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PAST AND PRESENT
OF
PLATTE COUNTY,
NEBRASKA

A Record of Settlement, Organization,
Progress and Achievement

B. W. Phillips

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Carroll Evans

Biographical

CARROLL DANDOLA EVANS, M. D.

Dr. Carroll Dandola Evans, a graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Baltimore, Maryland, has been engaged in the active practice of his profession for thirty-four years, and his life work has been regarded as a valuable contribution to those agencies and elements which work for the uplift and benefit of mankind. Outside the strict path of his profession his influence has ever been on the side of progress, nor has it been of a restricted order as many, relying upon his good judgment, have followed his leadership. He is, moreover, a prominent representative of Masonry in Nebraska and ranks very high in that order.

A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Evans was born at Tarentum, Allegheny county, May 26, 1856, and is descended from ancestry American in its lineal and collateral branches through many generations. His great-great-grandfather was one of the colonists who, a hundred strong, accompanied William Penn to the new world in 1681, when he came to take possession of the territory which he had purchased of the crown and which afterward became the state of Pennsylvania. In 1683, when Penn returned to England, he appointed the ancestor of Dr. Evans to serve as deputy governor, in which capacity he continued until 1689. He was a brother of the father of Sir Robert Evans, who in turn was the father of Mary Ann Evans, who under the non de plume of George Eliot became one of the distinguished representatives of the literary world. The ancestral estate of the Evans family near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was still in possession of representatives of the name until 1913, when it passed out of the family.

The paternal grandparents of Dr. Evans were born and reared near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, there spending the greater part of their lives, and their religious faith was indicated by their membership in the Friends church. The maternal grandfather, John Hammel, was a member of the American army in the War of 1812, and also participated in Indian wars in western Pennsylvania and Ohio. Both he and his wife were of Pennsylvania birth. The parents of Dr. Evans were William Valentine and Rachel (Hammel) Evans, who were among the earliest settlers of the Connoquenessing valley, in Butler county, Pennsylvania. After remaining there for about sixteen years they removed to Tarentum, Allegheny county. At a period which antedated the building of a railroad across the Allegheny mountains William V. Evans with an older brother made the journey to the "far west" and established his home in the wilds of western Pennsylvania, where he met the experiences of pioneer life with the sturdy courage and determination of the frontiersman. His home was in the Connoquenessing valley, about three miles from the present site of Evans City, in Butler county. While he adhered to many of the beliefs and practices of his Quaker ancestry he did not abstain from activity in political affairs. On

the contrary he became a leader of party thought and action, and he gave earnest support to many movements which promoted morality and religious activity in his district and which upheld good government. Moreover, he departed from the teachings of the Friends in that he was a member of the militia of his state. In a word, he was a man fearless in defense of his honest convictions who guided his course according to the dictates of his judgment.

After supplementing his common-school course by academic instruction in his native town, Dr. Evans had the privilege of pursuing a business course in Duff's College at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and in preparation for a professional career he took up the study of medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, his university course being taken at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Baltimore, Maryland, where he was graduated with the class of 1882. Later in the same year he pursued post-graduate work in the New York and Chicago Polyclinic in Gynecology and Surgery. A characteristic of his youth was his ambition for advancement. He set his mark high and utilized every opportunity to raise himself to its level. When he marked out a course he persevered therein, regarding no difficulty or obstacle too great to be overcome in carrying out his cherished purpose. This determination on his part has always been one of his salient characteristics and has enabled him to proceed far on the path to establish success. In his professional work, while due deference and respect were always given to the usually accepted authorities and guides on various subjects, he early recognized the fact that medicine and surgery, as sciences, were in an imperfect state; and at the point where authority and guidance were wanting or incomplete it was not in his method of procedure to stop but rather to pursue the subject both as to its requirements and the means necessary to accomplish the desired results. And possessing a high degree of perceptive ability to recognize the proper course to be pursued as well as the executive ability to accomplish the desired result, his professional work has been eminently successful.

Following his graduation from the Baltimore University, Dr. Evans entered upon the practice of his chosen profession at Bradford, Pennsylvania, but after a year, attracted by the opportunities of the growing west, he made his way to Nebraska, arriving at Columbus on the 16th of May, 1882. Reviewing the possibilities and opportunities of the town, he determined to remain and accordingly opened an office. Hardly had he established himself in practice here than he was appointed physician at St. Mary's Hospital, in which position he has since continued, covering a period of a third of a century. His ability as a physician and surgeon has been widely recognized. He did not consider his education completed when his college course was over; on the contrary, he has remained a student of the science of medicine and surgery, keeping abreast with the best thinking men of the age in this connection. Through study and investigation science has revealed to him its secrets, and his growing ability has enabled him to successfully cope with many complex professional problems.

Dr. Evans was married on the 27th of May, 1886, when Miss Lorena Rose North, the eldest daughter of James E. North, of Columbus, Nebraska, became his wife. Her father was a pioneer citizen of the state, having established his home in Columbus in the early part of 1858, while his brother, Major Frank North, won distinction in connection with the Indian warfare. Dr. and Mrs. Evans became the parents of two daughters and two sons, Rachel Nellie, James North, Carroll Dandola and Lorena Rose. This has ever been a most united family, a congenial



Rose North Evans.

companionship existing ever between parents and children, while the warm-hearted hospitality of the home is greatly enjoyed by their many friends. Theirs is not only the most beautiful home in Columbus, but is one of the finest in the state. Mrs. Evans and family are members of Grace Episcopal church of Columbus and take a deep and helpful interest in its work and wellbeing. In a word, the family name is associated with all that is uplifting and beneficial in community life, and their labors have been an influencing factor for good along various lines.

Dr. Evans' father was a prominent political leader in the days of the old whig party and was a delegate to the convention which was held in Lafayette Hall at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, when the republican party was organized in that state. Reared in the faith of the party the Doctor has never seen reason to change his views but still supports its platform and has contributed much to its success through his efforts to increase its support, yet has never sought the rewards of office in recognition of party fealty.

The military chapter in the life record of Dr. Evans was written during the period of his early manhood, for at that time he became a member of Company H of the Tenth Regiment of the Pennsylvania National Guard, which he joined as a private in 1874, being commissioned second lieutenant by Governor Hartranft on the 3d of January, 1877. While he was thus serving, his regiment was called out in connection with the quelling of the riots of the strikers in the coal regions of Pennsylvania, and in the railroad riots at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1877. He was thus on active duty for three months and was often in the most hazardous and dangerous positions. He remained in active connection with his regiment until May 30, 1878, when he was honorably discharged. On the 15th of January, 1901, he was commissioned by Governor Charles H. Dietrich as aid-de-camp with the rank of colonel on the governor's staff. On the 4th of May, 1901, he was commissioned by Governor Ezra P. Savage as surgeon general of the Nebraska National Guard with the rank of colonel. On the 1st of June, 1902, he became an active member of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States and on the 20th of May, 1901, he was appointed by Governor Savage as a delegate to the Congress of Military Surgeons of the United States, held in St. Paul, Minnesota, May 30, 31 and June 1, 1901. On the 26th of May, 1902, he was appointed by Governor Savage as a delegate to the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States meeting at Washington, D. C., June 5, 6 and 7, 1902, and through appointment of Governor John H. Mickey, on the 5th of April, 1903, he was made surgeon general of the State Guard with the rank of colonel. Ten years before this, through appointment by Governor Savage, he was a delegate to the American Congress of Tuberculosis and attended the meeting held at the Hotel Majestic, New York, on the 14th, 15th and 16th of May, 1893. In the same year he was appointed by the State Medical Association of Nebraska as a delegate to the American Medical Association and attended the meeting held at Milwaukee in June.

While prominently known in professional connections Dr. Evans is also accounted one of the prominent Masons of the state. His identification with the order dates from 1878. On the 8th of July of that year he became a member of Pollock Lodge, No. 502, A. F. & A. M., at Tarentum, Pennsylvania, and was raised to the degree of Master Mason on the 9th of September. He was made a Royal Arch Mason August 12, 1881, in Bradford Chapter, No. 260, at Bradford, Pennsylvania, and on the 24th of May, 1885, became a member of Gebal Council, No. 12, R. & S. M.,

at Columbus, Nebraska. He was made a Knight Templar, December 13, 1883, in Mount Tabor Commandery, No. 9, at Fremont, Nebraska, and in January, 1886, he attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite. He was elected knight commander of the Court of Honor, October 20, 1903, and received the thirty-third degree on the 12th of February, 1908, at Omaha, Nebraska. He is a past officer of Pollock Lodge of Tarentum, Pennsylvania, and of Lebanon Lodge of Columbus; has received official honors in Orient Chapter, R. A. M., of Columbus; Gebal Council, R. & S. M.; Gethsemane Commandery, No. 21, K. T.; is past grand commander of the Knights Templar of Nebraska and was inspector general of the Grand Commandery for four years. He has also been grand king of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Nebraska and has served on important committees in the Grand Lodge. He is a member of Coeur de Lion Conclave, No. 10, Red Cross of Constantine, at Omaha; of the Royal Order of Scotland at Washington, D. C.; was created a noble in Tengier Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., June 27, 1892, at Omaha; and received the Order of the Eastern Star, December 27, 1898, at Columbus, Nebraska. For some time he served on the board of trustees of the Nebraska Masonic Home at Plattsmouth, and was really the organizer of the Masonic Orphanage at Fremont, Nebraska. He also served as secretary of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States for several years.

Of him it has been written: "Being a man of enterprise and character, he has stamped his individuality upon all the Masonic bodies of which he has been a member, cheerfully and willingly aiding to build up the several organizations of the state, and to the labor and ability of such citizens as Dr. Evans the fraternity in Nebraska owes much of the high standing it has attained in our commonwealth." The foregoing indicates that Dr. Evans has attained high honors in various connections, that he has played well his part in life and that his efforts have been resultant and beneficial, proving of marked worth to the community in which he lives.

JOHN BOYER.

John Boyer, postmaster of Humphrey, was born in Virginia, August 18, 1866, a son of Hugh and Margaret (James) Boyer, natives of the Old Dominion. The father was a farmer and stock-raiser, but at the time of the Civil war put aside business and personal considerations and served for four years as a member of the Confederate army. He afterward resumed agricultural pursuits in his native state, where he remained until 1882, when he came to Nebraska and secured a homestead in the western part of the state. This he operated until his death, which occurred in March, 1906. He became known as one of the representative and highly respected agriculturists of the district in which he lived.

John Boyer was reared and educated in Virginia, remaining under the parental roof until twenty-two years of age, when he went to Madison county, Nebraska, where for four years he cultivated a farm. He next removed to Boone county, where he rented land for three years, although in the meantime he engaged in buying stock in Humphrey for Dave Hale for about nine years. Upon leaving Boone county he returned to Humphrey, where he conducted a real-estate business for six years, at the end of which time he entered upon the duties of assessor of

Granville township, serving in that capacity for a year. In January, 1914, he was appointed postmaster of Humphrey by President Wilson, which fact indicates his allegiance to the democratic party.

In August, 1897, Mr. Boyer was married to Miss Catherine Lich, a daughter of Christian and Elizabeth Lich, natives of Germany, who came to America in early life, while for the past twenty years Mr. Lich has been numbered among the farmers of Madison county, Nebraska. His wife passed away in 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Boyer have become the parents of six children: Mary, who is a clerk in the postoffice; Catherine; Albert; Oscar; George; and Floyd.

Mr. Boyer is interested in the cause of education and has served for five years as a school director in his home locality. He now holds membership with the Royal Highlanders and with the Modern Woodmen of America, is loyal to the beneficent spirit of those organizations and is one of the well known and highly respected residents of his community.

DAVID THOMAS MARTYN, M. D.

Dr. David Thomas Martyn, of Columbus, is one of the distinguished physicians in his section of the state. Long actively engaged in practice, he has maintained a position among the foremost representatives of his profession, keeping in touch with advanced thought and methods and actuated at all times by a desire to be of service to his fellowmen. Kindliness, sympathy and helpfulness are features in his practice which have ever dominated his desire for pecuniary reward. Dr. Martyn was born at Granville, Vermont, July 26, 1845, his parents being Marshall and Abigail (Eaton) Martyn, who were also natives of the Green Mountain state.

Dr. Martyn was eighteen years of age when he became a resident of Illinois and after teaching for a year he enlisted in the One Hundred and Forty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry for service in the Civil war. He remained at the front until the close of hostilities in 1865 and then entered the medical department of the Northwestern University, from which he was graduated in 1869.

In 1870 Dr. Martyn removed to Nebraska, settling at Columbus in 1876, so that he has now practiced in that city for almost four decades. His marked ability brought him immediately to the front and he has few peers and no superiors in professional work in Platte county. Broad reading has kept him in touch with the advanced thought of the day and he is the loved family physician in many a household where he has ministered through long years.

On the 1st of March, 1877, in Clarks, Nebraska, Dr. Martyn was united in marriage to Miss Susan P. George, by whom he had the following children: Dr. David T. Martyn, Jr.; Lucy H., the wife of W. E. Rhodes, of Chicago, Illinois; Susan P., who gave her hand in marriage to Charles E. Givens, of Kirksville, Missouri; Homer M., living in Kirksville, Missouri; and Helen R., who died at the age of three years. Dr. Martyn belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity. His political allegiance is given to the republican party, but while firmly believing in its principles, he has never had time nor inclination for public office. He has always preferred to concentrate his energies upon his professional duties, which have ever been discharged with the utmost sense of conscientious obligation.

An indication of the general feeling entertained for him in the city where he has so long resided was expressed in an article written by Edgar Howard, editor and proprietor of the Columbus Telegram, for the issue of that paper of December 5, 1913. The article read as follows: "One of the most beautiful pictures in the average person's parlor of memory is the one which portrays the kindly features of the old family physician, and the gaze never turns to the picture without recall of the gracious and helpful ministrations of the one whose mission to the home was the banishment of pain. Despite all the present-day denunciation of the awful disclosures of mixing money with medicine, and the proved crime of fee-splitting between physicians and surgeons, let us not forget that the profession of medicine still holds within its ranks some real noblemen, many of whom minister to Nebraskans, and several of them to the people of Columbus. I know a type of the old-time conscientious and kindly family physician of our boyhood dreams. He came to Columbus thirty-eight years ago last Saturday—came here in a day when the telephone was an undreamed dream—in a day when the automobile was not even a creature of imagination—in a day when the motive power of the physician was his saddle horse. For nearly forty years this prince of a noble calling has ministered to the people of Columbus and for fifty miles around, and with a fidelity so instant and so lasting that today the very presence of the old practitioner, now entering the years of gray but still wearing the smile and the charm of a fadeless youth, is a real tonic to thousands of men and women who through four decades have been helped by the healthful influence of his personality, or healed by the application of his medical skill. Last Saturday, when I saw that magnificent man and minister celebrating the thirty-eighth anniversary of his professional advent in Columbus by a programme of devotion to his patients, the thought came to me that if on that day there might have been assembled in one place all the men and women who have appreciated the professional services and admired the honorable personal life of Dr. David T. Martyn, no amphitheatre in all the world had been large enough to receive the throng, and no earthly choir had been able to sound sweeter peans of praise than would there have been loosed in honor of a man who sweetly serves the Master by living a life of service to humanity."

HOWARD A. CLARKE.

