. Briggs, a native of Iowa and a former schoolmate. To them have been born four children, as follows: Clara L., who is engaged in the abstract business at Broken Bow, Nebraska; Ray B., the cashier of the State Bank at Bladen,





DR. JOSEPH L. BENNETT



Nebraska; Ralph R., a resident of San Jose, California; and Isamore, at home, who is a student in the State Normal School.

In politics Dr. Bennett is a democrat and the only public offices he has filled have been in the line of his profession. For three terms he served as county coroner and is serving his tenth year as physician to the State Industrial School. He belongs to the State Eclectic Medical Society and he enjoys the high regard and confidence of his professional brethren as well as of the general public. He has substantial qualities of manhood and citizenship as well as marked professional ability and his sterling traits have brought him the high regard of many. In 1875 he joined the Presbyterian church and has taken an active and prominent part in its work, serving as an elder for twenty-seven years.

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### WILLIAM D. LEIBEE.

William D. Leibee, who is living retired in Amherst, formerly engaged in stockraising and was very successful in that occupation. He owns five hundred and sixty acres of land, from which he receives a handsome income. His birth occurred on the 4th of March, 1840, in Middletown, Butler county, Ohio, and his parents were George and Marguerite (Deem) Leibee, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio respectively. While a resident of Ohio the father engaged in butchering but after removing to Henry county, Illinois, in 1855, he turned his attention to farming, acquiring title to three sections of land near Brown's Grove. He passed away in Henry county and his demise was deeply regretted by his many friends. To him and his wife were born twelve children, namely: John, who enlisted in an Illinois regiment for service in the Civil war and died while in the army; Alonzo, who died in Ohio; Melissa, the wife of Anderson Lytle; Sarah Elizabeth, who married William Wayne, of Orion, Illinois; Jane, the wife of James Noonan, of Henry county, Illinois; William D.; Joseph, who died in Geneseo, Illinois; Jacob, who resides in Geneseo; Daniel, a resident of Bakersfield, California; Ella, the widow of Alonzo Monesmith, of Geneseo; and two who died in infancy.

William D. Leibee was fifteen years of age when he accompanied his parents to Illinois and there grew to manhood. In 1861, when twenty-one years of age, he attempted to enlist as a soldier in the Civil war but was rejected on account of a crippled arm. He decided to devote his life to farming, to which occupation he had been reared, and followed agricultural pursuits in Illinois until 1885, when he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, where he rented land for nine years. By carefully saving his money he accumulated sufficient capital at the end of that time to enable him to purchase the Black ranch in Divide township, which comprised two hundred and forty acres. He largely concentrated his energies upon stockraising and as he understood the business thoroughly and watched the market carefully he seldom failed to sell to advantage and as the years passed his resources increased. He purchased additional land and now owns five hundred and sixty acres in this county. In 1905 he retired and removed to Amherst, where he has since lived, enjoying the comforts of life.

Mr. Leibee was married in Henry county, Illinois, to Miss Sarah Eliza-

<http://stores.ebay.com/AncestryFound>  
 beth Gibbs, who was born in New York and died of influenza, September, 1844, and is a daughter of Asahel and Elizabeth Ann (Burpee) Gibbs, natives of Vermont. When Mrs. Leibee was twelve years of age the family removed to Henry county, Illinois, and there both of her parents passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Leibee have two living children. Grant, who was born in Illinois, married Miss Alice Murray and they have four children: Nellie, the wife of Clark Thomas, a traveling man living in Kearney and the mother of two sons, Robert Clark and Keith; William, who is farming in Grant township and is married and has a son, William Jr.; and Lloyd and Harry Frank, both at home. George, the younger son, married Miss Lizzie Murray, by whom he has a son, Frederick, and they reside in Colona, Illinois.

Mr. Leibee casts his ballot in support of the candidates and measures of the democratic party and discharges to the full all of the duties of citizenship but has never been an aspirant for office. He and his wife have resided in Buffalo county for over thirty years and during that time have seen much of its development from a pioneer region to the prosperous and advanced farming district that it is today. They have done their part in bringing about this change and are justly held in high esteem by all who know them. Their success is the direct result of their hard work and good management and none begrudges them the leisure which they are now enjoying.

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#### OWEN WILLIAMS.

For a considerable period Owen Williams was identified with farming interests in Buffalo county, making his home in Center township, where his widow still resides. He was born in Wales on the 14th of February, 1846, a son of John and Mary (Owens) Williams, who were also natives of that country, where they spent their entire lives, rearing their family of four children, of whom only one is now living.

Owen Williams was reared and educated in Wales and came to America in 1869, at which time he established his home in Ohio. In that state he was married in 1876 to Miss Margaret J. Owens, a native of Wales and a daughter of Richard M. and Mary (Hughes) Owens, who were also natives of that country. They came to America, settling upon a farm in Ohio, where they spent their remaining days, their family numbering seven children, of whom four are yet living.

In the year 1871 Mr. Williams purchased the farm upon which his widow now resides on section 7, Center township, Buffalo county, and in the year following his marriage—1877—he removed to the farm, upon which he lived at that time, however, for only three months. He then returned to Ohio, where he remained until the spring of 1880, when he again came to Nebraska, and here resided until his death, concentrating his energies upon the development of his place. He added many substantial improvements to the farm until it was supplied with all the accessories and conveniences of a model farm property. He converted the land into rich fields and annually gathered good crops.

He also extended the boundaries of his place until it comprised three hundred and twenty acres, still in the possession of Mrs. Williams.

To Mr. and Mrs. Williams were born five children: Richard O., at home; Mary Belle, the wife of Dallas Henderson; Anna Selina, at home; Susan J., the wife of W. E. Storer; and Gertrude E., the wife of E. Beckler, now of Omaha, Nebraska. The death of the husband and father occurred January 12, 1914, and his remains were laid to rest in the Kearney cemetery. He was a self-made man who won his success entirely through his own efforts, gaining his advancement through persistent energy and indefatigable industry. Wherever known he was held in high esteem and most of all where he was best known. Mrs. Williams still makes her home in Center township and is a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Her long residence in the county has made her widely known and she has a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of her acquaintance.

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### CHARLES C. CARRIG.

Charles C. Carrig, who is filling the position of postmaster of Kearney, and who has been actively identified with farming and commercial interests as well as with the official life of the community, was born in the city of Freeport, Illinois, on the 7th of December, 1857, his parents being James and Ellen (Langan) Carrig, both of whom were natives of Ireland. They had five children, of whom but two are now living. The Carrig and Langan families both emigrated from Ireland to the United States as passengers on the same sailing vessel in 1850 and were three months in crossing the Atlantic. James Carrig, who was a farmer by occupation, was married at Urbana, Ohio, and afterward removed to Illinois but in August, 1859, came west to Nebraska, settling in Platte county. He lived there for a period of forty-one years, following agricultural pursuits and as one of the earliest settlers of the district witnessed many of those stirring scenes of pioneer life which have become almost a forgotten dream of the past. He bore his part in the work of public progress and development and still remains an honored resident of Nebraska, having in 1900 removed to Kearney, where he now resides, at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. For a long period he has survived his wife, who passed away in 1900.

Charles C. Carrig was but two years of age when he became a resident of Nebraska. He was reared upon the home farm in Platte county, there remaining until 1883, during which time in his boyhood days he assisted in the work of the old home place and attended the district school. In 1876 he became a student in the Bryant & Stratton Business College at Davenport, Iowa, being graduated therefrom in 1878. For the succeeding two years he was deputy county clerk at Columbus, Nebraska, and then turned his attention to mercantile pursuits, establishing a general store in 1883 at Platte Center, there continuing in business until 1890. At that time he became cashier of the Farmers & Merchants Bank of that place, occupying the position for five years. From 1895 until 1898 he operated a grain elevator at Platte Center for the Omaha



Elevator Company, but in the latter year he removed to Buffalo, Nebraska, and became steward and bookkeeper of the State Industrial School under appointment of Governor Poynter. After serving in that capacity for two years he came to Kearney and was made assistant deputy county treasurer, in which capacity he remained for two years. He next embarked in the real estate and insurance business in Kearney, continuing therein until May 21, 1914, when by appointment of President Wilson he was made postmaster of Kearney and is now filling that position.

On the 13th of May, 1894, Mr. Carrig was married to Miss Catherine Perkins, and to this union four sons have been born, Earl, Carl, Phillip and Paul. The religious faith of the family is that of the Roman Catholic church and in political belief Mr. Carrig has always been a democrat. He has attractive social qualities which render him popular and he has a wide and favorable acquaintance in the county in which he now makes his home.

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### HON. BRUNO O. HOSTETLER.

Hon. Bruno O. Hostetler is judge of the twelfth judicial district of Nebraska, comprising the counties of Buffalo, Sherman and Custer. In speaking of the history of the bar one is led to the reflection that the legal profession demands not only a high order of ability but a rare combination of talent, learning, tact, patience and industry. The successful lawyer and the competent judge must be a man of well balanced intellect, thoroughly familiar with the law and practice and of comprehensive general information, possessed of an analytical mind and a self-control that will enable him to lose his individuality, his personal feelings, his prejudices and his peculiarities of disposition in the dignity, impartiality and equity of the office to which life, property, right and liberty must look for protection. Possessing these qualities, Judge Hostetler justly merits the high honor which is conferred upon him by his elevation to the bench.

A native of Iowa, the Judge was born upon a farm near Janesville, May 20, 1861, his parents being David and Elizabeth (Schafer) Hostetler, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Silesia, Germany. The Hostetlers, however, are of Swiss descent. The father was a farmer by occupation and about the year 1860 removed to Iowa, later taking up his abode upon a farm between Waverly and Shell Rock. While there residing his wife died and he afterward removed to Kearney, Nebraska, where his last days were spent, his death occurring in 1903.

Bruno O. Hostetler was reared upon a farm and acquired his primary education in the district schools and in the public schools at Waverly. He afterward matriculated in the Iowa State University at Iowa City and was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in the year 1885. He then continued his law studies there and in 1887 completed a course in the law department of that institution. He ranked second in a class of thirty-six when graduated from the collegiate course, and in 1888 he received his M. A. degree from the State University.

On the 24th of November, 1887, Judge Hostetler was united in marriage to Miss Margaret B. Miller, and the same year located for the practice of law in Kearney, where he has since lived, during which period he has been identified with most of the important litigation that has been heard in the courts of the district. Along with those qualities indispensable to the lawyer—a keen, rapid, analytical mind, plus the business sense and a ready capacity for hard work—he brought to the starting point of his legal career certain rare gifts—eloquence of language and a strong personality. Moreover, he has ever displayed a thorough grasp of the law and the ability to accurately apply its principles, which have been factors in his effectiveness as an advocate.

To Judge and Mrs. Hostetler has been born a daughter, Florence Maxine, who is a graduate of the Kearney high school, of the Iowa State University and the Nebraska State Normal School, and is now the wife of Annan Raymond, a lawyer of Omaha.

Judge Hostetler is identified with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. In politics he has always been a republican and in 1898 was elected mayor of Kearney, which position he filled for three years, giving to the city a businesslike administration. In the fall of 1903 he was elected presiding judge of the twelfth judicial district and has since remained upon the bench, where his decisions indicate strong mentality, careful analysis, a thorough knowledge of the law and an unbiased judgment.

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#### IRA A. KIRK.

Banking interests in Gibbon find a worthy representative in Ira A. Kirk, cashier of the Exchange Bank and a member of its board of directors. He was born in Ripley county, Indiana, on the 11th of October, 1869, a son of Thomas and Sarah (Blackwell) Kirk, who were natives of Kentucky and Indiana respectively. They were married in the latter state, to which the father had removed in his childhood days with his parents. He continued his residence there until 1885, when he brought his family to Gibbon, Nebraska, where he engaged in the coal business, with which he was prominently identified up to the time of his death. He also became one of the organizers of the Exchange Bank of Gibbon, of which he was made vice president. His activity, his sterling personal worth and his fidelity in matters of citizenship made him one of the foremost residents of Gibbon, where he passed away December 9, 1904, his wife surviving until January 27, 1910. He was a member of the Masonic lodge and became one of the organizers and charter members of Granite Lodge, No. 189, A. F. & A. M., of Gibbon. In politics he was a stanch republican and served in a number of the town offices. His wife was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and both were held in the highest esteem wherever they were known.

Ira A. Kirk was a youth of sixteen years when he became a resident of Gibbon and in the public schools he continued his education, supplemented by a course in the United Brethren College of this place, from which he was graduated with the class of 1889. Immediately following the completion of his

studies he entered the Exchange Bank in the capacity of bookkeeper and in 1898 he was advanced to the position of assistant cashier, while in 1905 he became cashier of the institution, which important position he has since filled, largely directing the policy and activities of the bank. He has ever manifested a most progressive spirit in the conduct of business affairs and at the same time carefully safeguards the interests of those whom he represents.

In 1897 Mr. Kirk was united in marriage to Miss Clara Robb, of Gibbon, and they have one daughter, Esther Myrtle. In his political views Mr. Kirk is a republican and has served as township treasurer, while at the present time he is occupying the position of village treasurer. He has likewise been a member of the school board for fifteen years and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. Fraternally he is connected with Granite Lodge, No. 189, A. F. & A. M., and has attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite in the Omaha consistory. His wife is a member of the Episcopal church and in the social circles of their part of the county they occupy an enviable position. In addition to his business interests Mr. Kirk has become the owner of valuable farm lands and from his property derives a gratifying annual income. He is a man of sterling worth whose life has been actuated by honorable principles and whose course has ever conformed to the highest standards of manhood and citizenship.

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#### THOMAS W. BOLAN.

Among the agriculturists of Buffalo county who, in the conduct of their farm work, have attained success that now enables them to live retired is Thomas W. Bolan, who makes his home in Kearney. He was born in County Waterford, Ireland, April 25, 1844, and was reared to farm life with the usual experiences of the farm bred boy in that section of the world. In 1861, when seventeen years of age, he bade adieu to friends and native country and sailed for the new world, landing at Boston, Massachusetts, where he had a sister living. He worked in a boat shop for a time and afterward followed different pursuits until 1871, when he made his way westward to Nebraska, settling first at Overton.

In the spring of 1872 Mr. Bolan secured a homestead claim on section 20, Elm Creek township, Buffalo county, where he was employed at railroad work a part of the time. He put up a small frame house upon his land and hired some breaking done. After about three years he purchased a team of oxen and devoted his time to the improvement of the homestead. In 1883 he sold the place and purchased one hundred and sixty acres just over the line in Dawson county. It was a tract of raw prairie and he turned his attention to the sheep business and to general farming, which he continued to follow until 1905, when he sold his stock and removed to Kearney. He had dealt quite extensively in sheep and also brought his farm under a high state of cultivation, converting much of the land into rich fields, from which he annually gathered good harvests.

On the 21st of February, 1884, Mr. Bolan was married to Miss Addie Gingrich, who was born October 15, 1863, and was reared in Madison, Indiana, but came to this county with her mother in 1883. Mr. and Mrs. Bolan had a family of





THOMAS W. BOLAN AND FAMILY





seven children: Catherine A., who was born December 5, 1884, and is the wife of Joseph Pflaum, of Dawson county; John T., who was born March 22, 1886, and is now a machinist of North Platte, Nebraska; William M., who was born October 19, 1887, and is now upon a ranch in California; Flora A., who was born June 23, 1889, and is the wife of Albert Pflaum, of this county; Frances M., who was born June 25, 1892, and is the wife of Charles Sterling, of Kearney; Mamie, who was born April 27, 1896, and died August 27, 1897; and Charles Thomas, who was born July 31, 1898, and is now attending high school.

Mr. and Mrs. Bolan are members of the Catholic church and he gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He has never sought nor desired office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, and along well defined lines of labor has wrought for success.

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### JOHN G. LOWE.

John G. Lowe, president of the Farmers Bank of Kearney, was born in Liverpool, England, October 19, 1865, and at the age of fifteen years came to America, making his way direct to Kearney, where he became an employe in the station department of the Union Pacific Railroad Company. Here he has since resided and has been closely identified with the material growth and welfare of the community. In 1897 he became president of the Farmers Bank of Kearney and has been a potent factor in financial affairs of the city since that time. Mr. Lowe is a Knight Templar Mason and Shriner, is married and ranks with the city's foremost residents.

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### SYDNEY E. SMITH.

Sydney E. Smith, cashier of the Commercial State Bank of Amherst, was born in Peoria county, Illinois, September 9, 1858. His father, Edson F. Smith, a native of Pennsylvania, went to Peoria with his parents in the early '40s and in that locality turned his attention to the occupation of farming. He there remained until some years after his marriage. When his son Sydney was a lad of ten years he removed with the family to Louisa county, Iowa, where he successfully engaged in farming. He there served as county treasurer and also held other public offices, taking an active part in the affairs of the community and in its material development. He married Sarah Hungerford, a native of New York, and in the year 1886 they removed to Kearney, Nebraska, where Mr. Smith lived retired until called to his final rest at the age of seventy-four years. His wife also passed away at Kearney in the faith of the Congregational church, of which they were devoted and loyal members.

Sydney E. Smith was a lad of ten years when he accompanied his parents to Louisa county, Iowa, where he was reared upon a farm. In 1882 he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and engaged in farming near Kearney, but afterward purchased land near Pleasanton, and there successfully carried on general agri-

cultural pursuits. Later he engaged in the grain business at Pleasanton and in 1895 he was elected to the office of county clerk of Buffalo county, entering upon the discharge of his duties in 1896, his term covering four years. He later engaged in the hardware business in Kearney for a few years and in 1913 became cashier of the Commercial State Bank of Amherst, in which connection he has since remained. Mr. Smith was married to Miss Irene McKean, who was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of J. S. McKean, and to them has been born one child, Sydney Jr., who is at home. The parents are members of the Congregational church and Mr. Smith belongs to the Modern Woodmen Camp and to the Highlanders, while his political allegiance is given to the republican party.

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### LESTER W. BAYLEY.

Lester W. Bayley is well known throughout Buffalo county and is held in high esteem because of his ability and integrity. He owns five hundred acres of well improved land and resides on section 21, Shelton township. A native of Wayne county, Pennsylvania, he was born on the 13th of May, 1864, and is a son of John M. and Adaline A. (Adams) Bayley. The father was born in Clinton, that state, on the 28th of January, 1836, and is a son of William and Mary Ann (Morse) Bayley. He came to Nebraska in 1857 and located on a farm near Table Rock but a year later sold that place and returned to Pennsylvania, where he remained until 1871. He then again came to Buffalo county and from that year until 1905 engaged in farming on section 22, Shelton township. For the past ten years he has lived retired in the village of Gibbon. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Adaline A. Adams, was born in Wayne county, Pennsylvania, and is a daughter of Lester P. and Margaret T. (Cooper) Adams. By her marriage she has become the mother of five children, of whom four survive. The father served in the Civil war and in times of peace has also manifested a commendable interest in the public welfare.

Lester W. Bayley was reared under the parental roof and is indebted for his education to the public schools. On beginning his independent career he took up a homestead in Hitchcock county, Nebraska, but after proving up on the place sold it. He was married in 1889 and for the following three years operated his father's farm but in the fall of 1891 he purchased his present home place on section 21, Shelton township. He at once erected a residence and barn, and in the following spring he removed to that farm, where he has since resided. He owns five hundred acres of land in that township and engages in general farming, which he finds both profitable and congenial.

On the 14th of March, 1889, occurred the marriage of Mr. Bayley and Miss Clara Stonebarger, a daughter of Daniel Stonebarger, who removed by wagon from Illinois to Buffalo county in the fall of 1871. He homesteaded a quarter section of land in Sharon township, which he improved and cultivated. Mr. and Mrs. Bayley have six children: Thaddeus E., who is operating his grandfather's farm in Shelton township; Harvey J. and Ray A., both of whom are farming in Shelton township; Bessie L., who is attending the State University at Lincoln;

Charles L., at home; and Bernice M., who is a student in the Gibbon high school.

Mr. Bayley supports the men and measures of the republican party at the polls and for twenty years or more has been a member of the school board of district No. 22, which has one of the finest country school buildings in the state. The teachers are well prepared for their work and the course of study includes the tenth and eleventh grades, which is very unusual for a country school. The people of the district are justly proud of their school and it is a source of satisfaction to Mr. Bayley that he has had much to do with bringing it to its present high degree of efficiency. He belongs to Granite Lodge, No. 189, A. F. & A. M.; to Anchor Lodge, No. 14, A. O. U. W.; and is also a member of the Gibbon Commercial Club, which indicates his active interest in the development of that town. He possesses unusual business ability and enterprise, and these qualities have not only enabled him to gain financial independence but have also made him a factor in the upbuilding of the material interests of his township. He has also contributed to its advancement along moral, educational and civic lines and is recognized as one of its foremost citizens. Both he and his wife are hospitable and generous and cordially welcome their friends to their home. There are no more highly esteemed people in the township than Mr. and Mrs. Bayley and the respect in which they are held is well deserved.

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#### WALTER H. GUNN.

Walter H. Gunn, a landowner and stockman residing in Kearney, was born in Freeport, Illinois, on the 24th of March, 1857. In his childhood the family removed to St. Lawrence county, New York, but after living there a few years returned to Illinois, locating at Rockford. There he received the greater part of his education, completing a public school course and graduating from the high school, after which he attended a business college for some time.

On beginning his independent career Mr. Gunn secured a position as traveling man for a machinery company, first as collector and later as salesman. While with that firm he covered the greater part of Illinois, but after remaining with them for a few years he was married and took charge of his father's farm near Rockford. Later he purchased land in that locality and became quite heavily interested in the stock business, while at the same time he operated a store in Fairdale, engaging in merchandising for about five years. In 1907 he sold his property in Illinois and came to Kearney, partly on account of his health and partly because of the excellent schools here. He found the change beneficial and as his health has improved he has invested in lands in this state. He is associated with George E. Dick, of Sycamore, Illinois, and F. L. Robinson in the cattle business.

Mr. Gunn was married on the 27th of February, 1878, at Sycamore, Illinois, to Miss Mary Nichols, a native of that place, where she was reared and educated. To them have been born six children, namely: Herbert H., a resident of Esmond, Illinois; Orrin R., a real estate dealer of Kansas City, Missouri; Ella B., who graduated from the University of Nebraska and taught in the high school



at Kearney for two years but who is now the wife of Noel A. Negley, a resident of Wisconsin; Clarence, who is associated with his brother Orrin in the real estate business in Kansas City; Bessie, a student in the State Normal School; and Russell, who is attending school.

Mr. Gunn supports the republican party at the polls but has never desired to hold office. His wife and family belong to the Methodist church. The extent of his financial interests ranks him with the leading business men of Kearney, and he is also highly esteemed as a citizen and as a man.

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### CAPTAIN JOSEPH BLACK.

In the history of Kearney it is imperative that mention be made of Capt. Joseph Black, because he ranked with her foremost citizens, because he was prominently identified with Buffalo county's business interests and because, as a member of the legislature, he largely promoted her welfare and upbuilding, his name thus becoming ineffaceably traced upon the annals of the county. He was born in Greenbrier county, Virginia, now West Virginia, on the 23d of April, 1834, and was in the seventy-eighth year of his age when death called him on the 29th of February, 1912. His parents were William and Rebecca (Benson) Black, also natives of Greenbrier county, where their ancestors were pioneer settlers. William Black, with his wife and son Joseph, their eldest child, removed to Knox county, Illinois, in 1835, and five years afterward became residents of Henry county, Iowa, where the father died in 1862, at the age of fifty-five years. His wife survived him until 1867 and passed away at the age of fifty-three years. They had a large family, including: Joseph; John B., who died November 28, 1891; Samuel R., who died in Nebraska, December 1, 1911, having become a pioneer settler of Buffalo county and later of Thomas county, this state; William P.; Asbury; Charles, a pioneer resident of Buffalo county, who died in Kearney; and Emma, the wife of W. C. Wilson, of Henry county, Iowa. The two sons, John and William P., served as members of an Iowa regiment in the Civil war.

Captain Black was reared upon the old homestead farm, attended the public schools, and Howe Academy at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and in early manhood he embarked in merchandising in Abingdon, Illinois, but at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war all business and personal considerations were put aside and when Rev. Milton L. Haney recruited Company K of the Fifty-fifth Illinois Infantry at Abingdon on the 17th of October, 1861, the first man to enlist was Joseph Black. By the 22d of the month one hundred and two names had been enrolled and the company was duly organized by the election of Mr. Black as captain. Two days later it marched into Camp Douglas, every man in his place. The men so diligently improved their time in the camp of instruction that when the time came for the regiment to enter the field it was as proficient in drill and discipline as the companies which had been under instruction much longer. The excellent morale of the company was largely due to Captain Black's efforts, for he soon proved himself a fine executive officer, firm and impartial. The majority of the regiment was made up in

Chicago and it became one of the historic regiments of the war by reason of its deeds of valor under Grant and Sherman. At Pittsburg Landing it lost two hundred and seventy-four out of five hundred and twelve men engaged, which was the heaviest loss by far in any one battle in the entire conflict. Out of a total enrollment of men of ten hundred and fifty-six it lost five hundred and seventy-seven. There were ninety-one pairs of brothers enlisted, forty-three of whom were killed in battle. The regiment marched thirty-two hundred and forty miles on foot and proceeded eight thousand seven hundred and twenty-five miles by transport. Captain Black participated in many of the hotly contested battles of the first two years of the war, including the engagements at Shiloh, Corinth, Memphis, Holly Springs, Yazoo and Arkansas Post. While the company was on picket duty near Shelley Depot, Tennessee, during the night of October 22, 1862, they were fired upon by guerrillas and Captain Black and Sergeant W. D. Lomax were slightly wounded. From November 26, 1862, until February 1, 1863, Captain Black alternated with two other senior captains in acting as major of the regiment and at the latter date he resigned.

Captain Black left the army because of the death of his father and returned to Henry county to care for his mother and sisters. For a time he devoted his attention to general farming and later established a mercantile business in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, where he also became captain of a local militia company, commissioned by Governor Stone of that state. On the 1st of June, 1865, he was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Updegraff, a daughter of Abram and Nellie Eleanor (Currihan) Updegraff. She was born May 28, 1842, in Henry county, Iowa, where her parents settled in early days, having removed from Cumberland county, Pennsylvania. Captain Black and his wife continued their residence in Iowa until 1875 and then came to Buffalo county, where he devoted his attention to farming and to the live stock business and merchandising. He owned and operated a large ranch on the South Loup and another just south of the town on an island on the Platte river. From 1885 until 1888 he carried on mercantile pursuits in Kearney and was recognized as one of the representative citizens of that place.

As the years passed several children were added to the family and Captain Black is survived by his widow, four daughters and a son, namely: Nellie, the wife of A. C. Miller, freight agent for the Union Pacific Railroad Company at South Omaha; Alice, the wife of Ellsworth Turney, of Fairfield, Iowa, connected with the Charter Oak Wagon Works; Kathrine, the wife of Herbert Schar, of Webb City, Missouri; Nancy, living with her mother in Kearney; and Frank, also of Kearney. The family circle was broken by the hand of death when on the 29th of February, 1912, Captain Black passed away. He had figured prominently in public affairs. In 1880 he became treasurer of Buffalo county and served in that and the ensuing year. On the 14th of April, 1884, he became mayor of the city and occupied that position for one year, giving to the city a progressive and businesslike administration. For eight years he was a member of the city school board and during the last three years of that time acted as its president. He served for twenty years on the city library board and he also filled the position of county commissioner. In 1895 he was chosen to represent his district in the state senate, of which he remained a member



until 1898. His interest in public affairs was that of a citizen always loyal to the best interests of the community and he gave thoughtful and earnest consideration to all questions which came up for settlement. His political allegiance was given to the republican party and he belonged to the Grand Army of the Republic. He became a charter member of Sedgwick Post, No. 1, at Kearney, served as its commander and always took a helpful interest in its affairs. He was appointed by the board of county commissioners and superintended the erection of the Buffalo county courthouse, thus securing to the county a durable building. His was a well spent life, characterized by many admirable traits. He always stood for those things which are of the greatest benefit to the individual and the community and sought to further public progress by his cooperation and indefatigable energy. His efforts were at all times guided by sound judgment and those who knew him always recognized the integrity of his acts and his loyalty to his honest convictions.

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### FREDERICK H. REDINGTON.

Frederick H. Redington, who is managing seventeen hundred and twenty acres of land and is residing on section 36, Sharon township, Buffalo county, was born in Amherst, Lorain county, Ohio, on the 23d of January, 1856. His parents, Alexander H. and Jane E. (Bryant) Redington, were natives respectively of Massachusetts and of Gloucestershire, England. The mother accompanied her parents to the United States when but a child and grew to womanhood in Amherst, Ohio, where her marriage occurred. Her husband and his father drove the mail stage from Cleveland to Birmingham for many years and Alexander H. Redington also kept a roadhouse and served as postmaster of Amherst. In addition to his other activities he engaged in farming to some extent and was successful in all his enterprises.

Frederick H. Redington was reared at home and received his general education in the public schools. He was also a student at the Bryant & Stratton Business College of Chicago, which was owned by two of his uncles, Mr. Bryant being a brother of his mother and Mr. Stratton having married a sister of Mrs. Redington. After completing his business course he went to Wyoming in the spring of 1881 and for ten years he was identified with the cattle business in that state. In 1891 he went to Omaha and became connected with Clay, Robinson & Company, the well known livestock commission dealers, with whom he remained for eleven years. Later he was with Rosenbaum Brothers & Company for six years and divided his time between his work at the yards and traveling on the road looking after loans. On the 2d of July, 1910, he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, where he still resides, and has concentrated his attention upon the management of his wife's extensive landholdings, which comprise seventeen hundred and twenty acres, and in that connection he has manifested business acumen and foresight.

Mr. Redington was married on the 21st of July, 1910, to Mrs. George Meisner, who was in her maidenhood Miss Nellie Forsythe. He supports the republican party at the polls but has never had time to take an active part in politics.



*J. H. Redington*



Fraternally he belongs to Shelton Lodge, No. 99, A. F. & A. M.; Shelton Lodge, No. 92, K. P.; and Kearney Lodge, No. 984, B. P. O. E. Although he has resided in this county for a comparatively short period, his ability has already gained him recognition as one of its representative business men and citizens. His attractive personal qualities have also gained him the friendship of many.

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### W. M. ROSS.

W. M. Ross, a well known sheep and cattle feeder making his home on section 13, Gibbon township, represents a business which is of the utmost value to western Nebraska, it being one of the most important sources of Buffalo county's wealth and upbuilding. In all that he undertakes Mr. Ross displays enterprise and determination and carries forward to successful completion any business in which he becomes engaged. He was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on the 14th of November, 1873, a son of William B. and Sarah S. (McClain) Ross. The father is a native of Ripley county, Indiana, and the mother of Pennsylvania, whence she removed with her parents to Illinois in her early girlhood, her father, John McClain, being one of the pioneer settlers of Kane county, where he secured a government claim. It was in Aurora, Illinois, that Sarah S. McClain gave her hand in marriage to William B. Ross, who thereafter followed farming in Kane county until 1884, when he removed with his family to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and purchased a farm in Center township. He resided thereon until about 1900, when he removed to La Cygne, Kansas, where he is still carrying on general agricultural pursuits.

W. M. Ross was reared under the parental roof, his boyhood days bringing to him the usual experiences that fall to the farm lad. He supplemented a district school education by study in the Gibbon Normal School and also by study at Kearney Hall. Following the completion of his course he taught school for three years, at the end of which time he resumed the occupation to which he had been reared, purchasing in 1897 a tract of land of eighty acres on section 3, Gibbon township. He located thereon and continued to engage in farming until 1912, when he removed to Ravenna, where for eight months he occupied a position in the Citizens State Bank. He then purchased the Commercial State Bank at Amherst, of which he is still the president. In company with I. A. Kirk and W. C. Ogilvie he bought the Hershey ranch of four hundred acres adjoining Gibbon. This he is now operating and is one of the heavy stock feeders of Buffalo county, feeding both cattle and sheep. His business has assumed extensive proportions and is most wisely, carefully and successfully directed.

On the 20th of September, 1900, Mr. Ross was married to Miss Mable Reedy, a daughter of John and Charlotte Reedy, who came to Nebraska from Tama county, Iowa, in 1878. To them have been born three children: John W., Richard R. and Elton S.

In politics Mr. Ross is a republican. He has served as a member of the school board and as a member of the board of trustees of the cemetery. He conforms his life to the teachings of the Masonic fraternity, holding membership in Granite Lodge, No. 189, F. & A. M., and he is also a member of Gibbon Lodge, No. 37,



I. O. O. F. Both he and his wife are consistent and faithful members and generous supporters of the First Baptist church of Gibbon. Theirs is one of the finest country homes in Buffalo county, finished throughout in hardwood, heated by steam and, in fact, it is strictly modern in all its equipment. Moreover, an air of hospitality is ever supreme and its doors are quickly opened for the reception of their many friends.

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### MELCHOR N. TROUPE.

Melchor N. Troupe, treasurer of Buffalo county and resident of Kearney, is of Maryland nativity, his birth having occurred in Washington county, that state, on the 21st of June, 1854. His parents, Henry and Catherine (Schnebly) Troupe, were also natives of Maryland and were of German and Swiss ancestry. Melchor N. Troupe is of the fourth generation on the paternal side and the fifth on the maternal side of his people who have lived in America and is one of a family of ten children, seven of whom are yet living. He was reared upon his father's farm and during his youthful days attended the district schools. With his parents he removed to Pennsylvania in his boyhood and there pursued his studies in a select school. He continued to assist in the work of the home farm until the spring of 1878, when he came to Nebraska and for a time was employed at Lincoln. Later, however, he went to Iowa and for about six years was engaged in farming in Pottawattamie county.

In 1884 Mr. Troupe removed to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and settled in Sartoria township, where he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres. For about twenty years he resided thereon, devoting his attention to farming and stock raising, particularly in the breeding of shorthorn Durham cattle. His farming interests were carefully and wisely conducted, and success attended his labors, while his industry was manifest in the excellent improvements which he added to his place. In 1903 he became the nominee of his party for treasurer of Buffalo county, to which office he was duly elected. Removing to Kearney he served as treasurer for a term of two years, was reelected and thus served for four consecutive years. Upon the expiration of his second term he engaged in the monument business in Kearney, continuing in that line until 1911, when he was again elected to the office of county treasurer, and the biennial election law enacted in 1913 continued his term of office to three years. In 1914 he was once more chosen by popular suffrage to fill the office and upon the expiration of his present term he will have served Buffalo county nine years as treasurer, his incumbency covering a longer period than any one who has ever held the office.

On the 21st of March, 1882, in Iowa, Mr. Troupe was married to Miss Elizabeth Taylor, who was a native of Jennings county, Indiana, and a daughter of Allen C. and Eliza Taylor. Mrs. Troupe is a graduate of the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso, and at the time of her marriage was engaged in teaching in Iowa. Harry, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Troupe, was born in Iowa, and during their residence in Buffalo county four other children have been added to the household, these being Louis, Kathrine, Marie and John. The two eldest are married. Harry wedded Pearl Miller and resides in Kear-



ney, where he is engaged in the abstract and insurance business. Louis wedded Miss Margaret Smith, and is engaged in the telephone business. Kathrine followed teaching for four years in Buffalo county and for two years in Valley county and is now a student at the State Normal School at Kearney. Marie is now engaged in teaching for the second year at Albion, Boone county, Nebraska. John is a high school student at Kearney.

Mr. and Mrs. Troupe are members of the Presbyterian church, and fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In politics he is a republican. There is no resident of the county who has wider personal acquaintance than Mr. Troupe, and his popularity is indicated in the fact that he has again and again been chosen for the position which he now fills and on each occasion has been accorded a very substantial and gratifying majority. His political as well as his personal integrity is above question, and his entire official career has been marked by honor.

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### S. N. FREEMAN.

S. N. Freeman, living in Center township, is a man of sterling character, his personal worth gaining for him the confidence, goodwill and high regard of all with whom he comes in contact. He is the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres upon which is a fine home beautifully situated on an elevation overlooking the valley. Mr. Freeman was born in Sweden on the 1st of December, 1846, and is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Nelson, both of whom died in Sweden. He was reared under the parental roof and the public schools of the neighborhood afforded him his educational privileges. At eighteen years of age he enlisted in the regular army and served for six years. In 1870 he completed his arrangements to come to the new world and after bidding adieu to friends and native country sailed for the United States. He spent the first winter after his arrival near Burlington in Des Moines county, Iowa, and in the following summer was employed on government work along the Mississippi river. In 1872 he settled in Moline, Illinois, where for eleven years he was in the employ of a lumber company. In 1885 he came to Nebraska and located on his present home farm, which he had purchased five years prior to his removal to that place. He has diligently and persistently directed the work of the farm since that time, has brought his fields to a high state of cultivation and has added to the value of his place by the improvements which he has put upon it.

In Moline, Illinois, Mr. Freeman was united in marriage to Miss Lottie Holberg, a native of Sweden, by whom he has three children, namely: Esther, at home; Bennett, who is engaged in farming in Center township, this county; and Rose, the wife of Melvin Jones, of Chicago, Illinois. The wife and mother died July 9, 1891, and was laid to rest in the Kearney cemetery.

Politically Mr. Freeman is a republican who keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day, although he has never been an office seeker. He and his family are members of the Lutheran church and throughout his

entire life his course has conformed to high Christian principles. He has never sought to take advantage of the necessities of his fellowmen in any business transaction but has put forth his effort in accordance with the rules that govern industry and strict and unswerving integrity.

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### JOHN N. NUTTER.

John N. Nutter, a well-to-do retired farmer living on section 16, Shelton township, has resided upon his present farm for thirty-two years. He was born in Gloucester, New Jersey, on the 6th of March, 1856, of the marriage of William and Dinah (Ingham) Nutter, both of whom were natives of Lancashire, England, where they grew to manhood and womanhood. They were married there and continued to live there for several years, but in the early '50s came to the United States with their two children and after remaining for a short time in Gloucester, New Jersey, located in Philadelphia. The father, who was a cotton mill operative, worked in the mills in Philadelphia for several years and made his way upward to the position of superintendent of the mills. He was a member of the Mormon church and in 1860 went to Salt Lake City with a Mormon colony, but he only remained there for a short time, as he became dissatisfied with the way in which affairs were managed and consequently severed his connection with the colony. He came eastward as far as Nebraska and located in Hall county near Shelton. During the Civil war the Indians were so hostile that he was forced to leave his farm and return to England, but after six or eight months he again came to the United States and accepted the position of superintendent of cotton mills in Gloucester, New Jersey. In 1869 he returned to Nebraska and preempted the northeast quarter of section 8, Shelton township, Buffalo county. He resided upon that place until his demise, which occurred in 1908. His wife is still living and makes her home with her son M. D., who is operating the homestead.

John N. Nutter remained at home during the period of his minority and received his education in the public schools. When twenty-one years of age he began farming on his own account and in 1878 he leased a tract of school land, which he subsequently purchased and on which he now resides. In the same year he took up a homestead in Platte township, on which he lived for five years, but in 1883, having proved up on his claim, he removed to the first mentioned farm, on which he has now lived continuously for thirty-two years. He owns seven hundred and twenty acres of excellent land and his enterprise and efficiency have enabled him to gain financial independence. In 1915 he retired from the active work of the farm, although he is still residing in Shelton township. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator at Gibbon.

In 1881 Mr. Nutter was united in marriage to Miss Anna Carlson, who was then a resident of Kearney, but whose birth occurred in Sweden. They have become the parents of five children, namely: Olive, the wife of Charles Holmes, of South Denver, Colorado; Effie, who married John Graham, of Hall county, Nebraska; Herbert, who is traveling auditor for the Wells Fargo Express Company; Elsie, the wife of John Evans, of Salem, Oregon; and Beatrice, who mar-



JOHN N. NUTTER



ried John Hogg, of Vancouver, Washington. For his second wife Mr. Nutter married Miss Jennie Ringholdson, a native of Sweden, who came to this country in 1893 and located in Kearney, Nebraska, where they were married while Mr. Nutter was serving as sheriff. There are six children by this union: Ina, now Mrs. Everett Reynolds, of Red Elm, South Dakota; Hilda, who is teaching school in Lincoln county; and Marjorie, Harold, Daniel and Jean, all of whom are at home.

Mr. Nutter is a liberal democrat and is well informed on the political issues of the day. For two terms he held the office of sheriff of Buffalo county, serving in that capacity from 1892 to 1896, and his record is highly creditable to his ability and public spirit. He is prominent in local fraternal circles, belonging to Gibbon Lodge, No. 37, I. O. O. F.; Granite Lodge, No. 189, A. F. & A. M.; Kearney Chapter, R. A. M.; Excalibur Lodge, No. 138, K. P.; and to the local organization of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Knights of the Maccabees. He is interested in everything that pertains to the public welfare and is recognized as one of the valued citizens of his township.

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#### CLIFFORD CLINTON REED.

Clifford Clinton Reed, editor and part owner of the Shelton Clipper, has, in the publication of this journal, entered upon a work with which his father was closely associated for many years, maintaining in connection therewith the highest standards of newspaper publication. Clifford C. Reed was born in Shelton July 19, 1889, his parents being Frank D. and Hattie (McKnight) Reed. The father was a native of Middleport, Ohio, born June 30, 1862, and in that state was reared and educated. In early life he learned the printer's trade, which he followed in several states, mostly in the middle west, and at one time he was a member of the State Journal force at Lincoln, Nebraska. He was also associated with his uncle, Dr. F. B. Reed, in the publication of a newspaper at Peru, Nebraska, previous to his removal to Shelton. He became a resident of this city in 1884 and in connection with his brother, William M. Reed, purchased the Shelton Clipper. The partnership continued until 1895, when the brother retired, after which the father continued the publication of the paper alone until his demise, being regarded as one of the ablest as well as one of the oldest newspaper men in the state. On the 16th of July, 1885, he wedded Miss Hattie McKnight, of Hastings, Nebraska, and to them were born five children: Mrs. E. L. Templin, Clifford C., Wauneta, Geneva and Frank. Through appointment of President McKinley Mr. Reed became postmaster at Shelton and filled the office for twelve years, when in 1910 he voluntarily resigned to devote his full time to the publication of the Clipper and the management of the newspaper office. He died November 7, 1911, and was laid to rest in the cemetery at Hastings. Newspapers throughout the state spoke of him in terms of highest regard. He was a man of fine personal appearance and the physical was but an index of the noble spirit within.

One who was long associated with him in business and in social life and who knew him perhaps better than any one outside of his immediate family circle



said: "There are times when words—mere words—fall far short of expressing the feelings of the heart. Today we mourn the death of a true friend. Yet our loss is small compared with that of the ones who are bereft of a husband and father. To say one word of comfort would be to say that his life work was done well. He made true friends. His good deeds were many and they will always linger in the memory of the people of Nebraska who knew him. Frank Reed will receive a reward for his many good deeds of kindness, for his charity toward his fellowmen and for the life of usefulness to all. To know him better was to respect him more. His warmest friends were those who knew him best. Eight years ago his office was destroyed by fire. In a few moments practically the work of a lifetime was gone. But Frank Reed was not dismayed. He looked on the bright side. Before the fire was out a new outfit was ordered and he commenced the work over again. A new paper rose from those ruins and it was better than it had ever been. It had in it Frank Reed's determination to make his paper the best country newspaper in the state. This was his ideal. He lived up to it. His many newspaper friends point with pride to The Shelton Clipper. Not even the fire caused him to miss a single issue. The paper came out on time. No matter how busy with other affairs, his first consideration was for those who were subscribers for his newspaper. He always gave them the best that was in him. He was a loyal, self-sacrificing citizen, public-spirited and generous. Shelton sustains a deep loss. Frank Reed fought many battles for Shelton and won. In his home life he was a generous and wise provider. The care of those near and dear to him by kindred ties was uppermost in his mind. He loved his home. It was very dear to him. I never saw him happier than when the family gathered at the home. He wanted them to have the pleasures of life, no matter what sacrifices it meant to him. No husband could be more kind. No father could bestow greater love and affection on his children. Friends were always welcome at his home. A stranger in need was never turned away empty handed. His deeds of charity were many. Frank Reed stood high in the estimation of the newspaper fraternity of the state. For years he attended the meetings of the Nebraska Press Association and was one of the factors in keeping up the organization. In 1905 he was elected vice president and the year following unanimously chosen as president, an office which he filled with honor. His newspaper was looked on by members of the craft as an ideal paper for a town of this size. He took a very active part in the association meetings and during the twenty-seven years of his newspaper life seldom missed a meeting. No meeting was thought to be quite complete without Frank Reed's presence. He was prominent in lodge work. He was a member of Kearney lodge of Elks, a member of the Shelton lodge of Knights of Pythias, of Phoenix lodge in the Ancient Order of United Workmen, of the Modern Woodmen, Royal Highlanders and Modern Brotherhood of America. He enjoyed his associations in the lodge room and was regarded highly by his fraternal brethren."

Another wrote of Mr. Reed: "It was my pleasure and profit to know Frank Reed for over eight years and during that time I came to regard him as one of the most resourceful, most talented and most successful men in the country newspaper business. In the Clipper he published a paper that would have been a creditable representative of a community many times as large as

Shelton. For the quantity of news matter that it contained, for the quality of its editorials and for its typographical appearance it was a model worthy to be copied by any progressive newspaper man in the state. Mr. Reed had abilities that would have made him successful in any field, regardless of its size, but it was one of the commendable qualities of the man that he preferred to remain in Shelton, where perhaps he could be of more service than in a field of larger promise. But he was more than a talented newspaper man, he was a friend to every man and woman in the business. He may have had his faults but they were buried in a sea of unselfishness and gentle tolerance."

Hugh McVicker, of the Nebraska State Journal of Lincoln, wrote: "Wholesomeness and cheerfulness were dominating traits in the life of Frank D. Reed. He was a masterful, aggressive man in the sense that he met and overcame difficulties, but he was never domineering or a bully. He loved success and achieved it by hard and honest work, not by discrediting other men, for he disliked the hypocrite, backbiter and fault-finder. He was essentially an optimist; the pessimist to him was a good deal of a mystery. Had he been less generous he probably would have been wealthy. To me his passing is a personal bereavement. We were friends for over thirty years—chums in our youth and companions in later life. To those bound to him by closer ties—his family first, to whom he was devotedly attached—and to his business associates in a less degree, his loss is a tragedy."

Adam Breede, editor of the Hastings Tribune, said: "To be a man among men, a brother to his fellowmen, an honest, upright and courageous citizen, such was the courage, disposition and ambition of Frank Reed as I knew him. He was brave, good, generous, and kind—and he dared to do all that may become a man. His thoughts and exertions were more for the good of others than they were for himself. His virtues were many and his friends loved him for the splendid type of true manhood that he was."

Another said: "I counted the friendship of Frank Reed as one of the very pleasant experiences of my life. I do not recall exactly when I first met him. He was one of those persons whom one feels that he had always known. My acquaintance with him covered the span of a quarter of a century. I never met him but that I was conscious of being in the presence of a large-hearted, genial man of a most wholesome nature. And as he was a good friend and true, by those same qualities he was also a kind and proud husband and father. I think there was no finer trait of his character than his consideration and affection for his family, which he always unconsciously showed. Though of a most genial personality, he was firm and courageous in defending what he believed to be right and hesitated not to condemn what he knew to be wrong. This made him a good editor and a valuable citizen. It is of such as he we may well apply the words of Shakespeare, 'The elements in him were so mixed that the whole world ought to stand up and say, "This was a man."'"

When Frank D. Reed lay down his work never again to pen an editorial, his task was taken up by his son, Clifford C. Reed, who had been reared in Shelton and was educated in its public schools, being graduated from the high school with the class of 1907. When his text-books were put aside he had the business training and experience that came to him as assistant to his father in the printing office and the influence of the standards maintained by the

elder Reed could not fail to have its effect upon the son. Upon the father's death he assumed charge of the Shelton Clipper, in which work he is associated with his brother-in-law, E. L. Templin. They maintain the high standard established by the father and Mr. Reed is displaying in the conduct of the paper much of the developing ability which brought his father to a foremost place among the journalists of the state.

In his political views Mr. Reed is a stalwart republican, tenacious in his support of what he believes to be right and progressive in his opinions. His fraternal relations are with Shelton Lodge, No. 92, K. P. He has a very wide acquaintance in the city in which he has always lived and his circle of friends is almost coextensive therewith.

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### C. VAN DYCK BASTEN, M.D.

Dr. C. Van Dyck Basten, a prominent and valued representative of the medical profession in western Nebraska, who has practiced continuously in Kearney since May, 1883, was born at Kingston, Ulster county, New York, on the 25th of May, 1859, and is one of the three surviving members in a family of five children who were born of the marriage of George W. and Esther (Bevier) Basten. He was reared upon his father's farm with the usual experiences of the farm lad and acquired his early education in Ulster Academy. For two years he read medicine under the direction of Drs. Crispell & Smith, at Kingston, and later continued his studies with Dr. W. C. Goodno, of Philadelphia, as his preceptor. Still later he entered the Hahnemann Medical College in 1879, remaining a student in that institution for two years, but owing to failing health was compelled to relinquish his studies for a time. Later he went to Iowa and completed his medical education in the medical department of the State University at Iowa City, receiving his degree in 1883. Since that time he has taken numerous post-graduate courses in New York, Chicago and elsewhere, and by continued study and investigation keeps abreast with the most scientific research and progress.

Dr. Basten began the practice of his profession at Kearney in May, 1883, and has since here remained, winning early recognition as one of the foremost physicians of this part of the state—a position which he has since retained. He is ever careful in the diagnosis of his cases and his judgment is seldom at fault in regard to the outcome of disease. His professional duties are most conscientiously performed and his sympathy and consideration are elements in his popularity as well as the skill which he displays in practice.

On the 24th of November, 1885, Dr. Basten was married to Miss Adah Seaman, of Kearney, and they have an adopted daughter, Mary Edna. The religious faith of the family is that of the Methodist church, and Dr. Basten is connected with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and with the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained high rank, being now a Knight Templar. His political allegiance is given to the republican party, and although he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day he does not seek office. His membership along professional lines is with the Buffalo County and the Nebraska



State Medical Societies. He is an extremely busy and successful practitioner, an industrious and ambitious student and in his expressions concerning brother physicians is friendly and indulgent.

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### SILAS B. FUNK.

Buffalo county has been signally favored in the class of men who have occupied her public offices, for on the whole they have been patriotic citizens, loyal to the trust reposed in them and capable in the discharge of their varied and important duties. Such a one is Silas B. Funk, now serving as sheriff. A native of Franklin county, Pennsylvania, he was born December 12, 1854, his parents being Henry and Margaret (Good) Funk, who were also natives of the Keystone state and representatives of what is known as Pennsylvania Dutch stock.

Upon the home farm of his parents, Silas B. Funk was reared and in his boyhood days attended the common schools, but at the age of twelve years started out in life on his own responsibility. At that period he became imbued with the ambition to go west and see something of the new country. He ran away from home, proceeded as far as Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and there joined a wagon train drawn by oxen, bound for Salt Lake City, then known as Camp Douglas. With this wagon train he passed up the Platte river and over the site where Kearney now stands, but at that period there was nothing here save prairie dogs and rattlesnakes. The entire countryside was unsettled. Over it roamed wandering tribes of Indians, and the buffaloes and coyotes were numerous. Mr. Funk was employed at driving a team of oxen, the train belonging to Caldwell & Company, of Leavenworth. After unloading at Camp Douglas, they started on the return trip and spent the winter about forty miles southwest of Cheyenne. In the spring of 1867 they proceeded to North Platte, to which town the Union Pacific Railroad had been extended and there the ox train was sold. During the summer Mr. Funk acted as assistant wagon master. From North Platte he proceeded to Fort Leavenworth, and there joined another train bound for Fort Union, New Mexico. From there he went to Texas and became a cow puncher, continuing in that business for about fifteen years.

In the fall of 1882 Mr. Funk arrived in Buffalo county, Nebraska, and began farming in Loup township, where he carried on business for seven years. On the expiration of that period he removed to Kearney and became connected with the police force. In 1897 he was elected sheriff of the county and served for two terms of two years each. Later he spent five years in Wyoming and Utah as a detective for the Union Pacific Railroad, and later again became a member of the Kearney police force, in which connection he remained until he was once more elected sheriff of the county in 1914, and resumed the duties of the office in the following January. His life has been a stirring and oftentimes exciting and dangerous one. He has had many encounters with the Indians during his freighting and cowboy days, and met all of the experiences incident to life on the frontier. He deserves much credit for work which he did in early times when as a freighter, cowboy and detective he aided in planting the seeds of civilization

and in bringing about normal conditions in rendering life and property safe and in promoting progress.

Mr. Funk was married in 1879 to Miss Elizabeth Hunter, and by this marriage he has one daughter living, Mabel, now the wife of Victor Beck, of Broken Bow, Nebraska. The wife and mother passed away in 1886, and for his second wife Mr. Funk chose Mrs. Anna B. Lower, of Kearney, their marriage being celebrated November 4, 1890. Mrs. Funk is a member of the Congregational church.

Mr. Funk has membership with the Masons, having attained the Knights Templar degree of the York Rite, while with the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine he has crossed the sands of the desert. In varied relations he has proven his manhood and his worth, and those who know him speak of him in terms of warm regard.

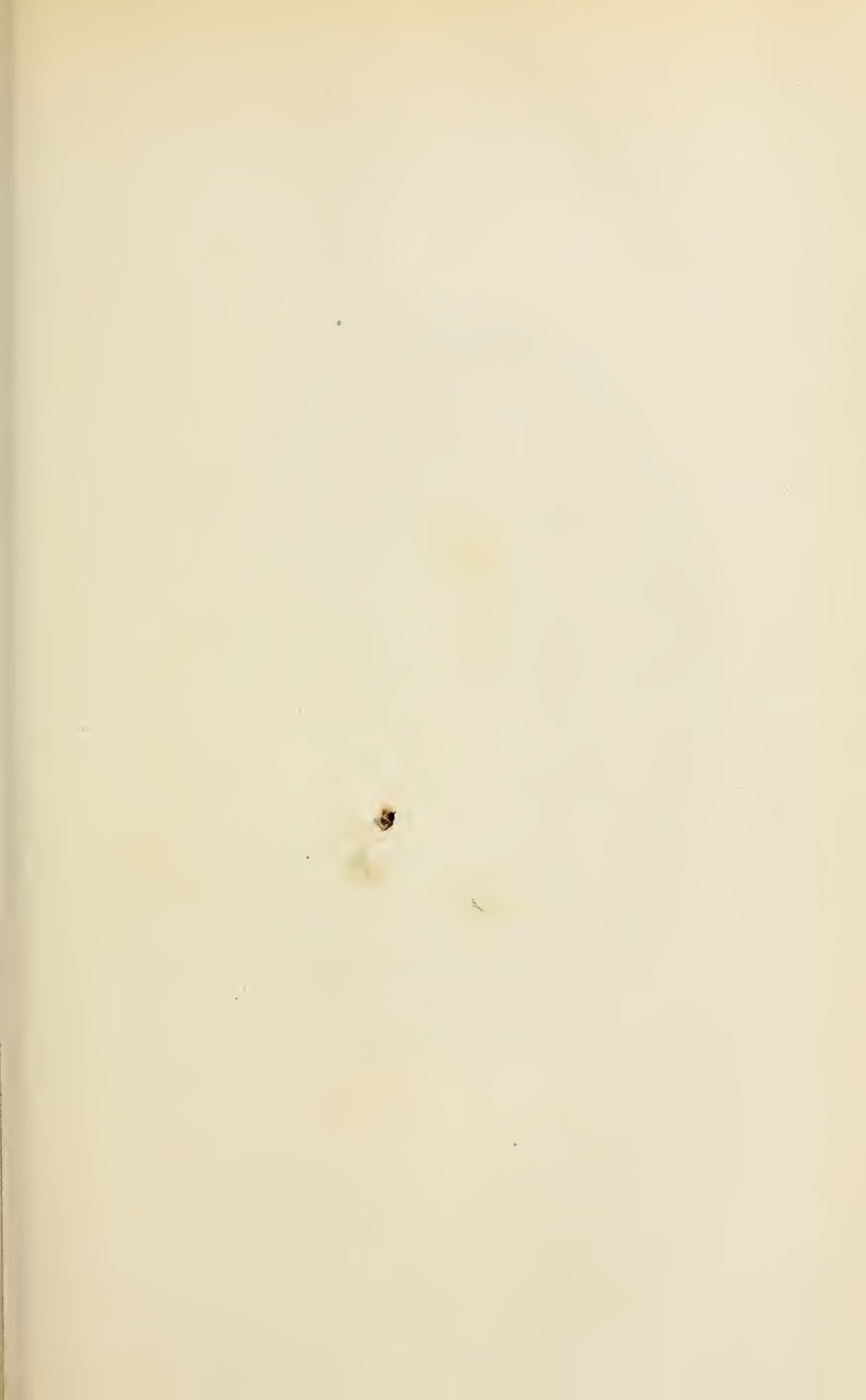
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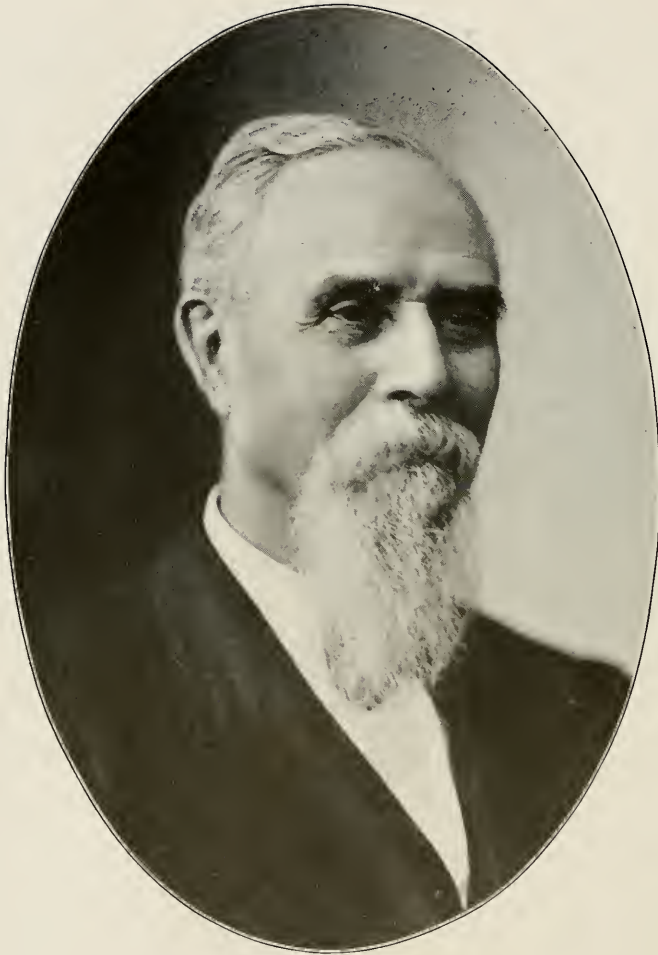
### JOSEPH NELSON ASHBURN.

Joseph Nelson Ashburn, proprietor of the Gibbon Roller Mills, belongs to that class of men to whom opportunity is ever the pathway to success. He has never been afraid to venture where favoring opportunity has led the way and his diligence and determination are carrying him steadily forward. He was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, September 7, 1869, a son of Dillon P. and Emily A. (Brown) Ashburn, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of New York. The father came with the colony that settled in this section of Buffalo county and thus the family has been represented here since pioneer times.

Joseph N. Ashburn was reared upon the old homestead place and supplemented his district school education by study in the Gibbon high school and in the United Brethren College at Gibbon. After completing his studies he served as assistant postmaster for four years, his father having been appointed to the position of postmaster at Gibbon. Later J. N. Ashburn occupied the position of collector for the implement house of David Bradley & Company for a short time, but in 1893 his father represented the dairy interests at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago and J. N. Ashburn remained at the exposition from July until November, being connected with the bureau of awards. He afterward returned to Gibbon and for three years was employed in the drug store of M. H. Noble. Subsequently he worked in the lumber yard of W. H. Buck for a short period, and when he had retired from that position he became associated with the Beatrice Creamery Company of Lincoln, which he represented upon the road and in other important capacities for nine years. He then went to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where he was employed by the Kidd Island Lumber Company, acting unofficially as manager, while later he became secretary of the company. He remained with that company for three years, and in 1910 returned to Nebraska, spending a short time with an Omaha lumber company which he represented upon the road. In the spring of 1911 he came to Gibbon as yard manager for W. H. Buck, in which capacity he served until 1913. In April of the latter year he purchased a half interest in the Gibbon Roller Mills and upon the death of Roy A. Davis, the senior partner, on the 31st of October, 1914,







DILLON P. ASHBURN



MRS. DILLON P. ASHBURN



he purchased his interest in the business and became sole proprietor of what is now one of the leading productive industries of Buffalo county.

On the 28th of June, 1898, Mr. Ashburn was united in marriage to Miss Hattie B. McConnaughey, her father being Orlando McConnaughey, one of the prominent men of Gibbon. To them have been born four children, namely: Bernice L., Harry Arthur, Constance D. and Edith L.

Mr. Ashburn is a prominent Mason, belonging to Granite Lodge, No. 189, A. F. & A. M., while in Omaha Consistory he has attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite. Both he and his wife are connected with the Order of the Eastern Star. In politics he is a republican, and while he has never held public office, he has served as a member of the school board. Since starting out in business life on his own account he has gradually worked his way upward, improving his opportunities and utilizing his advantages until he has become one of the active, well known and prosperous business men of Buffalo county.

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### EARL E. HILL.

Earl E. Hill is a member of the firm of Hill Brothers, general merchants of Riverdale, and is numbered among the most enterprising and progressive business men of his part of the county. He is now acting as postmaster and at all times he is interested in the progress and development of the district in which he lives to the extent of giving active cooperation to various movements for the general good. He was born October 28, 1881, in the town where he still resides, and is a son of Cosmo S. and Mary (Delano) Hill. The father's birth occurred in Bethel, Vermont, in 1848 and, emigrating westward in 1873, he settled at Riverdale, Nebraska, purchasing a relinquishment to an eighty-acre tract of land which he at once began to develop and improve. He was a son of Steven Hill, who was also a native of Vermont.

The birth of Earl E. Hill occurred on the old homestead farm in Riverdale township and his education was acquired in the district schools. When not occupied with his lessons he aided in the work of the fields and afterward took up the active task of further developing and improving his father's farm on section 4, Riverdale township, there giving his attention to general agricultural pursuits until 1904, when he engaged in the grain business at Riverdale, establishing an elevator. In 1906 he formed a partnership with J. E. Nelson and embarked in general merchandising under the firm style of Hill & Nelson. That relationship was maintained until 1910, when Mr. Nelson disposed of his interest to E. S. Hill, a brother of E. E. Hill, and the firm name was changed to Hill Brothers, under which style the business has since been conducted. They have a well appointed store, carrying a large and carefully selected line of goods and drawing a gratifying trade not only from the village but from the surrounding country as well. Earl E. Hill is also postmaster of Riverdale, having been appointed April 25, 1910, the postoffice being located in the general store of Hill Brothers.

On the 1st of August, 1906, at Riverdale, Mr. Hill was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary A. Ball, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of Gilbert and



Mary Ball. They have two children, Iona and Irene, who are eight and six years of age respectively. Mr. Hill belongs to Riverdale Camp, No. 1072, M. W. A., and to Riverdale Lodge, No. 352, I. O. O. F., and in the former he served as venerable consul for four terms. In politics he is a democrat where national issues are involved but at local elections casts an independent ballot. He concentrates his efforts upon his business affairs and success in large measure is attending him, for the methods which he pursues are in accordance with modern business principles.

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#### A. F. BILLS.

A. F. Bills, manager of the Farmers Elevator Company at Shelton, is thoroughly acquainted with every phase of the grain trade and is thus well qualified to carry on the work which now engages his attention. His birth occurred in Pike county, Illinois, on the 1st of March, 1858, his parents being Arthur F. and Elizabeth (Wilkes) Bills, the former born in New York of English parentage, while the latter was a native of Louisville, Kentucky. They were married in Louisville, Kentucky, and soon afterward or in the year 1851 removed to Pike county, Illinois, where the father engaged in farming and stock raising. He purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land and was quite a heavy stock buyer. During the Civil war he had government contracts to furnish meat to the troops and for a long period he carried on an extensive business. In 1862, he returned to Kentucky and at Bowling Green borrowed five thousand dollars to use in his live-stock transactions. This he brought back with him in gold and silver and hid it in a buckwheat bin in an old unused log cabin. A few days later a little daughter discovered the hiding place of the money and he therefore hid it in another place. The Missouri bushwhackers were troublesome and raids were frequent. A few nights later a number of watchdogs which he kept made a great fuss and the next morning he was found dead outside his door. He had evidently gone out to find what was causing the disturbance. The hiding place of the money was never found, nor was it ever known whether or not the bushwhackers had succeeded in making their escape with it. Through the death of the father and the loss of this money the family were obliged to lose their farm. Subsequently the mother became the wife of Isaiah Lewton and they removed to Minnesota, where they resided for a year. The following year they became residents of Augusta, Hancock county, Illinois, and in 1872 the family went to Nebraska, settling in Hall county, where Mr. Lewton homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land. In 1874 they removed to Wood River, where the death of Mr. Lewton occurred about 1883. The mother afterward came to Shelton and made her home with her son, A. F. Bills, until her death in 1885. It was Mr. Lewton who shot the last buffalo ever killed in this section of the state. Five buffaloes crossed the Platte river on June 23, 1875, and he succeeded in bringing down one of the number.

A. F. Bills was educated in the common schools and started out as a farmer when but seventeen years of age by purchasing eighty acres of land in Jackson township, Hall county. There he began farming on his own account and in 1878 he traded this land for a grocery store in Shelton. A year later, however,

he failed in business and resumed his agricultural pursuits, to which he again devoted his energies for three years. On the expiration of that period he once more became a resident of Shelton and for five years was employed in the grocery and drug store of Hostetler Brothers. He then once more resumed farming, in which business he continued actively and successfully until 1910, when he sold all but ten acres of his land which lies within the city limits of Shelton. For many years he has bought grain and hay for the sheep feeders of this section, and in 1910, because of his recognized ability in that direction, he was placed in charge of the Farmers grain elevator at Shelton, where he is now wisely, capably and successfully conducting business.

On the 1st of January, 1879, Mr. Bills was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Walsh, a daughter of Patrick Walsh, who came out to Fort Kearney as a soldier in 1866 and after his enlistment expired homesteaded the quarter section on which Shelton now stands. This was in 1869 or two years prior to the coming of the colony. To Mr. and Mrs. Bills have been born nine children, six of whom survive, as follows: Frank A., who is a railroad man of Los Angeles, California; Rufus L., a railroad man of Portland, Oregon; Joseph L., who is a professional ball player with the Des Moines (Ia.) team; and Nora, Mary R. and John P., all at home.

In his political views Mr. Bills is a democrat and for seven years filled the office of marshal in Shelton. He belongs to Shelton Lodge, A. F. & A. M., to the Ancient Order of United Workmen and to the Catholic church. His life has been a busy one fraught with earnest effort, and whatever success he has achieved is attributable entirely to his own labors. Gradually he has worked his way upward step by step and is now a prominent representative of commercial activity in Buffalo county.

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### JAMES A. BOYD.

Diligence and enterprise are the factors that count most in business life and Mr. Boyd is possessed of those qualities in large measure. Since the organization of the Farmers Bank of Kearney in 1890 he has been its cashier and has contributed in large measure to its success, for he displays sound judgment and keen sagacity in business affairs and has thoroughly acquainted himself with every phase of modern banking. A native of Illinois, he was born upon a farm in Whiteside county, April 14, 1858. The father, John Boyd, was a native of Scotland and when a young man came to America at a time when sailing vessels afforded the only means of crossing the Atlantic. Two years later he returned to the land of hills and heather and there married Isabelle Archibald. About the year 1856 he returned to the United States for a permanent residence and located in Whiteside county, Illinois, before a railroad had been built through that county. His remaining days were there passed and his death occurred in December, 1911. For more than four years he had survived his wife, who died in March, 1907.

The early life of James A. Boyd was passed upon the home farm, during which period he assisted in such work as was necessary in the development of the

fields according to the methods then in use. His education was obtained in the graded schools of Morrison and he followed farming in his native state until 1889.

In the meantime he had married Miss May Robertson, a sister of Lew Robertson, who was the first president of the Farmers Bank at Kearney, the wedding being celebrated on the 16th of September, 1885. In March, 1889, they removed to Kearney and Mr. Boyd became connected with the First National Bank, where his duties comprised almost everything except the voting of stock. He continued in that connection until 1890, when he took an active part in the organization of the Farmers Bank, of which he was elected cashier and has so continued to the present time—a period of more than a quarter of a century. He has been most careful to safeguard the interests of depositors and thus make the institution worthy of public patronage. His progressiveness is tempered by a safe conservatism and at the same time he has kept the bank in touch with the most modern financial methods.

To Mr. and Mrs. Boyd have been born two children but the elder, John Earl, died when but eleven months old. The younger, James W., is with his parents, who are well known in social circles of this city, where they have many warm friends. Aside from his business relations Mr. Boyd has otherwise become identified with the material interests and development of Kearney and Buffalo county. He served as a member of the city council for six years and exercised his official prerogatives in support of many plans and measures for the general good. Socially he is identified with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. Those who know him find him a genial, courteous gentleman, always obliging, and by reason of his sterling worth he has become well established in public regard.

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#### DAVID ROACH.

David Roach owns one hundred and sixty acres of well developed land in Gibbon township and finds that its cultivation and improvement leaves him little time for outside interests. He was born in Pennsylvania on the 15th of April, 1853, and is one of three living children of a family of eleven, whose parents were Thomas and Jennie (Ore) Roach, both natives of England, whence they emigrated to America in 1850. They settled in Pennsylvania, where the mother passed away, and the father subsequently removed to Illinois and still later to Nebraska, where his death occurred.

David Roach acquired a common school education and remained under the parental roof until he was twenty-two years of age. He was then engineer in a sawmill for three years, after which he went to Logan county, Illinois, where he spent seven years. At the end of that time he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and after working as a laborer for three years, began farming. In 1905 he purchased his present farm, which comprises one hundred and sixty acres on section 9, Gibbon township, and which is in a high state of development. He raises the usual crops and also considerable stock, and his well directed labors yield him a gratifying return.



In 1875 occurred the marriage of Mr. Roach and Miss Georgia Cass, and they became the parents of two children: Harry, who is farming in this township; and Hattie, the wife of Carl Webster. In 1889 the wife and mother departed this life, and in 1895 Mr. Roach married Miss May Marshall, who died in April, 1914.

Mr. Roach is a republican and for twenty years has served as school director, his long continuance in the office indicating the confidence which is placed in his ability. He is an active worker in the Grange and owns stock in the Farmers Elevator at Gibbon. He recognizes the value of cooperation and believes that it should be more fully applied to the solution of the problem of the modern farmer. His religious faith is indicated by the fact that he holds membership in the Presbyterian church, and the uprightness of his life has gained him the sincere respect of all who have had dealings with him. He has worked hard and has saved his money carefully, with the result that he is now in comfortable circumstances and is recognized as one of the efficient and prosperous farmers of his township.

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#### THOMAS ELLIS.

Thomas Ellis, who carries on general agricultural pursuits on section 24, Shelton township, was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, on the 2d of March, 1862, his parents being Edward and Mary (Loomis) Ellis. The father was probably a native of the United States, although his parents came from England. The mother was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, and became the wife of Stephen J. McKee, with whom she came to Nebraska in 1865. She lived for a short time in Hall county, and afterward removed to Buffalo county. Mr. McKee died in Hall county in 1878. Her third husband was William Fines, who died about 1891. Mrs. Fines survives and now resides in Shelton.

Thomas Ellis was three years of age when brought by his mother to Nebraska, and was educated in the district schools but attended for only a part of three terms. He began farming on his own account in 1881, when he put in his first crop, but in that year he raised more foxtail than he did wheat and he worked all the following winter on the section in order to pay his bills. In the spring of 1882 he went to Colorado, where he was employed through the summer in a stone quarry at Lyons. In the fall he again came to Buffalo county and the following spring resumed farming. In 1887 he purchased the Ash Way farm in Shelton township of one hundred and forty acres and later bought an additional tract of eighty acres, but during the widespread financial panic of 1893, like thousands of others, he was unable to make his payments upon his property. Therefore he again had to resort to renting, but in the spring of 1898 he once more made a financial start that enabled him to purchase two hundred and twenty-three acres of his present farm. He has since resided thereon, concentrating his energies upon the further development and improvement of his place, which is pleasantly situated on section 24, Shelton township. He concentrates his efforts upon the cultivation and development of his fields and as the years have gone by

has made changes which have transformed his place into one of the excellent farm properties of the county.

On the 28th of March, 1885, Mr. Ellis was united in marriage to Miss Julia Spicer, of Hall county, Nebraska, by whom he has seven children, as follows: Glen and Harvey, both at home; Bertha, who is the wife of Charles Ketner, of Shelton, Nebraska; Adrian; and George, Clarence and Grace, all yet under the parental roof.

In politics Mr. Ellis is independent, voting for men and measures rather than party. Fraternally he is identified with Shelton Lodge, No. 141, I. O. O. F., and Shelton Lodge, No. 92, K. P. He has a wide acquaintance not only in lodge circles but through other connections and is regarded as one of the substantial business men and representative citizens of Buffalo county.

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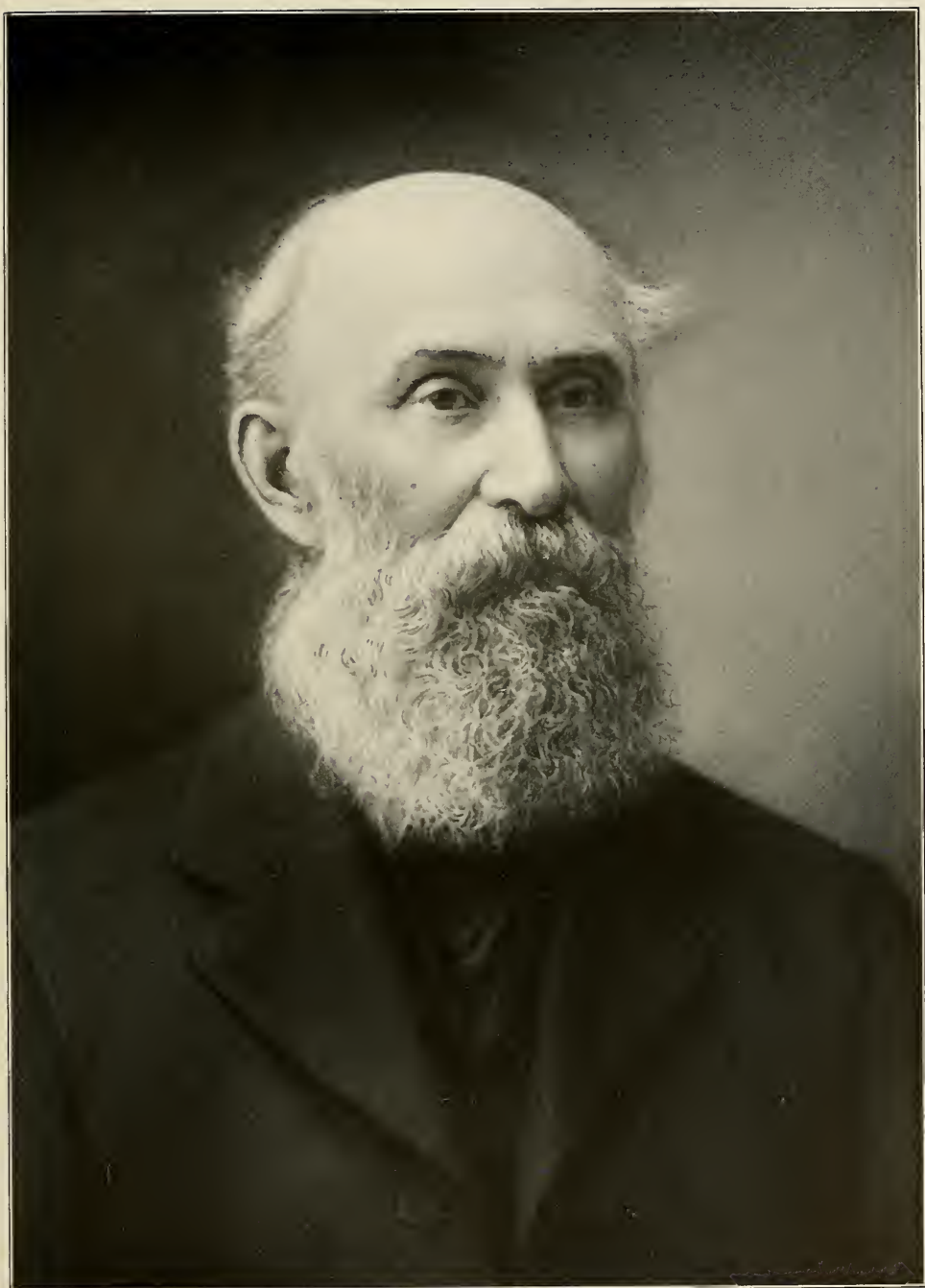
### CHARLES BISHOP.

Charles Bishop is one of the most venerable and highly honored citizens of Kearney. He has now attained the advanced age of eighty-six years and the precious prize of keen mentality is his, for his mind is clear, his memory good and he keeps well informed on the questions, issues and interests of the day. He is a retired farmer, having been identified with general agricultural pursuits for a long period. His birth occurred in Kennebec county, Maine, on the 18th of January, 1830, his parents being Squire and Hannah (Morey) Bishop. The father, a native of Maine, was a shoemaker by trade and also a farmer and spent his entire life in the Pine Tree state, where he passed away at the age of seventy-seven years. His parents were Jesse and Patience (Titus) Bishop and the ancestral line can be traced back to Edward Bishop, of Salem, Massachusetts, who came from England to the new world in 1639. The mother of Charles Bishop was born in Sandwich, Massachusetts, but was reared in Maine and spent the greater part of her life in that state.

Charles Bishop spent his boyhood days at home, receiving the usual training of the farm lad. He attended the subscription schools and in his youth assisted his father. He afterward worked at putting on soles on shoes near Boston for about three years and in the spring of 1852 he made the trip by way of the water route to California and spent some time in the mines at Coloma. He engaged in prospecting and in surface mining and was fairly successful, devoting four and one-half years to that business. In 1857 he returned home and the proceeds of his labor amounted to two thousand dollars, which he carried with him in gold.

In the spring of 1858 Mr. Bishop removed westward to Shelby county, Missouri, and purchased a farm in Macon county, after which he carried on general agricultural pursuits until September 15, 1862, when he offered his services to the government, enlisting at St. Louis as a member of Company A, Twenty-seventh Missouri Volunteer Infantry. He was soon afterward made an ambulance driver and acted in that capacity until mustered out on the 22d of July, 1865, following the close of the war. He had rendered valuable aid to his country in that connection and his military record was a commendable one.





CHARLES BISHOP



With the close of the war Mr. Bishop returned to his farm in Macon county, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits until the fall of 1874, when he sold his property there and came to Nebraska, settling on section 4, Divide township, Buffalo county. With characteristic energy he began to develop and till the soil and carried on his farm work with growing success year by year until the spring of 1899, when he rented his farm and came to Kearney, where he is now living retired.

On the 9th of December, 1858, Mr. Bishop was married to Miss Mary Trott, who was born in Ohio, July 23, 1837. She removed to Missouri in 1858 with her father and her death occurred on the 17th of January, 1894. She held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and was a most active worker in both church and Sunday school in an early day. By her marriage she became the mother of eight children, as follows: William G., who follows farming in Rusco township; Elizabeth, who is the wife of A. H. Tandy, of Oskaloosa, Iowa; Francis H., a resident of Nelson, Nebraska, and a conductor on the Rock Island Railway; Mattie, who gave her hand in marriage to F. P. Wilsie and passed away at the age of twenty-eight years, leaving three sons; Anna M., at home; Charles E., who rents his father's farm; Mabel, who is the wife of Albert Gravley, of Pleasanton, Buffalo county; and Mamie, who gave her hand in marriage to Charles Gravley, of Pleasanton, Nebraska.

In his political views Mr. Bishop is a republican and was one of the first supporters of the party. He served as school treasurer for several years and also as township treasurer and has always been interested in the welfare, progress and upbuilding of his community. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and to its teachings his life has conformed in all respects. He is a member of Sedgwick Post, No. 1, G. A. R., of Kearney and thus maintains pleasant relations with his old military comrades. He has always been as true and loyal to his country and the old flag in times of peace as he was when he followed the nation's starry banner upon the battlefields of the south.

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### CHAUNCEY COOK.

Chauncey Cook, a well known and highly esteemed farmer living on section 5, Shelton township, Buffalo county, was born in Otsego county, New York, on the 6th of October, 1861. His parents, Chauncey and Lucy B. (Allen) Cook, were likewise natives of that county but were married in Erie county, Pennsylvania, where the mother had removed with her parents when a girl. Following their marriage they located on a farm in Otsego county, New York, where the father passed away on the 5th of February, 1875. Five years later the mother and three sons came west to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and she purchased the farm which our subject now owns. She passed away on the 8th of April, 1889.

Chauncey Cook was reared at home and received his education in the common schools of New York. He accompanied his mother to this county and following her demise inherited the home farm, which he is still operating. He has lived upon that place ever since his arrival in this county thirty-five years ago and before it came into his possession he assisted in its cultivation. The

improvements upon the farm are substantial and modern, and the residence is one of the most attractive and convenient farm homes in the township. He devotes his undivided attention to the farm work, and his well directed labors are rewarded by a gratifying financial return.

On the 18th of July, 1900, Mr. Cook was united in marriage to Miss Ella Nixon, a resident of Kearney, Nebraska, but a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, whence she came to Buffalo county with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Cook have four children: Walter, who is attending the Shelton high school; Daphne A., who is attending the district school; Leland N.; and Ralph.

Mr. Cook indorses the principles of the democratic party and supports its candidates at the polls. He is now serving for the second term as assessor of Shelton township and is making a highly creditable record in that capacity. He belongs to Shelton Lodge, No. 141, I. O. O. F. In developing his farm he has promoted the agricultural interests of the county and in so doing has contributed to its prosperity, as it derives its greatest wealth from its rich land.

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#### H. F. FLINT.

H. F. Flint is identified with financial circles as president of the Exchange Bank of Gibbon and with agricultural interests as the owner of an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres. His birth occurred in Vermont on the 25th of January, 1845, and he is a son of Calvin and Dollie (Delano) Flint, both of whom were born in Connecticut, but were married in Vermont, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Our subject is the only one now living of their family of eight children. He grew to manhood in his native state and there received his education. When twenty-three years of age he went to Ohio, whence in 1876, he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska.

After engaging in the cattle business for four years Mr. Flint sold out and became a dealer in coal and implements at Gibbon but five years later disposed of that business and entered the employ of the Gibbon Bank, of which he was cashier for four months. At the end of that time he and J. H. Davis organized a bank known as the James H. Davis & Company Bank, of which Mr. Flint was cashier for six years. He and Mr. Davis next organized the First National Bank of Gibbon with a paid up capital of fifty thousand dollars, and for five years Mr. Flint was cashier of that institution. The First National Bank was then discontinued, but Mr. Davis and Mr. Flint remained factors in financial circles, organizing the Exchange Bank, of which our subject is now the president. His long experience in connection with banking eminently qualifies him to direct the affairs of the institution, which has gained the confidence of the public and is accorded a large and representative patronage. He owns an interest in the bank building and also holds title to two hundred and forty acres of good land in Buffalo county, from which he derives a substantial addition to his income.

In 1869 occurred the marriage of Mr. Flint and Miss Susan H. Whitney, who was born in Vermont, and they became the parents of twin daughters, Nettie and Nellie, the latter of whom died at the age of seven and a half years. Nettie

became the wife of R. A. St. John and died in 1902, leaving an infant son, Horace F. St. John, who makes his home with our subject and his wife.

Mr. Flint is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Gibbon, in which he has filled all the chairs, and he is also identified with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He takes the interest of a good citizen in public affairs, although not an aspirant for office. Both he and his wife attend the Methodist Episcopal church. That he is now one of the substantial men of his community is due not to any good fortune or unusually favoring circumstances but to his enterprise, industry and foresight.

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### ERNEST STEVEN HILL.

Ernest Steven Hill is a member of the firm of Hill Brothers, general merchants at Riverdale, and is a wide-awake, enterprising business man, alert to opportunities pointing to success, guided in all that he does by laudable ambition, while his efforts are characterized by both enterprise and business integrity. He was born September 28, 1875, in Riverdale, his parents being Cosmo S. and Mary J. (Delano) Hill. The father was born in Bethel, Vermont, in 1848, and was a son of Steven Hill, also a native of the Green Mountain state. Removing to the west, C. S. Hill established his home upon a farm near Riverdale and it was upon that property that Ernest S. Hill spent his boyhood and youth, obtaining his education in the district schools of the town in which he now resides. He continued at home until 1898, when he purchased a farm of eighty acres on section 32, Divide township. This was a tract of partially improved land but with characteristic energy he began its further development and cultivation and transformed it into productive fields. He now rents the farm to a tenant, while in 1910 he retired from active agricultural life and purchased the interest of J. E. Nelson in the firm of Hill & Nelson, general merchants of Riverdale, thus joining his brother in the conduct of an enterprise which is now carried on under the style of Hill Brothers. They have a large and carefully selected stock, thus meeting the demands and varied taste of their customers and in all they do they display close conformity to the highest standards of commercial ethics.

On the 31st of December, 1899, Mr. Hill was married to Miss Gertrude Whitney, a daughter of W. A. and Martha Whitney, of Riverdale. She was born in Illinois and came to Riverdale when four years of age. By her marriage she has become the mother of two children: Herbert E., now in school; and Bernice, three years of age.

The parents hold membership in the Christian church in Riverdale and generously contribute to its support, while in its work they take an active and helpful interest. Mr. Hill belongs to Modern Woodman Camp, No. 1072, and served as its clerk in 1899. He has also passed through all of the chairs in Riverdale Lodge No. 352, I. O. O. F. His wife is a member of the Royal Neighbors and the Rebekah degree of Odd Fellows, and for many years has been camp clerk of the Royal Neighbors and is still filling that position. Mr. Hill has been called to several local offices. He is treasurer of Riverdale township, having been elected in 1914 for a two years' term and for several years he has been a member



of the district school board in the same district in which he attended school and in which his children are now pupils. His entire life has been spent in this locality and the fact that many of his staunchest friends are those who have known him from his early boyhood is indicative of the fact that his has been an honorable career, and that his salient characteristics are such as commend him to the confidence, high regard and friendship of all.

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### JOSEPH C. SAYLOR.

Joseph C. Saylor, who is a member of the Buffalo county bar, came to Kearney, Nebraska, from Chicago, Illinois, in the year 1905. He was born near Lexington, Kentucky, August 5, 1877, on a farm, which his parents still own. In that state, he received his public school education. After finishing high school, he taught two years in the public schools, after which he attended school at the State University of Kentucky for two years. Again he taught another term. He then went to Valparaiso (Indiana) University to attend school and there, after two years more, he finished the regular scientific course in 1900. The following year he did post-graduate work.

Mr. Saylor then took up the study of law and in the year 1904 finished the course, and also took his degree in elocution and oratory, which course he had pursued some of the time through his regular literary course and in his post-graduate year. He also did special work in Georgetown College and in Chicago University. He made his home in Chicago from 1898 to 1905.

On the 2d of June, 1904, Mr. Saylor was united in marriage to Miss Huldah V. Ericson, of Kearney, Nebraska, who was his schoolmate in the literary department at Valparaiso University, finishing her scientific course in 1901 and her classic course, and post-graduate work in the year 1904, and who for two years was principal of the Red Cloud high school, teaching history, English and German and who is now a prominent club and church worker in Kearney. She was elected president of the Nineteenth Century Club for 1916.

Mr. Saylor practiced law at Red Cloud, Nebraska, from 1905 to 1910, where his splendid qualifications and industry rapidly took him from a small beginning to a position among the highest and best of the attorneys of the Webster county bar. During this period he gave some little time to politics, being secretary of the republican central committee in 1907, chairman of the same the year following, then a member of the state executive committee and congressional delegate to the national convention of Taft Clubs at Cincinnati in 1908. He made forty speeches for the national republican ticket in Illinois and Kentucky in 1904, while yet a student at the university. Also in 1908, under the auspices of the republican central committee, he stumped the greater part of the sixth congressional district of Nebraska for the republican candidates. He has shown much ability as a public speaker, having been in demand for such work, and having delivered several Decoration Day speeches and addresses on other such occasions.

But in 1910, Mr. Saylor decided to move to a larger and better territory, where he could have greater opportunities for the practice of his profession. So he and Mrs. Saylor returned to Kearney where they have since resided. Since coming to

Kearney, Mr. Saylor has given his entire time to the practice of law and is devotedly attached to his chosen profession. He prepares his cases with precision and care, is methodical in habit, diligent in research and conscientious in the discharge of every duty. He has made rapid advancement, being now accorded a large clientage that connects him with much important litigation, and having a practice second to none in this territory.

In his political views, as we have indicated, Mr. Saylor is a republican, and while he is decidedly not an office seeker, takes much interest in, and keeps well informed on, the questions and issues of the day. He is a member of the Commercial Club and takes an active interest in matters pertaining to the development of his home city and the territory around. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being past grand of that organization, and is a member of other lodges. In religious beliefs, he is a Baptist and his aid and influence are given on the side of development and improvement along many lines having to do with the welfare of both the individual and the community.

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### CHARLES KRASSMAN.

Charles Krassman, chairman of the board of supervisors, has in the discharge of his official duties displayed a recognition of public needs and opportunities and has worked earnestly and effectively toward upholding the public good. He is a native of the kingdom of Prussia, his birth occurring on the 28th of March, 1846. He was seven years of age when his parents, Charles and Elizabeth (Schultz) Krassman, came to the new world, crossing the Atlantic on board a sailing vessel which required seven weeks and six days to make the voyage. Upon arrival in this country the family lived in Chicago for about four months and then removed to Galena, Illinois, where the father worked at the carpenter's trade, he and his wife spending their remaining days at that place. They were the parents of five children, of whom three passed away in Germany, and one in Chicago, Illinois, leaving Charles Krassman as the only surviving member. He was reared in Galena, Illinois, acquired a common school education and afterwards at Galena learned the harness maker's trade, following that occupation for a number of years. He was well acquainted with General U. S. Grant, who at that time was practically unknown to the world, and he purchased a part of the furniture of the Grant home when the future general and president broke up housekeeping at Galena.

For his first wife Charles Krassman chose Miss Adelia Barthold, and to them were born four children, Ernest, Elizabeth, August and Charles. The wife and mother passed away in 1872 and for his second wife Mr. Krassman chose Miss Frances Nealand, by whom he has four children, Mary, William, Albert and Bertha. His third and present wife was Mrs. Fanny Newberry.

From Galena Mr. Krassman removed to Cedar Falls, Iowa, about 1881, and there resided until 1884, when he came to Kearney. Here he has lived practically throughout the intervening period to the present time. Upon his arrival Kearney was but an overgrown village, containing but three brick buildings, a little board sidewalk and no paving or lighting system. Mr. Krassman began working

at his trade for W. A. Downing, with whom he remained for a quarter of a century, and he still follows his trade, being a well known workman in his line. His life has been one of untiring industry and thrift, and whatever success he has achieved is attributable entirely to his own efforts.

In politics Mr. Krassman is a republican, having always given stalwart allegiance to the party since age brought him the right of franchise. In 1908 he was elected a member of the county board of supervisors, serving for two years, and in 1910 he was reelected and served for another two years. For the third time he was chosen to the position, and the legislative enactment of 1913, whereby the county officers held over for one year longer than the specified term of two years, made his total service in this connection seven years. In January, 1915, he was elected chairman of the board and is now acting in that capacity, in which connection he is directing the work of public improvement in the county and managing the various details of the county's business. In religious faith he is a Protestant and fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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#### LESTER M. STEARNS, M. D.

Dr. Lester M. Stearns, city physician of Kearney and one well qualified by thorough study and broad reading for the onerous and responsible duties of the profession, has attained considerable prominence in his chosen field. Aside from serving as city physician, he is the secretary of the Buffalo County Medical Society and is medical superintendent of the Nebraska State Tubercular Hospital at Kearney.

Mr. Stearns was born in Chicago, November 16, 1883, and was there reared and educated, supplementing his early training received in the public schools by a course in the Lewis Institute of that city. He afterward attended the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Chicago, from which institution he was graduated in June, 1905. For two years he was physician at the West Side Hospital in Chicago and was also a member of the staff of the Oak Park Hospital and dispensary physician of the Chicago Clinical School. In 1909 he went abroad for post-graduate work in Vienna and had the benefit of instruction under some of the most eminent physicians and surgeons of the old world. He became a resident of Kearney in 1908 and here entered upon the general practice of surgery, in which he displayed marked ability. He has comprehensive knowledge of anatomy and the component parts of the human body, recognizes the onslaughts made upon it by disease and displays great care, delicacy and precision in the performance of needed operations. For two years he served as physician at the State Hospital of Kearney and was county coroner for three years.

On the 20th of June, 1906, Dr. Stearns was married to Miss Rosine D. Alspaugh, a native of Indiana. Fraternally he is connected with the Masonic, Elks and Knights of Pythias lodges at Kearney. He is a member of the Buffalo County Medical Society, and, as stated, is serving as its secretary. He also belongs to the Nebraska State Medical Association and to the American Medical Association, and through attendance at their sessions as well as by wide reading



keeps in touch with the advanced thought of the profession. He votes with the democratic party but has held no office outside the strict path of his profession and prefers to concentrate his energies upon his duties as a physician and surgeon.

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### W. L. RANDALL.

W. L. Randall is prominent in public affairs of Gibbon and Buffalo county and has also been a factor in the business development of his town, as he is conducting a general store there. A native of Ohio, his birth occurred on the 5th of September, 1860, and he is a son of John D. and Jane (Beatty) Randall, the former born in Connecticut and the latter in Ohio. They were married in the Buckeye state, whence, in 1878, they removed to Buffalo county, Nebraska. They took up their residence upon a farm in this county and continued to live there until called by death. Five of their seven children survive.

W. L. Randall was reared at home and received his education in the common schools of Ohio. After the removal of the family to this county he concentrated his energies upon assisting his father in the farm work and was so occupied until 1886. He then entered the creamery business in Gibbon, but after two years turned his attention to merchandising, forming a partnership with his father-in-law, Captain R. Westcott. The firm owned and conducted two stores, one at Gibbon and one at Wood River, our subject being in charge of the latter, but in 1891 he sold out his mercantile interests and removed to Lincoln, Nebraska, where for two years he taught in the Lincoln Business College. He was then for six months in the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad as operator and later held a similar position with the Union Pacific Railroad for four years. In 1898 he reentered the mercantile field and for six years conducted a store in Gibbon but at the end of that time traded that business for a stock ranch. After selling that property he was manager for one year of the Farmers Department Store at Gothenburg, Nebraska. He then returned to Gibbon and has since owned and managed one of the best and most-up-to-date general stores in the county. His large stock of goods, his courteous service and reliable business methods all commend him to the support of the public, and he has built up a large and lucrative patronage.

Mr. Randall was married in 1882 to Miss Emma May Westcott, who was born in Iowa of the marriage of Captain R. and Mary Westcott, both of whom are deceased. Her father served as a soldier of the Civil war and Mr. Randall's father also took part in that struggle and in the war with Mexico. Both men crossed the plains with ox teams during the gold excitement in the west. Mr. and Mrs. Randall have become the parents of seven children, namely: Frances, now the wife of L. T. Osborn, of Gibbon; Ruby and Ruth, twins, both of whom are dead; one who died in infancy, unnamed; Rex R., who is associated with his father in business; and Gerald and Donald, both at home.

Mr. Randall is a loyal supporter of the republican party and has been called to the office of mayor. He is at the present time serving as a member of the school board, as chief of the fire department, as deputy state fire marshal, and as

town clerk and is proving thoroughly capable in the discharge of his varied duties. Fraternally he holds membership in Gibbon Lodge, No. 37, I. O. O. F.; Excalibar Lodge, No. 138, K. P.; and Gibbon Lodge, No. 35, A. O. U. W., and in those organizations has passed through all the chairs. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian church and takes a praiseworthy interest in its work. He gives the closest attention to his business affairs but has never forgotten that it is the duty of every good citizen to concern himself for the public welfare and has always done his share in promoting the advancement and development of his community along various lines.

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### WILL A. TARBELL.

Will A. Tarbell makes his home in Kearney, but is actively identified with agricultural and stock raising interests, being the owner of four hundred acres of excellent land in Hamilton and Dawson counties. He was born July 15, 1853, in Mason, Hillsboro county, New Hampshire. His father, William Tarbell, also a native of that place, was born August 11, 1823, and was a son of Lemuel Tarbell, likewise a native of Mason, where his father, Thomas Tarbell, settled at a very early period in colonial days, the latter's ancestors coming from Wales to America some time between 1620 and 1630. When the colonies attempted to throw off the yoke of British oppression Lemuel Tarbell joined the American troops and served in the Revolutionary war. He married Lydia Warren, a descendant of General Warren, who fought at the battle of Bunker Hill. William Tarbell followed the occupation of farming in Hillsboro county, New Hampshire, and there met and later in Boston wedded Mary A. Miller, who was born in Albany, New York, January 11, 1828, a daughter of John Miller, a native of the Empire state. Her mother, Matilda Hillyard, who was born at Rutland, Vermont, in 1795, lived in the Green Mountain state for about eighty years and then took up her abode in Adrian, Michigan, where she passed away in 1879. In the family of Mr. and Mrs. William Tarbell were six children, four sons and two daughters, four of whom are yet living, namely: Will A., of this review; Eugene M., a stockman residing at Lexington, Nebraska; Clarence E., a contractor who makes his home at Olney Springs, Colorado; and Emily E., who is the wife of James A. West, a contractor and builder of Fremont, Nebraska.

Will A. Tarbell was but four years of age when his parents left the old home in the Granite state and removed to Hillsdale, Michigan, where the father purchased some timber land and improved a farm, making his home there until 1887, when he sold that property and went to Fremont, Nebraska. His son and namesake worked on the farm in Hillsdale county, Michigan, and at odd times was employed by neighboring farmers. His education was acquired in the district schools of that locality and in early youth he learned the value of industry and determination as factors in the attainment of success. In September, 1882, he left his father's farm and went to Fremont, Nebraska, where he secured a position as salesman with D. Crowell, a coal and lumber merchant, with whom he continued until January 1, 1887, when he was appointed agent for the Nye, Wilson, Morehouse Company, which was extensively engaged in the coal, lum-



ber, grain and live stock business at Davey, Nebraska, twelve miles north of Lincoln. He continued in that connection for four years, or until 1891, after which he purchased a grain and live stock business at Marquette, Nebraska, where he operated until the spring of 1906. He then moved to Kearney, Buffalo county, and sold his business at Marquette. The money from this sale was invested in four hundred acres of land in Hamilton and Dawson counties and he is now superintending the raising, shipping and feeding of stock upon that ranch, although he makes his home in Kearney. He specializes in the raising of Duroc Jersey hogs and is one of the prominent representatives of the business in this part of the state, carefully and wisely directing his interests, so that excellent results accrue.

On the 20th of February, 1890, in Fremont, Nebraska, Mr. Tarbell was united in marriage to Miss Sue Roseman, a daughter of Edward D. and Mary T. Roseman. Mrs. Tarbell is a member of the Methodist church. Mr. Tarbell is serving on the board of the Carnegie library of Kearney and is always interested in public affairs relating to the welfare and improvement of the community. He usually votes the republican ticket but considers the capability and character of the candidate and he always favors the temperance cause, doing everything in his power to promote temperance principles. His life has been honorable and upright. Manly and sincere at all times, he has enjoyed the respect, confidence and good will of his fellowmen and by well directed activity in business affairs he has attained creditable and desirable success, ultimately winning a place among the substantial citizens of his adopted county.

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#### RAYMOND L. HART, M. D.

Dr. Raymond L. Hart, actively engaged in the general practice of medicine at Amherst and also figuring prominently in business circles as the vice president of the First National Bank there, was born in Meigs county, Ohio, August 6, 1872, his parents being James and Elizabeth J. (Hayes) Hart, the former a native of New Jersey and the latter of Ohio, in which state they were married. Having removed to Ohio, James Hart there enlisted for service in the Civil war as a member of the Eighteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He lost his eyesight while with the army, although he later recovered it. When his son Raymond was ten years of age he removed with the family to Nebraska, settling in Fairfield, Clay county, where his remaining days were passed, his death there occurring three years ago.

Dr. Hart was reared upon the old homestead farm in Clay county until he was fifteen years of age, but, not wishing to follow the occupation of farming, he determined upon a professional career, and with that end in view, after having been employed in a drug store for some time, he entered the medical department of the State University of Iowa, in which he completed a course by graduation on the 1st of March, 1897. On the 22d of October of the same year he located for practice in Amherst, where he has since remained, and during the nineteen years which have since elapsed his professional progress and advancement have been continuous, as wide reading and study have kept him in touch with the

general trend of improvement in methods of medical and surgical practice. He is a member of the Buffalo County, the Nebraska State and the American Medical Associations. Aside from his practice his business interests connect him with the First National Bank of Amherst, of which he is the vice president.

Dr. Hart was united in marriage to Miss Lottie Crable, a native of Nebraska and a daughter of David Crable. They have one child, Helen Dorothea. Dr. Hart belongs to the Modern Woodmen Camp of Amherst, and in Masonic circles has attained high rank. He holds membership with the lodge at Miller and with the chapter and commandery at Kearney, and he exemplifies in his life the beneficent spirit of the craft, which is based upon a recognition of the brotherhood of mankind and of the obligations thereby imposed.

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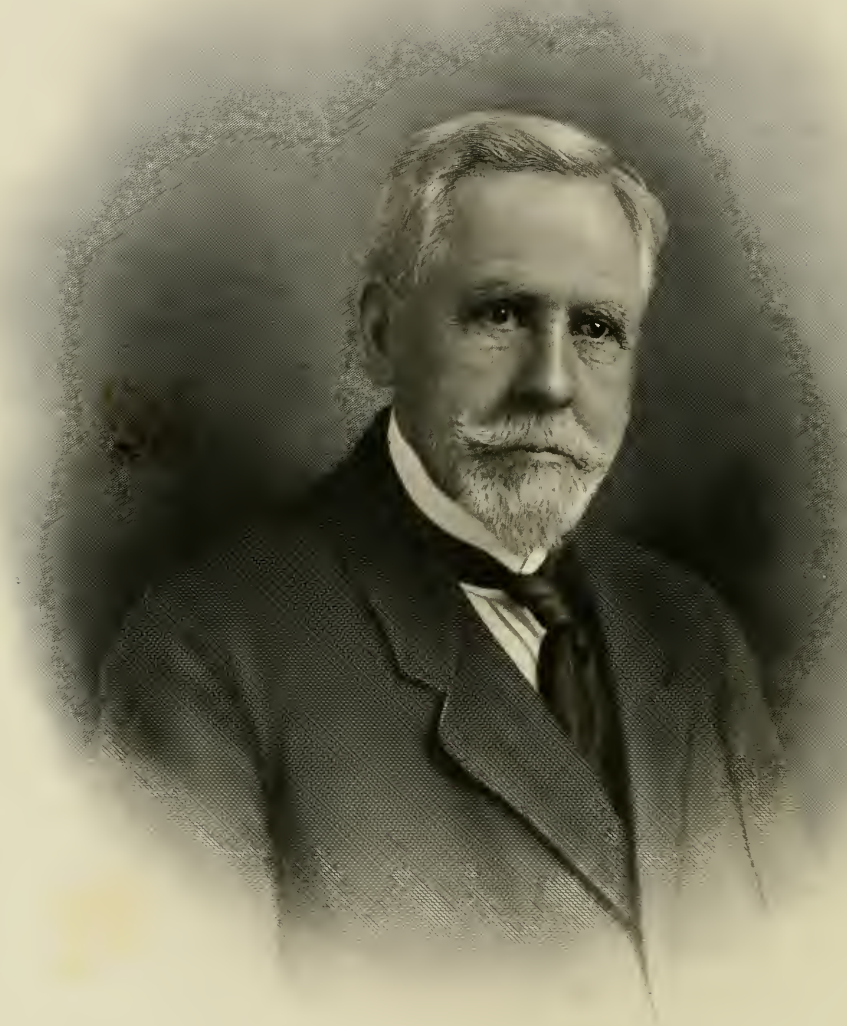
### HON. FRANCIS GREGG HAMER.

Hon. Francis Gregg Hamer, of Kearney, is serving as a judge of the supreme court of the state, and is regarded as one of the most capable jurists who has ever graced the court of last resort, the profession acknowledging him the peer of any member of the appellate court. His decisions indicate strong mentality, a careful analysis, a thorough knowledge of the law, patient examination of the case and an unbiased judgment. His has been a life of usefulness stretching out from the pioneer period in Nebraska's history to the present era of advancement and progress. Throughout the years his influence has been a potent force in advancing material, intellectual and moral progress.

A native of Ohio, Judge Hamer was born in Seneca county on the 20th of February, 1843, and is the eldest of a family of four children whose parents were Francis and Mary (Mahan) Hamer, both of whom were born near Canton, Ohio. The father was a farmer by occupation and in following agricultural pursuits provided for the support of his family. His first wife died about 1852. Shortly afterward he removed to Indiana and settled in Carroll county near the place where the village of Flora was afterward built. After the lapse of two years he married Mrs. Rebecca Stoops and they became the parents of three children. He was a man of marked diligence and unusual industry, which qualities enabled him to accumulate a competence. He gave each of his children a small farm or its equivalent in other property. He enjoyed but ordinary educational privileges but being a wide reader he became unusually well informed and was a man of liberal and progressive views. He and his two brothers, David and Daniel, were active in the affairs of the neighborhood and particularly in all matters of public interest. They led at the neighborhood debates of whatever character they might be, and Indiana is a state where public discussion is common. He died in his eighty-third year, known to all in his locality for his broad and kindly spirit and his desire to help those who were unable to help themselves.

Francis G. Hamer obtained something of the rudiments of an education in his native state. He was quite a speller and reader although at the time of the removal he was a little less than ten years of age. Since he was large enough he began to work with his father and uncles in clearing the little farms which they owned. He could soon cut down trees and pick brush. He also helped to





*Francis G. Hamer*





*Rebecca A. Hamner*



pile up the logs and to burn them off the ground. He assisted in planting and harvesting the crops. The first year after arriving at the Indiana home he followed his father who cut the wheat with a cradle. He raked the wheat up in bundles and one of the uncles bound it. A few years later the father and the uncles had cleared enough of the land so as to give employment in cutting the wheat crop to seven or eight cradlers. At the age of sixteen he attended school at Delphi, the county seat. There were fifty young men and young women in the advanced grade. Subsequently he attended school near Springfield, Illinois, for the period of eighteen months. He there frequently saw Abraham Lincoln on the streets of Springfield. At the end of this time he returned home and was employed as a district school teacher within three miles of where his father lived. He taught during a period covering three winters. In this he was reasonably successful and took great pride in it. When he returns now to the old neighborhood where he was reared he still visits the pupils of the old district school where he taught. When he was twenty years old he went to Indianapolis and became a student in the law office of George K. Perrin and William R. Manlove. Later he continued his legal education in the law school at Indianapolis. He was one of forty-five students, some of whom have become quite distinguished in their profession.

Judge Hamer attributes much of his success to the fact that he became a member of a literary and debating society when he was at the age of eighteen years. He continued in that society until he reached the age of twenty-six. There were several men in the society who were then prominent, and others who afterward became successful. There was one general, one colonel, one lecturer, two editors, several lawyers and a group of young men who became successful politicians and preachers. It was the habit in that society to investigate and talk about the questions which were then of interest to the public. Often these debates were very spirited. Judge Hamer became a debater early in life and is of the opinion that his experience in the debating society has very much assisted him in his efforts as a trial lawyer.

Judge Hamer came to Nebraska in December, 1869. He was in Omaha a short time and then went to Lincoln. It was January 7, 1870, when he arrived at Lincoln. There he at once entered upon the active work of his profession. It only took him about six months to acquire a business which enabled him to live in a modest way. He continued to live at Lincoln until the 29th of June, 1872, when he came to Kearney, which at that time had no existence except on the map. It was a place yet to be. On December 6, 1869, Judge Hamer was married to Miss Rebecca A. McCord of Delphi, Indiana. Up to the time that Judge Hamer went on the supreme bench he gave a great deal of his time to building up the city of Kearney. He was the first lawyer to locate here, and he immediately began to work industriously for the town. He was soon a very busy lawyer. He was employed in nearly all the important cases in the western part of the state. Much of his business came from other lawyers who secured him to assist in the trial of their cases. He was diligent to study the evidence before the case was tried. He saw the witnesses, if possible, and ascertained what they were likely to swear to. If their testimony was probably unfriendly he did all that he could to anticipate it. He saw the witnesses on the other side. He also studied the law of the case with great energy. However forcible others might

be there were none more forcible than he. Every contest was like a boxing match. If the case was a close one and only an application of the law might win it he was full of research and ingenuity. He has always displayed remarkable clearness of expression and an adequate and precise diction which enabled him to make the courts and the juries understand the salient points of his arguments. He was full of a fine gradation of meaning and was generally able to make a distinction between the case which he represented and the one which was cited against him. He has been engaged in the trial of all kinds of cases. He was at first famous in the trial of criminal cases where he appeared for the defense, but subsequently he tried many civil cases and in these civil cases, often to be won by the application of some legal principle not clearly understood, he was almost universally successful. He would find a new application of the law for which he would never cease to contend. He was nearly always capable of reversing the judgment of the district court when that court was against him. He would find some sort of substantial error that entitled him to a new trial. He could work agreeably with almost any lawyer. While he had plenty of self-respect he did not appear to be vain. If the other lawyer was against him he tried to beat him and then made friends with him. He was not always successful in the case, but he nearly always made a friend of the lawyer.

In December, 1883, he was appointed judge of the district court of the tenth judicial district of Nebraska to fill a vacancy caused by the death of the Hon. Samuel L. Savidge. He immediately plunged into the work of this district. It was about three hundred miles long by one hundred and fifty miles wide. In 1884 he was elected to fill out the unexpired term and was afterward reelected in 1888. He served as district judge a little more than eight years. Prior to this he had been a candidate for the nomination for supreme judge of the state. He was the high man in the contest until the last ballot gave a narrow majority to the Hon. Manoah B. Reese, who has since been chief justice and who served two terms on the supreme bench. In the fall of 1891 he was defeated by Silas A. Holcomb by an official vote of thirteen, Mr. Holcomb serving as judge three years, and then becoming governor of the state. Judge Hamer then resumed his practice as a lawyer and immediately built up a splendid business. He went all over the state and tried contested cases in very many of the important county seats. In the fall of 1911 he was elected as a member of the supreme bench, and in January, 1912, entered upon his present term of office. He is devotedly attached to the profession of the law. He is systematic and methodical in his habits. He is always a sober man and conscientious in the discharge of his duty as a judge. While he is inflexibly just and is ready to punish the guilty, he is never inclined to be severe against those who have not been properly convicted. In such cases his tendency is to reverse the judgment of the district court so that the man who has been mistreated may get a fair trial. His reported opinions show a careful study of the evidence and the law applicable to the case, together with profound legal learning, superior ability and impartial judgment.

Judge and Mrs. Hamer have become parents of a son and daughter: Thomas Francis, a prominent member of the Kearney bar and a busy trial lawyer; and Grace Julia, the wife of Jacob Kanzler, a lawyer of Portland, Oregon. In politics Judge Hamer has always been a republican. He formerly loved hunting and was an expert rifle shot, but in his later years he has given this up because



of his growing dislike to deprive any living thing of life. He is inclined to make friends of the younger members of the bar and ready to lend a helping hand where he may properly do so.

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### MRS. REBECCA A. HAMER.

Mrs. Rebecca A. Hamer, wife of Francis G. Hamer, has had much of the life of a pioneer. She was born and reared at Delphi, Indiana, where she became a teacher and was so engaged up to the time of her marriage. Her father was a successful farmer and one of the substantial men of the neighborhood in which he lived. His name was William McCord. He was the father of two sons and six daughters.

Mrs. Hamer was a homesteader with her husband. It was not properly a homestead but a preemption. It consisted of one hundred and sixty acres northwest of Kearney and extending down to within a mile and a half of the postoffice. It was a small house that was built on this land. At the end of nineteen months Mrs. Hamer and her husband left the claim and moved to the new home they had built in Kearney.

Mrs. Hamer has given considerable time to the care of her two children, Thomas Francis and Grace Julia. She had a mother's anxiety for their success and to that end she instructed and advised them. She was full of entertainment and talked to them in such a way as to claim their attention and win their confidence. They still rely upon her as the good mother whom they may always trust. In all the years they have lived together she has been a loyal and competent assistant to her husband. By her sterling qualities she has won the confidence and goodwill of her neighbors.

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### WILLIAM SHRADER.

William Shrader, an alert and enterprising farmer of Garfield township, living on section 24, was born in Wayne county, Iowa, June 6, 1870, a son of Casper and Anna (Gereke) Shrader, both of whom were natives of Germany, whence they came to America in childhood days with their respective parents. They were residents of Iowa and were married in that state, where they continued to reside until 1877, when they removed to Kansas, spending a number of years in that locality. In 1890 they arrived in Buffalo county and the father purchased the north half of section 24, Garfield township. Upon that farm the mother passed away the following year and ten years afterward Mr. Shrader removed to Ravenna, where he has since made his home with a daughter.

William Shrader acquired a common school education in Kansas and was twenty years of age when the family removed to Buffalo county. The following year he began farming on his own account, cultivating rented land for three years, after which he spent six years as superintendent for H. J. Robinson of Shelton, Nebraska, who controls extensive ranching interests. In that connec-

tion Mr. Shrader fed eighteen thousand head of sheep. The position was an excellent one, but he desired to engage in business on his own account that his labors might more directly benefit himself, and in 1901 he bought eighty acres of land in Cherry Creek township, upon which he resided for five years. In 1906 he invested in his present farm, comprising two hundred and forty acres of land, and in 1911 he also added to his property holdings by the purchase of one hundred and sixty acres adjoining Paola, Kansas. Upon that place there is a gas well, which furnishes a portion of the gas for Paola. He has displayed sound judgment in making his investments, and keen sagacity characterizes his management of all his business interests. In addition to his agricultural interests he is a stockholder in the local telephone company at Ravenna and in the telephone company at Paola, Kansas.

Mr. Shrader has been married twice. His first wife, whom he wedded in 1892, died in 1908, and in September, 1914, he married Miss Daisy Woodward, of Lincoln, Nebraska. To his first marriage there were born two children, one of whom, Walter, is now living.

In politics Mr. Shrader is a republican, keenly interested in the party and its success but never seeking public office. His religious faith is evidenced by his membership in the Methodist church, to the teachings of which he is most loyal. All who know him esteem him highly. He has lived in this county throughout the entire period of his majority and the sterling traits of his manhood have endeared him to those with whom he has come in contact, his fellow townsmen recognizing him as a representative business man and a public-spirited citizen.

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#### GEORGE L. GARDNER.

George L. Gardner, who was the first settler of Gardner township, still owns four hundred and eighty acres of land in that township but makes his home in Shelton. He is enjoying a period of rest and leisure to which his labor in former years justly entitles him. His birth occurred in New York state, July 22, 1843, and his parents were William T. and Eunice B. (Roushey) Gardner, also natives of the Empire state. They were married there but subsequently removed to Pennsylvania, and in 1878 they came to Buffalo county, Nebraska. While living in New York the father followed the tanner's trade but engaged in farming in Pennsylvania and in this state.

George L. Gardner is one of a family of six children, four of whom are still living. He was given excellent educational advantages, as after completing the course offered in the common schools he attended the Smithfield Academy and the Waverly Institute at Waverly, New York. He remained at home until 1861, when, as a youth of eighteen years, he enlisted in Company F, Sixth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, with which he served at the front for three years and two months. He enlisted as a private but was promoted to the rank of sergeant, and his record is one of which he has every right to be proud. He was engaged in forty-two battles, including the seven days' fight before Richmond; Bull Run, which continued for three days; and Antietam, in which he was shot through the right lung. This wound incapacitated him for military

service for three months, but as soon as he had recovered he returned to the firing line and fought in the three days' battle of Gettysburg; in the battle of the Wilderness, which also lasted for three days; in the battle of Spottsylvania Courthouse, a six days' engagement; in the four days' battle at North Anna river; and in the last battle of Cold Harbor. He was mustered out at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, June 11, 1864, and returned home, where he remained until the spring of 1875. In that year he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and took up land in what is now Gardner township. He was the first settler within the limits of that township, which was named for him, and he had to face all of the obstacles that usually confront the pioneer. However, he had faith in the future of the county and persevered in his work of developing a farm from the wilderness, and brought his land to a high state of cultivation. As the years passed the township increased in population and the inconveniences and hardships of pioneer life gave way to the advantages of an advanced civilization. He still owns four hundred and eighty acres of land, but since 1895 has lived retired in Shelton, where he owns a fine residence.

Mr. Gardner was married in 1883 to Miss Anna L. Walters, by whom he had five children: Edna N., the wife of G. L. Bastian; Clara, the deceased wife of Ralph R. Bennett; Lois E., who was principal of the local schools for four years but is now teaching in the high school at Scotts Bluff; Mary E., who is principal of the Morrill high school; and Elma, who died in infancy. The wife and mother passed away in May, 1899, and was buried in Shelton cemetery. In June, 1915, Mr. Gardner was again married, Mrs. Laura Wickwire becoming his wife.

Mr. Gardner casts his ballot in support of the candidates and measures of the republican party and served for two terms as supervisor of Buffalo county. Fraternally he is identified with Shelton Lodge, No. 99, A. F. & A. M., in which he has filled the position of master for four years, and he is also a member of Joe Hooker Post, No. 28, G. A. R., thus keeping in touch with his army comrades of former days. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian church. The same public spirit which prompted him to offer his life if need be to preserve the Union has manifested itself in times of peace in a willingness to subordinate private interests to the general welfare and a readiness to cooperate in movements seeking the advancement of his community.

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#### MENTOR A. BROWN.

Mentor A. Brown, publisher of the daily and semi-weekly Hub at Kearney and well known as a representative of journalistic interests in western Nebraska, was born at Janesville, Wisconsin, on the 19th of February, 1853. He is a son of Jeremiah and Ann (Pound) Brown, both of whom were graduates of Milton College, famous in the early educational annals of the Badger state. The mother died in Grant county, Wisconsin, during the infancy of their son Mentor, and the father afterward married again. He died while serving the Union cause during the Civil war when with Sherman on his famous march to the sea.

In 1866 Mentor A. Brown went to Jefferson, Iowa, and there when thirteen years of age began his career in the "art preservative" as printer's devil on the

Jefferson New Era. He started westward in 1870 and for a time worked as journeyman printer at Council Bluffs, at Omaha and at Nebraska City. In 1871 he was employed on the Beatrice Express, and subsequently acquired a financial interest in that paper. In 1888 he came to Kearney and on the 22d of October of that year established the daily Hub and continued the publication of the semi-weekly Hub as a continuation of the Central Nebraska Press. He has since issued both papers and through their columns has become a potent factor in the upbuilding of Kearney and the substantial development of Buffalo county. He staunchly champions every measure and movement for the general good and as the years have gone on has exerted his efforts and his influence along lines which have been far-reaching and beneficial.

Mr. Brown has been twice married and is the father of five living children, namely: Mabel L., who is the wife of C. E. Eustice, of Auburn, Nebraska; Olive, who is Mrs. George H. Connell, of Galt, California; Ulysses A. and Oliver F., who are connected with the Hub; and Hugh R.

In his political views Mr. Brown is a republican, well informed on the questions and issues of the day and able to support his position by intelligent argument or terse, well written editorials. In religious faith he is an Episcopalian, and fraternally is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He belongs also to the Commercial Club and heartily cooperates in its various plans and measures to further the welfare and progress of Kearney and the county. In 1904 he was appointed postmaster of Kearney and ably served in that capacity for eight years.

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### WALTER WARREN BARNEY.

It has often been said that death loves a shining mark, and this statement seemed to find verification when Walter Warren Barney, of Kearney, was called to the home beyond. He was a most popular citizen who deserved the high esteem and honor in which he was held. He was born at Roanoke, Illinois, October 23, 1862, a son of Calvin E. and Eliza (Morrison) Barney. The father was of English lineage, the family having been established in Vermont during colonial days, while the mother was of English nativity. W. W. Barney was reared in Roanoke and there attended school to the age of fifteen years, after which he removed to Pekin. About the year 1880 the family became residents of Nebraska and there Calvin E. Barney resumed the practice of law in a small way, while W. W. Barney secured a clerkship in the store of George Kramer, with whom he remained for a time. Later he was appointed to the position of deputy under Mr. Scott and later served under Homer J. Allen, who was then county treasurer, and subsequently, under the firm name of Allen & Barney, he wrote up a set of abstract of titles to Buffalo county lands and in connection therewith embarked in the real estate business, that partnership continuing until the death of Mr. Allen. Mr. Barney then succeeded to the business and later his sons became identified with him. He remained in the business until his demise and made steady progress along that line. While he had had but limited educational oppor-





WALTER W. BARNEY



tunities in youth, he read extensively, was a close observer and in that way became recognized as a man of superior learning and wide information.

In April, 1885, Mr. Barney was united in marriage to Miss Anna Thornton. There are four children to mourn the loss of the father: Arthur L., Ralph M., Howard and Mildred. All of the children live in Kearney.

In his political views Mr. Barney was an earnest republican, recognized as one of the party leaders in Buffalo county. He served as chairman of the county central committee and for eight years was city treasurer. He was also a Knight Templar Mason and a member of the Modern Woodmen of the World. His religious belief was manifest in his activity as a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and his interest in community affairs was evidenced in the fact that he was one of the organizers of the Commercial Club and was one of its first presidents. Few men receive the love, confidence and goodwill which were accorded him. On the 23d of February, 1915, there appeared in the Kearney Morning Times the following editorial, which is a splendid characterization of a citizen whom every one mourned: "It seems to the writer that the hardest task which has confronted him since coming to Kearney is the one which has just been completed—the writing of the story of W. W. Barney's death. The shock to the community which came, as the quickly moving news passed from man to man, on Monday was made the more intense because of the love and respect which those who met him in their everyday life had learned to have for him. It is a powerful tribute to the qualities of a man when the eyes of big strong men fill with tears as they mention his name. It has been an unselfish and remarkable life when its passing grips the heartstrings of a city; when the business men will go about their work almost dazed by the bigness of their loss. What represented the material place of Mr. Barney will now be vacant. There will be no one to fill this place, but what could be more inspiring to the gatherings of those with whom it was his custom to meet, than the memory of this man. Broad, honest, straightforward, keen and square, his memory should prove a benediction in the council halls of the city's active work—a vision of his bigness should ever guide the acts and thoughts of his old associates and lead them with the moral strength Mr. Barney had. Kearney has lost a wise counsellor but she has a precious memory."

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#### WILLIAM CHARLES OGILVIE.

One of the strong and substantial financial institutions of Buffalo county is the Exchange Bank of Gibbon, of which William Charles Ogilvie is assistant cashier. His fellow townsmen speak of him as a business man of marked capability and enterprise and one who is ever ready to meet any emergency and who at all times can be counted upon for straightforward dealing. He was born July 8, 1873, in the town in which he still makes his home, his parents being James and Margaret (Key) Ogilvie, both of whom were natives of Scotland. They came to the United States in early manhood and womanhood and were married in New York. The year 1871 witnessed their arrival in Nebraska, whither they came subsequent to the arrival of the soldiers' free homestead colony, which

had reached here three or four days before. Settling at Gibbon, Mr. Ogilvie was made station agent, in which capacity he continued up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1881. His widow survives and yet makes her home in Gibbon.

William Charles Ogilvie was reared under the parental roof and the public schools of his native town afforded him his educational privileges. When a youth of but fourteen he became a wage earner, securing a clerkship in a grocery store, where he was employed for two years. The succeeding two years he devoted to the improvement of his education, following which he visited with his mother and sister in Scotland for a year. He then returned to Gibbon and for some time occupied clerkships in various stores, but in 1895 went to Chicago where he entered the employ of Swift & Company, with whom he remained for eight years. He spent two years of that time in Chicago, five years in England, and one year in Kansas City. He then returned to Gibbon and for a time was associated with his brother-in-law, G. W. Linger, on his ranch south of the town. In 1905 he entered the Exchange Bank of Gibbon as assistant cashier, in which capacity he has since served. He is most thorough in all of his work, systematic and faithful in the discharge of his duties, and at the same time is a courteous and obliging official. He is associated with I. A. Kirk and W. M. Ross in owning and operating the Hershey ranch, and is working his way steadily upward in business circles, already being regarded as one of the substantial and representative men of the community.

On the 20th of December, 1910, Mr. Ogilvie was married to Miss Mary O. Robb, of Gibbon, and to them have been born two children, Margaret and Mary Caroline. In his political views Mr. Ogilvie is a republican and has served as a member of the town board, as clerk of the board and in other local offices. He is most loyal to public interests and cooperates in all well defined plans for the benefit and improvement of the district. At the present writing he is secretary of the library board of Gibbon. He belongs to Granite Lodge, No. 189, A. F. & A. M., and to the Woodmen of the World, and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, while he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church, contributing generously to its support and adhering loyally to its principles. He is a self-made man, having been dependent upon his own resources from the age of fourteen years, and step by step he has worked his way upward, his ability and determination winning him the success which is his.

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#### NATHAN P. McDONALD.

Nathan P. McDonald, ex-county attorney of Buffalo county and one of the strong and able representatives of the Kearney bar, has practiced here continuously since January, 1894, and throughout that period has made steady progress in a profession to which right, property, life and liberty must look for protection. He was born upon a farm near Columbus, Pennsylvania, on the 6th of November, 1862, and is one of two children born of the marriage of Donald and Arcelia (Calkins) Badgley McDonald, the former a native of Scotland, while the latter was born in this country of Scotch parentage. By a previous marriage Mrs. McDonald had two children.



Nathan P. McDonald was reared to manhood in his native state and after completing a common school education pursued a course in an academy at Sugar Grove and for two years was a student in the Otterbein (Ohio) College. In 1886 he made his way westward to Kansas and during the ensuing winter taught school at Louisville. In the spring of 1887 he arrived in Buffalo county, Nebraska, and accepted the position of principal of the schools at Elm Creek, there remaining until December, 1889, when he came to Kearney to fill the office of county superintendent of schools, to which position he had been elected in the fall of that year. For four years he served in that capacity. For a number of years he had been reading law under the direction of Hon. Thomas H. Cornett and Hon. H. M. Sinclair, of Kearney, and in 1893 was admitted to the bar. He entered upon active practice in January, 1894, and has since followed his profession in this city, covering a period of more than twenty-two years. In 1900 he was elected county attorney and served in that capacity for four years.

On the 1st of January, 1888, Mr. McDonald was united in marriage to Miss Ella Upton, a daughter of I. C. Upton, of Roanoke, Illinois. They have one son, Archie L.

Mr. McDonald gives his political allegiance to the republican party and fraternally is identified with the Masonic organization, in which he has attained the orders of Christian knighthood. His life conforms to the teachings of the craft and his sterling traits commend him at all times to the confidence and goodwill of the general public.

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#### FRED A. TURNER.

The excellent condition of Fred A. Turner's farm on section 3, Gibbon township, indicates his energy and good management and he derives a gratifying financial return from his land. He is a native of Thornton township, Buffalo county, and was born on the 6th of July, 1876. His parents, Bartlett and Mary (Standard) Turner, were both born in Missouri, where they grew to maturity and were married, but in 1873 or 1874 they came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and the father took up a homestead in Thornton township, on which he resided until 1911. In that year he sold his property and removed to Kearney, where he has since lived retired.

Fred A. Turner was educated in the public schools and during his boyhood and youth helped his father with the farm work. By the time that he reached maturity he was an efficient agriculturist and when twenty-one years of age began farming for himself. For eighteen years he rented land but in March, 1915, he purchased his present farm on section 3, Gibbon township, which comprises eighty acres of rich and well improved land. He follows up-to-date methods and uses modern machinery and seldom fails to harvest good crops. He also owns stock in the Gibbon Farmers Elevator.

In 1898 Mr. Turner was united in marriage to Miss Blanche Ross, a daughter of W. B. Ross, who in 1883 became a resident of Buffalo county. He is now, however, living in La Cygne, Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Turner have three children, Jay R., Donald F. and Dorothy A.

Mr. Turner is independent in politics, casting his ballot in accordance with his best judgment rather than in obedience to the dictates of party leaders. Fraternally he is connected with Gibbon Lodge, No. 37, I. O. O. F., and both he and his wife attend services at the Baptist church.

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### ARTHUR R. NICHOLS.

Arthur R. Nichols, superintendent of schools of Buffalo county, occupies a prominent position in educational circles in Nebraska and by reason of his ability in leaving his impress upon the development of the school system in this section of the state. A native son of Nebraska, he was born in a sod house near Doniphan, in Hall county, December 17, 1883. His father, Andrew J. Nichols, is a native of Wisconsin, but during his boyhood days accompanied his parents on their removal to Winterset, Iowa, where he was reared to manhood. He married Emma J. Garrett and followed farming in Iowa until 1876, when in a prairie schooner he made his way to Nebraska and traded his team of horses and wagon for a homestead in Hall county. Thereafter he broke his land with a yoke of oxen and experienced all of the hardships, difficulties and privations incident to pioneer life, but with the course of years he converted the wild prairie into productive fields and remained thereon until his later life, when he removed to Fremont, where he and his wife now reside. They became the parents of seven children, all of whom are yet living.

Arthur R. Nichols is one of twin brothers and upon the home farm he was reared, having the usual experiences of the farm bred boy who assists in the development of the fields through the summer seasons, while in the winter months he devotes his time to the mastery of such branches of learning as are taught in the country schools. His academic training was received in the Fremont Normal College and later he engaged in teaching school for three years, spending one year in a rural school and two years as principal of the Prosser schools. Later he attended the Fremont and Kearney Normal Schools until 1909, when he was graduated from the Fremont Normal. It was during this period, or through the winter season of 1907-8, that he served as principal of the schools at Miller, which was his initial step in connection with the work of teaching in Buffalo county. His capability being manifest to those who made it a point to acquaint themselves with school work, he was elected superintendent of the schools of Elm Creek in 1909, there remaining until the fall of 1912, when he went to Gibbon to become superintendent of the schools of that place. He was then elected county superintendent by the county commissioners in 1915 to fill out the unexpired term of J. S. Elliott, who had resigned in order to accept an appointment on the faculty of the State Normal Board. Professor Nichols is therefore at the head of the educational system of Buffalo county and as such is putting forth effective and earnest effort for the benefit and development of the schools. His plans are progressive, his efforts resultant and under his guidance higher standards will be reached.

On the 28th of May, 1913, Mr. Nichols was united in marriage to Miss Laura Cox, of Fairbury, Nebraska, by whom he has a son, Andrew Robert, whose birth



ARTHUR R. NICHOLS





occurred June 21, 1914. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Christian church, while fraternally he is identified with the Masons and the Elks. His interest centers in all those things which have to do with the development and upbuilding of the county along material, intellectual and moral lines. His friends, and they are many, bear testimony to his sterling personal worth and to the excellent results which he is accomplishing in his chosen field.

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### CHARLES C. BLACK.

Charles C. Black, deceased, was a prominent pioneer settler of Kearney and with the development and upbuilding of the county was closely associated by reason of his activity along agricultural lines. He settled within the borders of the county when much of the land was still in possession of the government and secured a homestead claim which he converted into productive fields. Mr. Black was born near Mount Pleasant, Iowa, December 17, 1848, his parents being pioneers of that section. He was reared on a farm there and pursued his education in the schools of Mount Pleasant, taking up the profession of teaching school when a young man, for at that time the old homestead had been sold and the money divided among the heirs. Thinking perhaps to make the practice of law his life work, he began reading and devoted a year or two to the profession, but found it uncongenial. He accordingly went to Colorado, spending some time in Pueblo and in Canyon City in the mercantile business. The year 1876 witnessed his arrival in Kearney, after which he secured a homestead relinquishment to fifty-seven acres two miles southwest of the city, and also took a timber claim of eighty acres three miles northeast of Kearney, purchasing the relinquishment to both. Thinking it time to have a helpmate on life's journey, he was married on the 13th of February, 1877, to Miss Elizabeth Chesley, who was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, September 4, 1854. There she was reared and educated and in 1875 went to the home of a sister in Lincoln, Nebraska. The following year she removed to Kearney, where she engaged in the millinery business, having learned the trade in Wisconsin. She followed that pursuit for only a short time and then sold her store, for early in the following year she was married.

In May, 1877, Mr. Black took up his abode upon the old homestead and bent his energies to the development and improvement of the place, which was largely a tract of wild land when it came into his possession. To the original farm of fifty-seven acres he added from time to time until within its borders were comprised two hundred and thirty acres. He and his wife each had a little money and they began dealing in live stock, both raising and feeding stock. Success attended the efforts of Mr. Black in this connection and he always made his live stock an important feature of his business, keeping on hand high grades of cattle and hogs, for which he found a ready sale on the market. He remained a very active figure in agricultural circles up to the time of his death, which occurred June 1, 1889, when he was but forty-one years of age.

To Mr. and Mrs. Black were born seven children. Adah and Beulah were twins, but the latter died at the age of twelve years. The former became the

wife of T. F. Hamer and died at the age of twenty-nine, leaving three sons: Francis, who died in 1913; Thomas, and Robert. Her children at the time of the mother's death went to live with their grandmother, Mrs. Black, who reared them. Dott is a public stenographer at the Midway Hotel of Kearney. Jessie, born April 23, 1883, is the wife of Charles C. Robinson, of Santa Monica, California. Ruth is the wife of Frank Todd, of Los Angeles. Susan and Donald are twins and the former is now with her mother, while the latter is a prosperous stockman and farmer living fifteen miles from Billings, Montana. The youngest children were less than two years of age when Mrs. Black was left a widow with the care of a family of seven. She managed the farm, reared and educated her children most carefully and manifested a most brave and determined spirit. She had been on the ranch for a year when the house burned in the night and all of its contents were destroyed. She then came to Kearney and rented her land for a part of the time, and part of the time managed it and operated it with hired help. She afterward purchased another farm, which she later sold at an advance. She still owns the old home property, together with a nice residence in Kearney. She displays excellent business ability and executive force and has most capably controlled her interests, deserving much credit for what she has accomplished since the death of her husband, whose loss was an irreparable one to her, for he had been an active, enterprising and progressive business man and they were putting forth most earnest and effective effort to develop and improve their business interests and rear their family.

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#### CHARLES BONSAACK.

Charles Bonsack, a successful farmer and stock raiser of Sharon township, has thoroughly identified his interests with those of his county and state and is recognized as a public-spirited citizen. He was born in Germany on the 4th of February, 1857, of the marriage of Frank and Louisa Bonsack, also natives of that country, where they passed their entire lives. Eight of their sixteen children are still living.

Charles Bonsack was reared at home and acquired his education in the schools of his native land. In 1881 he crossed the Atlantic to the United States and the next three years were spent in the vicinity of Denver, Colorado, where he engaged in ranching. In 1884 he went to Grand Island, Nebraska, whence the year following he removed to Buffalo county and purchased his present farm, which comprises one hundred and sixty acres on section 10, Sharon township. He has erected substantial buildings upon the place and takes pride in keeping everything about the farm in good condition. Although he raises some grain he gives the greater part of his attention to feeding stock and is recognized as one of the leading stock raisers of his locality.

In 1885 occurred the marriage of Mr. Bonsack and Miss Kate Vogel, also a native of Germany, who in 1881 came with her mother to America, the father having passed away in Germany. The mother spent her last days in Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Bonsack have become the parents of eight children: Bertha, who married George Jewell, of Kansas; Frank and William, both of whom are

at home; Rosie, the wife of Lester Quackenbush, now a resident of Minnesota; Harvey, George and Herbert, all at home; and Mary Ann, deceased.

Mr. Bonsack supports the republican party and for ten years has been on the school board, his retention in this office proving the acceptability of his services. He is a member of the Grange and can be counted upon to further any movement that seeks to improve the conditions of farm life. He is determined, self-reliant and possesses sound judgment—qualities which do much toward insuring success in any line of activity.

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### MILTON H. BEAN.

Milton H. Bean is now living retired, making his home in Kearney. He is, however, numbered among the pioneer stockmen and farmers of Buffalo county, having carried on general agricultural pursuits here from 1879 until 1907, when his well directed industry had brought to him a measure of success sufficient to enable him to live retired. Mr. Bean is a native of Pennsylvania. He was born in Bucks county, February 2, 1843, a son of Manasseh and Hannah (Harr) Bean, who were also natives of the same county, where they spent their entire lives, the father there following the occupation of tailoring for a number of years, while in later life he gave his attention to farming.

Milton H. Bean spent his boyhood upon the home farm and when twenty-three years of age left the Keystone state for Illinois, making his way to Marshall county, where for four years he cultivated rented land. Thinking to have better opportunities to acquire a farm in the west, he came to Buffalo county in 1879 and purchased eighty acres at three dollars per acre. It was a wild tract on which not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made. He at once began the task of breaking the sod and developing the fields and later he purchased an eighty-acre tract adjoining. He built thereon a little house and kept bachelor's hall and as he found opportunity he added to his land, purchasing another eighty acres soon after his arrival, while a few years later he bought one hundred and sixty acres, for which he paid twelve and a half dollars per acre. His wife also had a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres near by and he operated these various tracts of land, carefully cultivating his crops and also engaging in stock raising. His business affairs were wisely conducted and energy and determination at length brought to him the success which is now his and which enables him to rest from further labor. He lived upon his farm until 1907, after which he sold the home place of two hundred and forty acres and rented the remainder. He then came to Kearney, where he erected his present residence and has since made his home.

On the 13th of March, 1884, Mr. Bean was united in marriage to Miss Kate Trott, who was born in Ohio, April 2, 1851, and in her girlhood days went to Missouri and thence to Nebraska. Here she took up a homestead in Rusco township, Buffalo county, proved up the property and also engaged in teaching school. Mr. and Mrs. Bean became the parents of a daughter, Margaret Trott, who is at home with her father. The wife and mother passed away January 28, 1900, in the faith of the Methodist church, of which she was a devoted member.



Mr. Bean was reared in the German Reformed church. In business life he has been very successful, his advancement being made through earnest effort, close application and indefatigable energy. He never neglected a duty in the care of his fields, planted his crops in timely season, cultivated them according to modern methods and in the course of years gained a substantial measure of prosperity.

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### CHARLES B. FINCH.

No history of Kearney would be complete without extended reference to Charles B. Finch, who for thirty-six years was engaged in mercantile pursuits in this city. Honored and respected by all, no man occupies a more enviable position in commercial circles, not alone by reason of the success which he has achieved but also owing to the straightforward policy which he has ever followed. Moreover, he has taken an active and helpful interest in public affairs and his influence in municipal matters has been far-reaching and beneficial.

A native of Illinois, he was born on Christmas day of 1848 at Dallas City, Hancock county. His father, John M. Finch, was a native of Pennsylvania and removed to Illinois prior to the era of railroad building in that state. For a time he lived at Rock Island and about the year 1840 removed to Nauvoo, which was then owned almost wholly by the Mormons. He there engaged in mercantile pursuits and during his residence at Nauvoo often had discussions with Joseph Smith, the Mormon prophet and leader. At the time of the uprising which resulted in the lynching of Smith, he and others were compelled to seek homes elsewhere. Accordingly he located at what is now Dallas City, Illinois, on the Mississippi river, and there resumed his interrupted mercantile career. He also embarked in pork packing on a small scale, making shipments to the south. He continued his residence at Dallas City until about 1884, when he came to Kearney, Nebraska, where he died in 1888. His wife bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Bostwick and was a daughter of Dr. Bostwick, one of the old time physicians of Fort Madison, Iowa, who lost his life while attempting to cross the Mississippi river on the ice in answer to a professional call. Mrs. Finch passed away in Kearney in 1893. In the family were five children who reached adult age.

Charles B. Finch was reared to manhood in Illinois, where he acquired such education as the common schools afforded. When but fourteen years of age he began clerking in his father's store and was thus employed for some time, after which he was admitted to a partnership in the business and still later became his father's successor, continuing active at Dallas City until 1879, when he shipped his stock to Kearney, Nebraska, and here opened a general mercantile store. In a short time he confined his attention exclusively to dry goods and developed one of the largest and best equipped establishments of that kind in the city. For thirty-six years he was actively identified with the mercantile history of the place and his business largely set the standard for similar enterprises in the town. In 1879 his brother, Ed B. Finch, removed to Kearney and joined him in business, becoming a partner a number of years later. Together they conducted their dry goods interests until February, 1915, when they sold out and thus passed out of



existence as the property of the firm of Finch Brothers one of the oldest and most reliable mercantile establishments of Buffalo county. Charles B. Finch is now practically living retired but is still interested in the Finch-Patterson Motor Company, in which he holds considerable stock.

Mr. Finch had five children, as follows: Charles and Edith, both of whom are deceased; Elizabeth Blanche, the wife of H. R. Krug, of Asbury Park, New Jersey; Sadie B., a student of National Park Seminary of Washington, D. C.; and John M., now on the Pacific coast.

Fraternally Mr. Finch is connected with Masonry. In this he has taken every degree of the Scottish Rite, including the thirty-third, and the Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Royal Order of Scotland, and every degree and order of the York Rite, and in addition is a member of Tangier Temple of the Mystic Shrine, at Omaha. He has served as worshipful master of the lodge where he was raised in Illinois; commander of Mt. Hebron Commandery at Kearney and grand commander of the state of Nebraska.

There is no phase of Kearney's development with which Mr Finch is not familiar. On his arrival here the city was but an overgrown frontier village, there being but a few brick buildings in the place at that time, while the country homes through the surrounding district were largely sod houses. At that time Kearney could boast of only wooden sidewalks and there was no street lighting, nor had water works been installed. With the work of progress and improvement he has always been actively identified and his labors have been directly beneficial along many lines. While a democrat in politics, he was elected as a candidate of the business men of Kearney for the office of mayor and served in that capacity for three years. It was during his incumbency that the first Board of Trade was organized and he was elected its first president. During his administration the streets were renamed, the houses were numbered, a sewer system was inaugurated and the electric lighting system was established. Miles of cement sidewalks were built and other substantial improvements were carried forward. Mr. Finch has never believed in hampering public progress by useless retrenchment nor was there any useless expenditure in his administration. He conducted municipal affairs upon business principles and the same qualities which won for him success as a merchant furthered the interests and welfare of his city.

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### JOHN CONROY.

John Conroy is identified with agricultural interests as the owner of land in Scotts Bluff county, Nebraska, but gives his time to his duties as postmaster of Shelton, Buffalo county, where he resides. He was born in Ireland on the 25th of September, 1851, of the marriage of Patrick and Elizabeth (Moran) Conroy, both of whom were born in that country. The father died in February, 1861, in Ireland, and in March, 1867, his wife came to America with her seven children. The family lived in Pennsylvania for some time but the death of the mother occurred in Buffalo, New York. There were seven sons in the family, of whom five are still living.

John Conroy remained at home until he was twenty years of age and then

began learning the tanner's trade, which he followed in Pennsylvania until 1878. In that year he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and bought a farm six miles north of Shelton, where he lived for eight years. In 1886 he was appointed postmaster of Shelton by President Cleveland and for four years served in that capacity. During that time he conducted a general store, which was located in the same building as the postoffice, but in 1893 he disposed of that business. For four years he was deputy postmaster and then served as assessor of both the township and city of Shelton until 1914, when he was again made postmaster, receiving his appointment from President Wilson. He understands the duties of the office thoroughly, is systematic and accurate in his work, and his services as postmaster are very satisfactory to his fellow citizens. He owns three hundred and twenty acres in Scotts Bluff county and derives therefrom a gratifying financial return.

In 1874 Mr. Conroy was united in marriage to Miss Anna Edwards, a native of Ireland and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Edwards, both of whom are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Conroy have become the parents of seven children: William G., deceased; Mary Elizabeth, the wife of H. C. Gumprecht; Ellen, at home; Kathryn J., who is deputy postmaster; Fannie, the wife of T. P. Hoye; John, deceased; and Stewart P., at home.

Mr. Conroy has given his political allegiance to the democratic party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, and has always been active in public affairs. He has served on the town board, was for six years a member of the school board and for ten years held the office of assessor. Both he and his wife are members of the Roman Catholic church and aid in the work of that organization. He not only has the respect of all who have been associated with him but has also gained the warm personal regard of many.

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#### J. W. MILLER, M. D.

Dr. J. W. Miller is an able physician and surgeon who is enjoying a large practice at Gibbon and from the surrounding country. His colleagues and contemporaries acknowledge his ability and attest his worth as a man and citizen as well as a physician. He was born in Koszta, Iowa, May 10, 1859, and is a son of Dr. Ephraim P. and Margaret (Dey) Miller, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, where they were reared and married. They subsequently removed to Koszta, Iowa, where Dr. Miller engaged in the practice of medicine up to the time of his death, which occurred about 1863. His widow afterward became the wife of Amos Pettyes and removed to Reedsburg, Wisconsin, where Dr. J. W. Miller was reared and educated, passing through consecutive grades in the public schools until graduated from the Reedsburg high school.

In 1880 J. W. Miller took up the study of medicine, pursuing his reading under the preceptorship of Dr. Samuel Hall of Reedsburg until the fall of 1881, when he entered Rush Medical College of Chicago, there pursuing the full course, which he completed by graduation in March, 1884. He then returned to Reedsburg and entered upon active practice in connection with his former preceptor, Dr. Hall, with whom he remained from March until September. At that time



DR. J. W. MILLER AND FAMILY





he removed to Mason City, Nebraska, where he was successfully identified with the practice of his profession until 1895. In that year he removed to Gibbon, where he has since been located. He is today the oldest practicing physician of the town and is numbered among the leading physicians and surgeons of Buffalo county. He has had broad practical experience through almost a third of a century and during this period he has kept in touch with the trend of modern thought and scientific investigation by broad reading and study. He is very careful in the diagnosis of his cases and seldom at fault in determining the outcome of disease.

On the 14th of October, 1891, Dr. Miller was united in marriage to Miss Mary L. Walker, of Mason City, Nebraska, and to them have been born four children, of whom three are living: Edith, who is a graduate of the State University of Nebraska of the class of 1915, and is now a teacher in the public schools of Howell, this state; Erwin, who is pursuing a course in mechanical engineering in the State University; and Arthur, a student of the Gibbon high school.

The parents hold membership in the Presbyterian church and, being people of the highest respectability, occupy an enviable position in social circles. Dr. Miller is a member of Granite Lodge, No. 189, A. F. & A. M., and of the Modern Woodmen Camp. Along strictly professional lines he has connection with the Buffalo County Medical Society and with the Nebraska State Medical Society and he thus keeps abreast with the trend of modern thought and investigation along professional lines. He holds to high ideals in his chosen life work and his ability is manifest in the excellent results which attend his labors.

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### C. M. BECK.

C. M. Beck, of Gibbon, is successfully engaged in the real estate and insurance business; is also manager of the Farmers Home Telephone Company and is likewise an extensive landholder. His birth occurred in Ohio on the 11th of November, 1859, and he is a son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Kramer) Beck, natives of Pennsylvania who removed to Ohio at an early day in the history of that state. The father followed the occupation of carpentering and was recognized as an expert workman. Both he and his wife passed away in the Buckeye state. Seven of their ten children are still living.

C. M. Beck was reared in Ohio and there received his education, but in 1888 he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and opened a real estate and insurance office in Gibbon. He has since continued active in those fields and in the years that have since intervened has handled a large amount of business. He is also a heavy stockholder in the Farmers Home Telephone Company, of which he is manager, and owns stock in the Exchange Bank. He has fully recognized the value of real estate as an investment and has acquired title to seven hundred and sixty acres of excellent land, all of which is improved. He has been quick to utilize opportunities, and his enterprise and sound judgment have enabled him to win financial independence.

In 1890 Mr. Beck was united in marriage to Miss Susie M. Henderson, a

native of Iowa and a daughter of Colonel P. P. and Catherine Henderson. Mr. and Mrs. Beck are the parents of a son, Gerald H., who was born July 5, 1894, and is now taking the medical course at the State University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Mr. Beck is a republican and has served as clerk and town treasurer. He holds membership in Granite Lodge, No. 189, A. F. & A. M., in which he has filled all of the chairs, and he is also identified with the York Rite, having taken the commandery degrees. For twenty-five years he served as clerk of Gibbon Camp, No. 708, M. W. A., his long retention in that office indicating the high esteem in which he is held in that organization. His wife belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. He has resided in this county for more than a quarter of a century and during that time has gained the warm friendship of many and the sincere respect of all with whom he has been associated.

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### WARREN PRATT.

Warren Pratt, whose residence in Kearney, dating from January 7, 1881, covers a period of more than a third of a century and compasses the period of greatest development and progress here, is now engaged in the practice of law and has long been identified with the most important litigation heard in the courts of his district. The consensus of public opinion places him in a conspicuous and enviable position among the foremost lawyers of western Nebraska and his reputation has been earned at the price of indefatigable effort, broad study and devotion to the interests of his clients.

Mr. Pratt was born at New Boston, Illinois, on the 3d of February, 1859, and is one of a family of seven children, of whom three are now living. The parents were Lacey and Elizabeth (Baker) Pratt, natives of Ohio and England respectively. The father became a contractor and for some time operated a planing mill at New Boston, where he died in the year 1871.

When but twelve years of age Warren Pratt started out in life on his own account, working on a farm through the summer months, while in the winter seasons he largely attended the district schools until he reached the age of twenty years, when he took up the profession of teaching, securing a position in a district school. In the fall of 1880 he came with a married sister to Nebraska, settling in Nemaha county, and in January, 1881, he arrived in Kearney, which at that time was a small town upon the western frontier. For three months he assisted a cousin who was conducting a grocery store in Kearney, but having determined to make the practice of law his life work, he put aside mercantile pursuits and became a student in the office of E. C. Calkins, who directed his reading until his admission to the bar in 1883. He at once entered upon the practice of his profession with his preceptor under the firm name of Calkins & Pratt, and for thirty-three years he has been continuously engaged in the active practice of law in Kearney. During this period he has been identified with most of the important litigation tried in the courts of the district and is regarded as a wise counselor and strong advocate. He prepares his cases with great thoroughness, presents them with clearness and

cogency, and as the years have passed has won for his clients many favorable verdicts which have established his reputation as a learned and able lawyer.

On the 22d of June, 1887, Mr. Pratt was united in marriage to Miss Amelia E. Wonner, a daughter of Henry Wonner, of Osceola, Iowa. To them have been born three children, namely: Helen; and Ruth and Marjorie, who are school teachers in Nebraska. Mrs. Pratt is a member of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Pratt gave his political allegiance to the democratic party until it inserted in its platform the free silver plank, since which time he has affiliated with the republican party. He belongs to the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. Outside of his profession he has business interests as one of the organizers of the Kearney Telephone Company, which was formed in 1905 and of which he has been president practically throughout the ensuing years. At this writing he is president of the Buffalo County Bar Association and he enjoys the highest regard of his contemporaries in practice. He is at all times fair and just to fellow practitioners, treats the court with the studied courtesy which is its due and is careful at all times to conform his practice to the highest standards of professional ethics.

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#### EDMUND H. DUNGAN.

Edmund H. Dungan is a retired farmer and stock raiser living in Kearney. His residence in this part of the state dates from pioneer times and he is familiar with every phase of its development and progress. He was born in Mercer county, Illinois, in June, 1852, a son of Aaron and Tama (Pratt) Dungan. The father was a native of Ohio and was reared in that state and in Illinois, the family removing to Mercer county. He conducted a livery barn at New Boston, Mercer county, for a number of years and afterward purchased and conducted a farm near Aledo, but in 1876 removed to Kearney county, Nebraska, and secured a homestead claim near Fort Kearney. He squatted upon the property first and when the reservation was opened in the same year he homesteaded and built one of the first houses on the Fort Kearney military reservation. This he improved and developed, carrying on the farm work year after year up to the time of his death, which occurred when he was sixty-three years of age. His political allegiance was given to the republican party. The mother was a native of Indiana and was thirteen years of age when the family removed to Mercer county, Illinois, where her parents were among the early settlers. She came to Nebraska in 1876, being one of the pioneer women in this part of the state, and surviving her husband for some time, she spent her later years in the home of her son Edmund, passing away when about eighty years of age. She was a consistent and faithful member of the Methodist church and guided her life according to its teachings. In the family were four children, of whom two died in infancy, the others being: John P., who made his home in Buffalo county but is now deceased; and Edmund H.

The latter is the only survivor of the family. His boyhood days were spent at home, and on attaining his majority he began farming. He was twenty-four years of age when he removed with the family to Nebraska, where he secured



a homestead and began the arduous task of developing a new farm. He converted the raw prairie into productive fields and continued to engage in farming and stock raising until 1910. He afterward rented his farm to his sons and came to Kearney, retiring from business life. He had purchased his father's homestead and is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of good land which affords him an excellent annual income. Diligence was the rule of his life and enterprise guided him in all of his activities, while laudable ambition proved the spur to his activity.

On the 23d of March, 1876, Mr. Dungan was married to Miss Rhoda Reynolds, who was born near Rock Island, Illinois, a daughter of Drury and Esther (Love) Reynolds, both of whom were natives of Ohio. The father was reared in the Buckeye state and the mother in Illinois, and when a young man he removed to Illinois, spending his last days in Rock Island county, where he departed this life at the age of sixty-three years. He had been one of the pioneer settlers and valued citizens of that part of the state. His widow survived and was called to her final rest when eighty years of age, her last days being spent in Mercer county, Illinois. She was a consistent member of the Christian church. Their daughter, Mrs. Dungan, was reared and educated in Rock Island county and came to Nebraska in 1876, ten days after her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Dungan are the parents of eight children, as follows: Myrtle, who is the wife of Gardner Sawin, of Baird, Nebraska; Schuyler, who follows farming in Kearney county, Nebraska; Howard, who is also engaged in farming in Kearney county, this state; Floyd, living on the home farm; Everett, a merchant of Kearney; Dale, a student in the State University; Stella, at home; and Glenn, who is employed in the government reclamation service. Another child, the first born, died in early life. Mrs. Dungan is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Dungan gives his political allegiance to the republican party but has never been ambitious to hold office, as he has preferred to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs and his diligence and determination in farm work have brought to him the substantial measure of prosperity which is now his.

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#### W. H. SWARTSLEY.

W. H. Swartsley is engaged in the real estate business at Riverdale, which town has largely been built up through his efforts. He also has important landed interests and is giving considerable attention to the breeding, raising and sale of Duroc-Jersey hogs. He has made his home in Buffalo county since 1907, prior to which time he was a resident of Platte county, Nebraska. His birth occurred in Woodford county, Illinois, in 1862, his parents being John C. and Jennie L. Swartsley, who were natives of Virginia. They came to Illinois in 1853, settling in Woodford county, and in 1881 they arrived in Platte county, Nebraska, where the father secured land and concentrated his energies upon the development and improvement of his farm, his death occurring about two years ago. He was an energetic, industrious and prosperous agriculturist and was a prominent and influential citizen. His political allegiance was given to the demo-



cratic party and he was called upon to represent Platte county in the state legislature. His wife has also passed away, her death occurring in Platte county.

W. H. Swartsley was in his teens at the time of the removal of the family to Platte county, and after he had attained his majority he turned his attention to general farming in Bismark township, where he owned land. He carefully, persistently and successfully tilled the soil for some time and also taught school for almost sixteen years, and in 1907 he arrived in Buffalo county, where he has since made his home. Here he has operated largely in real estate and has conducted many important business interests. He organized the Riverdale State Bank, which has been a very important factor in the development of local business enterprises, and served as a member of its board of directors until he turned his interests over to his son Lee, who was the deputy county treasurer of Buffalo county for eight years. In association with his sons Mr. Swartsley owns three hundred and seventy acres of rich and productive land in Riverdale township, whereon he is engaged in general farming and stock raising. They have the finest drove of full-blooded Duroc-Jersey hogs in the county, and they make a specialty of the stock raising feature of their business. Mr. Swartsley has also done much toward the upbuilding of the attractive little town of Riverdale. He platted part of the town and then sold lots, was instrumental in inducing merchants to locate there and had a large part in securing the schoolhouse. There is no important feature of the town's upbuilding and development with which he has not been associated.

Mr. Swartsley married Miss Alice May Burns, who was born in Oskaloosa, Iowa, and they have three children: Lee, formerly deputy county treasurer; O. E., who is conducting the ranch; and Grace, who is an accomplished musician living at home. The family residence is the finest home in the village and Mr. Swartsley is a most progressive, active, energetic man, forming his plans readily and carrying them forward to successful completion. If a pen picture could accurately delineate his business characteristics, such might be given in these words: a progressive spirit ruled by more than ordinary intelligence and good judgment; a deep earnestness impelled and fostered by indomitable perseverance; a native justice expressing itself in correct principle and practice. His intellect early grasped the eternal truth that industry wins and industry has been the beacon light of his life. He is well known in fraternal circles, belonging to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Woodmen, and his wife and daughter are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, which he attends.

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#### J. O. GRIFFIN.

J. O. Griffin owns and operates three hundred and twenty acres of productive land on section 16, Gibbon township, and has gained financial independence through his agricultural activities. His birth occurred in Stark county, Illinois, on the 27th of June, 1867, and he is one of six living children in a family of eight born to E. J. and Rebecca (Nicholas) Griffin. The father was a native of

Pennsylvania and the mother's birth occurred in Ohio, but they were married in Illinois, where the mother passed away and where the father still resides.

J. O. Griffin grew to manhood and received his education in Illinois, but in 1894, when about twenty-seven years of age, he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and took up his residence on a farm which he operated for some time. Later he purchased his present place, which comprises three hundred and twenty acres on section 16, Gibbon township, and is now well improved. He keeps everything in excellent repair and uses the latest machinery in his work, thus increasing his efficiency. He receives a good income from the sale of his grain and stock and ranks among the progressive and successful farmers of the county.

Mr. Griffin was married in 1896 to Miss Clara Philipar, who was born in Pennsylvania but was brought to this state when but a year old by her parents, Peter and Anna Philipar. The father is dead but the mother is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Griffin have six children: Ruth and Bruce, both high school students; Leslie; Earl; Ezra; and Carl.

Mr. Griffin gives his political support to the republican party at national elections, but where only local issues are at stake supports the best man irrespective of party lines. His fraternal affiliation is with the Modern Woodmen of America, and he and his family attend the Methodist Episcopal church. His circle of friends is almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance, and his salient characteristics are those which invariably command respect and warm regard.

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#### OSCAR G. KNOX.

Oscar G. Knox, manager and one of the stockholders of the Farmers Elevator at Riverdale, is a wide-awake and progressive business man, alert to his opportunities and energetic in all that he undertakes. He was born in Indiana on the 20th of May, 1870, and is a son of William E. and Emma J. (Trimble) Knox, both of whom were natives of Kentucky, whence they removed to Indiana in 1868, there residing for eleven years. In 1879 they became residents of Buffalo county, Nebraska, casting in their lot with its pioneer settlers, at which time the father secured a homestead claim which he converted from a tract of wild prairie into rich and productive fields. He died in the year 1899 and is survived by his widow, who is now a resident of Riverdale. However, she still owns the old homestead in this county on which she reared her family of five children. There were four sons and a daughter, but the latter has passed away.

Oscar G. Knox was largely reared and educated in Buffalo county, where he came with his parents when a little lad of nine summers. He attended the common schools and was reared to the occupation of farming, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. After attaining his majority he began farming on his own account, purchasing a tract of land on section 4, Riverdale township, where he continued to live for sixteen years, during which period he brought his fields to a high state of cultivation and also improved his farm with good buildings, making it one of the model properties of the community. He is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land which constitutes one of the attractive features of the district because of



OSCAR G. KNOX





its well kept appearance and its modern accessories. He still gives to the farm his personal supervision and while residing thereon he made a specialty of breeding and raising Duroc Jersey hogs. He is now manager of the Farmers Elevator Company at Riverdale, of which he is one of the stockholders, and he is capably directing the business under his control, making it a profitable venture for those who are financially interested therein.

On the 27th of August, 1890, Mr. Knox was married to Miss Ella Rogers, who was born in Iowa, a daughter of John and Edith (Talbot) Rogers, both of whom are deceased. In their family were ten children, of whom five are yet living. Mr. and Mrs. Knox have become the parents of six children: Ethel, the wife of J. F. Richardson; Earl R.; Jesse S., who is married and lives on the home farm; Ada, who is a graduate of the State Normal School and is now engaged in teaching; and Albert and Mildred, still under the parental roof.

The parents are members of the Christian church and Mr. Knox is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to Lodge No. 353, in which he has filled all of the chairs. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen camp. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he has held all of the local township offices and has also been a member of the school board. His fellow townsmen, appreciative of his worth and ability, have called him to higher office and for two terms he represented his district in the state legislature, where he gave earnest consideration to all the questions which came up for settlement and earnestly sought to advance the best interests of the commonwealth. Those who know him esteem him highly, for in every relation of life he has been found progressive, trustworthy and reliable and thus he has gained the goodwill and confidence of even those who oppose him politically.

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### CHRISTOPHER PUTNAM.

Christopher Putnam, one of the early settlers of Buffalo county, Nebraska, was a native of the Empire state, where he was reared and where he was united in marriage to Harriett Nichols. In April, 1871, Mr. Putnam joined the soldiers' free homestead colony which came to Nebraska and made settlement in Buffalo county. He arrived in April of that year and the following September was joined by his family. He secured a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres a half mile east of the Gibbon postoffice but now within the village limits. Subsequently he purchased other lands, adding to his possessions from time to time until ultimately he became the owner of six or seven hundred acres. He died January 9, 1906, and is still survived by his wife, who yet makes her home in Gibbon.

Mr. Putnam was a leader of public thought and opinion. He served as the first county superintendent of schools in Buffalo county and aided in laying a substantial foundation upon which to build the educational interests of this part of the state. He afterward served as county surveyor and as county clerk and proved a most capable public official, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity. In early life he had received good educational opportunities and he ever remained a student of the signs of the times, keeping in touch with

advanced thought. In addition to his other business interests he operated a branch of the Omaha National Bank in Gibbon for a number of years and was bookkeeper and secretary of the Gibbon Milling Company for several years. He carried forward to successful completion whatever he undertook and the spirit of progress actuated him at all times. His fellow townsmen respected him for what he accomplished and the methods which he pursued and his course at every point of his career would bear close investigation and scrutiny. To him and his wife were born four children, as follows: T. Orson, manager of the credit department of the Bemis Bag Company of Omaha, Nebraska; Eva A., the wife of Victor Van Duzer, of Berryville, Arkansas; John J., who is at the head of the bacteriological department of the University of Idaho; and Charles A., of Gibbon.

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### ISAAC BUCK.

Isaac Buck is meeting with gratifying success in the operation of four hundred acres of fine land on section 21, Shelton township, and has gained a place among the up-to-date and well-to-do farmers of his locality. His birth occurred upon that farm on the 15th of September, 1874, and he is one of seven living children in a family of fourteen born to Joseph and Mary Ann (Singleton) Buck. Both parents were natives of England, but in 1869 they came to America and at once made their way to Buffalo county, Nebraska. Some time later the father homesteaded the farm which our subject is now operating and continued to live there until 1906, when he removed to Shelton, where he still makes his home. He has reached the advanced age of seventy-six years and is accorded the honor to which his long and useful life entitles him. His wife died about 1908.

Isaac Buck was reared at home and acquired his education in the public schools. He early began helping his father with the farm work and when sixteen years of age took charge of the operation of the place. He cultivates four hundred acres and manifests a thorough knowledge of farming and sound business judgment in the management of his affairs. He derives a good income from his labors and also finds his work congenial. In addition to farming he operates a steam threshing outfit, which he owns, and derives a good financial return from this enterprise.

On the 11th of November, 1896, Mr. Buck was married to Miss Abbie Lippincott, who was born in Friend, Nebraska, and is a daughter of J. F. and Janna (Vance) Lippincott, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. In the early '70s, however, they came to Nebraska and here the mother passed away, although the father is still living. Mrs. Buck is one of a family of nine children and by her marriage has become the mother of three children, namely: Levi V., Alvin J. and Stewart T., all of whom are high school students and have good voices and unusual musical talent.

Mr. Buck is independent in politics and although he takes the interest of a good citizen in public affairs, he has never been an aspirant for office. He and his family attend the United Presbyterian church and their influence is a factor

that makes for the moral advancement of their community. He has based his success upon close attention to his business and the prosperity which he has gained is well deserved.

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### ELLSWORTH BOWKER.

Ellsworth Bowker, clerk of the twelfth judicial district for Buffalo county and secretary of the Kearney Canning Company, is thus actively identified with professional and commercial interests and by reason thereof has become widely and favorably known. His official record is characterized by unfaltering fidelity to duty and his activity in commercial circles is of a character that has contributed in large measure to the success of the undertaking with which he is connected. Mr. Bowker is a native of Sangamon county, Illinois. He was born September 17, 1863, and was one of a family of seven children, three of whom are yet living, their parents being John and Hetty (Barnett) Bowker.

His youthful days were spent upon a farm until he reached the age of eighteen years, during which period he attended the district schools and in the acquirement of his education laid the foundation of his later success. While still at home he took up the study of telegraphy. He had a brother who was acting as station agent at Rochester, Illinois, three miles from the family home. They cut poles in the woods, set them up and strung wire upon them and several of the boys of the neighborhood cut in on this line and thus got their first start in telegraphic work. Ellsworth Bowker gained a considerable knowledge of the business and at eighteen years of age had secured the appointment of telegraph operator at Oak Mills, Kansas, on the Missouri Pacific Railroad. He followed railroad work until 1900 and during part of that time was located at Springfield, Illinois, where he acted as day operator for the master mechanic of the Wabash Railroad. He was also the first train dispatcher at Marshalltown, Iowa, on what was then known as the Diagonal Railway, a part of the Wisconsin, Iowa & Nebraska system and now a part of the Chicago Great Western. His business duties took him to various points and while with the Western Union he spent some time at Omaha and in other cities. During the last seven years of his railroad life he was a conductor on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. In May, 1885, he went to Custer county, Nebraska, where he secured a homestead, on which he made the necessary improvements that won for him the title to the land. That place was situated six miles from the present site of Mason City but at that time no railroad had been built through the district. When the railroad was built Mr. Bowker became the first agent at that point and returned to his old occupation. Later he deeded his land to his wife's parents and it has since been their home. In 1900 Mr. Bowker abandoned railroad work and embarked in merchandising at Ravenna, Buffalo county, in which he continued for three years. He then became an assistant in the county treasurer's office under M. N. Troupe and in 1907 he was elected clerk of the district court, to which office he was reelected and is now serving for the second term, making a most excellent record in the position by the prompt, capable and systematic manner in which he discharges his duties.

Into other fields he has also extended his activities. In 1911 he was appointed



by the Kearney Commercial Club as chairman of a committee to see about establishing a canning company at this place. The project was reported upon favorably, a company was organized and since that time Mr. Bowker has been its secretary. He is also the owner of a small tract of land, on which he installed the first irrigating system in Buffalo county. This he has converted into a truck farm and plant nursery, which he conducts with the aid of his sons under the name of the Bowker Plant Nursery. His business affairs are always wisely directed and his energy and enterprise enable him to overcome all the difficulties and obstacles in his path and work his way steadily upward.

On the 1st of March, 1885, Mr. Bowker was united in marriage to Miss Rosa B. Mercer, of Jasper county, Iowa, and to them were born twelve children: Chauncey Pearl and Grace, both now deceased; J. Sherman; Ethel B., the wife of Stanley McCormack; Charles; Harold; Edward, deceased; Mabel, the wife of Bert Dady; Elwood; Vera; Wesley; and Kenneth.

Mrs. Bowker is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Bowker belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. Both are widely known in Kearney and other parts of the county and have a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of their acquaintance. In a review of his life it will be noticed that from an early age he has depended upon his own resources and that his advancement has been won at the price of earnest, self-denying labor. Working his way steadily upward, he has gained a position in business circles that is the direct result of persistent, earnest and intelligently directed effort and his substantial qualities are recognized and appreciated by many with whom he comes in contact.

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#### SWAN FARRIS.

The history of Swan Farris is the record of a self-made man who owes his advancement entirely to his ability, enterprise and determination, and his record proves that success and an honored name may be won simultaneously. Moreover, he has reached out into the broader realms of thought, keeping in touch with many modern questions and problems, and is today a most interesting as well as venerable gentleman, his mind being a storehouse of valuable information and reminiscence. A native of Sweden, he was born in Skanay, June 12, 1836, a son of Farris and Swanberg (Olsen) Handricks. The father was born in the village of Trolle-Ljungby, Sweden, June 13, 1804, and was a carpenter and building contractor of his native town. There he passed away May 4, 1863, and after his demise his widow came to the new world, joining her son Swan at his home in Galesburg, Illinois, where she died October 21, 1867.

Swan Farris, an only child, was reared in Sweden and obtained his education in the graded and high schools of Trolle-Ljungby. At the age of seventeen years he went to Copenhagen, Denmark, to learn the trade of stone engraving, remaining there for two years, and on one of his frequent visits home to his parents in Sweden he met a party of neighbors who were his old schoolmates, who were coming to America. They induced him to join them and he left the old home village in the spring of 1856, when nineteen years of age, to come to the





SWAN FARRIS



new world. He spent nine weeks on a sailing vessel, after which he landed in New York city, passing through the old immigrant station of Castle Garden. After a few days spent in the eastern metropolis he made his way to Chicago by rail, canal and the Great Lakes. He recalls the fact that the railroad train made such slow time that some of the boys of the party left the train, picked apples in an orchard near the track and again caught the train.

Mr. Farris remained in Chicago for several weeks, but not finding employment, went to Moline, Illinois, where he obtained a situation with the John Deere Plow Company, making parts of plows. After two years he left that position and began to work as a raftsmen, running rafts on the Mississippi river from Black River, Wisconsin, to Alton, Illinois. He was afterward cabin waiter on Mississippi river steamboats and gradually drifted to the contracting business, building levees along the Mississippi in the states of Mississippi and Louisiana. He built canal ditches and did other such work and afterward became an express driver in New Orleans, conveying negro slaves from Arcade Hall in that city, the slave market place, to the railroad and boat landings as they were being shipped to their new owners. This was a responsible job owing to the value of the negroes in his charge. In 1859 he left New Orleans and went to Utica, Mississippi, where he again engaged in the contracting business, building ponds and dams on the cotton plantations to hold the water for the cattle to drink. When war was declared, as he was not a believer in slavery, he left the south and removed to Galesburg, Illinois, where he conducted a restaurant and bought and sold land. In connection with a business associate he purchased in 1878 ten thousand acres of good land in Phelps county, Nebraska, but his health began to fail and he sold most of his land again for about two dollars and seventy-five cents per acre, having paid for it two dollars and fifty cents.

Mr. Farris made five trips back to his old home in Sweden and while on one of these visits his father died May 4, 1863. He then brought his mother back with him to the new world and they established their home at Galesburg, Illinois. Mr. Farris still owns one and a half sections of the ten thousand acres of land which he and his partner purchased in Phelps county in 1878 and his landed possessions also include one and a half sections in Buffalo county, four hundred and eighty acres of this being on section 17, Odessa township, and eighty acres on section 18, Odessa township. He also has a quarter section in Holland county, Nebraska, near Scandinavia. All this land is improved and much of it has been brought under cultivation, while some is used as pasture land. All is rented to good tenants and from his property Mr. Farris derives a substantial annual income. He has never personally cultivated the land, for he is not a farmer. On leaving Galesburg, Illinois, he removed to Chicago, where he remained for four years, and on the advice of his physician that he seek a change of climate for the benefit of his health, he removed to Kearney in 1888 and purchased a handsome residence at 1810 Seventh avenue, where he lives retired save for the supervision which he gives to his invested interests. His investments have been most judiciously made and notable success has crowned his efforts.

In the fall of 1863 Swan Farris was married to Miss Ellen Isapson, a native of Sweden, their wedding being celebrated in Galesburg, Illinois. She died a year later and at Galesburg, on the 9th of September, 1869, Mr. Farris wedded Miss Cecilia Petersen, who passed away at Kearney, March 30, 1913.

Mr. Farris is a member of the Lutheran church at Kearney and has always given his political allegiance to the republican party. He possesses one of the fine libraries of the state. He has many books that he has purchased on his trips through Europe, including seventy-five volumes which are very old and rare editions. One is a textbook on religion, published January 15, 1496. He also has a history of Rome printed in the Latin language at Venice, Italy, in August, 1475. The book published in 1496, a volume of large size, still has its original binding, but the history of Rome was rebound in the sixteenth century. Of the seventy-five volumes none was published subsequent to 1550. He also has many small Bibles, prayer books and other volumes of that character which are more than four hundred years old and most of these have the original binding. They are printed in German and Latin languages, both of which Mr. Farris reads. He also has in his library some books written by hand by the old monks before printing was invented. He possesses one of the world's rarest collections of coins of all nations, some of which were issued before the Christian era and all collected by him prior to forty years ago. These include copper, gold and silver coins and he has almost a complete set of Scandinavian coins, including four of the old plate coins six by four inches and a quarter of an inch thick. Some of these date back to the eighth century. Of the rare plate coins he secured three in Sweden and one in Germany. Sweden is the only nation that ever used a copper coin that was not round. His collection is valued at many thousands of dollars and Mr. Farris has exhibited the collection at various times. He keeps the coins in the safe deposit vault in the bank at Kearney, as they are worth too much to be in his home.

Mr. Farris has arranged by his will that his valuable library of old books and his collection of coins shall be given to some Swedish institution of learning. He has no living relatives and he intends that his estate shall go to some charitable or religious institution which in his opinion will do the most possible good with it. He is a man of religious tendencies, actuated in all that he does by his Christian faith and belief and is most charitable, again and again extending a helping hand where aid is needed. He is a public-spirited citizen, at all times aiding in matters for the benefit of his community. He enjoys excellent health at the age of eighty years and is one of Buffalo county's most honored and valued citizens, a man with whom association means expansion and elevation.

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#### ANDREW KNOBEL.

Andrew Knobel, deceased, was one of the pioneer settlers of Buffalo county, who during the years of his active life here followed the occupation of farming and contributed in substantial measure to the agricultural development of the district. A native of Switzerland, he was born in Canton Glarus in October, 1837, and when a young man came to the United States, settling in New York. Five years later he sent for his sweetheart to join him and they were married in the state of New York. She bore the maiden name of Katharina Hefti and was born in Canton Glarus, December 10, 1842, being twenty-one years of age when she crossed the Atlantic to the new world. She had worked in a muslin factory



in Switzerland but saw no bright outlook for a business future there and desired to get away.

Mr. Knobel was employed as a coachman in New York and after carefully saving his earnings he purchased a little tract of land of four acres, upon which they established their home. While living thereon he worked by the day at a wage of a dollar and a half. Later they removed to Wisconsin, but soon afterward returned to New York and in 1880 they arrived in Buffalo county, Nebraska, influenced to make this change by the fact that Mrs. Knobel had a sister and a brother-in-law, John Streif, living in this county. They made the journey by train to Buffalo county and for a short period remained in the home of Mr. Streif, after which they purchased the farm upon which the family has since resided. It was a tract of railroad land and the people who had previously owned it had abandoned it.

Mr. Knobel purchased the property and for five years he and his family occupied a sod house. There was also a sod stable upon the place giving shelter to his stock. He was a good manager and hard worker and in time became a successful farmer. He was building the present frame residence, which was almost completed, when he caught cold and died within four days, passing away in the latter part of October, 1891.