Howard A. Clarke has been identified with financial interests of Columbus since 1903 as cashier of the Columbus State Bank, the oldest state bank in Nebraska. His birth occurred in Bellevue, Sarpy county, Nebraska, on the 15th of December, 1868, his parents being Artemas Matthewson and Almira A. (Williams) Clarke, the former born in Greenwich, New York, in 1838, and the latter in Pennsylvania. Their marriage was celebrated in the Keystone state on the 1st of January, 1856, and in the same year they removed to Bellevue, Nebraska, where Artemas M. Clarke had established a mercantile and stock business in 1855. In 1879 they made their way to Omaha and there spent the remainder of their lives, Mr. Clarke passing away in 1911 and his wife in 1914. The latter was a lineal descendant of Roger Williams, while Artemas M. Clarke was a descendant of a brother of John Clarke, who with Roger Williams was one of the founders of

Rhode Island. Isaac Duncan Clarke, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was a native of Massachusetts.

Howard A. Clarke completed a high-school course at Omaha by graduation and remained in that city until 1900, when he removed to Gretna, Sarpy county, Nebraska, where he was president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank for three years. On the expiration of that period, in 1903, he came to Columbus as cashier of the Columbus State Bank, having remained in that capacity continuously since. He is widely recognized as a capable, courteous and obliging official and his efforts have contributed in no small degree to the continued growth and success of the institution. He is likewise the president of the Platte County Bank at Platte Center, Nebraska, and thus a prominent factor in financial circles of the community.

On the 5th of December, 1899, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Clarke was united in marriage to Miss Nelly Post, a daughter of the Hon. A. M. Post. Their children are three in number, namely: Artemas M., Elizabeth Sterling and Bruce Teft Clarke. In his political views Mr. Clarke is a stanch republican, while his religious faith is that of the Baptist church. He is a Master Mason and also belongs to the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a man of high social and business standing and is recognized as one of the valuable and worthy citizens of Columbus.

HERMAN W. LUEDTKE.

Herman W. Luedtke, cashier of the Citizens State Bank at Creston, belongs to that type of substantial and representative business men who are factors in promoting the stability of a community, advancing the public welfare while promoting their individual success. He was born in Sherman township, this county, July 20, 1880, and is a son of Herman and Louisa (Meyer) Luedtke, both of whom were natives of Germany, remaining in the fatherland until 1869, when they came to the new world, first settling in Wisconsin. In 1871 they came to Platte county, Nebraska, and settled in Sherman township, where the father took up a homestead, immediately beginning the improvement and development of the land. He there underwent the hardships of a pioneer and the grasshopper years. He continued to operate his farm throughout his remaining days, his life's labors being terminated in death in November, 1900. For several years he had survived his wife, who passed away in June, 1891.

Herman W. Luedtke was reared and educated in the county which is still his home, attending the district schools and the public schools of Creston and completing his course in the Fremont Normal School at Fremont, Nebraska. He then took up the profession of teaching in school districts No. 49 and No. 46, devoting his attention to that work for two terms. He afterward secured a clerkship in a general store in Creston, where he remained for a year, but at the end of that time he entered the Citizens State Bank as assistant cashier in 1903, serving in that capacity until 1912, when he was promoted to the position of cashier. While his brother Eric became assistant cashier. Herman W. Luedtke is also one of the stockholders and directors of the bank and is a popular official, always obliging and courteous, while at the same time he carefully safeguards the interests of the bank and

therefore protects the stockholders and depositors. In addition to his other interests he is a stockholder in and secretary of the Creston-Blau Gas Company of Creston and in the Farmers Grain & Stock Company.

In June, 1907, occurred the marriage of Mr. Luedtke and Miss Anna Graham, a daughter of Edward T. and Laura B. (Morris) Graham, the former born in Prince Edward Island, while the mother was a native of Wisconsin. Mr. Graham arrived in Platte county in 1871 and homesteaded land in Humphrey township, giving his undivided attention to the improvement and operation of his farm from that time to the present. Success has attended his efforts in large measure, and he has added to his holdings until he is now the owner of ten hundred and forty acres of splendidly improved land, the wisdom of his judgment being shown in his judicious investments. He is also the vice president of the Citizens State Bank of Creston and is regarded as one of the foremost business men of his part of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Luedtke have become the parents of three children: Milan G., who was born June 25, 1909; Lois C., born February 29, 1912; and Ilene M., born October 31, 1911.

In his fraternal relations Mr. Luedtke is a Knight of Pythias and a Royal Highlander. Politically he is connected with the democratic party and is one of its prominent local workers, having served as central committeeman in Platte county for about ten years. He belongs to the Lutheran church, and his interest in the cause of education has been manifest in his effective service as a member of the school board for the past ten years. He takes an active interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community and his efforts have been intelligently directed along lines which have proven of the greatest benefit in community affairs.

MAXIMILIAN M. ROTHLEITNER.

The name of Hon. Maximilian M. Rothleitner is inseparably interwoven with the history of Columbus because of the important part which he has played in educational progress, in commercial activities and in political connections. He is now mayor of the city and as such is giving to Columbus a businesslike, progressive administration, characterized by needed reforms and improvements.

Mr. Rothleitner was born in Bergstadt, Austria, September 21, 1868, a son of Joseph and Johanna (Schmidt) Rothleitner. The father came to America in 1872 and the family followed in 1875, but the mother died in Castle Garden, New York, on landing from the steamship on which she had sailed for the new world, leaving five children, three sons and two daughters, in the eastern metropolis alone, the eldest, Frank, being then but fifteen years of age. The father was out in Nebraska at the time, but the family fell into kindly hands, for a German Lutheran minister of New York happened along, saw to the interment of the mother and took charge of the children, whom he afterward sent on to their father in Platte county, Nebraska. Mr. Rothleitner still lives, his home being now in Columbus, Nebraska. He afterward married again, his second union being with Adele Wanke, and to them was born a son, Anton Joseph.

Maximilian M. Rothleitner was a little lad of about seven years when brought to the new world by his mother. He attended school in Platte county and afterward



MAXIMILIAN M. ROTHLEITNER



went to McMinnville, Oregon, where he spent three years as a student in the McMinnville College, a Baptist institution, through which he worked his way, thus displaying the elemental strength of his character which has been again and again manifested in later relations of life. It was his desire to become a member of the bar, although his father wished him to take up the profession of medicine and refused him any assistance in his efforts to become a lawyer. It was this which led Mr. Rothleitner to start out for himself and, as previously stated, he spent three years as a student in McMinnville College. Leaving there in 1887, he returned to Platte county, Nebraska, and the following week began teaching school. In the spring of 1888 he attended the Fremont (Neb.) Normal and in the fall of 1888 he taught at the Loseke school in Platte county for ten months. Later he went to Creston, Nebraska, where he engaged in teaching for a year, and in 1890 he was nominated for the position of county superintendent of schools of Platte county on the democratic ticket but was defeated. He afterward accepted the position of principal of the Lindsay, Platte county, high school, where he continued for a year, and for one term he was principal of the Bismark Academy of Platte county. He next entered Dixon College at Dixon, Illinois, as a student, spending fifteen months there, at the end of which time he was graduated with the class of 1893 with valedictorian honors.

Mr. Rothleitner was then notified by telegraph that he had just been renominated for the position of county superintendent of Platte county, and returning, he entered upon the campaign work and was elected. He proved so capable at the head of the school system of the county that he was twice reelected, and served in all for six years. He then became principal of the first ward school, continuing in that position for several months, after which he became principal of the old high school (second ward), remaining there for four years. On the expiration of that period he resigned and severed his connection with educational activity. He turned to mercantile pursuits, purchasing a hardware store in Columbus, since which time he has been active along that line. While his present business calls for very different qualities than were necessary in his educational work, he has proved equal to the demands made upon him and is now a progressive, prosperous, well known and highly respected merchant of his city.

On the 10th of January, 1893, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Rothleitner was united in marriage to Miss Alice Leota Swartsley, a daughter of the Hon. John Swartsley, an ex-legislator of Nebraska. They have two children: Milton Monroe and Homer Louis.

In his religious faith Mr. Rothleitner is a Presbyterian and fraternally he is connected with the Masons. His influence has always been on the side of right, progress and improvement, and he looks at the vital questions of the day from no narrow or contracted standpoint, but rather from the position of a broadminded student of the signs of the times. He has always voted with the democratic party and his fitness for office led to his selection in 1907 for the position of councilman from the third ward, in which capacity he served for one term. In 1913 he was elected mayor and was reelected a year later, carrying the council with him. To his efforts are attributable many important improvements, the establishment of splendid sidewalks, well paved streets, an excellent sewer system, the Carnegie library and other public utilities and enterprises which are of notable worth in the community. He also rebuilt the water system. He is indeed a progressive mayor

and at the same time conducts the affairs of the city upon a businesslike basis. He does not hamper advancement by useless retrenchment, but in all things follows a policy that is dictated by sound judgment and a thorough understanding of all the phases of a situation.

JACOB KREBS.

Jacob Krebs, of Humphrey, is the proprietor of one of the finest hardware stores in Platte county, carrying a large and well selected stock, which is attractively set forth in a fine modern building. His course measures up to the highest standard of commercial ethics and thus it is that he has won an enviable and creditable position among the leading merchants of the county. He was born in Germany in August, 1862, a son of Joseph and Margaret (Fruchs) Krebs, who were natives of Bavaria, Germany, whence they came to the new world with their family in 1865, settling in Davenport, Iowa. There the father worked in a malt house for four years, at the end of which time he removed to Sioux county, Iowa, where in 1871 he took up a homestead claim, which he cultivated and improved, continuing the operation of his well developed farm there until 1891, when he retired from active business life and removed to Alton, Iowa. He is now living in that town at the advanced age of eighty-three years, while his wife has reached the age of seventy-three.

Jacob Krebs was reared and educated in Sioux county, Iowa, and remained at home with his parents until he reached the age of twenty-six years, when he went to Le Mars, Iowa, and pursued his studies for a term in the normal school. He afterward learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for a year in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Returning to the old homestead after his father retired, he engaged in general farming for two years and next removed to Lindsay, Nebraska, where he followed farming for a year and also worked at carpentering. Later he purchased a farm north of Humphrey, in Madison county, Nebraska, and with characteristic energy began to further develop and improve that place, operating it until 1898, when he retired from the farm on account of poor health and rented his land. He then came to Humphrey but still owns the farm. He worked in a hardware store for three and a half years and then purchased a half interest in the hardware business of Henry Fox, an association that was maintained until 1906, when the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Krebs became proprietor of another store. He has been alone since that time and is now at the head of one of the finest establishments of the kind in the county. It is modern in every respect. He occupies a fine business block, which was erected in 1914, and in it he carries a large stock of shelf and heavy hardware, his business methods commending him to the patronage and continued support of the public.

In October, 1890, Mr. Krebs was joined in wedlock to Miss Katherine Gasper, a daughter of Michael and Anna (Like) Gasper, who were natives of Prussia. They came to America in childhood and were among the early settlers of Wisconsin, in which state the paternal grandfather secured a homestead claim. There Michael Gasper was reared and educated and in early manhood he began farming in Mills county, Iowa, being a resident of that state at the time its first governor

was elected. He was closely associated with the pioneer development of the district in which he lived and continued to carry on farming there until 1894, when he sold out and came to Nebraska, purchasing land in Walker township, Platte county. This he cultivated and improved for eight years and then, retiring from active life, removed to Lindsay, where he now resides at the ripe old age of seventy-eight years, while his wife has reached the age of seventy-three years. Mr. and Mrs. Krebs became the parents of six children, of whom two died in infancy, the others being: Anna, twenty-three years of age, now at home; Michael, twenty-one years of age, working at the carpenter's trade; Joseph, nineteen years of age, working with his brother; and Mary, who has reached the age of fourteen.

The family are Catholics in religious faith and in political belief Mr. Krebs is a democrat. He is now treasurer of Humphrey township, which position he has filled for eight years, and for four years he was a member of the city council of Humphrey, while for two years he filled the office of mayor, exercising his official prerogatives in support of many measures for the public good and at all times upholding those interests which are a matter of civic virtue and civic pride.

LOUIS ROBERT.

Louis Robert, who resides on section 9, Sherman township, is widely recognized as a prosperous and enterprising agriculturist, now owning three hundred and twenty acres of land in Platte county and also another farm of one hundred and seventeen acres in Colfax county. His birth occurred in Hanover, Germany, on the 9th of December, 1861, his parents being Henry and Anna (Neuhaus) Robert. The father emigrated to the United States in 1870 in order to escape military service and after reaching America worked for a season in the harvest fields near Omaha. He then came to Platte county and took up a homestead claim of eighty acres in Sherman township, where our subject now resides. The following year Henry Robert sent for his family. Their first home was a dugout and afterward the father built a log house which is still standing, being now used as a machine shed. It is still in a good state of preservation and the logs, some of which are three feet wide, are of elm and cottonwood, while one of the largest is of oak. Mr. Robert devoted his attention to farming in Sherman township throughout the remainder of his life, passing away at the age of eighty-one years, on the 16th of April, 1914, when the community mourned the loss of one of its honored pioneer citizens and representative agriculturists. He had long survived his wife, whose demise occurred twenty-two years ago, at the age of sixty-nine. The latter was twice married and by her first husband had two children, one of whom, Henry Huntemann, now lives on a farm in Sherman township.

The gentleman whose name introduces this review was the only child of his parents and he was reared to manhood on the home farm in Sherman township, eventually purchasing the property. General agricultural pursuits have claimed his time and energies throughout his entire business career and success has attended his efforts as the years have gone by, so that he is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of valuable land in Platte county as well as a tract of one hundred and seventeen acres in Colfax county. His fields are carefully tilled and cul-

tivated, the crops being systematically rotated from year to year, thus enabling him to keep the soil in a high state of productivity and annually reap abundant harvests.

As a companion and helpmate on the journey of life Mr. Robert chose Miss Louisa Voss, a native of Oldenburg, Germany, and a daughter of Gerhard and Anna (Pralle) Voss. The mother is deceased, but the father still survives and makes his home with Mr. and Mrs. Robert. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Robert are five in number, as follows: Sophia, who is the wife of Louis Cattani; Louisa, Henry, Emil and Emma, all at home.

Mr. Robert gives his political allegiance to the democracy and in religious faith is a Lutheran. The period of his residence in Platte county covers more than four decades and he has long been numbered among its successful farmers and valued citizens.

HON. ALFRED M. POST.

High on the roll of eminent lawyers and jurists of Nebraska is inscribed the name of Hon. Alfred M. Post, who was for six years a judge of the supreme court and is now actively engaged in the practice of law at Columbus. He was born in Greenfield, Pennsylvania, August 10, 1849, his parents being William E. and Sarah (Wallace) Post, both of whom were natives of the Keystone state. The father, who was born in Washington county, was of English lineage, while the mother came of Scotch-Irish ancestry. Rev. William E. Post was a minister of the Presbyterian faith, devoting his life to his holy calling until death terminated his labors in 1870. His widow survived him for seven years, passing away in 1877.

Judge Post supplemented a public-school education by a course of law study in the University of Ohio at Athens, where he was graduated with the class of 1869. He then removed to Bloomfield, Iowa, where he joined his parents, who had established their home there in 1862. For a time Judge Post engaged in teaching school in Iowa but in 1870 was admitted to the bar and entered upon the active work of the profession at Leon, Decatur county, where he at once opened an office. He remained in active practice there until December, 1874, when he was appointed consul to the Cape Verde Islands by President Grant, spending two and a half years in the consular service but not all of the time in the Islands. He has been identified with Columbus since 1876, in which year he entered upon the practice of law in this city. Along with those qualities indispensable to the lawyer—a keen, rapid, logical 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. An excellent presence, an earnest, dignified manner, marked strength of character, a thorough grasp of the law and the ability to accurately apply its principles were factors in his effectiveness as an advocate. His ability brought him into public notice and in 1883 he was appointed judge of the fourth district. He was elected to that position in 1883 and 1887 and he served upon the bench of the district for eight years or until the fall of 1891, when he was elected a judge of the supreme court of Nebraska, continuing in that position until January, 1898. From 1911 until 1913 he was chairman of the commission for codifying the laws of Nebraska. His decisions while on the supreme court

bench as well as on the district bench indicate strong mentality, careful analysis, a thorough knowledge of the law and an unbiased judgment, and his analytical mind, combined with readiness in grasping the points of an argument, made him one of the most capable jurists who have ever graced the court of last resort. On his retirement from the bench he resumed active practice. He is deeply learned in the law, and while he does not appear often before the courts as a trial lawyer, he is noted for the wisdom of his counsel and for the thoroughness and comprehensive manner in which he prepares cases for presentation.