Several years ago Mrs. Knobel became convinced that the Bible authorized the observance of Saturday as the real Sabbath and since that time she has been identified with the Seventh Day Adventists and Mr. Knobel also adopted the same belief. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Knobel: Andrew, who lives with his mother and owns and cultivates five hundred acres of land; David, who is married and follows farming on a tract of eight acres belonging to his mother in Elm Creek township; Fred, who is married and follows farming in Odessa township; and Libby, the wife of Tom Elliott, a resident farmer of Odessa township.

Mrs. Knobel tells many interesting tales concerning pioneer times. On one occasion, before experience had taught them the lesson, her husband set fire to the stubble on their place. The wind was in the south and swept the blaze across the fields like a race horse. The thatch roof on the stable caught fire and the building was destroyed, but neighbors rushed in and saved the sod house. A couple of chickens belonging to the family living on the place were burned to death and a young dog was tied in the stable with a chain. No one thought of the animal, so he too became a sacrifice to the carelessness and inexperience of the easterners. When the family left New York Mr. Knobel was told that he must carry a gun, feeling that it was unsafe to penetrate so far into the west unprotected. Accordingly he bought a gun and carried it over his shoulder, but it proved to be a nuisance on many occasions, for the conductors would not allow it to be taken into the coach but would take charge of it on the train until it was handed back to Mr. Knobel when he had reached his destination. Many of the old settlers had little ambition and therefore failed to make good in their new surroundings, not being willing to endure the hardships and trials which are always incidents of pioneer life. In those days cornmeal mush was the staple article of diet. Soon after arriving Mrs. Knobel attended a quilting, at which her companions of the party asked her if the family were eating mush. She did not even know what the dish was but she did not plead ignorance, saying simply that they had not eaten

any as yet. They told her that she would have to eventually come to it, but the family went to work, raised wheat, had it ground and have never yet had to resort to the dish mentioned. Mrs. Knobel has continuously lived upon the old home farm, which was willed to her by her husband. It comprises one hundred and sixty acres of land in Odessa township, in addition to which she owns another eighty acre tract in Elm Creek township.

Her parents, Andrew and Elizabeth Hefti, came to Buffalo county when Mr. and Mrs. Knobel removed here and both her father and mother passed away in this county. Mrs. Knobel is still hale and hearty and enjoys excellent health, although she has now passed the seventy-third milestone on life's journey. There is no feature of pioneer life in Buffalo county with which she is not familiar and her experiences, if told in detail, would constitute a most interesting volume, giving an excellent picture of conditions which existed here in the early days.

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### WALTER KNUTZEN.

Walter Knutzen, a prominent contractor of Kearney who has been prominently identified with important building operations in this part of the state, is one of those citizens whose lives indicate what may be accomplished by young men of foreign birth who seek the opportunities of the new world and who are ruled in their activities by enterprise and energy. Mr. Knutzen was born near Mandal, Norway, November 8, 1848, and there spent the days of his boyhood and youth. He began to learn cabinetmaking when sixteen years of age, devoting five years to the trade, after which he shipped as a sailor before the mast, sailing between ports of England, United States, Canada, France and Holland for two years. In the spring of 1872 he came to New York and thence went by coast steamer to Savannah, Georgia. After a short time he removed to Buffalo, New York, and sailed upon the Great Lakes for a season. In 1872 he made his way to Chicago, where he spent two years working at the carpenter's trade. He afterward removed to Houghton county, Michigan, where he followed carpentering for five years and also took some contracts. He then returned to the old home and married. A few months later, or in May, 1879, he arrived in Kearney, which was then a small town, and here he has since engaged in contracting, being very closely identified with the building operations of the city throughout the intervening period covering thirty-seven years. For four years he engaged in contract work in Colorado but during that period regarded Kearney as his home. He built the high school at Fort Collins, Colorado, also the State Normal School at Greeley and, in fact, was accorded a large number of contracts in that state. In Kearney he has probably erected more buildings than any other one man and has received contracts in other parts of the state. He erected a fine high school building in Kearney and many substantial and beautiful structures stand as monuments to his skill and enterprise.

In 1879 in Norway Mr. Knutzen was married to Miss Abalone Jensen, who was also born at Mandal, Norway, and they have become the parents of five children: Annie C., at home; Julia P., a teacher at Helena, Montana; Agnes, a teacher in the Nebraska State Normal School; Henry, a student in the Nebraska

University; and Harriet, who is in the State Normal. The children have been provided with excellent educational advantages and all are graduates of the high school. Mr. Knutzen is a member of the Masonic fraternity and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He has many substantial qualities, among which are the sterling characteristics of industry, reliability, progressiveness and determination. His life has been well spent and he has been the architect and builder of his own fortune.

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### FRED A. NYE.

The bar of Buffalo county has for twenty-eight years numbered Fred A. Nye among its members and his position has ever been an honored one. Ability has brought him steadily to the front and his powers as an advocate have connected him with much of the important litigation heard in the courts of middle western Nebraska. A native of Iowa, he was born in Muscatine county, June 26, 1862, a son of Alfred and Sarah R. (Silverthorn) Nye. The ancestral line is traced back to Benjamin Nye, who came from England in 1635, in young manhood, and established his home in the village of Sandwich, Barnstable county, Massachusetts. He was the progenitor of the family in the new world and among his descendants were those who served with the colonies in their struggle for independence. The father was a farmer and dealt extensively in stock. In 1885 the family first came to Buffalo county, not with the intention of making a location at that time but more with the view of a possible return. The same year they made their way back to Iowa and in 1886 the father passed away in that state. Mrs. Nye with her youngest son, Fred A. (the other children having then reached years of maturity and located elsewhere), removed to Buffalo county and established her permanent home, settling in Kearney in 1888. There she continued to reside until called to her final rest in 1902.

Fred A. Nye was reared on the old homestead farm in Iowa and obtained his primary education in the district schools and in the academy at Wilton. Later his parents removed to Iowa City in order to accord him the benefit of educational opportunities there, after which he matriculated in the State University in September, 1883. He completed the full four years' course and was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy. He not only pursued that course but also took work in law which enabled him to graduate from the law department in the year 1888.

Mr. Nye began his professional career in Kearney in the following August and has continued in active practice here since that time. No dreary novitiate awaited him. He made steady progress, study and broadening experience qualifying him for active professional duties. Careful analysis enables him to readily ascertain the relation between cause and effect and his reasoning is characterized by terse and decisive logic, while in argument he is strong and in expression is clear and felicitous.

On the 17th of May, 1893, Mr. Nye was married to Miss Helena M. Barlow, of Kenton, Ohio, and they have become the parents of six children, Lucile E., Maurice Barlow, John H., Mary N., Sarah Gertrude and Benjamin I. Mrs. Nye



is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Nye, who belongs to the democratic party, has taken an active part in shaping the political history of the community but has never save on one occasion aspired to political preferment. This exception was when in 1896 he became county attorney, to which office he was reelected, serving for two terms, or four years. He is a member of Phi Kappa Psi, a college fraternity, and he possesses attractive social qualities which render him popular, while his ability has gained for him a foremost place in the ranks of the legal profession in his county.

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### JOHN M. BAYLEY.

Among the retired farmers living at Gibbon is John M. Bayley, who is widely known and highly esteemed throughout the county. His birth occurred at Clinton, Wayne county, Pennsylvania, on the 28th of January, 1836, and his parents were William and Mary Ann (Morse) Bayley, both natives of Massachusetts. Their marriage was celebrated in that state and they resided there until 1814, when they removed to Pennsylvania, where the father became a landowner and engaged in farming. Both he and his wife passed away in that state.

John M. Bayley is one of a family of eight children, all of whom grew to maturity, but only four are now living. He was educated in his native state and remained under the parental roof until 1857, when he removed to Nebraska and located upon a farm in the vicinity of Table Rock. A year later he sold that place and returned to Pennsylvania, where he remained until 1871, in which year he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, with the soldiers free homestead colony. He settled upon a farm on section 22, Shelton township, and for thirty-four years devoted his time and attention to the operation and development of that place. As the years passed his capital increased, for he was an efficient farmer and managed his affairs well, and in 1905, feeling that he had accumulated a competence, he retired and removed to Gibbon, where he is now living. He still owns three hundred and sixty-eight acres of land in Shelton township and also holds title to his fine residence in Gibbon.

Mr. Bayley was married in 1860 to Miss Adaline A. Adams, whose birth occurred in Wayne county, Pennsylvania, and who is a daughter of Lester P. and Margaret T. (Cooper) Adams, both natives of the state of New York. In 1830 they went to Pennsylvania and located on a farm there, where they passed their remaining days. Mrs. Bayley is the only one living of a family of eleven children. She had six brothers at the front at the same time during the Civil war and one died while in the army. Mr. and Mrs. Bayley are the parents of five children, namely; Harriet T., deceased; Lester W., who is farming in Buffalo county; John A., who is living on a farm in Washington state; Mabel, the wife of Henry J. Clifton, now of Red Elm, South Dakota; and Nettie, who married S. A. A. Walker. Previous to her marriage Mrs. Bayley taught school for eight terms in Pennsylvania and was very successful in that profession.

Mr. Bayley supports the republican party at the polls and served on the school board for a number of years in addition to holding the office of road supervisor. His wife holds membership in the Presbyterian church. He went to the







JOHN M. BAYLEY

H. J. BAYLEY  
L. A. BAYLEY

L. W. BAYLEY



MRS. JOHN M. BAYLEY





defense of the Union at the time of the Civil war, enlisting in Company E, One Hundred and Seventy-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and remained in the army until he was honorably discharged at Philadelphia in August, 1863. His brother Edgar died while in the service. Our subject began his career with practically nothing but is now a man of independent means, his enterprise, good judgment and hard work having brought him financial success.

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### THOMAS J. PARRISH.

No history of Buffalo county would be complete without extended reference to Thomas J. Parrish, who is one of the most extensive landowners in this part of the state, having about two thousand acres in the northern part of Buffalo county, whereon he and his sons are extensively engaged in farming and stock raising. He was born in Shelby county, Indiana, September 28, 1848, and was there reared and educated, attending the public schools. His youthful days were spent upon the home farm until he was about seventeen years of age, when he left home and began clerking in a hardware store in Franklin, Indiana, there remaining until 1874, which year witnessed his arrival in Kearney. He became identified with the business interests of the city as a clerk in the hardware store of V. B. Clarke, with whom he spent five years. The county seat at that time was a small village just emerging into some commercial importance. During that period he secured a homestead and timber claim in Sartoria township, proved up the property, secured title thereto and is still owner of the land. In 1879 he embarked in the hardware business on his own account and continued in active connection with the trade until 1885, when he sold his store and turned his attention to the live stock business, although he continued to make his home in Kearney. He purchased railroad land until he now owns about two thousand acres, his holdings making him one of the extensive landowners of the county. He breeds pure blooded Polled Angus cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs, conducting the business on a very large scale, his annual shipments constituting one of the important features of the live stock industry in this part of the state.

Mr. Parrish was united in marriage to Miss Letitia Megran, a native of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, where she was reared and educated. They have four children as follows: Frank M., who is associated with his father in the operation of his ranch; Leo M., who is engaged in business as an insurance collector of Boise, Idaho; Jay M., a practicing attorney of Boise, Idaho; and Ina M., who is the wife of Frank L. Empey, of Kearney. Mr. and Mrs. Parrish also have five grandchildren.

Politically Mr. Parrish is a republican but was reared in the faith of the democratic party. He has never cared to accept office, as his time has been fully occupied by business affairs. He has not confined his attention solely to his farming, stock raising and merchandising interests, for he has been a stockholder in the cotton mill, also in a military school, in a bank and in other enterprises which have contributed to the welfare and improvement of the community and at the same time have constituted a source of individual success. Fraternally he is connected with the Masonic order, in which he has attained high rank and is now

a member of the Mystic Shrine at Omaha. He and his wife hold membership in the Presbyterian church. Wherever he is known he is held in high esteem because of his activity, his thorough reliability and many other sterling traits of character such as command confidence, goodwill and high regard in every land and clime.

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#### BERNIE F. HENLINE.

Bernie F. Henline is the popular and capable young cashier of the Commercial Bank of Gibbon. A native of Illinois, he was born in McLean county on the 3d of June, 1886, of the marriage of Ira F. and Sina I. (Arbuckle) Henline, both of whom were likewise born in the Prairie state. In 1888 they removed to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and located upon a farm, which the father operated for a number of years. The mother has passed away but he is still living and now makes his home in Kearney. They became the parents of four children, all of whom survive.

Bernie F. Henline attended the common schools and prepared for entering the business world by taking a commercial course in the Kearney State Normal. He then entered the employ of the Commercial National Bank at Kearney, where he held the office of assistant cashier, but in 1912 he was made cashier of the Commercial Bank of Gibbon, the policy of which he has since controlled. He understands the many ways in which a bank may contribute to the legitimate business development of a community and has made the Commercial Bank an important factor in the business life of Gibbon and has at the same time safeguarded the funds of the stockholders and depositors. He is a director in the bank and owns forty-five per cent of the stock of the institution. He also holds title to a good residence property at Kearney.

In 1908 occurred the marriage of Mr. Henline and Miss Nellie Welland; and they have three children, Paul W., Robert J. and an infant unnamed. Mr. Henline supports the republican party and is now serving as a member of the town board. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Elks, the Highlanders and the Mystic Workers of the World and is popular both within and without those organizations. His wife is a communicant of the Episcopal church. He has depended for his success upon a careful study of banking, close attention to all phases of the business of the institution with which he is connected, enterprise and integrity, and his influence in financial circles has steadily increased as his worth has become more widely known.

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#### HON. JAMES E. MILLER.

As a member of the Nebraska senate Hon. James E. Miller made a record of legislative service resulting in permanent good to the state and, moreover, he is known as a man of rugged honesty and unsullied rectitude, his character worth gaining him the high position which he occupies today in public regard. For a long period he was identified with agricultural interests but is now living retired

in Kearney, having gained in former years the measure of success which now provides him with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

Mr. Miller was born at Tarentum, Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, on the 28th of May, 1837, and is therefore nearing the eightieth milestone on life's journey. He is a son of James Miller, a grandson of Gideon Miller and a great-grandson of Gideon Miller, Sr. The progenitor of the family in America was probably of English birth and at all events it is known that the family has been represented on this side of the Atlantic from a period antedating the Revolutionary war. They became residents of western Pennsylvania at an early day, when the Indians were numerous in that section of the country. Gideon Miller, Jr., married Miss Rachel Coe, a daughter of Benjamin Coe, who was an officer of the Revolutionary war and in recognition of his services was given a grant of four hundred acres of land on Bull creek in Allegheny county. James Miller in 1826 aided in laying out the town of Tarentum, where he conducted a store, operated a grist and saw mill and also served as postmaster. There the youngest of his children, James E. Miller, was born, and it is said that his was the first birth in Tarentum. Having arrived at years of maturity, James Miller wedded Nellie McConnell and they had a family of five children, of whom but one is now living.

With his parents James E. Miller removed to Scott county, Iowa, in 1844, when that state was still under territorial rule, and there he grew to manhood. The year after the arrival of the family in that locality both his father and mother died. They were pioneer settlers of the locality, being among the first to establish a home in Scott county.

James E. Miller had but little opportunity to secure an education and there were few pleasures in his youth, for he was left an orphan when but eight years of age and instead of being sheltered by parental care and love during his youthful days he was forced to spend his time among people who cared more for what he could do for them than for what they could do for him. Necessity forced him to work for others until he reached the age of eighteen years, when he started out to earn his livelihood unhampered by the restrictions of those whom he served. For two years he worked for himself and during that period practiced the closest economy as well as industry, thereby earning enough to enable him to pay his tuition at Knox College Academy in Galesburg, Illinois. When he had reached the age of twenty he had saved enough money to buy four yoke of oxen, with which he broke the prairie for two years.

In 1860 Mr. Miller became a victim of the gold fever and with a company from eastern Iowa crossed the Missouri river at Nebraska City, where the company divided. A part of the number took the Platte valley route, passing through Nebraska before Lincoln was founded. They proceeded by way of Fort Kearney and saw thousands of buffaloes, in fact such great herds crossed their path that at times they were detained on their journey, having to wait until the animals went on. At length they reached their destination, near Pikes Peak, but in that fall Mr. Miller returned to civilization in time to vote for Abraham Lincoln. It was his intention to go again to the gold fields in the following spring but the unsettled condition of the times prior to the Civil war decided him to the contrary.

On the 25th of November, 1861, his patriotic spirit aroused, Mr. Miller enlisted in Company B, Second Iowa Volunteer Infantry, with which he served



for three years and eight months and was then honorably discharged at Louisville, Kentucky, on the 12th of July, 1865. He participated in every battle and campaign of his regiment, including Fort Donelson, Shiloh, the siege of Corinth, Iuka, the second battle of Corinth and thence proceeded to Chattanooga after the battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. It was at this time that he with his companions reenlisted and they joined Sherman's army in time to participate in the Atlanta campaign, taking part in the battles of Altoona Pass, Peachtree Creek, Kenesaw Mountain, Jonesboro, and in fact all of the principal engagements up to and including the capture of Atlanta. Mr. Miller was with Sherman on the famous march to the sea, participating in the siege and capture of Savannah. He thence proceeded northward through the Carolinas, taking part in the battle of Bentonville and finally concluding his military career by participating in the grand review at Washington, where thousands of victorious soldiers marched through the streets of the capital amid cheering thousands who welcomed their return.

After the war Mr. Miller returned to Iowa and engaged in farming in that state until 1873, when he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and homesteaded a quarter section in Cedar township. He first built a sod house and in the early days experienced all of the hardships of pioneer times. For thirty-one years he lived upon that place and witnessed the transformation of the county from a great expanse of unbroken prairie to a thickly settled, prosperous district showing all of the improved conditions of modern times. Year by year he carefully tilled the soil and converted his land into productive fields, becoming the owner of one of the fine farm properties of the county. In 1904 he sold his homestead place and removed to Monmouth, Illinois, to be near his daughter, who was attending college there. In 1911, however, he returned to Buffalo county and settled in Kearney, where he has since lived, enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves.

On the 16th of March, 1866, Mr. Miller was united in marriage to Miss Ann J. Duncan, a daughter of James and Jane (Wilson) Duncan, who were at that time farming people of Scott county, Iowa. Mrs. Miller was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, March 16, 1845, and in April, 1855, went with her parents to Scott county, Iowa, where she remained until after her marriage. Together Mr. and Mrs. Miller have lived in happiness for the golden period of fifty years. Nine children have been born to them: John A.; James C.; Lorena Jane, the wife of John J. Foster; William Van, who died in infancy; Frank G.; Fred D.; Louis D., who died in infancy; George C.; and Grace E.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Miller are members of the United Presbyterian church. In politics he was an ardent republican and is now a progressive democrat. In 1898 and again in 1900 he was elected to the state senate by a fusion of the democrat and populist parties and while serving in the upper house of the state legislature he became connected with many important measures which have had to do with the betterment of the state. His efforts therein were of permanent good, for he carefully considered each question which came up for settlement and supported only such measures as his judgment told him were of worth to the commonwealth. He introduced and secured the enactment of a statute providing that in all public schools in the state there should be taught "the elementary principles of agriculture, including a fair knowledge of the habits and structure



of common plants, insects, birds and quadrupeds." Nebraska was the first state to provide for the teaching of agriculture in the public schools. His political integrity, like his rectitude in other relations of life, remained unquestioned. He has ever held to the highest standards of manhood, has never used intoxicants, has never been known to take advantage of his fellowmen in any business transaction nor sought to lessen the opportunities of a fellow traveler on life's journey. On the contrary he had held to the highest principles and in every possible way has endeavored to assist others.

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### WILLIAM SCHLATTMANN.

William Schlattmann, who carries on general farming on section 25, Center township, manifests a progressive spirit in all that he undertakes and by well defined effort and capable management he has won a place among the substantial farmers of the county, now giving his attention to the operation of five hundred and sixty acres of land. He was born in Germany on the 20th of March, 1871, a son of Henry Schlattmann, who died in Germany. In 1882, when a little lad of eleven years, his son William came to the United States with a neighbor's family and after arriving in the new world took up his abode with an uncle, William Frede, who lived in Yates county, Nebraska. He remained with his uncle for about four years, after which he secured employment as a farm hand in the neighborhood, being thus engaged until 1892. In that year Mr. Schlattmann was united in marriage to Miss Emma Wienke, a native of Yates county, Nebraska. Her father, Henry Wienke, came to this state from Germany in 1871. The year following his marriage Mr. Schlattmann engaged in the cultivation of a rented farm and in 1893 removed to Nuckolls county, Nebraska, where he subsequently purchased land, making his home in that locality for nine years. In 1902 he removed to Thayer county and in 1904 came to Buffalo county, where he purchased his present home place of three hundred and twenty acres situated on section 25, Center township. Later he bought another tract of one hundred and ten acres in Platte township, which he also owns. He is one of the progressive and extensive farmers of Center township, for he rents a tract of two hundred and forty acres near his home place, so that he is now operating altogether five hundred and sixty acres of land, while his son Henry rents and cultivates one hundred and sixty acres, and his daughter Minnie, in cooperation with a lady friend, had one hundred and thirty acres of wheat planted in 1915.

To Mr. and Mrs. Schlattmann have been born twelve children, eleven of whom are still living, as follows: Minnie, Henry W., Fred E., William H., Albert J., Edward, Annie, John, Lulu, Raymond and Arvid, all at home. Mrs. Schlattmann is one of the typical home mothers who lives for her family and their welfare and finds her greatest happiness in promoting the pleasure and comfort of her children. Mr. Schlattmann has given his undivided attention to his farming and stock raising interests and his energy and determination have brought him to his present enviable position in business circles. Effort intelligently directed never fails to win its legitimate reward, and Mr. Schlattmann's

life record proves what may be accomplished when there is the will to dare and to do. Politically he is independent, supporting men and measures rather than party. Fraternally he is identified with the Eagles, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Lutheran church, to which his wife and children also belong.

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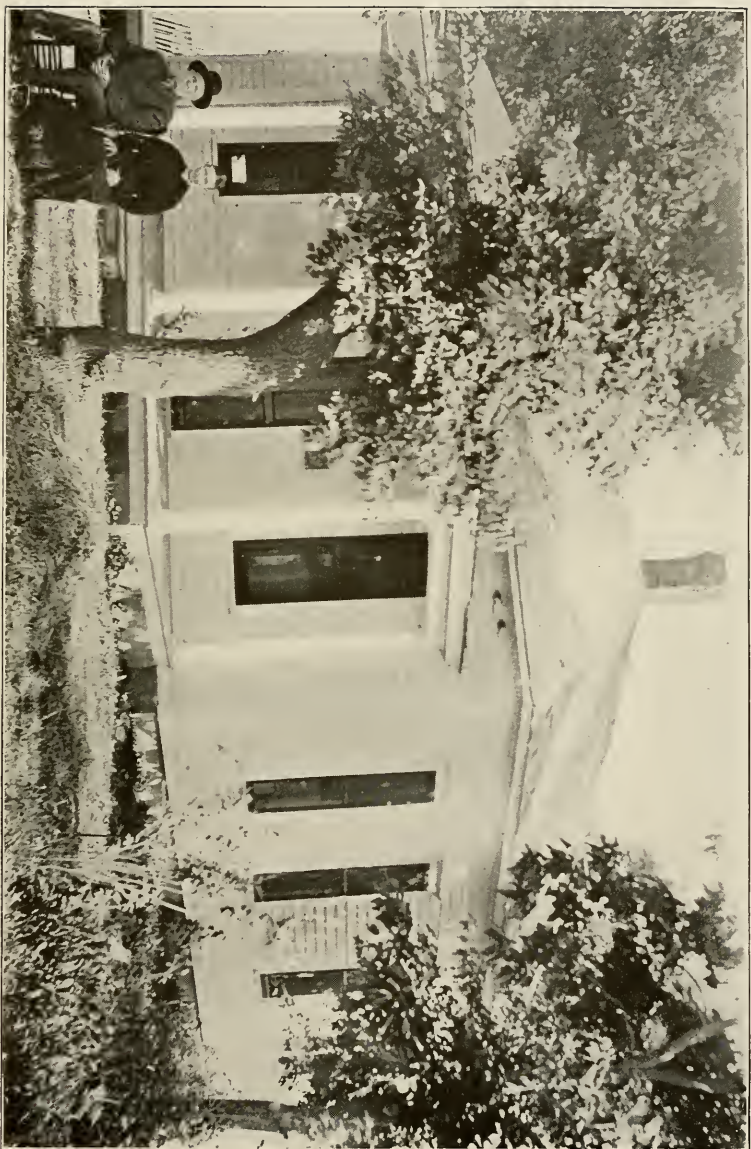
### HERMAN KAHLE.

That the district surrounding Kearney is a rich agricultural section is evidenced in the fact that the city now contains many retired farmers—men who have carefully cultivated their fields and gained good returns therefrom. Moreover, the careful husbanding of their resources has led to the attainment of success and they are now numbered among the substantial agriculturists of the community. Such a one is Herman Kahle, who in 1880 arrived in Nebraska and purchased a relinquishment, after which he followed farming until the fall of 1904, when he retired from active life and took up his abode in Kearney.

He was born in Hanover, Germany, December 23, 1848, and when about eighteen years of age came to the United States, landing in New York in November, 1867. He at once made his way to Will county, Illinois, where he had a brother living, and there he worked upon a farm at husking corn for his brother for a time. He afterward worked upon a farm in the employ of a cousin for a year and continued to spend his time as a farm hand until he went to Chicago. He secured employment in the suburb of Oak Park and was there at the time of the great fire of 1871. He was employed in various ways, spending some time in the service of an ice company, and while thus engaged was injured. He continued to work for others until 1874, when he was married and rented a farm at Green Garden, Will county, Illinois, where he continued for six years.

In 1880 he came to Nebraska and purchased a relinquishment claim six miles south of Kearney, upon which a squatter had previously settled. Mr. Kahle at once began the further development and improvement of the place and thereon continued to engage in farming until the fall of 1914, when he retired from active business life. He had added an adjoining tract of one hundred and eight acres to his farm and still later purchased one hundred and sixteen acres. He next bought the Dugan farm of one hundred and sixty acres and still later another tract of two hundred acres, so that he now owns altogether about eight hundred acres in Buffalo and Kearney counties. His possessions thus became extensive and include some very valuable farming land, which he has converted into rich and productive fields, making the place one of the valuable farm properties of the county.

On the 29th of January, 1874, Mr. Kahle was married to Miss Louisa Buchmeir, who was born in Will county, Illinois, April 21, 1853, and was there reared, coming to Nebraska with her husband in 1880. Seven children have been born to them: Emma, the wife of August Busch, a resident farmer of Buffalo county; Anna, the wife of Ed Nuss, a farmer of Kearney county; John and Frederick, who carry on general agricultural pursuits in Kearney county;



MR. AND MRS. HERMAN KAHLE AND RESIDENCE





Edith, who died at the age of fifteen years; and William and Louis, who follow farming in Kearney county.

Mr. and Mrs. Kahle are members of the Lutheran church, to the teachings of which they are consistently loyal. In politics Mr. Kahle is a liberal democrat but has never been an office seeker. His entire life up to the time of his retirement was given to farming and stock raising. He worked earnestly, made judicious investments, directed his energies along well defined lines of labor, avoided useless expenditure and, in a word, through the careful control of his business interests gained substantial success.

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### W. B. LUKENBILL.

W. B. Lukenbill, a prosperous stock raiser and farmer of Gibbon township, was born in Warren county, Iowa, on the 31st of March, 1864. His parents, Henry and Elizabeth (Davis) Lukenbill, were natives respectively of Indiana and Ohio but were married in Iowa, where both lived until called by death. To them were born ten children, of whom nine are still living.

W. B. Lukenbill grew to manhood in his native state and received his education in the public schools. Following his marriage he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and bought his present home farm, which comprises one hundred and sixty acres on section 34, Gibbon township. He also owns fifty-seven acres on section 27, that township, and has brought all of his land to a high state of cultivation. Although he raises some grain he gives the greater part of his attention to raising polled Durham cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs, for which he seldom fails to receive a high price as he studies the markets carefully.

Mr. Lukenbill was married in Iowa to Miss Lydia A. Heiny, a daughter of G. W. and Mary Ann (Davis) Heiny, both of whom died in the Hawkeye state. She is one of a family of seven children, of whom six are living, and by her marriage has become the mother of two sons and a daughter, namely: George, Birdie and Benjamin.

Mr. Lukenbill supports the candidates of the republican party at the polls and has served his district acceptably as a member of the school board. He is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America and has many friends both within and without that organization. He and his wife are in comfortable circumstances and have made all that they have by hard work and good management and are among the most highly esteemed residents of their township.

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### ALBERT C. KILLIAN.

Public interests of Kearney find a worthy representative in Albert C. Killian, one of the representative merchants of the city and now president of the Kearney Commercial Club. He took up his abode here in November, 1911, and has since been identified with its progress and prosperity. He is a native of Pittsburgh,

Pennsylvania, born August 8, 1867, and when but a year old he was brought to Nebraska by his parents, Thomas and Katharine (Maresh) Killian, who secured a homestead claim in the northwestern part of Saunders county. There he continued to reside until called to his final rest in 1882 and his widow passed away in Wahoo in 1889.

The early boyhood days of Albert C. Killian were passed at work on the farm, and when but eight years of age he was actively engaged in the work of the fields, driving a team of horses in harrowing and in similar work. After leaving the district schools he continued his education in the schools of Wahoo between 1879 and 1883 and attended the Fremont Normal and Business College, from which he was graduated with the class of 1886. For a year and a half he was at Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska, where he was connected with the mercantile establishment of Killian Brothers, and at the end of that period he was transferred to Wahoo, where he remained until November, 1911, since which time he has been a resident of Kearney. He continued at Wahoo for twenty-three years and during the latter part of that period was secretary and treasurer of the firm of Killian Brothers. He gained broad business experience in that connection and was thus well qualified to carry on mercantile pursuits after his removal to Kearney.

On the 2d of January, 1894, Mr. Killian was united in marriage to Miss Nora C. Steen, by whom he has four children, as follows: Margaret L., a teacher of domestic science and chemistry at Wayne, Nebraska; Gertrude S.; Dorothy O.; and John Steen. Mrs. Killian is past president of the Wahoo Chapter, P. E. O., of Wahoo; is present president of Kearney Chapter, P. E. O. of Kearney, and was elected state organizer of the P. E. O. society, one of the largest exclusive ladies' secret organizations in the world, at the last annual convention. She is also actively identified with the Eastern Star of the Masonic order.

Mr. Killian belongs to the Elks, the Knights of Pythias and the T. P. A. In politics he is a democrat and while living in Wahoo served two years on the city council and seven and one-half years on the school board. His identification with public interests in Kearney has been of an important character and that he is a man of marked enterprise is indicated in the fact that he has been chosen to the presidency of the Kearney Commercial Club. In this connection he is studying the problems relative to the city's upbuilding along material lines and to its municipal improvement. He utilizes practical methods while working toward high ideals and the results he accomplishes are far-reaching and beneficial.

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#### PATRICK WALSH.

On the 17th of November, 1902, the news spread through Shelton and Buffalo county that Patrick Walsh had passed away. He was one of the county's best known pioneer settlers and had been closely associated with the work of early development, improvement and progress, taking an active part in planting the seeds of civilization which in later years have borne ripe fruit. His death therefore was the occasion of deep and widespread regret and his history cannot fail

to prove of interest to many of our readers. He was born in County Sligo, Ireland, and when about twenty-one years of age came to the United States, settling in Mississippi near Kosciusko. There he was married on the 26th of January, 1856, to Miss Agnes Welch, who was also a native of County Sligo and was brought to the United States by her parents when about eight years of age. Mr. Walsh afterward joined the army and in 1864 came to Buffalo county as a member of Company D, Fifth United States Volunteer Infantry, which was stationed at Fort Kearney, where he remained until 1865, when he was mustered out. The following year he was joined by his family, who made their way by passenger train as far as Grand Island, at which point their few household effects were loaded on a flat car and thus traveled to Buda, which at that time was the terminus of the Union Pacific Railroad. They slept the first night under the shelter of a load of hay. The following day they forded the Platte river with an ox team and the family lived at the fort until the following March, when Sergeant Cody prevailed upon them to remove to his squatter's claim at Wood River Center, now Shelton. Thereon they made their temporary home until Mr. Walsh located his homestead in 1869 on the present site of Shelton covering the northwest quarter of section 1, Shelton township.

After being discharged from the army Mr. Walsh took sub-contracts under James E. Boyd, afterward governor of Nebraska, on the grading of the Union Pacific as far west as Rawlins, Wyoming. While he had had but limited educational privileges, he always made excellent use of his opportunities and by reading and observation added continually to his fund of knowledge. He became quite a well educated man, was a fine penman, used excellent diction, and also became a master in spelling. His worth was recognized throughout the community in which he made his home. He was closely identified with every movement of a public nature that was of interest and benefit to the town of Shelton. When he first located upon his claim Buffalo county was unorganized, although the district was known by that name. In 1870 he and several of his neighbors who arrived about the same time that he did, petitioned for the organization of Buffalo county and Governor Butler issued his proclamation establishing the county and fixing the temporary county seat at Shelton, which was then known as Wood River Center. Mr. Walsh was appointed probate judge of the new county with authority to appoint county commissioners. He served in that capacity until the first regular election, when he was elected to the same position. He was also appointed deputy county clerk under Martin Slattery and after the election the county treasurer failed to qualify and the county commissioners appointed Mr. Walsh to that position. He then resigned the office of deputy clerk but continued to act as judge and treasurer. He also filled the position of superintendent of public instruction and he was afterward elected to the office of county commissioner, in which capacity he displayed the same faithfulness to duty that had marked his course in the other offices.

Mr. Walsh was largely instrumental in securing the establishment of the postoffice at Shelton and continued to act as postmaster until 1879, within which period, through his influence, the name of the town and postoffice was changed to Shelton. It was Mr. Walsh who had the town of Shelton platted and it was he who was at the head of every movement for the advancement of the interests of the town. There was no project for the benefit and upbuilding of the com-



munity with which he was not associated and his aid and influence were at all times given for public benefit and progress.

To Mr. and Mrs. Walsh were born nine children: J. P., who is deceased; J. T. and W. E., both of whom are residents of Omaha; Mrs. Mary Bills, who lives in Fortuna, California; Mrs. Anna Michael, deceased; Rose, the wife of Charles Frietenbach; P. J., deceased, who resided in Laramie, Wyoming; Mrs. Maggie Barney, of Oakland, California; and Ella, the deceased wife of Fred Simpson, of Omaha.

The religious faith of Mr. Walsh was that of the Catholic church, in which he was reared and to which he always loyally adhered. His political belief was that of the democratic party and his allegiance thereto never faltered. He never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for in this country he found the opportunities which he sought and which are always open to ambitious, energetic young men. Gradually he worked his way upward, winning not only material success but also the high regard and goodwill of all with whom he came in contact, and his worth to the community in which he lived is acknowledged by all who knew him.

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### JOHN A. LARIMER.

Many interests and activities connect John A. Larimer with the public life of Kearney and Buffalo county. He is engaged in the real estate business, is a notary public and is serving on the board of supervisors. His life has been one of intense and well directed activity and his sterling worth has led to his selection for a number of public offices.

His birth occurred in Fayette county, Ohio, April 22, 1839, and he was nine years of age when he removed to McLean county, Illinois, with his parents, Robert and Elizabeth (Robinson) Larimer, who were natives of Union county, Pennsylvania, where they were reared. In 1832 they removed to Fayette county, Ohio, and in 1848 became residents of McLean county, Illinois, where Robert Larimer, who was a tanner by trade, turned his attention to general agricultural pursuits. For thirty-six years that county remained the home of the family, during which period they were prominently identified with farming interests. In 1885 they arrived in Nebraska and settled in Center township about two and a half miles northeast of Kearney. There Robert Larimer and his wife spent their remaining days, being in active connection with agricultural interests until called to their final rest. Mrs. Larimer passed away on the 19th of March, 1889, and Mr. Larimer survived her only until the 1st of September of the same year. They were Presbyterians in religious faith and were earnest Christian people who enjoyed and commanded the respect of all with whom they came in contact. Their remains now repose in the old burying ground in McLean county, Illinois.

John A. Larimer was reared on his father's farm in Illinois, and his education was acquired in the old time district school, but his opportunities in that direction were extremely limited and he did not find it possible to attend school for more than three months during the year and that was during the winter season when it was not necessary to work in the fields. He walked two and a half miles





JOHN A. LARIMER



to school and thus acquired his educational training under considerable difficulties. During the remainder of the year he was engaged in feeding cattle and in performing the various duties incident to the cultivation of crops.

When civil war threatened the destruction of the Union he enlisted on the 15th of August, 1861, as a member of Company C, Thirty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered in on the 22d of August. In chronological sequence his military career covered the battle of Fredericktown, Missouri, after which he joined General Curtis' army at Batesville, Arkansas, and then proceeded to Helena and was in the engagement at Cache Creek, or Cotton Plant. In the winter of 1862-3 he campaigned in southeastern Missouri and then fought in the battles of Port Gibson, Champion Hills and Black River Bridge and the siege of Vicksburg. From the last named place he followed up the retreating rebels to Jackson, participating in the campaign of the Bayou Teche, and he afterward proceeded to New Orleans, whence he was ordered to Brownsville, Texas, and to Aransas Pass, and participated in the capture of Fort Esperanza. The troops then moved to Idaho and to Port Lavaca, and on the 18th of April, 1864, the members of the regiment veteranized and proceeded to New Orleans and afterward to Brashear City, Louisiana. On the 18th of March, 1865, they participated in the Mobile expedition and took part in the reduction of Spanish Fort. They then went to Montgomery, Alabama, and there received the welcome news of the surrender of Generals Lee and Johnston. Mr. Larimer was mustered out at Vicksburg, Mississippi, on the 24th of November, 1865, and was ordered to Camp Butler, Illinois, where he received his final pay and was honorably discharged. He had been promoted to the rank of sergeant and then to orderly sergeant.

Following the close of the war Mr. Larimer engaged in farming in Illinois for a short time and later became the first merchant at Arrowsmith, that state, where he also filled the office of postmaster from March, 1872, until July, 1885. In the latter year he became a resident of Buffalo county, Nebraska, where he has since made his home. His attention was concentrated upon agricultural interests until 1902, when he left his farm and has since resided in Kearney, where at the present time he is engaged in the real estate business. He is thoroughly well informed concerning property values, knows the property that is upon the market and in the course of years has negotiated various important realty transactions.

While living in Illinois, Mr. Larimer was married at Springfield, Ohio, on the 13th of February, 1868, to Miss Elizabeth J. Cowan, who was born and reared in that place. They have become the parents of six children: Edward C. and Robert P., who reside in Kearney; William O., who met death in a railway accident at Grand Island, in October, 1901; Anna and Cora, both of whom died in early childhood in Illinois; and John Harvey, who makes his home in Pocatello, Idaho.

Mr. and Mrs. Larimer are members of the Presbyterian church and are loyal to its teachings and principles. Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has been secretary of the lodge at Kearney for the past twelve years. He maintains pleasant relationship with the "boys in blue" as a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and when in companionship his military comrades delight in recounting scenes and occurrences that marked the progress of the war. In politics he has always been a stalwart republican and

while in Illinois he served for two terms as a member of the board of supervisors of McLean county. In 1889 he was elected a member of the board of supervisors of Buffalo county and is now serving his fifth term by reelection, a fact indicative of his personal popularity and the confidence reposed in him. He has made a most excellent record, endeavoring at all times to further the public welfare and care for public interests in a businesslike, progressive manner.

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### VIRGIL C. CHASE.

Virgil C. Chase came to Kearney in August, 1885, and on the 1st of September of that year established a retail clothing business. He has since pursued the even tenor of his way, and as one who knows him well expressed it, "he can always be relied upon to do the right thing in the right place and at the right time." In other words, he has the qualities of the reliable, substantial, thoroughgoing and enterprising business man and his work is therefore of value to the community in which he lives. He was born in Franklin county, Kentucky, on the 6th of December, 1858, and is one of a family of ten children, four of whom are now living, who were born of the marriage of James A. and Jane (Johnson) Chase, who were also natives of Kentucky. The father was a Cumberland Presbyterian minister and the great-grandfather was a member of the Lewis and Clark expedition and made surveys through the Platte valley before the advent of the white settlers. Rev. James A. Chase early became an abolitionist, and owing to the fact that his father was an extensive slave owner, they became estranged. During the Civil war he piloted the Union recruits through the enemy's lines until they reached the Federal forces. All through his life he gave his attention to ministerial work and was not denied the full harvest nor the aftermath of his labors. He passed away in Lincoln, Illinois, in 1884, after a residence there covering twenty years.

Virgil C. Chase was the eighth of nine sons and was the eighth in order of birth among his father's ten children. When his parents removed to Illinois he was but a small lad and there he was reared to manhood, spending his boyhood days upon the home farm and attending the district schools. He later added to his knowledge by study in the Lincoln University at Lincoln, Illinois, which he entered in 1875 and from which he was graduated in 1880 with the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy. For two years he engaged in teaching school, after which he turned his attention to mercantile pursuits, filling a clerkship for three years. At the end of that period he removed to Kearney and on the 1st of September, 1885, opened a store for the sale of men's clothing and furnishings. He has since continued the business with more than an average degree of success, his prosperity being attributable to his close attention to business and his square dealing with the public at all times. He has ever recognized the fact that satisfied customers are the best advertisement and he also attributes not a little of his success to the wise counsel and assistance of his wife.

On the 27th of December, 1882, Mr. Chase was united in marriage to Miss Lillian Zimmerman, of Ashmore, Illinois. To them have been born four children, namely: Ruby, James Roy, Norma L. and Virgil R. In his political views



Mr. Chase is a republican but has never in any sense been an aspirant for public office. His fellow townsmen, appreciative of his worth and ability, however, have three times elected him a member of the city council and as a member of the board of aldermen he has exercised his official prerogatives in support of many progressive measures for the benefit of the community. He also served for two terms as a member of the school board. While on the council he advocated all important measures for the municipal welfare and labored effectively and earnestly to decrease the bonded indebtedness of Kearney. He belongs to the Commercial Club and cooperates also with its movements and projected plans for municipal and material welfare in Kearney. Fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen and the Ancient Order of United Workmen and both he and his wife are consistent and faithful members of the Presbyterian church, in the work of which they are actively and helpfully interested. In a word, their influence is always on the side of progress and improvement and their labors have been far-reaching and resultant.

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### JACOB SCHNOOR.

Jacob Schnoor, of Amherst, has been manager of the Gilcrist Lumber Company since its organization and is also the owner of farm property, on which he is engaged in live stock dealing. He was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, January 12, 1867, a son of Claus and Cecelia Schnoor, who spent their entire lives in the fatherland.

Jacob Schnoor was thrown upon his own resources when quite young and was a youth of only sixteen years when he sailed from Germany for the new world, making the voyage alone, since which time he has been dependent entirely upon his own resources. He located first in Crawford county, Iowa, and in 1890 he arrived in Buffalo county, where he found employment with the Gilcrist Lumber Company, which had just established business in Amherst following the founding of the town. Mr. Schnoor has remained manager of the business throughout this entire period, has carefully directed its interests and has developed a trade of substantial and gratifying proportions. He is an enterprising and progressive business man, ready to meet any emergency, and his substantial qualities have made him well liked. In addition to his connection with the lumber trade he is the owner of two hundred and four acres of land in Grant township and he and his sons have engaged in stock farming. Mr. Schnoor has bought and shipped stock for several years and has made that branch of his business an important source of income.

It was in 1891 that Mr. Schnoor was united in marriage to Miss Betty Kenney, who was born in Austria but was reared in this county. They have become the parents of eight children: Arthur, who is married and has homesteaded in Wyoming; and Mayme, Walter, Frank, Theodore, John, Reba and Meta, all at home. In his political views Mr. Schnoor is a republican, well versed on the questions and issues of the day, but is not an office seeker. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America but his interest and activities center chiefly upon his business, and his concentration, close application and

indefatigable energy have brought to him the substantial measure of success which is today his and which ranks him with the representative residents of Amherst and the county.

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S. A. A. WALKER.

S. A. A. Walker, who is the owner of a well patronized hardware store in Gibbon, is a Canadian by birth and his natal day was the 23d of March, 1873. He is one of a family of ten children, all of whom are living and whose parents are Robert and Margaret (Baird) Walker, natives respectively of Ireland and Canada. In 1842 the father went to the Dominion with his parents and was there reared and educated. He was married in Canada and continued to reside there until 1884, when with his family he removed to Custer county, Nebraska, whence ten years later he came to Buffalo county. While living in Custer county he engaged in farming but after removing to this county conducted a hotel in Gibbon for four years and then retired.

S. A. A. Walker was reared under the parental roof and received a good education, graduating from the high school at Gibbon. He entered the business world as a clerk in the hardware store of L. J. Babcock and in 1901 purchased the business from his employer. He has since conducted the store and his comprehensive knowledge of the hardware business, combined with his natural ability, has enabled him to manage his affairs successfully. He is accorded a large and representative patronage and is ranked among the leading business men of Gibbon. He also owns eleven lots and business and residence property in Gibbon and derives a substantial addition to his income from his rents.

Mr. Walker was married in 1894 to Miss Nettie E. Bayley, a daughter of J. M. and Adaline (Adams) Bayley, who were born in Pennsylvania but in 1871 removed to this county, where they are still living. Mrs. Walker is one of a family of five children, of whom four survive. She has become the mother of a son, Leroy Allen, who was born on the 24th of October, 1909.

Mr. Walker casts his ballot in support of the democratic party and for four years was a member of the village board. He is identified with Granite Lodge, No. 189, A. F. & A. M., in which he has filled all of the chairs, and with Gibbon Lodge, No. 35, A. O. U. W., and in religious faith both he and his wife are Presbyterians. He is widely known and highly esteemed not only because of his energy and sound judgment but also because of his sterling integrity.

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WILLIAM SCHRAMM.

William Schramm is the oldest merchant now living in Kearney. He has made his home here for more than four decades and for more than three decades has been actively engaged in the drug trade. His life history if written in detail would give a most interesting account of the development of the west, for he has lived in this section of the country from the time when the Indians were far more numerous than the white settlers and when the government protected the

citizens and the travelers upon the western plains by the maintenance of a number of forts, the soldiers attempting to hold in check the depredations of the red men upon life and property.

Mr. Schramm was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, January 31, 1843, his parents being John G. and Amelia E. (Lowell) Schramm, both of whom were of German nativity. The father was reared in his native country and there studied to become a chemist. He married in Germany and his children, five in number, were all born in that country save the youngest. About the year 1840 he came to the United States with his family, crossing the ocean on one of the slow-going vessels of that period. For a time he resided in Ohio and then removed to Burlington, Iowa, where he died about 1851.

William Schramm was reared to manhood in Iowa and pursued his education in the public schools of Burlington. When still quite young he became a clerk in a drug store, but being in frail health the confinement of the store proved detrimental to him and he therefore followed the advice of his physician to go west and seek a more congenial climate that would enable him to remain in the open. This was about the year 1863 and for a time he was employed as a driver in freighting government goods between the frontier posts west of the Missouri river. For two winters he traded with the old Jack Morrow outfit among the Indians and learned to talk and understand their language fairly well. This trading could be carried on only during the winter seasons, for in the summer months when the weather was favorable the Indians followed their nomadic life, roaming around seeking game wherever it could be found and frequently going upon the warpath. While thus engaged Mr. Schramm occasionally passed through old Fort Kearney before the present city of Kearney was dreamed of. Their trading or freighting route was mostly south of the Platte river.

In 1869 he went to Omaha and in April, 1872, he removed to what is now Kearney, at that time a tiny hamlet containing but three buildings—a residence built by Captain Anderson, who was afterward sheriff of the county; Dart's grocery store and a building of four rooms so constructed that each room was in the corner of a claim, so that the owners thereof could live upon and prove up their claims and thus comply with the law which compelled residence upon the property. Two of these owners were James A. and George E. Smith. Mr. Schramm preempted a quarter section of land on Wood river and resided thereon for a year and a half. In the fall of 1873 he came to Kearney and began packing ice from Wood river. He also weighed coal and grain for the firm of More & Seaman and for a short time he also conducted a furniture store and utilized his three teams in draying. He was thus variously engaged until 1884, when he opened a drug store and since that time has carried on the business, covering a period of thirty-two years.

Mr. Schramm was called upon to mourn the loss of his first wife on the 28th of February, 1911. There were six children born of that marriage: Oscar Hugo, who died in 1891; William, who died in the early '70s, when about eighteen months old; Luella, who died at the age of ten years; Jennie, who died when three years of age; Herman H., who also died in early childhood; and Grace L., now Mrs. J. A. Brink, of Denver, Colorado. On the 28th of September, 1913, Mr. Schramm was united in marriage to Miss Essie B. Traver.

Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias, and his religious



faith is indicated in his membership in the Presbyterian church. Politically he is affiliated with no party, voting according to the dictates of his judgment. For four years he served as city treasurer and at all times he has cooperated in plans and movements for the upbuilding and benefit of the city in which he resides. Here he has made his home for forty-two years and has witnessed every change that has occurred in the development of Kearney from its infancy to the present time. Men have come and gone until he is now the oldest living settler of the place. He has prospered to a reasonable extent and at one time was the owner of two drug stores, one of which, however, he sold to a clerk, S. A. D. Henline, who likewise is now considered one of the early merchants of the town. There is no phase of frontier life in Nebraska with which Mr. Schramm is not familiar, and he relates many interesting incidents of the early days and of the events which have shaped later progress and improvement.

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#### DALLAS HENDERSON.

Dallas Henderson, actively engaged in farming in Center township and winning success through well directed energy, was born March 27, 1876, in the township which is still his home, his parents being Abram and Elenor (Rught) Henderson, who were natives of Illinois and Pennsylvania respectively. Following the Civil war, Mr. Henderson removed to Missouri and in 1872 came to Buffalo county, which was then a frontier district, giving little indication of future growth and improvement. He homesteaded a farm in Center township and bore his part in the early development of the district, but in 1879 was called to his final rest. His widow survives and is still living on the old homestead property which has now been her home for forty-four years.

Dallas Henderson is one of a family of eleven children, seven of whom are still living. His youthful experiences were those which usually fall to the farm lad, his time being divided between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the fields. He continued at home until eighteen years of age and then began teaching school. He afterward attended the Lincoln Normal School for a year, but before that he spent four years as a student in the Kearney Military School. With the outbreak of the Spanish-American war in 1898 his patriotic spirit was aroused and he enlisted for service in the Philippines as a member of Company I, First Nebraska Regiment. He served for a year and was engaged in almost continuous fighting during that period. He was wounded in the right leg and for six weeks remained in the hospital. While at the front he was promoted to the rank of corporal, and at the end of the year he received an honorable discharge. Mr. Henderson then remained in the Philippines, where he engaged in teaching school for four years, conducting the first night school taught on the Islands. In 1903 he returned to his home in Nebraska and purchased a farm in Thornton township, on which he lived for two years. He then sold that property and bought the farm of one hundred and sixty acres whereon he now resides, the place being pleasantly located on section 9, Center township. He has since concentrated his energies upon the improvement of the place, has erected good buildings, has divided his





MR. AND MRS. DALLAS HENDERSON



farm into fields of convenient size by well kept fences and is today the owner of an excellent and desirable property. He makes a specialty of breeding and raising Duroc-Jersey hogs and Plymouth Rock chickens and is quite successful in that work, keeping some of the best stock to be found in the county.

In 1904 Mr. Henderson was united in marriage to Miss Mamie Williams, who was born in Buffalo county, Nebraska, a daughter of Owen and Margaret J. (Owens) Williams, mentioned elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson have become the parents of three children, Laura Marie, Margaret E. and Eugene C.

The parents attend the Presbyterian church and Mr. Henderson gives his political allegiance to the progressive party. He is now serving as clerk of his township and was school treasurer, and he is interested in all of the plans and projects for the improvement of the community and the advancement of its material, intellectual and moral progress. Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, and he has also been initiated into the Masonic fraternity. He exemplifies in his life the beneficent spirit of these organizations and is well known as a man whose many sterling traits of character entitle him to warm regard.

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#### RAY R. COOK.

Ray R. Cook, who is operating the old home farm of five hundred and twenty acres on sections 34 and 35, Gibbon township, is recognized as a successful and progressive agriculturist and as a factor in the development of the county along material lines. He was born in Wisconsin on the 7th of April, 1868, a son of Henry and Mary W. (Warner) Cook.

The father's birth occurred on the 4th of March, 1824, in Rutland, Vermont, and his parents were Samuel and Chloe (Warner) Cook, both natives of the state of New York. When their son Henry was twelve years of age they removed to Buffalo, New York, and not long after taking up their residence in that city both died of cholera. Henry Cook was then taken by his mother's people, who cared for him until he reached manhood. He was one of the California forty-niners and after his return from the coast he located in Chicago, where, in 1853, he was married to Miss Mary W. Warner, a native of Erie county, New York, and a daughter of Hyman Warner, a native of Vermont. Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Cook located on a farm near Marengo, Illinois, but after living there for two or three years removed to Clinton, Wisconsin, where the father was prominently identified with mercantile interests for about eighteen years. In 1875 they came to Gibbon, Buffalo county, Nebraska, and for several years followed mercantile pursuits here, but later turned his attention to operating his farm in Gibbon township, where he resided for some time. Subsequently he returned to Gibbon and engaged in the grain business there until his demise, which occurred on the 20th of February, 1892. He was widely known throughout the county and his death was deeply regretted by his many friends. His widow owns three hundred and twenty acres of good land in Gibbon township but resides in the town of Gibbon. She was reared in

the Congregational faith and throughout her life has manifested great consideration for others. By her marriage she became the mother of nine children, of whom five are still living, namely: Hattie, at home; Frank H., who is a merchant living at Buda, Nebraska; Ray R.; Atto B., who is superintendent of schools at Hugo, Colorado; and May E., at home.

Ray R. Cook accompanied his parents to this county in 1875 when about seven years of age and here grew to manhood. During his boyhood and youth he divided his time between attending the common and high schools and assisting his father. Since attaining his majority he has operated the home farm, which comprises five hundred and twenty acres of productive land on sections 34 and 35 Gibbon township. He specializes in breeding and feeding stock and as he fully appreciates the importance of proper housing and scientific feeding his stock are kept in fine condition and seldom fail to bring a good price on the market.

Mr. Cook supports the republican party at the polls and for years has been a member of the school board, proving very efficient in that capacity. He belongs to Excalibur Lodge, No. 138, K. P., and Gibbon Lodge, No. 37, I. O. O. F., in which he has filled all of the chairs, and the teachings of those organizations concerning human brotherhood find expression in his daily life. His energy and ability have gained him gratifying success in his chosen occupation, and his integrity has won him the sincere respect of all who have come in contact with him.

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#### GUSTAVE F. PRASCHER.

Gustave F. Prascher passed away May 31, 1904, and in his death Buffalo county lost a worthy and representative citizen. He was born in Prussia, Germany, December 16, 1846, and his father, Frederick Prascher, was also a native of that country. He pursued his education in the public schools and afterward as a sailor went to sea, spending some time on sailing vessels of the early days. He came to America in 1867, when twenty-one years of age, landing at New York, whence he removed to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he worked in the lumber camps, shipping lumber and doing other such work. He at length joined the regular army, enlisting at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, in the Ninth United States Infantry, with which he served for five years, being engaged in active duty on the frontier. He participated in some of the severe Indian campaigns in the Black Hills of Dakota and was many times called upon to protect the Indian agents from attack. He was promoted to the rank of corporal and was honorably discharged in 1873 at Fort Laramie, Wyoming. He was afterward appointed government teamster at Fort Laramie, which position he held for three years.

Having become imbued with the spirit of the west and recognizing the excellent opportunities offered in the country's wide western domain, Mr. Prascher determined to remain and purchased a relinquishment to one hundred and sixty acres on section 4, Riverdale township, Buffalo county, Nebraska, which tract had originally been the Miller claim. A few improvements had been made upon it when it came into his possession and he continued the work of further



improvement and development, fenced the fields and brought his land to a high state of cultivation. This property is still in the possession of the family and is now being farmed by his eldest son, George Arthur. It was upon this place that Mr. Prascher passed away, having given many years of his life to active agricultural pursuits.

It was on the 27th of October, 1874, at Cheyenne, Wyoming, that Mr. Prascher wedded Miss Amanda Johanna Swenson, a daughter of Swen Guneson. She was born at Pasturp, Sweden, April 12, 1844, and came with some neighbors to America in 1867, landing at New York, whence they made their way to Swede Bend, Boonesboro, Iowa, remaining there for a year. She afterward became a resident of Denison, Iowa, remaining with the families of Rev. Denison and Judge Bassett for about two years. She then went to Omaha and afterward to Evanston, Wyoming, but remained in the latter place for only a brief period. She then made her way to Sidney, Nebraska, where she lived with the family of an army officer and it was in this way that she formed the acquaintance of Mr. Prascher, who was at that time a soldier. Mr. and Mrs. Prascher became the parents of seven children, of whom Hilda, Harry, Emil Sanfred and Edward Frederick, all died in infancy. George Arthur, now living on the old homestead, wedded Miss Pearl Ball, and they have a son, Leonard Arthur. Lillie Alfreda is the wife of Emil J. Neilson, a merchant of Riverdale, and they have a daughter, Mildred. Ralph Leroy is connected with the grain elevator at Riverdale.

Mr. and Mrs. Prascher joined the Christian church in 1894 and the latter still has connection therewith. Mr. Prascher also held membership in the Loyal Mystic League at Kearney and for a number of years was a member of the school board of Riverdale township. He filled the office of justice of the peace of Riverdale for several terms and his record as a man and citizen is most commendable. Those who knew him esteemed him for his sterling worth, for in every relation of life he was upright and honorable. He ever led a busy and useful life. After his discharge from the army he was a teamster in the early days, driving a government mule train between Fort D. A. Russell and Camp Carling, and also from Camp Carling to Fort Laramie, Wyoming, in this way keeping soldiers at the outposts supplied with provisions, clothing and other necessities. While thus engaged he had to brave the elements of the weather, at times encountering severe storms and he also had to guard his train from the attack of hostile Indians, for bands of Sioux were roaming the plains, attacking the white settlers. Mr. and Mrs. Prascher were living at Fort Laramie when the Custer massacre occurred in 1876 and he equipped the pack train of mules which carried the supplies of General Crook's relief expedition, which went to the relief of General Custer. Colonel W. F. Cody, better known as Buffalo Bill, acted as guide for General Crook's army from Fort Laramie to the Custer battlefield.

The honeymoon of Mr. and Mrs. Prascher was spent on a government mule train. They left Camp Carling the day after their marriage, going to Fort Laramie, whence they started for the Spotted Tail Indian agency, but hostile Indians roaming the plains prevented the train from reaching its destination. They were also delayed by a terrific storm when within a mile and a half of Fort Laramie. The food supply became exhausted and all the men of the party went to Fort Laramie for provisions and other necessities, leaving Mrs. Prascher behind in a tent on the prairie all alone. During their absence the wind increased until it

reached the force of a tornado, tearing the tent to ribbons. She then wrapped herself in buffalo robes, took her husband's pistol for protection against the Indians and hid in the tall sage bushes until the return of the men from the fort. They then continued their journey to the Red Cloud agency, where they arrived on the same day the Indians went on the warpath. Red Cloud was the central office of the agency where the main United States guard was located. The uprising of the Sioux lasted three weeks. The six hundred soldiers stationed at the agency could not handle the uprising and General Sherman came to their relief and restored order and again raised the United States flag on the flag pole, the Indians having torn it down as soon as the soldiers would put it up. The wedding trip of Mr. and Mrs. Prascher was thus delayed three weeks during the uprising, after which they continued to Spotted Tail agency. They were familiar with every phase of frontier life in that Indian infested country, knew the habits, customs and treachery of the red men and experienced all the hardships, trials and privations incident to pioneer existence. But they lived to witness remarkable changes and to enjoy the benefits of a later civilization. Mr. Prascher was one of those who aided in planting the seeds of improvement and progress in the west and his name deserves prominent mention among the valued citizens of Buffalo county, and no less than the men, the women of the pioneer epoch deserve the praise and gratitude of those who have come after them and have shared the benefits of their early toil.

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#### WILLIAM O. KING.

William O. King is one of Kearney's substantial citizens, a quiet and careful man of business, who has given close attention to his commercial interests during the past seventeen years of his connection with mercantile circles. Thoroughness, diligence and enterprise have characterized his course at all times and won for him the respect, confidence and goodwill of those with whom he has been brought in contact. He was born in Morgan county, Ohio, December 22, 1863, and is a son of William and Ruth (Ball) King, who were also natives of Ohio. The father was a farmer and followed that occupation throughout his entire active life. In 1882 he removed with his family to Washington county, Kansas, where he passed away in 1902, his widow surviving him until 1911. They were the parents of eleven children but only three are now living.

William O. King was reared to early manhood in his native state and assisted in the work of the home farm. He also attended the district schools and when nineteen years of age went to Kansas with his parents and there carried on general agricultural pursuits until he reached the age of twenty-eight. Putting aside the work of the fields, he turned his attention to merchandising and for six years operated a "racket" store at Harrington, Kansas. In 1898 he came to Kearney and embarked in the retail dry goods business, his stock also including men's furnishings, boots and shoes. He began here in a small way but with the passing of the years his business has gradually increased until he now has one of the leading mercantile establishments of the city, carrying a large and carefully selected line of goods. He has ever endeavored to please his customers and his

thoroughly reliable business methods have been one of the strong elements of his growing prosperity. In other ways, too, he has been identified with the material development and progress of Kearney and now in addition to his commercial interests is vice president of the Farmers Bank.

In 1890 Mr. King was united in marriage to Miss Libbie A. Osterhout, of Morrowville, Kansas, and they have three daughters, Maud, Ruth and Margaret. Mrs. King is a member of the Congregational church and Mr. King belongs to the Kearney Commercial Club, to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He is in no sense a politician and his ballot is cast with regard to the capability of the candidate or the value of a political measure rather than according to party dictation. He has never sought nor desired public office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, which have been carefully and wisely directed and which have brought to him substantial and well merited success. All who know him, and he has a wide acquaintance, speak of him in terms of high regard. He is entirely free from ostentation and display but is rich in those qualities which in every land and clime awaken goodwill, confidence and high esteem.

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#### JOSEPH OWEN, SR.

Joseph Owen, Sr., has been very successful as a farmer and has also found time to take an active interest in public affairs. He lives on section 2, Shelton township, and is widely known not only in that township but throughout the county. A native of Manchester, England, he was born on the 16th of February, 1849, of the marriage of David and Elizabeth (Lloyd) Owen, both of whom were born in Wales. In 1863 they came to the United States and made their way to Buffalo county, Nebraska. The father died the following year and the mother afterward made her home with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Oliver, who came to this county in 1860.

Joseph Owen, Sr., was about fourteen years of age when he accompanied his parents to this county and here he grew to manhood. He attended school in England but after his removal to Nebraska his time was taken up with agricultural pursuits. Following his father's death he made his home with his brother-in-law, Edward Oliver, and worked for neighboring farmers. About 1869 he purchased the old Stage Station farm which adjoins his present home place and there began his independent career as an agriculturist. Subsequently he purchased a relinquishment on his present farm from his brother-in-law and entered the place under the homestead law. In due time he proved up on the claim and as the years have passed he has made many improvements upon it. The land is in a high state of cultivation and as he is an excellent farmer he secures a good income from his agricultural operations. He owns two hundred and forty acres located near Shelton and is also financially interested in the Shelton State Bank and in the Farmers Elevator at Shelton.

In 1871 Mr. Owen was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Ann Oliver, who came to Nebraska in 1860 with the Mormon colony. They have become the



parents of seven children, five of whom are living, namely: Elizabeth J., now Mrs. W. D. Kirkland, of Omaha; Alice, the wife of Thomas G. Tritt, of Shelton; Joseph, who is city marshal; Ida B., who is the widow of Will Hall and resides with her parents; and Anna, at home.

The republican party has a stalwart adherent in Mr. Owen, who has done much work in its behalf. He has been called to public office a number of times and has made an excellent record as a public servant. For two terms he was a member of the county board of supervisors, of which he was chairman for three years; for three terms was justice of the peace and refused to serve for the fourth term; and he has also been road supervisor and assessor and held the office of deputy sheriff under John Oliver. He fully recognizes the importance of a good school system and for forty-six years has been treasurer of school district No. 1, during which time he has done much to promote educational advancement in that district. He is one of the most prominent members of Shelton Lodge, No. 141, I. O. O. F., of which he has been permanent and recording secretary since 1886, and of which he was the first noble grand. For fifteen years he has been financier and master of the exchequer of Shelton Lodge, No. 92, K. P., and he is also connected with Anchor Lodge, No. 14, A. O. U. W., and Kearney Lodge, No. 984, B. P. O. E. The foregoing record of his life indicates that he has been active in many lines, and his sterling worth is indicated in the fact that, although his circle of acquaintanceship is very large, it is almost coextensive with the circle of his friends.

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#### HENRY SLAUGHTER BELL, M. D.

Dr. Henry Slaughter Bell, actively engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery at Kearney since the age of twenty-two years, was born near Brandenburg, Kentucky, November 19, 1848. His father, George Gray Bell, was one of a family of six children, five sons and one daughter, born of the marriage of Henry and Polly (Slaughter) Bell, both natives of Culpeper county, Virginia, the former born in 1782 and the latter in 1787. In early life, prior to their marriage, they had crossed the Alleghany mountains and settled in Kentucky. The grandfather of our subject died in 1851 and the grandmother in 1846. The Doctor's father, who was a farmer and slaveowner, passed away in 1855, leaving a young wife and three children, of whom Henry S. was the eldest. The others were Fannie, then four years old, and Mary, only one year of age. The mother was the youngest child of Daniel M. Jones, a prominent citizen and politician of Meade county, Kentucky, who was elected to the state legislature for several terms in succession. His wife was a member of the Lewis family. Both families were from Virginia and, to use the negro expression, were regarded as "quality" in Kentucky, this meaning that they were well bred and well-to-do families. When left a widow Mrs. Bell had but little experience in affairs of the world, but through the kindness of her brothers and brothers-in-law she was relieved of much responsibility in the sale of several negroes and personal property—horses, cattle, hogs, etc. At that time a young, healthy, adult negro sold at about one thousand dollars. Mrs. Bell removed with her children to Louisville, Kentucky,





DR. HENRY S. BELL



her father having previously gone to that city in order to marry a widow who was encumbered with several bad boys, children of her children. The Doctor's mother soon realized that the environment was not such as would improve the morals of her son and she turned him over to his uncle, John M. Bell, who had reared his own family of one son and two daughters but was anxious to try different plans with him. So Dr. Bell is the product of that rare opportunity of "I'd do differently if it were to do over again." The Doctor stood the experience for six years, but when the Civil war broke out, on the pretext of visiting his mother, who in the meantime had married again and located in Rockport, Indiana, the boy was permitted to leave his uncle's and depart for his mother's home. He made the trip on what was then known as one of the palatial Ohio river packets and it was a great event to him. This was in 1863, when fifteen years of age. Instead of stopping at Rockport, Indiana, however, he remained on the boat until it reached the end of its trip. On leaving the steamer the Doctor enlisted on the 16th of December, 1863, in Company F, First Indiana Cavalry. He was on duty at Fredericktown and at Belmont, Missouri, and then went to Rich Mountain, Arkansas. He was with General Steele at Pine Bluff and Helena and participated in the expedition up the Red river under General Banks. His active service at length brought him to the time when he received his honorable discharge at Duval's Bluff, Arkansas, on the 5th of July, 1865, after the close of the war.

Dr. Bell then returned to his home in Indiana and entered Rockport College, where he completed his more specifically literary education. Having determined upon a professional career, he next entered Bellevue Medical College of New York, from which he was graduated on the 30th of March, 1878, in which year he began practice, locating at Decker Station, Indiana, where he remained for five years. He afterward spent fifteen years in active practice at Paris, Illinois, and in 1890 came to Kearney, where he has since remained, his ability bringing him prominently to the front in the practice of medicine and surgery in this city.

Dr. Bell was married in 1873 to Miss Anna M. Barker, of Evansville, Indiana, who died on the 20th of September, 1887, leaving two sons, Samuel Barker and Robert N. The former is now engaged in farming near Evansville, Indiana, and the latter is conducting a drug store in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. On the 6th of December, 1888, Dr. Bell was again married, his second union being with Miss Anna M. Smith, of Paris, Illinois, and to them have been born three children: Henry S., who follows farming near Aurora, Illinois; Margery Shaw, now a teacher in the public schools of Montpelier, Idaho; and Martha Elizabeth, sixteen years of age, attending high school.

In politics Dr. Bell is a republican and was appointed physician to the State Industrial School at Kearney by Governor Dietrich in 1898 and afterward by Governor Mickey, serving for six years. He is a Knight Templar Mason and a member of the Royal Highlanders as well as of Sedgewick Post, No. 1, G. A. R., of Nebraska. He belongs to the American Medical Association, the Nebraska State Medical Society and the Buffalo County Medical Society and of the last named has been the president. He is much interested in all that pertains to progress in his profession and also in everything that tends to promote the public welfare, for he manifests the same spirit of loyalty in citizenship that he displayed when as a youth he represented himself to be eighteen years of age in order that

he might serve his country upon the battlefields of the south. With him it has always been "America first," and his example of loyalty as well as of professional activity and honor might well be followed.

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### CAPTAIN JOSEPHUS C. HEFFNER.

Captain Josephus C. Heffner, who is living retired in Kearney, is one of the honored veterans of the Civil war. The same spirit of loyalty which prompted his enlistment when the stability of the Union was threatened has ever been manifest in his career, making him a most public-spirited citizen. He was born in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, on the 2d of March, 1847, a son of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Leightenteler) Heffner, who were also natives of the Keystone state, where they spent their entire lives, the father there following the occupation of farming.

Captain Heffner's boyhood was spent on the old homestead and his education was acquired in the public schools, which he attended until the 1st of April, 1865. He then enlisted for service in the Civil war, joining the army when a youth of but eighteen as a member of Company K, Seventy-eighth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He had enlisted in 1863, when but sixteen years of age, joining Company C of the Forty-ninth Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, but his father, feeling that he was too young for active military duty, went to Washington and through a personal talk with Abraham Lincoln secured his release. Two years passed and he then again joined the army and while at the front he participated in the battle of Chattanooga, receiving an honorable discharge at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, December 16, 1865. In the war record his name was misspelled Heiffner.

After receiving his discharge he returned home and two years later went to Oil City, Pennsylvania, working in the oil fields. He had learned the blacksmith's trade and he engaged in dressing tools in the oil fields, where he was also employed as an engineer, remaining there until 1883, when he removed to Shelton, Nebraska, where he operated a blacksmith shop for seven years. In 1889 he came to Kearney, where he was appointed chief engineer of the State Reform School, which position he held for twenty years. He was also chief engineer at the Soldiers' Home at Grand Island, Nebraska, for a time but later retired and is now enjoying a well earned rest. He is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land seven miles north of Gibbon, which he rents and which brings to him a good income.

On the 15th of June, 1876, Mr. Heffner was united in marriage to Miss Ida Clara Maxwell, who was born in Clarion, Pennsylvania, November 25, 1855, a daughter of Robert T. and Cynthiana (Pierce) Maxwell, who spent their entire lives in the Keystone state. There Mrs. Heffner was reared and educated, pursuing a course of study in the State Normal School at Edinboro, Pennsylvania. By her marriage she has become the mother of three sons, as follows: Ernest M., who is a dental practitioner of Omaha; Clarence E., who practices dentistry in Falls City, Nebraska, and who participated in the Spanish-American war as a member of Troop E of Colonel Torey's Rough Riders; and Guy L., who is



general auditor in the Chicago office of the Cudahy Packing Company. Realizing the value of education, Captain Heffner has sent two of his sons to the State University. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian church and they are both held in high regard throughout the community. Fraternally he is connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Degree of Honor. He also belonged to the Grand Army posts at Shelton and at Bradford but at present is not associated with any post. His wife, however, is a member of Sedgwick Corps, No. 1, W. R. C. He won his title in connection with the state military service, having been first lieutenant and later captain in the State National Guard. He has done splendid work in public service, has been equally efficient and loyal in support of his country's best interests and as the years have gone on the sterling worth of his character has endeared him to all with whom he has been brought in contact.

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### JOHN A. WILT.

A farm of one hundred and sixty acres situated on section 10, Center township, pays tribute to the care and labor bestowed upon it by its owner, John A. Wilt, who is numbered among the pioneer settlers of Buffalo county, having made his home within its borders since 1871, or for a period of more than forty-five years. He has reached the eightieth milestone on life's journey, his birth having occurred in Maryland, February 18, 1836, his parents being George and Margaret (Hackensmith) Wilt, the former a native of Adams county, Pennsylvania, and the latter of Maryland. They were married in Maryland and there spent their remaining days, rearing their family of six children in that state.

John A. Wilt is now the only survivor of the family. He was reared and educated in Maryland and remained at home until he reached the age of nineteen years, when he learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed until after the outbreak of the Civil war. His patriotic spirit was aroused by the continued attempt of the south to overthrow the Union and he enlisted as a private for three years' service with Company G, Eighty-seventh Pennsylvania Infantry. He participated in several hard fought battles and, though often in the thickest of the fight, was never wounded nor injured. He was mustered out at York, Pennsylvania, and returned home with a most creditable military record. While he was never wounded, he was on one occasion captured and for three months was incarcerated in Libby prison, so that he went through all the experiences and hardships of southern army prison life.

When the war was over Mr. Wilt resumed work at his trade. He had been married in Pennsylvania in 1859 to Miss Carrie H. Doll, a native of the Keystone state and a daughter of Jacob Doll. They continued to reside in the east until 1866, when they removed to Dayton, Ohio, where they remained for five years. In 1871 they arrived in Buffalo county, Nebraska and took up their abode upon a farm near Kearney, Mr. Wilt securing a soldier's claim, on which he remained until 1889. He then disposed of that property and purchased the farm upon which he now resides, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 10, Center township. This property he has since improved with fine

buildings and he has also been identified with building operations in Kearney, doing much to promote the welfare of the city along that line. His has been an active, busy and useful life fraught with good results, and his prosperity is well deserved.

To Mr. and Mrs. Wilt have been born two children: Maggie, now the wife of A. A. Nash; and Cora, the wife of W. C. Nash, now of Portland, Oregon. In his political views Mr. Wilt is a republican but has never been an office seeker. He maintains pleasant relations with his old military comrades through his membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. He and his wife deserve great credit for what they have accomplished, for their success is attributable entirely to their own labor. Every phase of Buffalo county's development is familiar to them, for they arrived here in pioneer times and have witnessed the changes which have occurred, bringing the county to its present improved condition.

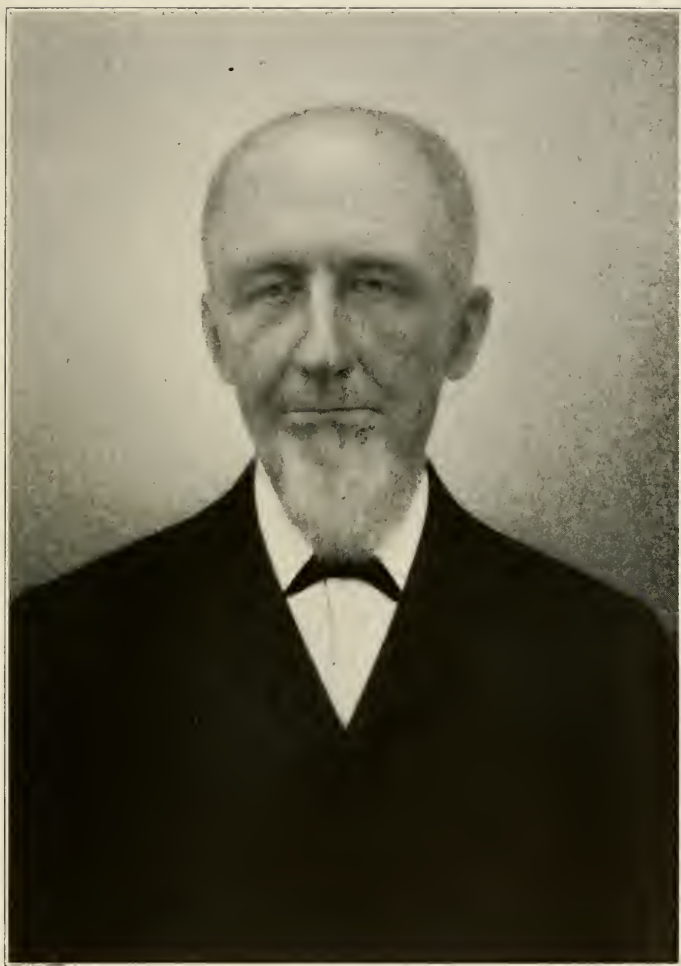
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#### HENRY HERBST.

Henry Herbst is a retired farmer living in Amherst but for a long period was actively and prominently identified with general agricultural pursuits, whereby he won the competence that now supplies him with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life. He has a wide acquaintance in Amherst and is acknowledged among its most venerable citizens, for he has passed the eighty-fifth milestone on life's journey, his birth having occurred in Mecklenburg, Germany, on the 3d of November, 1830. There he spent the period of his minority and in 1857 bade adieu to friends and native land and sailed for the new world, spending seven weeks upon the ocean ere the voyage was completed. He landed in New York city but soon afterward made his way to Buffalo, New York, and in that locality worked as a farm hand for a month in order to get money with which to come to the west. He then made his way to Chicago and in that locality was employed at farm labor at a wage of ten dollars per month.

In 1861 Mr. Herbst enlisted for service in the Civil war, putting aside all business and personal considerations in order to aid his adopted country during the darkest hour in her history. He joined Company C, Twenty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served for four years and eight months. In the battle of Chickamauga he was struck by a cannon ball in the shoulder and was left on the field by his regiment, after which he was captured by the Confederate forces and spent eighteen months in the prisons at Andersonville, Charleston and Florence, Alabama, having a most horrible experience from lack of food and all those comforts and sanitary conditions which are so necessary to health. There were forty thousand prisoners and the death rate amounted to between four and five hundred each day. When he was searched by the Confederates before being thrown into prison he had a ten dollar bill, which was concealed between the layers of the sole of his shoe, and this proved quite a help to him in getting him things that he needed. When the war was over he received an honorable discharge at Springfield, Illinois, and returned to his home with a most creditable military record.

Mr. Herbst then took up his abode in Will county, Illinois, and was there



HENRY HERBST





married in 1866 to Miss Mary Turner, who was born in Germany but during her infancy was taken to Will county. Some time after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Herbst removed to Benton county, Iowa, and in 1884 arrived in Buffalo county, Nebraska, where he entered a homestead and also a tree claim in Scott township. Upon his land he built a frame house and with characteristic energy began to till the soil and develop the farm, continuing to engage in general agricultural pursuits there until three years ago, when he was obliged to give it up on account of his age, having then reached the eighty-third milestone on life's journey. He is today the oldest resident in this part of the county, but he has lived an active life, has been a hard worker and is yet in excellent physical trim, his only ailment being stiff shoulders, the result of being hit by a rebel cannon ball.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbst became the parents of eleven children, of whom five are yet living; Mrs. Minnie Feldwoch, a resident of Grant township; Mary, the wife of S. Tool, who is living in Callaway, Nebraska; Martha, the wife of Ed Lewis, whose home is in Callaway, Nebraska; Hulda, the wife of William Shate, residing in Cherry county, Nebraska; and Henry W., who occupies the old home farm.

Mr. Herbst has always voted with the republican party since becoming a naturalized American citizen. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church, to which he has ever been most loyal, exemplifying in his life its teachings and endeavoring at all times to live according to the golden rule. His many substantial qualities have given him firm hold upon the affectionate regard of his fellow citizens and he is today one of the most venerable and honored residents of this part of the state.

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#### JOHN S. MINTON.

John S. Minton is engaged in the automobile business at Kearney and his agency here has become a profitable undertaking. He handles a number of well known cars and his ability is manifest in the success which is attending him in his undertaking. Iowa claims him as a native son, his birth having occurred at Osceola, Clarke county, November 9, 1869. He was one of five children, of whom two are now living, born to John H. and Elizabeth (Bush) Minton. The father was a native of West Virginia and was a cabinet maker by trade but in his later life turned his attention to farming. When a young man he left home and went west to Boone county, Indiana, where about 1846 he was united in marriage to Elizabeth Bush. In 1864 he removed to Osceola, Clarke county, Iowa, and in 1884 removed to Frontier county, Nebraska, where he spent his remaining days, his death there occurring in 1891, while his wife passed away in 1896. He was a man of marked force of character, possessing many sterling traits which gave him a firm hold upon the regard and goodwill of those with whom he was associated. For seven years he was a schoolteacher in Indiana and in Clarke county, Iowa, he was honored with election to the offices of register of deeds and county clerk, serving in the latter position for a number of years. His duties were most faithfully and capably discharged and his labors wrought for the benefit and upbuilding of the community in which he made his home. Politically his allegiance was

given to the republican party and he was a staunch and faithful member of the Christian church.

John S. Minton lived in Iowa to the age of fourteen years, spending his youthful days upon a farm in Clarke county and in Osceola. He received his educational training in the district schools and after coming to Nebraska with his parents learned the blacksmith's trade. In the spring of 1897 he arrived in Kearney, where he began working at his trade, which he followed for a number of years. In 1909 he embarked in the concrete and machinery business in partnership with D. Wort under the firm style of Wort & Minton and with him in 1911 he established an automobile agency, representing the Ford, Maxwell, Reo and Oakland cars. They have since conducted this business with growing success and annually sell a large number of these different cars, their business having grown to large and gratifying proportions. Mr. Minton thoroughly knows the good points of every machine and his ability along commercial lines makes him successful as a salesman.

On the 16th of August, 1898, Mr. Minton was married to Miss Anna Bryant and to them have been born three children, Earl, Dale and John H. Mrs. Minton is a member of the Christian church and Mr. Minton belongs to the Masonic fraternity, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Royal Highlanders. In politics he is a republican but he does not seek nor desire office as it is his wish to give his undivided attention to his business affairs and his close application and unremitting energy constitute strong and potent forces in his growing success.

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#### W. H. BUCK.

W. H. Buck, engaged in business at Gibbon as a lumber dealer, belongs to that class of enterprising, progressive men who recognize the fact that obstacles and difficulties may be overcome by persistent, earnest effort, and when one avenue of opportunity seems closed they can always carve out other paths whereby they may reach the desired goal. Mr. Buck is a native son of New England, his birth having occurred at Northfield, Vermont, on the 10th of August, 1858. He is a son of Bradley and Polly (Hopkins) Buck, both of whom were natives of Vermont and are representatives of old New England families. The father devoted his life to the occupation of farming and both he and his wife continued their residence in Vermont until called to their final home.

W. H. Buck was reared on the old homestead and acquired his education in the public schools. His youthful training was that of the farm and he devoted his attention to the work of the fields until 1888, when he left home and made his way to Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. He was employed in various ways there for five years and in August, 1886, came to Gibbon. Prior to his arrival here he had purchased the lumber business of Fred W. Gray, of Omaha, and upon his removal to this town he took possession of the business, which he has since successfully managed and conducted, covering a period of almost thirty years. He is accorded a liberal patronage, for his business methods are reliable and his enterprise unfaltering. He is also associated with financial interests as one of the stockholders of the Exchange Bank of Gibbon, and he is the owner of three hundred and forty

acres of improved farm land near the town, from which he derives a gratifying annual income.

In 1889 Mr. Buck was united in marriage to Miss Flora Woodruff, of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, and to them have been born three children: Ella Bernice, the wife of George E. De Wolf, superintendent of schools at North Bend, Nebraska; James Bradley, who is associated with his father in the lumber business; and Florence Beryl, who is attending the Wesleyan University at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mr. Buck belongs to Gibbon Lodge, No. 37, I. O. O. F., and to the Modern Woodmen. His political support is given to the republican party and he has served in various town offices, the duties of which he has discharged with promptness and fidelity. His entire course, public and private, commends him to the confidence and goodwill of all, and throughout Gibbon and his part of the county he is spoken of in terms of high regard.

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### FRANK MAJOR.

For thirty-three years Frank Major has been a resident of Buffalo county and during the last sixteen years of this period has made his home in Kearney. He has witnessed the greater part of the growth and development of this section of the county as pioneer conditions have been replaced by the advantages of a modern civilization. He is now engaged in contracting and carpentering at Kearney and has erected some of the fine homes of the city.

His birth occurred in Yorkshire, England, February 29, 1840, and in his native country he was reared to manhood. His opportunities in youth were somewhat limited, for at the age of thirteen years he began serving an apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade and afterward worked as a journeyman. At that period it was necessary to thoroughly master all the details of the business, for carpenter work had not then become specialized and each individual must know how to do all kinds of building. In 1865, in England, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Davison, and in 1870, accompanied by his wife and three children, he sailed for America, landing at Toronto, Canada, on which day the youngest child died.

After a short stay in Canada the family removed to Low Moor, Clinton county, Iowa, where they maintained their home for thirteen years, during which period Mr. Major worked at the carpenter's trade. In 1883 he came to Nebraska and settled on a farm two miles south of the present site of Watertown in Buffalo county. For seventeen years he resided upon that place, converting it from a tract of wild prairie into richly cultivated fields, from which he annually gathered rich crops. He carried on his farm work according to modern progressive methods and that his labors were at all times practical is indicated in the excellent crops which he gathered. In the year 1900 he removed to Kearney, where he has since been engaged in contracting and carpentering. For the most part his work has been confined to the building of residences and some of the fine homes of Kearney have been erected by him.

To Mr. and Mrs. Major have been born eight children, but only four of the



number are now living: Kate, a school teacher; Charles, who conducts a grain elevator at Watertown, Nebraska; Jessie, who is teaching school in Spokane, Washington; and Frank, who is devoting his life to the work of the ministry. The parents are consistent and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Since becoming a citizen of the United States Mr. Major has been identified with all that has worked for the best interests of his adopted country. He became a member of the Farmers' Alliance at its inception and afterward became allied with the populist party. However, he has always maintained an independent attitude in politics, voting according to the dictates of his judgment rather than guiding his course by party ties. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for here he found the opportunities which he sought and has gradually worked his way upward, being both the architect and builder of his own fortune.

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### FREDERICK J. SWITZ.

Frederick J. Switz is one of the oldtime residents of Kearney and his record as a soldier and citizen well entitles him to representation in the history of Buffalo county. His entire course has been marked by loyalty to duty and by fidelity to every trust reposed in him, and his course is worthy of the warmest commendation. He is a native of the kingdom of Prussia, his birth having occurred in Spreewald, near the village of Borgsdorf, on the 20th of February, 1842. His father, Christian Switz, was a farmer in the old country and for two years served in the German army. He married Elizabeth Plashna and in the year 1856, accompanied by his wife and six children, emigrated to the new world, taking passage on board a sailing vessel bound for the United States. They made a remarkably quick trip for that period, their voyage being terminated at the end of thirty days. The family located in Cleveland, Ohio, and one of the first things that Mr. Switz did after his arrival was to take out his first naturalization papers. He became imbued with a love for his adopted country and when treason threatened the disruption of the Union he volunteered his services in its defense and was enrolled as a member of the Sixth Ohio Cavalry in September, 1861. He served for three years, or until the expiration of his term of enlistment, and was then honorably discharged. In the old country he knew Franz Sigel, who was a general in the Union army during the Civil war, and under him Mr. Switz served, acting as aide-de-camp a part of the time. After the war he resumed farming, which he followed in different localities, and his last days were spent in the Soldiers' Home in Washington, D. C., where he passed away about the year 1892.

Frederick J. Switz was nearly fourteen years of age when he was brought to this country by his parents. He had previously attended the public schools of Germany and after reaching America he learned the trade of chair making in what was then Newburg, Ohio, but is now a part of the eighteenth ward of Cleveland. He devoted two years to the work, during which time he received four dollars a month with his board and washing. He, too, espoused the cause of the Union at the time of the Civil war, enlisting on the 19th of September, 1861, as a member



of Company G, Forty-second Ohio Volunteer Infantry, of which regiment James A. Garfield, later president of the United States, was commander. He was discharged December 2, 1864, after participating in the engagements at Middle Creek, Kentucky, Cumberland Gap, Chickasaw Bluff, Arkansas Post, Grand Gulf, Thompson Hill, Raymond, Champion's Hill, Big Black River, the siege of Vicksburg, the Red River Expedition under General Banks and the battle at Duvals Bluff, Arkansas. He was honorably discharged at Columbus, Ohio, and returned home with a most creditable military record.

Mr. Switz then resumed work in the chair factory and his ability, industry and honesty led to his promotion to the position of foreman. After three years there spent he left his old employer to engage with another concern, and in 1869 went to Auburn, Alabama, where, under the firm name of Runnels & Switz, he embarked in the manufacture of furniture. After spending five years there he closed out the business and in February, 1874, came to Kearney, where he has since lived. Here he purchased a small furniture establishment owned by a Mr. Grant, and later he bought out the establishment of J. P. Johnson, consolidating the two. For thirty-nine years he conducted a furniture and carpet business and undertaking concern, and during this period he had at various times seventeen competitors, not one of whom was able to remain in business. He was the first of the furniture dealers in Nebraska to add to that line a carpet department. His long continuance with the trade indicates the success which is his. In 1913 he disposed of his holdings and confined his attention thereafter to retailing and jobbing paints, glass and wall paper, in which business he is still engaged, incorporating the same under the name of the Switz Paint & Glass Company. He is one of the few remaining early settlers of Kearney, having arrived here when the city contained a population of but three hundred, and he has not only witnessed its growth into the bustling, enterprising city of today, but has contributed in large measure to its development.

On the 7th of August, 1872, Mr. Switz was married to Miss Emma A. Rawson, of Nebraska City, who died November 27, 1894. They were the parents of three children: Arthur F., who died when about thirty-seven years of age; Annie L., the wife of Charles W. Ashley, of Sioux City, Iowa; and Bessie E., the wife of C. D. Van Dyke, of Sioux City. For his second wife Mr. Switz chose Mrs. Phoebe S. (Hotchkiss) Allen, the widow of Homer J. Allen.

While of foreign nativity, Mr. Switz has no sympathy with the Kaiser in the present war and is in every sense of the term a loyal American citizen, with a love for the land of his adoption that is unshaken. His loyalty is evidenced by the fact that he risked his life to preserve the Union and is further evidenced in his long, honorable career and his support of all those interests which are a matter of civic virtue and civic pride. In his political belief he is a republican and served as county coroner for six years during the pioneer period. In religious faith he is a Congregationalist, and fraternally he is a Mason, having become a member of Iris Lodge, No. 229, A. F. & A. M., at Cleveland, Ohio, in November, 1868. He transferred his membership to Auburn, Alabama, and from there to Kearney, and is one of the four surviving charter members of the blue lodge of this city. He is also a member of the chapter and commandery and has served as master of his lodge and as eminent commander of the Knights Templar. His course in life has commended him to the confidence and goodwill of all and his

enterprise and industry in business have wrought along the lines of progress and success, gaining him place among the substantial and honored residents of Kearney. Those who know him esteem him highly and his life record should serve as an example to all men of foreign birth who become citizens of the new world and who owe undivided allegiance to the stars and stripes.

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### EDGAR LAFAYETTE TEMPLIN.

Edgar Lafayette Templin, part owner of the Shelton Clipper, was born at Jonesboro, Washington county, Tennessee, on the 19th of November, 1879, and for two years there lived with his parents, Elbert and Malinda (May) Templin, who were natives of the same state, where they resided until 1881, when they came to Nebraska, settling in Nemaha county. Two years later they removed to Jefferson county, taking up their abode near Reynolds, where they resided until 1909, when they removed to O'Neill, where the mother's death occurred on the 13th of September, 1910. The father is still living there. In the family were fourteen children, nine sons and five daughters, all of whom have reached years of maturity and still survive—a notable family record.

Edgar L. Templin was reared and educated in Jefferson county, where he attended the common schools, supplemented by a course in a commercial college at Omaha, Nebraska. After leaving school he took up telegraphy, at which he worked for about twelve years. He was employed by the Western Union Telegraph Company at Omaha during the last six years of that period and during the last two years was traffic chief in the main office at Omaha. In the year 1911 he came to Shelton, where he engaged in the newspaper business in partnership with C. C. Reed. This connection is still maintained in the ownership and conduct of the Shelton Clipper, one of the leading country newspapers of the state.

On the 10th of March, 1909, Mr. Templin was united in marriage to Miss Hazel A. Reed, who was born in Buffalo county, a daughter of F. D. and Hattie Reed, mentioned elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Templin attend the Presbyterian church and he is also affiliated with the Knights of Pythias lodge at Shelton. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he is now a member of the city council. He takes a deep and helpful interest in affairs pertaining to the general good and his influence and support are given in behalf of all those measures which are a matter of civic virtue and civic pride.

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### JOHN REDDY.

John Reddy was one of the most progressive and valued farmers and citizens of Buffalo county until death called him, and his memory is yet cherished by those who were his associates. He was born in County Sligo, Ireland, on the 25th of May, 1846, and at the age of sixteen years entered upon an apprenticeship to the dry goods business, serving for five years in that connection in the city of Sligo, after which he came to the United States and for a short time lived





JOHN REDDY





MRS. JOHN REDDY



in New York city. He afterward removed to Vermont and subsequently became a resident of Dunlap, Harrison county, Iowa.

While there he was married in June, 1871, to Miss Mary Lehan, a native of County Cork, Ireland, who came to the United States with an older brother when she was a maiden of but nine years. She was then placed in a convent at Salem, Massachusetts, where she was educated.

In 1872 Mr. and Mrs. Reddy came to Gibbon, Nebraska, and for some time he was in railroad service, continuing in that line of work for eight or ten years after coming to the new world. He then purchased a farm adjoining Gibbon and gave his attention to general agricultural pursuits up to the time of his death, which occurred on the 28th of May, 1902, his farm comprising four hundred acres of rich and valuable land, which is still in the possession of the family and is one of the desirable properties of Buffalo county.

To Mr. and Mrs. Reddy were born six children, of whom five are living: Nellie, the wife of K. C. Baker, of Atoka, Oklahoma; Bernard E., who is engaged in the music business in Kearney; Roy, acting as station agent at David City, Nebraska; Maud, the wife of Dr. S. D. Nixon, of Chicago, Illinois; and Belle, the wife of E. G. Tunks, of Gibbon, Nebraska.

In politics Mr. Reddy was a democrat and, while he did not seek political office, he served for many years as a member of the school board and did much to further the interests of education. He was a member of Granite Lodge, No. 189, A. F. & A. M., and was buried with Masonic honors when death terminated his career. He had been a faithful exemplar of the craft and in every relation of life was found true and honorable, faithfully discharging the duties that devolved upon him and holding at all times to high principles. Mrs. Reddy still survives her husband and occupies a beautiful home in Gibbon.

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### CLARENCE S. ROBINSON.

Clarence S. Robinson resides at No. 613 West Twenty-first street in Kearney and is the owner of a valuable farm property on section 10, Divide Township, to the development and supervision of which he gives his time and attention. He was born in Iroquois county, Illinois, on the 1st of February, 1859, and is a son of John and Janette (Leighton) Robinson, the former a native of England and the latter of Scotland. They came to the United States in young manhood and womanhood, and were married in Danville, Illinois, after which they took up their abode upon a farm in Vermilion county, Illinois, near the Iroquois county line. There the father passed away in 1862 and following his demise the mother continued to reside upon the old homestead farm until 1890, when she took up her abode in Hoopeston, Illinois, where she remained up to the time of her death, which occurred on the 13th of February, 1910.

Clarence S. Robinson was reared upon the home farm and acquired his education in the common schools. As early as his sixteenth year he began farming for himself as a renter in Iroquois county and since that time has depended entirely upon his own resources. In 1884 he made a trip to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and while here purchased the north half of section 9, Divide township.

In 1886 he returned to take up his permanent abode in this county and at once began the development and improvement of his half section of land, remaining upon his farm until 1903, when he removed to Kearney to educate his children, since which time he has made his home in the city. In the meantime he carefully and energetically conducted his farm work and as his financial resources increased he added to his property until he is now the owner of seven hundred and twenty acres of land all in one body in Divide township and comprising some of the best land in the township. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company of Kearney and also of Riverdale, and is a stockholder in the Kearney Telephone Company.

On June 8, 1887, Mr. Robinson was married to Miss Roxana Charlton, of Rusco township, this county, a daughter of Charles Charlton, who came to Buffalo county from Christianburg, Virginia, in 1885, and took up a homestead in Rusco township. He now resides in Yates Center, Kansas. For many years he served as postmaster of Pleasanton, and he was widely and favorably known in this county because of his close connection with its development and his thorough reliability in business affairs.

To Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have been born six children: Laura, who is now a teacher in the Kearney schools; Grace, the wife of H. D. Wagner, of Oregon, Illinois; Arthur, who is cultivating his father's farm; Donald, who is employed in Kearney; and Glen and Sidney, who are both in school. In his political views Mr. Robinson is a democrat and has served as township clerk, as township treasurer and as a member of the school board, discharging the duties of these various positions in a most creditable manner. He and his wife are members of the Christian church and guide their lives according to its teachings. For a long period Mr. Robinson has been known as one of the representative business men and agriculturists of his community. After removing to the city he rented his land for seven or eight years, but for the past four or five years has operated one hundred and sixty acres himself and is now busily engaged in the active work of tilling the fields and in the management of his property interests, his business affairs being well directed, splendid success crowning his efforts.

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#### A. T. REYNOLDS.

As cashier of the National Bank of Amherst, which he organized, A. T. Reynolds occupies an important place in the financial circles of Buffalo county. He is a native of Nebraska, his birth having occurred in Madison county in 1877, and he is a son of D. F. and Emma (Twiss) Reynolds, who are now living in Lincoln. The father farmed for many years but has put aside the cares of active life and is enjoying a period of well earned leisure.

A. T. Reynolds passed his boyhood upon the home farm in Madison county and received his early education in the district schools. Subsequently he was a student in the Fremont Normal School and in the State Normal School at Peru and for three years thereafter engaged in teaching school. Later he entered the insurance field but in 1903 he came to Amherst and organized the Farmers State Bank, which was capitalized at five thousand dollars. The officers were:



A. U. Dann, president; R. L. Hart, vice president; and A. T. Reynolds, cashier. In 1908 the institution was nationalized and since that time has been known as the First National Bank of Amherst. The capital has been increased to twenty-five thousand dollars and there is now a surplus of five thousand dollars. The bank owns its own building, which is a substantial brick structure, and its business is steadily increasing. The officers remain the same and the prosperity of the institution is proof of their efficiency and sound judgment. The policy of the bank has been such as to gain the confidence of the public and at the same time to encourage the legitimate business expansion of the community.

Mr. Reynolds is a republican in politics. He is identified with the Masonic blue lodge at Miller and with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Amherst and is popular both within and without those organizations. His business interests demand the greater part of his time and yet he is always willing to cooperate with various agencies in securing the material and civic advancement of Amherst. Neither his ability nor integrity has ever been questioned and he is justly held in high esteem wherever known.

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#### RICHARD HIBBERD.

Richard Hibberd is a contractor and brick manufacturer of Kearney who has won place among the substantial business men of the city. His activities are of a character that contribute to public prosperity as well as to individual success and his life record is an illustration of what may be accomplished when determination, enterprise and laudable ambition point out the way. Mr. Hibberd is a native of England, his birth having occurred in Staffordshire on the 12th of April, 1845, his parents being John and Lucy (Baxter) Hibberd. The father was a hardwood lumber dealer, but the mother's people were for many generations connected with the business of brick manufacturing.

Richard Hibberd acquired a common school education and afterward learned the rudiments of the brick industry with his maternal relatives. When a young man of eighteen he came to America and after looking to some extent for a location in the east he determined to seek the opportunities for a livelihood offered in the interior. Accordingly he purchased an immigrant ticket to Chicago and thence another ticket to Galena, Illinois. In passing through Sterling, en route to Galena, the appearance of that place impressed him favorably, so he left the train, at which time he had but five cents in his pocket. He found employment as a farm hand at twenty dollars per month and after working for one month he entered the service of General J. B. Steadman in the secret service of the Federal army. He was not enlisted at that time owing to the fact that, being a foreigner and resident of this country for but a short time, it was deemed unwise for him to have any legal connection with the Union forces in case it happened that he should be captured by the enemy. For a year and nine months he served in the capacity of secret service man and in January, 1865, was mustered in as a member of Company B, One Hundred and Forty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Prior to this, however, he had done service in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia, his work often being of a most important and hazardous character. After his

enlistment he went to the front at Dalton, Georgia, and was employed at picket work along the route that General Sherman's army traversed the preceding year. He ended his military career when mustered out at Savannah, Georgia, January 30, 1866, being paid off at Springfield, Illinois, on the 9th of February. He had rendered valiant and valuable aid to his adopted land and there has never been any citizen more loyal to American interests than has Richard Hibberd, who came to America with the full intention of becoming a citizen of this country and not giving to it a half-hearted allegiance.

The war over, Mr. Hibberd embarked in partnership with his brother, J. E. Hibberd, in the business of manufacturing brick at Spring Hill, Whiteside county, Illinois, and there remained for a year, after which he engaged in brickmaking at various places. In 1868 he and his brother purchased a farm in Henry county, Illinois, and in connection with the cultivation of their land continued brickmaking for two years.

At the end of that time Richard Hibberd sold out and went to England on a visit. While there, on the 28th of February, 1870, he married Miss Emma M. Gould and in May of that year returned to America with his wife. For a time he engaged in brickmaking in Geneseo, Illinois, and on the 17th of April, 1871, he arrived in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he remained for six years, doing contract work and also manufacturing brick. He afterward lived at Seward and at David City, engaged in the same line of business, but in the meantime homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in York county. In July, 1880, he came to Kearney, having taken the contract to complete the building of the State Reform (now the Industrial) School, since which time he has made his home in this city. For thirty-six years he has had more to do with the erection of public buildings and business blocks throughout middle Nebraska than any other one man. The school buildings of Kearney, the Methodist Episcopal, the Episcopal, the Presbyterian and United Brethren churches of Kearney, the Odd Fellows Hall, the Masonic Temple, Kearney Hall and many other structures in Kearney, the Masonic Hall at Grand Island, the opera house at Hastings, the main building of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum at Omaha and numerous others all stand as monuments to the skill, enterprise and ability of Mr. Hibberd, who by reason of the efficiency to which he has attained in his chosen field of labor has long ranked as the foremost contractor of this part of the state.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hibberd have been born six children, as follows: John C., a bricklayer of Kearney; Charles F., who is a bricklayer residing at North Platte; Elma B., principal of the Hawthorn school in Kearney; Lucy C., who is the wife of L. B. Clark, of Lincoln, Nebraska; William E., a bricklayer of Kearney; and Adelbert L., who is a practicing physician of Miller, Buffalo county, and is also a bricklayer by trade.

In politics Mr. Hibberd is independent, voting for men and measures rather than for party. He served on the city council for one term but otherwise has never sought or held public office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, which have been wisely directed and have brought to him notable and deserved success. His labors have constituted an important element in the adornment of various cities, for he always holds to the highest architectural standards and combines beauty with stability, utility and convenience. Starting upon his business career in the new world with but a single nickel in his pocket

and today ranking with the most substantial citizens of central Nebraska, his record should serve to inspire and encourage others, showing what may be accomplished when there is the will to dare and to do. Moreover, his life record is an indication of the fact that success and an honored name may be won simultaneously.

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### JOHN GORDON.

John Gordon is engaged in business in Kearney as a coal dealer and was formerly for a long period station agent in this city, being a most popular and efficient representative of the road. His friends—and they are many—speak of him as a most obliging, kindly, helpful and courteous man and entertain for him the warmest regard. He was born in Toronto, Canada, January 18, 1859, and there spent the period of his boyhood and youth. When eighteen years of age he learned telegraphy and while thus engaged he provided for his own support by piling wood and in doing other work. When he had mastered the business he became an operator and ticket agent at Park Hill, Canada, a town on the Grand Trunk Railway, and there remained until 1884, when he crossed the border into the United States, where competition is keener but where advancement is more quickly secured. He made his way to McCook, Nebraska, but soon afterward accepted a position at Hagler, Nebraska, seven miles from the Colorado line on the Burlington road. He spent twelve years in station service for that road, remaining for three years at Denver and afterward becoming agent at Alliance, Nebraska, but his health failed and he then gave up his position, going to Detroit, where he was a traveling salesman, representing a wholesale glove and mitten house. Three years were passed in that connection, after which he removed to Friend, Nebraska, where he returned as station agent for four or five years for the Burlington railroad. On the expiration of that period he came to Kearney and was agent at this place for ten years, when again his health failed. He was then made traveling freight and passenger agent out of Denver but after a time he resigned and turned his attention to the coal trade. When he gave up his position as station agent at Kearney the business men of the city presented him with a diamond ring in which his name is engraved. He stood very high with the railroad company, being one of its trusted employes, ever carefully safeguarding the interests of the road and at the same time giving most courteous treatment to its patrons, doing all in his power to further the interests and convenience of travelers.

On the 24th of June, 1885, in London, Canada, Mr. Gordon was united in marriage to Miss Tillie Maddocks, who is a native of Plymouth, England, but was brought to Canada when seven years of age. Since her marriage she has lived in Nebraska and she is the mother of two children: Norma, who is a teacher in the Gibbon schools; and Paul, who is associated with his father in the coal business.

Politically Mr. Gordon is a republican and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day but has never consented to accept office. He belongs to the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, and he also has membership in the



Presbyterian church. His life has been guided by sound principles and actuated by high ideals, and all who know him attest his genuine worth and speak of the high regard in which he is held.

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FRANK E. BEEMAN.

Frank E. Beeman, practicing at the Kearney bar, is a native of Trumbull county, Ohio, his natal day being September 1, 1861. He is a son of Oliver Keth Beeman, well remembered by many of the residents of Kearney, and is a grandson of Ansel Beeman whose father, Nathaniel Beeman, was a resident of Kent, Litchfield county, Connecticut. The family was established in America by Symon Beeman who removed from Scotland to Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1640. He was the father of Samuel whose son, Samuel, was the father of Thomas, Sr. The last named went from Stonington, Connecticut, to Kent, that state, in 1740. His son Ezekiel was the father of Nathaniel, who married Rachel Keth. They became parents of two children. The younger, Ansel, born in 1787, was left motherless when two years of age and when a youth of seventeen years he drove an ox team through the wilderness to Ohio, becoming a pioneer of the famous Western Reserve. There in 1811 he married Anna Maria Gibson, a daughter of Eleazer and Mary Gibson, the former having been an officer of the Connecticut line during the Revolutionary war and for his service he was granted a pension of eighty dollars per year during his lifetime. Seven children were born to Ansel Beeman and his wife, including Oliver Keth Beeman, whose birth occurred in Mahoning county, Ohio, September 3, 1827, and he there grew to manhood. He acquired a good practical education and started out in life as a district school-teacher. Being an exceptionally fine penman he was often called upon to draw up legal documents such as wills, deeds, conveyances, etc., and in time he obtained a practical knowledge of ordinary legal procedure and practiced law in a small way. However, the greater part of his life was devoted to farming and stock raising and he was largely instrumental in introducing graded merino sheep and graded cattle in his part of the country. In this way he accumulated a considerable amount of this world's goods. On the 7th of February, 1856, he married Harriet P. Misner, and in the year 1888 removed to Kearney, Nebraska, where he passed his remaining days, his death occurring January 12, 1915. The male members of the Beeman family as far back as there is record of them were exceptionally large and powerful, being noted for their great physical strength, and Oliver Keth Beeman was no exception to this rule. His political allegiance was given to the republican party and he held membership in the Masonic order. He was a liberal contributor to religious work and helpful public enterprises and his chief characteristic was his sturdy, rugged honesty and his unswerving integrity. His widow survives him and yet resides in Kearney.

Frank E. Beeman came to Kearney a briefless lawyer in January, 1888, and he was hard put in his early professional career to make his income keep up with his living expenses. Probably his first case was when he was appointed by the court to defend a man for attempted murder and while his client was justly





FRANK E. BEEMAN



sentenced to the penitentiary, the trial gave Mr. Beeman a standing at the bar so that his legal career thenceforward was one of creditable success. He had passed his boyhood days in his native state and for a time was a student at the Western Reserve Seminary. In 1879 he taught school and to prepare for his university course attended the high school at Ann Arbor, Michigan, from which he was graduated on the 22d of June, 1883. In the fall of 1884 he matriculated at the State University of Michigan, completing the classical course and receiving the bachelor of arts degree in 1887. In conjunction with his other work he attended the legal department of the university in 1886 and 1887 and in February of the latter year, upon special examination, was admitted to the bar. He spent the remainder of the year in Nebraska seeking a suitable location and at length deciding upon Kearney, has since made this city his home.

Mr. Beeman's wife, who in her maidenhood was Miss Irene Osborn, and to whom he was married in 1884, died February 11, 1907, leaving two children, Burke Osborn and Irene. Mr. Beeman is a member of the Phi Gamma Delta, a college fraternity, and two fraternal organizations, the Knights of Pythias and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He ranks very high as a lawyer and citizen. In his profession he is sound, clear minded and well trained, felicitous and clear in argument, thoroughly in earnest, full of the vigor of conviction, never abusive of his adversaries, imbued with the highest courtesy and yet a foe worthy of the steel of the most able opponent.

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### H. J. DUNKIN.

H. J. Dunkin, who is filling the office of postmaster at Gibbon, was born at Rossie, New York, on the 29th of July, 1855, and is a son of John and Ann Eva Dunkin, both natives of England. They emigrated to America in 1852 and settled in the state of New York, where the father passed away in 1855. Subsequently the mother removed with her family to Vermont and in 1871 came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and took up her residence upon a farm. She died in 1901 in Gibbon.

H. J. Dunkin was one of a family of seven children born to his parents, of whom four are living. He remained at home with his mother until he attained his majority and during his boyhood and youth attended the public schools in the acquirement of an education. In 1879, when about twenty-four years of age, he became a traveling salesman and after devoting twelve years to that work was for eight years engaged in the grocery business at Gibbon. He then sold out and traveled for seventeen more years but in 1915 was appointed postmaster of Gibbon, which office he is now acceptably filling. He is prompt and systematic in the performance of his work and is proving a popular official. He has been successful financially and owns a business property and his residence in Gibbon.

In 1880 Mr. Dunkin was married to Miss Robbie Masters, who was born in Illinois, of the marriage of Benjamin F. and Lovina (Empie) Masters, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Ohio. They were early settlers of Illinois but subsequently removed to Custer county, Nebraska, where the father passed away. The mother is still living and resides at Lincoln.

Mr. and Mrs. Dunkin have four children, namely: Walter, a resident of Kansas City, Missouri; Gladys, the wife of C. C. Hall, of Portland, Oregon; Eva, deceased; and Harry B., who is a graduate of the local high school and is now assistant postmaster.

Mr. Dunkin supports the candidates and measures of the democratic party at the polls and takes the interest of a good citizen in everything relating to the public welfare. Fraternally he belongs to Granite Lodge, No. 189, A. F. & A. M., and his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. They are well known in Gibbon and their many admirable qualities have gained them the respect and warm regard of those who have been closely associated with them.

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### DAVID WEBBERT.

The name of David Webbert is closely interwoven with the early history of Kearney, for he left the impress of his individuality upon various activities which have led to the development and upbuilding of this city and county. A native of Carlisle, Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, he was a son of John Webbert, while his grandfather, a native of France, became the founder of the family in the new world, arriving in America about the beginning of the nineteenth century. In early manhood David Webbert went to Dayton, Ohio, where for many years he followed carpentering and contracting, and during that period he was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Arnold. In July, 1872, he arrived in central Nebraska when the country was an almost unbroken expanse of wild prairie. He took up his abode in Kearney, being among its first settlers, and here he worked at his trade, his services being in constant demand in the growing frontier village. Many of the buildings now standing were erected by him and are still evidences of his skill and handiwork. He led a most industrious life and was accounted one of the substantial citizens of his community.

Mr. Webbert was also a man of marked characteristics, decided in his views and ever unfaltering in his support of his honest opinions. While living in Ohio he was among the first to respond to the country's call for troops to put down the rebellion and was enrolled for the hundred-days' service, while later he was connected with the One Hundred and Thirty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry. That he proved a valiant and loyal soldier is evidenced in the fact that he was presented a "certificate of thanks" bearing the signature of the martyred president, and on the strength of this he was granted a homestead a short distance east of Kearney, together with a pension. He was a quiet, unassuming, unobtrusive man who attended strictly to his own business without interfering in the affairs of his neighbors. He was also generous to a fault, often to his own financial detriment. He was quiet and even tempered in disposition and always attained his ends without serious friction. No man in the community was more widely respected than he. Honest, industrious and law-abiding, he stood for all that is best in American citizenship. His religious faith was evidenced by his membership in the United Brethren church and his political indorsement was given to the republican party. He died in July, 1894, survived by his widow, and five children, namely: Lillie A., the wife of Frank S. Rhone, of Kearney;



Reuben R., a carpenter at Dayton, Ohio; Benjamin O., a carpenter of Kearney; Henry A., of Kearney; and Henrietta, the wife of Charles E. Taylor, of Dayton, Ohio.

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### HENRY A. WEBBERT.

Henry A. Webbert, still living at Kearney, was born at Dayton, Ohio, February 15, 1871, but was reared and educated in the city which is now his home. He began learning the printer's trade with Rhone Brothers on the 12th of April, 1886, and has followed that pursuit in many different localities, although always considering Kearney his home. He is now conducting a general printing business and is accorded a liberal patronage in that connection. He is also interested in various other lines of endeavor and his sound judgment and keen discrimination are regarded as valuable assets in any undertaking with which he becomes identified.

On the 22d of March, 1893, Mr. Webbert was united in marriage to Miss Hattie G. Taylor, by whom he has three children, David Arnold, Henry James and Mary Louise. Mr. Webbert is well known in fraternal circles, being identified with the Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. He has served as high priest of the Royal Arch chapter and as eminent commander for the Knights Templar and does everything in his power to further the work of the craft. His religious faith is that of the Episcopal church and his political belief that of the republican party. He served for four years as assessor of Kearney and at the present time is occupying the position of city treasurer, discharging his duties promptly, systematically and capably. He was also one of the organizers of the Buffalo County and Midway Fair Association, of which he is now the treasurer, and he was a charter member and is a director of the Kearney Commercial Club. He is also treasurer of the State Volunteer Firemen's Association. His activities along many lines have been of benefit to the city in which practically his entire life has been passed and he is a progressive, public-spirited man who ever looks to the welfare and upbuilding of the district in which he lives. The work instituted by the father in pioneer times is being carried on by the son, so that the name of Webbert figures prominently in connection with public affairs.

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### CHARLES H. PRATT.

Among the young business men of Riverdale whose enterprise is contributing in large measure to the business development and general improvement of the town is Charles H. Pratt, who is now cashier of the State Bank. Iowa claims him as a native son, his birth having occurred in Sioux county on the 8th of September, 1886, his parents being Thomas and Mary Hanna (White) Pratt, who are farming people of this county. The family removed to Buffalo county during the early boyhood of Charles H. Pratt, who was here reared and edu-

cated. He supplemented his early opportunities in that direction by a course in the high school at Kearney and in the excellent business college of which that city is justly proud. After thus receiving a thorough training he obtained a position in the office of the county treasurer and in 1907 he came into the bank at Riverdale, known as the State Bank, of which he has since been the cashier and in which he now owns a controlling interest. He has been very active in its management and has contributed in substantial measure to its success. He is one of the well known and valued citizens of the town, where he owns a pleasant residence and two lots.

Mr. Pratt was married on the 16th of June, 1915, to Miss Hilda G. Peterson, a native of this county and a daughter of John O. and Othelia H. Peterson. The father is deceased but the mother still resides on the old homestead farm, where she has reared her family of five children. Mr. and Mrs. Pratt attend the Methodist Episcopal church and he is well known in fraternal circles, belonging to the Odd Fellows Lodge No. 352, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Rebekah degree of the Odd Fellows. In politics he is a republican and is now serving as treasurer of the school board at Riverdale. His interest in community affairs is that of a public-spirited citizen who cooperates in all plans and measures for the general good and puts forth earnest effort to bring to a successful conclusion whatever he undertakes.

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#### CARLTON B. CASS.

Carlton B. Cass, the owner and editor of the Ravenna News, has made the paper a factor of importance in the molding of public opinion and has at all times sought to advance the community welfare. He is a native of New York, his birth having occurred in Albany on the 9th of June, 1868. His parents, Horatio G. and Mary J. (Babcock) Cass, were likewise born in the Empire state and the father was a member of the faculty of the State Normal College for some time. At length he left the educational field and engaged in the grocery business in Albany but at the time of the panic of 1873 failed. Two years later he removed to Hamilton county, Nebraska, and located at Aurora, where he taught school for a while. Subsequently he turned his attention to the mason's trade and for a number of years engaged in contracting. Still later he held the office of water commissioner of Aurora for ten years and is still living there at the age of seventy-five years. Following the death of the mother of our subject, in 1870, he remarried and in 1885 lost his second wife.

Carlton B. Cass was about seven years of age when the family home was established in Aurora, Nebraska, and received his education in the public schools there. After putting aside his textbooks he entered the office of the Hamilton County News and after serving his apprenticeship worked for two years as a journeyman printer. In 1886 he came to Ravenna, Buffalo county, and established the Ravenna Star, which he conducted for a year and then sold to his competitor. He next went to Stratton, Hitchcock county, and founded the Stratton Democrat, which he published for one year. He then returned to Ravenna and took charge of the Ravenna News, having purchased a large interest therein. After paying off a five hundred dollar mortgage on the plant



CARLTON B. CASS





he became the sole owner of the paper, which he has since published. The paper has a circulation of a thousand and is ranked among the progressive, reliable and well edited weeklies of this state. The plant is thoroughly modern in its equipment and in addition to publishing the News Mr. Cass does a large job business and has built up an enviable reputation for high class work.

On the 27th of January, 1900, Mr. Cass was married to Miss Theresa Petrick, a daughter of Carl and Barbara (Wesley) Petrick, natives of Bohemia. The father, who was a farmer, emigrated to America and located in Fillmore county, Nebraska, in 1883. He purchased a section of land there which he operated successfully until 1889, when he removed to Custer county, this state. There he lived until his demise in 1901 and the following year his wife also passed to the great beyond. Mr. and Mrs. Cass have five children, namely: Mildred F., who was born December 27, 1900; H. Allen, born August 5, 1902; Marion, August 9, 1904; Lyman, September 12, 1906; and Marjorie, August 11, 1908.

Mr. Cass has held the office of city clerk for more than twenty-five years, and from 1890 until 1896 served ably as justice of the peace. He has been a member of the school board for ten years, and was recently elected president of the same. For a quarter of a century he has also been superintendent of the cemetery and in all of his official positions he has made a record creditable alike to his ability and public spirit. Fraternally he is well known, belonging to the Knights of Pythias, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Royal Highlanders, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Modern Brotherhood of America. He is one of the leading citizens of Ravenna and never fails to use his personal influence and that of his paper to promote the material and civic advancement of the town.

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### JOHN D. LOEWENSTEIN.

John D. Loewenstein is a member of the city council at Kearney and one whose record in office is most commendable, for he has brought to the discharge of his duties sagacious business methods and has fought against all untried theories. All recognize the effectiveness and value of his public service and reelection has continued him in the office. His residence in Buffalo county dates from April, 1878, and for twenty-seven years of this time he was engaged in general farming in Center township. His birth occurred in Birmingham, now a part of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, January 23, 1854, but he was only a year old when his parents, Daniel and Elizabeth (Moesta) Loewenstein, removed to Iowa City, Iowa, which was then the capital of the state, and there the father worked at his trade of wagon making.

It was at that place that John D. Loewenstein was reared to manhood, acquiring his education in the public schools, in which he passed through consecutive grades until he became a high school student. After his textbooks were put aside he spent four years at work at the wagon maker's trade in connection with his father, and in young manhood he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, arriving here thirty-eight years ago. Soon after he reached his destination he purchased a

half section of railroad land in Center township for five dollars per acre and to this he added from time to time until he now owns an entire section of land, from which he derives a gratifying annual income. In 1878 he returned to Iowa, was married, brought his bride to Buffalo county and has here since remained. Year by year he carefully and systematically tilled the soil, converting his land into highly cultivated and productive fields, and as the years passed on he managed to acquire a handsome competence. Satisfied at length with what he had attained in a business way, he left the farm and removed to Kearney, where he has made his home since April, 1905, deriving a good annual income from his farm property.

On the 11th of December, 1878, in Iowa, Mr. Loewenstein was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Schmidt, and to them have been born nine children: Daniel J., William H., Frank F., Alva, Christina, Ida, Henrietta, Amelia and Clara Frances.

In his political views Mr. Loewenstein is an earnest democrat and in 1912 was elected a member of the city council, since which time he has served in that body. He puts forth every effort to safeguard the interests of the city, is careful in the expenditure of public moneys and yet avoids that useless retrenchment which hampers progress. In religious faith he is a Lutheran, and his life has ever been guided by high and honorable principles which have made him a man among men, respected and honored wherever known and most of all where he is best known.

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#### WILLIAM J. SMITH.

An excellent farm of two hundred and ten acres in Shelton township pays tribute to the care and cultivation which its owner, William J. Smith, bestows upon it, and its well kept appearance testifies to his enterprise and industry. He was born in Lawrence county, Pennsylvania, on the 10th of October, 1858, of the marriage of George and Jane (Stanley) Smith, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, where the demise of the mother occurred. In the fall of 1872 the father removed with his family to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and here purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land, which he cultivated until his death. To him and his wife were born five children, of whom three are still living.

William J. Smith was educated in the public schools of this county and remained at home until he reached mature years, after which he purchased his present farm, which comprises two hundred and ten acres on section 16, Shelton township. He has made many improvements upon the place and has conserved the fertility of the soil. He carries on general farming but gives the greater part of his attention to stock raising, which he finds very profitable.

In 1881 occurred the marriage of Mr. Smith and Miss Tacy Walker, who was born in Ohio and is a daughter of Samuel Walker, deceased. Her demise occurred in 1899 and she was laid to rest in the Shelton cemetery. Besides her husband she left four children: Frank Benson; Laura B., the wife of Francis Johnson; and Tillie G., and Bessie, both at home. In 1901 Mr. Smith was again married, Miss Nona Boyce becoming his wife. She is a native of West Vir-

ginia and is a daughter of Isaac Boyce, a resident of Colorado. To this union five children have been born, namely: Louise E.; Dale E.; Rachel, deceased; John; and Stanley.

Mr. Smith supports the republican party at the polls and is now acceptably filling the office of justice of the peace, while for a number of years he served as a member of the school board. He belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and both he and his wife are members of the United Brethren church. When he began his independent career Mr. Smith had no capital but he possessed the more valuable assets of determination and energy and he has become one of the substantial residents of Shelton township.

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### RICHARD SULLIVAN, D. O.

Dr. Richard Sullivan, who is conducting an infirmary of osteopathy at Kearney, was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, on the 15th of April, 1872, and was but four years of age when his parents removed with their family to northwestern Iowa, where he spent his youthful days and pursued a public school education. He was about eighteen years of age when he entered a drug store, in which he remained for three years, and during that time he also took up the study of telegraphy, having two brothers who were operators. He afterward became station master and operator at Smithland, Iowa, on the Illinois Central Railroad, was also at Remsen and Fonda, Iowa, and for ten years was in Colorado, occupying positions as telegraph operator and station agent. He made good in this connection but sought a broader field of labor and entered the American School of Osteopathy at Kirksville, Missouri, where he was graduated. He then located for practice in Kearney in September, 1912, and has here successfully followed his profession, doing excellent work as the years have gone on.

On the 17th of January, 1900, Dr. Sullivan was united in marriage to Miss Effie Pratt, a native of Harlan, Shelby county, Iowa, by whom he has had two children, namely: Pratt, who died in infancy; and Elaine, born September 1, 1902, who is at home. In politics Dr. Sullivan is independent and fraternally he is connected with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Knights of Pythias. Laudable ambition has prompted him to take the forward steps in his career and his course has been marked by a steady progression that is now bringing him to the front in his chosen profession.

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### J. G. WALKER.

A high type of business enterprise is manifest in the commercial career of J. G. Walker, a druggist of Gibbon, who was born in the province of Ontario, Canada, on August 10, 1868, a son of Robert and Margaret (Baird) Walker. The father was a native of Ireland and was brought to the United States by his parents when a child of but three years. The mother was born in Ontario. Following their marriage they located on a farm in Ontario and it was upon the



old homestead there that J. G. Walker was reared, while his educational opportunities were those afforded by the public schools of the neighborhood, supplemented by a high school course in Ontario and in Custer county, Nebraska. He was sixteen years of age when he came with his father's family to this state. Their goods were shipped to Grand Island and from that point J. G. Walker and his brother John drove with wagon and team across the country to Sherman county, where they lived for a year, devoting their attention to the cultivation of their farm, which was situated just across the boundary line in Custer county. The father had previously secured that land as a homestead claim and the family bent their energies to the task of breaking the sod and cultivating the wild prairie. In 1885 they took up their abode upon the homestead.

J. G. Walker continued to assist in the work of the farm until 1890, when he went to Mason City, where he learned the drug business and there worked in a drug store until 1896. He then took a course in pharmacy and was given honorable mention in his class. Subsequently he came to Gibbon and engaged in the drug business for himself, since which time he has conducted his store. He has a well appointed establishment, carrying a large and carefully selected line of drugs and druggists' sundries, and he has built up a good trade by reason of honorable methods, unfaltering industry and laudable ambition. He is also the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Bowman county, North Dakota.

In August, 1900, Mr. Walker was united in marriage to Miss Sybil N. Converse, of Loup City, Sherman county, Nebraska, by whom he has four children, namely: Marie, Margaret, Robert and Wilbur.

Mr. Walker is a republican in politics and has served on the village board and on the school board, acting as president of the latter at the present time. Fraternally he is identified with Granite Lodge, No. 189, A. F. & A. M.; Omaha Consistory, A. & A. S. R.; and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church and sterling worth has gained them an enviable place in public regard. Mr. Walker's residence in Nebraska covers a period of almost a third of a century, during which time he has witnessed notable changes and has borne his part in the work of general improvement and advancement. He is never remiss in the duties of citizenship, never fails in his obligations to his fellowmen and at all times stands for those things which are most worth while in manhood and in citizenship.

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#### E. G. TUNKS.

E. G. Tunks is successfully engaged in the real estate and insurance business at Gibbon and has gained a place among the enterprising and able young business men of his town. His birth occurred in Illinois on the 14th of June, 1886, and he is a son of S. E. and Josephine (Kent) Tunks, both natives of that state. The father is still living but the mother has passed away. They were the parents of three children, of whom one is deceased.

E. G. Tunks was reared at home and received his education in the schools of his native state but in 1900, when about fourteen years of age, he went to Iowa, where he remained for four years. He was subsequently for a similar



period in South Dakota but in 1908 he came to Gibbon, Buffalo county, Nebraska, and aided in installing the electric light plant here, of which he was manager for some time. Subsequently, however, he entered the real estate and insurance field, in which he has since been active, and he now handles much valuable property annually and does a good business as an insurance agent.

On the 2d of June, 1909, Mr. Tunks was united in marriage to Miss Rena B. Reddy, a native of this county and a daughter of John and Mary (Lehan) Reddy. Her parents were both born in Ireland but emigrated to the United States in early life and in 1871 located on a farm in Buffalo county, where the father passed away. The mother is still living at the age of sixty-seven years. Mrs. Tunks is one of a family of six children, of whom five survive, and by her marriage has become the mother of a son, Lehan Kent, whose birth occurred on the 14th of August, 1915.

Mr. Tunks gives his political support to the republican party and discharges to the full all of the obligations of citizenship. Fraternally he is connected with Gibbon Lodge, No. 37, I. O. O. F., in which he has filled all of the chairs, and with Granite Lodge, No. 189, A. F. & A. M., and in religious faith both he and his wife are Presbyterians. The gratifying measure of prosperity which Mr. Tunks has gained is the more creditable in that it is due solely to his own well directed efforts, as he began his career without capital.

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### JAMES D. HAWTHORNE.

James D. Hawthorne, well known as a jeweler of Kearney, came to this city in the spring of 1878 and has remained here continuously since, or for a period of thirty-eight years. With the exception of one year he has been in business at the same location throughout the entire time. Kearney upon his arrival was a frontier town—a straggling village of about one thousand population. There was no street lighting, no paving and the part of the town that lies in the vicinity of the depot was built on stilts. He has witnessed the transformation of this little frontier village into a modern city with all the advantages and opportunities known to the enterprising western metropolis, and in the work of progress and development he has borne his part, his labors being directly resultant along lines of continued growth, development and improvement.

Mr. Hawthorne is of Canadian birth. He first opened his eyes to the light of day at Thorold on the 23d of June, 1853, his parents being Sampson and Ann (Curry) Hawthorne. The father was a miller by occupation and in 1866 came to the United States, settling at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he and his wife spent their remaining days.

It was there that James D. Hawthorne was reared to manhood and the public schools afforded him his educational privileges. After his textbooks were put aside he began learning the jeweler's trade and in 1878 when a young man of twenty-five years he removed to Kearney and cast in his lot for weal or woe with the little town that at that time did not present a very promising appearance but which he believed might become a commercial center of some importance. He began business here in a small way and the success which he has attained as

the years have passed by has been due to close application, indefatigable industry and thoroughly reliable business methods. He has increased his stock according to the demands of the trade and has ever maintained one of the well appointed jewelry establishments of the city.

Mr. Hawthorne was married in 1875 to Miss Linnie Gwinn, who died leaving four children: Nellie, now the wife of Verne Black; Lillian, the wife of C. W. Stoufer; Jay G.; and Karl S. For his second wife Mr. Hawthorne chose Miss Clara F. Gillmann, whom he wedded in February, 1907. He is a Knight Templar Mason, a member of the Mystic Shrine, and also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, of which he is a past grand patron. In religious belief he is a Protestant. He belongs to the Kearney Commercial Club and cooperates in all of its plans and projects for the upbuilding and development of the city. He is ever a courteous, affable, genial gentleman, quiet and unassuming in manner, but possessed of those sterling qualities which win respect and honor in every land and clime. His business integrity is above question and his entire commercial career has been based upon the old adage that honesty is the best policy.

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#### JASPER F. WALKER.

Jasper F. Walker, of Shelton, has practiced law for about a quarter of a century and has gained a distinctly creditable place in his profession. He was born in Hancock county, Indiana, on the 13th of September, 1847, a son of Wiley and Eliza (Moore) Walker, natives respectively of North Carolina and Vermont. The mother's birth occurred on the 8th of October, 1820, and when fourteen years of age she removed to Indiana, where she began teaching at the age of sixteen. Wiley Walker left North Carolina in 1833, when sixteen years of age, and went to Indiana, where he remained until his demise on the 15th of December, 1862. His wife survived for many years, dying on the 17th of August, 1901, when almost eighty years of age, but never remarried.

That branch of the Walker family to which our subject belongs is of Scotch origin and has been traced back to the seventeenth or eighteenth century to a General Walker, who commanded at the siege of Derby. Robert Walker emigrated to America before the Revolutionary war and settled in North Carolina, where his son, Robert Walker II, was born and grew to manhood. He was married on the 7th of June, 1777, and became the father of Robert Walker III, who had a family of sixteen children, thirteen of whom grew to mature years and accompanied their father on his removal to Hancock county, Indiana, in the early '30s. Most of them settled in that county and reared large families and there are yet many representatives of the name there.

Jasper F. Walker received his education at the Battle Ground Collegiate Institute in Battle Ground, Indiana, a town which has grown up on the site of the battle of Tippecanoe. For some time he engaged in teaching school, following that profession in both Indiana and Nebraska. He removed to the latter state in March, 1870, and settled on a homestead in Hall county, where he lived until 1889, when he became a resident of Shelton, Buffalo county. He abandoned teaching for the practice of law and for about twenty-five years has been a



MR. AND MRS. JASPER F. WALKER





member of the Nebraska bar. He has an intimate knowledge of statute law and precedent, and the power of convincing argument makes his legal learning effective. He takes great pains in the preparation of his cases and his record shows that he has won a large percentage of favorable verdicts.

Mr. Walker was married on the 9th of March, 1870, to Miss Joann McCord, a daughter of Elias and Eliza McCord, of Hancock county, Indiana. Her father was one of the leading farmers of that county and was also active in public affairs, serving for several years as a member of the board of county commissioners. He passed away in 1901, after surviving his wife for three decades, her demise having occurred in 1871. Mrs. Walker was born October 10, 1849, and received her education in the common schools of the Hoosier state. By her marriage she has become the mother of three children: Sylvia Myrtle, now Mrs. George W. Dawson; Daisy E., the wife of Edward L. Stubblefield; and Jesse C., who married Agnes M. Mundle.

Mr. Walker supports the candidates and measures of the republican party as he believes that its policies are based upon sound principles of government. In 1891 he became a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and since 1897 has belonged to the Loyal Mystic Legion. His religious faith is indicated by the fact that he holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. When but sixteen years of age he joined the Indiana Legion, which was a military organization formed subsequent to Morgan's raid of Indiana for the purpose of preventing a repetition of the raid. He has always manifested a praiseworthy concern for the public good and has been willing to cooperate in the furtherance of projects for the advancement of his community and state.

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### LOUIS A. KOEPPE.

Louis A. Koeppe, known far and wide as an auctioneer and also engaged in the handling of new and second-hand merchandise at Kearney, was born at Neenah, Wisconsin, August 19, 1870, and was one of a family of six children, four of whom are now living, whose parents were Bernhardt and Dorothy (Schnella) Koeppe, natives of Germany. Both were born and reared in the vicinity of Berlin and in that country the father learned and followed the milling business. About the year 1866 he came to America and for a time engaged in carpentering in Wisconsin, but his later life was devoted to general agricultural pursuits. He removed from Wisconsin to Boulder, Colorado, but in the fall of 1872 bought a team of mares and a prairie schooner and, joining a wagon train, in which were twenty-three other teams, traveled eastward through an Indian infested country until he finally reached Buffalo county, Nebraska. Here he secured both a homestead and timber claim in Divide township and thereon resided for many years, passing through the usual experiences incident to frontier life. He lived there during the period of Indian scares and the grasshopper plague and the drought, all of which entailed hardships that are utterly unknown to the present generation and of which they can form no adequate conception. It was a time which tried men's souls, for in a measure life was unsafe and, moreover, the early settlers had to see all their work upon the farms count for naught,

for the grasshoppers descended upon their crops, leaving nothing green. Mr. Koeppe finally went to California, where he passed away in 1897.

Louis A. Koeppe had none of the advantages offered the boy of the present day—the opportunities to secure an education and learn a trade or receive other business equipment. He was reared to manhood on the old homestead claim which his father had entered from the government and was put to work when but a child, having to bear his part in the burden of contributing to the general support of the family. When eleven years of age his mother died and there thus devolved upon him those burdens which would have been relieved had he had a mother's counsel and care.

At nineteen years of age Mr. Koeppe embarked in the livestock business and was gaining a good start when the bank at Kearney, in which his money was deposited, failed and left him without a dollar. He gathered together from his wrecked fortune sufficient means to take him to Bozeman, Montana, where, with a capital of less than one hundred dollars he embarked in the new and second-hand merchandise business. He there resided until 1899, with the exception of about a year during that period, which he spent in Buffalo county. It was during this time that he began crying sales and, possessing natural aptitude for the work, he soon won a reputation as an auctioneer and his services were more and more in demand in that connection. For the last seventeen years he has lived in Kearney and has engaged in the handling of new and second-hand merchandise in connection with the crying of sales. In the occupation of auctioneering he has become widely and favorably known, not only in Buffalo but throughout many of the adjacent counties. His life has been one of unfaltering industry, his entire career being characterized by hard work and close application.

In 1897 occurred the marriage of Mr. Koeppe and Miss Minnie Schiffmann, of Butte, Montana, and to them has been born a son, Arthur S. The family is well known in Kearney, where they have resided for about two decades, and Mr. Koeppe has a wide acquaintance throughout the state. He has an abundance of vitality, a breezy manner, energy and alertness. He is quick at repartee, and his ready word has been an important asset in his success.

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### ORLANDO McCONNAUGHEY.

Orlando McConnaughey, who owns an excellent farm on section 24, Gibbon township, adjoining the town of Gibbon, at one time held title to seven hundred and fifty acres of excellent land but has now disposed of a part of his property. He was born near Hillsboro, in Highland county, Ohio, on the 21st of December, 1847, a son of Andrew and Mary (Vance) McConnaughey, both natives of Pennsylvania. They were reared and married in that state but subsequently removed to a farm in Highland county, Ohio, where they resided until called by death.

Orlando McConnaughey was educated in the district schools and during his boyhood and youth also received valuable training in farm work through assisting his father. In the spring of 1870 he purchased a small farm in his native county and engaged in its operation until 1882, when he decided to take advantage of the opportunities in the rapidly developing state of Nebraska and accordingly

came to Buffalo county, buying a section of land in Shelton township. Some time later he purchased his present home farm adjoining the town of Gibbon, which at one time comprised seven hundred and fifty acres. He has since disposed of a part of this place but still owns three hundred and twenty acres. He has been very successful, his well directed labors yielding him substantial returns annually, and he ranks among the well-to-do men of his township.

Mr. McConnaughey was married on the 13th of January, 1870, to Miss Julia A. Wilcoxon, who was born near Freeport, Illinois. They have become the parents of five children, of whom three survive, namely: Thena C., the wife of W. Boyd Smith, of Omaha; Hattie B., who married J. N. Ashburn, owner of the Gibbon mills; and Effie C., the wife of O. J. Milius, of Ralston, this state.

The republican party has a stanch adherent in Mr. McConnaughey, but he has never sought office, preferring to discharge his civic duties as a private citizen. He holds membership in Granite Lodge, No. 189, A. F. & A. M., and in Nebraska Consistory, No. 1, A. & A. S. R., of Omaha. Both he and his wife are identified with the Baptist church and he has served as a member of the board of trustees, thus giving proof of his interest in the work of the organization. His life has conformed to high standards of morality, and his many admirable qualities have gained him the respect and warm regard of those who have been associated with him.

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### VICTOR L. JOHNSON.

Victor L. Johnson, cashier of the Shelton State Bank, has gained a place among the bankers of Buffalo county that is distinctly creditable to his ability and enterprise. He was born on the 20th of April, 1883, of the marriage of Nelson W. and Agnes C. (Hare) Johnson, both of whom were born in the state of New York, where the father passed away and where the mother is still living. They became the parents of six children, of whom one is deceased.

Victor L. Johnson was reared and educated in the Empire state and remained there until 1902, when, as a young man of about nineteen years, he came to Shelton, Buffalo county, Nebraska, and entered the Shelton Bank as assistant cashier, which office he held until 1905, when he went to Heartwell. He was cashier of the Heartwell State Bank until 1912, in which year he accepted the position of cashier of the Shelton State Bank, in which capacity he is still serving. He is not only thoroughly familiar with banking routine but also understands the underlying principles of banking and keeps in touch with financial conditions throughout this section and in fact throughout the country at large. Under his able management the bank has paid good dividends and has also furnished ample security to the stockholders and depositors. He has gained a measure of success that many a man older than he might well envy and he owns his comfortable and attractive residence.

Mr. Johnson was married in 1907 to Miss Marie Reasoner, who was born in Ashland, Nebraska, and they have become the parents of a daughter, Anna Marie, born September 28, 1913. Mr. Johnson gives his political support to the republican party and is now town treasurer. He belongs to Shelton Lodge, No. 99,



F. & A. M., in which he has filled all of the chairs, and in religious faith both he and his wife are Presbyterians. They are well known and have many warm friends, who esteem them highly for their admirable traits of character.

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### CASSIUS B. MANUEL.

Many tangible evidences of the public spirit of Cassius B. Manuel can be given and so far-reaching and important has been his work in behalf of the community in which he lives that no history of Buffalo county would be complete without the record of his life. He was born in McKean county, Pennsylvania, on the 28th of January, 1860, and during his infancy was taken by his parents to Missouri, in which state his early years were passed. His father, Benjamin F. Manuel, was a son of Francis Manuel, a native of Portugal, in which country the family name was Emmanuel. Benjamin F. Manuel was born at Eastport, Maine, and after serving an apprenticeship of seven years in Rochester, New York, became a contractor and builder. He wedded Anna Barclay, a native of Shippen, New York, and of English ancestry, being a direct descendant of Sir Robert Barclay. While in Missouri the family resided at Mexico, Macon City, and at Glenwood, and it was during this time that Mr. Manuel enlisted for service in the Union cause, becoming a member of Company H, Third Iowa Cavalry. He was honorably discharged in 1863 owing to injuries sustained in the service and returned to Missouri, where he engaged in contracting and building. He also gave some attention to farming and likewise established a brickyard, which he operated with the aid of his sons. In September, 1872, he removed with his family to Howard county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded a claim, residing thereon until the death of his wife, which occurred in 1887. Later he removed to California, where he passed away in 1900.

Cassius B. Manuel was little more than twelve years of age when the family removed to Nebraska. His youthful days were spent in helping with the work of the home farm and making brick. He well remembers the grasshopper plague and the later droughts when the springtime promise of harvests was utterly destroyed and the farmers had to face the condition of passing through season after season without harvesting any crops.

When seventeen years of age Cassius B. Manuel spent a season with his father and a brother in the Black Hills engaged in mining, in conducting a store, in freighting supplies for the miners and in avoiding the hostile Indians. His educational training was completed in the State Normal College at Peru, Nebraska, and in 1882 he taught his first school, which was near Clarks, Nebraska. A large proportion of his subsequent life has been devoted to educational work and, having been elected superintendent of the schools of Howard county, he served in that position for four years. He has proven a most able educator, imparting readily and clearly to others the knowledge that he has acquired, and his efforts have been an important element in advancing the school system of the state.

In early boyhood Mr. Manuel became deeply interested in politics, at which period his enthusiasm found expression in carrying a torch in political parades. For a time he was editorial writer on the St. Paul Phonograph and afterward



became the owner of the St. Paul Press. At a subsequent date he purchased the Phonograph and consolidated the two papers under the name of the Phonograph-Press. In conducting that journal he attained wide renown as a trenchant, forceful newspaper writer and his paper became an important factor in shaping political belief. His activities also extended in other directions, for he became one of the organizers of the Farmers Alliance and the populist party. In 1906 he was chosen chairman of the populist state central committee, in which position he served for six years. By appointment of Governor Shallenberger he became superintendent of the State Industrial School for Boys at Kearney in 1909 and two years later was reappointed, because of his fitness for the position, by Governor Aldrich, who was of another political faith. The school was in a deplorable condition when Mr. Manuel became superintendent, sanitary conditions were very bad, the morale of the school was at a low ebb and it was conducted much after the manner of a penal institution. There was also an utter lack of harmony between the officers and the boys. Mr. Manuel at once set about to improve these conditions and bring order out of chaos. Modern scientific methods improved the sanitation; the boys were no longer treated as felons; and a bond of sympathy and helpfulness between officers and boys wrought a marked change for the better. In fact, in every way a great advancement was made from a humanitarian standpoint; an honor system was inaugurated which had much to do with the improvement, for the boys felt that fidelity to the school standards brought returns. In fact, the honor system and the furlough introduced by Mr. Manuel resulted in reducing the number of runaways and incorrigibles to a minimum. For four years Mr. Manuel continued at the head of this institution to its lasting good, to his own personal credit and to the satisfaction of all concerned. Since that time he has been secretary, treasurer and business manager of the Denzler-Manuel Furniture Company of Kearney, of which he was one of the organizers.

On the 4th of May, 1886, Mr. Manuel was united in marriage to Miss Etta Imes, and to them have been born four children: Bessie; Ruth, now the wife of Walter E. Wade of Downs, Kansas; Ruby R.; and Cassius Barclay, who died July 4, 1910.

Mr. Manuel is a Knight Templar Mason and is also identified with the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. His has been a well spent life fraught with good results for the benefit of his fellow townsmen and characterized by broad humanitarianism. His course commends him to the honor and regard of all and wherever he is known he is spoken of in terms of high regard.

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#### O. E. LOWELL.

The operation of five hundred acres of excellent land which he owns affords O. E. Lowell scope for his energy and enterprise, and his well directed labors yield him a large financial return. A native of Missouri, he was born on the 12th of January, 1862, of the marriage of Luther K. and Sarah Jane (Kirk) Lowell, who were born respectively in Ohio and Michigan. The father served in the Union army during the Civil war and died while at the front. Later the mother married Abram Barrett, of Wisconsin, and in the fall of 1871 they removed to

Buffalo county, Nebraska, where she passed away. Our subject is the youngest of three children, the others being: George L., a resident of Colorado; and Maria E., the wife of P. E. Mundal, of Hailey, Idaho.

O. E. Lowell attended the common schools in his boyhood but when fourteen years of age began supporting himself. After working as a farm hand for a few years he rented land and later took up a homestead in Hitchcock county, Nebraska. In 1889 he sold that place and coming to Buffalo county, purchased his present home farm on section 10, Platte township. He proved successful as a farmer from the first and as the years passed he invested his savings in additional land and has acquired title to five hundred acres, all of which is well improved. He raises both grain and stock but gives the greater part of his attention to the latter branch of his business. He is also financially interested in the Farmers Elevator Company at Gibbon.

Mr. Lowell was married in 1884 to Miss Sarah Zimmerman, and they have become the parents of nine children, namely: Rhoda, deceased; Nettie B., at home; Richard, residing at Kearney; Elsie M., the wife of Chester Smith; Otto E.; Elton E., at home; Reuben; Ruth L.; and Jessie E.

Mr. Lowell exercises his right of franchise in support of the democratic party and for more than twenty years he has held the offices of justice of the peace and school director. Fraternally he belongs to the Workmen and the Grange, and both he and his wife are identified with the United Brethren church—associations which indicate much concerning his interests. His business ability and integrity are generally recognized, and personally he is popular.

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#### EDWIN A. MILLER.

Edwin A. Miller, conducting business as a funeral director at Kearney, is well known in Buffalo county, where he has been active in public affairs, serving at one time as county clerk. He was born in Dayton, Ohio, January 26, 1860, and is one of the four surviving children in a family of seven, born of the marriage of Frederick Miller and Lydia Aley, who were natives of Maryland and Ohio respectively. The father was a farmer by occupation and Edwin A. Miller was reared upon the old home farm. His educational opportunities were only such as could be obtained in the district schools and even then he could attend only in the winter seasons, as his services were needed in the work of the fields through the summer months. When eighteen years of age he began learning the carpenter's trade but still continued to make his home with his parents. He was identified with building operations and with farming for one year prior to 1884. On the 31st day of March, 1883, both his parents died of typhoid pneumonia, within fifteen minutes of each other.

In the following March Mr. Miller came west to Kearney, Nebraska, and at once began work at the carpenter's trade in this city, continuing to follow that occupation until 1891. During the succeeding two years he was connected with the implement business. In 1894 he was engaged in the grain and feed business, during the period when corn sold as low as eight cents per bushel, and other grains brought proportionate prices. He stored away thousands of bushels and in



EDWIN A. MILLER





December, 1901, he sold his corn and for four years thereafter was deputy county clerk under A. V. Offill. In the fall of 1905 he was the successful nominee of the republican party for the office of county clerk and after acceptably serving for a term of two years his record was accorded public indorsement in a reelection, so that his connection with the office covered four years as deputy and four additional years as clerk. He retired from the position on the 31st of December, 1909, with an excellent record, his course being marked by systematic methods, capability and unfaltering fidelity. While yet filling the office of clerk in 1908 he opened an undertaking establishment, which he conducted for about a year through an employe but since January, 1909, he has given his undivided attention to the business and that he might better serve the public he took a course in a Cincinnati college of embalming, from which he was granted a diploma in May, 1910.

On the 8th of October, 1889, Mr. Miller was united in marriage to Miss Phoebe A. Herbert, and to them have been born five children: Pearl E., the wife of Harry T. Troupe; Florence A., the wife of Emil R. Parks; one who died in infancy; Alberta M., who died at the age of seven and a half years; and Clara Bell.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller are members of the Presbyterian church and he is an Odd Fellow, belonging to the subordinate lodge, encampment and the Rebekahs. He is also serving as major of the First Battalion of the Second Regiment of the Patriarchs Militant of that order. He has attained the Royal Arch degree in Masonry and is a member of the Eastern Star, while on the membership rolls of a number of insurance fraternal organizations his name is also found. He has served consecutively for seventeen years as secretary of the Nebraska State Volunteer Firemen's Association. He has led a busy and useful life characterized by advancement along material lines and by fidelity to every duty. He has a wide acquaintance and the favorable regard of many friends and in Kearney is accounted a representative citizen.

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#### FRED C. SCOTT.

Fred C. Scott, a prosperous hardware and furniture merchant of Kearney whose business methods measure up to modern commercial standards and exemplify the progressive spirit of the age, was born in Decatur county, Iowa, December 5, 1861. His father, Josiah A. Scott, was a native of Ohio, where he grew to manhood. He afterward became a resident of Pleasanton, Decatur county, Iowa, settling there just prior to the Civil war, and he was there engaged in mercantile pursuits. While residing in that city he wedded Mary Bowman, a representative of an old Virginia family, and after two children had been born to them they removed to Indiana, the father engaging in merchandising at Middletown, that state, for a time. Finally, however, he went to Anamosa, Iowa, with his family and there passed away in the year 1892. His widow survives, yet making her home in that city.

Fred C. Scott inherited many of his father's sterling attributes of character and business ability. In his boyhood he became assistant in his father's hardware

store and learned from him the old adage that honesty is the best policy and that the road to success is along the line of upright dealing. He learned too that correct valuation must be placed upon opportunity, industry and determination. His literary education was acquired in the schools of Middletown, Indiana, and of Anamosa, Iowa, supplemented by a course in a commercial college in Chicago. In March, 1888, he arrived in Nebraska and for seventeen years was engaged in the hardware business at David City. While there he organized the David City Telephone Company, of which he was the sole owner, this being one of the earliest in the independent telephone field in this state.

In the year 1905 Mr. Scott removed to Kearney and since that time has made this city his home, his attention being given to the furniture and hardware trade. He has a well appointed store, carrying a large and carefully selected line in both departments, and his earnest efforts to please his patrons, his reasonable prices and his straightforward dealing have been the salient features in his growing success. He is courteous and obliging and his life record proves that prosperity and an honored name may be won simultaneously.

On the 25th of September, 1890, Mr. Scott was united in marriage to Miss Ella Prentice, of Anamosa, Iowa, and to them have been born three children: Ruth Alda, Mary Elizabeth and Cree Prentice. The religious faith of the family is that of the Methodist church, in which the parents and children hold membership. Mr. Scott belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and his political indorsement is given to the democratic party. Anyone meeting him face to face would know at once that he is an individual embodying all the elements of what, in this country, we term "a square man," one in whom to have confidence, a dependable man in any relation and in any emergency. He has never hesitated to take a forward step when the way is open and, though content with what he has attained as he has gone along, he has always been ready to make an advance. Fortunate in possessing ability and character that inspire confidence in others, the simple weight of his character and ability have carried him into important relations.

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#### LEWIS A. WIGHT.

Lewis A. Wight, of Gibbon, who is proving very efficient as the mail carrier of rural route No. 2, was born in Henry county, Illinois, on the 4th of October, 1860. His parents, William K. and Sophia (Eastman) Wight, were natives respectively of Lake county, Ohio, and of New York state. Their marriage occurred in the Empire state, whence, in 1858, they removed to Henry county, Illinois, where the father engaged in farming until 1886, when he came with his family to this county and located upon a farm in Gibbon township. At length he put aside the work of the fields and removed to Gibbon, where his demise occurred December 9, 1903. To him and his wife were born seven children, of whom six sons survive.

Lewis A. Wight remained at home for a number of years after attaining his majority and devoted his time to assisting his father, but following his marriage in 1891 he assumed charge of the operation of the homestead. He farmed success-

fully until 1905. He was then made carrier on route No. 3, but subsequently transferred to No. 2 and removed to Gibbon, where he has since lived. Although he gives the greater part of his time to the discharge of his duties as mail carrier, he still owns eighty acres of land in Buffalo county and eighty acres in Saskatchewan, Canada, from which he derives a gratifying financial return. He also holds title to his comfortable residence in Gibbon.

Mr. Wight was married in 1891 to Miss Minnie Fulmer, a native of New York and a daughter of D. M. and Ellen E. (Longstreet) Fulmer, who were born in that state but in 1880 came to this county. The father purchased land here and devoted the remainder of his life to its cultivation. The mother is still living. Mrs. Wight is one of a family of five children, all of whom survive. Mr. and Mrs. Wight have no children of their own but have an adopted son, Clyde F., who is now attending the local high school.

Mr. Wight supports the republican party and has served as a member of the town board. He has also served several years as member of the library board. Fraternally he belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and both he and his wife attend the services of the Methodist Episcopal church. During the many years of their residence in this county they have gained a wide acquaintanceship and have made and retained a host of friends.

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### CHRISTIAN JACOBSON.

Among the residents of Kearney who have been enabled to put aside the onerous duties of business life is Christian Jacobson, who for a considerable period was identified with agricultural pursuits and afterward engaged in the cement contracting business. His indefatigable energy and intelligently directed effort brought him the success which now enables him to rest from further labor. He was born in Denmark on the 19th of March, 1846, and there spent the period of his boyhood and youth, his time being largely devoted to the acquirement of an education. In May, 1866, when a young man of twenty years, he landed at New York after a six weeks' voyage upon the Atlantic. He then made his way to New Jersey, where for three months he was employed in a brickyard and on the expiration of that period he removed to Davenport, Iowa, and later to Illinois, where he was employed as a farm hand for two years. He afterward spent four months in Omaha, Nebraska, and then returned to his old home in Denmark, where he served for two years in the regular army and was also employed for two years. The lure of America, however, was upon him and, returning to Illinois, he secured employment on the farm on which he had previously worked for two years. His second engagement covered seven years and during the last year of that time he acted as foreman. Saving his money, for he was ambitious to engage in business on his own account, he came to Buffalo county in 1879 and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Divide township. This was railroad land for which he paid five dollars per acre. With characteristic energy he began to develop the wild prairie tract, added many modern improvements and brought his fields to a high state of cultivation. He continued to follow farming and stock raising successfully for many years and the sale of his crops, adding to his



income, enabled him to purchase more land from time to time until he became the owner of eight hundred acres, which he successfully cultivated until 1904, when he turned the farm over to his sons and retired from active agricultural life. Removing to Kearney, he then engaged in the cement contracting business, building sidewalks for about five years, during which time he put in miles and miles of sidewalk and curbing. He was accorded a very liberal patronage in that connection but at length put aside active business cares to enjoy a rest which he had richly earned and fully deserves.

Mr. Jacobson has been married twice. On the 9th of March, 1875, he wedded Miss Charlotta Peterson, who was born in Sweden and came to the United States in 1872. By her marriage she became the mother of seven children, as follows: Johanna, who is the wife of William Culloch and lives in Colorado; Frederick William, who resides on his father's farm; Eliza, who gave her hand in marriage to Ed. S. Shovlain, of Buffalo county, Nebraska; Carl A., who lives on his father's farm; Walter C., a resident of Montana; Martin Elmer, who makes his home in Idaho; and Laura, who is the wife of Charles Robbins, a miller of this county. The wife and mother passed away in July, 1911, and on the 7th of October, 1914, Mr. Jacobson was again married, his second union being with Miss Mary Kellam, who was born in Yorkshire, England, and emigrated to the United States when about sixteen years of age. In 1886 she took up her abode in Kansas and in the year 1889 came to Kearney, Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson attend the Episcopal church, Mrs. Jacobson having been the organist there for years, and he exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the democratic party. He has served as school director and was assessor for thirteen years and in all matters of citizenship maintains a public-spirited attitude, supporting those plans and measures which he deems of greatest value to the community. Actuated by a laudable ambition, he has ever worked his way steadily upward and in his business career has used only constructive methods, his path having never been strewn with the wreck of other men's failures. Industry has been his watchword and it has brought him success.

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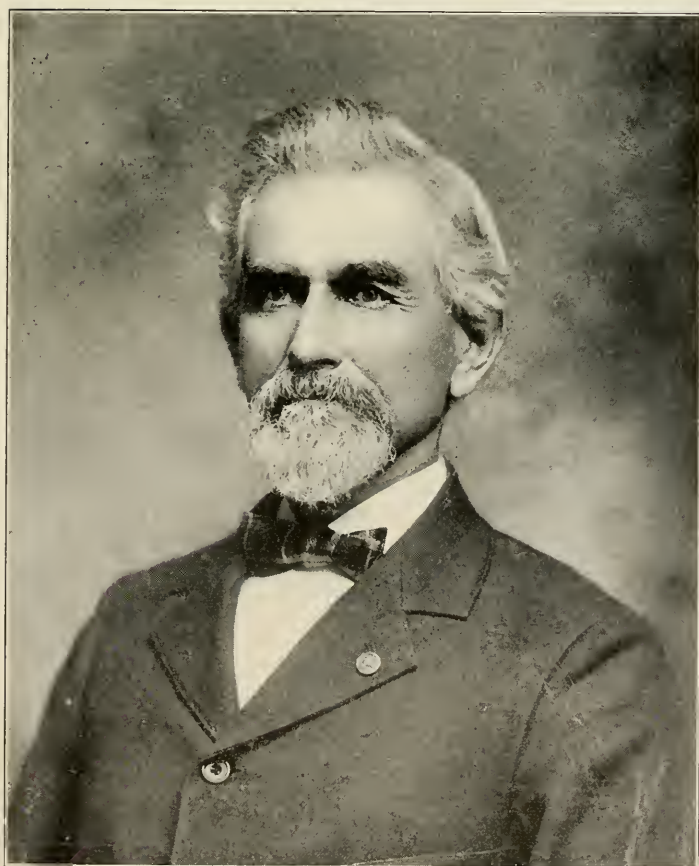
#### EMORY WYMAN.

Emory Wyman is now living retired at Gibbon but for many years was actively identified with agricultural and with creamery interests. He has now passed the eighty-first milestone on life's journey, his birth having occurred at Jamestown, New York, July 3, 1834. His parents were Ezra and Emeline (Seymour) Wyman, who were also natives of New York. On leaving that state they removed to Michigan, where they lived for eleven years and then became residents of Wisconsin. Subsequently they returned to Jamestown, New York, where they resided until 1861, when they once more went to Wisconsin, where their remaining days were passed. In their family were eleven children, of whom six brothers served in defense of the Union during the Civil war. Two of the number died while at the front defending the stars and stripes and four of them are now on the pension roll of the country.





EMORY WYMAN IN 1864



EMORY WYMAN



Emory Wyman started out to earn his own living when but a little lad of seven years. His youthful days were largely spent in Wisconsin and his boyhood was a period of earnest and unremitting toil in which he had few advantages, educational or otherwise. The need of his country aroused his patriotic spirit in 1861 and he offered his services to the government, enlisting as a member of Company A, Sixth Wisconsin Infantry, with which he remained until 1862, when he joined the Nineteenth Wisconsin Regiment and so served until 1864. Although he participated in a number of the most hotly contested engagements of the war, he was never wounded, nor was he ill in the hospital. In July, 1864, he was overcome by the heat and never saw his regiment after that. When he had partially recovered he was assigned to light duty as an invalid.

After being mustered out in Maryland Mr. Wyman returned to Wisconsin, where he resided until 1880. He then removed to Clinton county, Iowa, where he lived for one year and during that period had charge of four creameries. In 1882 he arrived in Shelton, Nebraska, and settled upon a farm in that locality, devoting eighteen years to general agricultural pursuits. He then returned to the village of Shelton, where he made his home until 1906, when he came to Gibbon, where he has since lived.

Mr. Wyman has been married twice. In 1865 he wedded Miss Orra Tyler, by whom he had six children, as follows: Albert L., superintendent of the county farm of Buffalo county; Bernett, who is also a resident of this county; Della, who is the wife of John Icke, of Madison, Wisconsin; Frankie, who gave her hand in marriage to Dr. J. E. Mettlin, of Bloomfield, Nebraska; Grace, living in Madison, Wisconsin, who is superintendent of the rural schools of Dane county, that state; and Cassius, deceased. The wife and mother passed away in 1902 and the following year Mr. Wyman was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Margaret Henry, of Chicago. The latter is a devoted and consistent member of the Christian church.

Mr. Wyman belongs to the Grand Army post at Shelton and thus maintains pleasant relations with his military comrades. In politics he is a republican and for years served as a member of the school board, while in 1889 he was elected to represent his district in the state legislature. In former years he took an active interest in politics and gave earnest aid and support to many measures for the public good, but at the present time he is largely leaving all political as well as business activities to others. However he still feels an interest in affairs of the day and notably for one of his years keeps in touch with the trend of modern thought and progress. He is now one of the venerable citizens of the county—a man whose well spent life has made him worthy the goodwill and respect which are accorded him.

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#### RICHARD P. ZIMMERMAN.

Among the progressive and efficient farmers of Shelton township is Richard P. Zimmerman, who owns an excellent farm on section 21. He was born in Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, on the 25th of November, 1861, and is a son of Adam W. and Louise E. (Miller) Zimmerman, natives of Pennsylvania, who

removed with their family to Buffalo county, Nebraska, in the fall of 1871. The father homesteaded land on section 28, Shelton township, and devoted his time to its cultivation and improvement until his demise on the 5th of September, 1908. The mother survives and still lives on the homestead.

Richard P. Zimmerman was ten years of age at the time of the removal to this state and received the greater part of his education in the district schools of Buffalo county. About 1885 or 1886 he took charge of the home farm and also operated rented land. Several years previously, in 1882, he had purchased eighty acres on section 21, Shelton township, but he continued to live on the home place until 1909, when he removed to his farm on section 21. He has added to his holdings from time to time and now owns two hundred and eighty acres of valuable land. He derives a good income from his agricultural pursuits and is also a stockholder in the Independent Telephone Company of Shelton.

In 1892 Mr. Zimmerman was married to Miss Phillipena Vohland, of Shelton township, a daughter of Lawrence Vohland, a well known farmer. Six children have been born to this union, of whom five survive, namely: Irl R. L., Alva G., Reuel B., Lila G. and Lulu C., all of whom are at home. Blanch is deceased.

Mr. Zimmerman takes the interest of a good citizen in public affairs and in casting his ballot votes according to the dictates of his judgment and not according to party lines. He and his wife are both members of the United Brethren church and can be depended upon to aid in the furtherance of its work. He has based his success upon industry, the careful planning of his work, and integrity and the prosperity which he has gained is well deserved.

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#### TIMOTHY J. TODD, D. D. S.

Dr. Timothy J. Todd, actively engaged in the practice of dentistry in Kearney and also extending his professional efforts into other fields, is a son of Edwin R. and Mary Ellen (Thomas) Todd. In 1856 his father homesteaded four miles west of Plattsmouth and the farm which he there developed is still owned by the family and is being operated by his youngest son. In the family were seven sons, one of whom, G. W. Todd, is a dentist of Omaha, Nebraska. Another has passed away, while the other four are following farming.

Of this number Dr. Timothy J. Todd was born in Plattsmouth, Nebraska, on the 5th of March, 1879, and there spent the days of his boyhood and youth, attending the public and high schools. Determining upon a professional career, he entered the Omaha Dental College, from which he was graduated in 1903. He then began practice at Wahoo, Nebraska, where he remained until 1912, when he came to Kearney and has here since followed his profession.

On the 25th of May, 1904, Dr. Todd was married to Miss Minta Mauzy, of Plattsmouth, Nebraska, who was born in Virginia but was reared and educated in Plattsmouth. One son has been born of this marriage, Henri Edwin, ten years of age.

Dr. Todd is very prominent in fraternal circles, being identified with a number of organizations which are based upon the principle of mutual brotherliness and



kindliness. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Knights of Pythias, the Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan, the Woodmen of the World, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Knights and Ladies of Security and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His political allegiance is given to the republican party but he neither seeks nor desires public office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs. He holds membership in the district, state and national dental societies and thus keeps in touch with the advanced thought of the profession. He has the latest improved instruments and appliances to facilitate his work and his mechanical skill and ingenuity are an important factor in his success, while added thereto he has comprehensive knowledge of the science of his profession.

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### JOHN H. SNYDER.

John H. Snyder is identified with farming interests in Center township, still owning and occupying the old homestead property of eighty acres on section 6. Mr. Snyder has always been a progressive and public-spirited citizen and his loyalty to the country was manifest by his valiant service in the Civil war. He has now passed the eighty-first milestone on life's journey, his birth having occurred in Germany, October 10, 1835, his parents being Valentine and Anna Snyder, who were natives of the fatherland and there spent their entire lives. They had a family of six children, all born in Germany.

John H. Snyder came to America when but twelve years of age with an uncle, who located at Wheeling, West Virginia. After two years Mr. Snyder removed to Ohio, where he continued until 1861, when, in response to the country's call for aid to crush out the rebellion in the south, he offered his services to the government, enlisting as a member of Company A, Eighteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for three and a half years. He participated in the battle of Stone River, the battle of Chickamauga and a number of other hotly contested engagements, never faltering in the performance of his duty, whether on the firing line or stationed on the lonely picket line. On one occasion he was wounded in the left leg and at the close of the war he was mustered out at Columbus, Ohio.

Mr. Snyder continued to reside at Columbus until 1877, when he returned to Germany, where he spent about four months. He then came again to the new world and for a brief period resided in Ohio, after which he removed to Iowa. Two years later he removed to Buffalo county, Nebraska, where he has since lived, and for a considerable period he was actively identified with general agricultural pursuits. He and his wife still own the old homestead property of eighty acres which is situated on section 6, Center township. His labors brought good results in the cultivation of his fields and he gathered good harvests which returned to him a substantial annual income.

In 1882 Mr. Snyder was united in marriage to Mrs. Elenor (Rught) Henderson, a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of Peter and Catherine (Bradley) Rught, who were likewise born in the Keystone state, whence they removed

to Indiana, where their remaining days were passed. Their daughter Elenor became the wife of Abram Henderson and to them were born eleven children: Ida, the wife of Edwin Frederick; John, now living in Canada; Maggie, the wife of John Wolf; Charles, whose home is in Idaho; Elizabeth, the wife of E. R. Webb; Dallas; and Effa, the wife of W. C. Beens; and four who are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder have become the parents of three children: Rosa, the wife of Charles Anderson; Albert; and Anna, at home.

Mrs. Snyder is a member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Snyder gives his political allegiance to the republican party but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs. He has worked persistently and energetically in the development of his farm and as the years passed by his labors wrought good results and he obtained the competence which supplies him with the comforts of life in the evening of his days.

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#### DAVID ANDREWS.

In the history of the pioneer development of Buffalo county it is imperative that mention be made of David Andrews, who was one of its earliest settlers and whose contribution to the work of development and improvement was of marked value. New England claimed him as a native son, for his birth occurred at Cabot, Vermont, August 1, 1821. He was reared upon the farm and always followed agricultural pursuits. In early manhood he wedded Elizabeth House, a daughter of Halsey House, and about the time of the close of the Civil war they removed westward to Colorado but lived there for only one season. They then returned east as far as Grinnell, Iowa, where they made their home until 1873. In that year the women of the family came to Buffalo county by rail, while the men of the family made the trip across the country by wagon. After reaching his destination David Andrews first purchased railway land and afterward secured a homestead claim which had been entered by another. This was located on Wood river in Center township. There Mr. Andrews spent the remainder of his life, concentrating his energies upon general agricultural pursuits, his labors resulting in the development of a fine farm. He was a man of but ordinary education, but worked most diligently and persistently, and was considered an excellent neighbor and friend. He lived a quiet, unostentatious life and by reason of the sterling worth of his character commanded and enjoyed the respect of all who knew him. He passed away September 1, 1900, when in the eightieth year of his age, and his widow survived him until July 7, 1913, when she too passed away. She was a member of the Presbyterian church and like her husband, enjoyed the goodwill of all with whom she came in contact. They were the parents of three children: Flora E., now the wife of Lloyd D. Forehand, of Kearney; Edgar H.; and Albert, who died when ten years of age.

Edgar H. Andrews, the surviving son, was born in Williamstown, Vermont, January 3, 1855, and remained with his parents in his native state until the removal of the family to the west. He came with them to Buffalo county the year following the county's organization and his educational opportunities were

those afforded by the district schools, supplemented by a two years' course in the Gibbon high school. He took the examination and was granted a teacher's certificate, although he never actively followed the profession. He was reared to manhood much after the manner of most boys of his time, dividing his attention between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the fields. For forty-three years he has been a resident of Buffalo county and has witnessed the greater part of its growth and development. The land which was originally purchased by his father at five dollars or less per acre has increased in value until it is today worth more than one hundred dollars per acre. In those days farm work was accomplished by actual manual labor but now modern inventions have largely revolutionized the methods of farm work, relieving the agriculturist of much of the drudgery which formerly devolved upon him.

On the 14th of September, 1880, Edgar H. Andrews was married to Miss Carrie Longstreet, who was born December 11, 1858, at Syracuse, New York, a daughter of Cornelius and Esther Longstreet. In 1900 Mr. Andrews was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 4th of March of that year. They had become parents of two daughters, of whom the younger, Bessie, survives the mother, while the elder, Abbie, died when but eighteen months old. For his second wife Mr. Andrews chose Anna Deets, a daughter of L. S. Deets, of Kearney, and three children have been born of this marriage, Blanche, Ila Fay and Elizabeth.

Mr. Andrews was engaged in farming and stock raising, giving especial attention to handling Percheron horses and Poland China hogs, until 1910, when he removed to Kearney, where he has since resided. He is the owner of a half section of land, which is a part of his father's original purchase, in Buffalo county, and also three-quarters of a section farther west in Perkins county. His business affairs are capably conducted and enterprise and industry constitute the basis of his prosperity. In his political views he is a democrat and in the fall of 1911 he was elected county sheriff and occupied that position for three years, his terms ending in December, 1914. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and to the Modern Woodmen. His sterling worth is widely acknowledged and wherever he is known he is held in the warmest regard. He represents one of the old pioneer families and the work which his father began in early days he continues to the benefit of the county at large.

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#### EDWARD R. EDWARDS.

Edward R. Edwards, engaged in the manufacture of cement blocks and stone at Kearney, is a business man of notable enterprise and determination, who has won well merited success through close application and indefatigable industry. He was born in Dodge county, Wisconsin, July 23, 1855, and was there reared and educated, spending his youthful days upon the home farm. In 1875, he arrived in Kearney and soon afterward became actively identified with farming, spending two years upon his father's land and assisting actively in its cultivation and improvement. He then returned to Kearney, where he secured employment



in connection with the hotel and livery business but after three years went to Denver, Colorado, where after two months he entered the employ of Webber Brothers at their lumberyard in Jefferson, Colorado, continuing in that business for a year. Later for about six months he was engaged in cutting cord wood. When he left their employ he again made his way to Buffalo county and made investment in land, purchasing a farm, upon which he lived for twelve years. He then sold that land and bought a section, on which he lived for three years, when he once more sold out and came to Kearney. Here he has since engaged in the cement business, manufacturing cement blocks and stone. He has gained a liberal patronage because of the excellence of his product and his thoroughly reliable business methods. He has taken contracts for laying miles and miles of cement walk in Kearney and his contracts are very faithfully and promptly executed.

On the 29th of December, 1886, Mr. Edwards was married to Miss Lou Blair, a native of California, and they have three children: Maude, the wife of Emil Swartz, of Kearney; Clifford E., who is associated with his father in business; and Hazel, who is in school. The parents are members of the Christian church and loyally adhere to its teachings, while fraternally Mr. Edwards is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Since starting out in life in early manhood he has been dependent upon his own resources and has steadily and persistently worked his way upward, his indefatigable efforts and determination winning for him the success which is now his.

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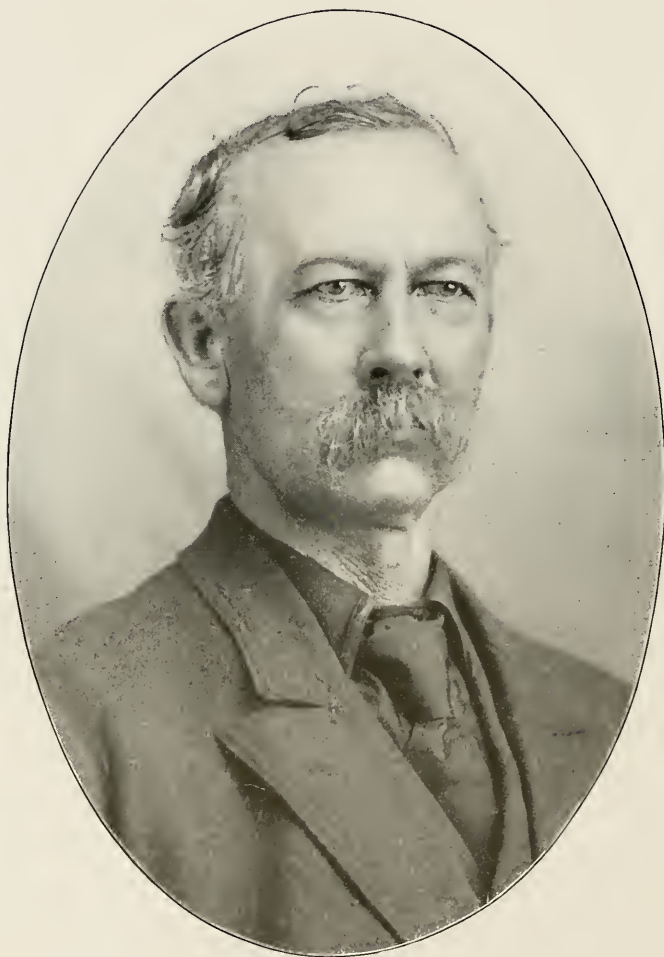
#### HOWARD V. MAURER.

Howard V. Maurer, who carries on general farming on section 28, Shelton township, where he now resides with his mother, was born upon this place on the 26th of May, 1879, a son of William H. and Elizabeth A. (Worley) Maurer, the former a native of Wayne county, Ohio, and the latter of Williams county, Ohio. They were married at West Unity, that state, on the 2d of October, 1875, and about 1877 arrived in Buffalo county, Nebraska. They took up their abode in Hall county in the fall of that year and there remained until the following January, when the military reserve was placed upon the market and Mr. Maurer filed on a homestead, securing the tract of land upon which his widow and son still reside. There he remained up to the time of his death, which occurred December 31, 1907. In his political views he was a democrat but was never an office seeker. At one time he affiliated with the Masons but later, being unable to attend the meetings, he allowed his membership to lapse. He belonged to the United Brethren church, as does his wife, and throughout the community they were held in the highest esteem because of their many sterling traits of character.

Howard V. Maurer was reared upon the home farm and acquired his education in the district schools. He remained a resident of Nebraska until 1904, when he went to the Pacific coast, where he spent one year. He then returned to his native county and engaged in farming upon rented land. After two years, however, his father desired him to return home and take charge of the farm, which he did. A year later his father died and Mr. Maurer has since managed the property, cultivating one hundred and forty-five acres of land in the home place and







WILLIAM H. MAURER



MRS. WILLIAM H. MAURER





one hundred and fifty-eight acres in other sections of Shelton and Platte townships. He concentrates his energies upon the further development and improvement of the property and his progressive methods place him with the leading farmers of his part of the state.

Mr. Maurer is a member of Gibbon Lodge, No. 37, I. O. O. F. In politics he is independent, nor does he seek political advancement of any kind, being content to concentrate his energies upon his farming interests, which, wisely directed, are bringing substantial returns.

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#### ALBERT C. BESSIE.

Albert C. Bessie, one of the early settlers of Buffalo county, came to this state in the spring of 1878. He was accompanied by his son, Charles D. Bessie, and had been preceded by his daughter, Mrs. W. H. Salisbury, who with her husband had been one of the original settlers of the Fort Kearney military reservation, coming there in 1876.

Mr. Bessie and his wife, Jemima Malvina (Gary) Bessie, were natives of the Empire state. About 1870 they removed from New York to Kane county, Illinois, where they made their home for four years and where Mr. Bessie was engaged in the dairy business. Leaving there, he and his son located in the vicinity of Crown Point, Indiana, where they farmed extensively and also carried on a dairy business, operating a butter factory and finding a ready market for their product in Chicago. Four years later they joined the daughter and sister here in Nebraska, establishing homes near hers at Kearney and both taking homesteads in Center township near the old Stone schoolhouse, which was built in the autumn following their arrival.