On the 6th of October, 1873, in Monroe county, Iowa, Judge Post was united in marriage to Miss Ella Munsell, by whom he has the following children: Nelly, the wife of Howard A. Clarke, of Columbus, Nebraska; Georgia S., who gave her hand in marriage to Dr. C. R. G. Forrester, of Chicago; Martha; William Edward; Alfreda; Dorothy, who is the wife of G. G. Becher, Jr., of Columbus, Nebraska; and Alfred M. Post, Jr. Judge Post and his family attend the Presbyterian church and his life constitutes an influencing force among his fellow citizens, who have come to regard his example as one well worthy to follow because of his keen insight and the soundness of his judgment. His devotion to the general good has made him a public-spirited citizen and one whose work has counted for the benefit of city and state.

JOHN E. HUGG.

John E. Hugg, who for nine years has been cashier of the First National Bank of Humphrey and is a well known and respected representative of financial interests, is ranked, too, with the progressive citizens of the town and often occupies a position of leadership in furthering projects for the general good. He was born in St. Charles, Missouri, June 4, 1867, and is a son of Charles and Agnes (Bohbenrath) Hugg. The father was born in Alsace, Germany, and was a merchant. In the year 1842 he crossed the Atlantic on a sailing vessel, being twenty-seven weeks en route. The destination was New York, but the vessel was blown far out of its course and the landing was made in Florida. Mrs. Hugg was a native of Loraine, Germany. They became residents of St. Charles, Missouri, which at that time contained forty more inhabitants than St. Louis. Mr. Hugg opened a grocery store and extended his activities to include general merchandise, remaining for many years a leading business man of that place.

John E. Hugg remained at home until he reached the age of seventeen years, during which period the public schools afforded him his early educational privileges, after which he attended St. Louis University, a Jesuit college. When he left Missouri he journeyed westward to Westpoint, Nebraska, where he took up his abode and engaged in clerking for a number of years. In 1890 he arrived in Humphrey, where he turned his attention to the lumber business, becoming a partner in the Hunker Brothers Company, of which he was a member for fourteen years. He then sold out and in 1906 took charge of the First National Bank of Humphrey as its cashier, in which capacity he has since served, making a most creditable record by his capable and wise conduct of the interests of that institution. He also organized the electric light and power company and is interested in the telephone company.

His foresight has enabled him to recognize opportunities, while his ambition has prompted their utilization to successful ends.

On the 3d of February, 1893, Mr. Hugg was united in marriage to Miss Mary Hunker, a daughter of Henry and Catharine (Rosker) Hunker, both of whom were natives of Germany, and on coming to America forty-five years ago settled in St. Charles, Missouri. They afterward became residents of Westpoint, Nebraska, where they have now lived for forty years. For an extended period the father engaged in the lumber business and he has been an official, either president or vice president, of banks of Westpoint and of Humphrey, but is now living retired, enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves, his labors having brought to him substantial success. To Mr. and Mrs. Hugg has been born a daughter, Camilla, whose natal day was July 3, 1895, and who was graduated from the high school with the class of 1912.

The parents are members of St. Francis Catholic Church of Humphrey and Mr. Hugg is also identified with the Knights of Columbus and with the Catholic Order of Foresters, both of Humphrey. In community affairs he has taken a most active and helpful interest. He was the first chief of the fire department and was instrumental in securing the waterworks for the town. In fact, he has been a leader in all the movements which have resulted beneficially to the community and his worth as a public-spirited citizen is widely acknowledged. He is working all the time for the interests of the town and has stimulated civic virtue and civic pride. There is perhaps no one who has done more for Humphrey or who deserves wider recognition as a valued public citizen and progressive business man.

REV. FLORENTIUS KURZER.

Rev. Florentius Kurzer, pastor of St. Francis Catholic church at Humphrey, was born in Sausdorf, Silesia, Austria, December 18, 1837, a son of Joseph and Hedwig (Koenig) Kurzer, who were also natives of the same place. The father was a blacksmith by trade and lived and died in Austria, passing away in 1897, after surviving his wife for twenty years.

Father Kurzer acquired his early education in a monastery at Annaberg, Prussia, and afterward went to Warendorf, Westphalia, and joined the Franciscan Fathers in 1874. Coming to America, he made his way to Effingham county, Illinois, and continued his studies at Teutopolis, where he remained until 1878. He then went to Quincy, Illinois, where he studied philosophy in the Franciscan monastery. The year 1880 found him in St. Louis, Missouri, where for three years he studied theology. He was then ordained to the priesthood in 1882 but continued his studies for a year thereafter, and in 1883 returned to Teutopolis, Illinois, where he became pastor of the Altamont and St. Elmo parishes, there continuing until 1887. He next went to Minnesota, having been assigned for pastoral duty to the Chanhassen church, with which he was actively connected until 1894.

Father Kurzer then took charge of the parish at St. Bernard, Nebraska, where he continued until 1899, when he entered upon his labors in connection with the St. Francis church at Humphrey. Here he has remained continuously since, save for the years 1909 and 1910, which he spent in Quincy, Illinois, as pastor of St.



REV. FLORENTIUS KURZER



Francis church. Under his direction the parochial school was built in Humphrey in 1905, and now has an attendance of two hundred and eighty pupils. The school has eight grades, together with a commercial course, and annual commencement exercises are held. There are two hundred and fifty families represented in the church and the work of the church is in excellent condition. The new monastery was built in 1912, and the church property is now attractive and valuable. St. Francis has the largest congregation in Nebraska, outside of Omaha, and the house of worship is a magnificent structure. Under the guidance of Rev. Florentius Kurzer the church work is proving a far-reaching influence in the moral development and progress of this part of the state. He is a man of scholarly attainments, wisely directing the interests of his people in temporal as well as in spiritual ways.

WILLIAM BECKER.

The name Becker is one of the oldest and most prominent in the history of Columbus and members of the family have been identified with the business interests of the city from the time of the organization of the town to the present, a brother of our subject, John P. Becker, being one of the original colony, composed of thirteen members, who founded the city of Columbus. William Becker was born in Columbus, Ohio, July 20, 1842, a son of George Philip and Elizabeth Rebecca (Weis) Becker, both of whom were natives of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, the former born in 1804. They were married in the land of their nativity, whence they emigrated to the new world in 1833 and located at Columbus, Ohio, where they reared their family and spent their remaining days, the father passing away in 1853, while the mother, surviving for many years, departed this life in 1888. Their family included John P. Becker, who, as above stated, was one of thirteen men who came westward from Columbus, Ohio, and founded the town of Columbus, Nebraska, and for many years thereafter he was identified with the various business and public interests of this city and county.

William Becker spent the period of his boyhood and youth in the city of his nativity and there completed his education in the public schools. After he had attained his majority, on the 6th of March, 1863, he left his home in the east and came to Columbus, Nebraska, to join his brother John P., and with the exception of three years spent in Omaha and St. Louis, he has been a continuous resident here. Soon after his arrival he embarked in the shoe business and later formed a partnership with his brother for the conduct of a grocery and the handling of grain. He subsequently engaged in the grocery business alone for three or four years. In April, 1893, he was elected city clerk of Columbus, and through reelection has continuously filled the office since that time. His long retention in the position is the best evidence of his efficiency and the satisfaction with which he is serving the general public.

On the 19th of November, 1874, in this city, Mr. Becker was married to Miss Sophia E. Reese, a daughter of Henry Reese, who was born in Hanover, Germany. Their children are Anna Elizabeth, Carl Albert and Paul Arthur.

In politics Mr. Becker is a democrat. He has never filled any public office with the exception of the one in which he is now serving. He is a member of the

Federated church and fraternally is a Modern Woodman of America. With the exception of a brief period his residence in this city covers more than a half century and therefore few men have more intimate knowledge of its history or of events which have left their impress upon its annals.

FRED HIGLER RIPP.

Fred Higler Ripp, postmaster at Tarnov and agent for the Singer sewing machines in Platte county, was born in Joliet township, this county, October 20, 1884, a son of Ferdinand and Catharine (Reisner) Ripp, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father was born on the Rhine and the mother in Luxemburg. They came to America with their respective parents, settling near Reisling, Wisconsin. The father, who was a carpenter by trade, removed to Platte county, Nebraska, in 1868, establishing his home in Joliet township, where he purchased land and engaged in farming until 1885. He then removed to Holt county, where he preempted land, taking up his abode thereon, he and his wife making that place their home until 1909, when they retired from active farm life and removed to Cedar Rapids, Nebraska, where they are now living. Mr. and Mrs. Ripp became the parents of twelve children: Anna, who is a resident of Platte Center; Henry, living in Cedar Rapids, Nebraska; Kate, who makes her home in Olympia, Washington; Mattie, who resides in Woodlawn, Oregon; Agnes, of Niobrara, Nebraska; William, living in Cedar Rapids, Nebraska; John, who is a resident of Spencer, this state; Lizzie, who makes her home in McMinnville, Oregon; Jacob, living in Rosewater, Nebraska; Gertrude, of Cedar Rapids, Nebraska; Fred Higler, of this review; and Theodore, who died at the age of fourteen months.

Fred H. Ripp, after attending the district schools, spent three years as a high-school pupil in Stuart, Nebraska, after which he worked upon the home farm and at carpenter work in connection with his father until he attained his majority. He then became a rural mail carrier on Route No. 1 out of Platte Center, having charge of that route for three years. In 1907 he married and removed to Columbus, where he followed the carpenter's trade until the fall of 1908, when he removed to Cornlea and by President Taft was appointed postmaster, filling the position for two years. On the expiration of that period he returned to Columbus, where he followed the carpenter's trade. In 1912 he secured the agency for the Singer sewing machine, which he holds today and has built up a good business along that line in Platte county. In May, 1915, he removed to Tarnov and was appointed postmaster by President Wilson, which position he is now acceptably filling. He is also agent for the Fremont Creamery & Butter Company, while his wife is local manager and operator for the Monroe Independent Telephone Company exchange at Tarnov.

On the 26th of June, 1907, Mr. Ripp was united in marriage to Miss Josie L. Clothier, whose birth occurred in Columbus, July 2, 1887, her parents being M. E. and Mary (Burke) Clothier. The father, a native of Saratoga county, New York, and an agriculturist by occupation, is now living on his farm at Platte Center. The mother passed away in 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Clothier were the parents of five children, as follows: Frank, a resident of Platte Center; Charles and John,

both of whom are deceased; Mrs. Josie L. Ripp; and Edward, a farmer of Burrows township. Mr. and Mrs. Ripp now have four children, namely: Inez, who was born November 28, 1908; Malon, whose birth occurred in January, 1910; Marvin, whose natal year was 1912; and Vern, born October 5, 1914. They lost their first born, Ethleen, who died at the age of fourteen months.

The parents hold membership in St. Michael's Catholic church and Mr. Ripp is also a member of the Knights of Columbus. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and it speaks well for him that his fellow townsmen desired him to serve in the position of postmaster, to which he was appointed under democratic administration.

ISAAC BROCK.

Isaac Brock, engaged in the livery business in Columbus, is also active in public affairs of the city, serving at the present time as a member of the council. He was born August 16, 1875, on a farm in Osage county, Missouri, his parents being Henry and Hannah (Granneman) Brock. The father was born in Switzerland about 1843 and in his boyhood came to America, after which he worked in the mines of Pennsylvania for a few years, removing thence to Osage county, Missouri, where he purchased and cultivated a farm that had formerly been the property of his father-in-law. Before becoming possessor of this land, however, he worked at the butchering business, which he owned and conducted in partnership with a brother. He took an active interest in church work as a member of the Methodist Episcopal denomination and his political allegiance was given to the republican party. His death resulted from typhoid fever in the year 1878. It was in 1872 that he wedded Hannah Granneman, a native of Osage county, Missouri, born July 3, 1853. Since his demise she has become the wife of August Nuetzman and is now living in Columbus.

Isaac Brock had very meager educational advantages, but improved every opportunity to further his knowledge and by reading and experience has become a well informed man. At the age of sixteen he began providing for his own support by working as a farm hand for an uncle at a wage of thirteen dollars per month through the summer seasons, while in the winter months he was paid but eight dollars. Five years were spent in that way, after which he removed to Columbus in 1896 and worked at the carpenter's trade until May 9, 1898, when he enlisted for two years' service in the Spanish-American war as a member of Company K, First Regiment of Nebraska Volunteers. With his command he went to the Philippines and took part in the skirmish near Malate on the 5th of August, 1898, and in the battle of Manila on the 13th of the same month. He also served in the Second Philippine Islands Expedition, and becoming ill with typhoid fever, was in the hospital from the 14th of October to the 12th of December, 1898, after which he was honorably discharged because of disability.

On the 1st of March, 1899, Mr. Brock returned to Columbus, where he was employed in various ways for four years. In company with Fred Ernst he then purchased the livery business of Mr. Randall and has since been active along that line. They have two good buildings one hundred and thirty-two by one hundred

and thirty-two feet, keep nineteen head of horses, six top buggies, two carriages and a railway hack. They are accorded a liberal patronage, the public appreciating their reliable business methods and earnest efforts to please.

On the 28th of February, 1901, Mr. Brock was united in marriage to Miss Kate Oldigs, who was born in Oldenburg, Germany, February 4, 1879. To them have been born three children: Lucile and Elmer, who are attending school; and Irene.

Fraternally Mr. Brock is identified with the Sons of Herman, the Highlanders and Camp No. 4 of the Spanish War Veterans, while his religious faith is indicated in his membership in the German Methodist church, in which he is serving as a trustee. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is now serving as a member of the city council of Columbus. In office he is making a creditable record, for he closely studies every question of importance that comes before the council and gives his support wherever he believes that the best interests of the city are involved. In business circles he is recognized as a self-made man, for from the age of sixteen years he has been dependent upon his own resources, depending entirely upon industry and perseverance to win advancement.

AUGUST WAGNER.

August Wagner, practicing at the bar of Columbus as the junior partner in the firm of Albert & Wagner, has gained that distinction which follows thorough preparation, devotion to the interests of clients and a close conformity to the highest professional standards. He was born on a farm in Cuming county, Nebraska, October 1, 1876. His father, John Wagner, was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1838, and in that country wedded Kunie Irlbach, who was also born there. In 1867 they sailed for the new world and became residents of Cuming county, Nebraska, where they resided for twenty-three years, or until 1890, when they established their home at Columbus. The father served as assessor of Cuming county for more than twenty years, a fact which indicates his thorough capability and impartiality in the discharge of his duties. He was also a director of the school board and was regarded as one of the most valued citizens of that district. He died in the year 1913.

August Wagner was a youth of fourteen when the family came to Columbus, which gave him the opportunity of continuing his education in the high school of Columbus, from which in due time he was graduated. His decision concerning a life work was manifest when he entered the law department of the University of Nebraska, in which he won his LL. B. degree upon graduation with the class of 1900. He next entered the law office of A. M. Post, with whom he was associated until February, 1905, at which date he entered into his present partnership relations, becoming the junior member of the firm of Albert & Wagner. He is an able lawyer who carefully prepares his cases and is ready to meet any emergency. In the presentation of a cause his arguments are strong and he presents point after point in logical sequence so that all may follow the clear course of his reasoning to its ultimate conclusion.

There is an interesting military chapter in the life record of Mr. Wagner, who

served as captain of Company K, of the First Nebraska National Guard for four years at Columbus, and at the time of the Spanish-American war enlisted as a private, continuing in the service from the 27th of April, 1898, to the 23d of August, 1899. All that time he was in the Philippines and he participated in the engagements at Pasay, August 5, 1898; capture of Manila, August 13; aided in suppressing the Philippino insurrection resulting in the battle of Manila February 4th and 5th, 1899; the battle of Mariquina, February 17, 1899; San Mateo River, on the 22d of February; Mariquina on the 6th of March; San Francisco Del Monte, March 25; Meycanayan, March 26; Marillao, March 27; near Marillao, March 29; Guinquito, March 30; and the capture of Malolos on the 31st of March, 1899. At the last named place he was stricken with typhoid fever, was sent to Manila and later invalided home. He belongs to the United Spanish War Veterans Association and was department commander of Nebraska from 1912 to 1913.

On the 19th of July, 1905, in Columbus, Mr. Wagner was married to Miss Pearl Elias, a daughter of Charles F. Elias, of this city, and their union has been blessed with a son and two daughters, Milton, Pearl E. and Pauline Fredrika.

Mr. Wagner gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and for two years filled the office of justice of the peace, while since 1902 he has been United States referee in bankruptcy. He is well known as a prominent attorney, while his military service is indicative of the spirit of loyalty which he manifests in all matters vital to citizenship.

WILLIAM P. BRAUN.

William P. Braun, a general merchant of Humphrey, was born in Grand Prairie township, Platte county, Nebraska, November 9, 1881, a son of John and Mary (Wieser) Braun, natives of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and of Austria respectively. The father followed both farming and merchandising in Wisconsin until 1871, when he came to Nebraska, settling in Grand Prairie township, Platte county, where he secured a homestead and afterward obtained a timber claim. His tracts were just as they came from the hand of nature, but he resolutely undertook the task of transforming the wild land into productive fields and brought about excellent results. He has since operated his farm with good success and he has also conducted a flourishing nursery business for the past fifteen years, his prosperity and advancement being the direct result of his energy, perseverance and determination. He is now sixty-nine years of age, while his wife has reached the age of sixty-eight.

William P. Braun was reared and educated in Grand Prairie township, but his school privileges were limited as his textbooks were put aside when he was but twelve years of age. From that time forward he depended upon his own resources for a living, working on a farm for his father and others until the age of twenty-two. He then rented land, which he cultivated for two years, when he retired from agricultural pursuits and removed to Humphrey. During the succeeding six months he was employed in a general store and at the end of that time engaged in the draying business for a year. Still later he established a restaurant, which he conducted for six months and then sold, after which he operated a delivery busi-

ness for the stores for six months. On disposing of his interests of that character he purchased another restaurant, which he managed for six months, and then entered the employ of Diers Brothers, general merchants, with whom he remained for five years. In October, 1914, he joined Joseph Brockhaus in the establishment of a general store, which they conducted under the firm style of Braun & Brockhaus until Mr. Braun purchased his partner's interest and has since been alone. He carries a large stock of goods, for which he finds a ready sale, the public according him both patronage and respect because of his honorable business methods. He also operates a cream station, buying cream, butter and eggs.

On the 18th of February, 1903, Mr. Braun was joined in wedlock to Miss Barbara German, a daughter of Frank and Elizabeth German, natives of Peoria, Illinois. The father was a farmer by occupation and operated land in Illinois until 1885, when he came to Platte county and again purchased land, which he has since owned and cultivated, his place being located in Grand Prairie township. Mr. and Mrs. Braun have become the parents of seven children, namely: Christina, Raymond, Leona, Lucille, Stella, Laverna and William.

The parents are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Braun belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters and to the Knights of Columbus. His political indorsement is given the democratic party, but he has neither the time nor the inclination to seek office, preferring to concentrate his efforts upon his business affairs, which are bringing him a gratifying measure of success.

JOHN GRAF, SR.

John Graf, Sr., who has been a representative resident of Columbus for almost four decades, has held the office of county clerk since 1904, and in that connection has made a most creditable and highly commendable record. His birth occurred in Germany on the 4th of September, 1850, his parents being John and Theresa (Heckli) Graf, who emigrated to the United States in 1854, spending the remainder of their lives in Wisconsin. The father passed away in 1889, while the mother was called to her final rest in 1896.

John Graf, whose name introduces this review, was but four years of age when brought by his parents to the new world and acquired his early education in the public schools of Sauk City, Wisconsin, while subsequently he pursued a normal-school course at Platteville, that state. He then followed the profession of teaching in Wisconsin for a period of five years, or until 1874, and during the following three years held a position in a store at Sauk City. In 1876 he came to Columbus, Nebraska, and after teaching school in this county for one term embarked in business at Columbus, being thus successfully engaged for seven years. On the expiration of that period, in 1884, he became deputy county clerk of Platte county, acting in that capacity until 1888. He was then again engaged in business at Columbus for four years and in 1897 was chosen deputy county clerk. He became county clerk in 1904, in which office he has served continuously since in a most satisfactory and commendable manner.

On the 11th of July, 1882, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Graf was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Bader, by whom he has two sons, namely: John T., who



JOHN GRAF, Sr.

was born in 1884; and Edward F., whose birth occurred in 1890. Both are residents of Columbus. Mr. Graf gives his political allegiance to the democracy and fraternally is identified with the Sons of Herman, the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Knights of America. His religious faith is that of the Catholic church. During the long period of his residence in Columbus he has gained many friends, having won the warm regard of all with whom he has been associated.

GROVER LONG.

Grover Long, a successful young attorney of Columbus, has here practiced his profession as junior member of the law firm of Garlow & Long since July, 1910. His birth occurred at Ord, Valley county, Nebraska, on the 4th of November, 1887, his parents being William D. and Phoebe (Burnham) Long, the former a native of Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, and the latter of Berrien county, Michigan. Their marriage was celebrated in St. Paul, Howard county, Nebraska, and both are still living. In 1861 William D. Long offered his services to the Union, joining the Third Iowa Volunteer Infantry and remaining with that command until wounded in an engagement at Florida, Missouri, in 1862.

Grover Long completed a high-school course in his native town by graduation in 1904 and six years later received the degree of LL. B. from the College of Law of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. In July, 1910, he came to Columbus and formed a partnership with C. J. Garlow, a distinguished attorney of the city, in association with whom he has since practiced as a member of the firm of Garlow & Long. An excellent presence, an earnest, dignified manner, marked strength of character, a thorough grasp of the law, and the ability accurately to apply its principles are factors in his effectiveness as an advocate. He is also identified with business interests as vice president of the S. & G. Company, an advertising concern.

On the 10th of October, 1912, in Columbus, Mr. Long was united in marriage to Miss Gwendolyn Garlow, a daughter of his partner, C. J. Garlow. He gives his political allegiance to the democracy, is a Chapter Mason and also belongs to the Sons of Herman. He is deservedly popular in both social and professional circles, being widely recognized as a young man of ability, promise and worth.

LOSEKE BROTHERS.

In pioneer times the Loseke family was founded in Platte county and since that day representatives of the family have taken an active and helpful part in promoting the material development and progress of this section of the state. The work instituted by their grandfather and carried on by their father is now continued by Edward G. and E. Gerhard Loseke, who are living on section 11, Bismark township, where they own and cultivate four hundred acres of land. They are sons of Gerhard Loseke, mentioned elsewhere in this volume, and both were born upon the old homestead farm where they now reside, the former on the 23d of

December, 1881, and the latter on the 4th of March, 1886. They were reared in the usual manner of farm lads, attending the public schools in the acquirement of their education and spending the vacation periods in work in the fields. They early became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops and as the years have gone on they have continued to follow general agricultural pursuits. They have a well developed and highly improved property comprising four hundred acres of land which was given to them by their father, and they have brought their fields to a high state of cultivation.

On the 10th of November, 1909, Edward G. Loseke was united in marriage to Miss Emma C. Luers, a native of Platte county, and a daughter of Henry Luers, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. They have become the parents of three children: Lucile E., Ellen C. and Elaine L. E. Gerhard Loseke was married on the 30th of March, 1910, to Miss Alma E. Huntemann, also a native of Platte county and a daughter of Henry Huntemann, who follows farming in Sherman township. Their children are also three in number: Raymond J., Estella L. and Lorine M. The two families attend and hold membership in the Lutheran church. They have a wide acquaintance in the county, where they have always lived, and their circle of friends is almost coextensive with the circle of their acquaintances.

LOUIS D. DIERS.

The history of the Diers family is unique in that there are eight brothers and sisters, all of whom are connected with the general mercantile interests as the owner of nine different stores in Nebraska. Louis D. Diers is active in the management of the one at Humphrey and his interests there constitute one of the leading mercantile concerns of Platte county. The spirit of enterprise and progress actuate him in the control of the business and, moreover, his efforts at all times measure up to the highest standards of commercial ethics.

Louis D. Diers was born in Clayton county, Iowa, November 9, 1869, a son of Frederick and Catherine (Stuffer) Diers, natives of Oldenburg, Germany. Coming to America in 1852, they settled in Clayton county, where the father purchased land on the Turkey river. Immediately he began the development and improvement of a farm, which he continued to operate with success until 1895. He brought his fields to a high state of cultivation and so directed his efforts that substantial results rewarded him. He is now living retired, making his home with his daughter, Mrs. Henry Tangeman, in Gretna, Nebraska. His wife passed away December 25, 1913, and her death was the occasion of deep regret to her husband, her children and her many friends. The sons and daughters in this family are John, Henry, Herman, Fred, Anna, William, Louis and Caroline.

As previously stated, all eight are connected in the ownership of a chain of nine stores situated at various points in Nebraska and conducted under the firm styles of Diers Brothers and of Diers Brothers & Company. They became factors in the business life of Humphrey when in 1902 they purchased the P. H. Bender store. They have since erected two modern brick buildings, two stories in height, one of which is occupied by the postoffice and the other utilized for the conduct of their

mercantile interests. The Diers establishment is one of the finest stores in the county, equipped after the fashion of city establishments and carrying a very extensive stock, representing the latest goods of domestic and foreign manufacture. Louis D. Diers is in charge of this store and he possesses the splendid business qualification characteristic of the family. He readily discriminates between the essential and the nonessential and while his career has never been characterized by a vaulting ambition, he has not hesitated to venture where favoring opportunity has led the way. In connection with his other interests he is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Humphrey.

On the 14th of March, 1891, Mr. Diers was united in marriage to Miss Julia Russell, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Russell. The father, a farmer by occupation, removed to Clayton county, Iowa, at an early period in the development of that district and there engaged in farming until 1895, but is now making his home with Mr. and Mrs. Diers at the age of eighty-two years, his wife having passed away in 1910, when eighty-one years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Diers have but one child, Vera Mae, aged seventeen years.

The family are very prominent socially and the hospitality of their home is greatly enjoyed by their many friends. They are members of and support the German Lutheran church and Mr. Diers also belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp and to the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In politics he is independent but is never remiss in the duties of citizenship and his efforts have been an important element in advancing public progress. He served for six years as a member of the town council, was also on the school board for six years and for a number of years has been treasurer of the fire department. He is fortunate in that he possesses the character and ability that inspire confidence in others, and the simple weight of his character and ability have carried him into important business and public relations.

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JOHN MOFFETT.

John Moffett is serving for the sixth year as mayor of Platte Center after having filled other positions of public trust and responsibility. He has ever clearly recognized the duties and obligations as well as the privileges of citizenship and in his present position has used his official prerogatives to further many plans and measures for the general good. At the same time he is widely known as a successful business man, being active in the field of real estate and insurance. He was born in Williamstown, New Jersey, August 11, 1858, a son of Charles R. and Anna Marie (Downs) Moffett. Of their three children John and a sister, Miss Grace Moffett, are yet living. The family ancestry can be traced back directly, through eleven generations, to the Jennens family of England. Six generations have been residents in New Jersey, where records show that the family was living in 1728. John Moffett has copies of family and other records back through seven generations to 1667, among which are wills wherein were willed away negro boys, great coats, best hats, etc., and provincial and proclamation money prior and subsequent to the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

John Moffett acquired a common-school education and in the year 1877 became a resident of Platte county, Nebraska, establishing his home at Columbus. After a

short time, however, he went to Fremont, Nebraska, where he remained for a year as manager of the railroad eating house, and from 1881 until 1884 he was employed at Albion, Nebraska. In the latter year he came to Platte Center, where he turned his attention to the lumber trade, in which he was engaged until 1888, when he made his initial step in the real-estate and insurance field. He largely handles property in Boone, Nance and Platte counties and has negotiated many important realty transfers. He also represents five of the old line insurance companies and that branch of his business is likewise profitable. At the present time he is the second oldest real-estate dealer in Platte county. In addition to his other interests he is a large stockholder and the president of the Farmers State Bank of Platte Center and thus figures prominently in financial circles. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company and owns a large amount of land in Platte county.

In 1881 Mr. Moffett was united in marriage at Columbus to Miss Nellie Gleason, a daughter of John Gleason, who was one of the old pioneer residents of this part of the state. In his political views Mr. Moffett is a stalwart republican and for one term served as supervisor when the county was first organized into districts. In 1907 he was a candidate for county judge but was defeated by a few votes. For six successive years he has been mayor of Platte Center and is the present incumbent in that office, making an excellent record by the prompt and able manner in which he discharges his duties, carefully safeguarding the welfare of the public. For eight or nine years he has been secretary of the school board and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. His religious faith is that of the Catholic church and he belongs to the Knights of Columbus lodge at Columbus. In manner he is quiet and unassuming, but sterling personal worth has brought him to the front. Men have come to know that he can be depended upon, that what he promises he will do and that his word is as good as any bond solemnized by signature or seal. He is well liked and his standing in the community is high.

JOHN HENRY WURDEMAN.

John Henry Wurdeman, a retired farmer living on section 9, Sherman township, is one of the veterans of the Civil war who proudly wears the little bronze button that proclaims him a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Throughout his entire life he has manifested the same spirit of loyalty to his country which he displayed when he followed the nation's starry banner upon the battlefields of the south. At the same time he has been a most enterprising and progressive business man, accomplishing results which show his forcefulness, resourcefulness, industry, and capability. He was born in Ahlhorn, Oldenburg, Germany, February 12, 1838, and has therefore passed the seventy-seventh milestone on life's journey. His father, Diedrich Wurdeman, was a farmer of Germany and came to the United States in 1871, in which year he homesteaded in Sherman township, Platte county, but did not get the deed to the land, for he died in 1872, at the home of his son, John H. He was married three times and John Henry Wurdeman was one of the two children born of the first marriage. His religious faith was that of the Lutheran church.