Having always been identified with church and Sunday school work, the three families saw in the erection of the public edifice an opportunity to secure religious privileges near home and also to be a benefit to the youth of their neighborhood, who had so far been denied such opportunities. Uniting their efforts with those of a few neighbors, a meeting was called at the schoolhouse on the first Sunday of November, 1878, and the assistance of a Sunday school missionary was secured and a Sunday school organization was effected. While most of the families around were willing to attend the school, but few people were willing or able to take a leading part. As a result the Bessie family were compelled to fill the offices or see the project fail, so the election of the first officers resulted as follows: Mrs. W. H. Salisbury, superintendent; A. C. Bessie, assistant superintendent; C. D. Bessie, secretary and librarian; and Mrs. C. D. Bessie, organist. Superintendent, assistant superintendent and organist, and Mrs. A. C. Bessie also taught classes. For some weeks the organ was provided by Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Bessie, being loaded into the wagon and taken to the schoolhouse every Sunday. Later enough money was subscribed to purchase a second hand instrument, while the library and singing books were secured from the former homes of the families in Illinois and Iowa. They were thus identified with the social and religious life of the rural community during the years of their residence in the country.

After living on the farm for some years the father moved to Kearney and devoted his later life to buying and shipping grain. He was a man of more than average education, capable in business and at all times taking an active and helpful interest in public affairs. In the Methodist church he was an earnest worker and loyal member and in politics he was a democrat. Perhaps his chief characteristic was his love of home. He possessed a quiet, unassuming manner and in every relation of life manifested the utmost integrity, his honesty and square dealing at all times winning him high and enduring regard. He died April 7, 1900, while his wife passed away on the 2d of August, 1908.

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#### CHARLES D. BESSIE.

Charles D. Bessie is conducting an important and growing business at Kearney as a dealer in hay and is numbered among the representative business men of his city, for he is wide-awake, alert, enterprising and energetic. He was born in Onondaga county, New York, December 17, 1853, a son of Albert C. and Jemima Malvina (Gary) Bessie, and spent his youthful days in the three states of New York, Illinois and Indiana, accordingly as his parents moved from place to place, and through the period of his boyhood he assisted his father in farming and dairying. He began his education in the district schools and afterward had the benefit of instruction in the Elgin (Ill.) Academy. On the 8th of January, 1878, he was married at Marion, Iowa, to Miss Ella Louise Bonnelle, who had formerly been a resident of Crown Point, Indiana, where she occupied the position of clerk in the postoffice. She was a daughter of Job D. Bonnelle, who was born at Euclid, Ohio, March 23, 1816, and on the 4th of September, 1839, at West Creek, Indiana, wedded Miss Ursula Ann Jackson. He served as sheriff of Lake county at one time, was a tailor by trade and about 1840 removed to Wisconsin but later returned to Crown Point, Lake county, Indiana. After his demise his widow came to Kearney, Nebraska, passing away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Bessie, on the 26th of March, 1899. For more than two decades she had survived her husband, whose death occurred at Lake City, Minnesota, November 15, 1878. To them were born six children, three of whom are yet living. The Bonnelles came originally from France. The father of Mrs. Ursula A. (Jackson) Bonnelle participated in the War of 1812 and one of her brothers served in the Mexican war.

Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Bessie started on their wedding journey, which was a trip to Buffalo county, Nebraska, Mr. Bessie bringing with him a car load of horses. At that time he had no expectation of making this his future home but, liking the country, he traded for a quarter section of land and concluded to remain. As a result he has made this his permanent place of abode. His first home was a one room house, the boards running up and down, with a lean-to shed for a kitchen. For a time Mr. and Mrs. Bessie regarded their stay in this county merely as a pleasurable outing, but later settled down to the fact that this was to be their permanent home. There was plenty of hard work to do for each, both early and late, but their home-building period was one of the happiest of their lives, as they worked on together actuated by the laudable

desire of becoming owners of a home that would render them independent financially. For seven years they resided upon the farm and then removed to Kearney, where Mr. Bessie was the first man to engage in the business of street sprinkling. Later he began buying and selling grain, his first equipment for that business being a scoop and a broom. Subsequently, in connection with A. G. Scott, he embarked in the elevator business, with which he was identified for about fifteen years. Since that time he has been connected with the hay trade, practically covering the period since the beginning of the growing of alfalfa. He began by furnishing hay for the railroad feed yards and since that time his business has steadily grown and developed until his shipments cover practically all the east half of the United States, extending as far south as the Mason and Dixon line, while his transactions amount to approximately twenty thousand dollars per month. He has won for himself a very creditable position in business circles as an enterprising, progressive man and it is characteristic of him that he carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bessie have been born four children, as follows: May, who is the wife of George W. Foltz, of Osceola, Iowa, and the mother of five sons; Blanche, living in Osceola, Iowa, who is the wife of Ernest C. Temple and the mother of one son; Charles Albert, who is associated with his father in the hay business at Kearney and wedded Fredaline Maddux, by whom he has two daughters; and Frank Edmund, who resides with his parents in Kearney.

In his political views Mr. Bessie is a democrat and fraternally is connected with the Knights of Pythias, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. In the early days he was a member of the volunteer fire department at a time when his sprinkling wagon was one of the chief assets of the department. He has lived to witness much of Kearney's growth and progress and has conducted his business affairs along lines which have made his interests a feature in the material development of his adopted city.

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#### ALLEN WISEMAN.

Allen Wiseman, who is a well-to-do stock raiser, owning two hundred acres of good land in Platte township, was born in Marion county, Missouri, on the 20th of August, 1873. His parents, George and Sarah (Mauck) Wiseman, were natives of Indiana, where they were reared and married. In 1869, however, they removed to Missouri and there the mother passed away in 1873. Fifteen years later the father removed to Logan county, Nebraska, whence he came to Buffalo county, where he lived until 1900. He then went to Kansas and spent his last days there. To him and his wife were born two children, the brother of our subject being Perry Wiseman, now a resident of Kansas.

Allen Wiseman attended the normal school at Gibbon, Nebraska, after completing the public school course and when seventeen years of age began his independent career. He worked as a laborer for three years, after which he rented a farm until he had accumulated sufficient capital to enable him to buy his present place, which comprises two hundred acres on section 6, Platte township. He



has made many improvements upon the farm and keeps everything in excellent condition, taking justifiable pride in its appearance. He engages in raising hogs principally and as his stock is of high grade he is able to sell at a good price. He manages his business affairs well and as the years have passed his capital has increased steadily.

Mr. Wiseman was married in 1902 to Miss Maud Shovel, a native of this county, by whom he has had six children: Ray N.; Maud Alice, deceased; Ralph T.; Clifford S.; Ruth G.; and Grace M.

Mr. Wiseman supports the republican party at the polls but has never had political aspirations. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Gibbon and is loyal to the teachings of that organization. His record should serve as a stimulus to ambitious young men who are starting out in life without capital, for he had practically nothing when he began his career and by well planned labor has gained a competence.

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#### HON. GEORGE N. SMITH.

Hon. George N. Smith is one of the retired citizens of Kearney and is one of the honored pioneer settlers, familiar with every phase of frontier life, while with the work of general improvement and development he has been closely associated in many ways, leaving the impress of his individuality upon the material progress and also upon the political history of his county. He was born in Goffstown, New Hampshire, October 30, 1843, and was there reared to farm life, while in the public schools he had the opportunity to secure a limited education. He had reached the age of twenty-one years when on the 17th of August, 1864, he responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting as a member of Company B, First New Hampshire Heavy Artillery, with which command he served until the close of the war, being on duty most of the time around the fortifications in the vicinity of Washington. He was doing detached duty when President Lincoln was assassinated and was given charge of the squad under Major Reed to do scout duty in order to apprehend the criminal. He was honorably discharged at Concord, New Hampshire, August 17, 1865, just one year from the date of his enlistment.

Mr. Smith afterward concentrated his attention upon general farming until October, 1871, when he came to Buffalo county and settled on section 14, Center township. This was a tract of wild and unimproved land which he entered as a homestead and which he operated for thirty-three years, carefully and persistently carrying on the work of the fields, so that his labors greatly enhanced the value of his property, which he sold in 1903 for fifty dollars per acre and which is today worth one hundred and twenty dollars per acre. He had made excellent improvements upon his land, converting it into one of the highly developed tracts of the county. Year by year he tilled the soil, raising good crops, but eventually satisfied with what he had acquired of this world's goods and feeling that his competence was sufficient to enable him to meet all of the demands of life throughout his remaining days, retired in 1903 and removed to Kearney.

On the 25th of August, 1866, in New Hampshire, Mr. Smith was married to





MR. GEORGE N. SMITH AND FAMILY



Miss Elizabeth Dunbar, who was born in Croydon, New Hampshire, October 18, 1843, and was there reared and educated. In August, 1872, they brought their family to this county, having at that time two small children, and their original home was a little sod house in which they lived in true pioneer style, sharing in all the hardships and privations incident to frontier life but making the most of their opportunities and contributing in substantial measure to the development of the community. They had five children, as follows: Minnie B., who gave her hand in marriage to John Powell, an agriculturist of Buffalo county; George William, a ranchman living in Arthur county, Nebraska; Grace P., who is the wife of Fred Ryness, of Omaha; Bert C., living in Kearney; and Arthur G., who also makes his home in Kearney. The three last named are natives of Buffalo county. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have eleven grand children. They will have been married fifty years on the 25th of August, 1916, and expect to celebrate their golden wedding.

Mr. Smith has always been deeply interested in the welfare and progress of his community and has cooperated in many plans and measures for the general good. He assisted in building the first schoolhouse in his district and took the census of the school children. He also assisted in the Sunday-school work and has put forth every effort to promote the intellectual and moral progress of the community. In fraternal circles, too, he is well known. In 1873 he became a member of Buffalo Lodge, No. 38, I. O. O. F., and with one exception is the only one identified with the lodge that was a member at that time. He is also connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and with Sedgwick Post, No. 1, G. A. R., and he has passed through all of the chairs in the Odd Fellows lodge and in the Grand Army post. In politics he has usually followed an independent course. About the time he attained his majority he was chosen a selectman and after he came to this county was a member of the school board for a quarter of a century, also member of the election board each year and for six years was a member of the executive board of the Soldiers' Home. About 1890 he was chosen to represent his district in the state legislature and was reelected on the populist ticket. He served for two terms, representing the district which then comprised Buffalo and Sherman counties. He gave careful consideration to each question that came up for settlement and intelligent support to those measures in which he believed, and his course at all times has been actuated by devotion to the general good. There are few residents in this part of the state who are more familiar with the story of pioneer life and conditions, for actual experience brought Mr. Smith into close touch with all the phases of the frontier, so that his memory forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present.

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#### ADOLPH E. ERAZIM.

Adolph E. Erazim, the popular and efficient young cashier of the Citizens State Bank of Ravenna, was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on the 30th of November, 1883, of the marriage of Charles and Josephine (Mayer) Erazim, natives of Bohemia. In young manhood the father came to America and after

living in Baltimore, Maryland, for a time went to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he was employed in a factory for a few years. Subsequently he emigrated to Kansas and after farming there for a year came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, in 1885. For two years he operated rented land, but at the end of that time possessed sufficient capital to purchase a farm in Gardner township. He devoted four years to the improvement and operation of that place, after which he sold it and bought land in Sherman county. He farmed there for several years and then went to Saline county, Nebraska, where he bought land and took up his residence, although he still retained his holdings in Sherman county. He passed away there in May, 1908, after having survived his wife for a decade, her demise having occurred in May, 1898.

Adolph E. Erazim was reared under the parental roof and received his general education in the district schools of Sherman county and in the schools of Ravenna. After completing the high school course he entered a business college at Grand Island, Nebraska, where he specialized in stenography and bookkeeping. His first position was that of stenographer for the Mason City Banking Company at Mason City, Nebraska, but after remaining there for six months his ability led to his becoming bookkeeper in the Citizens State Bank of Ravenna. In 1905 he was promoted to the position of assistant cashier and he served in that capacity until 1913, gaining a thorough knowledge of banking procedure during that time. Since 1913 he has been cashier of the bank and the steady growth of its business has been largely due to his wise management of its affairs. He keeps in close touch with local business conditions and with the trend of banking throughout the county and follows a progressive policy tempered with sufficient conservatism to protect the interests intrusted to his care.

The Citizens State Bank was organized in 1902 by John S. Skrable and William Benesh, of Elberon, Iowa, and Joseph Simon, Joseph Shebl and Edward Miner, of Buffalo county. In 1903 they sold out to L. P. Southworth and Edward Cronau, who conducted the bank for two years, after which they disposed of their interest therein to Frank McGiverin and parties from Fremont. Subsequently Mr. McGiverin sold his interest to A. T. Shellenbarger, who served as cashier until 1912, when he disposed of his stock in the bank. The present officers are: F. J. Coates, of Grand Island, president; M. L. Bonsón, vice president; A. E. Erazim, cashier; H. J. Klatt, assistant cashier; and L. V. Kozel, bookkeeper. The institution is capitalized for twenty-five thousand dollars, has a surplus of five thousand dollars and deposits of one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, and its loans amount to about one hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars. In addition to his connection with the bank, Mr. Erazim has other business interests, representing the St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Company of St. Paul, Minnesota, and the Fidelity Phoenix Fire Insurance Company of New York.

In February, 1906, Mr. Erazim was united in marriage to Miss Bella Hlava, a daughter of Joseph B. and Josephine (Lokijack) Hlava, natives of Bohemia. The father, who was a tailor, emigrated to America in early manhood and followed his trade in Chicago for a time. He then went to Wisconsin and purchased land, which he cultivated until 1886, when he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska. For a number of years he worked at his trade here and then purchased land a half mile west of Ravenna. He operated that place until 1909,



when he sold and removed to Ravenna, where he has since lived retired. His wife also survives. Mr. and Mrs. Erazim have a daughter, Jane J., who was born on the 14th of August, 1914. The family home is a commodious modern residence on Upper Appian avenue.

Mr. Erazim supports the republican party at the polls, as he believes in its principles, and he has been called to public office, having served for six years as treasurer of Garfield township and for five years as treasurer of Ravenna, which office he holds at present. He is identified with the Knights of Pythias and for two years served as keeper of the records and seals. His religious faith is that of the Congregational church. He speaks two languages fluently, is affable and courteous in his business relations and is very popular with the patrons of the bank. He has already gained an enviable measure of prosperity and his many friends predict a still greater success for him in the future.

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#### FRANK ASHTON PACKARD, M. D.

Dr. Frank Ashton Packard is a prominent and able physician of Kearney, where he has practiced his profession continuously and successfully during the past three decades. His birth occurred in St. Lawrence county, New York, on the 9th of July, 1853, his parents being Edson Allen and Mary (Bosford) Packard, natives of New York and Vermont respectively. By occupation the father was an agriculturist. The maternal grandmother of Edson A. Packard was an Alden, descended from John and Priscilla Alden. The Packards were originally from England but for many generations have lived in America.

Frank A. Packard was reared on the home farm and in the acquirement of his education attended the public schools and an academy at Canton, New York. Subsequently he began reading medicine with Dr. H. O. Bartlett of Milton Falls, Vermont, whose wife was his cousin and with whom he made his home. While still residing at Milton Falls he attended lectures at the medical department of the University of Vermont in Burlington, twenty miles distant. He was graduated from that institution on his twentieth birthday and in the same year—1873—came west, locating at Monmouth, Iowa, where he followed his profession for six years. On the expiration of that period he removed to Anamosa, Iowa, and there remained as a medical practitioner for seven years. On the 1st of September, 1886, he arrived in Kearney, Nebraska, where he has been actively engaged in the practice of medicine throughout the past three decades. He encountered all of the difficulties and hardships of the pioneer practitioner but discharged his duties with self-sacrificing conscientiousness and has long been the loved family physician in many a household. In 1889, in 1894 and again in 1900 he took post-graduate work at Rush Medical College of Chicago, and he has also kept in touch with the steady advance of the profession as a member of the Buffalo County Medical Society, the Nebraska State Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

Dr. Packard has been married twice. In 1880, at Monmouth, Iowa, he wedded Miss Dyantha Louisa Lake, by whom he had two sons, namely: Lawrence Ralph, a physician of Whitehall, Montana; and Gerald J., a practicing dentist of Living-

ston, Montana. The wife and mother passed away in 1892 and two years later Dr. Packard was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Helen A. Townsley, who has a daughter by her former marriage, Lora E., the wife of J. Burt Porterfield, of De Land, Illinois.

The Doctor gives his political allegiance to the republican party, is a Protestant in religious belief and is identified with a number of fraternal insurance organizations. In 1913 he was elected grand medical examiner for the state of Nebraska of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. During the long period of his residence in Kearney he has won an enviable position in both professional and social circles and he is widely recognized as a leading representative of his profession.

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### ROBERT HAINES.

Robert Haines, now living retired at Kearney, was born near North Greenfield, Logan county, Ohio, December 1, 1841, and is a son of David and Elizabeth (Branson) Haines. The father, a native of Ohio, was a son of Joseph Haines, who was born in Culpeper county, Virginia, where he was reared. When a young man of eighteen years he went to Ohio, becoming one of the pioneer farmers of that state. He also engaged in preaching as a local minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which connection he did good work, especially in camp meetings. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812, acting as a scout, and he was a large man of fine physique who possessed a vigorous constitution and reached the ripe old age of eighty-four years. He traced his ancestry back to one of seven brothers, who came from Germany at an early period in the colonization of the new world. His son, David Haines, took up the occupation of farming, which he made his life work. He always remained a resident of Ohio, where he died in his ninetieth year. His wife was also a native of Ohio and there spent her entire life, passing away at the age of forty-four years.

Robert Haines spent his youthful days upon the old homestead farm and had the usual experiences of the boy who divides his time between the acquirement of an education in the district schools and the work of the fields. On attaining his majority he started out in business independently, working as a farm hand and at the carpenter's trade, and at the time of his marriage he rented land and began farming on his own account. All business and personal considerations, however, were put aside at the time of the Civil war, for he enlisted in August, 1862, as a member of Company H, Ninety-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. After three days, however, he became ill with a fever and was unable to go to the front. On the 25th of December, 1863, he reenlisted from Logan county, Ohio, for three years' service and was mustered in on the 8th of January, 1864, at Cleveland, Ohio, as a private, refusing the rank of corporal. He was with Captain Samuel Starr's company and later he was made corporal, remaining with that company until he received an honorable discharge on the 13th of July, 1865, at Columbus, Ohio, following the close of the war.

Mr. Haines continued a resident of the Buckeye state until 1872, when he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and secured a homestead claim on section 26, Center township. That was before the town of Kearney had been established.



ROBERT HAINES





He built a small frame house fourteen by sixteen feet and remained upon the homestead until he secured his title thereto. About 1878 he removed to Kearney and built a residence at the corner of Twenty-second and C streets, where he has since made his home. However, he continued to manage his farm year after year until about 1900, when he rented the place and has since lived retired, enjoying a well earned rest.

On the 25th of February, 1869, Mr. Haines was married to Miss Emma Ione Scott, a native of Hardin county, Ohio, where she was reared and educated. In 1872 she arrived in Buffalo county, becoming one of its pioneer women. She was an active worker in the Sunday school and church in the days when religious services were held at the homes of the settlers. Her life was fraught with many good deeds and was actuated by kindly purposes. She died October 3, 1913, leaving an adopted daughter, Beatrice, who is now the wife of Jesse S. Barlow and resides in Kearney.

Mr. Haines is a member of Smith Gavitt Post, No. 299, G. A. R., in which he has filled all of the offices, serving as commander for three years, which office he was occupying at the time the monument at Kearney was dedicated. He served as justice of the peace and as assessor for two years, filling both offices during the years 1875 and 1876. He served by appointment as a member of the city council of Kearney and was afterward elected and occupied the position for two terms, making a creditable record in office by his fidelity to duty and his devotion to the best interests of the community in which he resides. He has lived in the county for forty-four years and has therefore witnessed almost its entire growth and development. He has taken an active part in what has been accomplished and is interested in everything pertaining to the public welfare. He has many reminiscences of pioneer times which give an excellent picture of conditions that existed in the early days and indicate the later trend of progress. In this county he is widely known and his circle of friends is almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance.

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### WASHINGTON MILBOURN.

Washington Milbourn was one of the early settlers of Buffalo county, taking up his residence in Elm Creek township in 1872, and he was well known and highly esteemed. He was a veteran of the Civil war and the patriotism which prompted him to enlist in the Union army also led him to further the public welfare in times of peace. His birth occurred in Carroll county, Ohio, on the 24th of August, 1826, and he removed with the family to Columbiana county and thence to Stark county, Ohio. He grew to manhood in the Buckeye state and there received his education. In young manhood he went to Woodford county, Illinois, where he was living at the time of the Civil war and where he enlisted in the Eighth Illinois Cavalry. He participated in the battle of Mobile and in other engagements and remained with his command until mustered out at New Orleans in 1865. He returned to Illinois and continued to live there until 1872, when he came to Buffalo county and located in Elm Creek township. He gained a

gratifying measure of success as a farmer and devoted his time to agricultural pursuits until his demise in 1903.

Mr. Milbourn was married in Stark county, Ohio, on the 28th of November, 1850, to Miss Susan Pflasterer, who was born on the 21st of March, 1830, in Baden, Germany, and was confirmed in the Presbyterian church on the 28th of October, 1843. She too passed away in Elm Creek township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Milbourn became the parents of six children, namely: George F., who is living in Oklahoma; William F., a farmer of Elm Creek township; Abraham Lincoln, who is living in Dawson county, this state; Addie E., the wife of John F. Daul, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Rosa Anna Margaret, who married J. L. Larrie, of Omaha; and Emma Jane, who died when five years old.

Mr. Milbourn gave his political allegiance to the republican party but did not take a very active part in politics, as his private interests commanded his undivided attention. He was a man of high principles and his integrity gained him the respect of all with whom he came into contact. He did his share in developing the county into the prosperous and advanced farming section which it is today, and his memory is justly held in honor.

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#### AARON T. SHELLENBARGER.

Aaron T. Shellenbarger is one of the most prominent men in the business and industrial circles of Ravenna. For a number of years he was a leading stockholder and the cashier of the Citizens State Bank of Ravenna and since disposing of his interest in the institution has been active in other fields. He organized the Ravenna Electric Light & Power Company, which he has since managed, and which has not only returned good dividends but has also been of great advantage to the business interests of the town.

Mr. Shellenbarger was born in Tama county, Iowa, on the 29th of September, 1858, a son of Peter S. and Hulda M. (Parker) Shellenbarger, natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Vermont. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, was an early settler of Michigan and followed agricultural pursuits there until 1854, when he removed to Tama county, Iowa. He purchased land there and devoted several years to its cultivation but at length returned to Michigan, where he remained for four years. At the end of that time he again went to Iowa but subsequently removed to Kansas. After living there for three years he went to California, where he resided until called by death in October, 1911. His wife died in August, 1910.

Aaron T. Shellenbarger is largely a self-educated man, as he had little opportunity to attend school in his youth. He has read widely and his keen intelligence and habit of close observation have enabled him to gain much knowledge and practical wisdom from his contact with other men. He remained at home until he reached the age of twenty-one years and then began operating rented land in Tama county. In 1880 he went to Kansas but after farming there for a year returned to Iowa. A year later he came to Ravenna, Buffalo county, Nebraska, and during the first summer followed agricultural pursuits. He started in busi-

ness by establishing a peanut stand in Ravenna and subsequently embarked in the grocery business, later adding a stock of dry goods. He soon demonstrated his business acumen and as his patronage increased he enlarged his stock and after removing once or twice to provide more room for his rapidly expanding business he purchased a one story building located on the site now occupied by the Citizens State Bank. Later the building was remodeled, an additional story being added, and it was veneered with brick, being the first brick or brick-veneered building in the business part of Ravenna. Mr. Shellenbarger conducted a general store for twelve years, after which he sold out to C. J. Stevens, of Ansley. He also bought and sold live stock and grain and in partnership with Dr. Bentley engaged in stock raising on a large scale. After selling his mercantile business he and Dr. Bentley bought the State Bank of Ravenna, which they conducted for seven years. At the end of that time Mr. Shellenbarger sold part of his interest therein and turned his attention to milling, buying the Seeley flour mill in partnership with C. N. Davenport. Six months later the mill was destroyed by fire, but the owners immediately rebuilt it and operated it very successfully until they disposed of it to Messrs. A. R. Kinney and C. F. Tidball, of Crete, Nebraska. During all of this time Mr. Shellenbarger was still engaged in the stock business and in the operation of his six hundred and forty acre ranch near Ravenna, which he has since sold. After disposing of the mill he became connected with the management of the State Bank of Ravenna, but after a short time purchased the controlling interest in the Citizens State Bank of Ravenna and became cashier of that institution. He held that position until 1912, when he sold his stock in the bank, although he still holds title to the building and fixtures.

After leaving the bank Mr. Shellenbarger organized the Ravenna Electric Light & Power Company and built a fine modern plant and equipped it with the latest machinery at a cost of thirty-two thousand, six hundred dollars. He has since controlled the affairs of this company and it has become one of the leading industrial enterprises of the county. It furnishes power for the mill, creamery and pumping station and also the meat markets and garages in the town. The city heat and light are also furnished from the plant and the service given is excellent. A full line of electrical supplies are also carried in the sales room and all branches of the business of the company have shown a steady increase. Mr. Shellenbarger owns several residence properties in Ravenna, which he rents, and also valuable business property.

Mr. Shellenbarger was married on the 2d of November, 1879, to Miss Zelda J. Reedy, a daughter of John W. and Susan O. Reedy, natives of Pennsylvania. Her father, who was a farmer, removed to Tama county, Iowa, in an early day in the history of that county and purchased land there, which he cultivated the remainder of his life. He passed away in 1909 and his wife died in 1879. Mrs. Shellenbarger died on the 9th of October, 1912. On the 14th of October, 1914, Mr. Shellenbarger was again married, Miss Irene Pool becoming his wife. Her parents, Eratus H. and Gertrude S. (Tilson) Pool, were both natives of Michigan but became pioneer settlers of Buffalo county, Nebraska, where the father purchased land. He died in 1898 but is survived by his wife, who resides with Mr. and Mrs. Shellenbarger.

Mr. Shellenbarger is a stanch democrat in politics and has served as city and township treasurer, as a member of the city council, as chairman of the council



and as special deputy sheriff. He was also a member of the board of education for twelve years and during that time served as treasurer and as chairman of the board. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is loyal to the teachings of those organizations. The guiding influence of his life, however, has been his Christian faith and he has been very influential in building up the local Methodist Episcopal church. He and his wife were the organizers of the congregation and he is now the only living charter member. He has served on the official board of the church since it was organized and for a number of years was superintendent of the Sunday school. The high esteem in which he is held as a business man and the confidence which is felt in his integrity are indicated in the fact that he has served as administrator of numerous estates and has been receiver of three large mercantile establishments. His conduct of the interests intrusted to him has always been highly satisfactory to all parties concerned. Although he is now one of the wealthy men of Ravenna and one of its leading citizens, he began his career without capital other than his energy and good judgment and for a few years was in straitened circumstances. As a boy, however, he had become accustomed to hard work, as his parents were pioneers, and it was necessary that all of the family aid in the development of the home farm. This early training in industry and perseverance stood him in good stead when he was struggling to gain a foothold. During the year that he spent in Kansas he lost all of his crops through drought and at the end of the season found himself with only two hundred and fifty dollars in cash. He traded his horses for a yoke of oxen and started back to Iowa. On the way he visited the John Reedy family, who were living in Schneider township, Buffalo county, Nebraska, and was so impressed with the county that after a year he took up his permanent residence here. Few men are so widely known in the county and there is none who is held in higher esteem.

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#### WILLIS D. OLDHAM.

For a quarter of a century Willis D. Oldham has been an active practitioner at the bar of Kearney, and colleagues and contemporaries speak of him as one of the strong and able lawyers in this part of the state. He closely conforms his practice to high professional ethics and his devotion to the interests of his clients has become proverbial.

Mr. Oldham is a native of West Virginia. His birth occurred in Ohio county on the 25th of May, 1859, and he is one of six children, all of whom are still living, born of the marriage of John M. and Isabel (Armstrong) Oldham, who were natives of West Virginia and Pennsylvania respectively. The Oldhams came from the lowlands of Scotland, where the name was spelled Auldham. The year 1653 witnessed their arrival in America, at which time they formed a part of the Jamestown colony. The Armstrongs were from the Scotch border and joined the American colonies in 1773, settling in Washington county, Pennsylvania, at a little town called West Alexander, where a Scotch colony had established homes. James Armstrong, the great-grandfather of Willis D. Oldham, served with the colonial army all through the Revolutionary war and Colonel



W. D. Oldham was a captain from Culpeper county, Virginia, throughout the period of hostilities which brought independence to the nation. Afterward he rendered military service during the Indian uprising, which occurred in the administration of President Washington and during the retreat of General St. Clair, which covered the rear of the army, he was killed. He was a brother of Willis D. Oldham's great-grandfather and he had a younger brother, Richard, who was a lieutenant in the War of 1812, and was the only commissioned officer that was killed at New Orleans. Two brothers of John M. Oldham and uncles of Willis D. Oldham served in the Mexican war, their names being Benjamin and Wyley. At the time of the Civil war John M. Oldham espoused the cause of his country and served on the staff of General Wheat in a West Virginia regiment, while two of his brothers served with the Confederate army. In the year 1866 John M. Oldham and his family removed to Putnam county, Indiana, where he owned land but a year later he disposed of his holdings there and removed to Adair county, Missouri, where he followed farming until 1879, when he removed to Cole county, Missouri, there residing for twenty years, during which time he held a number of official positions. He continued his residence at that place until called to his final rest.

Willis D. Oldham attained man's estate in Missouri. He acquired his primary education in the public schools and subsequently entered the State Normal School at Kirksville, from which he was graduated with the class of 1878. He afterward engaged in teaching school in Clay and Saline counties and for two years was assistant state superintendent of public instruction at Jefferson City, becoming recognized as one of the foremost educators of Missouri. During that period he began reading law and subsequently entered the office of Hon. F. M. Harrington at Kirksville, who for a score of years was a representative in the state legislature, and is yet living in Kirksville at a very advanced age. Having mastered many of the principles of jurisprudence Mr. Oldham successfully passed the required examination and in 1881 was admitted to the bar. He then engaged in the practice of law at Kirksville for nine years and in 1890 removed to Kearney, Nebraska, where he has since made his home, actively following his profession. He served for one term as a deputy attorney general of Nebraska, covering the years from 1898 until 1900 and he was also appointed supreme court commissioner in May, 1901, acting in that capacity until May, 1907. In his chosen profession he has made steady progress. His reputation as a lawyer has been won through earnest, honest labor, and his standing at the bar is a merited tribute to his ability, as his practice has become large and of an important character. In the preparation of his cases he has at no time confined his reading to limitations of the questions at issue but has gone beyond and compassed every contingency and provided not alone for the expected but for the unexpected, which happens in the courts quite as frequently as out of them.

On the 7th of October, 1890, in Mexico, Missouri, Mr. Oldham wedded Miss Belle Fentem, and they have become parents of four children: Isabel, the wife of William Ford, of Kearney; Helen F.; Junius; and Bruce.

Fraternally Mr. Oldham is connected with the Elks, the Knights of the Maccabees and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In politics he has always been a democrat and since coming to Nebraska he has been identified with all that pertains to the public weal. He has worked earnestly for democratic prin-

ciples and was one of the organizers of the democratic party in the sixth district, comprising thirty-three counties. He served as one of the delegates at large to the national democratic convention which nominated Bryan in 1900, on which occasion Judge Oldham made the nominating speech. His opinions have long carried weight in party councils and he has been associated in molding public thought and opinion with many of the most eminent democrats of the west. However, he regards the pursuits of private life as abundantly worthy his best efforts and is satisfied to give his attention to the practice of law, in which connection his legal ability, his analytical mind, and the readiness with which he grasps the points in an argument all combine to make him one of the ablest lawyers who have graced the courts of Nebraska in recent years.

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### AUGUST KLUGE.

August Kluge, deceased, was one of the well known farmers of Buffalo county and at his death left behind many friends. He was born in Germany in May, 1843, a son of Jacob and Anna Kluge, who were natives of that country. The father was a farmer by occupation and never came to the new world, nor did his wife ever cross the Atlantic.

August Kluge was reared and educated in his native country, remaining at home until 1880, when he decided to emigrate to the United States. He made Buffalo county his destination and here purchased one hundred and sixty acres of good land on section 35, Garfield township. This he improved and operated until his death, which occurred in August, 1898, after an illness of seven years. He lived a busy and useful life, wisely using his opportunities for the attainment of success, and in his business dealings was always regarded as thoroughly reliable.

It was in July, 1874, that Mr Kluge was united in marriage to Miss Anna Doehler, a daughter of Gottlieb and Fredericka (Heil) Doehler, who were natives of Germany. The wife and mother passed away in 1857 and the father came to America with Mr. and Mrs. Kluge, making his home with them until his demise, which occurred in 1881. Mrs. Kluge was born in Germany in March, 1852, and by her marriage became the mother of eight children, as follows: Louisa, born March 18, 1877, who is the widow of B. F. Hill and resides in Greeley, Colorado; Clara, born March 31, 1882, who is the wife of Herman Polenz and resides in Sherman county, Nebraska; Hulda, who was born in March, 1885, and lives in California; Edwin, whose birth occurred in October, 1886, and who operates the home place; Arno A., born September 26, 1888, who lives at home with his mother and is the only electrician of Ravenna, carrying a stock of electrical supplies and finding constant demand for his services; Minnie and Paul, who died in Germany in the year 1878; and Myrtle, who passed away in 1906.

In September, 1910, Mrs. Kluge removed to Ravenna, renting the farm to her son. She purchased a nice home in the northwest part of the town and has since occupied it. She is a devoted member of the Lutheran church and has many admirable characteristics which endear her to those with whom she has

been brought in contact. After her husband's death she continued the work of improving the farm, paying off the mortgage on the place, and displayed excellent business management in the conduct of her interests. She is now comfortably situated in life, deriving a gratifying income from the farm of one hundred and sixty acres which she owns.

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### FRANK J. WILKIE, D. D. S.

Dr. Frank J. Wilkie, of Ravenna, is not only one of the most prominent young dentists of Buffalo county but is also serving as mayor and has proved very capable in the management of municipal affairs. He was born upon a farm near Brock, Nemaha county, Nebraska, on the 3d of October, 1883. His parents, Harvey J. and Julia (Thompson) Wilkie, were both natives of New York. The father was taken to Illinois by his parents and there grew to manhood but in 1866 decided to remove farther west and drove across the country to Nemaha county, Nebraska, where both he and his father took up homesteads. Harvey J. Wilkie operated his farm there for many years and then lived retired for a decade, but found that he could not endure a life of inactivity and returned to the farm, which he is still cultivating. He has made many improvements upon the place and is recognized as a factor in the agricultural development of his locality. His wife passed away on the 30th of May, 1908.

Frank J. Wilkie was reared at home and in the acquirement of his early education attended the district schools of Nemaha county. When fifteen years of age he became a student in the State Normal School at Peru, Nebraska, where he remained for three years, taking a scientific course. He then spent a year in an Omaha Business College, after which he engaged in farming on his own account for a year. Having decided to devote his life to the practice of dentistry, he entered the College of Dentistry of Creighton University at Omaha and completed the three years' course by graduation in 1908. On the 10th of June of that year he located in Ravenna, Buffalo county, Nebraska, where he has since been actively engaged in the practice of his profession. He is very skillful in his work and this, combined with his thorough knowledge of the scientific principles underlying dentistry and his scrupulous regard for cleanliness, has resulted in his building up a large and representative patronage. He is progressive and up-to-date and has spared no expense in the equipment of his office, which lacks nothing that could add to his efficiency. There are very few dental offices in the state that are so well furnished and Dr. Wilkie takes justifiable pride in his equipment.

On the 23d of December, 1908, occurred the marriage of Dr. Wilkie and Miss Nancy C. Larson, who is a daughter of Andrew and Hannah (Lawson) Larson, natives of Denmark. The father, who was an agriculturist, came to America about 1875 and settled upon a farm in South Dakota. Subsequently he went to Furnas county, Nebraska, where he purchased land which he has since operated and improved. His wife also survives. Dr. and Mrs. Wilkie have a daughter, Helen M., who was born November 20, 1909.

Dr. Wilkie is a democrat in political belief and has always taken an active



interest in public affairs. He served for one term as a member of the city council and in the spring of 1915 was elected mayor of Ravenna, which office he is now filling. He is practical and businesslike in the administration of the affairs of the town and his official course has gained the commendation of all good citizens. Fraternally he belongs to the Elks, the Masons and the Knights of Pythias and along strictly professional lines is identified with the District, State and National Dental Societies. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. A local publication has said of him: "Dr. Wilkie is a representative of Ravenna's younger business and professional men, who are certain to have a large and important part to play in the future development of the town. He is initiative and progressive, which coupled with aggressive industry and ability will win for him a prominent place in the councils of his fellowmen."

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#### FREDERICK HAUG.

Frederick Haug, a well-to-do retired farmer living in Shelton township, was born in Pennsylvania on the 4th of November, 1851. He is one of a family of nine children, of whom eight are living, and is a son of John and Mary (Bender) Haug, natives of Germany, who in 1848 came to America and settled in Pennsylvania. There their marriage occurred and there they resided until 1871, in which year they came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, where both passed away.

Frederick Haug was about twenty years of age at the time of the removal of the family to this county and continued to reside at home until he was twenty-seven years old, when he began operating a homestead which he had entered in 1872. For ten years he farmed that place, after which he purchased his present farm on section 9, Shelton township. He owns three hundred and fifty-six acres of as good land as there is in the county and he has not only conserved its fertility but has also added to its value by making many improvements. He has erected fine buildings and planted an orchard of seven acres, which supplies the family with an abundance of all kinds of fruit. He is now living retired, his well directed activity in former years having made him a man of independent means. He carried on general farming and found both grain raising and stock raising profitable.

In 1880 Mr. Haug was married to Miss Sarah A. Oliver, who was the second white girl born in Buffalo county. Her natal year was 1860 and she was a daughter of James and Ellen Oliver, both of whom were born in England. In 1860 they came to America and settled in Buffalo county, Nebraska, where the father died. The mother, however, is still living. Mrs. Haug passed away in August, 1909, and was laid to rest in Shelton cemetery. She left two children, namely: Bertha A., the wife of O. O. Hayman; and James H., who is operating the home farm.

Mr. Haug is a republican in politics but, although he is interested in public affairs, he has never sought office. He is affiliated with Shelton Lodge, No. 141, I. O. O. F., at Shelton, in which he has held all the chairs, and he is also a member of the United Brethren church, to which his wife also belonged. He is a





MR. AND MRS. FREDERICK TATG



man of many admirable qualities and during the many years of his residence in this county has gained the sincere friendship of those who have been closely associated with him.

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### ADAM DAUL.

Adam Daul, who is a retired farmer living in the village of Elm Creek, was born in Washington county, Wisconsin, thirty miles north of Milwaukee, a son of Frederick Daul, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Our subject was but five years of age when his mother died, but his father kept the family together and he grew to manhood in his native county. In 1873 he accompanied his father to Buffalo county, Nebraska, where he lived until 1880, when he went back to Wisconsin with his wife's family and purchased eighty acres of land there, which he cultivated for nine years. In 1889, however, his father persuaded him to return to Buffalo county, which he did, and at once began the operation of a farm which his father gave him. He was actively engaged in agricultural pursuits in Elm Creek township until 1912, and as he was practical and energetic in his work he seldom failed to harvest good crops and his resources increased from year to year. In 1912, feeling that he had accumulated sufficient of this world's goods to provide him with the comforts of life during his remaining years, he returned to Elm Creek, where he is now living. He owns his residence here and also still holds title to his farm.

Mr. Daul married Miss Mary Emick, who was also born in Washington county, Wisconsin, and is a daughter of Jacob and Catherine Emick, both natives of Germany. The father died in Dawson county, Nebraska, in the fall of 1880, but the mother is living in Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Daul have become the parents of five children, namely: Kate, the wife of Ray Lloyd, a farmer of Dawson county; John, who is engaged in merchandising in Elm Creek; Jacob, who is manager of the Stickle lumberyard at Overton; Lillie, the wife of Oliver Cowdry, who is operating his father-in-law's farm; and August, at home.

Mr. Daul was reared in the Catholic faith and his wife was reared in the Lutheran church, but the difference in their religious beliefs has never caused any disagreement between them. Both are well and favorably known, not only in Elm Creek but throughout the county, and their personal friends are many. The rest which they are now enjoying is well deserved, as it is the direct result of their own industry and good management.

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### CHARLES W. KIBLER.

Charles W. Kibler, Kearney's popular mayor, was born at Tipton, Indiana, on the 29th of April, 1869, and was one of a family of eleven children, nine of whom are now living, born of the marriage of George W. and Lavina (Cornwall) Kibler, who were of German and English ancestry respectively. During his early life the father was a farmer and in the fall of 1873 removed with his

family to Nebraska, securing a homestead claim in Colfax county. He complied with the law concerning the acquirement of property and after securing title to his place continued its improvement for a time but finally removed to Leigh, Nebraska, where he now resides, being employed as a traveling salesman.

Charles W. Kibler was about five years of age when he was brought to this state. His education was acquired in the public schools and at twenty-one years of age he started out in life on his own account as a farmer, at which business he continued for four years. He afterward spent four years as a traveling salesman and in 1903 he came to Kearney, where he organized the Kearney Land Company, of which he has since been the president and executive head, directing the business carried on by the firm, which is now extensive and of an important character. He also assisted in organizing the Kearney Canning Company, of which he is the vice president. His business judgment is sound, his enterprise unflinching and his energy enables him to accomplish what he undertakes.

On the 23d of December, 1891, Mr. Kibler was united in marriage to Miss May Walling, by whom he has three daughters, namely: Augusta May, Ada Nora and Alta Hannah. The religious faith of the family is that of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Kibler is a member of the Modern Woodmen camp and of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. His political allegiance is unflinching given to the republican party and for four years he served as a member of the city council before his election to the office of mayor of Kearney in 1915. He is now the chief executive of the city and is exercising his official prerogatives in support of many progressive plans and measures which are resulting beneficially to the city's upbuilding and improvement. During the years 1910 and 1911 he served as president of the Kearney Commercial Club.

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### THOMAS J. SCOTT.

Thomas J. Scott, register of deeds for Buffalo county, was born in Danville, Vermilion county, Illinois, July 29, 1851, his parents being Francis F. and Harriet (De Lay) Scott, the former a native of Seneca county, New York, and the latter of Vermilion county, Illinois. The father was but a young lad when his parents removed westward to the then frontier of Illinois, where he was reared to manhood upon a farm. He then married and afterwards he followed agricultural pursuits, continuing his residence in Vermilion county until March, 1886, when he removed with his family to Nebraska, and settled in Kearney. After his arrival here he practically lived retired from active business, although to some extent he engaged in buying live stock. His remaining days were here passed, his death occurring December 29, 1898. His widow survived him for several years, passing away August 5, 1915. They were charter members of the United Brethren church of Kearney and continued in active membership therewith until called to the home beyond.

Thomas J. Scott, who was one of four children, three of whom are now living, is the only member of the family residing in Buffalo county at the present time. He was reared to farm work in Vermilion county, Illinois, and acquired his educational training in the district schools. After his textbooks were put



aside he gave his attention to the work of the fields and also engaged in clerking in a store in Danville until 1885, when he sought the opportunities offered in Nebraska and visited this state. He decided to make Kearney his future home and accordingly, accompanied by the members of his father's family, he removed to Kearney in 1886. Here he was first employed as a clerk in a grocery store and occupied that position until he became a deputy in the county treasurer's office in 1890. He was thus employed until 1893, when the office of register of deeds was created and Mr. Scott was the first man elected to that position. After serving for a term of four years he resumed clerking for a time and was then appointed to the office of deputy county treasurer. For years he was connected with county offices in various capacities, being employed because of his experience and ability regardless of his political views. He also became connected with the real estate business and the careful management of his financial interests enabled him in course of time to buy a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Dawson county. He still owns this property and a good residence at No. 2003 Seventh avenue. In 1914 he was once more called to public office, being elected on the democratic ticket to the office of register of deeds, in which capacity he is now capably serving, thus again filling the position in which he was the first incumbent.

Mr. Scott was married November 24, 1887, to Miss Estelle Grant, of Odessa, Nebraska, and to this union three children have been born, Everett B., Susan and Myron L. The parents are members of the United Brethren church and Mr. Scott is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Woodmen. He has never regretted his determination to come to Nebraska. For thirty years he has here made his home, witnessing much of the growth and development of the county and cooperating in many movements and measures that have resulted beneficially for the community. He has a wide acquaintance and his worth is acknowledged by all who know him.

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#### HARRY. L. CRAWFORD.

Among the representative citizens of Ravenna is Harry L. Crawford, who is conducting a furniture and undertaking business. He was born near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on the 20th of February, 1878, a son of James S. and Barbara J. (Love) Crawford, natives of the Keystone state. The father engaged in farming there until February, 1883, when with his family he removed to Columbus, Platte county, Nebraska. In 1886 a further removal was made to Buffalo county, and the family home was established on one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 9, Cedar township, which the father had purchased in the fall of 1883. He at once began making improvements upon the place and devoted his time and energies to agricultural pursuits during the remainder of his life. He passed away on the 20th of January, 1890, after an illness of three years. His wife survives him and resides with our subject, who is the oldest in a family of five children, the others being as follows: George, who was born on the 6th of November, 1879, passed away on the 10th of July, 1893. John is also deceased.

Frank E., born March 24, 1883, is now assistant cashier in a bank at Bladen, Nebraska. On the 19th of July, 1910, he was united in marriage to Miss Mabel Hassler. Clarence was born January 8, 1886, and died October 6, 1900.

Harry L. Crawford received a good education, attending the Sunflower district school. Following the demise of his father in 1890 he assumed the management of the farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1908. In that year the family removed to Kearney and shortly afterward he went to Chicago and took a course in the Barnes School of Anatomy, Sanitary Science and Embalming and after completing his school work he spent several months in the employ of Chicago undertakers, thus securing valuable practical experience. After his return to Kearney he became connected with A. G. Bower, the principal undertaker of Kearney, and remained with him for four and a half years. In June, 1913, however, he came to Ravenna and purchased the O. L. Miller furniture and undertaking business, which he has since very successfully conducted. He carries an unusually large stock of high grade furniture and his annual sales reach a gratifying total. His ability as a funeral director is recognized throughout the county and he is accorded a large patronage in that connection.

Mr. Crawford casts his ballot in support of the democratic party but has never sought nor desired office. Fraternally he belongs to the Royal Highlanders and the Knights of Pythias, and his religious allegiance is given to the Methodist Episcopal church. Along professional lines he is identified with the Nebraska State Funeral Directors Association. He is progressive and energetic and these qualities, combined with his courtesy and attractive personality, insure his continued and growing success.

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### FREDERICK DAUL.

Frederick Daul, who was one of the most prosperous of the early settlers of Buffalo county, was born in Baden, Germany, in 1818, of the marriage of Frank and Ursula Daul. They were members of the Catholic church and the father was a farmer by occupation.

Frederick Daul grew to manhood in his native county but when twenty-two years of age came to America, locating first in New York state, whence he removed to Wisconsin. He lived there for a number of years but in 1873 came with his family to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and located on section 31, Elm Creek township. He was a progressive and efficient agriculturist and became one of the wealthy men of his locality, he and his sons owning over fifteen hundred acres of land.

Mr. Daul was married in Wisconsin to Miss Anna Dengle, likewise a native of Germany. She passed away in that state, leaving five children, namely: John F. and Adam, sketches of whom appear elsewhere in this work; Agnes, who became the wife of Valentine Nichols and died in Kearney county, this state; Kate, now Mrs. William Milbourn, of Elm Creek township; and Maggie, the wife of A. L. Milbourn, of Dawson county. Following the demise of his first wife Mr. Daul was married to Miss Mary Martinau, a native of Holland. She

passed away in Buffalo county at the advanced age of eighty-four years, and his demise occurred here when he was seventy-six years old. He was a democrat in political belief and his religious faith was that of the Roman Catholic church. His was an active and useful life, and his many friends mourned his demise and long cherished his memory.

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### WILLIAM BRADY.

William Brady, who was a pioneer settler and farmer of Gibbon township, Buffalo county, was born on Christmas Day, 1838, in the province of Ulster, Ireland. His parents, William and Eliza Brady, were also natives of Ireland, where they lived during the greater part of their lives, although their last days were spent in America. William Brady of this review was reared to agricultural pursuits and engaged in farming independently in Argyle, New York, for some time. There he was married on the 14th of February, 1866, to Miss Mary McGowan, a daughter of Harry and Mary McGowan, natives of Ireland, where they spent their entire lives, passing away when their daughter was eight years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Brady became the parents of four children, namely: Ida M., who is now the wife of W. J. Bloodgood; Mary E., now Mrs. H. A. Gaarde; James A., who married Miss Bertha Cain; and Grace, who died in childhood.

Mr. Brady remained in New York until 1871, when he removed with his family to Buffalo county, Nebraska, coming here with the Soldiers' Free Homestead colony. He took up a claim in Gibbon township and at once began its development and improvement but was not to enjoy his new home for but a short period, as he was accidentally killed in a clay pit along Wood river in 1872 when he was getting clay with which to make the brick for the first courthouse of Buffalo county. His wife continued to reside upon the homestead and in five years proved up on the place and received the patent in her own name. She had many difficulties to overcome but persevered bravely and brought the farm to a high state of development. On the 29th of August, 1882, she was again married, becoming the wife of S. R. Traut. They continued to live upon the farm and Mr. Traut passed away a number of years later. She still owns the place and supervises its operation, but since 1903 has lived in the village of Gibbon, where she has many warm friends.

Mr. Brady was a Presbyterian in religious faith and his life was guided by high standards of ethics. He always manifested a keen interest in the public welfare and at the time of the Civil war his patriotism led him to enlist in the One Hundred and Twenty-third Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, with which he was at the front for two years and ten months, or until the close of the war, when he received his honorable discharge. His salient qualities of character were those that are associated with the highest type of manhood and, although he had only lived in this county for a year at the time of his death, he had gained the respect and the esteem of those who were brought into contact with him.

Mrs. Brady has the honor of being a charter member of the first church established in Buffalo county, which is the Presbyterian church of Gibbon, organized

in 1872. She has always been one of its most loyal supporters and attendants and in that faith has reared her children. In the early days the church passed through many vicissitudes and would have been disbanded had it not been for Mrs. Brady and three others, who attended a meeting of the presbytery and prevailed upon them not to disband the church. It is now in a very flourishing condition and in 1909 a beautiful new house of worship was erected on the old site.

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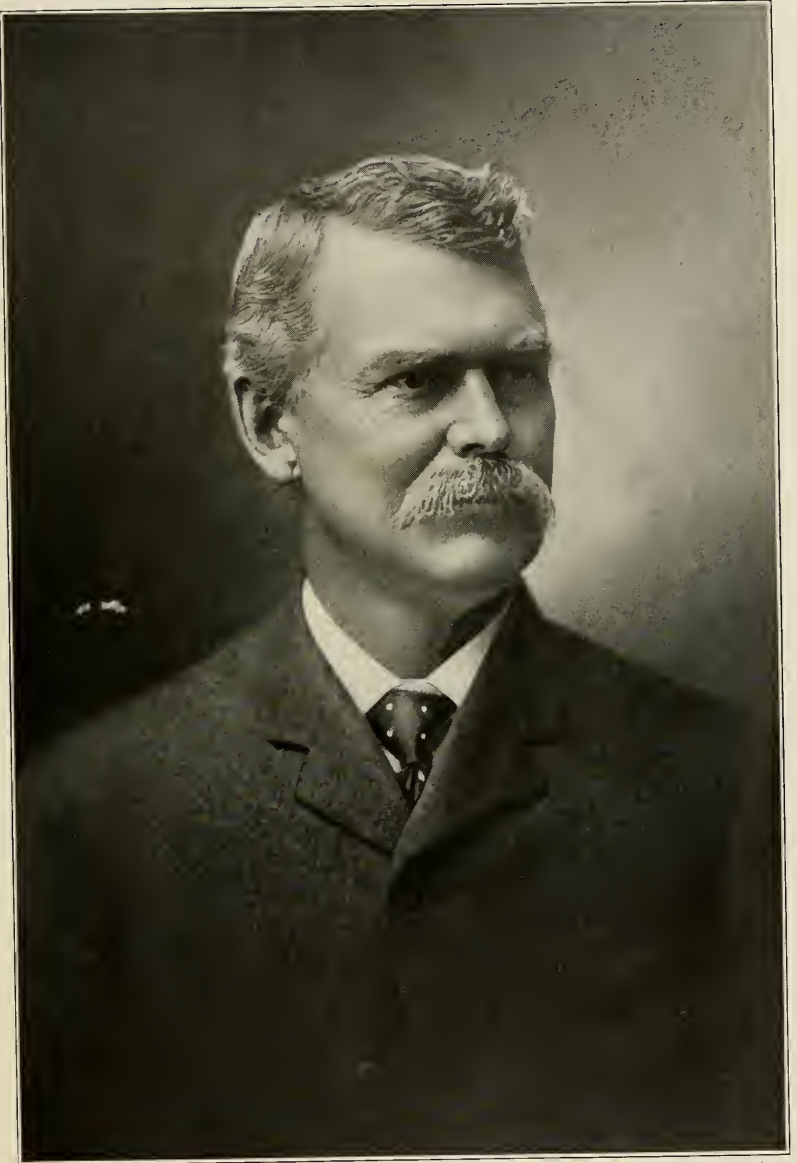
### LYMAN CARY.

Lyman Cary has been one of the most extensive landowners of Buffalo county but has now retired from active business life and is enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. He has figured prominently in connection with public affairs in this county as county treasurer, having served in that position for three terms, and at all times has been a stalwart champion of those interests and movements which have worked for the benefit and upbuilding of this district. He was born in Androscoggin county, Maine, on the 18th of July, 1847, a son of Horace and Lurana (Bradford) Cary, the latter a descendant of Governor Bradford of the Plymouth colony in the sixth generation. The Carys are also of an old New England family.

Lyman Cary spent his youthful days upon the home farm and attended the public schools, after which he continued his education in Auburn Academy and in the Westbrook Seminary at Westbrook, Maine. In 1868 he left New England for Illinois, where he was engaged on the construction of what is now the Great Western Railroad. In 1869 he went to Tama county, Iowa, and purchased a farm, which he operated until elected county treasurer of Tama county. He then leased his farm during his two years' term of office, after which he returned to the farm and resided thereon until 1886. In that year he came to Nebraska and took up his abode upon a farm in Schneider township, Buffalo county. He purchased a partly improved tract of land and added thereto from time to time until he became the owner of sixteen hundred acres, on which he engaged in raising and feeding stock, becoming one of the extensive landowners and stock dealers of the county. He continued his agricultural pursuits until the fall of 1891, when he was elected treasurer on the populist ticket. He then leased his farm and came to Kearney, where he filled the office for two years in a most acceptable and creditable manner. He then returned to the farm, upon which he lived until 1895, when he was reelected county treasurer, and again he was chosen to that position in 1897. He continued in the office therefore for six years and on the expiration of his third term retired from the position as he had entered it—with the confidence and goodwill of all concerned. He established his home in Kearney, renting his farms, and has since lived retired, enjoying in well earned rest the fruits of his former toil.

On the 3d of July, 1870, Mr. Cary was married to Miss Lavina Rines, of Tama county, Iowa, who was born in Morrow county, Ohio, January 15, 1846. In 1854 she went to Tama county with her parents, Jackson and Lavina (Coffing) Rines, who became pioneer residents of Tama county, where Mrs. Cary was





LYMAN CARY



reared and educated. To Mr. and Mrs. Cary four children have been born, namely: Zoe, who died at the age of nineteen years; Jessie and Myrtie, at home; and Horace J., a rancher of Wyoming.

Mr. Cary is ever ready to extend a brotherly kindness to those who are in need of assistance. He has made a most creditable record both in business and in office, for he has ever been faultless in honor, fearless in conduct and stainless in reputation. He may justly be accounted one of the most public-spirited men of his community and many tangible evidences of his devotion to the general good can be cited.

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### GEORGE H. DOWNING.

George H. Downing has resided almost continuously in Nebraska from the age of fifteen years and throughout the entire period since 1869 has been closely associated with industrial and commercial interests. In his career he has not found all days equally bright. Indeed in his commercial experience he has seen the gathering of clouds that threatened disastrous storms, but his rich inheritance of energy and pluck has enabled him to turn defeats into victories and promised failures into brilliant successes. His strict integrity, business conservatism and judgment have always been so uniformly recognized that he has enjoyed public confidence to an enviable degree and during the last two decades has witnessed a steady increase in his business until he is now one of the prosperous citizens of Kearney.

Mr. Downing was born in Addison county, Vermont, January 27, 1854, and there made his home until he reached the age of twelve years. His parents were Loyal and Jane M. (Annam) Downing, whose ancestors were originally from England, whence they came to America probably during colonial days. Loyal Downing engaged in the shoe business at Bristol, Vermont, where his death occurred, after which his widow, with her youngest son, George H., made her way westward to Wisconsin in 1866, influenced to this step by the fact that she had relatives living in that state. She took up her abode upon a farm in Dodge county, near Waupun, and there George H. Downing resided until about the year 1869, when with his mother and his brother, Rollin L., he came west to Nebraska, driving a team the entire distance. They made the journey in a wagon, traveling after the primitive manner of the times, and took up their abode at Nebraska City, where George H. Downing saw the first railroad engine rafted across the river at that point. Soon afterward he found employment driving a team between Lincoln and Nebraska City for the Nebraska City Transfer Company, which brought him a wage of two dollars per day. At that time there was no railroad in Lincoln and in fact pioneer conditions existed throughout the state. His work was largely hauling lumber, for which ten dollars per thousand feet was paid. He also hauled general merchandise at the rate of fifty cents per hundredweight. In 1871, with his mother, he removed to Lincoln and in the spring of that year purchased a farm five miles southeast of the city, on which they resided for a year. Later they returned to Lincoln, where Mr. Downing found employment as a tinsmith with S. Way & Company, this being the first hardware and tin

concern in Lincoln. While thus employed Mr. Downing, with five others, laid the tin roof for the State Insane Asylum, it requiring six weeks to complete the work.

After about two years, or in 1873, he removed to Orleans, Nebraska, where he and his brother, Rollin L., established a hardware and tin business which they conducted with success for a period of nine years. It was there that he witnessed and experienced the great grasshopper plague and drought which has become an epochal point in Nebraska history. In 1882 he sold his interest in the store and removed to Kearney, where his brother had previously located, there turning his attention to the lumber business, in which he was associated with his brother for about a year. Believing that there was great opportunity for successful operation in the real estate field and banking business in South Dakota, he formed a partnership with George W. Lumley, who had been cashier in Senator Burton's bank at Orleans, Nebraska. They went to Vermilion, South Dakota, and founded the Clay County Bank, which they established upon a substantial basis and were successfully conducting when the country became involved in a widespread financial panic. They were carrying large loans on real estate and their entire capital, together with about ten thousand dollars of borrowed money, was lost. Mr. Downing then returned to Kearney in 1887 just as he had started out in business life—without a dollar. Borrowing money, he bought out the Bartlett & Downing coal business and for twenty-three years continued active in that line, building up a large trade, and during that period he succeeded in paying back every dollar of his indebtedness with twelve per cent interest thereon. He built up a coal trade amounting to five hundred car loads of coal annually and during the latter part of the period in which he engaged in that business he also added lumber to his operations and secured a good patronage along that line. In 1907 he founded the Kearney Floral Company and built the finest plant of the kind in Nebraska. It was during this twenty-three years that Mr. Downing passed through the hardest working period of his life. It was discouraging beyond comprehension to have thousands of dollars indebtedness bearing twelve per cent interest to pay and at the same time support his family, but with marked determination and resolution he set himself to the task and his persistency of purpose triumphed over obstacles and difficulties and his unremitting labor has at length relieved him of all debt and in addition has yielded him a deserved competency. In 1910 he disposed of his coal and lumber business and for the past two decades has been interested in the dry cleaning and laundry business, in which he is still financially interested but of late years has taken no active part in the business.

On the 12th of April, 1875, Mr. Downing was united in marriage to Miss Lavinia Skinner, by whom he has three children, as follows: Edna E., who is the wife of Dr. W. E. Kellogg, of Sterling, Colorado; Irvin L.; and Lorin G. Mrs. Downing is a member of the Congregational church. Fraternally Mr. Downing is identified with the Masonic organization, in which he has attained the orders of Christian knighthood and also belongs to the Mystic Shrine. He is likewise a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Royal Highlanders. In politics he is a republican but has never aspired to political office. He was once elected treasurer of the city of Orleans, but as he believed no business man should neglect his business for public office, he would not qualify for



the position. He came unscathed through conditions that would have utterly disheartened and discouraged a man of less resolute spirit and the integrity of his methods has never been questioned. He has indeed won that honored name which is rather to be chosen than great riches and his entire course constitutes an example that others might well follow. Though conditions seemed to be against him for many years, he has at length wrested success from the hands of fate and the course which he has ever pursued has made him one of the valued residents of his city.

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### CARL E. LINN.

Carl E. Linn, one of the leading young business men of Ravenna, is a member of the firm of Hermon & Linn, which owns the only store devoted exclusively to clothing in the town. The management of the establishment has devolved largely upon Mr. Linn, as his partner is a non-resident, and the large and representative patronage which is accorded it is proof of his ability and enterprise.

He was born in Clyde, Kansas, on the 28th of January, 1883, and is a son of Charles and Sophia (Nelson) Linn, natives of Sweden. The father became an early settler of Iowa and engaged in farming there until 1872, when he removed to Kansas and took up a homestead, on which he has since lived. At the time of the Civil war he proved his loyalty to his adopted country and served in the Union army for four years as a member of an Iowa regiment. Both he and his wife are still living.

Carl E. Linn was reared in Kansas and is indebted for his education to the public schools. When eighteen years of age he found employment in a clothing store in Clyde owned by J. K. Hermon. He soon gained the complete confidence of his employer and when a branch store was established in Ravenna seven years later Mr. Linn was placed in charge of the business and became a member of the firm. Subsequently he purchased the interest of Mr. Kern in the business, thus becoming half owner of the store, and the firm name became Hermon & Linn. An unusually large and well selected stock is carried and everything about the store is thoroughly up-to-date. It is located in the handsome new Smaha building and its equipment would do credit to a town much larger than Ravenna. The annual volume of business has shown a steady growth, and the enterprise is recognized as an important factor in the business expansion of Ravenna.

Mr. Linn was married in February, 1905, at Clyde, Kansas, to Miss Bessie French. Her parents, Charles and Anna (Bagley) French, were both born in New York and were among the early settlers of Clyde, Kansas, where they still live. The father has devoted his life to railroading. Mr. and Mrs. Linn have three children: Gwendolyn M., who was born in November, 1906; Charles E., whose birth occurred on the 24th of April, 1913; and Lurline L., whose birth occurred on the 24th of November, 1915.

Mr. Linn has taken an active interest in public affairs since attaining his majority and is a loyal supporter of the republican party. For one year he served as mayor of Ravenna and is at present a member of the town council. He is

very efficient in the discharge of his official duties, giving the same careful thought to the management of municipal affairs that he has always given to the conduct of his business interests. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias and Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and his religious faith is that of the Lutheran church, while his wife belongs to the Methodist church. He not only has the energy and progressive spirit which we associate with the young man, but he also has much of that soundness of judgment which often comes only with long experience. His many friends predict for him still greater success in the future.

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### JOHN A. HOGG.

John A. Hogg is now living retired in Shelton, although in former years he was actively identified with farming interests. He was born in Butler county, Pennsylvania, on the 29th of March, 1844, being a son of Robert and a grandson of Robert Hogg, Sr., who was one of the prominent figures in the War of 1812. In 1865 John A. Hogg became a resident of Iowa, establishing his home in Poweshiek county. He had previously taken up the carpenter's trade in Pennsylvania and continued to work at that occupation in Iowa. He was married in 1865 to Miss Margaret Hall, the daughter of a carpenter, William Hall, and for four years he and his father-in-law worked together but in 1872 Mr. Hogg turned his attention to commercial pursuits, establishing a grocery business in Mitchellville. In seven years, however, he lost all that he had made in the years of his connection with carpentering and building.

In 1879 Mr. Hogg arrived in Nebraska and after paying freight on his goods and meeting other necessary expenses he found that his cash capital amounted to but three dollars. He secured employment on the Shelton mills at a dollar per day and a week later, demanding more salary, was given a dollar and a quarter per day. After the millwright took charge he was paid a dollar and a half per day, for his ability in the line of his trade was recognized. In 1879 he traded a gold watch for a relinquishment on a homestead, on which he subsequently built a sod house. He lived in that primitive structure for a year without having a floor in it. He occupied the homestead until 1906, when he took a trip to Oregon with the twofold purpose of recuperating his health and of visiting his son, Robert W., who had removed to the Willamette valley in 1904, settling near Salem, where in connection with his farming operations he engaged extensively in the breeding of thoroughbred hogs, winning a wide and well deserved reputation in that connection. For two years he was chosen superintendent of the stock exhibit at the state fair at Salem and he also made exhibits of his hogs at the San Francisco exposition in 1915, winning sixteen hundred and seventy-five dollars in prizes, which included the reserve champion prize for sows. He also sold twelve hundred and twenty-five dollars' worth of stock, selling nine animals for nine hundred dollars, which fact shows the high grade of hogs he has raised.

In 1908 John A. Hogg returned to Shelton, Nebraska, where he purchased



JOHN A. HOGG AND FAMILY





town property and has since made his home, but he is still the owner of the old homestead, from which he derives a substantial and gratifying income.

As previously stated, Mr. Hogg was married in 1865 to Miss Margaret Hall, who was born in Butler county, Pennsylvania, on the 9th of April, 1844, and is a daughter of William and Minerva (Thompson) Hall. In 1915 they celebrated their golden wedding and the accompanying picture is a group of their descendants. To them have been born twelve children, nine of whom still survive, as follows: Robert W., who is a resident of Salem, Oregon; Mary M., the wife of L. B. Van Dyke, of Custer county, Nebraska; Lola M., who gave her hand in marriage to A. P. Johnson, a practicing attorney of Broken Bow, Nebraska; Sarah, who is the wife of I. E. Lux, of Crookston, Nebraska; John A., Jr., the proprietor of a book and stationery store at Vancouver, Washington; Floyd Cleveland, an agriculturist of Buffalo county, Nebraska; Elizabeth, who is the wife of M. D. Nutter, a farmer of Buffalo county, this state; Rose F., the wife of Professor Earl Glendon, who is superintendent of the high school at Stapleton, Nebraska; and Irwin, who operates the home farm.

In politics Mr. Hogg is independent, considering the capability of a candidate rather than his party affiliation. In 1889 he was one of the organizers of the Farmers Alliance in Buffalo county and was one of five delegates chosen by that body to find out whether the Alliance wanted to go into political action. He was one of the five representatives from Buffalo county to the St. Louis convention of the people's party, being an anti-monopolist. In 1893 he was elected to the board of supervisors of this county. Fraternally he is connected with Shelton Lodge, No. 99, A. F. & A. M., while both he and his wife are active and prominent members in the Presbyterian church of Shelton, in which he has served as an elder for seven years, doing all in his power to promote the growth and extend the influence of the church and bring about that moral development for which the church stands. His life has ever been an honorable and upright one, fraught with integrity in every relation, and those who know him have ever felt that he is worthy of trust.

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### JOHN THIESSEN.

John Thiessen established a blacksmith shop in Ravenna a short time after the town was founded and has ever since been connected with business interests there. He still owns the blacksmith shop, which, however, is now operated by his son, and he gives his personal attention to the management of a garage and automobile repair shop which he established a few years ago. He was born in Germany in January, 1860, of the marriage of Claus and Margaret (Kroeger) Thiessen, likewise natives of that country. The father followed the miller's trade in his native land until 1870 and then emigrated with his family to America. After locating at Grand Island, Nebraska, he worked at his trade for many years, or until his demise in 1907. His wife is still living at Grand Island.

John Thiessen was about ten years of age when brought by his parents to the United States and grew to manhood in Grand Island. He attended the public schools there in the acquirement of an education and after putting aside his text-

books learned the blacksmith's trade, which he followed in Grand Island for eight years. He then removed to Hampton, Hamilton county, Nebraska, which had just been founded. He was the first blacksmith in the town and was for many years actively engaged in the conduct of his shop but is now leaving its management to his son. In 1911 he turned his attention to the automobile business and erected a well designed and substantial garage fifty by ninety feet in dimensions. He handles the Buick and Studebaker cars and also conducts a first class repair and machine shop. All of his business interests are well managed and return to him a good profit.

In 1882 Mr. Thiessen was married to Miss Anna Schrader, a daughter of Henry and Celia Schrader, natives of Denmark, who emigrated to the United States about 1872. After living in New York for a short time they came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, where the father purchased railroad land. He operated his farm for many years but is now living retired in Marquette, this state. His wife also survives. Mr. and Mrs. Thiessen have become the parents of nine children, namely, Henry, William, Maude, Lillian, Marjorie, Nellie, Babe, Edward and Charles, but Maude is deceased, her death occurring in 1915.

Mr. Thiessen supports the republican party at the polls and for a considerable period has served on the town council and also held the office of mayor for two terms. He is well known in local fraternal circles, belonging to the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Highlanders, and in religious faith is a Congregationalist. He has always taken the keenest interest in the public welfare and during the many years of his residence in Ravenna has done much to promote its advancement along business, civic and moral lines.

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#### E. E. BLISS.

E. E. Bliss, who is ably filling the responsible position of cashier of the City Bank of Elm Creek, is a native of Buffalo county, his birth having occurred on the family homestead in Gardner township. His father, N. T. Bliss, was born in Pennsylvania but in early manhood removed to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and took up a claim in Gardner township. He devoted his life to agricultural pursuits and to stock dealing and gained a gratifying measure of success. He has passed away but his wife, who was in her maidenhood Miss Edith M. Rogers, survives.

E. E. Bliss was reared on the home farm and in the acquirement of his education attended the district schools and the schools of Shelton. He has been connected with banking interests for a number of years and has proven his ability as cashier of the City Bank of Elm Creek, of which his brother, C. G. Bliss, is president. The institution was organized in 1907 and during the nine years of its existence has gained a creditable place among the banks of Buffalo county. It has been so managed that the interests of depositors and stockholders have been safeguarded, while the legitimate business expansion of the community has also been furthered.

Mr. Bliss was married in 1910 to Miss Lucile Nash, a native of Kearney and a daughter of William Nash, now a resident of Portland, Oregon. Two

children have been born to this union, namely: William; and Geneva, who died November 27, 1915.

Mr. Bliss supports the republican party at the polls but has never taken a very active interest in politics, as his business activities have demanded his undivided attention. He takes a commendable interest in the public welfare and is recognized as a factor in both the financial and civic development of his community.

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### SAMUEL URWILLER.

Samuel Urwiller is now living retired at Ravenna but for thirty years was actively identified with farming interests in this county, ranking with the enterprising agriculturists of Cherry Creek township. He was born in Switzerland, July 28, 1844, a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Lerch) Urwiller, who were also natives of the land of the Alps. The father, who was a weaver by trade, came to America with his family in 1854, settling in Rochester, New York, where he was employed until 1857. He then removed to Marshall, Michigan, where he purchased land and developed a farm, continuing its operation until 1883, when he sold out and came to Nebraska, establishing his home in Buffalo county, to which district his children had preceded him. He and his wife afterward made their home with their children, Mrs. Urwiller passing away in 1886, while Mr. Urwiller survived until December 23, 1891.

Samuel Urwiller was a young lad of ten years at the time of the emigration to the new world. His youth was largely passed in Michigan, where he attended school to some extent, but he is in considerable measure a self-educated as well as a self-made man. His parents were in straitened financial circumstances and the children found it necessary to go to work early in order to provide for their own support. When but eleven years of age Samuel Urwiller secured employment at farm labor and was thus engaged until after he attained his majority. At the age of twenty-three years he began to learn the carpenter's trade, which he followed in Michigan for fifteen years. His entire life has been one of untiring industry and thrift. In 1878 he removed to Buffalo county and secured a homestead on section 4, Gardner township, but he relinquished this and removed to Cherry Creek township, purchasing a preemption of one hundred and sixty acres on section 32. He improved that farm and continued its cultivation for thirty years, transforming it into a valuable property. He resided thereon until 1908, when he rented the place and removed to Ravenna, purchasing a nice home in the western part of the town. Here he has since resided and is now enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. While upon the farm he made a specialty of raising white Hereford cattle and Poland China and Duroc-Jersey hogs. In addition to his home place in Cherry Creek township he purchased eighty acres in Gardner township and through the careful direction of his farm work won notable success.

On the 1st of April, 1868, Mr. Urwiller was united in marriage to Miss Libbie Haselton, by whom he had five children, as follows: Lewis J., who was born March 10, 1869, and resides in Florida; Frederick T., whose birth occurred



October 23, 1871, and who follows farming in Gardner township; Charles S., who was born April 21, 1874, and makes his home in Florida; Lizzie M., who was born February 2, 1877, and is the wife of Jacob Richardson, of Peru, Nebraska; and Jessie L., who was born in December, 1879, and now lives in California with her husband, A. O. George. The wife and mother passed away on the 5th of November, 1883, and on the 4th of July of the following year Mr. Urwiller was again married, his second union being with Miss Emma Vouth, a daughter of Henry and Susanna (Frost) Vouth, who were natives of London, England. The father, a fisherman in England, emigrated to Canada in 1836 and spent the remainder of his life in that country, his demise occurring in 1848. The mother, who survived him for six decades, was called to her final rest in 1908. By his second wife Mr. Urwiller had four children, namely: Dora, who was born June 11, 1885, and died on the 30th of August, 1891; Willie, who was born March 3, 1887, and cultivates his father's farm; Adeline A., who was born December 20, 1889, and is the wife of Walter Puchard, an agriculturist of Garfield township; and one who died in infancy.

In his political views Mr. Urwiller has always been an earnest democrat, giving stalwart allegiance to the party and its principles. He served as township clerk of Cherry Creek township, also as constable and for many years was a member of the school board. His religious faith is that of the Methodist church and he guides his life according to its teachings. His has been an active and well spent life and his career demonstrated what may be accomplished when energy and determination lead the way. Working his way steadily upward, he has achieved financial independence and his life record indicates that success and an honored name may be won simultaneously.

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#### FRANK D. BROWN.

The prosperity which the First Bank of Miller is enjoying is in large measure due to the business acumen and sound judgment of Frank D. Brown, who has been its cashier since its organization. He was born in the state of New York on the 9th of September, 1862, a son of A. C. and Sarah (Rogers) Brown, both likewise natives of the Empire state and both now deceased. He received his education in the public schools of his native state but when twenty-one years of age determined to try his fortune in the middle west and removed to St. Paul, Nebraska. He engaged in the stock business there until 1887, when in company with J. E. Dickerman, he organized The First Bank of Armada, which later became the First Bank of Miller and of which he has since been cashier. He is thoroughly familiar with the routine of banking practice and also understands the basic financial principles which underlie the banking business. He also keeps in close touch with local conditions and with the general trend of business throughout the country and is thus able to so direct the affairs of the bank that the interests of depositors are carefully safeguarded and at the same time dividends are returned to the stockholders.

Mr. Brown was married in January, 1888, at St. Paul, Nebraska, to Miss Nela A. Norton, likewise a native of New York, and they have two sons:



F. Ross, who is assistant cashier of the bank; and Claire Norton, who is at home.

Mr. Brown gives his political allegiance to the republican party as he believes that its policies are based upon sound principles of government. His fraternal affiliations connect him with the Masonic blue lodge and chapter, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Pythias, and in his life he exemplifies the spirit of brotherhood which is at the foundation of those orders. He has been engaged in banking in Miller for twenty-eight years and is well informed in regard to the history of the town. He furnished the data in regard to Miller for this history of Buffalo county. He has been an important factor in the business and financial life of Miller and has also done his part in promoting the civic advancement of the town.

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#### E. ARTHUR MESERVEY, D. D. S.

Dentistry is unique among the professions in that it demands efficiency and capability of a threefold nature. The successful dentist must of necessity have marked mechanical ingenuity, must add thereto broad scientific knowledge and, moreover, must have the usual business ability without which the financial interests of the profession would come to disaster. Well equipped in all of these particulars, Dr. Meservey has gained a place among the leading dentists of Buffalo county. He was born upon a farm near Fontanelle, Nebraska, April 1, 1870, and represents old families of Maine, his parents being Henry E. and Ruth (Philbrick) Meservey, who were natives of the Pine Tree state. The father was there reared and following his marriage he removed westward with his family about the time of the close of the Civil war. Nebraska was his destination and he took up his abode upon a tract of land near Fontanelle which he entered from the government. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made upon that place but he at once began its development and lived there for some time after securing title to the land. Later, however, he removed to Blair, where he opened a drug store. It was subsequent to that time that his first wife died and later he married again and continued his residence in Blair until he, too, was called to the home beyond.

Dr. E. A. Meservey completed his literary training in the Blair high school, succeeding which he was for four years employed as a clerk in a grocery store. He then took up the study of dentistry at Council Bluffs, Iowa, in connection with Dr. H. S. West, with whom he continued as an apprentice for a year and a half. In 1895 he became one of the first students in the Omaha Dental College and after studying there for two years matriculated in the dental department of the Northwestern University at Chicago, from which he was graduated with the class of 1898. Immediately afterward he came to Kearney and embarked upon the practice of his profession, in which he has since continued. In 1908 he did post-graduate work in the Northwestern University and at all times he has kept in touch with the onward march of the profession. He utilizes the most advanced methods known to dentistry and his office is splendidly equipped with modern dental appliances. He is a member of the Nebraska State Dental Society

and his prominence in the profession is indicated in the fact that in 1909 he was elected to the presidency of the state organization. He is also a member of the District Dental Society, of which he has served both as vice president and secretary. In 1913 he received the appointment of member of the state dental board, in which capacity he is now serving.

On the 17th of October, 1901, Dr. Meservey was married to Miss Ida Patience Waite, of Greenfield, Massachusetts, and they have become the parents of three children, Douglas Wyman, Doris Agnes and Bruce Waite. Dr. Meservey is a republican in his political views, fraternally he is connected with the Masons and the Elks and in religious faith is an Episcopalian. His life has ever been guided by high purposes and in his chosen calling he manifests a close conformity to the most advanced ethical standards of the profession.

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### SAMUEL CLAY BASSETT.

#### GENEALOGICAL OR ANCESTRAL RECORD OF BASSETT FAMILY.

1. John Bassett with his wife Margery came from England and located in New Haven, Connecticut, in the year 1642-3. He was sometimes called "Old Bassett" in the records. He with his son, Robert, was a committee to repair the fence and gate towards the farms, August 18, 1645. "Old Bassett" and Henry Peck were appointed by the town to set the great guns. John Bassett and his son, Robert, were appointed a committee to repair the meeting house. John died in New Haven, Connecticut, February 15, 1652. Margery died in Stamford, Connecticut, 1654.

2. Robert, son of John and Margery Bassett, born in England, married Mary \_\_\_\_\_, probably in England. He was known as "Robert the Drummer."

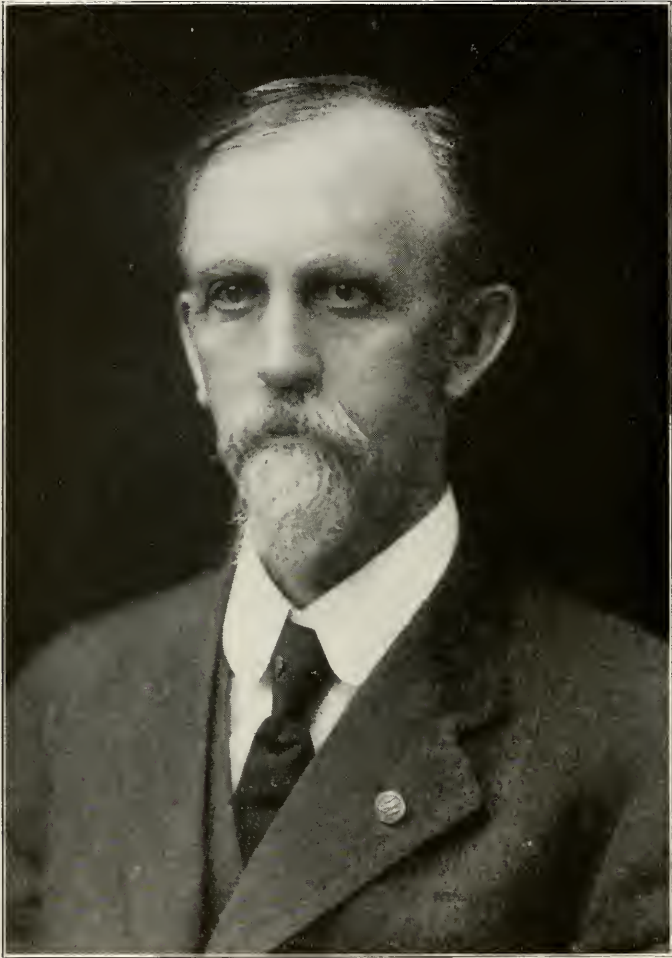
3. Robert, son of Robert and Mary Bassett, was born in 1640. In 1687 he married Elizabeth, daughter of Ensign Samuel and Sarah (Baldwin) Riggs. He located at Stratford, Connecticut, where he built a house in 1683.

4. Samuel, son of Robert and Elizabeth (Riggs) Bassett, was born November 28, 1692. In 1719 he married Deborah, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Clark) Bennett. Samuel was commissioned ensign in 1722, lieutenant in 1732 and captain in 1735. He was justice of the peace from 1739 to 1791. He represented the town of Derby in the general court from 1733 to 1764. He built a house in Derby, Connecticut, which was standing in the year 1902.

5. Joseph, son of Captain Samuel and Deborah (Bennett) Bassett, was born August 31, 1722. He married Sarah Hawkins, November 16, 1748.

6. Samuel, son of Joseph and Sarah (Hawkins) Bassett, was born June 25, 1751, and married Sally Atwell in 1791. Samuel located in Dutchess county, New York, about the year 1791. He leased a Van Rensselaer grant of land, the life of the lease expiring on the death of the last of the three persons named in the lease. This land he cleared of timber and improved until about the year 1820, when, the lease expiring, Samuel was overbid and the land was leased to a higher bidder. Samuel, disheartened and discouraged, moved with his wife and the younger children of the family to Delaware county, New York, and in





Very truly yours  
S C Bassett





MRS. SAMUEL C. BASSETT



the town of Walton he took timbered land and started again to make a home for his family. He lived but a few years, leaving his children to clear and improve the farm.

7. Clark, son of Samuel and Sally (Atwell) Bassett, was born in Dutchess county, New York, February 9, 1810. He came with his parents to Delaware county, New York, in 1820, and when fourteen years of age, his father having died, he was "bound out" for a term of seven years to learn the wagon maker's trade at Derby, Connecticut. When of age, with a suit of clothes and one hundred dollars in money, he returned to the family home and for thirteen years labored on the home farm, caring for his mother and younger and unmarried sisters. Clark, in the year 1843, married Mary M. Hanford, daughter of Stephen and Mary Hanford, and moved, in a covered wagon, to Virginia, where, in the town of Bedford, and later in the village of Big Lick, in Roanoke county, he engaged in the mercantile business and, there being no public schools, his wife, Mary, taught a private school. Being in political belief an anti-slavery whig and a reader of the New York Tribune, he realized that the slave holding state of Virginia was not a desirable place to raise a family and in the year 1851 moved to Steuben county, New York, where he purchased an improved farm on which he resided during the remainder of his life, the farm still, in the year 1915, being in possession of the youngest son of his family. Clark Bassett died in 1883; his wife Mary in 1897. In their family were seven children, Samuel C., Benjamin C., James W., Mary C., Matilda E., George S. and Emma N., all of whom lived to maturity and of whom five were still living in the year 1915.

Samuel Clay Bassett, the subject of this sketch, was born in a log cabin, in the town of Walton, Delaware county, New York, July 14, 1844. He attended a rural school and in 1861 graduated from Corning Academy at Corning, New York. In the year 1864 he enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Forty-second New York Infantry, serving until the close of the war and being honorably discharged. In the year 1867 he married Lucia M. Baker, only daughter of Enos S. and Elizabeth P. Baker, who was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, September 17, 1845. In the year 1871, with his wife and two children, he came to Nebraska, taking a soldier's homestead claim, one hundred and sixty acres, in Buffalo county, on which the family have since continuously resided, the name given this home being Echo Farm.

He was a member of the soldiers' free homestead colony, which made settlement in Buffalo county, Nebraska, April 7, 1871. He taught five terms of school, the first being the first term of winter school taught in the county, and served twenty years as a member of the school board in district No. 8. He was secretary of the first Buffalo County Agricultural Society, 1875, was a charter member and the first president of the Nebraska Dairymen's Association, 1885, of which he served for twenty-five years as secretary, was a member of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture for fourteen years and served for two terms as president of the board, 1899-1900, and was a charter member of the Nebraska Farmers' Congress, 1910, and of the Nebraska Pure Grain and Seed Growers' Association, 1912. He was secretary of the first Buffalo county republican convention in 1871, and served as a member of the state legislature in 1885 and again in 1911. He was a charter member of G. K. Warren Post, No. 113, G. A. R., 1882, of Gibbon Lodge, No. 35, A. O. U. W., 1884, of Gibbon Camp, No. 708,

M. W. A., 1885, was vice president of the Nebraska State Historical Society, 1909-15, a charter member and president of the Gibbon Library Association, 1910-12, and a charter member and first president of the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement, 1916.

Lucia (Baker) Bassett was a granddaughter of Rev. Alfred Bronson, a pioneer Methodist missionary minister who made settlement at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, in 1836. She was graduated from Cooperstown Seminary, Cooperstown, New York, with the class of 1865. A descendant of pioneers for many generations, she was imbued with the true pioneer spirit, enduring without complaint the toil and privations incident to pioneer life, taking pride and pleasure in helping to develop the resources of Buffalo county and the state of Nebraska, in preparing the way for the homes of generations of happy, prosperous people. She took an active part and interest in the social and educational life of the community. She was a charter member and served as chief of honor of Mary Tate Lodge, D. of H., 1893, was a charter member and served as president of G. K. Warren Woman's Relief Corps, No. 189, 1889, was a charter member and served as president of the Woman's Study League of Gibbon, 1904, and was a charter member of Wild Rose Camp, Royal Neighbors, M. W. A., 1893. Her death occurred February 9, 1907. She rests from her labors after a life of usefulness, filled with kind deeds to others, in Riverside cemetery, Gibbon, Nebraska. To Samuel C. and Lucia M. Bassett were born seven children, all of whom in the year 1915 were living, namely: Mary E., who married Edward M. Prouty; Clark S.; Samuel B.; Alfred B.; Martha L., who married George L. Prouty; June; and Laura Lee.

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#### CHARLES L. ZIMPFER.

Charles L. Zimpfer has the distinction of being the youngest merchant in Ravenna and although he is now only twenty-two years of age has been engaged in business on his own account for five years. He was born in Ravenna on the 9th of January, 1894, of the marriage of Louis and Louisa (Krautler) Zimpfer, both natives of Germany. They came to America in early life and first located in Fort Worth, Texas, where the father followed the baker's trade, which he had learned in Germany. After living in the Lone Star state for about twelve years they removed to Ravenna, Nebraska, and he conducted a bakery here until his death on the 22d of July, 1904. The mother continued the business for a year and then sold out. She is still living and makes her home at Ravenna, having an interest in the grocery store which is managed by our subject. There are three children in the family, namely: Helen, who was born on the 28th of October, 1892, and is associated with her brother in the conduct of the grocery business; Charles L.; and Dorothy, whose birth occurred on the 12th of March, 1899.

Charles L. Zimpfer attended school in Ravenna and completed the junior year in the high school. As he was the only son he felt it incumbent upon him to engage in business as soon as possible and thus provide for the support of the family. He then opened a grocery store with the assistance of his sister Helen.



He at once proved that he possessed a knowledge of business conditions and a soundness of judgment unusual for one of his years and the business prospered from the beginning. Although the other members of the family are interested financially in the store its management has always devolved upon him and the success which he has gained is highly creditable. He gives the closest attention to every detail of the business and his enterprise and industry leave no doubt as to his future.

Mr. Zimpfer is a member of the Masonic order and the Knights of Pythias. He is one of the important factors in the business life of Ravenna and as the years have passed his trade has constantly grown, his liberal policy and the high quality of his goods having commended him to the support of the representative people of the town. With such a record it is needless to say that he is highly esteemed by all who know him.

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#### ALBERT A. GEHRKE, D. O.

Dr. Albert A. Gehrke, of Ravenna, has gained a large practice as an osteopath and has also been connected with business interests, having conducted the Pastime Moving Picture Theater for some time, although that enterprise is now rented and managed by his son-in-law. He was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, on the 28th of February, 1861. His parents, August and Wilhelmina (Buss) Gehrke, were both born in Berlin, Germany, but in 1857 came to America and became pioneer settlers of Forest county, Wisconsin. The father purchased sixty acres of timber land, all of which he cleared in the course of time. In 1874 he removed to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and homesteaded a quarter section of land five miles east of Ravenna. He also took up a timber claim of one hundred and sixty acres and devoted the remainder of his life to the improvement of his land. He passed away in 1876 but was survived by his wife until 1892. He served during the Civil war for six months as a member of a Wisconsin regiment and was at all times loyal to his adopted country.

Dr. Albert A. Gehrke received the greater part of his education in Wisconsin, as he was thirteen years of age when the family home was established in this county. At that time this district was but sparsely settled and deer, antelope, gray foxes and other game abounded and along the Loup river beaver and similar fur bearing animals were plentiful. He shot deer on the present townsite of Ravenna and during the winters spent a great deal of time hunting and trapping. His father died when he was but fifteen years of age and the operation of the home farm devolved upon him and his brothers. As soon as they became of age they took up claims in the vicinity of the family homestead and thus acquired land which has since become valuable. Dr. Gehrke purchased a relinquishment to a homestead on the Loup river about four miles east of Ravenna and lived there for about twenty-five years, when he sold out and removed to Ravenna.

While still engaged in farming he became much interested in osteopathy and, although he was handicapped by lack of educational opportunities in his youth, he believed that he could remedy that deficiency and took up the study of anatomy and other necessary scientific studies. In 1900 he went to Omaha and took a

year's course in magnetic healing, after which he returned to Ravenna and practiced as a masseur for five years, during which time he continued his home study. At length he felt that he was ready for a college course and accordingly entered the Still College of Osteopathy in Des Moines, the leading school of osteopathy in this country if not in the world. He was graduated with the degree of D. O. with the class of 1906 and located for practice at Central City, Nebraska. In 1907, however, he became a resident of Ravenna and has since engaged in practice here. His ability is widely recognized and his practice is large and representative. In 1908, in order to secure an electric plant for use in his profession, he purchased a moving picture outfit and, being a good business man, recognized the advantage of securing the greatest use possible of his equipment and accordingly went into the moving picture business. Under his able management this venture proved successful and at length he opened a modern and thoroughly equipped moving picture theater known as the Pastime Theater. It is handsomely decorated, the films shown are of the very best and the theater is now one of the most popular places of amusement in Ravenna. Dr. Gehrke managed its affairs personally for several years but has since rented the theater to a son-in-law. He also holds title to his residence, which is commodious and well designed.

Dr. Gehrke was married December 7, 1882, to Miss Gretchen Bohn, a daughter of John and Margereth Bohn, natives of Germany. The father died in Germany in 1865 and the mother subsequently remarried. In 1872 the family emigrated to the United States and located in Grand Island, Nebraska, where the stepfather of Mrs. Gehrke engaged in farming. He passed away in 1898, and the mother died in October, 1915. Eight children have been born to Dr. and Mrs. Gehrke, of whom four died in infancy, the others being: Amanda, the wife of Joseph Eckel, a merchant of Ravenna; Rudy, a barber residing at Pueblo, Colorado; Augusta, the wife of Gust Holub, who runs the Pastime Theater of Ravenna; and Edith, who is attending school.

Dr. Gehrke has given careful study to the political and economic problems of the day and has become convinced of the correctness of the principles of the socialist party, which he accordingly supports. The success which he has made as an osteopath is highly creditable to his ability and his determination and force of character, for he did not begin his professional preparation until he was forty years of age. Many men would have considered it impossible for them to take up a professional career at that time, but he believed that he could fulfill his ambition and by dint of hard study carried out his purpose and is now ranked among the most successful physicians of Ravenna.

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#### C. G. BLISS.

C. G. Bliss, president of the City Bank of Elm Creek, which he organized in 1907, is one of the leading financiers of Buffalo county. He was born on the 10th of May, 1883, a son of N. T. Bliss, a native of Pennsylvania, who as a young man came to Buffalo county. He homesteaded land in Gardner township and for many years successfully engaged in farming and stock dealing. He

is now deceased. His widow, who was in her maidenhood Miss Edith M. Rogers, is still living.

C. G. Bliss was reared upon the home farm and received his education in the Shelton schools. After reaching mature years he engaged in the real estate business, being secretary of the Wood River Land & Loan Company, but in 1907 he turned his attention to banking, organizing at that time the City Bank of Elm Creek, of which he has since been president. He gives his careful attention to the direction of the affairs of the institution and his natural ability, combined with his close study of banking, has made him very efficient as a bank official.

Mr. Bliss was married in 1910 to Miss Jessie Stebbins, who was born in Buffalo county and is a daughter of John and Ida M. Stebbins. Two children have been born to their union, namely, John and Jessie.

Mr. Bliss supports the republican party at the polls and is at present serving acceptably as a member of the school board. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and can be counted upon to further the moral advancement of his community. He has achieved much success, although he is a young man, and his enterprise and good judgment are factors in the business expansion of Elm Creek. Personally he is popular and his sterling integrity has gained him the respect of all who have been associated with him. His entire life has been passed in Buffalo county and his accurate knowledge of conditions here has been of advantage to him in his business career. His father was one of the pioneers of the county and played well his part as one of those who have developed it from a pioneer district, and the same public spirit and regard for the general welfare have characterized Mr. Bliss of this review in his work.

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#### IRA F. HENLINE.

Ira F. Henline is a well known and highly respected resident of Kearney, deriving his income from property interests and other investments, which include connection with the Commercial Bank of Gibbon, of which he has been the president since 1912. He was born upon a farm near Bloomington, McLean county, Illinois, March 1, 1858, his parents being James J. and Sarah (Smith) Henline, who were natives of Kentucky. The father was a farmer and stock raiser and both he and his wife passed away in Illinois, where they reared their family of eleven children, nine of whom are yet living.

Ira F. Henline spent his youthful days upon his father's farm in McLean county, Illinois, and there acquired his education in the district schools, dividing his time between his textbooks and the work of the fields. He continued to follow agricultural pursuits as long as he made McLean county his home, and while he was still residing there he was married at Pontiac, Illinois, on the 12th of March, 1884, to Miss Sina E. Arbuckle.

In 1888 he came to Nebraska and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on Wood river in Center township, Buffalo county. He has since lived in this county and for about fourteen years he gave undivided attention to agricultural pursuits, making his home upon the farm on which he first settled, until the year 1902, when he removed to Buda, having in the meantime



purchased two hundred and eight acres of land adjoining that village. He thereafter continued to engage in farming but also devoted much of his attention to buying, feeding and shipping stock. Since that time he has made stock dealing an important branch of his business and from it has derived a very gratifying annual income. For a number of years he bought thousands of hogs annually and shipped them west to Portland, Oregon, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Since January, 1910, he has made his home in Kearney and from this point has carried on his business operations. He is the owner of a quarter section of land in Thornton township in addition to his property at Buda, so that his holdings now comprise three hundred and sixty-eight acres of valuable and productive land in this part of the state. In 1912 he became associated with the Commercial Bank of Gibbon and at that date was elected president, in which position he has since continued.

To Mr. and Mrs. Henline were born four children: Bernie F., who is cashier of the Commercial Bank at Gibbon; Vernie T., who is more commonly known as "Judge" and who operates a ranch at Buda and is also engaged in the live stock business; Lulu B., the wife of J. W. McKearney, of Kearney; and Beulah J. The wife and mother passed away January 13, 1914, her death being deeply regretted not only by her immediate family, but also by many friends. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and lived a life in consistent harmony with her professions. Mr. Henline also belongs to the Methodist church and he is likewise identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics he is a republican where national issues are involved, but does not hold himself bound by party ties and in his political activities frequently follows an independent course. Those who know him esteem him for his sterling worth. He fearlessly expresses his honest convictions, his position never being an equivocal one, and his influence is always given on the side of progress, improvement, justice and truth.

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#### O. O. OLSON.

O. O. Olson, who is successfully engaged in stock raising in Platte township, was born in Galesburg, Illinois, on the 1st of March, 1876, a son of Otto and Hattie (Ackerson) Olson, both natives of Sweden, whence they emigrated to the United States in 1866. They lived in Illinois until 1878, in which year they went to Phelps county, Nebraska, but subsequently removed to Cuming county, and there the father passed away, although the mother is still living. They were the parents of eight children, of whom seven survive.

O. O. Olson assisted in the operation of the homestead until he was twenty-three years of age and then assumed charge of the farm work. As the years passed he saved his money carefully and at length purchased three hundred acres of good land on sections 12, 13 and 14, Platte township. He is now living, however, upon a farm on sections 10 and 11 belonging to his wife, and he specializes in the raising of high grade horses, mules, cattle and hogs. His well





MR. AND MRS. O. O. OLSON



directed activities yield him a good return and he is ranked among the substantial men of his locality.

In 1889 Mr. Olson was married to Miss Anna Hanson, who was born in Wisconsin and is a daughter of Nels and Emelia Hanson, now residents of Kearney. Mr. and Mrs. Olson have six children, namely: Loring, Violet, Esther, Gilbert, Oren and Gladys.

The family attend the Methodist Episcopal church and take a commendable interest in its varied lines of activity. Mr. Olson is a republican in politics and for the last ten years has served on the school board. Fraternally he belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge at Gibbon, in which he has filled a number of the chairs, and to the Modern Woodmen of America. His success is the result of energy and sound judgment, and in gaining individual prosperity he has also promoted the agricultural interests of his township.

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#### BARTA KASE.

Barta Kase, who for many years has resided in Ravenna, has built up a large and gratifying patronage and derives a substantial profit from his boot and shoe business. He has been established in business in Ravenna longer than any other merchant of the town and has contributed in no small degree to its development along commercial lines. His birth occurred in Kolovec, in the province of Pilsen, Bohemia, on the 24th of August, 1861, and his parents were Paul and Eva (Kroulek) Kase, likewise natives of Bohemia. The father engaged in farming and also devoted considerable attention to the stock business and met with gratifying success in both occupations. He passed away on the 25th of December, 1914, and his wife died in 1901.

Barta Kase attended the village schools and when fifteen years of age was apprenticed to a shoemaker, his parents paying two hundred dollars for his instruction in the trade. In November, 1879, he emigrated to America and made his way to the middle west, locating at West Point, Nebraska. After working as a farm hand for a year he removed to Omaha and as he was a skilled cornet player found employment in an orchestra. Subsequently he traveled with the Sells Brothers' show as a musician and during that time met Joseph Bohac, also a musician, in connection with whom he later organized and managed a small concert band in Omaha. After four years they removed to Lincoln and conducted a band there until February, 1886, when they decided to turn their attention to business pursuits. Mr. Bohac was a harnessmaker by trade and as the Burlington Railroad was letting contracts at that time for grading the extension of their lines from Grand Island to Broken Bow the young men decided that there would be excellent business opportunities near the construction camps. They erected a small shop on the Smith place on Beaver creek and began to make and repair harness. As soon as the grading outfits came they had all the work that they could do and after the road was completed they continued in business, having in the meantime built up a permanent trade in the county. In 1891 Mr. Kase sold his interest in that business and in the same year established a shoe store in Ravenna, which had grown up at the point which he and Mr.

Bohac had chosen for the location of their harness shop. He has since continued in the boot and shoe business and has the only store dealing exclusively in shoes in the town. He carries a large and diversified stock of high grade footwear and his thorough knowledge of everything pertaining to the making of shoes has been of great advantage to him as a merchant. He is one of the most prosperous business men of Ravenna and in addition to owning the building in which his store is located has erected a commodious residence for himself and has also built each of his children a home.

Mr. Kase was married in May, 1884, to Miss Annie Maly, a daughter of John and Magdalena Maly, natives of Bohemia, who settled in Saunders county, Nebraska, in 1867. They took up a homestead eight miles from Wahoo and lived thereon for many years. At length, however, they retired and removed to Ravenna, where the father passed away in 1897 and where the mother is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Kase had three children. Joseph, who was born in August, 1885, died in the same year. Joseph, second of the name, whose birth occurred on the 22d of October, 1886, was the first male child born in Ravenna. He is now engaged in railroading and resides in Ravenna. Bessie, who was born in April, 1888, is the wife of John Chandler, manager of the telephone company at Loup City, Nebraska.

Mr. Kase supports the republican party at the polls and along fraternal lines is connected with the Knights of Pythias. His religious faith is that of the Roman Catholic church. He has never ceased to give a great deal of attention to music and is still at the head of the Ravenna band, which he and Mr. Bohac organized and which has done much to promote an interest in music in the town. As he located here before the town was thought of he has witnessed its entire development and takes justifiable pride in the fact that he has done much to promote its advancement along various lines of activity.

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#### GEORGE MILLER.

George Miller is a fine type of a self-made man—a man who is not disheartened by a lack of unusual opportunity but who resolutely makes the best of conditions as they are and through enterprise and good judgment eventually wins success. He has at all times depended upon his own resources and is now one of the wealthy men of Buffalo county, owning seventeen hundred and eighty-four acres of fine land in the county. He resides in Elm Creek township and has brought all of his land to a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Miller was born in Delaware county, New York, on the 9th of February, 1841, a son of William and Fanny (Hicks) Miller, also natives of the Empire state. They removed to Iowa when our subject was but a small child and two years later went to Missouri, where they resided until the Civil war, at which time removal was made to Jones county, Iowa. There the mother passed away, but the father died in Audubon county, that state.

George Miller was reared upon the home farm in Missouri and when sixteen years of age began freighting across the plains, making several trips to Mexico and subsequently going to Wyoming. While there he worked for contractors



who were freighting for the government and while in their employ drove six yoke of oxen, there often being twenty-five teams in a train, and he met with many interesting experiences in those pioneer days. In August, 1871, he removed to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and purchased a timber claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Elm Creek township. For the first year he lived in a dugout but at the end of that time built his present home. In a comparatively short time he had his land under cultivation and was receiving a gratifying income therefrom. As soon as he had accumulated sufficient capital he invested in more land and gradually has added to his holdings until he now owns ten hundred and fifty-four acres in a body in Elm Creek township and seven hundred and thirty acres in Logan township. In managing his business affairs he has manifested a progressive spirit and a well founded faith in the agricultural future of the county, and the wisdom of his course has been vindicated as he is now financially independent.

Mr. Miller was married, in Jones county, Iowa, to Miss Angela Cohoon, a native of that county, who passed away on the 29th of August, 1912. For six years previous to this the family had resided in Arkansas for the benefit of her health. She was the mother of nine children, namely: Alma, at home; Howard, who is married and resides on land belonging to his father; Archie, who is also farming land belonging to his father and is married; Bert, who is operating some of his father's land and is married; Kate, the wife of Harry Skinner, of Pueblo, Colorado; Georgia, the wife of John Loibl, of Elm Creek; Roy, who is operating his father's farm in Logan township and is married; and Harry and Dolly, both of whom died in infancy.

Mr. Miller has been a member of the Methodist church for many years and takes a commendable interest in its work. His wife was likewise identified with that church. He votes the democratic ticket but has never sought public office. His observation has convinced him of the great evil wrought by the liquor traffic and he is a stalwart worker in the cause of temperance. Although he is a man of wealth and has reached the age at which many retire he is still a hard worker and finds much satisfaction in activity.

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### J. W. FRANK, M. D.

Dr. J. W. Frank has resided in Elm Creek for thirty years and was for many years a leading physician and surgeon but is now practically retired. His birth occurred in Marysville, Ohio, on the 12th of January, 1841. His parents were W. H. and Rachel (Wolford) Frank, both likewise natives of Ohio. In 1856 they removed with their family to Henry county, Iowa, and in 1883 became residents of Kearney, Nebraska, where both passed away. The father was by trade a carpenter and joiner.

J. W. Frank passed his boyhood in Ohio and Iowa and received his general education in the common schools. On the 3d of October, 1861, he enlisted in Company D, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, for three years and while with his command fought in several important engagements, such as the battles of Memphis and Meridian and the siege of Vicksburg. He was on board the Maria going from

St. Louis to Memphis when the ship was blown up on the 11th of December, 1864, and he received terrible injuries, his legs being broken in five places. He was sent to a hospital at St. Louis, where he remained until discharged in July, 1864. He has never fully recovered from the effects of his injuries.

After his discharge from the hospital Dr. Frank returned to Henry county, Iowa, and, having determined on the practice of medicine as a life work, entered the Keokuk Medical College, from which he received the M. D. degree on the completion of the course. He then located in Mahaska county, Iowa, for practice and remained there until 1883, when he came to Nebraska. For two years he was located in Phelps county, just south of Elm Creek, to which town he removed in 1885. He has since resided there and until three years ago was very active in practice. At that time he removed his office to his home, expecting to retire, but as his old patients still call him he has never given up his practice. He has won a gratifying measure of success in his chosen profession, due to his careful preparation, his close study of the cases intrusted to him and his wide reading, which has kept him in touch with the advance in medical science. He owns a good farm in Elm Creek township and derives therefrom a gratifying financial return.

Dr. Frank was married in Mahaska county, Iowa, to Miss Martha Frances Johnson, a native of Ohio and a daughter of Samuel and Frances (Gillogly) Johnson, who were also born in that state, whence they removed to Mahaska county, Iowa, during the Civil war. Six children have been born to Dr. and Mrs. Frank, namely: Lena, the wife of Mark Jones, a merchant of Elm Creek; Myrtle, who married Albert Calhoun, of Kearney; Josie, the wife of Hugh Graham, a resident of Montana; Mina, who married Fred Shumaker, of Elm Creek; Jessie, at home; and Joseph Vern, who resides on his father's farm. There are also fourteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Dr. Frank casts his ballot in support of the men and measures of the republican party and a number of years ago served as a member of the city council and of the school board and also held other local offices. He holds membership in the Grand Army post at Kearney and finds much pleasure in associating with his comrades of the '60s. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Both are widely and favorably known and their worth is indicated by the fact that those who have been brought into closest contact with them are their warmest friends.

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#### WYMAN S. CLAPP.

Important business interests claim the attention of Wyman S. Clapp, who is active in the control and management of the Kearney Telephone Company as its secretary and treasurer and also of the Lake Kearney Ice Company, of which he is one of the principal stockholders. His residence in this state covers a period of twenty-seven years, during which time he has not only won a creditable and enviable position in business circles but has also taken an active part in public affairs relating to municipal conditions. Of New England nativity, he was born



WYMAN S. CLAPP





at Deerfield, Franklin county, Massachusetts, October 30, 1862, a son of Thomas G. and Hannah (Ball) Clapp.

Mr. Clapp was reared upon a farm and attended the public schools in early youth, passing through consecutive grades to his graduation from the Deerfield high school. He continued his studies during his last year in high school under trying circumstances. He had to work on the farm during the day, master his lessons at night and twice a week he would go to Deerfield to recite, but he kept up with his class and the resolution and spirit of ambition which he displayed at that time have remained characteristics of his later life. He continued to work at farm labor until he reached the age of twenty-three years, when he entered the employ of H. D. Watson, proprietor of a Greenfield publishing house, as bookkeeper. In February, 1890, he came west for Mr. Watson, who had preceded him and had established a real estate business in Kearney. Here he entered Mr. Watson's office as bookkeeper and confidential man and continued with him in that capacity until 1898 but two years before began in the fire insurance business in a small way. In 1898 he purchased the business of Sherwood & Baldwin, one of the old fire and accident insurance agencies of Kearney, and since that time has been recognized as one of the leading representatives of insurance interests in Kearney and this part of the state. He has extended the scope of his activities to include life insurance and he also handles surety bonds and has added real estate dealing to his other lines. About 1893 he became a stockholder of the Home Telephone Company, which in 1905 was merged into the Kearney Telephone Company. Of the former he was secretary and treasurer and after its consolidation with the latter he continued in the same official position and is acting in that capacity at the present time. He is likewise the principal stockholder of the Lake Kearney Ice Company, which is conducting a business of large and gratifying proportions. His varied interests are extensive and important, bringing him prominently before the public as a foremost representative of commercial and financial activity.

In November, 1888, Mr. Clapp was married to Miss Agnes T. Wait, of Greenfield, Massachusetts. He is prominently and widely known through his fraternal relations and is especially active in Masonic circles. He belongs to the blue lodge and chapter at Kearney, the consistory at Hastings, in which he has taken the thirty-second degree, and the council at Lexington. He has served as high priest at Kearney Chapter, No. 23, R. A. M., and as eminent commander of Mount Hebron Commandery, No. 2, K. T. He was appointed grand captain of the guard of the Grand Commandery of Nebraska in 1910; was grand warden in 1911; grand standard bearer in 1912; was elected grand junior warden in 1913; became grand senior warden in 1914 and in 1915 was elected to his present position, that of grand captain general. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. In politics he is an earnest democrat where national issues are involved but casts an independent local ballot, supporting men and measures rather than party. For six years he served as a member of the city council, during which time he was a member of the finance committee and for the greater part of that time was its chairman. He also acted as president of the city council and he exercised his official prerogatives in support of many plans and measures for the public good. His work resulted beneficially for the city and the worth of his labors was acknowledged

by all fair-minded men. Mr. Clapp has made steady advancement in his business career, progressing step by step and gaining at every point a broader outlook and wider opportunities.

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### H. HENRY RASMUSSEN.

Among the men who are ranked as important factors in the commercial life of Ravenna is H. Henry Rasmussen, the proprietor of a well stocked grocery store. His birth occurred in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, on the 24th of August, 1861, and he is a son of Lawrence and Gondeline (Friede) Rasmussen, likewise natives of that country. The father followed the occupation of farming and lived on Sylt island in the North Sea, which was a popular summer resort. One night in the winter of 1869 he and several others went across the ice to the mainland for the mail and he never returned, having broken through the ice and been drowned. Subsequently they found his body, which was taken home for burial. His wife passed away in 1868.

H. Henry Rasmussen was thus left an orphan when eight years of age but nevertheless he received good educational opportunities, completing a thorough common school course. When fifteen years of age he was bound out as a locksmith's apprentice and after devoting three years to learning the trade worked thereat in Hamburg and elsewhere. When twenty-two years of age he emigrated to the United States and for a year worked in a plumbers' supply factory in Chicago but at the end of that time went to Rock Island, Illinois, where he found employment in a locksmith's shop. After devoting a year to farm work he came to Nebraska in 1886 and became connected with a store at Syracuse. The following year he went to Nebraska City and devoted two years to clerking in a general store there, after which he was similarly employed in Lincoln for three years. Desiring to go into business on his own account, he removed to Alva, Nebraska, and turned his attention to well drilling but met with a severe accident which incapacitated him for further work along that line. He again became connected with merchandising, securing a position as salesman in the Boston Store at Omaha. His ability led to his promotion and for seven years he had charge of an important department in the store. Not being satisfied to work for others, he accordingly resigned his position and for a year had charge of the Singer Sewing Machine office at Harlan, Iowa, on a commission basis. At the end of that time he reentered the Boston Store at Omaha, where he remained until 1902. He then accepted a position as manager of the C. J. Stevens mercantile business in Ravenna, where he remained for two years, or until the store was sold. At that time he bought a small stock of confectionery and enlarged the business as rapidly as his limited capital would permit. In time he added a full line of groceries and as the years have passed his trade has shown a steady growth, and he now has one of the leading groceries in Ravenna. He carries a large stock and has built up an enviable reputation for reasonable prices and fair dealing.

Mr. Rasmussen was married in Lincoln, in 1890, to Miss Mattie Copley, a daughter of John and Mary Copley, natives respectively of Ireland and Scotland.

They came to America in young manhood and womanhood and for a time lived in New York, where the father engaged in farming. Subsequently he followed that occupation in Champaign county, Illinois, but in 1883 the family removed to Nebraska, locating near Unadilla, where the father bought a quarter section of land. He concentrated his energies upon the development of his farm and continued to follow agricultural pursuits until his demise, which occurred in 1900. His wife survives and resides with our subject. To Mr. and Mrs. Rasmussen have been born four sons, John, Roy, Earl and Hugh.

Mr. Rasmussen supports the democratic party at the polls but has never taken a very active part in politics as his business affairs have required practically his entire attention. His fraternal connections are with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America, and in religion he is a Lutheran. He deserves much credit for what he has accomplished as a business man, for he has depended solely upon his own resources and through his sound judgment, careful attention to details and his strict adherence to high standards of business honor he has gained a gratifying measure of success. In addition to his store he owns his residence and is recognized as one of the substantial men of Ravenna. The same qualities which have enabled him to make a place for himself in the business world have also gained him the respect and esteem of all who have been associated with him.

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### JOSEPH SMAHA.

Joseph Smaha, who for three decades has been engaged in the meat market business in Ravenna, was born at Neiarn, Bohemia, near the Bavarian border, on the 25th of November, 1863. His father, Joseph Smaha, was also a native of that country, but his mother, who bore the maiden name of Frances Hermann, was German by birth. The father engaged in farming for some time but when our subject was two years of age removed to Domazlice, a city of about twenty thousand inhabitants, and there he became an innkeeper. Four years later a removal was made to the village of Meletice, where both parents resided until called by death. The demise of the father occurred on the 12th of December, 1873, but the mother survived for many years, dying on the 30th of July, 1912, at the venerable age of eighty-seven years.

Joseph Smaha received his education in his native country and when fourteen years of age decided to try his fortune in the new world. He made the trip to the United States alone and had a narrow escape from death while on the voyage, as the ship collided with another vessel in a heavy fog in mid ocean. One of the ships sank but the passengers were transferred to the other vessel, which managed to reach New York in a crippled condition. Mr. Smaha made his way at once to Nebraska, joining his brother George at Omaha. After a short time he went to Wahoo, Saunders county, and for a year was employed as a hired hand there. He then returned to Omaha and after working in a packing house for three months entered a meat market there and learned the butcher's trade. In the fall of 1880 he went to David City, where his brother had established a market, but two years later our subject turned his attention to other



work, going out with a government surveying party to the Bad Lands district seventy-five miles northwest of Fort Niobrara, Nebraska.

Subsequently Mr. Smaha worked at the butcher's trade in Lincoln and Omaha and in 1886 came with his brother George to Ravenna, Buffalo county, Nebraska, and established a meat business here. The town had been founded only a short time before and proved an excellent location for a market. The brothers continued in business together for four years, at the end of which time our subject bought his brother's interest and became sole owner of the meat market. For more than twenty years he was alone in the management of the business, but when his oldest son reached mature years he took him into partnership and the business is now conducted under the name of Joseph Smaha & Sons. His second son, Adolph O., is now also connected with the business. Mr. Smaha understands everything pertaining to the butcher's trade and the conduct of a meat market and as he adds to this thorough knowledge, good judgment, enterprise and unswerving integrity, it is but natural that he should have built up a large and profitable patronage. He owns the building in which his business is located and also holds title to forty acres of land adjoining Ravenna and two good residence properties in the town.

In August, 1882, Mr. Smaha was united in marriage to Miss Lucy Slavik, a daughter of Matt and Frances (Masek) Slavik, natives of Bohemia, who emigrated to America about 1872. The father was a farmer by occupation and purchased land in Butler county, Nebraska, which he operated for many years. At length, having accumulated a competence, he retired from active life and made his home with Mr. Smaha until his demise in July, 1905. His wife survives at the age of eighty-nine years and is living with our subject.

To Mr. and Mrs. Smaha have been born ten children, namely: Joseph F., who was born on the 9th of December, 1883, and is engaged in business with his father; Minnie, whose birth occurred June 9, 1885, and who is teaching school in California; Adolph O., who was born on the 18th of November, 1888, and is also associated with his father in business; Elizabeth, born April 16, 1891, Emil, born March 21, 1894, Blanch, born March 28, 1898, and Eldine, born July 31, 1908, all of whom are at home; and three who died in infancy.

Mr. Smaha believes in the principles of the republican party and loyally supports its candidates at the polls. He has served as a member of the town council and is at the present time a member of the fire department, of which he was the first chief. He has always discharged his official duties with a conscientious regard for the public welfare and is recognized as a good citizen. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias, of which he is a charter member, and to the Modern Woodmen of America, and his religious belief is that of the Methodist church, to which he belongs. He deserves much credit for what he has accomplished, for he came to America when a boy of fourteen years and not only had to meet the usual obstacles that confront one who starts out in life without capital or the aid of influential friends, but he also had the additional handicap of being unable to understand English. However, he soon acquired a good knowledge of the language and his enterprise and determination have enabled him to win a gratifying measure of prosperity. In 1912 he turned over the management of his shop to his son, and he and his two daughters, Minnie and Elizabeth, and his son Adolph O. made a trip to Bohemia, as he wished to



visit his aged mother whom he had not seen since he left home as a boy of fourteen years. They spent about a year in Europe and after his return Mr. Smaha again became actively connected with the conduct of his business.

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### O. J. LLOYD.

O. J. Lloyd, a retired farmer living in Elm Creek, has been honored by his fellow citizens by election to the office of mayor and is efficiently and conscientiously discharging the duties devolving upon him. His birth occurred in Bunker township, Mercer county, Illinois, on the 19th of March, 1851, and he is a son of James and Catherine (Burroughs) Lloyd, the former born in Erie, Pennsylvania, on the 3d of September, 1827, and the latter in Salem, New Jersey, on the 26th of February, 1825. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Benijah Lloyd, settled at Millersburg, Mercer county, Illinois, in 1834 and took up land on a soldier's claim. He was a tailor by trade. He passed away at Millersburg, as did his wife, who was in her maidenhood Elizabeth Dunn. The parents of our subject were married on the 15th of February, 1850, in Mercer county, Illinois, to which place the father had removed as a boy with his parents in 1834. He engaged in farming there on reaching mature years and became the owner of three hundred and eighty acres of excellent land. He also owned land in Nebraska and was in good circumstances. He passed away in Mercer county on the 21st of October, 1901. His religious faith was that of the Presbyterian church and he gave his political allegiance to the democratic party. He served as assessor of his township and made an excellent record in that capacity. His wife makes her home with our subject and on the 26th of February, 1916, celebrated her ninety-first birthday.

O. J. Lloyd was reared upon the home farm in Mercer county, Illinois, and for a considerable period engaged in farming independently there, as he owned a valuable tract of land in that county. In 1887 he sold out and came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, passing the first winter in Elm Creek in order to give his children the advantages of the schools here. On the 8th of January, 1888, when he was living in Elm Creek, occurred the terrible blizzard, which is still remembered for its severity. The following spring he took up his residence upon his farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Dawson county and resided there for many years. In 1896 he removed to Elm Creek, but after making his home here for two years returned to the farm, where he resided until 1913, when he retired and again took up his residence in Elm Creek. He was prompt and enterprising in carrying on the work of his farm and his progressive methods, combined with his successful management of the business phase of farming, enabled him to gain more than a competence.

Mr. Lloyd was married in Mercer county, Illinois, to Miss Frankie Vernon, who was born in that county and died in February, 1895. To them were born five children. Ray V., who was born January 13, 1873, is living on his father's farm in Dawson county. Earl E., whose birth occurred on the 17th of May, 1874, received his education in the Elm Creek schools. He later worked for a time in a bank, after which he entered the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad

as timekeeper. He has since worked his way steadily upward and is now holding a good position in the auditing department of that road at Omaha. Oliver M. was born on the 11th of November, 1878, and likewise received his education in the Elm Creek schools. While employed with a surveying gang on a railroad the district engineer noted his ability and helped him to secure training as a civil engineer. He is now engineer for mines near Salt Lake City. Florence, who was born September 28, 1880, married Charles Shepherd, a railroad man living at Pocatello, Idaho. Bessie, whose birth occurred on the 21st of June, 1887, is at home. In 1898 Mr. Lloyd was married the second time, Miss Emma Callendine becoming his wife, but she is now deceased.

Mr. Lloyd is a stalwart democrat and has held a number of local offices. In 1897, while living in Elm Creek, he served as president of the village board and while living in Dawson county served as assessor of his township and lacked but fifteen votes of being elected county clerk. He is now serving as mayor, or as president of the village board of Elm Creek, of which he had for two years previously been a member. He has always discharged his official duties with an eye single to the public welfare, and his record as an office holder is creditable alike to his ability and his integrity. Fraternally he is connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Degree of Honor and the Modern Woodmen of America, all of Elm Creek, and his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a man of great energy and unusual soundness of judgment and these qualities have been important factors in his success as a farmer and in his influence as a man of affairs.

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#### H. S. STEELE.

H. S. Steele, one of the well-to-do and successful farmers of Elm Creek township, is entitled to honor as a veteran of the Civil war, having served throughout that conflict as a member of an Ohio regiment. He was born in what is now West Virginia on the 25th of November, 1840, the only son of James and Caroline Steele, natives of Virginia. He was left an orphan at an early age and was reared by his maternal grandmother. While still a boy he removed to Ross county, Ohio, and later to Fayette county, that state. In 1861 he enlisted at Washington Courthouse, Ohio, in Company A, Fifty-fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and remained with that command for three years and three weeks. He took part in the following engagements, Shiloh, Chickasaw Swamps, Fort Heinman, Corinth, Vicksburg, Atlanta and Jonesburg. He was never wounded although he had a number of very narrow escapes, having the bottom of his canteen shot off at Shiloh and on one occasion having his musket knocked out of his hand by a spent cannon ball. At another time a minie ball passed through his belt.

After Mr. Steele was honorably discharged from military service he removed to Woodford county, Illinois, where he remained until 1873, when he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska. He had a soldier's claim and took up one hundred and sixty acres of land in Elk Creek township, on which he has since lived. He passed through the usual pioneer experiences and in addition to the hardships



H. S. STEELE AND FAMILY





incident to all life on the frontier had to contend with the grasshopper plagues and with droughts. He never wavered, however, in his faith in the ultimate prosperity of the country and this belief has been justified as he has seen his land increase greatly in value and as he has gained financial success. He owns three hundred and sixty acres in Elm Creek township and one hundred and sixty acres in Perkins county, this state, and derives a gratifying income from his land. He has always been progressive in his work, and his industry and good management have enabled him to accumulate a competence.

In 1870 Mr. Steele was united in marriage at Bloomington, Illinois, to Miss Mary Frances Lucas, who was born in Kentucky on the 10th of July, 1851, a daughter of Thomas and Minerva Lucas, natives of the Blue Grass state, who, however, were living in Woodford county, Illinois, at the time of their daughter's marriage. They subsequently came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and both passed away here. To Mr. and Mrs. Steele have been born seven children, namely: Laura M., the wife of William Schrack, of Elm Creek; Charles, who is farming in Phelps county; Bert, a farmer of Elm Creek township; and Elmer and Ellsworth, twins, Clifford and William Henry, all four of whom are at home.

Mr. Steele supports the republican party as a rule although if the occasion demands he votes an independent ticket. He has served as a member of the school board and has at all times manifested a commendable interest in the educational advancement of his district. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and their many excellent qualities have won them the respect and esteem of all who have been brought in contact with them. Mr. Steele proved his patriotism when as a young man he enlisted in the Union army and it is characteristic of him that he should meet to the full every obligation resting upon him.

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#### WALTER S. NICHOLS, B. V. Sc.

Dr. Walter S. Nichols, of Ravenna, has a large and profitable practice as a veterinarian and owns a modern, well equipped veterinary hospital. His birth occurred in Marshall county, Iowa, on the 13th of May, 1882, and he is a son of Horace M. and Mary T. (Tomlinson) Nichols, both natives of Marshall county, Iowa, the former born in 1854 and the latter in 1855. The father farmed in his native county until 1910, when he retired and removed to Stroud, Oklahoma, where he still resides. In April, 1890, his wife was called to her reward.

Dr. Nichols was reared in Marshall county, Iowa, and received his early education in the public schools of Marshalltown. Subsequently he devoted three years to the study of agriculture in the State College at Ames and in the fall of 1902 he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and purchased a farm seven miles north of Gibbon. He operated that place until 1907, when he sold out and entered the University of Toronto at Toronto, Canada, where he took a veterinary course, graduating in April, 1910. In May of that year he returned to Buffalo county and located at Ravenna, where he has since remained. He has been very successful in his chosen profession and has gained the confidence

of the public and of his professional colleagues. In 1911 he erected an office and also a hospital, which is provided with all of the equipment of an up-to-date institution of the kind. In 1915 he built a good residence adjoining the hospital and he also owns other residence property in Ravenna which he rents, and holds title to a good farm in Keith county, this state. He is likewise a stockholder and director of the Sweetwater State Bank and financially he is in comfortable circumstances.

Dr. Nichols was married on the 24th of December, 1911, to Miss Esther Newberg, a daughter of George and Trina (Anderson) Newberg, natives respectively of Sweden and Norway. In 1880 they became settlers of Sherman county, Nebraska, locating eight miles north of Ravenna, where the father took up a homestead which he has since improved and operated. He has reached the age of seventy years and his wife is sixty-eight years old.

Dr. Nichols is a republican in his political belief but his professional duties have left him little time to take an active part in public affairs. He is a Methodist and fraternally his connection is with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He holds membership in the State Veterinary Medical Association and the Missouri Valley Veterinary Medical Association and in this way and by constant reading keeps in touch with the advanced thought that is being made in veterinary science. He has gained a wide acquaintance and his many excellent qualities have enabled him to win the warm regard and the respect of all with whom he has been associated.

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### REX M. JONES.

Rex M. Jones, a retired farmer living at Elm Creek, has witnessed much of the development of Buffalo county, as he has resided here for about forty-five years. His birth occurred at Norristown, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, on the 30th of October, 1838, his parents being Mark and Eliza (Shearer) Jones, likewise natives of that county. The paternal grandfather, John Jones, was a native of Wales and met his death in 1850 by being kicked by a horse. The father of our subject was a wheelwright by trade but in his later years engaged in buying and shipping stock, and it was he who shipped the first load of cattle into Philadelphia over the Pennsylvania Central Railroad. A celebration was held in Philadelphia when the train arrived, as the importance of new railroad connections was recognized.

Rex M. Jones was intimately acquainted with Andrew Carnegie as a boy, as they often played together, and Mr. Carnegie drove boat mules on the Schuylkill river for our subject's grandfather. Mr. Jones received his education in the common schools and still has a picture of the schoolhouse where he attended school and on the picture is written "Plymouth Quaker Meeting House, built prior to 1680." When twelve years of age he entered the employ of Dan Rice, the famous show man of the early days, whose winter quarters were near his home. He drove the five horse team of the band wagon from Norristown, Pennsylvania, to Marion county, Ohio, being with the show the entire summer. In 1871 he removed to Yates City, Illinois, and was living there at the time of

the great Chicago fire. In December of that year he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land in what is now Elm Creek township. In March of the following year his family joined him and they took up their home upon the farm, which was totally unimproved. For a number of years they lived in a sod house but at length were able to erect a good frame residence. At the time that they settled in this county there was nothing at the town of Elm Creek save a railway station and a section house. Mr. Jones engaged in farming upon his place and not only brought his land to a high state of cultivation but also made many improvements upon it. About 1905 he put aside the active work of the fields and removed to Elm Creek, where he is now enjoying a period of well deserved leisure made possible by his well directed labors of the past.

Mr. Jones was married in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, February 16, 1860, to Miss Mary Elizabeth Hart White, who was also born in Norristown. They have had four children, namely: William, who is working in the shops at North Platte, Nebraska; Elva, the wife of Ed Fitzgerald; Mark J., a merchant of Elm Creek; and Nettie, who died while attending school at Norristown, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Jones is a republican and although he has never held office has been quite influential in local political affairs, his support of a candidate going far toward securing his election. His people were stanch abolitionists at the time of the agitation against slavery and he himself drove many a slave over the underground railroad. His family were members of the Friends church and he has never departed from the faith in which he was reared. At the time of the Civil war he met and shook hands with Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, and he has many interesting reminiscences of that period of the country's history. In 1894 he visited his old home in Norristown, Pennsylvania, and he has in his possession a picture of the house in which he was born. He has gained his success by industry and good management, and the leisure which he now enjoys is well deserved. During the '50s he worked for twenty-five and fifty cents a day, but by the time that he removed to this county he had accumulated considerable capital so that, although he had to endure some hardships in this new region, he did not suffer as did some of the settlers.

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#### EDWARD C. STANTON.

Edward C. Stanton, who is successfully conducting a retail liquor business in Ravenna, was born in Grundy county, Illinois, on the 7th of July, 1866, a son of Patrick and Mary (Dorgan) Stanton, natives respectively of La Salle county, Illinois, and Ireland. The father devoted his life to farming and followed agricultural pursuits in Grundy county, Illinois, until 1880, when he removed to Clay county, Nebraska. After renting land there for eight years he went to the vicinity of Kearney and purchased a farm which he cultivated until 1910. In that year he retired from active life and removed to Hartwell, where he is still living. His wife also survives.

Edward C. Stanton was reared and educated in his native county and

remained with his parents until he reached the age of thirty-one years. He then rented a farm which he operated for five years, at the end of which time he engaged in the saloon business at Gibbon. Two years later he came to Ravenna and for the past fourteen years he has conducted a retail liquor business here. He is a man of enterprise and good business judgment and is now in comfortable circumstances.

On the 19th of June, 1905, Mr. Stanton was united in marriage to Miss Tonnie Hildebrand. Her parents, John and Josephine (Slodivenik) Hildebrand, were born in Bohemia but became early settlers of Sherman county, Nebraska, where the father engaged in farming until his demise in 1888. The mother afterward married James Kostal, who is engaged in farming in Sherman county. Mr. and Mrs. Stanton have a son, Edward P., whose birth occurred in June, 1908.

Mr. Stanton supports the republican party at the polls but has never had the time nor inclination to take an active part in political affairs. Fraternally he is identified with the Woodmen of the World and his religious faith is that of the Roman Catholic church. He is well known in Ravenna and since locating here has gained many friends.

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### JUNIUS S. DONNELL.

Junius S. Donnell is a comparatively recent addition to the citizenship of Kearney and Buffalo county, but already has made for himself an enviable and creditable place in the business and financial circles of the city, being now president of the Central National Bank. He is honored and respected by all who know him, not alone by reason of the success he has achieved but also because of the straightforward business policy which he has ever followed. He was born at Oak Ridge, North Carolina, on the 8th of February, 1865, and the first twenty-one years of his life were passed in that locality, during which period he worked upon the home farm and completed his educational training at the Oak Ridge high school. During the summer of 1886, having attained his majority, he went to Kansas and embarked in mercantile pursuits at Ness City. Two years later he became a resident of Dotham, Missouri, where for ten years he continued in the same line of business. It was on the expiration of that period that he entered upon his banking career, serving as cashier of the Exchange Bank in Fairfax, Missouri, for six years, then becoming the owner of the Farmers & Merchants Bank at Craig, Missouri, which he operated for five years.

In 1910 Mr. Donnell removed to Kearney and entered business circles here as assistant cashier of the City National Bank, bringing with him the ripe experience of a successful business man and banker. Two years later he became the cashier of the Central National Bank and in 1915 was elected its president, the position which he now occupies. He is bending his energies toward administrative direction and executive control and the wisdom of his judgment and his keen sagacity find expression in the growing success of the institution of which he is the head.

In January, 1901, Mr. Donnell was united in marriage to Miss Una Whitford, and to them have been born two children, Marian and Francis. The family





JUNIUS S. DONNELL



attend the services of the Christian church and are interested in the moral progress of the community. Mr. Donnell is also a member of the Kearney Commercial Club and cooperates heartily in all of its plans and projects for the city's upbuilding and development. Fraternally he is connected with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Knights of Pythias, and his political allegiance is given to the democratic party. He now considers Kearney as his permanent home and is interested in all that pertains to its welfare and the substantial growth of the community.

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### JOHN F. DAUL.

John F. Daul, who owns five hundred acres of excellent land, is one of the most successful and progressive farmers of Elm Creek township. He was born in Washington county, Wisconsin, thirty miles north of Milwaukee, on the 26th of May, 1852. A sketch of his father, Frederick Daul, appears elsewhere in this work. During our subject's childhood the family removed to Kewaunee county, Wisconsin, and there he grew to mature years. In 1873 removal was made to Buffalo county, Nebraska, the father, who was quite well-to-do, chartering a car and shipping a team of horses and his household goods by rail. The family settled in what is now Elm Creek township, where the father purchased a half section of railroad land.

John F. Daul had but limited school advantages, as, being the oldest in the family, he had to go to work when a boy. He received thorough training under his father in all kinds of agricultural labor and continued to assist with the operation of the home farm until he was thirty-five years of age. He then located upon his present place, which he has brought to a high state of development. He has made all of the improvements, which compare favorably with those of other farms in the neighborhood, and has carefully conserved the fertility of the soil. He holds title to five hundred acres of land, from which he derives a gratifying income. For a few years he lived elsewhere, but has again taken up his residence on his farm. While living in Wisconsin he began running a threshing outfit and continued in that business for twenty-four consecutive seasons, becoming very expert in that work. He claims that in the twenty-four years he did not waste as much grain as most threshers of the present day do on one job, as he not only understood the business thoroughly but also took pains to do the work well and to avoid waste.

Mr. Daul was married in 1880 in this county to Miss Addie E. Milbourn, who was born in McLean county, Illinois, but accompanied her parents to this county in 1872. Further mention of her father, Washington Milbourn, appears elsewhere in this work. Previous to her marriage she worked for others, receiving a wage of one dollar per week. To Mr. and Mrs. Daul have been born two children. John O., who is a hardware merchant of Elm Creek, married Miss Olive Fitzgerald, a daughter of Daniel Fitzgerald, an early settler of Buffalo county. She passed away leaving a daughter, Mary Alice, now three years old, who is living with our subject and his wife. Fred, the younger son, is living with his parents. He has spent considerable time in the west and owns two

hundred acres of land near Baker, Oregon, and one hundred and sixty acres in Colorado.

Mr. Daul is independent in politics, voting for the man rather than the party. At one time he served as township treasurer and proved a very capable and conscientious official. Both he and his wife belong to the Catholic church, in the work of which they take a commendable interest. They are widely known throughout the county in which they have lived for many years, and their genuine worth is indicated in the fact that those who have been most intimately associated with them are their staunchest friends.

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### GADDIS P. HAGEMAN.

Gaddis P. Hageman, who is living retired in Ravenna, is entitled to honor as a veteran of the Civil war, having served in that conflict as a member of an Ohio regiment. He was born in Milford, Clermont county, Ohio, on the 17th of September, 1841, and his parents, Simon and Delilah (Wood) Hageman, were also born in that state, where they continued to reside until about 1863, when they removed with their family to Johnson, Nemaha county, Nebraska. The father followed the tailor's trade throughout his life and was very successful in that connection. He passed away when almost eighty-six years of age, on the 30th of September, 1903, and was survived by his wife until the 27th of November, 1904, her demise occurring when she was past the age of eighty-one years.

Gaddis P. Hageman was reared in Shelby county, Ohio, and attended the common schools there in the acquirement of his education. On the 16th of September, 1861, the day before his twentieth birthday, he enlisted in Company F, Twentieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he went to the front. On the 12th of May, 1863, he was wounded in the head at Raymond, Mississippi. On leaving the hospital on the 24th of May he was taken prisoner and was confined in Libby prison until the 7th of June. He subsequently rejoined his regiment and remained in military service until the 19th of July, 1865, when he was honorably discharged. He has never recovered from the effects of his wound as it impaired his hearing.

After his return from the army Mr. Hageman worked as a common laborer until 1880, when he removed to Gage county, Nebraska. For four years he operated rented land near Wymore but at the end of that time removed to the town and became connected with the coal and grain business. He was engaged in that field in Wymore until 1906, when he went to Edgemont, South Dakota, where he remained for three years, after which he came to Ravenna, Nebraska, and he has since lived in honorable retirement from the cares of business life. His well directed labors in former years were rewarded by a substantial financial return and he has more than sufficient to provide him with the comforts of life.

Mr. Hageman was married on the 19th of November, 1867, to Miss Mary J. Hawkins, a daughter of Richard and Lydia (Davis) Hawkins, natives respectively of Kentucky and of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her father engaged in



farming in the Buckeye state until his demise, which occurred in 1869. He was survived for about six years by his wife, who passed away in 1875.

Mr. and Mrs. Hageman have become the parents of ten children. Martha A., born on the 23d of September, 1868, is now the wife of P. G. Calkins, of Woodruff, Kansas. Anna L., whose birth occurred on the 1st of February, 1870, married C. H. Rockey and they reside in Alliance, Nebraska. Charles O., born on the 2d of May, 1872, is now an engineer on the Burlington Railroad and resides in Ravenna. Arthur L., whose natal day was June 25, 1874, is now living at Brocksburg, this state. Albert E. was born December 23, 1876, and is now a resident of Fort Collins, Colorado. Simon R., whose birth occurred on the 7th of March, 1878, is a resident of Kansas City, Missouri. Harold G., born November 30, 1880, is a machinist and resides at Sheridan, Wyoming. Ennis L., born March 21, 1885, died on the 21st of August of that year. Rosie M. was born on the 8th of September, 1886, and married E. L. Routh, who is a fireman on the Burlington Railroad and resides in Ravenna. The other member of the family died in infancy.

Mr. Hageman has been a republican since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and takes pride in the fact that the first man for whom he voted for president was Abraham Lincoln. His religious faith is that of the Methodist church, and his only fraternal associations are with the Grand Army of the Republic. He greatly enjoys meeting his old comrades and never tires of reliving the days when he marched with Sherman to the sea and aided in the defense of the Union. Since removing to Ravenna he has gained the full confidence and the sincere respect of his fellow citizens, who recognize in him a man of sterling character.

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### CHRIS WEDEMEYER.

Chris Wedemeyer is now living practically retired on a well improved place of twenty acres at the edge of Ravenna but still holds title to valuable farms in Schneider and Garfield townships. A native of Germany, his birth occurred in September, 1861, and he is a son of Conrad and Margaret (Todter) Wedemeyer, also natives of Germany. The father devoted his entire active life to farming and passed away in his native land in 1888. He was survived for twelve years by his wife, who died in 1900.

Chris Wedemeyer received his education in the fatherland and remained at home until he was fourteen years of age but in 1876 he decided to take advantage of the opportunities offered in America and on emigrating to this country went to Casey, Iowa, where he had relatives. He worked as a farm hand until he was twenty-one years of age and then rented land in Montgomery county, Iowa, which he cultivated for a year. At the end of that time he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and purchased land in Schneider township, on which he resided until 1911, when he retired and renting the farm, removed to his present home on twenty acres of land on the outskirts of Ravenna. He built a fine modern residence and has otherwise improved his place, and his farm in Schneider township is also in a high state of development. In addition to the four hundred

acres which he owns in that township he holds title to a half section in Garfield township and his income from his land is sufficient to provide him with the comforts and some of the luxuries of life. In addition to his real estate holdings he owns stock in the Ravenna Electric Light plant and the Ravenna Telephone Company.

Mr. Wedemeyer was married in January, 1910, to Mrs. Minnie (Evers) Wedemeyer, widow of his brother Henry. She is a daughter of Peter H. and Marie (Mueller) Evers, natives of Germany, who in 1882 located in Denison, Iowa. They are still living there and both have reached the age of eighty-one years. By her marriage to Henry Wedemeyer, who died in 1900, Mrs. Wedemeyer has three sons, namely, Fred, Henry and Bernhard, all of whom are farming in Schneider township.

Mr. Wedemeyer is independent in politics as he believes that the qualifications of a candidate are of more importance than his party allegiance. In religious faith he is a Lutheran, and fraternally he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. In 1914 he and his wife made a trip to Germany and were there at the time of the outbreak of the European war. He began his career as a boy in his teens without capital other than his energy and sound judgment but through persistent and well directed labor has gained financial independence. His sterling qualities of character have also won him the sincere respect and esteem of his fellow citizens.

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#### ISAAC K. HENNINGER.

Isaac K. Henninger, a resident farmer of Sharon township, makes his home on section 22 and holds title to nine hundred and forty acres of land. He was born in Ohio, October 20, 1868, a son of Captain Solomon F. and Barbara (Kaufman) Henninger, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Erie county, Pennsylvania. The father was reared in his native state and at the outbreak of the Civil war in 1861 he enlisted as a member of Company H, Twentieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for four years, or until the close of the war, being promoted to the captaincy of his company. After the cessation of hostilities he returned to his home in Trumbull county, Ohio, purchased a farm and settled down to the pursuits of peace. In the spring of 1872 he came with his family to Nebraska, settling in Buffalo county, and upon his arrival homesteaded a quarter section of land which is now owned by his son Isaac. The father afterward purchased other lands, owning at one time five hundred and sixty acres, so that he was numbered among the extensive landowners of the county. He remained upon the old homestead until 1892, when he retired and removed to Shelton, where his death occurred February 17, 1908. He was one of the well known pioneers of Buffalo county, a man of sterling character, highly esteemed wherever known and most highly honored where best known. His wife was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, July 31, 1833, and during her girlhood removed with her parents to Trumbull county, Ohio, where, on the 29th of March, 1855, she was united in marriage to Solomon F. Henninger. She was a member of the Presbyterian church and was widely known as a consistent

Christian woman and a devoted and loving wife and mother. She passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Eugene Freeman, of Beatrice, Nebraska, on the 24th of November, 1914, after which her remains were brought back to Shelton for interment by the side of her husband in the Shelton cemetery.

Isaac K. Henninger acquired a public school education and assisted his father in the early development and improvement of the home farm. In 1892 he took charge of the home place of three hundred and twenty acres and has since cultivated that land. Upon his father's death he acquired title to the homestead property of one hundred and sixty acres. He is accounted one of the progressive and enterprising agriculturists of his district and his place presents a neat and attractive appearance, embodying all progressive methods of farming. He has added to his holdings and now owns nine hundred and forty acres. He is a stockholder of the Farmers Elevator Company of Shelton and he is one of the extensive live stock dealers of the county, feeding three carloads of sheep annually.

On the 6th of December, 1893, Mr. Henninger was married to Miss Elizabeth E. Slattery, a daughter of Martin Slattery, one of the earliest of the Buffalo county pioneers. He was born in Ireland August 31, 1831, and his parents died when he was but fourteen years of age. He afterward came to the United States to make his home with a married sister in Ohio and in 1863 he removed to Pennsylvania, where in 1866 he was united in marriage to Mrs. Margaret Carmichael. The same year he came west to make a home for himself and his bride, choosing Shelton, Nebraska, as his location. There he was employed for some years by the Union Pacific Railroad Company, but resigned his position to engage in farming, in which vocation he won substantial success, acquiring eight hundred acres of valuable land in Buffalo county. He possessed many sterling characteristics that endeared him to all and made his death, which occurred on the 27th of May, 1896, a matter of wide regret. Mr. and Mrs. Henninger have become the parents of two children: Franklin S., who is attending the State University; and George Stewart, a pupil in the Shelton high school.

Mr. Henninger is a member of Shelton Lodge, No. 99, A. F. & A. M.; Shelton Lodge, No. 92, K. P.; and of the Loyal Mystic Legion; while his wife holds membership in the Presbyterian church. In politics he is a democrat and for many years has served as a member of the town board and cooperates heartily and earnestly in all measures and movements that look to the betterment and benefit of the community. His life has been one of diligence and untiring industry and he ranks with the leading agriculturists of his part of the state.

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### C. L. EWER.

The spirit of progress and advancement actuates C. L. Ewer at every point in his career. The consensus of public opinion names him as one of the most alert, enterprising and progressive business men of Pleasanton, who has worked untiringly for the interests of the town as well as to promote his individual advancement along business lines. He is now manager of the lumberyards of

the Farmers Grain Company at Pleasanton, and is one of the citizens whom Buffalo county is proud to number among her native sons. His birth occurred in Cedar township, on the 2d of February, 1885, his parents being Abraham Lincoln and Elizabeth (Tollefsen) Ewer. The father, who is still living on the old home farm in Cedar township, is one of the old settlers of Buffalo county, having made his home within its borders from early pioneer times.

C. L. Ewer was reared on the old homestead and the district schools afforded him his educational privileges, while in the school of experience he has also learned many valuable lessons, particularly concerning business management. On reaching his majority in 1906 he identified himself with the lumber business, accepting a position in the office of the F. H. Gilcrest Lumber Company of Pleasanton. He remained in charge of the yards of this company up to the time they were absorbed by the Farmers Grain Company in July, 1915, at which time he was made manager of the business and in that capacity is still serving. He is determined and progressive, readily discriminating between the essential and the non-essential and watchful at all times for those opportunities which lead to general advancement.

Mr. Ewer was married in November, 1911, to Miss Ella Smith, of Elmwood, Nebraska, and to them have been born two children, Frederick C. and Bruce M. Mr. Ewer is a member of Lotus Lodge, F. & A. M. of Ravenna, and also has membership with the Royal Highlanders. In politics he is independent with republican tendencies, and he is serving as present clerk in his township. He ranks with the representative business men of his community. He is never afraid to venture where favoring opportunity leads the way and he is fortunate in that he possesses character and ability which inspire confidence in others, the simple weight of his character and ability carrying him into important business and public relations.

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#### FINIS MORRISON BARNEY.

Finis Morrison Barney, who is engaged in the jewelry business in Elm Creek, was born at Roanoke, Woodford county, Illinois, on the 11th of August, 1864, and is the third son of Calvin E. and Eliza A. (Morrison) Barney, the former of whom was born in Windham, Vermont, March 10, 1837, and the latter in Lancashire, England, June 5, 1840. Four children were born to them, two of whom are still living. Our subject is a descendent in the ninth generation of Jacob Barney, who with a brother emigrated from England in 1634 and settled at Salem, Massachusetts, since which time the family has resided in America. The great-grandfather of our subject was closely identified with the War of the Revolution, sacrificing his fortune in behalf of the cause of independence. Hiram Barney, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Chester, Vermont, on the 10th of March, 1809, and on the 31st of December, 1831, was united in marriage to Miss Clarissa Marshall. To them ten children were born, nine of whom grew to manhood and womanhood and five are still living. In 1840 Hiram Barney removed to Richland county, Illinois, but in 1854 took up his residence in Woodford county, that state where he made his home for twenty-



six years. In 1880 he became a resident of Kearney, Nebraska, but subsequently removed to Minden, this state, where his death occurred at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Lewis A. Kent, on the 5th of February, 1902, at the age of ninety-three years. His wife died in Kearney on the 7th of January, 1892. At the age of nine years he became a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and from that time until his death sought to conform his life to its teachings. He was active in its work and was a prominent member of the various congregations with which he was identified. He was also prominently connected with the Kearney National Bank.

One of his sons, R. E. Barney, was closely identified with the early history of Kearney and Buffalo county. He came to Nebraska in 1868 and first located at Lowell, fifteen miles southeast of Kearney, but in 1870 removed to the latter city at the time when so many of the residents of Lowell settled in Kearney. At that time he moved his livery barn to the new town and was engaged in business there along that line until 1882, when he became one of the original stockholders of the Kearney Canal Company. About the same time he located upon a ranch nine miles west of Kearney, at the edge of the Platte valley, and his property afterward became known as the Empire ranch. For ten years he devoted his attention practically to the raising of horses on an extensive scale but at the end of that time sold out and removed with his family to Everett, Washington. His present home, however, is at Riverside, California. From 1877 to 1880 he, together with his father and brother, Calvin E. Barney, shipped many carloads of horses into Kearney, where they were sold to the early settlers of the surrounding country. At one time he was quite well-to-do and his ranch sold for over one hundred thousand dollars, but during the financial depression between the years 1890 and 1900 he lost heavily as at that time the bicycle industry had a depressing effect on the horse business and he lost nearly everything he possessed. He is a Mason of high degree and during the Civil war served in the same regiment as his brother, Calvin E.

On the 21st of June, 1859, at Olney, Illinois, Calvin E. Barney was united in marriage to Miss Eliza A. Morrison, and for a time they made their home at Metamora, Illinois, where Mr. Barney studied law. It was there that he met and became personally acquainted with Abraham Lincoln when the latter was engaged in the practice of law at the county seat of Woodford county. In 1861 Mr. Barney became a resident of El Paso, Illinois, where he practiced law and took an active part in politics. The country having become engaged in civil war, he enlisted in the One Hundred and Eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which regiment he was largely instrumental in raising, and he served as a member of the hospital corps until the close of hostilities. Disabilities and disease contracted during the war interfered with his resumption of the practice of law and after his return from the front he became connected with the railway mail service. In 1872 he removed to Pekin, Illinois, where he made his home until 1877 and for the following three years was a resident of Roanoke, that state. It was in the fall of 1880 that he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and located in Kearney but subsequently lived on a ranch in Custer county from 1881 to 1888. In the latter year he succeeded a son at Elm Creek and was engaged in mercantile business there until 1890, when he returned to Kearney and lived retired. Since the death of his wife, which occurred at Ashland, Oregon, on the 10th

of October, 1913, he has spent the winters in California and Redondo might be called his present home.

Finis M. Barney accompanied his parents on their various removals during his boyhood and is indebted to the public schools of El Paso, Pekin and Roanoke, Illinois, and Kearney, Nebraska, for the early educational privileges he enjoyed. He continued to attend school from the age of five years until 1881 and thus received a good practical education. He was sixteen at the time he accompanied his parents on their removal to Nebraska and for several years remained on the ranch in Pleasant Valley in the southeast corner of Custer county. Leaving the parental roof at the age of twenty years, he worked for a short time at the carpenter's trade and later clerked in Kearney and Shelton. In 1886 he removed to Elm Creek, where he clerked for his brother and father for about three years. In 1889 he homesteaded in Custer county under the preemption act but resumed work at the carpenter's trade in Kearney in 1891, for one year. It was in 1892 that he decided to make the jewelry business his life work and entered into partnership with Louis Hoefer, and the following year, dissolving partnership, he moved the stock from Kearney to Elm Creek. In 1901 Mr. Barney graduated in optometry and is now doing an excellent business as a jeweler and optician. He is an ardent student of the sciences, particularly electrical, keeping fully posted along such lines, and is a skilled mechanic, having taken out several patents on machinery, as he is of an ingenious turn of mind. He has written a number of scientific papers. He is also a lover of nature and has taken up the art of photography as a means of recreation and has become very proficient in the same. He has an especially fine collection of views of Buffalo county and the views of Elm Creek which appear in this history were taken by him.

Mr. Barney is a republican in his political allegiance and discharges to the full all duties of citizenship but has never sought office. His religious faith is that of the Methodist church. During the thirty years that he has resided in Buffalo county he has gained many warm friends who esteem him highly for his many admirable qualities.

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#### CHARLES MINER.

Charles Miner, who is now engaged in the real estate business in Ravenna, was for eighteen years postmaster and is probably known to more people in the county than any other man in his community. He was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, on the 15th of August, 1848, a son of John W. and Rebecca (Dudgeon) Miner, natives of Ohio. The father, who was a farmer, cultivated land which he owned in Jefferson county, Ohio, for many years, but at length went to Wisconsin, where he resided until 1867. In that year he removed to Butler county, Iowa, locating upon a farm near Shellrock, where he lived during his remaining days. He passed away in April, 1879, and was survived for many years by his wife, who died in May, 1908.

Charles Miner was reared at home and received his education in Wisconsin, as he was but six years of age when the family removed to that state. He accompanied his parents to Iowa and on beginning his independent career turned



CHARLES MINER





his attention to teaching, which profession he followed for eighteen terms in Butler county. He taught both winter and summer schools and was ranked among the ablest teachers of that part of Iowa. In the spring of 1884 he came to Nebraska and after living for about five months in Kearney, during which time he investigated the advantages of various parts of this district, he decided to locate permanently in Garfield township and homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 20, near the present location of the town of South Ravenna. After living upon that place for two years he entered the employ of F. G. Hamer, now one of the judges of the Nebraska supreme court, as manager of the Hamer ranch, which was located one mile south of Ravenna. At that time as many as three hundred head of cattle and horses were kept upon the ranch and its management required a man of energy and business acumen. Mr. Miner was very successful in that connection and remained upon the ranch until 1896, when he purchased four hundred and eighty acres of land two miles southwest of Ravenna, where he made his home until 1897, when he was appointed postmaster of Ravenna by President McKinley and removed to town to assume the duties of his office. He served in that capacity for eighteen consecutive years, his long retention in the position proving beyond doubt his efficiency and conscientiousness as an official. He not only performed his work systematically and accurately but was also courteous in all of his dealings with the public, and held the goodwill of the community. Since his retirement from the office he has engaged in the real estate and insurance business and has met with a gratifying measure of success in that field. He also has other business interests, as he is a stockholder in the State Bank of Ravenna and is president of the Ravenna Telephone Company.

Mr. Miner was married on the 11th of September, 1875, at Faribault, Minnesota, to Miss Alice Green, a daughter of William M. and Ellen F. (West) Green, natives respectively of Massachusetts and Wisconsin. The father, who was a carpenter and millwright by trade, removed to Minnesota in the early '50s and followed his trade there until 1861, when he enlisted for service in the Civil war, joining a Minnesota regiment. He was at the front for four years and made a record of which he has just cause to be proud. After the close of the war he returned home and continued to work at his trade until called by death in June, 1896. His wife died on the 15th of March, 1871. To Mr. and Mrs. Miner have been born three children: Grace M., whose birth occurred in May, 1880, and who is now the wife of E. A. Hollingshead, a resident of Ravenna; Edward, who was born in March, 1883, and is now engaged in the automobile business in Spokane, Washington; and Clara, whose birth occurred in 1887 and who died on the 22d of August of the following year.

Mr. Miner has supported the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and has long been recognized as one of the political leaders of his county. Few men have been more active in public affairs and few have done more to secure the success of the republican party. In addition to his long and able service as postmaster of Ravenna he was for almost thirty years a member of the school board of district No. 69, which he aided in organizing, and at the time of his retirement from the office was presented by his fellow members with a handsome silver loving cup as a token of their appreciation of his devoted and efficient work in behalf of the schools. For seven years he

served as county supervisor and in that capacity also proved a capable and public-spirited official. He is connected fraternally with the Masonic order and the Knights of Pythias and his religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. He has resided in Buffalo county for over thirty years and during practically the entire time has served in some official capacity or other, and the fact that neither his ability nor integrity has ever been questioned is irrefutable proof of his genuine worth. He is also popular personally and those who have been most intimately associated with him are his warmest friends.

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#### D. PHILLIPS.

D. Phillips is president and manager of a company that is conducting a flourishing lumber business at Pleasanton. The spirit of enterprise actuates him in all that he does and progress and advancement have characterized his entire business career, which has covered connection with the grain as well as with the lumber trade. He was born in Indiana, November 12, 1868, a son of John and Hannah (Hosier) Phillips, who were natives of that state. The father was a farmer by occupation and, removing to Illinois, there cultivated a tract of land until 1878, which year witnessed his arrival in Buffalo county. He secured a homestead in Rusco township, which he developed and improved, there carrying on general agricultural pursuits for many years. Eventually, however, he retired and removed to Kearney, where he resided until his death, which occurred in November, 1910. His widow now resides with Mr. Phillips of this review. For three years the father was a soldier of the Fifty-first Indiana Volunteer Infantry, entering the army when a lad of but thirteen years. He was wounded in an engagement and was captured, being incarcerated in Libby prison for five months. Few of his years could boast active connection with the army that defended the Union at the time of the Civil war.

D. Phillips was reared and educated in Buffalo county. During his youthful days he had the usual environment and experience of the farm lad and to his father he gave the benefit of his services until he attained his majority, when he secured a homestead in Cedar township and began farming on his own account, devoting ten years to the development, operation and improvement of his land, which he then rented and removed to Pleasanton. He then turned his attention to the grain and lumber business and organized the Farmers Grain Company, with headquarters in Omaha. The company operates eight grain elevators and two lumberyards and the business has now reached extensive, gratifying and profitable proportions. Mr. Phillips is president and manager of the business at Pleasanton, which includes the grain trade and also a lumber business. The latter was established in July, 1913, and during the first four months the sales amounted to twenty-five thousand dollars. The patronage has steadily increased and as the head of this undertaking Mr. Phillips ranks as one of the foremost business men of the county. He also has elevators at Poole, Buda and Miller in Buffalo county, while the other local centers of the company's business are in the eastern part of the state.

On the 2d of March, 1892, Mr. Phillips was united in marriage to Miss Ada

Pierson, by whom he has five children, as follows: Walter, who is twenty-three years of age and operates his father's farm; William, a young man of nineteen, who is attending school at Kearney; and Mary, Sybil and Dean, who are sixteen, fourteen and eleven years of age respectively and are all under the parental roof.

Mr. Phillips gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and has filled several local offices, serving as justice of the peace, as township clerk and as road supervisor of Cedar township. He was likewise school director for ten years and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity and his religious faith is that of the United Brethren. He has taken an active interest in the work of his church, contributing generously to its support and doing all in his power to further its upbuilding. For fifteen years he served as one of its trustees. His life has been an active and useful one, fraught with good results, and while business has naturally occupied the greater part of his attention, he has never allowed it to interfere with his duties in other relations. In all of his business dealings he has been able to discriminate readily between the essential and the nonessential and moreover has the faculty of coordinating seemingly diverse elements into a unified and harmonious whole. Success attends his labors and the methods which he pursues in its attainment place him beyond the point of envy or adverse criticism.

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#### WILLIAM O. PICKETT.

William O. Pickett was formerly engaged in agricultural pursuits in this county but for a number of years has made his home in Sweetwater, where he is living retired. He has been one of the leaders in public affairs of the county and has been elected to a number of local offices, which he has filled to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. A native of Polk county, Illinois, he was born on the 13th of June, 1840, and is a son of James and Mary (Evet) Pickett, the former born in Virginia and the latter in Ireland. The father took up his residence in Indiana when that state was still a frontier region and farmed there until 1877, when he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and located in Kearney. He passed away in Missouri in 1899, having survived his wife for three decades, as her demise occurred in 1869.

William O. Pickett grew to mature years in Indiana and attended the public schools in the acquirement of an education. On the 1st of July, 1861, he enlisted in Company H, Twenty-third Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was at the front for four years and two months. He participated in a number of hard engagements and in one of the battles in the vicinity of Vicksburg he was wounded. He was honorably discharged at Indianapolis, July 31, 1865, having served all through the war and, returning home again, took up farming. He remained in Indiana until 1877, when he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and took up a homestead in Beaver township, to the development and improvement of which he gave much of his time and energy until 1899. He then sold the place and removed to Sweetwater, where he has since resided. In the same year he was appointed postmaster and for seven years he held that office, proving at all times efficient and courteous.



Mr. Pickett was married to Miss Mary E. Parr on the 3d of April, 1864. Her parents, John and Ruth Parr, were born in Virginia but became early settlers of Indiana and continued to reside there until they passed away, the father in 1887 and the mother three years later. Mr. and Mrs. Pickett have become the parents of nine children, three of whom, Ora, James and Katie, are deceased, the others being: Annie, Robert, Daisy, Sally R., Catherine and Della.

Mr. Pickett indorses the policies of the democratic party and works loyally for its success at the polls. He has held a number of offices, and in addition to his seven years' service as postmaster, has been constable, assessor, clerk, road-master and county commissioner, serving for four years in the last named capacity. His religious faith is that of the Baptist church, and through his membership in the Grand Army of the Republic he keeps in touch with the other veterans of the Civil war. He is well known not only in Sweetwater but also throughout the county and those who have been most closely associated with him hold him in the highest esteem. As an official he has always been systematic, capable and conscientious, and as a private citizen he has willingly cooperated in movements seeking the general welfare.

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#### EPHRAIM OLIVER.

Ephraim Oliver, who owns five hundred and eighty acres of good land in Shelton township, is one of the leading stock raisers of the county. He was born in Manchester, England, on the 14th of January, 1852, of the marriage of Edward and Sarah Oliver, both natives of that country. The year 1860 witnessed their emigration to America and they first settled in Buffalo county, Nebraska, but two years later the father removed to Salt Lake City, where his demise occurred. The mother passed away in this county.

Ephraim Oliver is one of a family of eleven children, of whom five are still living. His education was mainly acquired in the public schools of Buffalo county, Nebraska, as he was but eight years of age when the family settled here. He remained at home until he attained his majority and then purchased the old homestead on section 2, Shelton township, which he still owns. He has bought additional land and now holds title to five hundred and eighty acres, all of which is well improved. He raises some grain but devotes the greater part of his attention to stock raising and feeding and in 1915 fed one hundred head of steers and seven hundred head of sheep. He understands every phase of stock raising and also pays great attention to the marketing of his stock and the success which he has gained is well deserved.

On the 6th of April, 1875, Mr. Oliver was united in marriage to Miss Dorothy Fieldgrove, a daughter of William Henry and Margaret Fieldgrove, further mention of whom occurs elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Oliver have eleven children: William E.; Walter E.; Edward H.; Cora, the wife of William J. Pierce; John E.; Chester Arthur and Charles A., twins; Howard L.; George H.; Vernon J.; and Dewey S.

Mr. Oliver indorses the policies of the republican party and loyally supports its candidates at the polls. For many years he has served as a member of the







MR. AND MRS. EPHRAIM OLIVER



RAYMOND OLIVER; MRS. DOROTHY OLIVER; MRS. MARGARET FIELDGROVE;  
WILLIAM E. OLIVER





school board and during that time has done much to promote educational advancement in his district. The greater part of his life has been passed in the middle west and he possesses in a marked degree the qualities characteristic of this section, namely, self-reliance, enterprise and the determination that overcomes obstacles, and he merits the title of a self-made man, for he began his career without capital or the aid of influential friends.

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### STEPHEN A. D. HENLINE.

Stephen A. D. Henline came to Kearney in July, 1885, at which time the city contained a population of a little more than one thousand. He has remained here continuously since and his business activity has been a tangible asset in the development and upbuilding of the community, while his support of forces working for the moral betterment of the community has contributed to public progress along that line. He was born near Lexington, Illinois, on the 25th of December, 1860, a son of William M. and Sarah C. (Steward) Henline, who were also natives of that state. The father was a farmer and was a son of George Henline, who settled in McLean county, Illinois, when that section of the country was in its primitive condition, much of the land being still in the possession of the government. He entered a tract at the usual government price of a dollar and a quarter per acre and began the development of a farm whereon William M. Henline was born in 1838. There he was reared and educated, having the usual experiences of the lad who spends his youth upon the frontier. He married a daughter of William Steward, who removed from Kentucky to McLean county, Illinois, about the time of the arrival of the Henline family there. His educational training was limited but this he remedied in later years by reading and observation. He possessed a retentive memory and from his study and life's experiences he gained many valuable lessons. In politics he was a democrat and his high standing in the regard of his fellowmen is indicated in the fact that he was never defeated for an office for which he was a candidate, although he lived in a district that normally had a strong republican majority. He had the happy faculty of making friends and he never sacrificed a friendship, for regard once gained was always his. He belonged to the United Brethren church, of which he was a devout and faithful member. In all business affairs he was thoroughly reliable and would rather suffer loss than cause another to do so. If a question ever arose as to rights, he invariably gave way rather than to enter into a law suit. He died in 1895, on the farm where his birth occurred, having long survived his wife, who passed away in 1872.

In the life record of S. A. D. Henline, Christmas day has proven an important date. He was born on that day and was named in honor of Stephen A. Douglas. He had a brother born on that date in 1862, and on Christmas day of 1884 he married Nellie Biggs, whose birth had occurred on Christmas day of 1864. On her mother's side she is a direct descendant of Barbara Fritchie and on her father's of John Quincy Adams. S. A. D. Henline was reared on a farm in his native county and was graduated from the Lexington high school with the class of 1880. He afterward engaged in teaching for four years and

on the expiration of that period made his way westward to Nebraska in company with his wife, who was also a successful teacher. They located in Kearney and Mr. Henline became a partner of L. G. Fletcher in the drug business. Subsequently he sold out to his partner, after which he engaged in various occupations. For a time he was employed at a dollar and a half per day to dig the ditch connected with the establishment of the waterworks system in Kearney. He was also employed as a clerk in the drug store of William Schramm, who at that time owned two drug stores in this city. In 1889 he purchased the Schramm store at No. 2214 Central avenue and since then he has been in the drug business in Kearney at different locations and has prospered. In many ways he has been identified with the material welfare and growth of Kearney and is a great believer in its future prosperity. He became one of the organizers of the Kearney Savings & Loan Association, of which he has been the only president, and in this connection he figures prominently in financial circles of the city.

Mr. Henline always attributes much of his success to the assistance and cooperation of his wife, who was reared upon a farm and taught school for two years before coming to Nebraska. She also engaged in teaching music both before and after her arrival in this state and acted as organist in the church for a number of years. Her life has been one of untiring industry for the benefit of her home or for the community and her sound judgment in business matters has been a substantial element in the success of Mr. Henline. She cooperated with him in the early days in the efforts to economize and get ahead and he pays her high tribute for her assistance. Mrs. Henline has also been a great church worker and for eleven years was president of the Ladies Aid Society. It was during that period that the new house of worship was built and the Aid Society contributed to the building fund twenty-five hundred dollars besides an additional two thousand dollars for finishing the basement. Mrs. Henline also became an active member of the Nineteenth Century Club and was one of the leaders in the organization of the Community Club, of which she was the first and only president, for after her decision to retire from such active participation in affairs of that character there seemed to be no one to carry her work forward and the Community Club has ceased to exist. In her church work and in all of her social and civic endeavors she has known no such word as defeat, possessing in notable measure the power to win cooperation and coordination, so that with Mrs. Henline as leader all have worked together for the common good. To Mr. and Mrs. Henline have been born two sons: Ralph Gregory, who was married in 1915 to Miss Lois Kindt, of La Grande, Oregon, where he is teaching school; and Roy Biggs, who is attending the Northwestern University at Chicago. The family is well known here and their influence has ever been on the side of progress, reform and improvement.

Fraternally Mr. Henline is connected with the Masons and has attained the Knight Templar degree in the order. For many years he has been a member of the Kearney Commercial Club and is an ardent supporter of all those forces and plans which the club adopts for the development and substantial improvement of the city. Politically he is an independent democrat. While he believes in many principles of the democratic party, he has never felt bound by party ties and acts according to the dictates of his own judgment. He served for two years as a member of the city council, during which time he was its presi-

dent and chairman of the finance committee. It was during that period that the final adjustment over the purchase of the waterworks system was consummated. He is a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church and successively at three different conventions he was president of the Epworth League of the West Nebraska Conference. He also acted as a delegate to the Methodist General Conference held in Chicago in 1896. He served as chairman of the finance committee that had in charge the erection of the new forty thousand dollar church edifice in Kearney and with every phase of church work in this city for many years he has been closely and helpfully associated. He has never been neglectful of any of his duties in relation to the municipal or moral welfare and at the same time he has so directed his business affairs that he has worked his way upward from a humble position to one of prominence and affluence.

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### RIGHT B. WORT.

Right B. Wort, a well known grain merchant of Buffalo county operating at Pleasanton, as a member of the firm of Wort Brothers, has the qualities which win success. No matter in how much fantastic theorizing one may indulge as to the cause of success, it is always found that honorable business advancement is due to indefatigable energy and close application and these are the qualities which Mr. Wort displays in his business career. He was born in Canada, March 4, 1864, and is a son of John and Martha (Teeple) Wort, natives of England and Canada respectively. The father came to America in early life, crossing the Atlantic to Canada, where he remained for some time and then came to the United States, settling in McHenry county, Illinois. There he carried on farming until 1879, when he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and purchased land in Thornton township. He carried on farming there throughout his remaining days but was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, for his death occurred in 1881. His widow survives and is now living in Kearney.

Right B. Wort was a youth of fifteen years when the family arrived in this county and through the period of his boyhood and youth he assisted in the work of the fields, remaining with his mother to the age of twenty-eight years. He afterward carried on farming independently for a year and then came to Pleasanton, where he engaged in the grain business with his brother under the firm name of Wort Brothers. They have since conducted business under that style and the name has become a synonym for enterprise, indefatigable energy and wise management. They are thoroughly reliable in all their dealings and the grain raisers of that district enjoy trading with them. Right B. Wort also operates an elevator at Poole, in this county, and is engaged in the automobile business. He owned the first Ford in Pleasanton and is now agent for both the Ford and Maxwell cars. He conducts a good garage in the town. The brothers also handle farm implements at Poole and are representative business men of the community as well as wide-awake and progressive at all times.

In March, 1891, Right B. Wort was married to Miss Jennie Fleharty, a daughter of George and Anna Fleharty, who were natives of Ireland and became residents of this county in early pioneer times. The father was a civil engineer



and acted as the first surveyor of the county. He also purchased land here and carried on general farming for many years but finally retired in 1900 and now makes his home with Mr. and Mrs. Wort, his wife having passed away in 1909. To Mr. and Mrs. Wort have been born two children, Hazel and Helen, the former the wife of Charles Claus, of Pleasanton. Helen is attending school.

Mr. Wort has served on the town board for several years and has also been township clerk. Politically his allegiance is given to the democratic party, while fraternally he is connected with the Masons and with the United Workmen, loyally adhering to the purposes of those organizations. He represents one of the old and honored pioneer families of the county and the work which was instituted by his father has been carried on by him and constitutes an important feature in business development and substantial upbuilding of the district in which he lives.

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### JOHN S. SALSBUARY.

John S. Salsbury earned the right to a period of leisure by many years of well directed labors as an agriculturist and is now living in honorable retirement in Ravenna. He was born in Saratoga county, New York, on the 8th of October, 1842, of the marriage of James W. and Caroline (Creal) Salsbury, natives of New York and of English descent. The father was a farmer and followed that occupation in New York until 1844, when he started for the territory of Iowa but died on the way on the 4th of November. His wife was killed on the 3d of July, 1848, by lightning.

John S. Salsbury was educated in Lee and Page counties, Iowa, and in 1861, when eighteen years of age, enlisted in Company F, First Nebraska Infantry, for service in the Civil war. He remained in the army until July, 1866, and participated in much hard fighting. Following his honorable discharge from military service he returned to Page county, Iowa, and purchased land there, which he operated for ten years. At the end of that time he went to Clarinda, Iowa, but in 1879 he removed to Sherman county, Nebraska. He did teaming there until 1882, when he took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Garfield precinct, Buffalo county. He was one of the first settlers in that precinct and was the man who gave it its name. He at once began to break the prairie sod and in a comparatively short time had his land under cultivation. He made many improvements upon his place, on which he lived for two decades, or until 1902. He then retired from active life and built a nice home in the northern part of Ravenna, where he has since resided.

Mr. Salsbury was married in July, 1864, to Miss Rachel H. Reynolds, a daughter of John and Annie Reynolds, pioneers of Page county, Iowa. Mr. Reynolds died in 1863, but he was survived by his wife until 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Salsbury became the parents of seven children, namely: Alvin, who was born August 18, 1867, and died on the 12th of September, 1887; Annie C., who was born August 30, 1868, and died on the 17th of October, 1890; Rachel P., who was born on the 7th of March, 1870, and died on the 28th of February, 1886; Katie, whose birth occurred August 25, 1871, and who died June 8, 1883; Mary E., who was born October 24, 1873, and died on the 1st of January, 1897; Roy





MR. AND MRS. JOHN S. SALSBURY



C., whose birth occurred on the 22d of March, 1876, and who is living in Ravenna; and Guy A., who was born on the 1st of February, 1878, and resides in Texas. The wife and mother passed away on the 29th of December, 1897, after a six months' illness. Her demise was mourned by many friends.

On the 26th of October, 1904, Mr. Salsbury was again married, Mrs. Mary J. Jamison becoming his wife. Her parents, Ephraim and Christina (Forney) McKinney, were natives respectively of Ohio and Pennsylvania. In 1855 her father removed to Butler county, Iowa, where he purchased land which he operated until 1890. He then came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and bought a farm in Cherry Creek precinct, to the cultivation of which he devoted the remainder of his life. He died in January, 1903, and his wife passed away in December, 1908. By her marriage to Samuel Jamison, Mrs. Salsbury became the mother of five children, namely: Clara A., who was born in August, 1863, and is now the wife of George Nichols, of Butler county, Iowa; Flora, whose birth occurred in April, 1865, and who died on the 30th of May, 1894; Mary I., who was born in July, 1867, and is now the wife of Theodore Clark, of Franklin county, Iowa; Henrietta, who was born in December, 1873, and married A. L. Nowell, of Butler county, Iowa; and Mabel I., whose birth occurred in April, 1875, and who gave her hand in marriage to E. E. Polk, of Butler county, Iowa. Mr. Jamison died on the 17th of January, 1898, after a long illness.

Mr. Salsbury casts an independent ballot, refusing to follow blindly the dictates of party leaders. He has been quite active in public affairs, served as the first supervisor of Garfield township, has been justice of the peace, road overseer, constable and deputy sheriff, and for twenty years was treasurer of his school district. Fraternally he is quite prominent, belonging to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Mystic Legion, and he is now filling the office of commander of Cedar Mountain Post, G. A. R. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. During the many years of his residence in this county he has witnessed a great transformation as pioneer conditions have given way to advancement and progress, and he takes justifiable pride in the fact that he has aided in bringing about this transformation.

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### LOUIS WEIDNER.

Louis Weidner, one of the pioneers of Buffalo county and one of its successful business men, is now living retired, his home being just outside the city limits of Ravenna. He is one of the worthy citizens that Germany has furnished to the new world, his birth having occurred in Saxony on the 27th of October, 1844, his parents having been Gottlieb and Christina (Lichtenstein) Weidner. The father died in Germany when his son Louis was twenty-two years of age. Two years later the latter wedded Miss Fredericka Habercrom and in 1874 they came to the United States accompanied by his mother, who otherwise would have been left alone in Germany. She remained with Mr. and Mrs. Weidner until her death, which occurred on the homestead farm in this county in 1880, six years after her arrival in the new world.

On reaching the United States Louis Weidner made his way at once to Buffalo county, influenced to this step by the fact that a friend, Louis White, had previously settled here. He had spent a short time in the lake region of Michigan and had finally come to Nebraska, after which he had written to Mr. Weidner concerning the resources and the opportunities of this country. On reaching his destination Mr. Weidner had about fifty dollars in cash. He says that there was no money in the county at that time, so that his capital vanished like snow on a sunshiny spring day. He arrived in Buffalo county on the 21st of September, 1874, and the following week filed on a preemption on section 2, Schneider township. This he later changed to a homestead, which he proved up as such, converting it into a valuable and fertile farm, on which he resided until the 5th of March, 1910, when he removed to his present place of residence just outside the corporation limits of Ravenna, having here a small place of thirty acres. However, he still owns the homestead property of one hundred and sixty acres in Schneider township together with eighty acres just across the road from that farm and another tract of two hundred acres on section 6, Schneider township, and a farm of two hundred acres on section 25, Garfield township. He likewise had another place of one hundred and sixty acres which he has given to his son Earnest. As the years passed he added to his holdings from time to time until he became one of the large landowners of the county, having a valuable property from which he derived a most gratifying annual income. His possessions are such as now enable him to live retired in the enjoyment of a well earned rest, having all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

To Mr. and Mrs. Weidner were born four children, of whom three are yet living, namely: Louisa, the wife of Moritz Muelbach, a farmer of Schneider township; Earnest, who is a carpenter by trade and resides in Ravenna; and Selma, the wife of Herman Kappler, a farmer of Sharon township.