JOHN H. WURDEKAN AND FAMILY



Mr. Wurdeman, whose name introduces this review, attended school in Germany in the village in which he lived and at fourteen years of age began work as a farm hand. In 1860 he came to the United States and for six months worked as a farm hand at a wage of ten dollars per month, at South Grove, De Kalb county, Illinois. He then went to Ogle county, Illinois, where he received fourteen dollars per month for his services, but at the time of the Civil war he put aside all business and personal considerations and, responding to the call of his adopted country, enlisted on the 28th of August, 1861, as a member of Company D, Thirty-ninth Illinois Infantry, joining the command at Lindenwood, Illinois. He entered the service as a private and was promoted to the rank of corporal. He veteranized on the 5th of September, 1864, and on the 13th of October of the same year was wounded, after which he carried the bullet in his left cheek until January 21, 1865. His first injury was sustained at Darbytown Crossroads, Virginia, and on the 2d of April, 1865, he was wounded by grape shot in the right leg, at Fort Gregg, Virginia. Company D was organized at Rochelle, Illinois, and was among the first to be assigned for active duty. The regiment was quartered in the old Republican Wigwam on Market street in Chicago, and the company was the first to meet the advance force of the enemy under General Stonewall Jackson, at Bath, Virginia, on the 3d of June, 1862, entering upon the engagement without preliminary skirmish tactics. They were again and again upon the firing line, displaying a spirit of courage and nobility, and at the expiration of their three years' term, three-fourths of the company reenlisted as veterans at Hilton Head, South Carolina. On being first mustered in, the company left Chicago, went to St. Louis and thence proceeded to Hagerstown, Maryland, where they were given Springfield rifles and were engaged in doing guard duty on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. They participated in the battle of Winchester on the 23d of March, 1862, against Jackson, and from that time on were again and again on active duty on the firing line. Mr. Wurdeman made a most creditable military record as a brave and loyal soldier and has every reason to be proud of the reputation won by his command.

In 1866 he went to Dodge county, Wisconsin, where he engaged in clerking in a store. While residing there he was married and in March, 1869, he removed to Platte county, which was then a western frontier district. There was no bridge over the Missouri river at Omaha and the fare from Omaha to Columbus was nine dollars and sixty cents. Mr. Wurdeman secured a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Sherman township, on which was a primitive house, half sod and half dugout. He was among the first settlers to penetrate into this region and there was little evidence of development and improvement. During his first winter he built a log cabin twelve by eighteen feet, hewing the logs on his own claim, and during the first three years he used an ox team for plowing. As time passed on his labors wrought a marked transformation in the claim, which he converted from raw prairie into richly cultivated and productive fields. Starting in with one hundred and sixty acres, he added to his holdings from time to time as opportunity offered and his financial resources increased. He had eighty acres on section 8, four hundred and eighty acres on section 9, two hundred and eighty acres on section 10, forty acres on section 15 and two hundred and forty acres on section 16, Sherman township, together with three hundred and twenty acres in Staunton county, Nebraska, but has given all of this land to his children. The various tracts were fine farming land, the soil being naturally rich and productive, and in addition

to cultivating his fields, Mr. Wurdeman engaged extensively in stock-raising and did much to improve the grade of stock raised in the county. He was also one of the organizers of the Maple Valley State Bank at Leigh, Nebraska, and when it was sold to the First National he became vice president of the latter. He has always been a most active and progressive man, ready to meet any emergency and carrying forward to successful completion whatever he has undertaken. His well directed efforts have found visible evidence in his various farm properties and his indefatigable industry made him one of the most substantial residents of the county.

On the 4th of February, 1866, at Mayville, Wisconsin, Mr. Wurdeman was united in marriage to Miss Catharina Margaretha Wilke, a native of Oldenburg, Germany, born February 2, 1839, and a daughter of John Wilke, who was a landowner and agriculturist of that country. Mr. and Mrs. Wurdeman are the parents of six children, as follows: Rudolph H., a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work; Louise, the wife of John Ahrens, who is also represented on another page of this volume; Charles, an architect of Columbus; Frank, a biography of whom appears on another page; Edward, the vice president of the First National Bank of Columbus; and Alma, the wife of Fred Feye, a sketch of whom is given on another page of this work.

After a happy married life of almost fifty years Mrs. Wurdeman passed away October 17, 1915, loved and respected by all who knew her. She was an earnest Christian and was always ready and willing to aid those in sickness or distress.

Mr. Wurdeman was a member of the Grand Army post at Creston until it was discontinued and during his residence in Columbus held membership with the post there. He retired to Columbus in 1891, and tried living in town in a modern residence, but preferring rural life, he returned to the farm and now makes his home on section 9, Sherman township. He has assisted in furthering every improvement of the township and he has served as a member of the county board of supervisors. He belongs to the German Lutheran church and his entire life has been guided by high and honorable principles, making him a man worthy of the esteem and regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact. His life has indeed been well spent and furnishes an example that the youth of the present generation may well follow, for his record proves that success and an honored name may be won simultaneously.

ANDERS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON.

Anders Christian Anderson, a florist of Columbus and a wholesale dealer in seeds, has through a thorough acquaintance with his business, through enterprising methods and reliable dealing built up a trade which is now extensive and gratifying, returning to him a good annual income. Mr. Anderson is of foreign birth although he has been a resident of the new world from early boyhood. A native of Denmark, he was born at Vordingborg, February 14, 1860, his parents being Soren and Marie (Hanson) Anderson. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, left Denmark in 1867, accompanied by his family and established his home in the state of New York, where he remained for a year. He then removed to Wisconsin.

where he engaged in carpentering and in farming, living in that state until 1876, when he came to Creston, Platte county, Nebraska, and secured a claim, devoting considerable time and attention to the development of his land. He afterward removed to Kansas, where he is still living while his wife died in 1913.

Anders C. Anderson, the eldest in a family of six children, assisted his father in the farm work from his boyhood days, but in 1890, when about thirty years of age, resolved to engage in business on his own account and did this by establishing a mail order seed business at Creston. In 1900 he removed to Columbus, where he established greenhouses, and he has since been one of the prominent florists and wholesale dealers in seeds in this part of the country. He has at present fifteen thousand square feet under glass and his property covers an entire city block. He sends out catalogues every spring, giving a full list of the seeds and plants which he handles, more than six thousand of these catalogues being mailed out in 1915 through territory including every state in the Union. He now makes extensive shipments and has won a well earned reputation for reliability and for the excellence of the product which he handles. He also grows all kinds of shrubs and flowering plants and as a florist is doing a good business, finding a ready sale for the product of his greenhouses.

On the 12th of September, 1891, at Creston, Nebraska, Mr. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss Ida Friedrich, a daughter of Carl August Friedrich, now deceased. Her father, who was a native of Saxony, Germany, was one of the old-time residents of Creston. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have become the parents of five children, Frieda, Alfred, Oscar, Herbert and Ronald.

In his political views Mr. Anderson is a democrat and for four years filled the office of town clerk of Creston. He belongs to the Congregational church and is interested in all matters pertaining to the material and moral progress of the community. His home is a large modern brick residence, tastefully and attractively furnished, and its warm-hearted hospitality is one of its most pleasing features. His property holdings are the visible evidence of his life of well directed thrift and enterprise, resulting in the attainment of well merited success.

JOHN WILLIAM BENDER.

Prominent among the enterprising, energetic and progressive citizens of Platte county is John William Bender, a well known capitalist who is proprietor of the Poland China Breeding Farm of Humphrey township. He has been actively connected with public affairs, at one time serving as a member of the state legislature, and he has done much to mold public thought and action in his community. Never neglectful of opportunity, he has utilized every advantage to further individual success and the public welfare and his course, at all times honorable and upright, has won for him high regard.

Mr. Bender was born in Henry, Marshall county, Illinois, May 11, 1838, a son of Peter and Catharine (Mallmann) Bender, of whom mention is made on another page of this volume. His youthful days were spent in his parents' home and to his father he gave the benefit of his services until he reached the age of twenty-six years save for the period when he was acquiring his education as a

born in the prairie school of Henry, Illinois. After attaining his majority he married and for one year rented land from his father in Marshall county, Illinois.

In 1885, however, Mr. Bender arrived in Platte county, Nebraska, taking up his abode in Humphrey township on land which his father owned. Later he received eighty acres as a gift from his father, the place being located on section 22. Thereon he resided for a quarter of a century and to his original tract he added from time to time as his financial resources increased until he became one of the extensive landowners of the county, his possessions aggregating nine hundred acres of well improved land. He has one hundred acres in his home place and this he personally cultivates, while the remainder of his land is being operated by his sons. He continued to reside there until the spring of 1910, when he removed to Humphrey, since which time he has occupied a home that stands in the midst of five acres of ground within the corporate limits of the town. Of his nine hundred acres he has five hundred and eighty acres in Platte county and the remainder in Boone county, Nebraska. While upon his farm he bred and raised full blooded Poland China hogs and his old homestead is known as the Poland China Breeding Farm. It is still the property of Mr. Bender but is now being conducted by his son Simon. Mr. Bender served as administrator of his father's estate and is widely recognized as a resourceful, capable business man, ready to meet any emergency and quickly recognizing at all times the possibilities and opportunities which continually arise in the business world. He helped to organize the First National Bank of Humphrey and from the beginning has served as its vice president. He owns valuable property in the town and in all of his business affairs has readily discriminated between the essential and the non-essential, utilizing the former quickly and effectively in the attainment of success.

On the 19th of February, 1884, Mr. Bender was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Wunder, a daughter of Simon and Paulina (Yocco) Wunder, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father emigrated to the United States in 1856 and located in Marshall county, Illinois, where he purchased land and became a well-to-do agriculturist, passing away on his farm in that county. His widow later took up her abode in Henry, Illinois, where her demise occurred. To Mr. and Mrs. Bender have been born the following children: Paulina Eva, whose birth occurred May 28, 1885, and who gave her hand in marriage to Charles P. Pfeifer, the assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Humphrey, by whom she now has four children—Jerome W., Angela Marie, Elmer and Violet; Simon Peter, who was born October 2, 1887, lives on the home farm in Humphrey township and married Miss Sabina Abler, by whom he had two children, Eugene (deceased) and Mildren Marie; Catharine Cecelia, who was born March 2, 1890, and became the wife of James Caldwell, of Cedar Rapids, Nebraska, who cultivates her father's half section in Boone county and by whom she has one child, Esther Marie; John Frederick, who was born April 29, 1892, and is associated in farming with his brother Simon; Lewis Stephen, whose birth occurred July 30, 1894; and Jerome William, born October 18, 1896. The two last named are still under the parental roof.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Bender has been a stalwart democrat. He and all of his family are members of St. Francis Catholic church of Humphrey and he belongs to St. Joseph's Men's Society of that church. His son Simon is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters of Humphrey. John

W. Bender has also been a very prominent figure in political circles and has again and again been called to public office. For two years he served as road supervisor, for five years as assessor of Humphrey township, for four years as township treasurer and is now serving for the sixth year as justice of the peace and for the third year as police judge. He has been a member of the democratic central committee for eight years and is the present incumbent in that office. He has twice been elected to the state legislature—first in 1903 to fill out the unexpired term of D. A. Becher, while in 1904 he was elected for the full term of two years, continuing a member through 1905 and 1906. His public record is one which reflects credit and honor upon him and upon the community which has called him to office. He is ever loyal to the state and her best interests and at all times champions those measures which are a matter of civic virtue and civic pride.

JUDGE I. L. ALBERT.

As lawyer and lawmaker, I. L. Albert has left the impress of his individuality upon the history of the state and his name is associated with various progressive measures which have had to do with advancing public standards. He is a native of Pennsylvania, his birth having occurred in Clearfield county, December 28, 1856, his parents being Daniel and Barbara (Kephart) Albert, who were also natives of Clearfield county. The family comes of Saxon German ancestry but in both the paternal and maternal lines the ancestors of I. L. Albert were represented in the Continental army during the Revolutionary war. On the maternal side he comes of a family of clergymen.

In the year 1876 Judge Albert left his native state and took up his home in Iowa. He graduated from Leander Clark College at Toledo, Iowa, in 1884, but had pursued the study of law during his college course, so that he was admitted to practice in 1881, three years from his graduation. He moved to Albion, Nebraska, in 1887, where he soon built up a large practice. In 1890 he located in Columbus, where he has since resided. He was county attorney of Platte county from January, 1891, until January, 1893. He became judge of the sixth judicial district of the state by popular election in 1898 and was made a member of the supreme court commission, serving in that capacity from March, 1901, until March, 1907. His fellow townsmen were still loath to dispense with his public service and again he was called to office, being elected a member of the Nebraska senate in 1911. He is the author of the Nebraska bank guarantee law and what is known as the Albert law for the suppression of houses of prostitution. His name is also connected with other important legislative measures which have found their way to the statute books of the state during the last four years.

His former wife, Mary, was a daughter of Robert and Eliza Meldrum, a native of Canada, and the mother of four of his children: Daniel, deceased; Robert M.; Frederick C.; and Mary M. She died in 1899. Later he married Miss Jean B. Powley, also a native of Canada and a daughter of John Powley. The children of this union are Ruth J., Warren G. and I. L., Jr. The religious faith of the family is that of the Methodist church.

Judge Albert has affiliated with the democratic party for a quarter of a century

but is strongly inclined to the Hamiltonian theory of government. He makes a close and discriminating study of all questions which come up for settlement regarding community, state or national affairs, and he does not hesitate to express his firm convictions upon any significant and vital question. He is widely known as a strong jury lawyer, very successful in trying cases before the court, where his resourcefulness and logic constitute the potent forces which have won him a place at the bar.

Judge Albert comes from a family of scholars. His ability and brilliancy gave him a secure place in the foremost ranks of the legal profession of Nebraska. Many of his opinions while he served on the supreme court commission of Nebraska were chosen by compilers of the leading cases in the United States and may be found in various reports containing select cases. His opinions are known for their profound logic and clearness. His pleadings, briefs and opinions are clean cut and to the point.

In the trial of a case Judge Albert has but one theory, which is always based upon the underlying principle of law. He never changes his theory until the facts are changed. In the light of his remarkable success as a trial lawyer it is evident that he has a keen conception of the law. His advice to lawyers is to ascertain the equities of their clients and they will have little trouble to support their cases with authorities.

Clever, witty, energetic, courageous and generous to a fault, Judge Albert is a charming companion. His word is good with his associates, his clients and the courts. He is a philosopher of the old school. He views and judges all things from the basis of truth. When he ventures an opinion on any subject, one feels and knows that his judgment is free from bias and prejudice. It is a matter of common knowledge among all who know him that he deals fairly and impartially between men.

Judge Albert is a friend in the best and noblest sense of the word. With him friendship means more than lip service. He will make personal sacrifices to aid his friends, many of whom have been placed under grateful and lasting obligations to him. He is a deep thinker, and a student of philosophy, morality and religion. He commands respect for his views on these subjects. He is a strong believer in the Christian faith. His true character is reflected in his home life, where he is a loved and respected husband and parent.

NICHOLAS BLASER.

Nicholas Blaser is now living retired after an active business career devoted to farming and contracting. His rest is well merited, being the reward of persistent, earnest labor, and his life record shows what may be accomplished through close application and indefatigable effort. A native of Switzerland, he was born in Canton Bern, in March, 1841, and there served as a soldier in the Swiss army for four years, being promoted to one of the officers of his company. When the term of his military service had expired he made a tour of France, England and Germany, but remained in Switzerland until after his marriage, when he came with his wife to the new world in 1867 and settled in Platte county, Nebraska. After about six



NICHOLAS BLASER



months, however, he retraced his steps eastward and settled in Aurora, Illinois, where he worked at the carpenter's trade and also engaged in contracting, continuing in business at that place for two years.

On the expiration of that period Mr. Blaser and his brother, John, returned to Platte county and took up a homestead of eighty acres in Loup township. Later they purchased other land, for which they paid from four to six dollars per acre, and Nicholas Blaser was then engaged in general farming until 1899, when he came to Columbus and resumed work at the carpenter's trade as a contractor, devoting most of his attention to bridge building and similar work. It was not long before he was accorded a liberal patronage and he continued to be active in that field of industry until he retired from business life.

In his native country, in 1863, Mr. Blaser was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Ernst, a daughter of Samuel Ernst. They had traveled life's journey together for fifty-one years, when they were separated by the death of Mrs. Blaser on the 13th of April, 1914. They were the parents of eight children: Nicholas, who resides in Oregon; Louis, a farmer of Columbus township, Platte county; John, who follows agricultural pursuits in Loup township; Frank, a farmer of Columbus township; Michael, a farmer of Butler township; Henry, a resident farmer of Duncan; Paul, who follows agricultural pursuits in Butler township; and Emma, who married Fred Oplicker of Butler township.

In his political views Mr. Blaser is a republican and served as one of the first supervisors of Loup township. He also filled the position of assessor and has ever been most loyal in the discharge of his official duties. He is a member of the German Reformed church and has guided his life according to its teachings, his course at all times being upright and honorable and winning for him high regard.

RUDOLPH H. WURDEMAN.

Rudolph H. Wurdeman is engaged in general farming on section 10, Sherman township, and finds this occupation a profitable one owing to his intelligently directed efforts. A native of Wisconsin, he was born in Mayville, Dodge county, November 26, 1866, and during his early boyhood was brought to Nebraska and pursued his education in school district No. 23, in Sherman township, Platte county. He was reared to the occupation of farming and at the age of twenty-two began farming on his own account on section 10, Sherman township, where he has lived continuously since 1869, or for a period of forty-seven years. He has seen wonderful changes in the county, which at the time of the arrival of the Wurdeman family was largely an undeveloped district. The labors of the family have contributed to the pioneer development and agricultural progress of the county. For a long period Rudolph H. Wurdeman has been numbered among the active and representative farmers of Sherman township, where he owns three hundred and sixty acres of valuable land in the home place and eighty acres on section 5 of the same township. He has made about one half of the improvements upon his farm in the way of buildings, and at all times he keeps his land under a high state of cultivation, his fields producing excellent crops of corn, wheat and other cereals.

Mr. Wurdeman is also engaged extensively in feeding and shipping stock. He

keeps a large herd of cattle and specializes in the Aberdeen Angus breed. Into other lines he has extended his business activity and several important concerns have felt the stimulus of his enterprise and co-operation. For a time he was the vice president of the Maple Valley State Bank at Leigh but resigned when it consolidated with another bank. He is still a stockholder in the Farmers Union Elevator Company and in the telephone company at Columbus, which he helped to organize. He is likewise identified with the Farmers Union.

On May 31, 1889, Mr. Wurdeman was united in marriage to Miss Mary Hagelman, who was born in Oldenburg, Germany, in 1868, a daughter of Gerhard and Cording Hagelman, who were also natives of the same place. In the year 1878 they arrived in Wisconsin and afterward came to Platte county, Nebraska, where Mr. Hagelman still lives at the age of eighty-four years, but his wife is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Wurdeman have become the parents of eight children: Henry, who is married and has one child and who still lives upon the home farm; Ernst; Reinhold; Elsie; Walter; Olga; Louis; and Ewald.

Mr. Wurdeman is well known in fraternal circles, holding membership with the Modern Woodmen camp, the Odd Fellows lodge and the United Workmen lodge, all at Leigh. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church, to which his wife and family also belong. In his political views he is a republican and for six years filled the office of justice of the peace, discharging his duties with promptness and impartiality. The greater part of his life has been passed in Platte county, and he is one of its worthy and honored pioneer settlers, its history in all of its varying phases being familiar to him, so that his memory forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present.

OTTO F. WALTER.

Otto F. Walter, now serving as county attorney of Platte county, is a prominent young lawyer of Columbus who has already won enviable recognition in his chosen calling. His birth occurred in Aurora, Illinois, on the 19th of April, 1890, his parents being William John and Anna Marie (Fasolt) Walter, the former born in Wickliffe, Kentucky, July 2, 1859, and the latter a native of Dixon, Illinois. Their marriage was celebrated in Amboy, Illinois, and the mother of our subject passed away in 1904. A complete sketch of William J. Walter, who came to Columbus in 1905 and is the president of the Columbus Brewing Company, appears on another page of this work.

Otto F. Walter acquired his early education in the public schools of Aurora, Illinois, and Columbus, Nebraska, and in 1911 was graduated from the academic department of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. In 1915 he was graduated from the law department of the same institution, though he had spent the preceding year as a student in the law department of Chicago University. He has already won recognition and success in the practice of his profession and in November, 1914, was elected on the democratic ticket to the office of county attorney of Platte county. In this connection he is making a most creditable record, justifying the expectations of his constituents in the able discharge of his important duties.

While a student in the University of Nebraska, Mr. Walter was a member

of the Cadets Battalion. He is a communicant of the Catholic church and fraternally is identified with the Knights of Columbus and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. High principles of manhood actuate him in all life's relations and his genuine worth of character has gained for him the warm regard, goodwill and respect of those who know him.

HENRY J. BACKES.

Henry J. Backes is proprietor of the famous Humphrey Nurseries, well known throughout Nebraska and in other states. In this connection he is conducting an extensive and profitable business, constituting one of the important enterprises of Platte county. He has lived in this county from the age of fourteen years, his birth having occurred in Lake county, Indiana, April 14, 1872, his parents being Peter and Gertrude Backes, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father was a farmer by occupation and in 1850 came to the new world with his parents, settling at Crown Point, Indiana. The lady whom he afterward wedded was brought to the United States by her parents when but two years of age and both Peter and Gertrude Backes were reared and educated at Crown Point, where their marriage was also celebrated. In 1886 they arrived in Platte county, Nebraska, settling at Humphrey, where Mr. Backes carried on farming until 1914. He then retired from active business life and removed to Lindsay, where he and his wife now make their home.

At the usual age Henry J. Backes became a public-school pupil and for two years he pursued his studies in the normal school at Fremont, Nebraska. He then remained at home until he attained his majority, after which he engaged in the nursery business as an employe of D. W. Schaff, who at that time was connected with the Geneva Nursery. Mr. Backes spent three years in that way, after which he worked on contract with the Geneva Nursery for eight years, maintaining his headquarters at Humphrey throughout the entire period. In 1904 he bought out the nursery business of P. McKillip and assumed charge thereof. It was the small beginning of a big business, however, for at that time he had but five acres. The succeeding year he bought the eighty acre tract upon which he now resides and where he maintains his nursery, having erected fine buildings upon the place for this special purpose. He now cultivates a full and complete line of nursery stock of every kind, which is sold by traveling salesmen and by catalog. He uses sixty-five acres for the growth of trees and in 1915 had five hundred thousand young apple trees ready for market. There are very few nurseries located on what is known as upland, but the Humphrey nurseries are so situated and have proven that the upland gives better quality of stock, although it costs more to raise the stock, which, however, is of a hardier and sounder growth. Mr. Backes grows all of his trees on upland on a divide between the Platte and Elkhorn rivers at an altitude of sixteen hundred and forty feet above sea level. He has built up an extensive nursery business, his stock being now widely shipped, and he has gained a most enviable reputation in this connection. In 1905 he extended his activities to include the raising of registered Holstein-Friesian cattle and today sells to the farmer for breeding purposes. In 1912 he began breeding Tamworth

hogs and has one of only two herds of these hogs in Nebraska. He also has upon his farm a six year old stallion, "Shade On Maulden," sired by the famous "Shade On," with the record of 2.08 1/4. Mr. Backes is today one of the prominent stockmen of western Nebraska and one of the best known and most successful nurserymen of the state. In addition to his home place he owns four hundred and eighty acres of land near Osmond, Nebraska, which he rents.

On the 9th of November, 1898, Mr. Backes was married to Miss Millie Billerbeck, a daughter of Henry J. and Wilhelmina (Crossman) Billerbeck, both of whom were natives of Germany. When eighteen years of age Mrs. Billerbeck came to America. On crossing the Atlantic Mr. Billerbeck settled in St. Louis, Missouri, and later removed to Freeport, Illinois, where he worked as a farm hand, but afterward removed to Iowa, where he again engaged in farming. In 1885 he arrived in Nebraska and established a hardware and implement business at Pierce, while today he is actively engaged in business at Osmond. His wife died in Humphrey in January, 1899. Mr. and Mrs. Backes have become the parents of two children: Laura, who was born October 13, 1902, and is a student in the high school; and Agnes, who passed away at the age of two years. The parents and daughter are members of the Catholic church at Humphrey and in politics Mr. Backes is a republican. The family are well known socially and the hospitality of their home is extended to their many friends.

JAMES GRAHAM REEDER.

James Graham Reeder, for almost a third of a century a member of the bar of Columbus, to whom has come distinguished honors and success in connection with the profession, was born upon a farm in Erie county, Pennsylvania, January 18, 1858. The ancestral line is traced back to John Reeder, who came from England in 1634 and founded the family in the new world. The paternal grandfather, Job Reeder, was a native of Pennsylvania and in that state, Samuel Galloway Reeder, the father, was born, his natal place being Erie county. He made farming his life work. In Erie county he wedded Lydia Ann Graham, who was born in County Cavan, Ireland, and was brought to the United States during her infancy. Both passed away some years ago.

The usual experiences of the farm boy fell to the lot of James G. Reeder in the period of his youth. He worked on the farm during vacations and in the public schools pursued his education until he became a student in the State Normal School. He also attended Allegheny College at Meadville, Pennsylvania, and in 1880 he went to Memphis, Tennessee, where he studied law, being admitted to the bar there in 1882. The following year he came to Columbus, where he opened a law office and has since engaged in practice. In 1894 he was elected judge of the sixth judicial district and served upon the bench for four years, making a creditable record by the fairness and impartiality of his decisions. He possesses that broad mindedness which not only comprehends the details of the situation clearly but which insures a complete self control under even the most exasperating conditions. He possesses also a finely balanced mind and splendid intellectual attainments and thus he has long been recognized as a prominent lawyer and jurist.

In May, 1887, Judge Reeder was married in California to Miss Lillian Smith, a daughter of Samuel C. Smith, deceased, and they have four children: Clara S., George S., Lucille H. and Marian Graham. The son, who married Hazel Perrin, of Lincoln, Nebraska, now resides at Rogers, Arkansas.

Judge Reeder was at one time connected with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks but has demitted, as he has from the Knights of Pythias. He still retains connection with Masonry, however, being now a Scottish Rite Mason and a member of the Mystic Shrine. His political indorsement is given to the republican party and upon the questions and issues of the day he keeps well informed, studying all points relative to the general welfare most thoroughly. He never regards lightly the duties of citizenship and his official service upon the bench was discharged with the utmost sense of conscientious obligation.

FRANK J. HUTMACHER.

Frank J. Hutmacher is the proprietor of the electric light plant at Humphrey and in his management of this public utility is giving excellent service to his patrons, displaying marked ability in the control of the business. Germany has furnished many worthy citizens to Platte county and among these he is numbered. He was born in the fatherland July 5, 1878, a son of George M. and Christina (Kaus) Hutmacher, also natives of Germany. The father engaged in farming in that country until 1883, when he sought the opportunities and advantages of the new world, crossing the Atlantic with his family and establishing his home in Platte county, Nebraska. Purchasing land in Granville township, he bent his energies to the development and improvement of his farm and managed his affairs so systematically and progressively that success came to him in substantial measure. He continued to occupy the old homestead until 1911, when he took up his abode in Humphrey, where he resided until his death, which occurred November 25, 1914. For two decades he had survived his wife, who passed away in 1894.

Frank J. Hutmacher was a little lad of five years at the time of the emigration of the family to the new world. He was reared and educated in Platte county, attending the district schools near his father's farm and the parochial school at St. Bernard, Nebraska. When not busy with his textbooks his attention was given to the work of the fields and after he attained his majority he rented land, which he operated for five years. On the expiration of that period he took up his abode in Humphrey and for two years engaged in the manufacture of flour. He then traded his mill for land in South Dakota and afterward traded that property for Platte county land and for real estate in Humphrey. He rented the farm property and, establishing his home in the town, purchased the electric light plant of Humphrey in June, 1909, and has since remodeled and operated it. He started with a small steam engine, but now has a plant that is thoroughly modern in its equipment and for the past four years has been giving all-day service. He furnishes power for the elevators, blacksmith shops, planing mills and garages and in addition supplies the lighting system. He thoroughly understands the business and the systematic and careful management of his interests has made his undertaking a growing and profitable one.

On the 1st of August, 1899, Mr. Hutmacher was married to Miss Katie Brandt, a daughter of George and Philomena (Schar) Brandt, natives of Germany and of Illinois respectively. In early life the father crossed the Atlantic to the new world, settling near Chicago, where he resided for a short time, after which he removed to Madison county, Nebraska. There he took up a homestead, which he developed, and as his financial resources permitted he bought more land from time to time and continued the operation of his farm until 1908, when he retired from active business life. He now resides in Madison, but his wife passed away in 1910.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Hutmacher has been blessed with four children, Willie, Lena, George and Frankie, aged respectively fourteen, twelve, ten and eight years. The family occupy a pleasant home, which is the property of Mr. Hutmacher, and in addition he owns two good business houses of the town. He and his wife are communicants of the Catholic church and he holds membership with the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Order of Foresters and the Modern Woodmen of America. In political belief he is a democrat but is not an active party worker. Industry has been the keynote of his success and throughout his entire life he has never allowed obstacles or difficulties to bar his path if they could be overcome by persistent, earnest and honorable effort.

WILLIAM LOUIS CARL BOETTCHER.

William Louis Carl Boettcher is proprietor of one of the most popular cafes of Columbus and one of the most finely appointed. He was born on the island of Rügen, in the East sea, off the coast of Germany, on the 25th of November, 1878, a son of Frederick and Johanna (Boettcher) Boettcher. The father was born October 30, 1852, and in the year 1886 came to America, making his way direct to Columbus, Nebraska. Soon afterward he rented a farm in Platte county and carried on general agricultural pursuits for twenty years but is now in the employ of the Columbus Brewing Company. His wife passed away November 24, 1888.

William L. C. Boettcher was a little lad of eight summers when the parents brought their family to the new world. He pursued his education in the schools of Platte county to the age of thirteen years, after which he gave undivided attention to the work of the home farm until he attained his majority. He was afterward engaged in the livery business in Columbus for six months and still later spent two months in the employ of an uncle who was a hardware merchant. He next engaged in railroading for three months and then went to Grand Island, where he clerked in a grocery store. Still later he spent a few months in the employ of a brewing company and afterward devoted five years to the saloon business in Grand Island. On the expiration of that period he returned to Columbus, where he opened a saloon known as the Thurston Annex, which he conducted for a year. For eight years he was at the corner of Eleventh and North streets and then purchased the present location, building a two-story fireproof building which is fitted out with a mosaic tile floor and solid mahogany fixtures. His cafe has the largest bar in the town and his establishment is very popular with the public.

In October, 1907, Mr. Boettcher was united in marriage to Miss Dora Rohweder, of Hall county, Nebraska, and of German parentage. To them have been born

six children, namely: Florence, Arnold, Leoni, William, Walter and Leo. Mr. Boettcher and his wife are members of the German Lutheran church and he also has membership with Columbus Lodge, No. 1195, B. P. O. E., the Sons of Herman and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. He is also president of the Columbus Macnnerchor. For eight years he was a volunteer fireman. In politics he is an earnest democrat and is now a central committeeman from the first ward of Columbus and a member of the county central committee, doing all in his power to further the interests and secure the success of his party. Personally he is a man of pleasing qualities and he belongs to that class of men who are enthusiastic in support of the city and do all in their power to promote its expansion.

ERIC E. LUEDTKE.

The name of Luedtke is one well known in connection with financial interests in Platte county, the subject of this review being assistant cashier in the Citizens State Bank of Creston. He was born in Sherman township, this county, March 24, 1889, and is the youngest son of Herman and Louisa (Meyer) Luedtke, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work in connection with the sketch of their son, H. W. Luedtke, who is cashier of the Citizen's State Bank.