In politics Mr. Weidner has always followed an independent course. He served for some years as township clerk and as township treasurer and has ever been loyal to the best interests of the community, seeking at all times the public good. He has exerted considerable influence in community affairs and has ever been regarded as one of the highly esteemed residents of his part of the state, in which he has now lived for forty-two years, witnessing its progress from pioneer times, while his memory forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present.

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#### J. D. HAYES.

In this country where opportunity has been more evenly distributed than in the older countries of Europe the qualities of energy, foresight, self-reliance and sound judgment have always been held in the highest esteem and the man who, possessing these qualities, has been able to work his way up from poverty to affluence is highly honored. Such a man is J. D. Hayes, of Elm Creek township, who began his career empty-handed and now owns four hundred acres of fine land in Buffalo county and three hundred and twenty acres in Kansas.



He was born in Ireland in 1859, a son of Patrick and Catherine (Carmody) Hayes, likewise natives of that country. When he was six years of age his father came to America and after working in a dye factory at Lowell, Massachusetts, for a year went to Lewistown, Pennsylvania, where he learned the ax-making trade, which he followed for three years. At the end of that time he provided a comfortable home there for his wife and children, who joined him. Three years later a removal was made to Onarga, Illinois, where the father worked on a railroad for six years, after which he engaged in farming for a similar period. In 1880 he removed to Cass county, Nebraska, where he became the owner of two hundred acres of good land. He devoted his time and attention to the cultivation of his place until 1901, when he retired from active life. He resided among his children from that time until his demise, which occurred in March, 1915, when he was eighty-four years of age. His wife passed away in 1899. To them were born thirteen children, of whom five are still living, namely: J. D.; Mrs. Catherine Murphy, a resident of Greeley, Nebraska; Louisa, the widow of Thomas Bourk; Ellen Augusta, who married John Murphy, of Cass county; and William, of Plainville, Kansas.

J. D. Hayes spent his boyhood largely in Pennsylvania and Illinois and received a common school education. When eighteen years of age he left home and began working as a farm hand. He was so engaged for several years and the low scale of wages which then prevailed is indicated by the fact that he never received more than sixteen dollars per month for his work. In February, 1886, he went to Cheyenne county, Kansas, having determined to engage in farming on his own account. He homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres and also took up a similar tract as a tree claim. He lived there for seven years, during which time he made many improvements upon the place but at the expiration of that period he removed to Cass county, Nebraska. Later he spent five years in Cumming county, this state, and in 1905 he came to Buffalo county and purchased an improved farm of two hundred and forty acres in Elm Creek township. After living there for five years he removed to an unimproved farm of eighty acres in the same township, where he has since lived. He has erected a good residence and barns and made other improvements upon the place, which is now in a high state of development. He owns in all four hundred acres of excellent land in Elm Creek township and devotes his attention chiefly to stock raising, finding that more profitable than the raising of grain. He has worked hard and untiringly since boyhood, and the financial independence which he has gained is due to his industry and good management rather than to fortunate circumstances. He still holds title to the three hundred and twenty acres in Kansas and is one of the men of wealth of his community.

Mr. Hayes was married in 1882 to Margaret J. Kennedy, a native of Canada and a daughter of Michael and Jane (Tighe) Kennedy. Her father is deceased but her mother is still living and resides with her son, W. J. Kennedy. To Mr. and Mrs. Hayes eleven children have been born, of whom four died in infancy. Those living are: Joseph, who is married and is living in Elm Creek; James P., who is attending a veterinary college at Kansas City; John E., who is operating one of his father's farms; Jane, the wife of Judson Lloyd, of Elm Creek; Margaret Ellen, a senior in the Elm Creek high school; and Martin and William, both at home.

Mr. Hayes gives his political allegiance to the democratic party but has been too much occupied with his farm work to take an active part in politics. In early life he determined that if enterprise and sound judgment could win success that he would gain prosperity and he never lost sight of his goal. His persistency and energy have been rewarded and he has gained a most gratifying measure of wealth. All who know him recognize his ability and the force of his personality.

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### WILLIAM F. CROSSLEY.

William F. Crossley is one of the oldest and most prominent contractors of Kearney and the excellence of his workmanship and the reliability of his business methods have resulted in securing for him an extensive patronage so that he has handled a large amount of business, and there today stand many monuments to his skill and ability in the fine homes and substantial structures of the city. He justly deserves to be called a self-made man, for he started out in life empty handed and as the architect of his own fortunes has builded wisely and well. He was born in Hancock county, Indiana, on the 7th of April, 1857, and was there reared and educated. His father was a carpenter and during his youth William F. Crossley assisted him and gained a practical working knowledge of the trade. He also devoted a portion of his time to farming and was equally thorough in his work along that line. On the 23d of December, 1879, he arrived in Kearney and took up a homestead in Odessa township. He rented his land during the first year and remained in Kearney, where he worked at carpentering in order to secure the money that would enable him to continue his farm work. He proved up on the homestead in 1885 and after about five years' residence in the county he took up contract work. When he first came to Nebraska he was employed for about five years by Aaron Scott. At the end of that time his tool chest was destroyed by fire and he said that he would never buy another. He therefore began contracting and during the period of the boom he did an extensive business and has always been accorded a liberal share of the public patronage. Thoroughness and reliability have ever characterized the work which he has done personally and that which he has supervised. He has believed that satisfied patrons are the best advertisement and it has been in that way that he has increased his business. In the years in which he has been identified with contracting in Kearney he has erected many buildings and the improvement and adornment of the city along architectural lines is largely due to him. During the first year he built twenty-two thousand dollars worth of residences, also the Methodist Episcopal and the Episcopal churches and two wings of the State Normal School. He has also erected the high school building, the Ten Cent Store building and the Masonic Temple, is completing Keens block and also building an auditorium for the State Normal School, which when completed in September, 1916, will seat fifteen hundred people. He has also done work at Grand Island and at Holdridge but now devotes his time chiefly to home building. As the years have passed he has utilized his opportunities for judicious investment and has become the owner of considerable valuable property in



WILLIAM F. CROSSLEY





Kearney. His property includes a good business block in Kearney which he rents and desirable residence property.

On the 23d of March, 1885, Mr. Crossley was married to Miss Mary Calhoun, a native of Ohio, who in 1872 came to Buffalo county with her parents, her father securing a homestead near Riverdale. He was Peter Calhoun, one of the veterans of the Civil war, and he became one of the worthy pioneer settlers of the west. Mrs. Crossley was reared in this county and by her marriage became the mother of two daughters, one of whom died at the age of three years. Wilma R. is attending the Chicago University. She is a graduate of the high school of Kearney and also of the State University of Nebraska, and for three years was a teacher of German in the city schools of Kearney. While in the State University she went to Germany as a student. Mr. and Mrs. Crossley are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which they are actively and helpfully interested, and for several years Mr. Crossley has been one of the church trustees. In Masonry he has passed up through the various branches until he has become a Knight Templar, and he has filled all of the chairs of the lodge. He deserves great credit for what he has accomplished as the years have gone by, for his enterprise and indefatigable energy have brought to him his prosperity. He has ever enjoyed an unassailable reputation for fair dealing and the reliability of his methods has featured as a strong element in his growing prosperity.

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A. L. RANDALL, M. D.

Dr. A. L. Randall, who since his graduation from the Northwestern University at Chicago in the class of 1903 has been engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery, located at Pleasanton in 1904, where he has since remained, and during this period his practice has grown steadily, as the public has recognized his ability and his devotion to the highest ethical standards of the profession. He was born in Shelby county, Iowa, November 20, 1878, a son of A. J. and Elizabeth (Springstead) Randall, who were natives of New York and Canada respectively. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, removed to Shelby county, Iowa, at an early period in the development of that district, there purchased land and operated his farm throughout his remaining days, his death occurring in 1895. His widow survives and now makes her home with a son in Kansas.

Dr. Randall was reared and educated in Denison, Iowa, and was graduated from the high school with the class of 1895. He also attended the normal school there for two years and afterward entered the Northwestern University at Chicago, where he pursued the medical course, winning his professional degree with the class of 1903. It was his desire to qualify himself most thoroughly and he gave close attention to the branches of study which constitute the medical curriculum. He then returned to Denison, where he remained in active practice for a year but in 1904 removed to Pleasanton, where he has since remained, continuously engaging in practice during this time. His ability has brought him prominently to the front and his practice is now extensive, covering a wide territory. He is also the owner of a half section of land in Beaver township

and is engaged extensively in the cattle business, handling thoroughbred Aberdeen Angus cattle, having at the present time ninety head upon his place. He also owns a quarter section of land near Sartoria, Nebraska.

On the 25th of August, 1908, Mr. Randall was united in marriage to Miss Edith West, by whom he has a son, Reginald C., whose birth occurred July 30, 1915. In his political views Dr. Randall is a republican and keeps thoroughly informed concerning the questions and issues of the day. For four years he has served on the town board, taking an active interest in furthering the welfare of the community in which he resides. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons and in his life exemplifies the beneficent spirit of the craft, which is based upon a recognition of the brotherhood of man. Those who know him, and he has a wide acquaintance, esteem him highly because of his professional skill, his devotion to duty and his sterling personal worth. He is always courteous and obliging and his efforts have been attended with substantial success.

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#### THEODORE W. OLSON.

Theodore W. Olson has been established in business in Sweetwater longer than any other merchant of the town and also has the largest patronage, having kept in touch with the advancement in merchandising methods and retained the prestige which he gained at the start. His birth occurred in Chicago, Illinois, on the 28th of March, 1872, and his parents were Annon and Mary Olson, natives of Norway. The father emigrated to America in young manhood and located in Chicago when that city gave little promise of becoming the great trade center that it is today and for twenty-six years he was a sailor on the great lakes. In 1881 he removed westward to Sherman county, Nebraska, where he purchased land, to the operation of which he devoted the remainder of his life. He passed away in 1911, when eighty-one years of age, and his wife died in 1877.

Theodore W. Olson was reared and educated in Chicago and in Sherman county, Nebraska, and remained with his parents until he reached the age of twenty-six years. He began farming on his own account but after a year decided to devote his energies to merchandising and, coming to Sweetwater, Buffalo county, purchased a stock of general merchandise and also bought the building in which his store is located. He has since conducted that establishment and has been in business here longer than any other merchant of the town. His patronage has grown steadily and he has anticipated the demands of his customers, adding to the line of goods carried from time to time with the result that he has the most complete stock in Sweetwater. He also owns eighty acres of fine land on section 9, Beaver township, from which he derives a gratifying addition to his income.

On the 11th of September, 1912, Mr. Olson was united in marriage to Miss Frances E. Hetrick. Her parents, Amos and Sarah Hetrick, were natives of Buffalo county but after farming here for some time removed to Sherman county, whence they went to Valley county, where the father is still engaged

in agricultural pursuits. Mr. and Mrs. Olson have two children, namely: Helen, whose birth occurred on the 16th of July, 1913; and Ida, born March 17, 1915.

Mr. Olson supports the republican party and was for five years postmaster of Sweetwater, making an excellent record in that connection. He is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and his religious faith is indicated by the fact that he holds membership in the Lutheran church. His life has been characterized by enterprise and also by sound judgment—a combination of qualities which never fails to win success.

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### W. R. SCRIBNER.

W. R. Scribner, the efficient vice president of the Pleasanton State Bank, has been identified with this institution since 1912 and has contributed in substantial measure to its upbuilding and success. He was born in Seward county, Nebraska, September 21, 1881, a son of C. L. and Emma (White) Scribner, the former a native of Maine and the latter of Illinois. Removing to the west, the father conducted a hotel at Staplehurst, in Seward county, from 1884 until 1910. He had previously come to Nebraska in 1871 and has since here resided with the exception of two years spent in California. He is now living retired at David City, in Butler county, enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. His wife also survives.

W. R. Scribner was largely reared and educated in Staplehurst and was a member of the second graduating class completing the course in the high school there, the date of his graduation being 1897. He then began his independent career and was employed as a farm hand for two years. Subsequently he worked in a lumberyard for two years and in 1904 he came to Pleasanton, Buffalo county, where he accepted the position of manager for the Gilcrest Lumber Company, with which he continued until August 23, 1912. He then became assistant cashier of the Pleasanton State Bank and held that position until December, 1915, when he purchased the interest of E. W. Noyes in the bank and became its vice president, which executive position he now fills with A. H. Grammer as the president and F. L. Grammer as cashier.

On the 10th of April, 1907, Mr. Scribner was united in marriage to Miss Anna Thiessen, a daughter of Henry and Alvina Thiessen, who are natives of Germany and on emigrating to the new world took up their abode in Hall county, Nebraska. The father was long and actively identified with general agricultural pursuits but is now living retired with his wife in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Scribner. Our subject and his wife have three children, namely: A. Lucille, who was born February 12, 1908; Blanche B., whose birth occurred October 31, 1910; and Florence E., whose natal day was February 2, 1913.

Mr. Scribner has been called to several local offices by the vote of his fellow townsmen, who recognize his fidelity to the best interests of the community. He has served as township clerk here for six years and as village clerk for six years and has also been a member of the town board. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party, for he is a firm believer in its principles. He is interested in the cause of education and has served as school director of Pleasanton.



ton for three years. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, the Modern Woodmen of America and to the United Brethren church and in these associations are found the rules which govern his conduct and shape his course in his relations with his fellowmen. Those who know him esteem him most highly and he has a large circle of warm friends in Pleasanton and throughout the county. He possesses the enterprising spirit which has characterized and dominated the west with its development and upbuilding, for he is a native son of Nebraska, having spent his entire life within its borders.

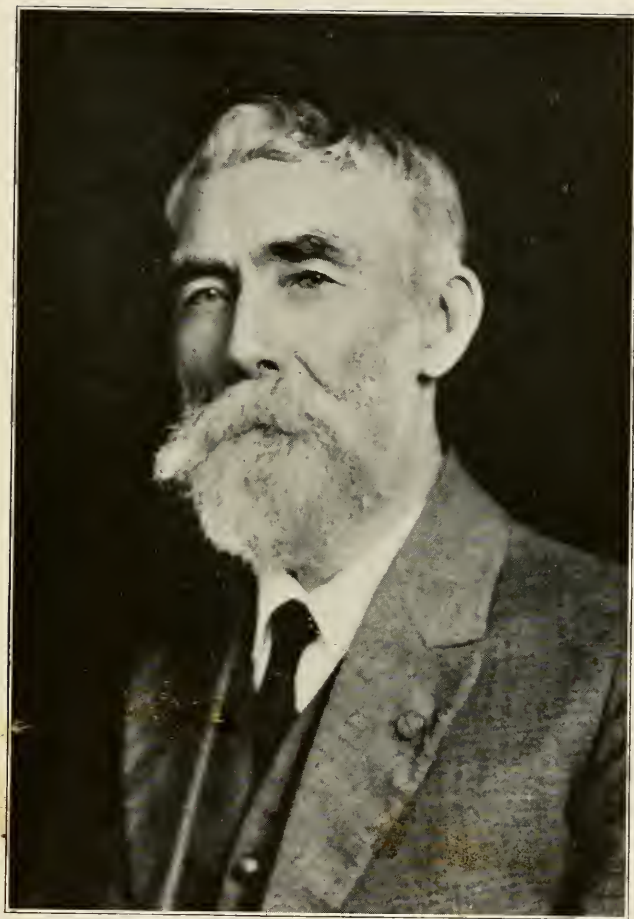
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### J. D. McCARTNEY.

J. D. McCartney, a well-to-do retired farmer residing at Elm Creek, is entitled to honor as a veteran of the Civil war, having served for a considerable period in an Iowa regiment. At the time the war broke out he was in the south and was compelled to serve in the Confederate army but at length escaped and made his way to the Union lines. He was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, on the 26th of September, 1839, of the marriage of William and Elizabeth (Davidson) McCartney, natives of Virginia and Kentucky, respectively. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, eventually removed from Ohio to Wisconsin and there his demise occurred but our subject took the body back to Ohio for burial. The mother died in Ohio in 1862.

J. D. McCartney was reared in the Buckeye state and received a limited education there. As his parents were poor he had to begin earning his living at an early age and when nineteen began his independent career. After working for a time as a farm hand he was employed on a steamboat on the Ohio river running to Cincinnati. He gained a thorough knowledge of steamboating but in the fall of 1859 decided to try his hand at other work and went to Arkansas, spending the winter chopping wood on the White river in Monroe county. He was still there when the Civil war broke out and when the Confederates began scouting for recruits he was noticed and would have been compelled to join the Confederate army then had not a man from Mississippi who was at that time living in Arkansas befriended him. This man had a son whom he did not wish to see enter the army and, having persuaded our subject to go home with him, he told his son and Mr. McCartney to hide in the swamps, saying that he would smuggle food to them until the war was over if it lasted a thousand years. During the daytime they hid in the swamps and at night they crept into the house. One night as there was company at the house they were late in getting in and at daylight were awakened by the barking of dogs. They found themselves in the hands of Confederates, who compelled them to join the army although, as there was no one to administer the oath, they did not formally enlist. Their division marched against an expected attack from gunboats that were supposed to come up the river in an attempt to join General Curtis' troops from the north. On reaching the White river, however, the gunboats had returned down the stream. On learning this the Confederates started for Little Rock but on the way our subject and his friend invented an excuse for falling behind and finally dropped out of the march. They intended to hide their horses





J. D. McCARTNEY



in the woods until the army should pass but the animals were restive and made so much noise that they finally decided to turn them loose. After hiding their saddles in a cane patch they let the horses go and then started for the Union army, which they thought would go to Helena, Arkansas, fifty miles distant. Our subject's companion led the way until Mr. McCartney was convinced that they were traveling in a circle and he then took the lead and succeeded in reaching the Union lines at Helena. He knew that moss always grows the heaviest on the north side of a tree and this knowledge was of great advantage to them in finding their way across the country. One night they built a smudge and he and his companion each marked a tree in what each believed to be the east. In the morning it was found that Mr. McCartney was right, while, according to his friend, the sun rose in the west. Mr. McCartney told his story to General Curtis, of the Fourth Iowa Cavalry, at Helena and enlisted in Company G of that regiment on the 1st of August, 1862. He continued with that command until he was mustered out on the 15th of August, 1865, at Atlanta, Georgia, and four days later he was honorably discharged at Davenport, Iowa. Although he had many interesting adventures before he succeeded in enlisting in the Union army he was thereafter fortunate, escaping being wounded or taken prisoner or being confined in a hospital by sickness.

Following the war Mr. McCartney returned to Gallia, Ohio, where he remained for several years. He then resided for ten years in Wisconsin, after which he spent a summer in Sioux county, Iowa, but in 1882 he drove by wagon to Buffalo county, Nebraska, bringing with him three cows. He homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of prairie and took up a timber claim of one hundred and sixty acres and for seven years lived in a sod house. At length, however, he built a commodious frame residence and he became in time one of the large landowners of Logan township, he and his son holding title to eight hundred acres. He engaged in farming until 1909, in which year he retired and took up his residence in Elm Creek, where he owns a comfortable home and where he has since lived. He still has two hundred and forty acres of land in Logan township, from which he derives a gratifying income.

Mr. McCartney was married in Gallia county, Ohio, in 1867, to Miss Louisa Dowdy, who was born in that county on the 11th of February, 1843, and is a daughter of David and Celia (Cheatwood) Dowdy, natives respectively of Virginia and Kentucky, both of whom passed away in Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. McCartney have four children. E. E., a farmer of Logan township, has eight children. Susan N. married R. M. Walker, who died in 1903, and she afterward became the wife of Charles Wilbur. She passed away five years ago, leaving three children, who are now living in Morrill county, Nebraska. Nina Belle is the wife of S. C. Cheney, of Morrill county, and they have four children. Lillie married J. C. Leemaster, also of Morrill county, and their children are three in number. Mr. and Mrs. McCartney have eighteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. McCartney supported the republican party for many years but in 1912 voted for Woodrow Wilson for president. He was a member of the Hatton Grand Army Post at Elm Creek until that organization was disbanded and he found much satisfaction in associating with others who went to the defense of the Union in its time of need. He at one time belonged to the Baptist church

and subsequently joined the Christian church but for several years has not attended any church. Although he is seventy-six years of age he is still hale and hearty and is active, as indolence is foreign to his nature. The success which he has won is the direct result of his untiring industry and his good management, and all who know him respect him highly.

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### JOHN WILSON.

John Wilson, police magistrate and justice of the peace of Kearney, was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, about ten miles from Pittsburgh on the 21st of February, 1849, and was there reared upon a farm until he reached the age of sixteen years. His parents, Samuel and Mary (Owens) Wilson, were natives of the north of Ireland and were Scotch Presbyterians in their religious belief. John Wilson, the father of Samuel Wilson, and in whose honor the subject of this review was named, came with his wife and children to America about the year 1825 and settled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at which time Samuel Wilson was a youth of eight years. He was there reared and married, his wife's people coming to America from the same locality in Ireland as did the Wilson family. In March, 1865, he removed with his wife and children to Illinois and settled near Geneseo, in Henry county, where he remained to the time of his death, which occurred in 1906. He and his wife were the parents of six sons and three daughters.

John Wilson, the eldest of this family, spent his boyhood days under the parental roof, aiding in the work of the home farm and attending the district schools of the neighborhood. Farming continued to be his occupation until 1876, when he was appointed to the office of deputy sheriff of Henry county, Illinois, serving in that capacity for ten years. In 1883 he resigned and in October of that year removed to Kearney, Nebraska, where he turned his attention to the livery business in partnership with his brother, Samuel Wilson. He continued in the livery business and in buying horses until 1888, when he was elected sheriff of Buffalo county and in that position served for two terms, or for four years in all. His second election, which occurred in 1890, was won by a majority of seventeen hundred, the largest ever given any candidate up to that time and possibly the largest ever given in the county. Still higher official honors awaited him, however, for in 1892 he was elected to the lower house of the state legislature, being one of the few that escaped the populist landslide of that year. In 1895 he was appointed deputy collector of internal revenue under J. E. Houtz, his territory comprising all of Nebraska west of Grand Island, in which city he made his headquarters, and extending as far north as Ord and south to the Platte river. Until 1913 he was in the leasing and sales department of the Union Pacific Railroad in Kearney and in 1914 was elected police magistrate and justice of the peace in Kearney and has since occupied that position. He was chief of the Kearney fire department for fifteen years, from 1884 to 1899.

Judge Wilson was married May 25, 1881, to Miss Rosa M. Beecher, of Galva, Illinois, and to this union five children have been born: Pearl, who died at the



age of two years; John Howard; Archie, who passed away in infancy; Ella M.; and Richard B.

Judge Wilson is a prominent Mason and is present eminent commander of Mount Hebron Commandery at Kearney. He also belongs to Tangier Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., and is connected with the Knights of Pythias as well. In politics he is a stalwart republican and has long been recognized as one of the leaders of his party in this section of the state, his opinions carrying weight in its councils. He possesses a genial nature and a social disposition, which go far toward winning him personal popularity, but his ability has kept him in office and places him at the front as one of the leaders of public thought and action.

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### CHARLES W. WALLACE.

Charles W. Wallace gained a substantial competence through his well directed activities as a stock raiser and is now living retired in Ravenna. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the 22d of February, 1859. His father served in the navy during the Civil war and was killed at New Orleans and his mother died shortly after his birth, so that our subject knows practically nothing of his parents. He was bound out to a farmer and remained with him until 1876. In the spring of the following year he removed to Belle Plaine, Iowa, and for three years was employed as a farm hand in that locality but at the end of that time he came still farther west. He made the journey to Buffalo county, Nebraska, in a covered wagon and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land on section 25, Schneider township. His previous experience in farm work well qualified him to carry on agricultural pursuits on his own account and as the years passed his resources increased. He gave the greater part of his attention to stock-raising, specializing in pure blooded Percheron and Shire horses. He was recognized as one of the most successful horse breeders of the county and for some time was secretary and treasurer of the Schneider Township Imported Horse Company, composed of horse breeders. He also raised high grade hogs and cattle and seldom failed to sell his stock to good advantage. In 1912 he retired from active life and removed to Ravenna, where he purchased a good residence in the northern part of the town, where he has since lived. He is a stockholder and director of the Bell Telephone Company and is independent financially.

In December, 1879, Mr. Wallace was united in marriage to Miss Martha Shafer, a daughter of Frederick and Mary (Meisner) Shafer. Her parents were both born in Germany but became pioneer settlers of Tama county, Iowa, where the father owned and operated a good farm. He also held title to four hundred and eighty acres in Gardner township, Buffalo county, Nebraska, which he purchased for his son. He served throughout the entire Civil war for a period of four and a half years with an Iowa regiment and was taken prisoner and held for fourteen months in a prison at Tyler, Texas. He was also wounded but in spite of the hardships and suffering which he underwent his loyalty to his adopted country never wavered. He passed away in October, 1911, and his wife died in 1899. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace have become the parents of five children,

namely: John C., a resident of Ravenna; Viola M., the wife of James Vogt, who is operating our subject's farm; Frederick S., who is assistant superintendent of the Industrial School at Kearney; Charles R., who is farming in Schneider township, this county; and Anna K., the wife of Wayne McWhinney, a farmer of Sherman county.

Mr. Wallace supports the democratic party at the polls and has held a number of public offices. For years he was justice of the peace of Schneider township, for two years was a member of the board of county supervisors, for twenty years he served on the school board and is at present assessor of Ravenna. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. He takes a commendable interest in everything relating to the public welfare and is one of the most highly esteemed citizens of Ravenna.

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### FRANK FIALA.

Frank Fiala, who is living practically retired upon a valuable farm adjoining the townsite of Ravenna, is one of the most widely known and most highly esteemed residents of this section of the state. He is almost seventy-three years of age but is still straight as an arrow, active and vigorous, and is interested in all of the affairs of the day. His has been an eventful life and in its course he has experienced the rigors of hard military campaigns, has known what it means to come to a strange country without capital and to gain prosperity only to lose all that he has won by hard labor, but his courage has never faltered and his determination and energy have enabled him to gain a substantial competence which is sufficient to provide him with all of the comforts of life.

Frank Fiala was born in the village of Horelice, nine miles from Prague, the capital of Bohemia, and his natal day was the 28th of April, 1843. His parents, James and Veronica Fiala, were likewise born in that country. The father engaged in the coal business, hauling coal to the city of Prague, and in the winter of 1846 was frozen while making the trip. His widow married Joseph Horak and in 1864 they came to America and located in Washington county, Iowa, where Mr. Horak purchased land, which he operated until his demise in 1908. He had survived his wife for a year, her death occurring in 1907.

Frank Fiala started to school in his native village when he was six years of age and when twelve years old was sent to Prague, where he lived with a relative and attended school, taking up, among other things, the study of German. In 1859 war broke out between Austria and Italy and patriotic feeling ran high among the students in the University of Prague, over eight hundred of whom, including Mr. Fiala, enlisted in the Austrian army. He was a member of a company of sharpshooters and for eight months was almost constantly on the skirmish line. He received six cents per day and rations, which consisted of a daily allowance of two and a half pounds of black bread. The principal engagement in which he fought was the storming of the fortress of Verona, Italy. He was only sixteen years of age when he enlisted but he made a highly creditable record as a soldier and met with many thrilling experiences unusual to a boy of his years. At the close of the war he was discharged and returned to Horelice,





MRS. FRANK FIALA





FRANK FIALA



where he held the position of accountant and timekeeper in an iron mine until he was twenty-one years of age. In the meantime he had formed the acquaintance of Vojte Naprstek, who in after years became one of the leaders of the Bohemian people throughout the world. Mr. Naprstek convinced Mr. Fiala that the advantages afforded in America were superior to those offered by his country under Austrian rule and he at once began to agitate the question of emigration among the people of Horelice. Many of his friends and neighbors emigrated, as did his mother and stepfather, and he himself was making preparations to leave when the government called upon him to enter upon the required eight years of military duty. He accordingly entered the army and was attached to the Seventh Regiment of Cuirassiers, in which he later became a lieutenant. His regiment was stationed for a considerable period at Vienna and was transferred to various places in Hungary. At that time Maximilian, archduke of Austria, was attempting to establish an empire in Mexico and Mr. Fiala applied for a transfer to his army, believing that he could thus find an opportunity to carry out his plan of emigrating to America. However, his request was refused, as the authorities learned that he intended to become a resident of the United States after the expiration of his term of service. While in the Austrian army the Austro-Prussian war occurred and he was in a great deal of the hardest fighting. Among other engagements he participated in the bloody three days' battle of Kenig-Krac and during that engagement was wounded twice, had two horses killed under him and the third horse was wounded by a stroke of a saber directed at Mr. Fiala's person.

At the end of five of his eight years' service Mr. Fiala asked for a furlough of thirty days and, taking advantage of his opportunity, took ship for America and landed at New York city in February, 1869. He did not have a dollar but succeeded in borrowing twenty dollars from friends and started for Chicago with a party of immigrants. After a very disagreeable trip which lasted ten days he reached that city and found work as a runner for an immigrant hotel, thus securing enough money to pay his fare to Iowa, where his mother, stepfather and other relatives were located. He was employed as a hired man near Richmond, Iowa, for a time and while there met a Bohemian girl who had recently removed from New York with her parents. They were married after an acquaintance of one day, although at that time Mr. Fiala did not have enough money to pay for the license. He began farming on his own account, but at the end of a year found that his profit was but seventy dollars and determined to turn his attention to other pursuits. His wife was an expert cigar maker, having learned the trade in New York and they concluded to return to that city and there secured work almost immediately. Mr. Fiala also learned the cigar maker's trade and was the first president of the Cigar Makers Union of New York city. The panic of 1873 affected the cigar industry as seriously as it did other commercial enterprises and Mr. and Mrs. Fiala determined to again try their fortune in the west. They had saved some capital and established a cigar factory in Iowa City, which they conducted successfully for about five years, but in 1878 the factory and stock were destroyed by fire, involving a loss of twenty thousand dollars.

Mr. Fiala again found himself penniless and was compelled to start life anew. While living in Iowa City he had made the acquaintance of Edward

Rosewater, the editor of the Omaha Bee, and also John Rositzky, the publisher of an influential Bohemian paper, Pokrok Zapadn, and they told him of the opportunities offered energetic, ambitious men in Nebraska. He went to Kearney in April, 1878, and after investigating conditions in the state decided in favor of Sherman county. He removed his family there, taking up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres three miles north of Ravenna. He also took up a one hundred and sixty acre timber claim on section 28, township 13, range 14, and at once began the improvement of his land. He found conditions even more satisfactory than he had thought and as the years passed his resources constantly increased. After farming successfully for seventeen years he sold his land in this state and went to Florida, investing his capital in timber lands. He took several cars of cattle and horses with him but within a year his stock sickened and died and he also lost heavily in his land investments. In addition to this misfortune he and nearly all of his family were taken sick and one son died there. For the third time he was without capital, but he secured funds from loyal friends and started to return to Nebraska with his family. His money was gone by the time he reached Missouri and he remained there for a year.

In the fall of 1896 he and his family took up their residence in Grand Island, and his wife and one of his daughters found employment in a Grand Island cigar factory, while he obtained a position with a Bohemian newspaper, which he represented throughout the state for a year. During that time he also represented a cigar house on the road, and he was also a representative of the Union Fire Insurance Company. At the end of five years the combined efforts of the family had accumulated sufficient capital to purchase a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Sherman county two miles from Ravenna. Mr. Fiala again concentrated his energies upon agricultural pursuits and again his labors were rewarded by prosperity. A few years later he purchased a valuable tract of eighty acres adjoining the townsite of Ravenna on the north and this is now the family home, the quarter section having been sold in 1911 at a substantial advance over the cost price. Part of the eighty acres has also been disposed of as a subdivision of Ravenna. The family are now in very comfortable circumstances and Mr. Fiala is living practically retired, enjoying a leisure which is richly deserved and leaving the operation of the home farm to his son. In 1885 he organized the Union Fire Insurance Company of Nebraska, of which he became vice president and a director, but at the time of his removal to Florida he resigned those offices. However, since returning to Nebraska he has again become connected with that concern and is now serving as its agent.

Mr. Fiala was married on the 19th of April, 1870, to Miss Anna Bratnsovsky, a daughter of Frank and Josephine Bratnsovsky, natives of Bohemia, who emigrated to America in 1864. After living for a short time in New York city they continued their way westward and settled in Washington county, Iowa; where they purchased land. The father devoted the remainder of his life to farming and met with gratifying success in that occupation. He died in 1898 at Des Moines, and the mother passed away in that city in 1883.

Mr. and Mrs. Fiala have become the parents of fourteen children, as follows: Toney, who was born in New York city in May, 1871; Anna, whose



birth occurred in New York on the 28th of May, 1872; Frank, born in Iowa City, Iowa, in September, 1873; Amos, whose birth occurred in Iowa City in June, 1875, and who died on the 22d of September, 1906; Charles, who was born in Iowa City on the 17th of October, 1877; Emma, whose birth occurred on the 12th of October, 1878, and who died on the 2d of September, 1908, leaving five children; Joseph, who was born on the 22d of February, 1881, and is a resident of Spokane, Washington; Clara, who was born in Sherman county, Nebraska, in August, 1882; Libbie, whose birth occurred in Sherman county on the 21st of May, 1884; William, born in Sherman county on the 15th of September, 1885; James, born on the 21st of November, 1887; Vlasta, born July 19, 1889; John, whose birth occurred on the 5th of February, 1891, and who died on the 19th of that month; and Albert, who was born on the 7th of February, 1892, and died on the 28th of March, 1895.

Mr. Fiala is a stalwart adherent of the democratic party and has always taken the keenest interest in public affairs. He has at all times manifested that high order of patriotism which is ready to subordinate personal interests to the general welfare and at the time of the Spanish-American war he signified his willingness to serve his country as a soldier, offering to raise a regiment of Bohemian-American volunteers for service whenever needed. Governor Holcomb personally thanked Mr. Fiala and promised him the privilege asked in case more troops were required, but, as Nebraska's quota was already more than filled, he was not given the opportunity to raise his regiment. For six years he served as justice of the peace in Sherman county, this state, and he was also elected county supervisor and county treasurer, but would not accept those offices. Fraternally he belongs to the Bohemian Lodge and he was a charter member of both the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, but has since demitted from those organizations. For many years he has been recognized as one of the leading citizens of Bohemian descent in Nebraska and it was largely due to his influence that the Bohemian settlements in this locality were formed. Moreover, during the pioneer days of the county he often sheltered immigrants who had recently arrived and were without funds and there are many families who are now in prosperous circumstances who owe their success largely to him, as he aided them in getting a start in this new country. He was reared in the faith of the Roman Catholic church but is now a free thinker, and he has often been called upon to officiate at the funeral of those holding similar beliefs. He has always conformed his life to high standards of ethics and his genuine worth is acknowledged by all who have been brought in contact with him in any relation of life.

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HARRY N. JONES, D. D. S.

Dentistry may be said to be almost unique among occupations, as it is at once a profession, a trade and a business. Such being the case, it follows that in order to attain the highest success in it, one must be thoroughly conversant with the theory of the profession, must be expert with the many tools and appliances incidental to the practice of modern dentistry and must possess business qualifica-

tions adequate to dealing with the financial side. In all of these particulars Dr. Harry N. Jones is well qualified and therefore has attained prestige among the able representatives of dentistry in Kearney, where he has maintained an office since January, 1909. He was born in Fremont county, Iowa, near Sidney, on the 17th of October, 1875, and in his youthful days accompanied his parents on their removal to Kansas, the family home being established upon a farm near Mankato, where he was reared. He there attended the public schools of the district and afterward continued his education in the high school of Minden, Nebraska, while later he spent three years as a student in the State University at Lincoln. He was in the period of early manhood at the time of the outbreak of the war with Spain and, loyal to his native country, he enlisted in 1898 as a member of Company D, First Nebraska Volunteer Infantry. With his regiment he went to Manila and saw active service for five months in the Philippines, participating with his regiment in nearly all of the military engagements that occurred on the islands. He then returned to the United States and was honorably discharged at San Francisco, August 23, 1899, coming out without a wound, although he was many times in the thickest of the fight.

When his military experience was over Dr. Jones became a fireman on an engine of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, running out of McCook, Nebraska, for three years but became imbued with the desire to enter upon a professional career and, deciding upon dentistry, he entered the Chicago College of Dental Surgery, from which he was graduated with the class of 1905. He then practiced for a year at Holdredge and for two years at Kenesaw, Nebraska, and in January, 1909, he located at Kearney, where he has since continued, having now a well appointed office equipped with the latest appliances of dental surgery. He is doing excellent work, for he keeps in touch with the advanced methods of the profession and possesses that mechanical skill which is an indispensable requisite of the dentist.

On the 19th of June, 1907, Dr. Jones was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Rowell, a native of Mount Ayr, Iowa, who was reared and educated in McCook, Nebraska, and they have one son, Glenn Rowell, who was born October 10, 1914. Dr. Jones gives his political allegiance to the republican party and fraternally he is connected with the Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Episcopal church and they are well known socially in Kearney, where they have gained a wide acquaintance and won many friends, their own home being a most hospitable one.

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#### CHARLES W. SHAHAN.

Charles W. Shahan, who has been identified with the commercial development of Kearney during the past quarter of a century, is now manager and treasurer of the Kearney Hardware Company, which controls one of the leading mercantile establishments of the county. He is a man of resolute purpose and unfaltering determination who carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. A native of West Virginia, he was born at Kingwood on the 2d of November, 1870, a son of John W. and Diana E. (Parsons) Shahan.



CHARLES W. SHAHAN





Charles W. Shahan was but eight years of age when he accompanied his parents to Buffalo county and was a youth of fifteen when the family home was established in Kearney. He completed his education in the Kearney schools and entered upon his business career as a clerk in the hardware store of Hubbell Brothers, while later he secured a similar position with the W. E. Jackway Hardware Company. In 1905 he formed a corporation that bought out the last named concern and merged it into the Kearney Hardware Company, which has developed into one of the leading mercantile enterprises of the city. They carry a large and well selected stock of shelf and heavy hardware and their trade has constantly grown as the result of commercial methods which will bear the closest investigation and scrutiny.

On the 22d of November, 1893, Mr. Shahan was married to Miss Mabel H. Rice and he and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church, while in the social circles of the city they occupy a prominent and enviable position. Fraternally Mr. Shahan is connected with the Modern Woodmen, with the Odd Fellows and with the Highlanders. In politics he is a republican but aside from exercising his right of franchise and manifesting a keen interest in the welfare of the country he has taken no active part in politics nor in any sense has he been an office seeker. His whole time and attention are devoted to his business affairs, and to the general material progress and development of city and county. He is remiss in none of the duties of citizenship and supports all plans and measures for the public good. His private business affairs are an element in Kearney's commercial activity and she is proud to number him among her representative merchants. He has conducted his interests along well defined lines of labor and the intelligent direction of his activities has brought him well merited prosperity.

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#### ALMON G. BOWER.

Almon G. Bower, who is engaged in the undertaking business at Kearney, is a representative of an old family of Indiana and was born at Wolcottville, Lagrange county, that state, April 13, 1851. His father, Philip Bower, was a native of Ohio and became a cabinetmaker by trade, but in later life turned his attention to farming. He was married in Ohio to Miss Mary Yager and in pioneer times removed to Indiana, settling in the midst of the forests of Lagrange county, where he had to cut down the timber and make a clearing in order to develop a farm. It was in that frontier home that all of his children were born, with the exception of the eldest. He continued to engage in general agricultural pursuits and also to some extent worked at his trade. In the early days he cut the live timber, sawed it and converted it into coffins for the dead or used it in the construction of household furniture.

It was upon the homestead farm that Almon G. Bower was reared to manhood, and in the district schools of the neighborhood he acquired his education. After attaining his majority he taught in the district schools for two terms, and the entire period of his youth was one of earnest and unremitting toil, during which he shared with the family in all of the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life. When nineteen years of age he went to Montana and

for two years was employed in a mill at Helena before the railroad had reached that place. He afterward returned to Indiana, where he engaged in farming for three years, and while there residing he was married.

In 1885 Mr. Bower came to Nebraska and for a number of years resided at Ulysses, Butler county, where he engaged in the undertaking business. In 1898 he came to Kearney and has here since made his home. For a time he was engaged in the furniture and undertaking business but for a number of years has devoted his attention exclusively to the latter and for some time his son, Verne R., has been associated with him. The son was probably the youngest licensed embalmer in the state when he was graduated from the H. S. Eckles Embalming School of Philadelphia in the year 1906. A. G. Bower is also a licensed embalmer, having completed the prescribed course at Lincoln, being one of the first in the state to receive a diploma.

Mr. Bower was united in marriage to Miss Mary I. Meeker and they became the parents of two children: One who died in childhood; and Carrie, the wife of Artie Dickinson, of Indiana. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Bower married Clara L. Hibbard, and the children born to this union are as follows: Verne R., who is in partnership in the undertaking business in Kearney with his father and wedded Miss Mabel A. Wallace, by whom he has a daughter, Ardis; Clyde H., who resides on a ranch in Douglas, Wyoming, and married Miss Hazel Tracy, by whom he has two children; and Clara, at home, attending the State Normal School at Kearney. The wife and mother passed away in 1906 and Mr. Bower subsequently wedded Miss Mabel Flint, who was a teacher in the public schools of Kearney. Mrs. Mary Bower and Mrs. Clara Bower had also taught school prior to marriage. Almon G. and Mabel (Flint) Bower are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are well known in the city in which they reside. They have gained a wide acquaintance and have an extensive circle of warm friends who appreciate their many sterling traits of character and entertain for them the highest regard.

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### J. H. RODGERS.

J. H. Rodgers, of Gibbon township, who is meeting with gratifying success as a farmer, was born in Greene county, Ohio, on the 10th of November, 1869, of the marriage of William A. and Mary E. Rodgers, both natives of Fayette county, that state. In 1882 they migrated with their family to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and settled in the town of Gibbon. The father, however, purchased seven hundred and twenty acres of land in Valley township, and there began breeding full blooded cattle, having brought some pure blooded Short-horns and Jerseys from Ohio. After living in Gibbon for four years he removed to his farm a half mile west of that town and there resided until his death, which occurred in 1911. His wife survives and makes her home with her children. He was a stanch republican in politics and was for ten years postmaster of Gibbon and for three terms has served on the board of county supervisors. He was at one time the republican nominee for the legislature but as that year

was marked by a populist landslide he was defeated. He held membership in the Masonic order and was buried with Masonic honors.

J. H. Rodgers received a good education and remained at home until he attained his majority. He then accepted a position with the Gibbon Milling Company, with which he remained for about five years, at the end of which time he decided to devote his life to farming and took charge of the operation of the home farm. He raises both grain and high grade stock and derives a good income from both branches of his business. He is thoroughly practical and at the same time progressive, and the prosperity which he has gained is well deserved.

Mr. Rodgers was married in 1897 to Miss Jennie M. Robb, of Gibbon, by whom he has two children, Myrl G. and Mary A. Mr. Rodgers supports the republican party at the polls and discharges to the full all of the duties of a good citizen. He has spent the greater part of his life in this county and has thoroughly identified his interests with those of his community, cooperating in movements seeking the general welfare.

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### WILLIAM FOWLER.

William Fowler, who is living retired in Ravenna after many years of successful farming, was born in Indiana on the 3d of December, 1846. His parents, John and Nancy (Culver) Fowler, were both natives of Kentucky but removed to Indiana in the early '40s. The father rented land there, to the cultivation of which he devoted the remainder of his life. He passed away in 1884 and the mother died in August, 1882.

William Fowler was reared in his native state and received his education in its common schools. In August, 1862, when not yet fifteen years of age, he enlisted in Company G, Sixty-sixth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and went to the front with that command. He was taken prisoner in the first engagement in which he participated—the battle of Richmond, Kentucky—and after being held for three days was paroled. At the close of the war he returned home and resided with his parents until 1867, when, at the age of twenty-one years, he removed to the northeastern part of Missouri and began farming on his own account. He operated rented land there until 1877, in which year he came to Nebraska and settled in Sherman county, just across the line from Buffalo county. He took up a quarter section as a homestead and as soon as possible brought his land under cultivation. From time to time he made improvements upon his place and in his work used the latest machinery, thus increasing his efficiency. In 1908, believing that he had accumulated sufficient capital, he retired from active life and, selling his farm, removed to Ravenna, where he built a fine residence four blocks north of the schoolhouse. His home is thoroughly modern and he lacks none of the comforts of life. He also erected another good residence which he rents.

On the 3d of November, 1868, Mr. Fowler was united in marriage to Ellen Pickett, a daughter of James and Mary (Evelt) Pickett, natives of Indiana. Her father devoted his life to farming and at the time of his demise was living in Crawford county, Indiana. He and his four sons were all members of Company

H, Twenty-third Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served during three years of the Civil war. He passed away on the 8th of February, 1900, and his wife died on the 26th of December, 1868. Mr. and Mrs. Fowler have become the parents of six children, namely: Lina, who was born on the 17th of March, 1870, and is now the wife of John Jungle, of Ravenna; Sima, who was born on the 11th of September, 1872, and died on the 8th of February, 1874; Minnie, whose birth occurred on the 17th of July, 1873, and who is now the widow of Oscar J. Binden, and resides in Montana; Ursula, who was born October 11, 1875, and is the wife of Edwin Callaway, a farmer of Sherman county; Susie, who was born January 20, 1881, and gave her hand in marriage to Harry Branton, of Great Falls, Montana; and William, Jr., whose birth occurred July 14, 1884, and who was killed in a railroad accident in California on the 19th of October, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Fowler also have an adopted daughter, Katheryn O'Neill Fowler, who was born on the 26th of August, 1889, and whom they have reared since she was a week old.

Mr. Fowler supports the democratic party at the polls and in times of peace has manifested the same willingness to subordinate personal interests to the general good that prompted him to enlist in the Union army at the time of the Civil war. He is a loyal member of the Grand Army of the Republic, thus keeping in touch with his comrades, and his religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. The leisure which he now enjoys is the direct result of his industry and good management in former years and all of his friends rejoice in his prosperity.

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#### ORAN H. CRUMLEY.

Oran H. Crumley, of Shelton, has met with marked success as a stock feeder and dealer and is also a large landowner in the county. He was born in Greene county, Iowa, on the 13th of March, 1871, a son of Jacob and Sarah Crumley, natives respectively of Virginia and Ohio. In 1856 they became residents of Iowa and twelve years later they removed to Otoe county, Nebraska, whence they subsequently came to Buffalo county, where both are still living. They had twelve children but seven have passed away.

Oran H. Crumley was given good educational advantages, completing a high school course. On beginning his independent career he turned his attention to dealing in hogs and cattle but subsequently engaged in merchandising in Shelton for ten years. In 1907 he sold his store and reentered the live stock business. He buys and sells stock of all kinds and his good business judgment, combined with his thorough knowledge of stock, enables him to secure a good profit from his transactions. He is also one of the heaviest stock feeders in the county and he and his wife together own sixteen hundred acres of finely improved land. Through his enterprise and good management he has gained financial independence and he has also been a factor in promoting stock raising interests throughout the county.

Mr. Crumley was married in 1898 to Miss Nora Meisner, a native of Buffalo county and a daughter of George and Rachel Meisner, both deceased. Her





ORAN H. CRUMLEY



father was one of the wealthy men of this county and was widely and favorably known. Mr. and Mrs. Crumley have become the parents of six children: Rachel, who is attending high school; Leon L.; Lawrence and Loyal, twins; one who died in infancy; and Oran.

Mr. Crumley is a staunch adherent of the republican party but his extensive business interests have left him no time to take an active part in politics. He is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and the Elks, and his wife is a member of the Presbyterian church. He not only has the respect of all who have been associated with him in any relation of life but has also gained the warm friendship of many.

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### WALTER L. STICKEL.

Walter L. Stickel is a well known lumberman of Kearney and in various other ways has been identified with the business development of the city through the past decade and a half. He is a western man in birth, in spirit and in training and the enterprise which has dominated the upbuilding of this section of the country finds exemplification in his life. He was born in Kansas on the 3d of December, 1872, a son of Fletcher A. and Nancy (Scott) Stickel. His father was a lumberman and it was in his employ that Walter L. Stickel learned the business in all of its details and ramifications. His youthful days were passed in attendance at the public schools and in rendering assistance to his father at the lumberyard, and he completed his scholastic training in Baker University at Baldwin, Kansas, and at Cornell (Ia.) College. His initial independent effort in business was made in 1894, when he purchased a lumberyard in Council Grove, Kansas, which he conducted for seven years and then sold. In 1901 he came to Kearney and purchased the lumber business of George H. Downing & Son. Since that time he has purchased other yards and has opened branch establishments at various points. He has also extended the scope of his business to include the retailing of coal and he is today regarded as one of the most prominent lumbermen of Nebraska, his operations in that field being very extensive. In various other ways his energy and business ability have contributed to the upbuilding of Kearney and of Buffalo county. His diligence is at all times a tangible asset in his success and in commercial affairs his judgment is sound and his sagacity keen. His company owns the "1733 Ranch," so named because it lies seventeen hundred and thirty-three miles from each of the cities of Boston and San Francisco. It lies wholly within the borders of Buffalo county, near Kearney, and is one of the old historic places of this part of the state, comprising over five thousand acres of rich and productive land. It is a credit to the county and to its owner. In addition to his other interests Mr. Stickel is a director of the Central National Bank. In business affairs he displays sound judgment and keen sagacity, recognizing and utilizing opportunities which others pass heedlessly by. His interests have extended in scope and importance year by year and placed him in a most prominent and enviable position among the business men in the western part of the state.

In June, 1894, Mr. Stickel was united in marriage to Miss Anna May Wells, by whom he has three children, namely: Edna A., Daphne and Walter L., Jr. Mr. Stickel belongs to the Kearney Commercial Club and cooperates in all of its plans for the development of the city along business lines and for the advancement of municipal interests. In politics he is a republican and is a supporter of all those measures which are a matter of civic virtue and civic pride. Fraternally he is a Knight Templar Mason and member of the Mystic Shrine and also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. To him belongs the honor of completing the first seedling mile of the Lincoln Highway in the state of Nebraska and thus he is taking active part in improving public highways. In a word he is a most public-spirited citizen, never neglecting his duties or his obligations in relation to the general welfare, and his cooperation has proved a valuable asset in furthering plans and projects for the public good. At the same time he is a most forceful and resourceful business man whose executive ability and excellent management have brought to the concerns with which he is connected a large degree of success.

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#### JAMES B. MINER.

James B. Miner, a well known farmer residing in Ravenna, was born in Ohio on the 15th of October, 1854, and is a son of John and Rebecca (Dudgeon) Miner, an account of whose lives appears in the sketch of Charles Miner. Our subject was reared and educated in Shellrock, Butler county, Iowa, and remained with his parents until he became of age. He then began working for others although he continued to reside at home for several years, but at length he rented land, from the cultivation of which he gained a fair income. He carefully saved his money and when twenty-eight years of age he purchased forty acres and two years later bought eighty acres more. The operation of his farm occupied his time and attention.

In January, 1887, Mr. Miner sold that place and came to Ravenna, Buffalo county, Nebraska, as he had heard that there were good opportunities for the agriculturist in this section. He bought a quarter section one and a half miles south of the town and at once set about improving the place, which he soon brought to a high state of development. He invested his capital in more land from time to time and at one time held title to eight hundred acres. He has since sold one hundred and sixty acres but still owns an entire section, which lies on sections 20, 21 and 8, Garfield township, the buildings being on section 21. He is still operating that place but since 1910 has lived in Ravenna. He goes back and forth to the farm and gives his personal attention to the cultivation of crops and the care of stock. He receives a handsome return from his land and is financially independent. He raises a considerable number of cattle annually and has nothing but high grade stock. In addition to his farming interests he has other investments, owning stock in the Ravenna Electric Light & Power Company.

Mr. Miner was married in October, 1879, to Miss Minnie Rowley, who was born in New York on the 3d of November, 1862, and who is a daughter of David



and Arlatia (Woodruff) Rowley, natives of the Empire state. The father was a farmer by occupation and in 1870 removed with his family to Butler county, Iowa, where he purchased land which he operated for many years. At length, feeling that he had accumulated a competence, he retired from active life and removed to Shellrock, where he died in March, 1909. His wife passed away in August, 1900.

Mr. and Mrs. Miner have become the parents of eleven children, namely: Guy D., who was born July 4, 1881, and died in April, 1901; Edith, who was born on the 4th of August, 1882, and who is now the wife of James Runyon, of Minatare, Nebraska; Bertha, born January 22, 1884, now the wife of Lewis Case, who is farming land belonging to our subject; Floyd, who was born March 6, 1886, and is road overseer of Garfield township; Lee, who was born January 30, 1889, and is farming in this county; Walter, born December 23, 1890, who married Nellie E. Duncan and is a dentist at Norfolk, Nebraska; Arlatia, who was born April 2, 1893, and is now the wife of Clifton Turner, a resident of Minatare, Nebraska; and Elizabeth, born January 12, 1896, Fay, born April 18, 1897, Raymond, April 17, 1899, and Ethel, March 23, 1901, all of whom are at home.

Mr. Miner gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has served for six years as constable, proving efficient and energetic in the discharge of his duties. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and is also identified with the Modern Brotherhood of America. He is not only energetic and practical in carrying on his farm work but he is also progressive, adopting new methods that promise to be of value. Once removing to Ravenna in order to give his children the advantages of the public schools here he has interested himself in the progress of the community along various lines and is recognized as a public-spirited citizen.

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#### F. A. MUELLER.

F. A. Mueller, cashier of the Farmers State Bank of Pleasanton, was one of the dominant factors in the organization of this institution and is now a member of its board of directors, taking active part in shaping its policy and directing its growth. In business affairs his plans are always well defined and his enterprise has led him steadily forward to the goal of success. He was born in Germany, fourteen miles south of Berlin, on the 14th of June, 1881, a son of Ludwig and Ida (Kupferschmidt) Mueller, who came to the United States in 1882, locating in Hamilton county, near the town of Hampton, Nebraska, taking up their abode upon a rented farm. Carefully saving his earnings, his industry and his economical expenditure enabled Mr. Mueller in 1889 to purchase a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Rusco township, Buffalo county, Nebraska, to which place he removed his family in the spring of 1890. He continued upon the farm for almost two decades, or until 1909, when he retired and removed to Pleasanton. He had carefully, persistently and successfully cultivated his place, transforming his land into very productive fields and making the farm a most profitable one. On the organization of the Farmers State Bank of Pleasanton

ton he became a stockholder and in January, 1915, was elected vice president of the bank, in which capacity he is now serving. For ten years he was postmaster of the Peake postoffice located on his farm. He also served as justice of the peace and has long been regarded as one of the influential men of his township, his aid being always given on the side of right, progress and improvement.

F. A. Mueller, an only child, was educated in the public schools near his father's home and from his early youth worked in cooperation with his father in the further development and management of the home farm, being thus actively engaged until 1909, when he became associated with John R. Bonson in the organization of the Farmers State Bank of Pleasanton, which opened its doors for business on the 11th of June, of that year, Mr. Bonson being made cashier of the institution, while Mr. Mueller became assistant cashier. On the 12th of December, 1911, the latter purchased the former's interest in the bank and at the same time was made cashier, in which capacity he has since continued. He is one of the well known representatives of financial interests in Buffalo county, strong and resourceful in business management, yet conservative to the point of most carefully safeguarding the interests of depositors and stockholders.

On the 8th of June, 1905, Mr. Mueller wedded Miss Anna Schipman, of Grand Island, Nebraska, and this union has been blessed with four children, Erick, Elsie, Helen and Ruth. The parents are members of the Lutheran church and in his political views Mr. Mueller is a republican. He has served as justice of the peace and as a member of the school board and is a stalwart champion of progressive education. In fact he stands for improvement and progress along all lines and accomplishes what he undertakes either in a business way or for the benefit of the community.

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#### L. P. SOUTHWORTH.

L. P. Southworth is now living retired in Ravenna but for many years was a most active business man and along the lines of intelligently directed business enterprise won his success. He was born in Oneida county, New York, on the 16th of April, 1837, a son of James and Adelia W. (Day) Southworth, who were also natives of that county, where they were reared and married. In 1838 they removed to Newark, La Salle county, Illinois, where the father passed away in 1841, while the mother, long surviving him, died in that county in 1889. Mr. Southworth was a lawyer by profession and thus provided for the support of his family.

L. P. Southworth was reared at home, acquiring his education in the public schools. The educational opportunities of that day and period, however, were very limited. The little temple of learning in which he pursued his studies was seated with slab benches, heated by a big fireplace and equipped in the most primitive way, while the method of instruction was little better than the furnishings. As a youth he worked as a farm hand and on reaching manhood he rented land and began farming for himself. At the outbreak of the Civil war he felt that his duty to his country was paramount to every other interest and on the 15th of August, 1861, enlisted as a member of Company F, Thirty-sixth



L. P. SOUTHWORTH





Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He served for four years and three months at the front and was honorably discharged and mustered out on the 6th of November, 1865. He was wounded in the arm at Racceca and it was also at that place that he was promoted to the rank of second lieutenant of his company. He has a valuable souvenir of the war in an officer's sword, which he took from a Confederate officer, whom he captured at Mission Ridge. This particular sword is a fine example of the high art attained by the English cutlers of an early day.

After receiving his discharge Lieutenant Southworth returned to his home and on the 14th of the following March was united in marriage to Miss Lodecia Eybond, of La Salle county, Illinois, by whom he had five children but only one is now living, Jessie S., the wife of C. M. Wann, living at Hays, Kansas. Some time following his marriage Mr. Southworth removed to Iroquois county, Illinois, where he resided for five years and then returned to La Salle county. In 1876 he became a resident of Chicago, where he engaged in the live stock commission business until 1881, when he removed to Russell county, Kansas, where he engaged in the business of cattle and sheep raising, there continuing for five years. Subsequently he devoted his time to trailing sheep throughout the western country, driving them from points as far as the state of Oregon. He bought and handled from fifty to one hundred thousand head per year. In the meantime he removed to Denver, Colorado, where he made his home for fourteen years. In 1903 he came to Ravenna, where he has since resided. For five or six years after taking up his abode here he remained active in stock buying and the shipping business and also held a controlling interest in the Citizens State Bank, of which he was president. In 1907, however, he disposed of his interest in the bank and retired from the live stock business, so that he is now enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. His has been a most active life, fraught with good results. He is a man of persistent purpose, carrying forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes and his well defined plans, carefully executed, have brought him the success which is now his. He is one of the best known horse men in this part of the country, having won many prizes with his horses, and is recognized as one of the best judges of fast horses in the west and has owned among others such as Fred R., a trotter with a mark of 2:17; Tip Top, a pacer with a mark as four year old of 2:15 $\frac{1}{4}$  and Western Flyer, a pacer with a mark of 2:17.

In politics Mr. Southworth is an earnest republican but has never been an office seeker. He has membership in Lotus Lodge, No. 6, A. F. & A. M. Having joined the order in 1862, he is now the oldest Mason in Ravenna and he has ever been most loyal to the craft, closely observing its teachings in all his relations with his fellowmen.

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#### S. L. LEAS.

A quarter section of excellent land in Gibbon township pays tribute to its owner, S. L. Leas, who is an up-to-date and efficient agriculturist. A native of Indiana, he was born on the 9th of January, 1861, of the marriage of William and Susanna (Shaffstall) Leas, the former of whom was born in Ohio and the

latter in Pennsylvania. They were married, however, in Indiana, and there the mother passed away in 1907, after having survived her husband for more than four decades, his demise occurring in 1865.

S. L. Leas is one of two living children of a family of six. He received his education in his native state and remained there until 1887, when he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and purchased his present farm, which comprises one hundred and sixty acres on sections 2, 9 and 14, Gibbon township. He has spared neither time nor expense in improving his farm, which is one of the most valuable properties of his locality and from which he derives a handsome income. He specializes in raising and feeding stock and studies the markets carefully, so as to sell to the best advantage. He is financially interested in the Farmers Elevator at Gibbon.

Mr. Leas was married in 1882 to Miss Flora Ransburg, a native of Ohio, by whom he has two children, namely: Fern, who engaged in teaching for a number of years; and Bonnie B., who has taught school for six years.

Mr. Leas supports the republican party at the polls and has served acceptably as a member of the school board for many years. Fraternally he belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and his wife is a member of the Presbyterian church. In developing his farm he has not only gained financial success but has also had a part in the advancement of the agricultural interests of the county and along other lines as well he has contributed to community progress.

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#### C. R. LIPPINCOTT.

C. R. Lippincott manages an excellent farm of three hundred and forty acres in Platte township and is there specializing in the raising of high grade stock. His birth occurred in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, on the 3d of May, 1878, and he is a son of James F. and Jane S. (Vance) Lippincott, both natives of Pennsylvania. On leaving that state they removed to Fillmore county, Nebraska, but a short time afterward went to Gosper county, whence they came to Buffalo county. They settled upon a farm on section 1, Platte township, and there resided until 1906, when they went to the state of Washington. Two years later, however, they removed to Missouri, where the mother passed away. The father is still living and still makes his home in that state.

C. R. Lippincott is one of six living children of a family of nine and he received his education in the common schools. During his boyhood and youth he assisted his father, and by the time he reached his majority he was thoroughly familiar with agricultural work, this knowledge enabling him to assume charge of the home farm in 1899. He has since engaged in stock-raising and derives a handsome income from the sale of his cattle and hogs. The farm comprises three hundred and forty acres of good land and is improved with substantial and commodious buildings.

Mr. Lippincott was married in 1898 to Miss Olga Moldrup, who was born in Illinois of the marriage of Peter and Marie (Jensen) Moldrup, natives of Denmark, who in 1870 emigrated to the United States. They first located in Chicago, but in 1882 became residents of Kearney county, Nebraska. The father passed

away in Missouri in February, 1915, and the mother is now a resident of that state. They were the parents of two children, but only Mrs. Lippincott is now living. Mr. and Mrs. Lippincott have seven children: Hazel M. and Dessa C., both of whom are high school students; Sadie L.; Abbie R.; Ethel J.; Maxine; and Marjorie.

Mr. Lippincott indorses the principles of the republican party and supports its candidates at the polls. He has served as a member of the school board and takes the interest of a public-spirited citizen in the affairs of local government. His wife belongs to the Church of Latter Day Saints. His energy and good judgment have gained him success in his chosen occupation and his sterling worth as a man has won him the warm regard of those who have been associated with him.

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### WILLIAM CLARK KEEP.

William Clark Keep is engaged in farming on eighty acres of land adjoining the town of Elm Creek and also owns five hundred and twenty acres of additional land and derives a gratifying financial return from his farm property. He was born near New Milford, Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, on the 13th of July, 1856, a son of Joel Keep, a native of Connecticut. The family record has been traced back to the Mayflower and there is a story to the effect that at one time all the members of the family were massacred on their way home from church with the exception of a boy and girl, who had been left at home and from whom all of the present representatives of the family are descended. Joel Keep was a blacksmith in his early manhood but subsequently engaged in buying lands, which he improved and then sold. Still later he turned his attention to the lumber business. He was twice married, his first wife being Almira Hocomb, by whom he had four children, all now deceased: Charles Melville; Lucia, who married Miles Corse; John; and Ellen, who married Daniel D. Thompkins. Mr. Keep chose as his second wife Mrs. Lucy Ann (Hendrick) Simonds, and to their union were born three children, namely: William Clark; Edward A., who resides in Callaway, Nebraska; and Mary Frances, the wife of Judson Very, of Callaway, Nebraska. The father passed away in Pennsylvania and the mother died in Nebraska.

William C. Keep was reared in the Keystone state and there received a common school education. In 1879 he decided to try his fortune in Buffalo county, Nebraska, where several of his neighbors and friends had recently located, and accordingly came to Elm Creek. For a year and a half he was employed in the Davis eating house, which is remembered by all of the early settlers, and after Mrs. Davis had sold out he remained with her successor for some time. While working in Elm Creek Mr. Keep entered a tree claim of one hundred and sixty acres and a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Dawson county, but for a considerable period he retained his position in Elm Creek and spent the week ends on his farm. At length he took up his residence on that place and turned his whole attention to its improvement and cultivation. Still later he engaged in the furniture and undertaking business in Elm Creek and for fifteen

years attempted to conduct his mercantile interests and to farm at the same time. He found, however, that the two undertakings interfered with each other and he disposed of his store and has since given all of his time to agricultural pursuits. He now resides on an eighty acre tract adjoining Elm Creek, but he also owns a ranch of three hundred and sixty acres in Dawson county and one hundred and sixty acres on section 15, Elm Creek township, this county. He manages his affairs well and is recognized as one of the most efficient farmers of his township. His home farm is finely improved and he takes justifiable pride in keeping everything in good condition.

Mr. Keep was married in 1886 to Miss Elizabeth G. Wells, who was born in Harrisonville, Ohio, on the 20th of March, 1869, and is a daughter of Apollo A. and Mary E. (Stephens) Wells, now residents of Dawson county, Nebraska. The family home was established in this state when Mrs. Keep was twelve years of age. By her marriage she has become the mother of five sons, namely, Roy W., Earl M., William Clark, Jr., Harold W. and Raymond S.

Mr. Keep is a republican and is now serving acceptably as a member of the school board and for several years held the office of township clerk. Both he and his wife are active workers in the Methodist Episcopal church and the sincerity of their faith is evidenced in their daily lives. Their home, which is provided with all of the comforts of life, is noted for its warm-hearted hospitality. Their genuine worth is acknowledged by all who have been associated with them and they have many friends throughout the county.

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#### MRS. MARY L. FINES.

Mrs. Mary L. Fines is one of the most respected residents of Shelton and is familiar with a great deal of the history of Buffalo county, for she has resided within its borders since 1865. She was born in Indiana of the marriage of Oliver and Sabrina (Hall) Loomis, natives respectively of New York and of Pennsylvania. They were married in the former state and resided there until 1838, when they removed to Indiana, which was then a frontier region. Subsequently they lived for three years in Ohio, after which they went to Iowa and took up a claim. Seven years later they sold that place and removed to Worthington, that state. The mother's death occurred at Manchester, Iowa, but the father passed away in Nebraska.

Mrs. Mary Fines is the only one living of a family of seven children. She is indebted to the public schools for her education and remained at home until she was united in marriage to Edward Ellis, by whom she had two children, Robert and Thomas. Robert Ellis resides in Libertyville, Illinois, and is one of the well-to-do and highly respected citizens of that place. Thomas Ellis lives on a fine farm near Shelton, Nebraska, and is prosperous and greatly esteemed. For her second husband she married Stephen J. McKee, who enlisted in 1861 in the Union army for service in the Civil war. He remained at the front until the close of hostilities, making a creditable record as a soldier, and in 1865, after peace was restored, he and his wife removed to Buffalo county, Nebraska,







STEPHEN J. MCKEE



MRS. MARY L. FINES





where his demise occurred in 1877. By that union there were six children but only two, James and David, are now living. After the death of her second husband Mrs. McKee became the wife of W. F. Fines, who passed away on the 13th of February, 1891.

Mrs. Fines still owns one hundred and sixty acres of excellent land in Gardner township, this county, which is well improved and which one of her sons is operating. She also owns her residence and three lots in Shelton and derives a good income from that property. She holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which she takes a commendable interest, and her many good qualities have gained her the warm regard of all who have been closely associated with her.

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### W. R. HANKINS.

W. R. Hankins, who is engaged in general farming on section 3, Garfield township, is a progressive agriculturist whose labors have been carefully directed and have thus won him substantial success. He was born in Poweshiek county, Iowa, on the 5th of January, 1876, and is a son of Gilbert M. and Mary C. (Lytle) Hankins, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Pennsylvania. At the time of the Civil war the father espoused the cause of the Union and enlisted as a member of Company A, Fifty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry, doing active duty at the front.

Following the close of hostilities he removed from Ohio to Missouri and subsequently became a resident of Iowa, where he was married and made his home until 1878. In that year he came to Buffalo county and took up a timber claim and also a homestead in Cherry Creek township, remaining upon that place to the time of his death, which occurred in 1898, while his wife survived until 1900. He was one of the progressive agriculturists of the community and brought his fields to a high state of cultivation, his labors resulting in the development of an excellent farm.

W. R. Hankins was but two years of age when the family removed to Nebraska and upon the old homestead he was reared with the usual experiences that fall to the lot of the farm lad. He attended the common schools and following the death of his father he and his brothers took charge of the old homestead, which they operated in partnership.

In 1902 Mr. Hankins was married to Miss Emma G. Johnson, a native of Boone county, Nebraska, and after his marriage located upon the farm which is now his home and which had been purchased by himself and his brothers after the father's death. In subsequent years when the division was made, Mr. Hankins acquired two hundred and forty acres of rich and productive land, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation, converting the tract into a valuable farm from which he annually gathers good harvests. His life has been a busy and useful one and his labors have brought good results. In addition to tilling the soil he makes a specialty of breeding registered Percheron horses and at the present time has upon his place twenty head or more of registered

Percherons besides seventeen other horses. This is an important feature of his business and adds materially to his income.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hankins have been born three children, Roger, Mervin and Gertrude. The parents are members of the Baptist church and are interested in the progress and welfare of the community, their aid and influence being given always on the side of right and improvement. Mr. Hankins is a democrat in his political views and, while he has never sought nor held political office, he is serving at the present time as a member of the school board and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. Practically his entire life has been passed in this county and those who know him entertain for him warm regard because his salient traits of character are such as in every land and clime win confidence and good will.

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#### CHESTER HOLLOWAY.

That Chester Holloway is a man of enterprise and business acumen is indicated by the fact that he holds title to twelve hundred and eighty acres of fine land in Buffalo and Lincoln counties. He has been one of the most extensive cattle breeders and raisers of the county and is still active in that line although since 1907 he has made his home in Gibbon. His birth occurred on the 9th of January, 1846, and his parents were Ira and Achsah (Bouton) Holloway, natives respectively of New York and Ohio. They were married in the latter state and subsequently removed to Michigan, where both passed away.

Chester Holloway was reared and educated in the Buckeye state and remained at home until 1863, when, at the age of seventeen years, he enlisted in Company E, Ninety-third Ohio Infantry, for service in the Civil war. He remained with that command until the close of hostilities and participated in several skirmishes. After being mustered out at Winchester, Virginia, he returned to Ohio, whence in 1867 he went to Kansas, where he worked for the government at Fort Leavenworth. He made two trips from that fort to old Fort Hays, in New Mexico, with cavalry horses during the time that the United States troops were fighting the Indians. At that time there were many Indians throughout the west. After leaving Kansas he resided in Michigan for six years but in 1882 sold his farm in Ohio and took a trip through the southern part of the United States, going to New Orleans and Galveston and thence through New Mexico and Arizona to Yuma, Arizona, and on to San Francisco, California. From that city he came to Nebraska and, liking the conditions in this state better than those he had found elsewhere in his travels, he located in Buffalo county, purchasing land in Valley township, on which he lived for more than two decades. His well directed labors brought him substantial financial returns and year by year he increased his holdings, becoming at length the owner of twelve hundred and eighty acres, a large part of which is improved. He specialized in the raising of cattle and became one of the largest shippers in the county. He has been through a number of severe droughts but has so managed his affairs as to minimize his losses. In 1900 there was almost a total crop failure and he was compelled to ship all of his cattle and horses to Cherry county, where he

owns a ranch and where the drought was not so bad. Again, in 1904, this county suffered from a terrible drought and again his ranch in Cherry county saved him from loss, as he drove his cattle and horses there. Since 1907 he has lived in Gibbon. He is interested financially in the Bankers Mortgage & Loan Company at Omaha and the Ravenna Telephone Company and owns valuable business property in Gibbon. He was formerly a stockholder in the Commercial Bank of this place but has now disposed of his interest therein.

Mr. Holloway is a republican in politics and for fifteen years he has served as a member of the school board. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge and he is in sympathy with the work of the various churches although not a church member. His influence has been perhaps most strongly felt along the lines of agricultural development, but he has also had a part in the promotion of the civic and moral advancement of his community and has measured up to a high standard of citizenship. His many admirable qualities have enabled him to gain and retain warm friends and all who have come in contact with him respect him highly.

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#### CHRISTIAN BOHN.

Christian Bohn, actively engaged in general farming on section 6, Cherry Creek township, is one of the substantial citizens that Germany has furnished to Buffalo county. He was born in Holstein, Germany, February 19, 1859, his parents being John and Margaret (Alpan) Bohn, who were natives of that land. In the year 1873 the family came to the new world. The father had died in Germany in 1863 and the mother had afterward married Peter Gehrt. Crossing the Atlantic, they rented land in Hall county, Nebraska, where they resided from 1873 until 1880 and then came to Buffalo county, where Mr. Gehrt secured a homestead in Garfield township. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made upon the place, but with characteristic energy he began its development and operated the farm until his death, which occurred in November, 1898. His widow now survived him, her death occurring in September, 1915.

Christian Bohn was a youth of fourteen years when the family came from the fatherland to the new world and from that time forward he provided for his own support, beginning work as a farm hand. He was thus employed until 1881, when he became a resident of Buffalo county and entered a claim in Cherry Creek township, securing one hundred and sixty acres on section 6. He at once began to break the sod and till the soil and from time to time added improvements to his place until he converted it into one of the best farms of the locality. As his financial resources increased he kept adding to his land until he is now the owner of six hundred and sixty acres, of which a quarter section is in Sherman county. He has operated his farm continuously for thirty-five years and the changes which he has wrought have made it a very valuable and desirable property, constituting one of the attractive features of the landscape. He feeds a car load of cattle per year and a car load of hogs and he raises only high grade stock, making this an important feature of his business.

In December, 1883, Mr. Bohn was married to Miss Katherine Hauser, a



daughter of John G. and Katherine (Habarar) Hauser, who were natives of Germany and came to the new world in 1882, settling in Sherman county, Nebraska. Her father there purchased land and carried on general farming for many years or until 1908, when he put aside business cares and retired from active life. He now makes his home with his son, his wife having passed away in May, 1908. To Mr. and Mrs. Bohn were born six children, namely: John, who is married and has one child; George; William, who died in 1899; Amanda, who married Fred Stein, a farmer of Sherman county, and has three children; Minnie, who married Frank Hoffman, of Grand Island, and has two children; and Frieda.

In politics Mr. Bohn maintains an independent attitude, voting according to the dictates of his judgment without regard to party ties. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church, to which he is ever loyal. As the years have gone by he has made continuous progress in the attainment of success and is now one of the substantial farmers of the community in which he has made his home for more than a third of a century.

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#### JAMES M. EASTERLING.

James M. Easterling was born near West Liberty, Kentucky, August 23, 1860. He was educated in the common schools and the West Liberty schools. He devoted five years to teaching. Later he graduated from the law departments of the Georgetown and the Columbian universities and graduated also from the Martyn College in the literary department.

He came to Kearney, Nebraska, August 15, 1888, where he has since resided. He helped to organize the populist party and in 1892 was its nominee for secretary of state, but with the ticket was defeated. He has lived to see the principles for which he labored become dominant in state and nation. He served two terms as county judge, two terms as county attorney for Buffalo county and one term as member of the lower house of the legislature, declining a renomination.

He was married September 1, 1892, to Miss Viola M. Kretchmer, of Red Oak, Iowa. To this union have been born four children: Bernhard K., Gretchen B., Pauline E. and Cynthia E.

Mr. Easterling loves the simple life of the home circle, where he finds his greatest happiness. He never shirked a responsibility nor abandoned a duty.

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#### JAMES JOSHUA SMITH.

James Joshua Smith, who was an efficient and prosperous farmer of Elm Creek township, was widely known throughout the county and his demise was the occasion of sincere regret. His birth occurred in Toledo, Ohio, on the 16th of March, 1862, and he lived in that state until 1883, when as a young man he, with his sister Augusta, accompanied his father, James Smith, on his removal to Buffalo county, Nebraska. The family home was established on a farm in Elm



Creek township and the father engaged in agricultural pursuits until his demise. He was successful and held title to almost a section of land.

James J. Smith received valuable training in farming through assisting his father and acquired his education in the public schools of Ohio. Following his marriage he became the owner of part of his father's land and at the time of his death his holdings comprised two hundred and sixty acres in township 9, range 18, section 19. He built a good house upon the place, set out a grove and made other improvements, thus adding to the value of the farm. He devoted his entire time to the cultivation of his land and his well directed labors yielded him a good return.

Mr. Smith married Miss Susie E. Walker, who was born in Burlington, Iowa. Both her parents, David C. and Elizabeth (Prugh) Walker, are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Smith became the parents of two children, Harry Glenn and Bessie Mildred.

Mr. Smith was a member of the Methodist church and gave his political allegiance to the republican party. Since his demise, which occurred on the 10th of September, 1901, his widow, son and daughter have conducted the farm and have proved capable in their management of the place. Mrs. Smith is an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal church, sings in the choir and takes part in various movements seeking the moral advancement of her community. She has manifested good business ability in carrying on the farm work and her personal qualities are such that she has won the friendship of many.

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#### MICHAEL O'CONNOR.

Michael O'Connor is a retired farmer and cattle raiser residing on his farm a mile and a half south of the town of St. Michael, on section 14, Cherry Creek township, and he is one of the honored pioneer settlers of Buffalo county, who has been identified with the development of this section of the state since the days when it was a frontier district and when residence here involved many hardships and privations. He has lived to see the notable changes which have been wrought by time and man and in fact has borne a full share in bringing about present day conditions of progress and improvement. He was born in County Mayo, Ireland, on the 20th of September, 1850, and there spent the days of his youth, pursuing his education in the public schools.

About 1875 Mr. O'Connor married Miss Elizabeth Kyne, a native of County Galway, Ireland, and after reaching manhood he engaged in general merchandising in the town of Con, in County Mayo. But the reports which reached him concerning the opportunities and advantages of the new world at length led him to sever his connection with the Emerald isle and sail for the United States. It was in 1885 that he crossed the Atlantic with his wife and four children, making his way direct to Nebraska, where he preempted eighty acres and purchased a relinquishment on an adjoining eighty acre tract. Subsequently he entered one hundred and sixty acres as a homestead and he also took up eighty acres as a tree claim. He first put up a sod house, in which he lived for a decade, when pioneer improvements gave way before the advantages of modern

civilization. For several years he was one of the extensive sheep growers of Buffalo county, running on his ranch as high as ten thousand head of sheep, but in later years he has given his attention largely to the cattle industry and now has under his control some fourteen hundred and forty acres of land, but in recent years has turned over the operation of much of his farm lands to his sons. When the town of St. Michael, which he helped survey, was established it was named in his honor by the town site company. He was instrumental in securing the establishment of the postoffice at St. Michael and was appointed the first postmaster and later he was honored with election to the mayoralty of the town, which was the beginning of an election year by year that has continued him in office without opposition to the present time. He puts forth earnest and effective effort to advance the public welfare and has not only been a cooperant factor in many movements for the general good but has taken the initial step in advancing public interests. He has served as a member of the town board and as a member of the school board and has been justice of the peace, in which connection he has rendered decisions that are strictly fair and impartial.

To Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor have been born eight children: Thomas, a resident of Grand Island; Patrick, of St. Michael; Michael, who makes his home in Valley county, Nebraska; David, at home; Anthony, who is a stockman of Cherry Creek township; John, who is the owner of a mine in Nevada; Kate, at home; and Mary, who makes her home with her brother Patrick. The wife and mother passed away March 16, 1915, her death being deeply deplored by all who knew her. Mr. O'Connor is a member of the Catholic church and in politics is independent. His platform in politics is progress and improvement and thereon he stands for the benefit of the community in which he lives. His business career has been a notable one by reason of the success which he has achieved and the honorable methods which he has followed in its attainment.

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### HENRY JAMES DUGDALE.

Among the successful and energetic farmers of Shelton township is numbered Henry James Dugdale, who was born in Shelton, Nebraska, then known as Wood River Center, on the 10th of July, 1860. His father, Henry Dugdale, a machinist by trade, was born in England, as was his mother, Sarah Jane Dugdale.

Our subject was reared in this county and is indebted for his education to the district schools. Early in life he became familiar with farming and on beginning his independent career determined to follow the occupation to which he had been reared. He has never had occasion to regret his choice of a life work, for he has not only gained a gratifying measure of prosperity but has also found agricultural pursuits congenial. He gives careful attention to his work, follows up-to-date methods and uses improved machinery and his well directed energy has resulted in the attainment of success.

Mr. Dugdale was married on the 13th of March, 1888, at Imperial, this state, to Miss Lillie May Allsop, a daughter of William and Helen Allsop. To this union have been born the following children: Lulu Estelle, the wife of Walter

W. Rice, of Kearney; Ralph Earl, who married Ethel V. Roberts, of Toledo, Ohio; Della Irene; Lee Allsop; and Thelma Helen.

Mr. Dugdale has never been remiss in any of the duties of a good citizen but has not taken an active part in politics, preferring to devote his time to his agricultural interests. He was one of the charter members of Lodge No. 141, I. O. O. F., of Shelton township, organized in 1883, and is still identified with that organization. His entire life has been passed in this county and his genuine worth is indicated by the fact that those who have known him intimately since childhood hold him in the highest esteem and warmest regard.

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### WILLIAM F. STARK.

Among the native sons of Buffalo county who have recognized the fact that the opportunities offered the ambitious young men here are the equal of those to be found elsewhere, is William F. Stark, who is operating the home farm in Garfield township, on which he was born on the 23d of September, 1880. His parents, Fred and Wilhelmina (Gaten) Stark, were natives of Germany but both came to America about 1860. The father followed the miller's trade at Davenport, Iowa, for a short time, after which he went to Grand Island, Nebraska, where he was employed in a mill until he removed to Gibbon, Buffalo county. He worked in the Davis mill there for two years, at the end of which time he turned his attention to farming, taking up a homestead and timber claim in Garfield township, his holdings comprising three hundred acres. He was one of the first settlers in the township and had to perform all of the arduous tasks incident to developing a farm from the virgin prairie, for his land was totally unimproved when it came into his possession. He brought the land under cultivation, erected good buildings and at the time of his demise his place was in a high state of development. He passed away on the 31st of March, 1901, and was survived by his wife until the 21st of April, 1912.

William F. Stark was reared at home and in the acquirement of his education attended the district schools. He was early trained to farm work and remained with his parents until they were called from this life. Following the demise of his mother he came into possession of the home farm, as he bought out his sister's interest in the place and he has since operated the homestead on his own account. He has made additional improvements upon the farm and has been very successful as an agriculturist. In addition to raising grain he breeds thoroughbred Polled Durham cattle and other high grade stock. The most important factors in his prosperity are his thorough knowledge of agriculture, his willingness to utilize new methods and new machinery, and his sound business judgment.

On the 18th of April, 1915, Mr. Stark was united in marriage to Miss Ida Betke, a daughter of William and Bertha (Shiefelbein) Betke, natives of Germany. The father was brought by his parents to America in 1879 and the family home was established in this county, the father homesteading a claim in Garfield township. Following his demise his son William became the owner of the home farm, which he has since operated. The mother of Mrs. Stark is also still living.



Mr. Stark is a socialist in his political belief and has given much careful study to the economic, political and sociological problems of the day. His fraternal connection is with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is an energetic and representative young farmer and his personal worth is attested by the fact that those who have been associated with him since boyhood hold him in the highest respect and esteem.

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### CHARLES E. CLARK.

Charles E. Clark, cashier of the State Bank of Poole, has made a remarkable record in that capacity, having so conducted the affairs of the institution that its business has increased about one hundred and sixty per cent since he took charge in 1909, although the volume of the banking business throughout the state has shown a decrease during this period owing to poor crops. His birth occurred on the 15th of May, 1877, in Wayne county, Iowa, near Promise City, and he is a son of Thomas and Diana (Scott) Clark. His paternal great-great grandfather was the master of a sailing vessel and his great grandmother was born at sea and lived on the ocean until she was married at the age of eighteen years. Samuel Clark, the grandfather of our subject, was well acquainted with both Lincoln and Douglas, traveling with them when in their famous debates they drove home to the people the importance of the issues then before the country.

Charles E. Clark spent much of his boyhood upon a farm in Clay county, Nebraska, halfway between Clay Center and Fairfield, his parents having removed there when he was but seven years old. Eight years later the family came to Buffalo county and located upon a farm in Valley township nine miles north of Gibbon. He received his early education in the district schools of Clay and Buffalo counties and subsequently took a course in the Gibbon high school. For a time he engaged in farming but later turned his attention to the profession of teaching, which he followed for eleven years. He was one of the best educators in the county and during the last three years of his professional work served as the superintendent of schools in Pleasanton, during which time he did much to advance the educational standards there.

In 1909 Mr. Clark entered the business field, becoming cashier of the State Bank of Poole, and he has discharged the important duties devolving upon him in that capacity in a manner worthy of the highest praise. He has proved seemingly infallible in judgment and has made the bank of service to the community in many different ways. The institution not only does a general banking business but also issues letters of credit and foreign drafts or money orders, sells travelers' checks, writes farm insurance, deals in farm loans and negotiates the transfer of realty. Although the policy of the bank has been characterized by a progressive spirit and a desire to promote the business expansion of the community, yet the first care of the officers has at all times been to safeguard the interests of depositors and stockholders, as they realize that only by so doing can they secure permanent prosperity. Five times as much surplus is carried as is required by law and a considerable amount of the earnings of the bank is left in the undivided profits account, thus still further increasing the safety of the





CHARLES E. CLARK



depositors' money. Moreover, the bank is operating under the Depositors Guarantee Law of the State of Nebraska, which is very strict in its provisions. The institution was organized in July, 1905, with a paid up capital of five thousand dollars and opened its doors for business in a rented building that had a sign in front that read "Board and Lodging." The interior of the banking rooms was as unprepossessing as the exterior and a homemade counter served as a desk. In spite of this exceedingly humble beginning the institution prospered and in 1910 the capital stock was increased to ten thousand dollars and not long afterward a manganese steel burglar proof safe was purchased. In the fall of 1911 the business had reached such a volume that the stockholders erected in a good location a brick building with a large fire-proof vault provided with safety deposit boxes for the accommodation of those who wish to rent them. Subsequently additional improvements were made in the equipment of the bank and the stockholders have always shown a willingness to use part of the earnings of the business in making things more convenient for the bank's customers. When Mr. Clark became cashier the resources of the bank were thirty-nine thousand, two hundred and ninety-nine dollars and ninety cents, and on the 12th of December, 1915, they totaled one hundred and three thousand, four hundred and twenty-nine dollars and fifty-four cents. The remarkable growth of the business in the last six years is in itself proof of his unusual business ability. He has the full confidence of all who have had dealings with him and he is popular with the bank's patrons, as he is never found lacking in courtesy.

Mr. Clark was married in 1899 to Miss Edna Reedy, a daughter of John Reedy, one of the leading citizens of Buffalo county. She is a descendant of a family which was established in the United States in the early days of its history and whose representatives have been highly esteemed in their respective communities. She is a woman of sound business judgment and is efficiently filling the position of assistant cashier of the State Bank of Poole. By her marriage she has become the mother of four children, Hazel, Marjorie, Charles, Jr., and Ruth.

Mr. Clark gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and has taken a prominent part in local public affairs. He was one of the incorporators of the village of Poole, served as chairman of the village board of trustees during the first years of its existence and held the office of township treasurer of Beaver township for some time. He can be counted upon to take a leading part in all movements seeking to promote the civic and business advancement of his town and county and no resident of Poole is held in greater respect than he.

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#### REUBEN B. MILLER.

Reuben B. Miller is successfully engaged in stock raising on a fine farm in Cherry Creek township and specializes in mule foot hogs. He was born in Michigan on the 13th of April, 1878, and his parents were John G. and Mary (Stuber) Miller, natives respectively of Germany and of Switzerland. The father came to America in young manhood and settled in Michigan, where he

farmed until 1880, when he removed with his family to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and bought a homestead right. He made many improvements upon his place, which he operated until his demise in September, 1897. He was survived for a number of years by his wife, who passed away in May, 1912.

Reuben B. Miller was reared and educated in Buffalo county, Nebraska, as he was but two years of age when the family removed here, and he remained under the parental roof until he attained his majority. He then worked as a farm hand for one year, after which he rented land which he operated until 1908. He then bought one hundred and sixty acres in Gardner township, but three years later sold that property and purchased five hundred acres of excellent land on sections 32, 29 and 20, Cherry Creek township, which he still owns. He has carefully conserved the fertility of the soil, kept everything about the place in first class condition and has also made a number of improvements. He grows some grain but pays particular attention to stock raising, keeping about one hundred head of cattle and specializing in thoroughbred mule foot hogs. He understands all phases of farming thoroughly and as he gives much thought to the management of his work and keeps in touch with the findings of those who are engaged in the scientific study of agricultural problems, he is very efficient and receives a handsome income from his land.