Spending his early youth out on the old farm under the parental roof, Eric E. Luedtke received his early education in Boheet district, No. 46 of the public schools of Sherman township, after which, at the ages of twelve and thirteen, he attended German summer school, and also the winter of 1902-1903 at the German Lutheran church of Platte county. He was confirmed at the age of fourteen years in the spring of 1903 by Rev. Frank, then pastor of the church. At the age of fifteen years he entered the Normal School together with his brother Ed, at Fremont, Nebraska, where he received a general education, attending at different times and spending about three years in all at that institution. He graduated from the shorthand and typewriting, teachers and elocutionary courses as well as finishing most of the work of the scientific and commercial courses. It had always been the plan of his father to give him a good education. While not attending the Fremont Normal he worked on the farm or in the Citizens State Bank. After finishing his schooling he taught school in the Lonely Valley district in Stanton county, Nebraska, in 1909, and afterward entered the First National Bank of Fremont, where he had the splendid opportunity of gaining more knowledge and experience in banking under such able bankers and financiers as E. R. Gurney and Frank B. Knapp. Here he was employed as bookkeeper, collector and assistant paying teller, remaining with the institution for over two and one-half years. In June, 1912, he came to Creston and accepted the position of assistant cashier in the Citizens State Bank, since which time he has very ably served the bank in that capacity. He became at that time not only an officer but also a stockholder of the institution, for which he had worked previously in 1907 and at other times.

On the 24th of June, 1915, Mr. Luedtke was married to Miss Elsie M. Softley, a daughter of Alfred and Cleo (Faquet) Softley, the former a native of England and the latter of West Virginia. The father came to America when a youth of sixteen years. He spent two years in Michigan and then came to Nebraska,

settling on a farm near Hooper. Later he began teaching school and has since followed that profession at many places in the state. He is now dean of the Fremont Normal School, where he teaches psychology, history, economics and literature, being recognized as one of the prominent educators of the state, his ability having brought him to a position of distinction in this field.

Mr. Luedtke is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge and gives his political indorsement to the progressive democratic party, keeping well informed on the questions and issues of the day but never seeking office. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church, and his wife is a member of the Baptist church of Fremont, and they are people of genuine worth, highly esteemed by those that know them best in the communities in which they have resided.

DANIEL B. GORMAN.

Daniel B. Gorman, who passed away on the 14th of August, 1914, was successfully identified with agricultural pursuits throughout his entire business career and for a number of years prior to his death owned and operated an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 25, Humphrey township. His birth occurred in Warner, Illinois, on the 21st of December, 1865, his parents being Barnard and Nancy (Fleming) Gorman, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. They removed to Illinois about the year 1860, purchasing a farm in Mercer county which the father improved and operated until 1876, when he disposed of the property and went with his family to Ringgold county, Iowa. There he bought a tract of land which he cultivated continuously and successfully until 1905, since which time he has lived retired at Kellerton, Iowa. The demise of his wife occurred in 1880.

Daniel B. Gorman was reared and educated in Illinois and Iowa, remaining under the parental roof until he had attained his majority. Subsequently he cultivated rented land until 1890, which year witnessed his arrival in Platte county, Nebraska. Here he continued the cultivation of rented land for three years and then bought a farm in Creston township which he operated for sixteen years. On the expiration of that period he sold the property and purchased a farm in Hall county, Nebraska, where he devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits for five years. In 1908 Mr. Gorman returned to Platte county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 25, Humphrey township, operating the same until his death. He was killed accidentally, being kicked by a horse. His loss was deeply deplored by many friends as well as his immediate family, for he was a well known and highly esteemed citizen of his community.

On the 23d of July, 1890, Mr. Gorman was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Barrett, a daughter of William and Margaret (Donaldson) Barrett, both of whom were natives of Ireland, in which country the mother passed away in 1878. In 1880 the father brought his family to the United States, locating in Platte county, Nebraska, and purchasing a tract of land in Creston township which he improved and has cultivated continuously to the present time. He is now seventy-seven years of age and enjoys an enviable reputation as one of the substantial agriculturists and respected citizens of the community. Mr. and Mrs. Gorman became the



DANIEL B. GORMAN

parents of ten children, as follows: Myrtle E., who was born August 4, 1891, and is the wife of Oscar Belknap, of Creston township; Paul R., whose natal day was October 7, 1893; Guy W., born November 25, 1895; Edith L., whose birth occurred February 9, 1898; Inez C., born April 5, 1900; Byron F., born July 13, 1902; Frank A., born November 28, 1904; Roy B., born May 7, 1907; Elmer E., born April 18, 1910; and George G., who first opened his eyes to the light of day on the 21st of May, 1912.

In his political views Mr. Gorman was independent, supporting men and measures rather than party. Fraternally he was identified with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His widow still resides on the home farm in Humphrey township and her circle of friends is a wide one, for all who know her esteem her as a woman of many excellent traits of heart and mind.

JOSEPH M. VEIK.

The attractiveness of Platte county as a place of residence is indicated in the fact that many of her native sons have remained within her borders, finding here business opportunity as well as advantages along the lines of intellectual and social progress. Such is the record of Joseph M. Veik, who was born on section 32, Humphrey township, August 24, 1877, and still resides on that section. His parents are Joseph and Theresa (Falk) Veik, natives of Austria. The father was a weaver in the old country and came to America in 1876, settling in Platte county, upon land in Humphrey township which he purchased. Later he sold the original place and bought the farm upon which Joseph M. Veik now resides. He improved this and continued its cultivation for many years but finally retired and removed to Humphrey, where he spent his remaining days, his death occurring in January, 1911. His widow now resides in Oklahoma.

Joseph M. Veik is indebted to the St. Mary's parochial school for his educational privileges. He remained upon the home farm with his parents until the father retired from active business, when he purchased the home place, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres on section 32, Humphrey township. Later he invested in eighty acres across the road on section 33. He has made splendid improvements upon the place since it has come into his possession and has carried on his farm work along the most progressive, modern lines. He is diligent and enterprising, and his work is so systematically managed that excellent results are achieved. He has stock in the Farmers Elevator Company of Humphrey and has become well known as a stock-raiser of Platte county, making a specialty of handling full blooded Poland China hogs.

On November 15, 1898, Mr. Veik was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Schilz, a daughter of John and Katie (Brier) Schilz, natives of Germany. On coming to the new world they settled in Illinois, where the father followed farming for a short time. He afterward removed to Platte county, Nebraska, and purchased land south of Platte Center in Lost Creek township. This he cultivated for many years but is now living retired in Platte Center, he and his wife being pleasantly located there. To Mr. and Mrs. Veik have been born nine children: John B., Frank J., William P., Henry C., Agnes M. and Celia M., all of whom are yet

living; while those who have passed away are: Leo H., who died in October, 1899; Joseph F., in August, 1913; and Martin A., in November, 1914.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church, of which Mr. Veik has long been a communicant. His political indorsement is given to democratic principles, and for several years he served as township clerk. He has also been one of the school directors and is interested in community affairs, cooperating heartily in many plans and movements which have to do with the upbuilding and development of the district in which he lives. He has always resided in Humphrey township and has an extended acquaintance among the residents of that locality.

JOHNNIE HEIBEL.

Johnnie Heibel, carrying on general farming and stockraising on section 25, Bismark township, was born upon a farm in the township wherein he now makes his home, his natal day being August 21, 1877. His parents were John and Anna Heibel, natives of Germany, who, after crossing the Atlantic to the new world, made their way westward to Nebraska and became residents of Platte county in 1870. They secured land and the father devoted his attention to farming upon the place where occurred the birth of Johnnie Heibel. After remaining upon this farm for over thirty years the father purchased the place where our subject now lives and in the spring of 1915 removed to Columbus, where he now resides.

At the usual age the son became a public-school pupil and when not busy with his textbooks his attention was given to the work of the fields, in which he received thorough practical training. He has never sought to change his occupation, for he finds farming a congenial and profitable pursuit. He is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of good land and devotes his entire time to general farming and stock-raising, his labors being attended with substantial results. He produces the crops best adapted to soil and climate and in addition to cultivating his fields specializes in raising high grade horses. Each day finds him busy about the farm, in field or pasture, and his diligence and determination are bringing to him growing and gratifying success.

In religious faith Mr. Heibel is a German Lutheran, having always continued in the church in which he was reared. In politics he is a democrat but has never had desire for office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs.

CAROLUS GALITZIN HICKOK.

When the Civil war ended and the victorious Union army marched through the streets of Washington, over broad Pennsylvania avenue there was hung a banner bearing the words, "The only debt which the country owes that she cannot pay is the one that she owes to her soldiers." Everywhere a feeling of respect is entertained for that great body of men who defended the country and preserved the Union intact. Among this number was Carolus Galitzin Hickok, now of Columbus,

who in early manhood donned the nation's blue uniform and went to the front, putting aside his textbooks, for he was then a student in Oberlin College, to join the army. A native of Ohio, he was born in Peninsula, Huron county, August 16, 1843, his parents being Stephen C. and Lucy M. (Gaston) Hickok. The father passed away in 1850, at Hillsdale, Michigan, where he was occupying the position of superintendent of the high school and also acting for a part of the time as minister of the Presbyterian church. His wife preceded him in death two weeks, her demise occurring in August and his in September.

Carolus G. Hickok spent the succeeding two years with his aunt, Mrs. Emeline Powers, and in 1852 went to Coldwater, Michigan, to live with Mrs. James Gilbert, with whom he remained until June, 1855. At that date he joined an uncle, George B. Gaston, who was the founder of the town of Tabor, Iowa, and of the college there; and was there engaged in the milling business. Mr. Hickok remained with that uncle until February, 1864, when he entered the Oberlin College at Oberlin, Ohio, in which he pursued his studies until the following August, when his patriotic spirit was aroused and he enlisted for service at the front as a member of Company C, One Hundred and Seventy-sixth Regiment of Ohio Volunteer Infantry. At Nashville, Tennessee, he was engaged in patrol duty and also participated in the battle of Nashville in December, 1864. While there he suffered an attack of lung fever, but he remained with his command until honorably discharged in June, 1865, following the cessation of hostilities.

When the country no longer needed his aid Mr. Hickok returned to Oberlin College, where he spent two years in preparatory work and one year in pursuing the college course. In the fall of 1867 he became a resident of Omaha, Nebraska, and during the succeeding winter taught school near Clarinda, Page county, Iowa. When the school term was ended he made his way to Columbus and soon afterward began work for an uncle, L. W. Platt, in a general store near the Pawnee Indian agency, trading with the Indians there until the fall of 1871. In the spring of 1872 he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres on section 2, Columbus township, Platte county, and later pre-empted another one hundred and sixty acres, thus becoming the possessor of a half section of land. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made upon his claims, but with characteristic energy he began to break the sod and till the fields, bringing his land to a high state of cultivation. While thus engaged he met many of the usual experiences and hardships of frontier life but persevered in his work and substantial results attended him. For a time he was proprietor of a fruit store in Columbus and for nearly two years engaged in selling windmills and pumps for A. W. Lawrence. He was afterward connected with a grocery store where the Evans Hotel now stands, devoting six years to that business, at the end of which time he entered into a partnership under the style of Hickok, Halm & Company for the conduct of a grocery store which they carried on for two and one-half years. In 1889 Mr. Hickok turned his attention to bookkeeping and clerking and from 1892 was employed as a bookkeeper in various stores of Columbus. He entered upon his present connection with J. R. Lusehen in 1913 and has there remained through the intervening years.

On the 7th of December, 1871, Mr. Hickok was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Church Gates, of Tabor, Iowa. She was born December 2, 1846, at Oberlin, Ohio, a daughter of William James and Emily Parsons (Hall) Gates, both of whom were natives of Massachusetts. They removed to Iowa in 1853, making

the journey by boat via the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri rivers and reaching their destination at the end of four weeks. Both have now passed away, dying in California. To Mr. and Mrs. Hickok was born one child, who died in infancy.

In his political views Mr. Hickok was for years an earnest republican but has never been an aspirant for office. He is a prominent member of Baker Post, No. 9, G. A. R., of which he is now commander, and he is an active member of the Congregational church, in which he is serving as treasurer and deacon. A broad-minded man, he has ever been a great reader and finds delight in pursuing the pages of the Literary Digest, the National Geographic Magazine and other works which keep him in touch with the trend of modern thought and progress. He also possesses a good general library and occupies a beautiful home in Columbus where the spirit of hospitality is supreme, cordial welcome being ever extended to the many friends of the family.

CLARENCE NEWTON McELFRESH.

In a history of those whose course has made for the bar of Columbus a most creditable showing, the name of Clarence Newton McElfresh appears. He is a comparatively young man but in his profession has attained a place that many an older practitioner might well envy. He was born in Marion county, West Virginia, December 9, 1881, a son of Joseph and Elizabeth Tamer (Bartlett) McElfresh, who were both natives of Virginia, the former born in 1848. He became a farmer and stockman, following that pursuit throughout his active life. His wife died in 1885. The emigrant ancestor of the McElfresh family came from Scotland and first settled in Pennsylvania, while later a branch of the family was established in that section of the country which was then Virginia but is now a part of West Virginia.

Clarence N. McElfresh pursued his education at Fairmount and at Morgantown, West Virginia, completing a course in the State Normal at Fairmount by graduation. He afterward entered the law department of the West Virginia University at Morgantown and was graduated in 1903. He then sought the opportunities of the growing west and made his way to Columbus, where he was admitted to the bar in 1904, after having taught a term of school in Platte county, Nebraska. In the fall of that year, however, he opened a law office in Columbus, where he remained until 1907, when he went to Omaha, where he practiced for three years. He then returned to Columbus, where he has since followed his profession as a general law practitioner. From 1910 until 1914 he was county attorney of Platte county. He can scarcely be termed an orator but he has in an eminent degree that rare ability of saying in a convincing way the right thing at the right time and his mind is analytical, logical and inductive.

On the 19th of June, 1909, in Columbus, occurred the marriage of Mr. McElfresh and Miss Ethel Burill Elliott, a daughter of Hanson S. Elliott, who died in 1912. To this union was born a daughter and son, Helen Elizabeth and Hanson Elliott.

The family attend the Federated church, an organization formed by the Presbyterians and Congregationalists of Columbus, and that Mr. McElfresh is deeply interested in the moral progress of his community is shown in the fact that he is serving as a director of the Young Men's Christian Association. In Masonry he

has taken the degrees of the York Rite and is also a member of the Mystic Shrine, and he is past master of Lebanon Lodge No. 58, A. F. & A. M., of Columbus, and past commander of Gethsemane Commandery, No. 21, K. T., at Columbus. His political endorsement is given to the republican party. His acquaintance is wide and high regard is entertained for him because of his professional ability and his personal worth.

JACOB AERNI.

Jacob Aerni is connected with the farming interests of Bismark township, his home being on section 33. He has been a lifelong resident of the county and has witnessed much of its development and progress. He was born in Columbus township on the 23d of December, 1884, and in his youthful days received only a meager education, for when in the fourth grade he was obliged to leave school and assist in the work of the home farm. His boyhood, therefore, was largely a period of earnest and unremitting toil and he soon came to know the value of labor. In the years which have since come and gone his attention has been given to general agricultural pursuits and in crop production he makes a specialty of raising winter wheat. He also has shorthorn cattle upon his place, with a fine registered bull, Rover, at the head of his herd. He is also interested in the Mutual Life Association of Lincoln and is an enterprising business man of sound judgment and recognized capability.