Mr. Miller was married in February, 1899, to Miss Louise Nutter, a daughter of William and Dina (Hingham) Nutter, both of whom were born in England. The father came to America in 1852 and after working for some time as a factory boss in Philadelphia he went to Utah, having been converted to the Mormon faith. He remained there for eighteen months but at the end of that time became disgusted with conditions and decided to locate elsewhere. He came to Buffalo county and took up his residence in the vicinity of Shelton, but those were pioneer times and the Indians were so hostile that he was compelled to leave. He returned to England but some time later came again to this country and located on a farm near Gibbon, Nebraska, which became the family homestead. He operated that place for many years and passed away in May, 1905. His wife is still living on the home farm. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have two children: Gerald D., born on the 6th of October, 1902; and Ruby G., whose birth occurred on the 22d of July, 1905.

Mr. Miller indorses the principles of the republican party and has worked loyally for its success at the polls. Fraternally he belongs to the Royal Highlanders and the Modern Woodmen of America.

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### SAMUEL CAMPBELL.

Samuel Campbell, a resident farmer living in Divide township, was born in Stark county, Illinois, March 18, 1885, a son of William and Jeannette (Watt) Campbell, both of whom were natives of Scotland. They came to America in early life and first settled near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Subsequently they removed to Stark county, Illinois, where they took up their abode upon a farm, making their home in that district until 1893, when they removed to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and established their home on the farm on section 25, Divide



township, on which their son Samuel now resides. Both the father and mother spent their remaining days upon that place. In their family were five children: Mary Jane, the wife of M. B. Whitcher; William; Jeannette, the wife of F. A. Snedeker; Alexander; and Samuel.

The last named was reared and educated in this county, attending the common schools. He was early trained to the work of the farm and after his education was completed he settled down upon the old homestead and is today the owner of one hundred and sixty acres on section 25, Divide township, where he carries on general agricultural pursuits, meeting with good success in his undertakings. In addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he makes a specialty of raising stock, of which he keeps good grades.

In 1908 Mr. Campbell was united in marriage to Miss Maidie Parks, a native of Platte county, Nebraska, who was born February 3, 1890. Her parents, J. F. and Ella (Patterson) Parks, are now living in Thornton township. To Mr. and Mrs. Campbell have been born four children, namely: Boyce G., Muriel M., J. R. and Melvin S.

The wife and mother passed away in February, 1914, and was laid to rest in the Kearney cemetery. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, which Mr. Campbell and the family attend. He is one of the enterprising and leading farmers and stock raisers of his township, progressive in all that he does, his labors bringing to him well merited and well earned success.

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### WILLIAM STARK.

Agricultural interests in Buffalo county find a worthy representative in William Stark, who is engaged in general farming on section 2, Garfield township. He has resided upon this place since 1880 and for many years has been prominently, actively and extensively engaged in the raising of cattle and hogs. In a word, he is regarded as one of the foremost business men in this part of the state and has won notable success in the able conduct of his business affairs. He was born in Germany on the 3d of June, 1858, a son of John C. and Anna (Nelson) Stark, who came to the United States in 1862 and settled in Davenport, Iowa. Six years afterward they removed to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where they remained for a year, and then became residents of Grand Island, Nebraska, where they passed the remainder of their lives. The father was a brick mason and in following that pursuit provided for his family.

William Stark spent his youthful days at home and pursued his education in the common schools. In his early years he became a cowboy and thus was employed for eight years on the Platte river bottoms. It was his ambition, however, to engage in business on his own account as a farmer and stock raiser and in 1880 he took up his abode upon a tract of land on section 2, Garfield township, securing a homestead and also purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land. With characteristic energy he began the development of a farm and transformed the wild prairie into fertile fields. He extended the scope of his activities to include the cattle business, with which he has since been prominently identified. He breeds and raises high grade Polled Durham

cattle and Poland China hogs and is one of the leading stock dealers of this part of the state. As his financial resources have increased he has extended the boundaries of his farm from time to time and is now the owner of seven hundred and twenty acres of valuable land, while in Garfield township he is regarded as one of its foremost citizens.

In 1882 occurred the marriage of Mr. Stark and Miss Fredericka Krehmke, a native of Germany, who came to the United States with her parents about 1875. To this marriage have been born nine children, of whom eight are yet living: Lucy, now the wife of Arthur Kenyon, of Castana, Iowa; Minnie, who married Frank Huryta, of Ravenna, Nebraska; Anna, the wife of Leo Colter, a farmer of Sherman county; Lilly, Edna and John, all at home; Leo, who resides in Ravenna; and Christie, at home. Nellie, who married Albert Polenz, of Ravenna, died November 20, 1913. There are also six grandchildren. The wife and mother passed away March 21, 1902, her death being a matter of deep regret to many friends as well as to her immediate family.

In his political belief Mr. Stark is a socialist and his study of the questions and issues of the day has led him to give intelligent support to the principles which he indorses. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, but his efforts and interests have been most largely concentrated upon his business affairs and diligence and determination have constituted the foundation upon which he has builded his notable and desirable success. His business affairs have been most carefully managed and energy and industry have brought him to the fore in this connection, so that he stands today as one of the most prominent and prosperous farmers and stock raisers of Buffalo county.

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#### MRS. EVA C. BARR.

Mrs. Eva C. Barr, who has been phenomenally successful in the management of the West Hotel, which she has conducted for a number of years, has made it one of the most popular and best known small town hotels in the state. In her business career she has had many difficulties to overcome but has never become discouraged, and her energy, self-reliance and sound judgment have enabled her to turn seeming defeat into success and she is now one of the influential factors in the business development of Ravenna.

Mrs. Barr was born upon a farm near Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and during her childhood and youth resided in several different places, her parents removing to Iowa and later to Joplin, Missouri. She attended school in the latter place and subsequently accompanied her parents to Harlan county, Nebraska, where she spent several years. Later she removed to Bloomington and was there married. She and her husband lived for a time at Hastings but were later engaged in business first at Hansen and then at Prosser, this state. At length Mrs. Barr found herself thrown upon her own resources with two children to provide for and rear to maturity and she at once bravely set herself to the task. For two years she was a traveling saleswoman for the Hammond Printing Company of Fremont, selling advertising novelties and fancy stationery, and while on the road she realized the need for better hotels in small towns.



MRS. EVA C. BARR





Through her own experience she learned conditions as they were and also learned what improvements would be most appreciated by the traveling public and determined to go into the hotel business as soon as the opportunity offered.

At length she accepted a proposition to take charge of a small hotel in Litchfield and at once began to put her plans into execution. She personally attended to the minutest details of the business and spared no time nor thought in making the hotel a model of its kind. She insisted on the utmost cleanliness throughout the establishment, prepared the meals with her own hands and made the hotel an attractive and cheerful place. The wisdom of her course was soon evident, for within a very short time the business had increased to such an extent that the hotel proved altogether too small. In providing for the comfort of her guests she did the work of two women, but her energy and endurance proved equal to the demands made upon her and she gained such confidence in her theories and in her ability to work them out satisfactorily that on the 1st of January, 1910, she leased the West Hotel in Ravenna, which she has since conducted. With a much larger house and a greater volume of business she still gives personal attention to the comfort of her guests and to the preparation of the food, doing the more particular part of the cooking herself, and also manages the financial end of the business. The reputation of the West Hotel has grown rapidly and there are many traveling men in this section of the state who make it a point to put up at the West as much as possible, as it has a standard of service usually found only in much larger hosteleries. At length the patronage outgrew the capacity and Mrs. Barr then assumed the management of the adjoining hotel and is now conducting it as an annex to the West Hotel. Her business foresight, her enterprise and executive ability are recognized by all who have come in contact with her and she is considered one of the most valued residents of Ravenna.

Mrs. Barr's two children are now grown and her daughter is the wife of O. A. Nellis, of Hastings, Nebraska. Her son, S. G. Barr, is residing in Fort Morgan, Colorado, and is connected with the sugar plant there. He married Miss May West, of Haigler, Nebraska, whose father is a prominent cattleman. Mr. and Mrs. Barr have a daughter, Lenore, three years old.

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### HANS HENRY LUTH.

Hans Henry Luth, carrying on general agricultural pursuits on section 2, Schneider township, was born in Germany on the 23d of June, 1851, a son of Frederick and Dorothy Luth, who were also natives of that country. The father worked as a general laborer for many years, or until 1878, when he came to the new world, after which he made his home with his children until his death, which occurred in 1882. His wife had passed away ere he crossed the Atlantic.

Hans Henry Luth was educated in the fatherland and at the age of seventeen years came to America, settling in Clinton county, Iowa, where he was employed as a farm hand for ten years. He next went to Crawford county, Iowa, where he worked for a year, and during this period he carefully added to his earnings until the sum was sufficient to enable him to purchase forty acres of land. He

afterward added another tract of forty acres and for nine years continued the cultivation and improvement of that farm, but eventually sold out and came to Buffalo county, where he arrived in 1889. Here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 2, Schneider township, and has since made notable changes and improvements upon the place, his labors converting it into a very valuable, desirable and beautiful farm. It is equipped with all modern accessories, conveniences and improvements and constitutes one of the pleasing features of the landscape. In addition to this property he also owns one hundred and sixty acres on section 31, Garfield township. In addition to tilling the soil for the cultivation of the crops best adapted to conditions here he makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred Polled Hereford cattle.

In January, 1876, Mr. Luth was married to Miss Margaret Ohde, a daughter of Jacob and Dorothy Ohde, who were natives of Germany and who came to the United States in 1870. They settled in Clinton county, Iowa, where Mr. Ohde purchased a farm, which he cultivated for a considerable period. He then sold that property and removed to Crawford county, Iowa, where he again invested in a farm, upon which he spent his remaining days. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Luth have been born nine children: Fred, now a resident of Colorado; Peter, who died in 1903; Henry, who makes his home in Ravenna, Nebraska; George, at home; Annie, the wife of Max Weidner, living in Ravenna; Max, at home; Rose, the wife of B. Sheik, living near Shelton; Laura, the wife of Asa McKinney, a resident of Ravenna; and August, who is also under the parental roof.

In his political views Mr. Luth is independent, nor has he been very active along political lines. He has served, however, as road supervisor and he has also filled the office of school director. He is a member of the Highlanders Lodge and his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Lutheran church. Substantial qualities characterize him and his salient traits are those which have won him warm regard and the respect of those with whom he has been associated.

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#### FRED A. PIERSON.

Fred A. Pierson, devoting his time and energies to general farming on section 9, Cherry Creek township, has extensive and important agricultural interests, operating his father's farm properties embracing fourteen hundred and forty acres. To control and manage this demands excellent business ability and executive force—qualities which Fred A. Pierson displays. He was born in Bremer county, Iowa, on the 1st of November, 1876, a son of Charles A. Pierson, of whom extended mention is made elsewhere in this volume. His youthful days were spent in the usual manner of farm lads, his time being divided between the acquirement of a public school education and the work of the fields. Actual experience brought him a knowledge of the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops, and about the time he attained his majority he began farming on his own account in Bremer county, Iowa. In later years he carried on agricultural pursuits in Minnesota and in North Dakota

and in 1910 he arrived in Buffalo county, where he has since made his home. The following year he took charge of his father's extensive land holdings, which he has since managed and developed and today he is numbered among the large farmers of the county, carefully and wisely directing the cultivation of fourteen hundred and forty acres of land. He raises large crops of the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and he also has good stock upon his place. His plans are carefully formed and promptly executed, for his business must be thoroughly systematized in order that there shall be no loss of time, labor or material. The work is conducted in accordance with the most progressive agricultural methods and excellent buildings upon the place furnish ample shelter for grain, stock and farm machinery.

On the 19th of October, 1903, Mr. Pierson was married to Miss Gertrude Cooper, of Bremer county, Iowa, and to this union two children have been born, Flora Irene and Charles Oscar. In politics Mr. Pierson is a republican, voting for the men and measures of the party because of his endorsement of its platform. He and his wife are members of the Baptist church, to the teachings of which they are loyal, while to the support of the church they make generous contribution. They are also well known socially and their own home is justly celebrated for its warm hearted hospitality.

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#### GEORGE W. DUNCAN.

George W. Duncan has been identified with business interests of Poole for many years and is now confining his attention to general merchandising, although he was formerly also engaged in the lumber business and at one time dealt in grain. His birth occurred on the 10th of August, 1855, in Le Claire, Iowa, to which place his parents, James and Jane (Wilson) Duncan, had removed on the 5th of April, 1855. They were both natives of Pennsylvania. The father became the owner of a valuable tract of land in Scott county and engaged in its cultivation and improvement until he was called by death in October, 1877. His wife survived him for more than nine years, dying in January, 1887.

George W. Duncan grew to manhood in his native county and entered the public schools at the usual age, there securing a good education. In 1878 he was appointed administrator for his father's estate and performed the duties devolving upon him in a very efficient manner. About that time he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, to see a sister who was living here and, although he had no intention of locating in the county when he came, found it so much to his liking that he took up a homestead in Cedar township. For eight years he operated that place, after which he took up his residence upon other land which he had acquired. From time to time he invested in real estate and at length became the owner of eight hundred acres in this county. In December, 1891, he came to Poole and began dealing in grain, but the following spring he turned his attention to general mercantile interests, erecting a store building and stocking it with a well selected line of merchandise. He has been very successful and has conducted the store with the exception of four years, which he spent upon his farm. For some time he was also engaged in the lumber business, but has now disposed



of his interest in that connection. In addition to his valuable land holdings in this county he owns three good farms in Oregon and as his investments have all been wisely made he derives a good income therefrom.

Mr. Duncan was married on the 19th of August, 1885, to Miss Susie Pool, whose parents, A. H. and Gertrude (Tilson) Pool, were natives respectively of New York and Michigan, but took up their residence in Buffalo county in 1876. The father was for some time engaged in business as a partner of our subject but passed away in 1893. The mother is still living in Ravenna. Mr. and Mrs. Duncan have become the parents of four children: Edgar E., who is in the lumber business at Farnham, Nebraska; Walter R., at home; Frank K., who is attending school in Ravenna; and Lelia H., who is also attending school there.

Mr. Duncan is an adherent of the democratic party and has served for two years as county commissioner and has also held the offices of assessor and township clerk. His fraternal affiliation is with the Loyal Mystic Legion and he gives his religious allegiance to the United Presbyterian church. In the conduct of his various business enterprises he has shown himself farsighted, energetic and alert and the gratifying success which has rewarded his labors is richly deserved.

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#### CHARLES F. HIGHLAND.

Charles F. Highland is still living upon his farm in Beaver township but is not active in its operation. He is, however, connected with business interests as a member of the firm of Highland & Son, well known grain dealers. He was born in Walworth, Wisconsin, in December, 1854, of the marriage of Thomas and Elizabeth (Walton) Highland, both natives of England. They were brought to the United States as children by their respective parents and here grew to maturity. The father engaged in farming in Wisconsin until 1864, when he went to Delaware county, Iowa, where he purchased land which he operated for nine years. At the end of that time he removed to Buena Vista county and there he resided until he passed from this life in 1879. He was survived for many years by his wife, whose demise occurred in July, 1912.

Charles F. Highland is indebted for his education to the public schools and remained at home with his parents until he was twenty-five years old, when he bought a tract of land in Buena Vista county, Iowa, which he operated for five years, or until 1885. On selling that place he bought a farm in Sac county, the same state, which he disposed of in 1888, the year in which he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska. He rented a farm four and a half miles southeast of Ravenna for a year and operated leased land in Cherry Creek township for a similar period of time. He then lived in Sherman county for two years, operating land belonging to others, but at the end of that time he had accumulated sufficient capital to purchase land and bought one hundred and sixty-five acres on section 4, Beaver township, on which the town of Sweetwater is now located. Subsequently he sold sixteen acres to the town but continued to operate the remainder of his farm until 1910, when he rented the land to his son. He raised both grain and stock, specializing in high grade Poland China hogs and Red Polled cattle, and his





MR. AND MRS. CHARLES F. HIGHLAND



well directed labors yielded him a substantial return. He still resides upon the place but now devotes his energy to the grain business which is conducted under the firm name of Highland & Son. He has dealt in grain more or less since 1891, but the present firm has been in existence for only about two years. In 1908 the firm of Highland Brothers engaged in the general mercantile business in Sweetwater, but three and a half years later sold their stock of goods and turned their attention to dealing in grain, continuing under the same firm style for two years longer. At the end of that time one brother sold his interest to his father, Charles F. Highland, and the name was changed to Highland & Son. The firm operates two elevators and does a large and growing business.

Mr. Highland of this review was married on the 25th of December, 1879, to Miss Melvina Hollandsworth, a daughter of John and Sarah A. (Bird) Hollandsworth, both of whom were born in Kentucky. Her father became connected with mercantile interests in Prairie City, Illinois, where he engaged in business during the greater part of his active life. He passed away in 1885, but his wife is still living and resides with her daughter, Mrs. Highland. The latter is the mother of seven children: Lester, who is manager of an elevator at Ravenna, Nebraska; Loren, who is operating his father's farm; Jay M., who is in partnership with his father in the grain business; Ethel, the wife of Harry Swartz, of Ravenna; Floy, who is postmistress at Sweetwater; Roy, at home; and Dean, who is attending college at Grand Island.

Mr. Highland is independent in politics, voting for the man irrespective of party. He served as postmaster of Sweetwater for nine years and was also justice of the peace of Beaver township for a considerable period. He is affiliated with the Modern Brotherhood of America, and also with the Grange and the Farmers Alliance and is a Presbyterian in religious faith. He has measured up to all of the obligations of life and is justly esteemed as a successful business man and a good citizen.

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### JOSEPH C. MAHONEY.

Joseph C. Mahoney, the agent at Poole for the Union Pacific Railroad, was born in Onondaga county, New York, in June, 1869, of the marriage of Thomas J. and Laura B. (Longstreet) Mahoney, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of New York. The father was brought by his parents to the United States when seven years of age and was reared in New York, where he engaged in farming and truck gardening after reaching man's estate. In 1873 he removed with his family to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and entered a homestead four and a half miles west of Gibbon. He made many improvements upon that place and operated it for twelve years, but at the end of that time he sold the property and removed to Gibbon, where he spent the remainder of his life. He died in April, 1894, and his wife passed away in April, 1888. He was a veteran of the Civil war, enlisting with Company E, One Hundred and Forty-fourth New York Volunteer Infantry, with which he went to the front. After nine months' active service he was wounded, losing his left arm, and it was some time before he

recovered. However, his patriotic spirit was not lessened and as soon as he was well enough he joined the navy and remained in that service for two years.

Joseph C. Mahoney was but four years of age at the time of the removal of the family to this county and here he grew to manhood. He is indebted for his education to the public schools and he remained with his parents until his mother's demise. He then went to work for himself and after being employed as a cow-boy for six years he turned his attention to railroading, securing a position with the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. After spending two and a half years in that connection he learned telegraphy and was for a short time in the employ of the Burlington Railroad. In 1897, however, he entered the service of the Union Pacific Railroad, with which he has since been connected. For eight years he has been that company's agent at Poole and has discharged his duties to the entire satisfaction of his superiors. He is systematic and accurate in the conduct of the business and advances the interests of the road in every way possible.

Mr. Mahoney was married in November, 1899, to Miss Eudora Gramley, who is a daughter of Henry W. and Maria C. (Musser) Gramley, natives of Pennsylvania. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Mahoney: Katherine, whose birth occurred on the 20th of August, 1900; Myrle, who was born on the 4th of December, 1901; and J. Carroll, Jr., who was born April 1, 1912.

Mr. Mahoney is a staunch supporter of the republican party and has taken an active part in the affairs of local government, having served as township clerk of Beaver township for two terms and as village clerk since the organization of the village of Poole. He holds membership in the Masonic order and also in the Methodist church, associations which indicate the principles which guide his life. He not only has the satisfaction of knowing that his work is well done and that he is a factor in the civic life of his community, but he has also gained many warm friends and has won a fair measure of financial success.

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### SCHUYLER M. BLAIR.

Schuyler M. Blair, an efficient young farmer residing on section 9, Platte township, was born upon the farm where he still lives on the 11th of October, 1888. His parents, J. W. and Nancy E. (Hollenbeck) Blair, were natives respectively of New York and Pennsylvania. The father served throughout the Civil war and although he was in many hard fought engagements came out without a scratch. About 1880 he removed to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and took up his residence upon a good farm in Platte township. He operated that place until 1905, when he removed to Colorado, where his demise occurred. His wife survives and still resides in that state. They were the parents of ten children, of whom nine are living.

Schuyler M. Blair is indebted for his education to the public schools and for his thorough training in agricultural work to his father. After beginning his independent career he farmed in Colorado for a time but in 1908 returned to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and in association with his brother George began farming the old homestead of three hundred and twenty acres on section 9, Platte township. His land is naturally productive and is in a high state of



cultivation, and as the brothers are practical and energetic farmers they receive a handsome income from their labors. They raise both grain and stock, finding such a course more profitable than specializing in either.

Mr. Blair of this review was married in 1907 to Miss Bertha Keeler, who was born in Iowa and is a daughter of Samuel and Alma (Alois) Keeler. The father has passed away but the mother is still living and makes her home in Colorado. Mr. and Mrs. Blair are the parents of three children: Lilly A.; Martina R.; and Leroy, deceased.

Mr. Blair votes the republican ticket and both he and his wife attend the Methodist Episcopal church. Although a young man he has already won a highly creditable measure of success and his many friends predict for him continued prosperity. The greater part of his life has been passed in this county and he is greatly interested in its advancement and progress and co-operates heartily in movements calculated to further its development.

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#### PHILLIP F. KNERL.

Phillip F. Knerl, busily occupied day after day with the labors of the farm and faithfully performing each day the labors that it brings, is meeting with success in his undertakings and is regarded as one of the enterprising agriculturists of Garfield township, his home being on section 35, where he has two hundred and forty acres of rich and productive land. He is a native son of New Jersey, his birth having occurred in Rahway, on the 19th of November, 1852, his parents being John and Margaret Knerl, who were natives of Neourenburg, Germany. They were married on the ocean when crossing the briny deep to the new world, and Phillip F. Knerl is their oldest child. The father died in Benton Harbor, Michigan, April 11, 1902, at the age of seventy-five years, while the mother survived until February 14, 1914, and passed away at the age of eighty-two years.

Phillip F. Knerl was a lad of nine years when his parents left the east and became residents of Marshall, Michigan, where they remained for seven years and then established their home at Decatur, that state. At the usual age he became a public school pupil and had good educational advantages until he reached the age of fifteen, when the family removed to a farm near Keeler, Michigan, spending fifteen years there. Later the family home was removed to Benton Harbor, Michigan, where it has since been maintained.

It was in the year 1884 that Phillip F. Knerl left the parental roof and removed to Buffalo county, at which time he purchased railroad land in Garfield township. Two years later the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad was built through the township and the town of Ravenna was founded about six and a half miles from the Knerl farm. In those pioneer times the family met all the hardships and privations which feature as factors in frontier life, but resolute purpose and unfaltering courage enabled them to meet all difficulties and pass on to the days when advantages and opportunities are easily obtainable. Mr. Knerl brought his land to a high state of cultivation, carefully and wisely directing the labors of the fields, and as his financial resources increased he

added to his property until he now has an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres equipped with all modern accessories and conveniences. His residence is one of the fine farm homes of the county, supplied with an acetylene gas lighting plant and a well equipped lavatory, hot and cold water being piped throughout the house. In fact the home has all of the conveniences of the modern city residence and it has been Mr. Knerl's delight to supply his family with all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

It was in 1884 that Mr. Knerl was married to Miss Lucinda Endrick, formerly a resident of Bainbridge, Michigan. Almost immediately after their marriage they removed to Nebraska and here they have reared their family of nine children: Oscar, a machinist by trade, who is employed in the Union Pacific shops at Grand Island; Orrin, cashier of the Dixon County Bank, at Ponca, Nebraska; John, also a machinist in the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad Company at Grand Island; Calvin, who is actively engaged in the cultivation of the home farm; Mrs. E. N. Thomas, residing in Ravenna; Floyd, who is attending Buckley's Business College, at York, Nebraska; and Charles, Eddie and Alice, all at home. A contemporary writer has said: "The Knerl home is a hospitable social center, and is in many ways an ideal country home, where there is fine family unit and spirit, and from which there have gone into the world a number of bright and capable young men and women who are 'making good' in their various callings and walks of life, while Mr. and Mrs. Knerl, still in the prime of life, have reached a condition where they can take life a little easier and render thanks that they cast their lot in Nebraska and had the grit and determination to stay by it until they won success."

Mr. and Mrs. Knerl hold membership in the Evangelical church and fraternally he is identified with Ravenna Lodge, No. 347, I. O. O. F., and with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In politics he is an earnest republican, giving stalwart support to the principles of the party, and for eight years he served as justice of the peace, his decisions in that connection being strictly fair and impartial. He has also been school director for many years and the cause of education has found in him a warm champion. He ranks today as one of the foremost citizens of his county, wide awake, alert and enterprising, ready for any emergency that may come in business or in public affairs. His life has never been self-centered, for he has reached out in helpfulness to public interests and given active aid to many plans and measures for the general good.

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#### CASPER H. SHRADER.

Casper H. Shrader is now living retired in Ravenna, having rented his farm, upon which he lived for many years and from which he derived a most gratifying annual income. He was born in Prussia, May 20, 1843, a son of Charles and Kate Shrader, who were natives of Prussia. The father was a farmer and continued to carry on agricultural pursuits in his native country until 1850, when he came to America and settled in Des Moines county, Iowa, where he rented land for four years. He then purchased eighty acres which he operated for many years but ultimately retired and made his home with his daughter at



CASPER H. SHRADER AND FAMILY





Burlington, Iowa, throughout his remaining days, death calling him in 1895. For a long period he had survived his wife, who passed away in 1878.

Casper H. Shrader was but seven years of age when the family home was established in Des Moines county, where he was reared and educated. His school privileges were somewhat limited, for he put aside his textbooks in order to earn his living, being employed as a farm hand until eighteen years of age. He then responded to the country's call for troops to crush out the rebellion in the south, enlisting at Burlington, Iowa, in 1862 as a member of Company D, Twenty-fifth Iowa Infantry, with which he served until June, 1865, when he received an honorable discharge. He had participated in a number of hotly contested engagements and with a most creditable military record he returned to his home, having proven his loyalty and valor upon various southern battlefields.

For three years Mr. Shrader remained at home and was then married, after which he began farming on his own account, renting land in Des Moines county which he operated for two years. He afterward removed to Wayne county, Iowa, and bought one hundred and twenty acres, which he continued to cultivate for six years, when he sold that property and removed to Kansas. He traded a team, wagon and harness for one hundred and sixty acres of land and continued its cultivation for eight years, after which he sold out and purchased a restaurant, which he conducted for four months. He afterward engaged in railroading for two years and later went to Pratt county, Kansas, where he operated a rented farm for two years. In 1890 he arrived in Buffalo county, Nebraska, and became identified with its agricultural interests through renting one hundred and sixty acres upon which he lived for two years. He next went to Sherman county, Nebraska, where he followed farming for eight years, and on the expiration of that period he returned to Buffalo county, where he made investment in one hundred and sixty acres on section 24, Garfield township. At once he began the further development and improvement of that tract and to it added one hundred and sixty acres by a later purchase. Year by year he tilled the soil and cultivated his crops and added to the improvements upon the place until 1909, when he retired and rented the farm. He next removed to Ravenna and purchased a nice home. In fact he bought two houses in the town and has since resided here, making his home at the present time with a daughter.

On the 7th of July, 1868, Mr. Shrader was united in marriage to Miss Anna Gereke, by whom he had nine children, as follows: William, who follows farming in Garfield township, Buffalo county; Gust, also an agriculturist of this county; Clara, the wife of John Grover, who is engaged in farming in Cherry Creek township; Fred, who is engaged in farming near Litchfield, Nebraska; Della, who passed away in 1895; Frank, who operates one of his father's farms; Felix, who also cultivates land belonging to his father; Wesley, whose demise occurred in 1887; and Rachel, who is the wife of Henry Unzicker and resides at Ravenna. The wife and mother passed away in July, 1891, and on the 7th of January, 1892, Mr. Shrader was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Kate Seckora, who had four children who were reared by Mr. Shrader. The second wife died on the 14th of December, 1911.

Mr. Shrader cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln and has since supported the candidates of the republican party, believing firmly in the

principles of its platform as factors in good government. He is a member of the Grand Army post and also of the Methodist church and his life is actuated by high and honorable principles, being the expression of honest conviction and of devotion to all the duties which devolve upon him.

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### ALBERT V. HLAVA.

Albert V. Hlava, a hardware dealer of Ravenna, is one of the most prominent citizens and leading business men of the town. He was born in Bohemia on the 23d of April, 1857, and is a son of Joseph and Mary Hlava, also natives of that country, where the father engaged in the wholesale fruit business. About 1866 he emigrated with his family to America and located in Wisconsin, where he followed the shoemaker's trade, which he had learned in his native land. He passed away in Saline county, Nebraska, on the 15th of January, 1888, and his wife died on Christmas Day, 1878.

Albert V. Hlava was reared in Wisconsin and early had to begin providing for his own support. His educational advantages were limited, as he attended school for but nine months in all. As a boy he worked on a farm belonging to his sister and later learned the shoemaker's trade which he followed in several towns in Wisconsin and in Marquette, Michigan. At length he went to work in the copper mines, where he remained from the 1st of November, until the 15th of the following January. He then walked to Green Bay, Wisconsin, a distance of two hundred and eighty miles, and during much of the way found the snow four feet deep. No one but a man of much endurance and physical strength could have made the journey, but he arrived at his destination safely and for four months thereafter worked at shoemaking. On the 13th of July, 1874, he removed to Crete, Nebraska, and learned the carpenter's trade from his brother, for whom he worked for some time. He then assisted farmers with the threshing during the summer and subsequently began the operation of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Wilber which he and his brother owned. During this time he kept bachelor's hall and he devoted his spare hours to the study of music. In 1877 his parents joined him and in the following year he was married. He continued to farm in Saline county until 1879, in which year he removed to Wilber, and a year later he became a resident of Wymore, Nebraska. He followed the shoemaker's trade there until May, 1883, when he returned to Wilber and took charge of a hardware business there in which he had purchased an interest in 1880. For over four years he was actively engaged in the management of that enterprise, but in November, 1887, he sold out and came to Ravenna, arriving here on the 11th of the month. The town had been founded only a year previously and the hardware business which he established was the third in the town. In 1889 he sold out and in 1890 removed to Pleasanton, where he conducted a hardware store until the 14th of April, 1899. At that time he moved his stock to Ravenna, where he has since engaged in business. He owns the property in which his store is located and he carries an unusually large stock for a town of the size of Ravenna. He is also a tinner, having learned that trade in Wilber, and does considerable work along that line. He has built up

a large trade in hardware and has not only gained a competence but has also contributed to the business expansion of his community.

Mr. Hlava was married in July, 1878, to Miss Anna M. Rezabek, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Rezabek, both natives of Bohemia. They came to America many years ago and in the fall of 1866 located at St. Louis, whence in 1883 the family removed to Saline county, Nebraska, where the father farmed until his death in 1909. The mother had died many years previously, her demise occurring in 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Hlava have become the parents of eight children, as follows: Emma, who is the wife of William Karel, of Ravenna, and is engaged in the millinery business; Judith, who married O. O. Matousek, a farmer of South Dakota; Elsie, who married A. A. Meek and now resides with her parents; Lombard J., who is associated with his father in the hardware business, the firm name being A. V. Hlava & Son; Benjamin H., at home; Adolph V., who is attending the State University at Lincoln; and Flora and Clara, both of whom are teaching school in South Dakota.

Albert V. Hlava supports the democratic party at the polls and has been called to office a number of times. He was a member of the city council of Ravenna for four years, was township treasurer for a similar period, was census enumerator in 1910, held the office of assessor of Garfield township for four years, is serving his fifth year as a member of the board of supervisors of Buffalo county and was postmaster at Pleasanton during the second Cleveland administration. He has also been prominent in fraternal circles. Since 1893 he has served as financier of the United Workmen lodge, he has been treasurer of the Masonic lodge, was for a year venerable consul of the Modern Woodmen of America and for a year and a half held the office of clerk of that organization, and he has served for two years as president of the Bohemian Lodge at Ravenna, as a member of its board of directors for three years and as financier for ten years. He has also been identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and for a period of years belonged to the Knights of Pythias lodge, of which he was a charter member. He can be depended upon to further the moral interests of the community. Since boyhood he has worked hard and he has not only won a competence but has also gained valuable knowledge and practical wisdom from his various experiences. His business ability is generally recognized and his integrity has always been above question.

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#### WILLIAM KLEIN.

Among the successful business men of Poole is William Klein, who is the owner of a well stocked general store and who has gained prosperity entirely through his own efforts. He has also been prominent in public affairs and is now serving as clerk of Beaver township. A native of Iowa, he was born in Jasper county in December, 1883, and is a son of Peter and Maggie (Cuparis) Klein, natives respectively of Marion county, Iowa, and of Holland. The father followed agricultural pursuits in Marion and Jasper counties, Iowa, for a number of years but in 1886 came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, with his family and purchased a homestead right in Schneider township. He concentrated his ener-



gies upon the development of that farm until 1907, when he sold out and purchased land in Beaver township, on which he resided until 1912. He then retired from active life and removed to Poole, building a comfortable residence, where he has since lived. His wife also survives. They are the parents of ten children, John, Letitia, Jacob, Nellie, Ella, William, Lizzie, Earl, Arthur, and one who died in infancy.

William Klein was but a child when brought by his parents to this county and here he grew to manhood. He received his education in the public schools and also gained valuable knowledge concerning agricultural methods through assisting his father. He remained at home until he was of age and then began his independent career, renting land for eight years. At the end of that time he decided that business pursuits would be more congenial than farming and removed to Poole and bought a general merchandise business, which he has since conducted. He also owns the building in which his store is located and his good management, integrity and progressive policy have enabled him to build up a large and representative patronage.

Mr. Klein was married in February, 1909, to Miss Clara E. Huston, a daughter of John and Martha Huston, pioneers of Buffalo county. To this union three children have been born: William, whose birth occurred on the 4th of May, 1910; Eileen, born March 30, 1915; and one who died in infancy.

Mr. Klein is independent in politics, studying the political situation carefully and voting according to the dictates of his judgment. He has been honored by election to office, having served as treasurer of Poole and being at present clerk of Beaver township and school moderator at Poole. In religious faith he is a United Presbyterian and his influence is always on the side of right and moral advancement. He is held in high esteem by all who know him and his many friends recognize his genuine worth.

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#### GEORGE BUOL, M. D.

Dr. George Buol has been engaged in the practice of medicine in Ravenna since 1911 and has gained a patronage that would be a credit to a man of much longer professional experience. He was born on the 10th of March, 1886, in Randolph, Cedar county, Nebraska, of the marriage of Martin and Anna (Richard) Buol, natives of Switzerland and of Iowa respectively. The father settled in Cedar county, Nebraska, when it was still a frontier region and is engaged in banking and in the real estate business in Randolph. His wife passed away in May, 1911.

George Buol was reared in his native town and after completing the high school course there entered the medical college of the State University of Nebraska, from which he was graduated in 1910. He devoted a year to hospital work and in September, 1911, began the independent practice of his profession at Ravenna, where he has since remained. In a comparatively short time he demonstrated his ability and has a high standing in his profession.

Dr. Buol was married in August, 1913, to Miss Urilla Rudy, by whom he has a daughter, Betty A., born on the 23d of June, 1914.



Dr. Buol is independent in politics and keeps well informed on all questions and issues of the day. His religious belief is that of the Presbyterian church, and fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias and the Masons. Through his membership in the Buffalo County and Nebraska State Medical Societies and the American Medical Association he keeps in touch with other progressive physicians and he also does much reading on professional subjects. He is not only held in high esteem as a physician but he is also popular personally.

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#### HON. CARL F. BODINSON.

Hon. Carl F. Bodinson, who was one of the successful pioneer merchants of Kearney and was also prominently identified with political activity here, left the impress of his individuality for good upon the history of Buffalo county. A native of Sweden, he was born at Söderhamn on the 29th of June, 1846, and spent his early life in his parents' home. After acquiring a common school education he engaged in clerking for a time in a hardware store. The opportunities of the new world, however, attracted him and in 1865, when nineteen years of age, he came to the United States, making his way at once into the interior of the country. He located first at Galva, Illinois, where he worked in a general store until 1870. He carefully saved his earnings during that period until his economical expenditure and his industry had brought him capital sufficient to enable him to engage in business on his own account. He then purchased a stock of groceries and conducted his store at Galva until 1878, when he disposed of his interests there and came to Kearney. Here he opened a grocery store, which he managed successfully for about eleven years, when he sold out and for a year engaged in no business. During that period he made a trip back to his old home in Sweden, where he found great pleasure in renewing the acquaintances of his youth and visiting again the scenes amid which his boyhood days were passed. At the end of that time he came once more to Kearney and purchased the Harrington hardware store. Concentrating his energies upon the trade, he built up a good business, ever recognizing the fact that satisfied customers are the best advertisement. The integrity of his business methods was never called into question and his enterprise and industry were potent factors in his growing success.

On December 28, 1870, Mr. Bodinson was united in marriage to Miss Louise W. Dahlgren, who was born at Victoria, Knox county, Illinois, April 9, 1852, and was there reared and educated. She came to Kearney with her husband when this was a straggling frontier village and gave little evidence of becoming the attractive city it is today. To Mr. and Mrs. Bodinson were born three sons: Fred P., who is now president of the Citizens National Bank of Baker, Oregon; Frank, who is a traveling salesman with the Faeth Iron Company of Kansas City, Missouri; and Roy, who now operates the Bodinson hardware store at Kearney. For some years he was associated in this undertaking with his father, the connection being maintained until the latter's death on the 24th of December, 1913.

Mr. Bodinson was a consistent and exemplary member of the Masonic fraternity and politically he was a prominent democrat, his opinions carrying weight

in the local organizations of his party. In 1899 he was elected county treasurer on the democratic ticket and made so excellent a record in the office that he was reelected in 1901, serving for two terms. In 1908 he was elected to the state senate and was reelected in 1910, so that he remained a member of the upper house of the general assembly for four years, during which time he gave careful consideration to the vital questions which came up for settlement and supported the measures which he deemed beneficial to the state, while just as strongly he opposed those which he regarded as inimical to the best interests of the commonwealth. He was a man of marked personal worth, who held to high ideals and never deviated from a course which he believed to be right between himself and his fellowmen. He was self-made, his prosperity being attributable to his own efforts, but he always believed, as Abraham Lincoln expressed it, that "There is something better than making a living—making a life."

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#### MAURICE A. HOOVER, M. D.

Dr. Maurice A. Hoover, who by the consensus of public opinion on the part of his fellowmen and his fellow practitioners, is accorded a prominent position among the physicians of Buffalo county, has practiced continuously in Kearney since April, 1883, or for almost a third of a century. He was born in Marion county, Indiana, near the city of Indianapolis, April 6, 1858, and is a son of Perry C. and Catherine M. (Bender) Hoover. The father was also a native of Marion county, born in Wayne township, in 1832, and the mother was a native of Pennsylvania and of Pennsylvania Dutch descent. During his active life time Perry C. Hoover followed merchandising and farming. He was one of a family of thirteen children and he and his twin were the youngest of the household. The Hoovers were descended from Andrew Hoeffler, of German nativity, who lived and died in the fatherland. Through generations, however, this branch of the family has been represented in America and for the most part its members have been connected with the Quaker faith. Five of the brothers of Perry C. Hoover, the son of Andrew Hoover, served the Union cause during the Civil war and three of them laid down their lives upon the altar of their country. In so doing they set aside the Quaker prejudice against war, feeling that their first duty was to preserve the Union. Perry C. Hoover died in February, 1912, and his widow survived him only until September, 1914.

Dr. Maurice A. Hoover was reared in his native state and acquired his primary education in the public schools, after which he spent four years as a student in Wabash College at Crawfordsville, Indiana. During his college days he devoted the summer months to reading medicine under the direction of Drs. P. H. and H. Jameson, of Indianapolis, and in 1879 he matriculated in the Indiana Medical College, a department of Butler University, from which he was graduated on the 2d of March, 1881. He had put his theoretical knowledge to the practical test by serving as interne in the Marion County Hospital during the summer months of the last year of his medical collegiate term, and after securing his degree he located for practice in Indianapolis, where he remained until the spring of 1883. In April of that year he came to Kearney, Nebraska, where he

has since made his home and throughout the entire period has engaged in the general practice of medicine and surgery. His first call was sixty miles from Kearney and he frequently answered calls in early days that required three days driving day and night. At the time of the Spanish-American war he was major surgeon of the Second Nebraska Volunteer Infantry and was stationed at Chickamauga Park until mustered out on the 20th of October, 1898, his term of enlistment covering the period from April of that year.

On the 6th of November, 1883, Dr. Hoover was united in marriage to Miss Eva Cox, of Crawfordsville, Indiana. She died leaving one daughter, Bessie, now the wife of Jay Sinclair, of Des Moines, Iowa. For his second wife Dr. Hoover chose Agnes Pearson, but she, too, has departed this life, and for his third wife the Doctor wedded Stella E. Tucker, their marriage being celebrated in May, 1901. To this union have been born four children: Ione I., Amber A., Thelma T. and Maurine A.

Dr. and Mrs. Hoover belong to the First Christian church of Kearney and are interested in all that pertains to the moral upbuilding of the community, nor is the Doctor neglectful of his duties of citizenship. His cooperation can be counted upon to further any measure looking to public betterment. He served for two terms as coroner of Buffalo county but refused further office holding. For sixteen years he has served as a member of the Kearney school board, his present term expiring in 1917. He was acting pension examiner before the board was appointed and although he has not served continuously he is now secretary of the local board. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and of various fraternal insurance organizations. He belongs also to the Kearney Commercial Club and is a member of the old volunteer fire department. Notwithstanding his varied interests he has largely concentrated his energies upon his professional duties and from 1887 until 1900 was surgeon for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy and the Union Pacific Railroad Companies and the Black Hills branch line. In his practice he is most careful and conscientious in diagnosing cases and his ability is manifest in the successful outcome of his treatment. He has kept in touch with the advanced thought of the profession, reading broadly and thinking deeply, and his work has been attended with excellent results, placing him among the foremost physicians of his part of the state.

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#### ALFRED T. ANDERSON.

Alfred T. Anderson, a photographer of Kearney conducting a well appointed studio, is of Swedish nativity. His birth occurred in Sweden, July 17, 1865, but when he was only two years of age he was brought to America by his parents, August and Ingar (Timmans) Anderson. The family home was established first at Knoxville, Illinois, and afterward a removal was made to Galesburg and later to Woodhull, Illinois. In November, 1875, the family removed to Kearney, where Mr. Anderson began the manufacture of wagons and later extended the scope of his business activities to include the manufacture of buggies, this being the first concern of its kind in Kearney. He continued his residence in this city



for a number of years, but in 1881 sold out and since then has lived at various places in the western part of the United States. Mrs. Anderson died in 1879, and of their family of six children three are now living.

Alfred T. Anderson was reared in Illinois to the age of ten years but for the past forty years has been a resident of Kearney. His education was completed in the public schools here, supplemented by one term's study in a private denominational school at Minneapolis. When sixteen years of age he started out in life on his own account by learning the photographic art under the direction of J. A. Stridborg, with whom he remained for about three years. After that time Mr. Stridborg took up the business of ranching and left Mr. Anderson in charge of his photographic gallery as manager. He proved faithful to the trust and subsequently purchased the business of his employer, since which time he has conducted his studio in Kearney. He utilizes the modern processes and methods of photography and has a well equipped establishment in which he turns out work of the highest grade. He has appreciation for all the artistic phases of the business and at the same time the mechanical work is done in the best possible style. He has taken a special course of training at St. Louis under Mr. Guerin, one of the foremost photographers of the country. Moreover, by attending conventions and by careful reading of the best literature on the subject of photography he has kept abreast of the times in his profession. When he began business here his establishment was south of the Union Pacific railroad tracks, but later he opened a studio on the second floor at No. 2111 Central avenue, there continuing until 1908, when he built his present studio at No. 14 West Twenty-second street. This is a one story and basement brick structure which he designed to meet his ideas of a thoroughly up-to-date and modern photographic establishment.

On the 11th of September, 1892, Mr. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss Alma M. Wickstrom, of Holdredge, Nebraska, by whom he has three daughters, Ruth M., Miriam E. and Elizabeth T. The family are members of the Baptist church. Mr. Anderson was twice elected a member of the school board but resigned during his second term in order to take a vacation in the far west. He is, however, always interested in the welfare and upbuilding of his city and co-operates in many plans and measures for the general good.

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### JOHN W. SHAHAN.

John W. Shahan, of Lincoln, is acceptably discharging his responsible duties as chief clerk of the board of charities and corrections and as secretary of the state prison board and advisory board of pardons. He gives the most careful study to the many problems with which his work has to deal and keeps well informed as to the outcome of various plans that are being tried in different parts of the country in connection with social service work and the reformation of delinquents. He was born in West Virginia on the 10th of November, 1848, of the marriage of Alexander S. and Louisa (Stone) Shahan, both natives of Virginia. The father devoted his life to agricultural pursuits, and both he and his wife died in West Virginia.





JOHN W. SHAHAN



John W. Shahan passed the days of his boyhood and youth in his native state and after attending the public schools continued his education in an academy. When twenty-one years of age he was made deputy sheriff of his county, and in those days the holder of that office was required to collect the taxes. He would saddle his horse Monday morning and be gone until the end of the week, his duties as tax collector making it necessary for him to travel to all parts of the county. Sometimes he had to see a man three or four times before he could succeed in getting the taxes and occasionally he had to levy on the property. He also served as deputy clerk and recorder and held that position for several years. While he was deputy clerk he called for his own marriage license, and the clerk told him that as he was familiar with the issuing of such licenses and as he knew where the blanks were he might as well write out his own, which he did. After returning to private life he engaged in merchandising for two years and then followed agricultural pursuits for a similar period of time. In 1878 he came to Nebraska and in November of that year located in Gibbon precinct, Buffalo county, homesteading a quarter section of fine land on the Platte river. This had been previously filed on and ten acres of the ground was broken. His first home was a sod house, which was warm in winter and cool in summer and quite comfortable, but nevertheless he was determined that as soon as he could afford it he would build a frame house. The roof was made of boards which were covered with tar paper and sod was laid on top of the paper. As the ends of the boards reached to the center of the sod wall the paper broke at that point and this caused the water to soak through into the wall, gradually weakening it. One morning after a particularly heavy rain Mr. Shahan discovered that one wall had slipped away and he made up his mind that he was going to have a frame house at once. With only five dollars in cash and a promise to pay in the fall he went to Gibbon and purchased sufficient material to build a frame residence. He engaged in farming for seven years but in 1885 removed to Kearney and took up the duties of deputy county clerk, in which capacity he served for two years. Some time later he was again made the incumbent in that office and held the position for four years, his continued service attesting the satisfactoriness of his work. For four years he was deputy county treasurer under M. N. Troupe; was a member of the city council the same length of time; and its president for two years of that time.

Mr. Shahan resided in Kearney for twenty-three years but in 1909 was made deputy state auditor under Silas R. Barton and removed to Lincoln, where he has since resided. He held that position for four years and continued in the office for six months after his term had expired. He was then appointed chief clerk of the board of charities and corrections and secretary of the state prison board and advisory board of pardons and is still the incumbent in those offices. The work of those boards is closely connected with the welfare of the people of the entire state and it is fortunate that a man of so much ability and of such marked public spirit has been chosen as secretary. He is widely known and all who have been associated with him in any capacity recognize his sound judgment, his knowledge of conditions and his unswerving integrity. Although he makes his home in Lincoln he still holds title to his homestead in Buffalo county.

Mr. Shahan was married in West Virginia to Miss Diana E. Parsons, a native of Virginia, and they have four sons and two daughters living, namely: Charles W., a hardware merchant of Kearney; Roy, a real estate dealer of Alamosa, Colo-

rado; Louise, the wife of O. P. Sells, of Denver; James A., of Omaha; Florence, who is at home and who formerly taught in Buffalo county but has now been a teacher in the Lincoln schools for four years; and Clare J., who is living in Omaha.

Mr. Shahan is a stalwart adherent of the republican party and does all in his power to further the civic advancement of his community. He has been a lifelong member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in whose teachings are found the principles which govern his conduct, and he is also identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Kearney. He has resided in Nebraska since pioneer times and has taken much pleasure in witnessing its constant and rapid development and has at all times been willing to co-operate with others in promoting the public welfare.

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### JOHN D. LIPPINCOTT.

John D. Lippincott, a well-to-do farmer residing on section 36, Platte township, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, of the marriage of James and Jane (Vance) Lippincott, further mention of whom appears elsewhere in this work in connection with the sketch of C. R. Lippincott, a brother of our subject. Mr. Lippincott of this review was reared and educated in Pennsylvania, but in 1887 became a resident of Buffalo county, Nebraska. Subsequently he purchased his present home farm on section 36, Platte township, which comprises one hundred fifty-three and one-half acres of productive land and the cultivation of which demands practically his entire time. He is thoroughly practical in his methods and is also progressive, and his well directed labors yield him a good financial return.

In 1892 Mr Lippincott was united in marriage to Miss Noma Schlegel, who was born in Pennsylvania and is a daughter of Moses and Sarah (Foulk) Schlegel, likewise natives of that state. They were early settlers of Nebraska but subsequently removed to Oklahoma, where they are now living. Mr. and Mrs Lippincott have six children: Ora E., the wife of N. Lacy; Opal V., Otis Pearl, Moses M. and David V., all four at home; and Charles E., deceased.

Mr. Lippincott gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has served his district acceptably as school director. He is a successful farmer and a public-spirited citizen and is justly held in high esteem by those who know him.

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### HERMAN LIESINGER.

Herman Liesinger, a farmer of Platte township, has earned the title of a self-made man, as he began without capital and through his own efforts has gained financial independence. He was born in New York on the 9th of January, 1848, of the marriage of Herman and Bertha (Broadcross) Liesinger, natives of Germany. About 1847 they left their native land and came to America, locating in the state of New York, where they remained for some time. They afterward lived successively in Wisconsin and South Dakota, and the father passed away



in the latter state. The mother is still living at the advanced age of eighty-six years. Fifteen of their sixteen children survive.

Herman Liesinger received a common school education in his native state and remained at home until he was fourteen years of age, when he began providing for his own support. In 1870 he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and began farming in Platte township. He has prospered and has invested in land from time to time so that he now owns four hundred acres in Buffalo county and one hundred and twenty acres in Dundy county, all of which is well improved. His home farm is situated on sections 10 and 15, Platte township, and its well kept appearance indicates his energy and good management.

Mr. Liesinger was married in 1874 to Miss Ada Perkins, who was born in Wisconsin. Her parents, Hiram and Lucinda (Reed) Perkins, were both natives of the state of New York, but in their youth removed to Wisconsin, where their marriage occurred. The father passed away in that state, but the mother spent her last days in Idaho. In their family were two children but Mrs. Liesinger is the only survivor. By her marriage she has become the mother of eight children, namely: Emma, the wife of A. H. Svinger of Kearney; Bertha, who married N. Leisy a resident of Wyoming; Lula, now Mrs. M. Dunkleberger; Maud, who married Joe Argo; Walter; William; one who died in infancy; and Lillie E., at home.

The family attend the Methodist Episcopal church and do their part in furthering movements seeking the moral advancement of their community. Mr. Liesinger is a republican and has held the office of school treasurer but has never been very active politically. For many years he gave his closest attention to the cultivation and improvement of his land but is now living retired and is enjoying a period of well deserved leisure.

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#### M. B. WHITCHER.

M. B. Whitcher, residing on section 25, Divide township, owns and operates an excellent farm of eighty acres which has now been in his possession for more than two decades. His birth occurred in Stark county, Illinois, on the 14th of March, 1867, his parents being John and Alma (Hall) Whitcher, who were natives of Vermont and Pennsylvania respectively. In 1849 they took up their abode on a farm in Stark county, Illinois, and there spent the remainder of their lives. To them were born seven children, five of whom are yet living.

M. B. Whitcher was reared and educated in his native county and there spent the first twenty-six years of his life. In the spring of 1893 he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and purchased the farm of eighty acres on section 25, Divide township, on which he has resided continuously since, being actively and successfully engaged in its operation. He carries on his farm work in a systematic, practical and up-to-date manner and annually gathers rich crops which find a ready sale on the market.

In 1892 Mr. Whitcher was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Jane Campbell, her parents being William and Jeannette (Watt) Campbell, of whom more extended mention is made on another page of this work in connection with the

sketch of Samuel Campbell, brother of Mrs. Whitcher. Our subject and his wife have seven children, namely: Jennie, who is the wife of L. E. Hubbard and resides in Iowa; William M., John D., Isabel, Eva E., Edith C. and Franklin A., all of whom are still under the parental roof.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Whitcher has supported the men and measures of the democracy, believing firmly in its principles. He has ably served as a member of the school board and the cause of education has ever found in him a staunch champion. His wife is a devoted and consistent member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Whitcher is a self-made man whose success has come as the direct reward of industry, perseverance and energy and he enjoys an enviable reputation as one of the prominent and representative agriculturists of Divide township.

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#### ALBERT P. HAUSCHILD.

No history of Buffalo county would be complete without reference to Albert P. Hauschild, who is one of the most extensive landowners of this part of the state, having more than three thousand acres. His home place is on section 18, Cherry Creek township, where he occupies an attractive residence in which are found all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life. He deserves much credit for what he has accomplished, his success being the legitimate outcome of intelligently directed effort.

Mr. Hauschild was born in the kingdom of Saxony, Germany, September 27, 1866, a son of August and Christina (Schmieder) Hauschild, who were also natives of the same country. The father owned and cultivated a farm there until 1881, when he crossed the Atlantic and established his home in Shelton, Buffalo county, Nebraska, but after a short time removed to Cherry Creek township, securing a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres on section 18, that is now the property of his son Albert. He at once began to develop and improve the land, which he brought to a high state of cultivation, continuing the work of the fields there until his life's labors were ended in death on the 12th of February, 1894. For about eight years he had survived his wife, who passed away March 21, 1886.

Albert P. Hauschild was reared in Germany to the age of fifteen years and during that period pursued his education in the schools of that country. After accompanying his parents to the new world in 1881 he was employed as a farm hand for two years and later purchased eighty acres of railroad land in Cherry Creek township. With characteristic energy he began to develop and improve that tract, which he cultivated for four years and then sold, turning the money over to his father, for at that time he had not attained his majority. He afterward went to Colorado, where he worked with his brother as a carpenter for a year, during which period he saved seven hundred dollars and also turned that amount over to his father to help feed the stock. In 1891 he began speculating in broom corn, purchasing a considerable amount. Success attended him in this venture, in which he made three dollars for every dollar invested. He cleared up enough to pay off all his indebtedness which had been incurred on account of

bad crops. In 1892 he went south with a covered wagon, thus journeying across the country, and located in Oklahoma, but after a short time returned to Kansas and engaged in the operation of a broom factory at Salina. In the conduct of that business in sixty days he had made thirty thousand dollars single handed. He then became associated with capitalists who backed him financially and he established a big factory in which he employed fifty men. He was making money so rapidly, however, that his financial backers froze him out. He finally got back into the business, however, for a while, but his father met with a bad accident and Mr. Hauschild on that account had to sell out and return home in 1893. He then rented the home place, which he continued to cultivate for three years, at the end of which time he purchased the property, and since that date has continued buying whenever advantageous opportunity has presented until he now owns over two thousand acres in Buffalo county, together with a section and a half in Sherman and Custer counties. He has continuously improved his place, operating it since making his first purchase, and he is today one of the extensive landowners of this part of the state. He is also engaged largely in feeding stock and has about two hundred head of cattle all of the time, together with four hundred head of hogs and from seventy-five to one hundred head of horses.

On Christmas Day, 1909, Mr. Hauschild was married to Miss Marie Ahrens, a daughter of Louis and Fredericka Ahrens, who were natives of Germany and came to America in 1907, since which time the father has been engaged in farming in Cherry Creek township, Buffalo county. Mr. and Mrs. Hauschild have four children: Gertrude, born September 19, 1910; Mabel, May 26, 1912; Daisy, October 4, 1913; and Albert, August 8, 1915.

Politically Mr. Hauschild does not ally himself with any party. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church and his membership relations also include connection with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Modern Brotherhood of America. His has been a most active and useful life, during which he has made steady progress, and his course has never been strewn with the wreck of other men's fortunes, for he has followed constructive measures in his business and has won his success by the wise utilization of time, talent and opportunity, recognizing advantages which others have passed heedlessly by.

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#### MISS MINNIE BERTHA HAUSCHILD.

Miss Minnie Bertha Hauschild, who resides with her brother, Albert P. Hauschild, and who personally owns two fine farms in Cherry Creek township, was born in 1874, in the kingdom of Saxony, of the marriage of August and Christina (Schmieder) Hauschild, who were also natives of the same country, where the father engaged in farming until 1881, when he emigrated to the United States. He made his way to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and took up a homestead on section 18, Cherry Creek township.

Our subject remained in Germany for about three months after her father and two brothers had removed to the United States, but at the end of that time she and her mother, two older sisters and one brother crossed the Atlantic



and at once came to this county, joining the father on the homestead. Following her mother's death in 1886, she took charge of the home and throughout all the years of hardship during which the family was getting a start in the new world she manifested unwavering determination and courage. After her father was injured and her brother Albert returned home she co-operated with him in every way and had much to do with the success that came to the family. Following the demise of the father in 1894 she continued as housekeeper for her brother for a number of years, or until his marriage, and still makes her home with him. She assists in whatever work is on hand and in all that she does manifests great energy, sound judgment and good business ability. Her brother, in recognition of her valuable assistance, gave her four hundred acres of fine land and this was subsequently traded for other property, securing thereby a handsome profit. Through several deals and wise investment in California real estate she now has an income which makes her financially independent, and the ability with which she has managed her affairs shows that she has the same business insight which has always characterized her brother. She owns two well improved farms in Cherry Creek township, one of two hundred and forty acres and one of one hundred and sixty acres, both of which are rented. She is widely known throughout the county and is held in high esteem because of her many excellent qualities of character, and those who have been closely associated with her are her warm friends.

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#### CHARLES A. PIERSON.

Charles A. Pierson, who carries on general farming on section 8, Cherry Creek township, is one of the foremost representatives of agricultural life in Buffalo county. He has important and extensive interests, carefully managed and wisely directed, and his life record indicates what may be accomplished when determination and energy lead the way, for his success is attributable to close application and sound judgment in business affairs. He was born in Sweden, on the 19th of October, 1846, and is a son of James and Anna Bendicta (Hanson) Pierson, who came to the United States in 1849 when their son Charles was but three years of age. They settled first at Kenosha, Wisconsin. The father, who was a university graduate and for twenty years a professor in a university of Sweden, desired to give his children the greater educational advantages offered in the new world and in 1849 he organized a colony of Swedish people, chartered a sailing vessel, and in that way came to America, the colony settling at or near Kenosha, Wisconsin. Mr. Pierson was a very versatile man, ready for any emergency, and possessing marked talent along many lines. He was a graduate physician and surgeon, possessed notable musical talent and marked mechanical skill, and after establishing his home in Wisconsin he built a number of pipe organs for churches. He was also the owner of the farm on which the family resided and which his sons operated. In 1863 he left Wisconsin and removed to Bremer county, Iowa, where his remaining days were passed.

Charles A. Pierson was reared under the parental roof and mastered the branches of learning taught in the public schools. He possessed, however, an





MR. AND MRS. CHARLES A. PIERSON



insatiable appetite for knowledge and has been not only a student of books but also of human nature, and in the school of experience has learned many valuable lessons. In 1868 he was united in marriage to Miss Eliza J. Rickel, of Bremer county, Iowa, and to them have been born seven children, of whom five are yet living: Arthur J., who is engaged in business in New Hampton, Iowa; Estelle L., the wife of Rev. Parker Smith, who is located at Parker, South Dakota; Frederick A., who operates the home farm; Ellen M., the wife of Fred Knott, who is engaged in farming at Waverly, Iowa; and Victor L., a farmer of Wayne, Nebraska.

Soon after his marriage Mr. Pierson made his first investment in land, purchasing one hundred and twenty acres in Bremer county, Iowa. He afterward bought an additional tract of eighty acres adjoining and later purchased another farm of one hundred and sixty acres a mile distant from the home place. In early days he began raising and dealing in cattle and has made the cattle industry the dominant feature of his business career. In April, 1898, he came to Buffalo county, at which time he purchased eight hundred acres of land. In June of that year he removed his family to the new home and here he has since engaged extensively in the cattle business. He now owns fourteen hundred and forty acres of land and is one of the very successful, enterprising and progressive business men of Buffalo county.

For his second wife Mr. Pierson chose Mrs. Norman H. Hall, formerly Miss Nancy Ann Phillis, of Washington county, Ohio. In his political views he is a republican but has never been an office seeker and his business affairs have made constant demand upon his time and attention. He ranks as one of the foremost farmers and cattle raisers of Buffalo county and deserves much credit for what he has accomplished. Energy and determination have been the crowning points in his career. He has never allowed difficulties to bar his path if they could be overcome by persistent, earnest effort, and he has ever realized that when one avenue of opportunity seems closed it is possible to seek out another path which will lead to the desired goal.

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### CHARLES A. SPENCER.

Charles A. Spencer was one of the early settlers of Gibbon township, coming to this township only seven days after the first so-called "colony settlement." He was born April 6, 1851, at Ophir Center, La Salle county, Illinois, and when about sixteen years of age accompanied his mother to Livingston county, Illinois, his father having given his life as a sacrifice to his country, meeting death in the battle of Fort Donelson while serving with the Union army.

On the 26th of February, 1878, Charles A. Spencer was united in marriage to Miss Rachel Sharp, also of Livingston county, Illinois. She was born June 8, 1852, at Swegol, New York, and in her girlhood was taken by her parents to Streator, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Spencer, with their nine months old son, George S., came to Gibbon, Nebraska, in January, 1880, and purchased the northeast quarter of section 19, Gibbon township, from the Union Pacific Railroad. For seventeen years he devoted his time to the cultivation of his farm and also the

northwest quarter of section 20 and the south half of the northwest quarter of section 29, Valley township. He and his wife passed through the many hardships and privations known only to the inhabitants of that period in building the home with their own labor and converting the raw prairie land into fields of sod corn and spring wheat. For several years their crops were destroyed by summer droughts and stock was cared for with difficulty owing to the lack of fences and also owing to extremely severe winters. These worthy people are to be numbered with the courageous settlers who never will be fully rewarded or their efforts fully appreciated by those who enjoy the beautiful country into which this land has developed. Two other sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Spencer: Walter A., on the 2d of July, 1881; and R. Le Verne, on May 25, 1889.

In 1898 the Spencer family exchanged their holdings for a half section of splendidly improved land on sections 4 and 9, commonly known as the Spencer Farm Home. About 1908 the parents retired from active life and took up their residence in Gibbon, where Mr. Spencer passed away November 19, 1913, and where his widow still resides. From early life they had been active in church work and he was also a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen for many years. He was a quiet, sympathetic man who shunned publicity but was ever ready to stand for community betterment. His genuine worth will always be remembered by those who knew him.

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#### GEORGE S. SPENCER.

George S. Spencer was born April 10, 1879, at Dwight, Illinois, and when nine months of age was brought to Gibbon, Nebraska, by his parents. After completing a common school education he devoted his entire time to farming and stock raising and his untiring efforts have won him the reputation of being a most efficient agriculturist and stockman and have gained for him a competency in comparatively early life.

He was united in marriage to Mary B. Morris, also of Gibbon, and to this union two daughters have been born, Mildred and Ruth. With their children they reside on their farm a half mile north of Butler, on the northwest quarter of section 17, Valley township. They have always been very active in church and social circles of the community and enjoy in large measure the regard and esteem of those who know them.

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#### WALTER A. SPENCER.

Walter A. Spencer was born July 2, 1881, at Gibbon, reared at home and after completing his common school education took a commercial course at the Gibbon Business College and also attended and graduated from the Nebraska State Normal School at Wayne. Subsequently he became a student in the State University at Lincoln and completed the science course by graduation with the class of 1910, at which time the degree of Bachelor of Science was conferred upon him. Afterward he taught mathematics and astronomy in the Lincoln



College of the James Milliken University at Lincoln, Illinois, and later he was for some time connected with the City National Bank of Lincoln, Nebraska, but in 1912 he turned his attention to farming and has since operated the home farm. His early training in agricultural work has enabled him to gain a gratifying measure of success as a farmer and his business ability and experience are of value to him in the management of the business phases of agriculture. He keeps in touch with the discoveries made by investigators who are seeking to learn more of the scientific principles underlying farming and is recognized as one of the most progressive and efficient agriculturists of his township.

On the 25th of July, 1909, Mr. Spencer was united in marriage to Miss Pearl G. Francis, of Gibbon township. Her father, Charles Francis, passed away when she was a child; her mother, Anna M., has resided for several years in the county. Mr. and Mrs. Spencer have a daughter, Evelyn Marie.

Mr. Spencer supports the republican party at the polls, but although he keeps well informed on the questions before the people he has not been an aspirant for office. He and his wife are both members of the Presbyterian church and cooperate in movements seeking the moral welfare of their community. Mr. Spencer is not only a prosperous agriculturist, contributing to the development of his county along that line, but he is also identified with business interests as a stockholder in the Gibbon Grange Co-operative Elevator Company. He is widely known and his genuine worth is attested by the fact that those who have been intimately associated with him since boyhood hold him in the highest esteem.

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#### R. LE VERNE SPENCER.

R. Le Verne Spencer was born May 25, 1889, at Gibbon. He finished the common school education and was a student in the Gibbon high school and also in the Lincoln Business College and the State Agricultural College, both of Lincoln, Nebraska. Such training qualified him for following his father's occupation of farming and in this vocation he has been constantly engaged. He was united in marriage to Pearl G. Gilming on the 5th of March, 1914, and to them has been born a son, Charles Le Verne. The family occupies a farm five miles northwest of Gibbon, comprising the west half of the northeast quarter of section 9, Gibbon township, adjoining the old homestead farm of the Spencer family, where his brother, Walter A., now resides. R. Le Verne Spencer is a very active agriculturist, showing ability in farm management and also much active and helpful interest in community improvement and advancement.

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#### JAMES E. CRIFFIELD.

James E. Criffield, who owns and manages the largest general store in Poole, has not only built up his own business but has also contributed to the general advancement of Poole. He was born in Michigan in July, 1867, and is a son of Dacon and Jane (Emmons) Criffield, the former a native of Ohio and the latter

of Pennsylvania. The father, who devoted the greater part of his life to agricultural pursuits, removed to Michigan and engaged in farming there until 1883, when he came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and took up a timber claim, which he improved and operated for several years. After selling that place he went to Missouri, where he farmed for three years, and then went into the hotel business at Westboro, that state. He passed away in September, 1898, and his wife died in 1872.

James E. Criffield remained in Michigan until he was sixteen years of age and then accompanied his parents to Buffalo county, Nebraska. When twenty years old he began clerking in a store at Hazard, this state, and worked in the employ of others until October, 1903, when he came to Poole and engaged in the general mercantile business on his own account. He has prospered beyond his expectations and is now the leading merchant in the town. He is continually seeking to improve the service which he gives his customers and his liberal business policy and the high quality of his goods have gained him a large and profitable patronage.

On the 4th of March, 1894, occurred the marriage of Mr. Criffield and Miss Arvilla Bateman and to them was born a son, Charles, who died in 1895. Mr. Criffield supports the democratic party at the polls and for two years served as a member of the town board. His success is the direct result of his enterprise, his careful study of business conditions and his constant effort to satisfy the demands of his patrons and he ranks among the most able business men of the county. He has many admirable personal characteristics and there are many who are his warm friends.

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#### DAN MORRIS.

The history of Dan Morris is a life record which should have its inspirational value for all young men who are forced to start out in life empty handed, as it indicates what may be accomplished when energy and determination lead the way. His advancement has not been due to genius or to any fortunate combination of circumstances but is the outcome of clear judgment, indefatigable industry and experience. He was born on a farm near Indianapolis, Indiana, February 10, 1878, a son of Nimrod and Ruth A. (Crouch) Morris, who removed from Indiana to Buffalo county, Nebraska, when their son Dan was about ten years of age. The father here took up the occupation of farming and still owns, occupies and cultivates a farm near Gibbon.

Dan Morris, who was one of a family of six children, acquired his early education in attendance at the district schools and alternated his school work with the labors of the farm, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. Later he took up the profession of teaching and when seventeen years of age he became a student in the Peru State Normal School, where he remained for a year. He then returned to Kearney and again taught school for about a year, after which he secured the position of messenger in the City National Bank. Within fourteen years he had occupied every position in the bank until in the fall of 1915 he was elected to the presidency of the institution



DAN MORRIS





which he entered in a most humble capacity and is today the largest individual owner of the stock. He has acquainted himself with every phase and branch of the business and his thoroughness, fidelity and capability have brought him steadily forward until he is now recognized as one of the leading financiers of Kearney and this part of the state. He has also made judicious investment in real estate and in addition to his fine residence in the city he owns eighteen hundred acres of ranch land in Custer county, on which he is pasturing about three hundred head of cattle. He has concentrated his efforts, however, most largely upon the banking business. When he became connected with the bank the deposits were about one hundred thousand dollars and these today have been increased to over one million dollars. There is no question to whom the credit of the bank's growth and development is due. In all business affairs Mr. Morris displays keen sagacity and his successes have never been measured by another's losses. Fourteen years from the position of errand boy to president indicates rapid progress and denotes marked ability and enterprise.

On the 27th of May, 1901, Mr. Morris was united in marriage to Miss Ella M. Thomas, a daughter of A. E. and Belle Thomas. They have two daughters, Ruby and Fern, who are attending school. The family are members of the Methodist church and are prominent socially, occupying a leading position in those social circles where true worth and intelligence are accepted as passports into good society. Mr. Morris also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a very charitable man, giving generously and freely wherever aid is needed and being very quick at all times to assist anyone who is willing to aid himself. He responds with readiness to a tale of sorrow or distress and does all in his power to ameliorate the hard conditions of life for the unfortunate. In politics he is a stanch democrat but not a politician in the sense of office seeking. He has served as president of the state educational board of Nebraska and in that connection has done much to further the cause of public instruction. He is president of the Bankers Association of the fifth district of Nebraska and is president of the Chautauqua Association of Buffalo county. In a word he has deep interest in all that pertains to the welfare, upbuilding and progress of his adopted county, giving active co-operation to those movements which tend to bring about higher ideals of citizenship, promoting civic progress along many lines.

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#### WILLIAM S. ELDRIDGE.

William S. Eldridge, the efficient postmaster of Poole, is also connected with business interests there as the manager of the Wort Brothers' grain business. A native of Michigan, he was born in Cadillac on the 7th of October, 1878, of the marriage of Daniel and Marguerite (McGowan) Eldridge, both also born in the Wolverine state. The father, who was a lumber dealer, eventually removed to New Mexico, where he lived until his death in 1912. At the time of the Civil war he served for four and a half years with the Fifth Michigan Volunteer Infantry and his military record was one of which he was justly proud. His wife preceded him in death, her demise occurring in September, 1908.

William S. Eldridge is indebted to the public schools for his education and

after reaching mature years entered the employ of Wort Brothers, grain dealers, and for some time was stationed at Pleasanton, Nebraska. In 1899, however, he was made manager of their business at Poole and has since remained here. In the management of the affairs intrusted to him he displays excellent judgment and a spirit of initiative that enables him to take advantage of opportunities for increasing the business of the company. Since 1910 he has served as postmaster of Poole and has also proved very efficient in that capacity.

Mr. Eldridge was married in June, 1905, to Miss Louise E. Tilson, a daughter of W. Z. and Emily (Piderit) Tilson. Her father was born in Michigan and her mother in Wisconsin, but they located in Buffalo county, Nebraska, in an early day in the history of this section and took up a homestead, which the father is still operating. Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge have four children, namely: Clifford, who was born on the 27th of August, 1906; Nona, whose birth occurred on the 19th of January, 1908; Ralph, born December 12, 1912; and Lucille, December 29, 1915.

Mr. Eldridge has supported the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and takes a lively interest in the questions and issues of the day. He is identified with the Knights of Pythias and the Masonic lodges at Ravenna and also with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Modern Brotherhood of America. He holds in full measure the respect of his fellow citizens and his personal friends are many.

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### JAMES J. VACEK.

James J. Vacek, a well known and prosperous young farmer of Garfield township, was born in Schneider township, this county, in August, 1885. His parents, John and Anna (Posusta) Vacek, were born in Bohemia and on their emigration to America first settled in Michigan, whence they soon afterward removed to Iowa. After living there for a year and a half they came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and the father purchased land in Schneider township, to the cultivation of which he devoted his energies until his death in 1909. His wife still lives on the old home place.

Mr. Vacek received his education in the common schools of Schneider township and was also early trained in the various phases of farm work. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-four years of age, when he removed to a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 23, Garfield township, which his father purchased at that time and gave him. He has since cultivated that place, to which he has given the name of Never-Fail Farm, and has made a number of improvements thereon which have added to its value and facilitated its operation. It is conveniently located on the main road between Grand Island and Ravenna. Mr. Vacek keeps everything in excellent condition and is prompt and enterprising in his work. He raises grain and also stock, feeding about a carload of high grade cattle annually.

Mr. Vacek is a democrat and loyally supports the candidates of that party at the polls but has never sought office. His religious faith is indicated by the fact that he is a communicant of the Roman Catholic church. He has passed his

entire life in the county and manifests a commendable interest in everything relating to its welfare and development. He is widely known and is recognized as a successful farmer and good citizen.

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### JOHN STOEGER.

Prominent among the extensive landowners of Buffalo county is John Stoeger, and his valuable property is the visible evidence of a life of well directed energy and thrift. Believing that the west held opportunity, he sought the advantages offered in this county and in their utilization has advanced steadily toward the goal of prosperity. He was born in Hendricks county, Indiana, October 25, 1858, and is a son of John and Mary Stoeger, who were natives of Germany, whence they came to America on a sailing vessel in the '40s. When the long voyage was ended they made their way across the country to Hendricks county, Indiana, where the father, who was a tanner, worked at his trade. He afterward followed the same business in Illinois, but prior to the Civil war purchased land in Crawford county, Illinois, which he cultivated for about eighteen years, becoming one of the well known general farmers of that district. He afterward made his home with his son John for three years and subsequently resided in Cairo, Nebraska, to the time of his death, which occurred in February, 1907, when he had reached the age of seventy-four. His widow survives him and has attained the very remarkable old age of ninety-one years.

John Stoeger was reared and educated in Illinois and remained with his parents until he reached the age of thirty-five. From his early youth he assisted in the farm work and as his age and strength increased assumed more and more largely the duties and responsibilities of the work of the fields. In 1893 he and three brothers came to Buffalo county and purchased five hundred and sixty acres of land on section 10, Cherry Creek township. At once they began to develop and improve the tract and it was not long before a marked change was seen in the appearance of the place, showing the result of their labors. They continued their farming operations together and kept adding to their land from time to time by additional purchase until they owned twenty-three hundred acres. Their partnership was maintained for four years and was then dissolved, after which John Stoeger and his brother William remained in business for thirteen years. During this period they bought more land and owned three thousand acres, but eventually they, too, divided their interests and William Stoeger retired from active business life. John Stoeger, however, is still carrying on general farming and is accounted one of the progressive, active and enterprising agriculturists of his part of the state. He now owns thirteen hundred and sixty acres in Cherry Creek township, fourteen hundred acres in Sherman county, Nebraska, one hundred and sixty acres in Merrick county, Nebraska, twenty acres in Hall county, adjoining the town of Grand Island, two hundred and three acres in Texas, fifty acres of irrigated land in Utah and town property in Salem, Oregon. He maintains his home on section 10, Cherry Creek township, and has operated his place since coming to the county, with the exception of four years spent in Grand Island, one year in Utah and one and a half years in Oregon. He has thus been closely identified



with the agricultural development of this part of the state and his efforts have been a force in directing material progress and improvement in Buffalo county. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers State Bank at Cairo, Nebraska, and upon his place he feeds about fifty head of cattle and seventy-five head of hogs annually.

In December, 1896, Mr. Stoeger was married to Miss Lizzie Feldmayer, a daughter of William and Mary Feldmayer, who were natives of Germany and in early life came to the new world. Her father served for three years during the Civil war as a soldier of an Ohio regiment and following the close of hostilities returned to Germany. He was there married, after which he came again to the new world and on that occasion settled in Buffalo county, where he secured a homestead claim, devoting his remaining days to the cultivation and improvement of his place. He died in 1909, while his wife passed away in 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Stoeger have become the parents of seven children, Toney, Lee, Richard, Charles, Walter, Harvey and Marie. Mr. Stoeger is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen camp and he and his family hold membership in the Lutheran church. He is possessed of many sterling traits of character and he enjoys the good will and confidence of his fellowmen because his life has been upright and worthy of respect.

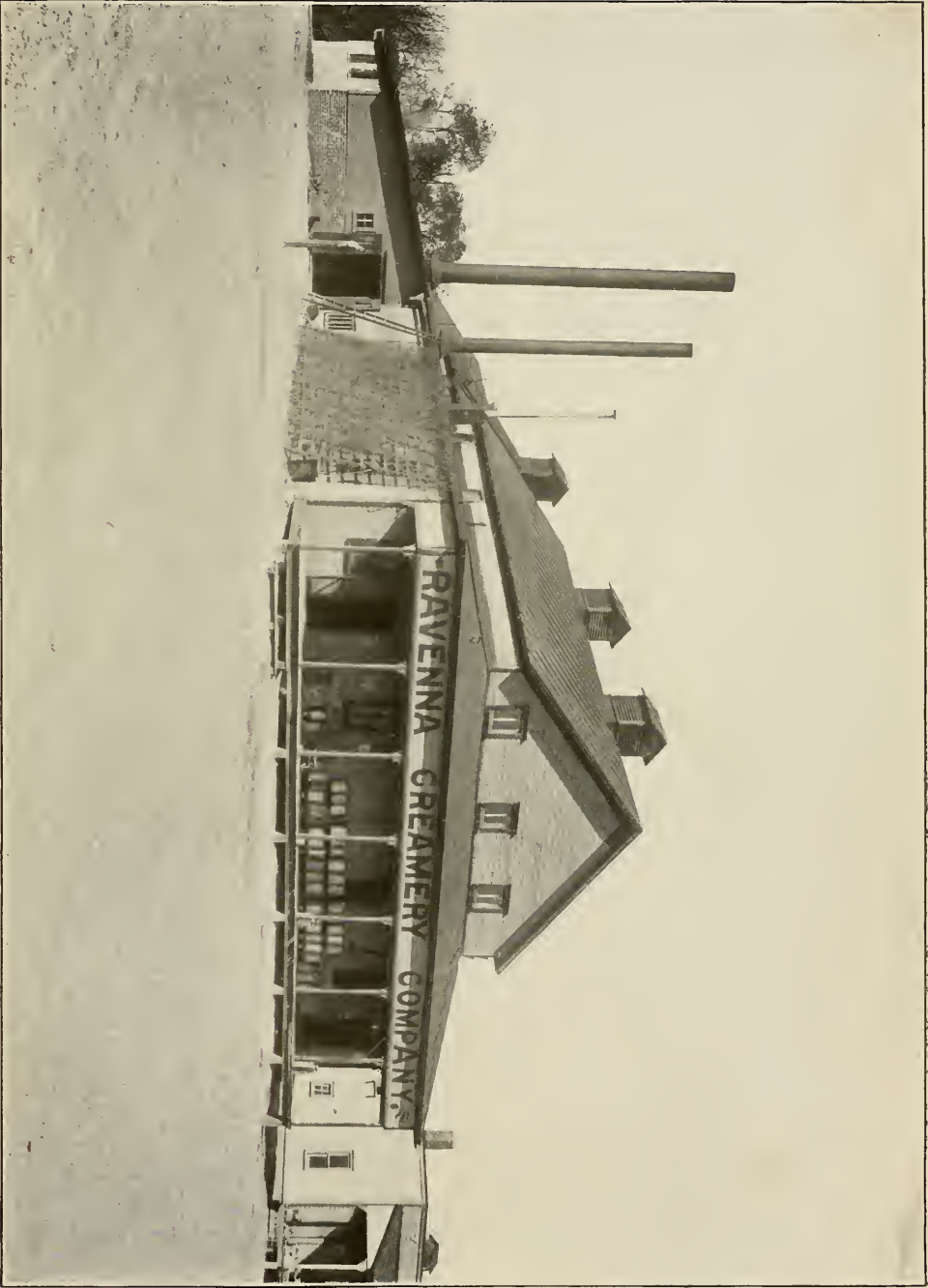
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#### CHARLES A. CLARK.

The Ravenna Creamery Company is one of the most successful business enterprises of the town of Ravenna, and its growth and prosperity is indicative of the energy and ability of its owners and managers. Charles A. Clark, who is president of the company, was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, on the 28th of June, 1848, a son of Joseph and Rizpah (Field) Clark, both natives of New Hampshire. The father, who was a millwright, carpenter and wheelwright by trade, removed to New York in 1832 and there followed his trade until his demise in February, 1877. His wife had died in July of the previous year.

Charles A. Clark grew to manhood in his native state and there received a common school and academic education, and he taught school several terms, also learning the carpenter's trade from his father which he followed for a short time. On the 1st of January, 1875, however, he engaged in the creamery business, building and running the second creamery established in St. Lawrence county—a county which now has upward of forty creameries. He continued the business in his native town for nineteen years, or until April, 1894, when he came to Ravenna, Buffalo county, Nebraska, and entered the employ of the Ravenna Creamery Company. Shortly afterward he purchased the entire capital stock of the corporation, and he with the other members of his family has since conducted the business. They have not only made the local plant one of the most successful creameries in this part of the state but have also established a creamery at Ord and one at Loup City. The business at Ord includes the manufacture of ice cream, and all three creameries are largely patronized. The central plant at Ravenna employs from fifteen to twenty people and numbers among its patrons practically all of the farmers in the district tributary to Ravenna. Mr. Clark has seen many improvements and wonderful development





THE RAVENNA CREAMERY



in the creamery business in his forty years of experience until butter making has become practically an exact "science." His business also includes a large poultry fattening and dressing plant, and quite a large output of eggs and several thousand gallons of ice cream annually.

In October, 1871, occurred the marriage of Mr. Clark and Miss Josephine Stearns, a daughter of Joseph and Charlotte (Beard) Stearns, natives of New York, where the father engaged in farming during his active life. Both he and his wife are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Clark have four children, namely: Joseph S. Clark, Rizpah F. Conn, Charlotte A. Miner, and Charles A. Clark, Jr., all of whom, with C. D. Conn and R. W. Miner, are interested in the business of the Ravenna Creamery Company.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark are loyal and earnest members of the Congregational church, and Mr. Clark is deeply interested in every movement that tends to curtail the rights and privileges of John Barleycorn, though he has time for but little political activity. However, in 1910 at the personal solicitation of his many temperance friends, he entered the primary contest and was nominated on the republican ticket as candidate for the state senate from Buffalo and Sherman counties. The issue was on county option, which Mr. Clark warmly espoused, and for which he made a strong campaign. He was defeated by a small majority, the "wets" adopting their usual crooked tactics of bringing forward at the eleventh hour, by petition a wet republican, who had been defeated in the primary, thus dividing the republican vote and electing the democrat. Two years later he was requested to enter the race again for the same position and was assured of loyal and strong support, but he could at that time see no moral issue at stake and declined to leave his business for the uncertainties of politics. Since coming to Ravenna he has made a highly creditable place for himself among the business men of the town and his personal characteristics are such that he has gained the warm friendship of those who have been closely associated with him.

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#### WILLIAM M. FELDMAYER.

Garfield township numbers among its citizens many enterprising farmers, wide awake to their opportunities, and careful and systematic in the management of their business interests. Such a one is William M. Feldmayer, who is living on section 6. He was born in Germany, March 25, 1877, a son of William and Anna Feldmayer, who came to the United States in 1882, at which time they took up their abode upon a farm that is now the home of their son William. The father purchased a relinquishment and subsequently entered the land to which he secured the title by complying with the homestead laws. With characteristic energy he began the development of the place, converting wild prairie into productive fields, and as the years passed his labors wrought a marked change in the appearance of his place, the wild prairie grasses being no longer seen, the same district being converted into fields of waving grain. It was upon the old homestead property that the father continued to reside until his life's labors were ended in death, January 1, 1906. For about two and a half years he had survived his wife, who died June 16, 1903.

William M. Feldmayer was reared upon the home farm, to which he was brought when a lad of five years. He acquired a common school education and as his age and strength increased more and more largely took up the work of the fields, receiving his initial training under his father. In 1901 he and his brother Christian began farming on the old homestead and continued to cooperate in the development and improvement of the place until 1909, having purchased the interests of the other heirs in the father's estate after his death. In 1909, however, William Feldmayer purchased the interest of his brother Christian in the farm and became sole owner, in addition to which he has another tract of one hundred and twenty acres across the road on section 7, Garfield township, so that his holdings now comprise two hundred and eighty acres, with the exception of the railroad right of way through the one hundred and twenty acre farm.

In 1909 Mr. Feldmayer was married to Miss Amma Belle McCoy, of Christian county, Missouri, and their two children are William Glen and Ada Lucille.

Mr. Feldmayer belongs to Ravenna Lodge, No. 366, I. O. O. F. In his political views he is a republican, voting for the men and measures of the party but not seeking office. His attention is concentrated upon his business affairs and he makes a specialty of raising cattle, keeping high grades of stock upon his place, while his annual sales reach a gratifying figure. He has closely studied the best methods of caring for his stock and his industry, resistless and determined, has brought him a gratifying measure of success.

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### JAMES G. HARRIS.

James G. Harris, who is living retired in Ravenna, was born in England on the 14th of November, 1854, a son of Henry and Charlotte (Pippler) Harris, also natives of that country. In 1865 the father came with his family to America and located in Boone county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming, although he had been a veterinarian in England. In 1877 he sold his property and, coming to Buffalo county, Nebraska, took up one hundred and sixty acres on section 18, Gardner township, as a homestead. He brought that place to a high state of development and devoted the remainder of his life to its operation. He passed away in January, 1894, and his wife died in 1887.

James G. Harris was reared and educated in his native country and in Boone county, Illinois, and remained with his parents until he was twenty-four years of age, when he took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres on section 18, Gardner township, this county, not far from the home farm. For thirty years he devoted his time and energy to the cultivation of his land and in addition to raising grain he engaged to a considerable extent in stock raising, feeding as many as one hundred and forty hogs a year and also raising a number of cattle. In 1908 he retired and purchased ten acres of land on the edge of Ravenna, where he erected a good residence. He has since lived in town but still takes a keen interest in agricultural affairs. He has added to his homestead and now owns two hundred and forty acres, all of which is located in Gardner township.

Mr. Harris was married on the 1st of March, 1883, to Miss Flora M. Lewis, a daughter of W. L. and Susan E. (Magee) Lewis, natives of Pennsylvania and





DR. JOHN H. PENN

Physician and surgeon for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy  
and Union Pacific Railroads.



pioneers of Buffalo county, Nebraska. The father homesteaded on section 18, Gardner township, and engaged in farming there for ten years, but at length removed to Custer county, Nebraska, where he remained until his death in 1908. He is survived by his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Harris have six children, namely: Eugene, who is farming in Cherry Creek township; Le Roy, who is operating the home place; Elsie, the wife of Albert Van Bbier, of Grand Island, Nebraska; Ethel, who married Ralph Farr, a livery man of Ravenna; Arthur, who is farming in Cherry Creek township; and Earl, at home.

Mr. Harris is a stanch advocate of the republican party and has served as road overseer of Gardner township. In religious faith he is a Methodist and fraternally he is identified with the Mystic Legion. His life has been one of well directed and efficient activity and he is now enjoying a period of leisure which is richly deserved.





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