On the 24th of February, 1912, Mr. Aerni was united in marriage to Miss Lenora Gragert, whose birth occurred in Boone county, Nebraska, July 7, 1894. They have one child, Syvilla Anna Clara, who was born on the 14th of February, 1915. Politically Mr. Aerni is a democrat, voting with the party and keeping well informed on the questions and issues of the day but never seeking office. He belongs to the German Reformed church and guides his life according to its teachings, being at all times honorable in his dealings with his fellowmen and straightforward in every relation of life. He is a worthy representative of one of the old-time families of the county and deserves representation among those who exemplify the spirit of modern farming.

JOHN P. POLITIS.

John P. Politis, a representative and enterprising business man of Columbus, has for the past eight years been successfully engaged in the manufacture of candy and ice cream, conducting both a retail and a wholesale establishment. His birth occurred in Magouliana, Greece, on the 24th of April, 1882, his parents being Peter J. and Marjorie (Liaromati) Politis. The former passed away in that country in 1894, and the latter still resides at her home in Greece.

John P. Politis completed a high-school course in Athens, Greece, by graduation in 1897 and was subsequently employed in a grocery store there until 1902. In that year, then a young man of twenty, he decided to test the truth of the many

favorable reports which had reached him concerning the advantages and opportunities of the new world and emigrated to the United States, locating in Lowell, Massachusetts, where he worked in a cotton mill for one year. Subsequently he spent two months in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and in May, 1903, came to Nebraska, settling in Omaha, where he operated a fruit stand on his own account for four years. On the expiration of that period he sold out and in June, 1907, came to Columbus, here embarking in business as a wholesale and retail manufacturer of candy and ice cream. In this connection he has since built up an enterprise of extensive and profitable proportions and the success which has attended his efforts is indeed well merited.

On the 12th of November, 1911, in Omaha, Mr. Politis was united in marriage to Miss Christina Kajakes, a native of Greece, by whom he has two children, namely: Peter J., who was born August 18, 1912; and Marjorie J., whose birth occurred on the 11th of August, 1914. Mr. Politis belongs to the Greek Orthodox church and fraternally is identified with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He is a young man of enterprise and ambition and has won many friends in both business and social circles of his adopted city.

JOSEPH LACHNIT.

Joseph Lachnit, deceased, was long a respected and worthy citizen of Platte county and his life record should find place upon the pages of the county's history. He was born in Germany, February 17, 1862, a son of Frank and Josephine Lachnit, both of whom were natives of Austria. The mother died when her son Joseph was but two months old. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, came to the United States with his family in 1874, settling on a farm near Columbus, Platte county, Nebraska, where he rented land and carried on general agricultural pursuits for a time. Carefully saving his earnings, he then bought property and continued farming until 1900, when he retired and removed to Columbus, there continuing his residence until called to his final home on the 28th of February, 1910. His second wife, who bore the maiden name of Josephine Meir, passed away February 2, 1910. They were among the early settlers of Platte county and took an active and helpful interest in the pioneer development and progress of the locality.

Joseph Lachnit attended school in Germany and continued his education in Platte county, Nebraska, where he arrived when a lad of twelve years. He worked upon the home farm during vacation periods and early gained practical knowledge of the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. When only fifteen years of age he started out to earn his own living, working by the month as a farm hand for a time, while later he came to Humphrey and in 1889 opened a retail liquor store in connection with a partner under the firm name of Lachnit & Kart-house. This connection was continued for seven years, at the end of which time he purchased his partner's interest and continued the business alone until his death, which occurred June 20, 1912. Prior to engaging in the saloon business he had worked as an insurance agent and had also conducted a livery barn in Humphrey.

He was a man well liked and highly respected by the people of Humphrey and vicinity.

It was in Humphrey on the 3d of November, 1891, that Mr. Lachnit was married by Father James Rudolph, pastor of St. Francis' church, to Miss Mary Hollatz, a daughter of John and Antonia (Pollahofski) Hollatz, both of whom were natives of Germany. Her father followed farming and in 1891 came to America with Platte county as his destination. Making his way to Granville township, he rented land for a few years and then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land near Tarnov, whereon he resided for three years. He afterward sold that property and removed to a farm in Humphrey township in the vicinity of Creston, his time and energies being devoted to its further cultivation and improvement until he retired from active business life in 1908, since which time he has made his home with his children. To Mr. and Mrs. Hollatz were born the following named: Apollonia, the wife of John Meir, of Madison county, Nebraska; Martha, the wife of William Labenz, of Humphrey township; Annie, the wife of George Schweda, of Cleveland, Ohio; Mrs. Lachnit, who was born in Germany and came to the United States three years before her parents, living with her sisters near Tarnov; Cecelia, the widow of Joseph Rohda, of Cleveland, Ohio; Antonia, the wife of Jacob Trittler, also of Cleveland; John, living in Humphrey township; and Joseph, who makes his home with his brother John.

To Mr. and Mrs. Lachnit were born the following named: Oscar, who was born October 27, 1892, and died August 24, 1904; Leo, who was born November 22, 1893, and works in an auto shop and also conducts the Lyric theater; Arnold, who was born May 26, 1895, and is a clerk in the store of Steffes Brothers of Humphrey; Joseph, who was born November 12, 1896, and died seven days later; Hilda, who was born February 12, 1898; Amanda, born December 3, 1899; Eveline, who was born January 25, 1903, and died on the 26th of December of the same year; and Cyril, who was born November 8, 1909.

In politics Mr. Lachnit was a democrat and for twelve years, or from 1895 until 1907, he served as treasurer of Platte county, being a faithful custodian of the public funds, his duties being discharged with promptness and fidelity. He belonged to St. Francis' Catholic church, of which his wife and children are still communicants, and he was also a member of the Knights of Columbus and of the Catholic Order of Foresters, of Humphrey. He served as an officer in the Nebraska State Liquor Dealers Association and he was popular among those with whom he was associated in business, church and social relations. He stood very high with the German citizens and others of his locality and appreciation for his worth was manifest in the friendship given him.

ERNST FISCHER.

Conducting a profitable lumber, coal, hardware and furniture business at Platte Center, of which he is owner and manager, Ernst Fischer has made for himself a creditable position in business circles as one who is both enterprising and thoroughly reliable. He was born August 12, 1868, in Pommern, Germany, and was twenty years of age when in 1888 he crossed the Atlantic to the new world, with Nebraska

as his destination. He first settled at Norfolk, where he engaged in the lumber business, remaining there for ten years. He afterward removed to Wisner, where he remained for five years and in 1903 came to Platte Center, where he accepted the position of manager with the Edwards & Bradford Lumber Company. He represented the firm in that capacity for eleven years and in 1914 bought out the business, which he now owns and manages. He has a well equipped lumber yard and store and is accorded a liberal patronage in recognition of his business integrity and industry.

In September, 1892, Mr. Fischer was united in marriage to Miss Martha Nitz, who is a native of Pommern, Germany, and emigrated to the United States in 1888. They now have three children, Frank, Anna and Esther, all at home.

Mr. Fischer and his family hold membership in the German Lutheran church, to which he is a generous contributor. He is a democrat in his political views, believing that the principles of the party contain the best elements of good government. While he has never been an aspirant for office, he is a cooperant factor in plans and projects which have for their object the betterment of the community. His record is one which proved that the accident of birth does not control the future of the individual, for in this land where opportunity is open to all he has made steady progress and is now at the head of a profitable business in Platte Center, where he is recognized as a leading merchant.

JOHN H. IMIG.

Business enterprise finds a worthy representative in John H. Imig of Columbus, who is a wholesale and retail baker. A liberal patronage is accorded him, his trade having reached extensive proportions, while his annual financial return is gratifying. He was born in the Rhine province of Germany, February 24, 1874, and acquired his early education in the schools of that country but came to the United States when fourteen years of age, with his mother and sisters, the family home being established in Seward, Nebraska. He entered the workaday world as an apprentice in a bake shop and was employed in connection with a bakery business in Seward for ten years. In 1898 he removed to Fullerton, Nebraska, where he again worked at his trade and there he afterward embarked in business on his own account by establishing a company known as the Star Grocery & Bakery Company. He was associated therewith for six years and in 1904 came to Columbus, where he has since made his home. During the first ten years of his residence in this city he was an employe in the bakery establishment of Anton Vogel, but is now owner of a shop and conducts a wholesale and retail business, being accorded liberal patronage in both branches. The most sanitary and scientific conditions exist in his establishment and the wholesomeness and excellence of his product insures its ready sale.

On the 10th of February, 1907, Mr. Imig was united in marriage to Miss Elma Schmidt, her parents being Edward H. and Antonia Schmidt, the former a native of Germany. Mr. Schmidt became an early settler of Platte county, Nebraska, and here carried on farming for many years, winning substantial success by reason



JOHN H. IMIG AND FAMILY

of his industry, thrift and enterprise. Our subject and his wife have five children, namely: Emma, Edward, Karl, Elsie and Henry.

The religious faith of the family is that of the German Lutheran church. In political views Mr. Imig is a republican and fraternally he is connected with Columbus Aerie, No. 1834, F. O. E., with the Modern Woodmen of America and with the Sons of Herman. He deserves much credit for what he has accomplished, having worked his way persistently upward since he started out to earn his living when a youth of fourteen years. Energy, persistency and reliability have been the crowning features in his business life and have brought him to a place among the successful men of his adopted city.

MICHAEL WHITMOYER.

Michael Whitmoyer is a prominent and successful attorney of Columbus who has practiced his profession in that city for the past forty-two years and enjoys an enviable reputation as one of the leading members of the bar of Platte county. His birth occurred on a farm in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, on the 12th of February, 1836, his parents being Simon and Sarah (Kisner) Whitmoyer, who were likewise natives of the Keystone state, the former born in 1810. Conrad Whitmoyer, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was a native of Pennsylvania and followed agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career. The Whitmoyer family comes of German ancestry.

Michael Whitmoyer began his education in the public schools and subsequently attended Greenwood Seminary at Millville, Pennsylvania, Dickinson Seminary at Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and the First Pennsylvania State Normal School at Millersville. He next began reading law, being thus engaged at Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, when the Civil war broke out. On the 7th of August, 1862, he joined Company E, One Hundred and Thirty-second Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and was at once elected captain of Company E, holding that rank during his term of service. He participated in the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville and was mustered out at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on the 24th of May, 1863, at the expiration of his term of service. Mr. Whitmoyer then resumed the reading of law and in 1865 was admitted to the bar of Pennsylvania, locating in Bloomsburg, where he followed his profession until February, 1873. At that time he came to Columbus, Nebraska, which city has remained the scene of his professional labors continuously since and where he has been accorded an extensive and gratifying clientage. The zeal with which he has devoted his energies to his profession, the careful regard evinced for the interests of his clients and an assiduous and unrelaxing attention to all the details of his cases, have brought him **a large business and made him very successful in its conduct.**

Mr. Whitmoyer has been married twice. In 1872, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he wedded Miss Hannah E. Waller, who died the next year, leaving a daughter, Laura, now the wife of Dr. J. C. Reifsnyder, of Scranton, Pennsylvania. In 1877, near Troy, Pennsylvania, Mr. Whitmoyer married Emma A. Peckham, by whom he has three children, as follows: Florence, who is the wife of Dr. W. S. Evans, of Columbus, Nebraska; Gertrude, twin sister of Florence, who gave her

hand in marriage to Howard F. Geer of Upland, California; and Maurice, who is now a resident of Upland, California.

In politics Mr. Whitmoyer is a staunch republican, never wavering in his allegiance to the party which was the defense of the Union during the dark days of the Civil war. In 1872 he was elected a delegate to the national republican convention at Philadelphia, which nominated Grant for president, and was appointed colonel in the National Guards of Pennsylvania by Governor John W. Geary. In Columbus he has served for two terms as councilman, making a most creditable and commendable record in that connection. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic and the Knights of Pythias, and his religious faith is that of the Congregational church. Past the seventy-ninth milestone on life's journey, he has long been numbered among the honored citizens and leading lawyers of Columbus.

JOSEPH SCHMIDT.

Joseph Schmidt is a representative of the lumber trade, having for seventeen years been connected with the yard in which he is now occupying a position of responsibility. He was born in Austria on the 27th of May, 1858, a son of Florian and Mary (Hurneich) Schmidt, who were also natives of that country. The father was a farmer, following that occupation in the old country, where he continued to cultivate land until his death. His wife passed away in 1868.

Joseph Schmidt was reared and educated in Austria, no event of special importance occurring to vary the routine of life for him until he reached the age of twenty years, when he left the parental roof and came to America, attracted by the favorable opportunities which he heard were offered in this country. He made his way across the country to Columbus and by team traveled to Humphrey, for there was then no railroad in the town. His financial condition rendered it imperative that he at once secure employment and for some time he worked out as a farm hand. In 1880 the work of building the Union Pacific Railroad was started and Mr. Schmidt became active in that connection, remaining as a representative of the company for eighteen years, acting as section foreman at different places. He finally tired of that and returned to Humphrey, where he entered the employ of H. Hunecker & Brother, dealers in lumber. Since then the ownership of the yard has changed, the original firm having sold out to Weller Brothers. Mr. Schmidt has now been connected with this yard for seventeen years, a fact which indicates most clearly his fidelity; capability and trustworthiness.

In November, 1881, occurred the marriage of Mr. Schmidt and Miss Julia Franchel, a daughter of John Franchel, a native of Austria, in which country he spent his entire life. The mother died when Mrs. Schmidt was fourteen years of age and the father when she had reached the age of twenty-eight. Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt have become the parents of ten children, Joseph, Carl, Frankie, Louis, Mary and Annie, all yet living; while Herman, John, Michael and Fred have passed away.

The parents are communicants of the Catholic church and for twenty years Mr. Schmidt has been a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters. He votes with the democratic party, believing its principles contain the best elements of

good government. He has erected and now occupies a nice residence in Humphrey, where he is comfortably situated in life and where he maintains an unassailable reputation both as a business man and as a citizen.

LOUIS MAIER.

Louis Maier, who since February, 1915, has been manager of the Weller Brothers' lumber business at Humphrey, is an enterprising young man who step by step has worked his way upward and through an orderly progression has reached an enviable place in business circles. He was born in April, 1882, in the town where he still makes his home, his parents being Frank and Mary (Hundsfeld) Maier, who were natives of Austria and came to America in 1880, at which time they took up their abode in Humphrey. The father was a shoemaker and worked at that trade in his native land and also after taking up his abode in Platte county, where his remaining days were passed. He died in May, 1908, having for thirteen years survived his wife, who passed away in 1895.

In the period of his youth Louis Maier attended the public and parochial schools and in starting out upon his independent business career was employed as a farm hand for eight years. He then became engaged in the grain trade, with which he was connected until February, 1915, when he accepted the position of manager of the lumber yard of Weller Brothers at Humphrey. He is now capably controlling the interests of the firm and is popular with his employers and with the purchasing public, for he is thoroughly reliable and always courteous and obliging.

On the 28th of June, 1911, Mr. Maier was married to Miss Josephine Eischen, a daughter of Peter and Mary (Backes) Eischen, who are now living retired in Oklahoma. In religious faith Mr. Maier is a Catholic and he belongs to the Knights of Columbus. In politics he is a democrat and has served as clerk of Burrows township for two years. The greater part of his time and attention, however, is given to his business interests and as the result of his personal activities he has worked his way steadily upward, prompted by a laudable ambition that has gained for him a creditable position.

LOUIS LIGHTNER.

In a history of the bar of Columbus it is imperative that mention be made of Louis Lightner, who is the junior partner of the firm of Reeder & Lightner. In this connection he is practicing with excellent success, for his ability enables him to successfully handle intricate and involved legal problems. He is yet a young man and has therefore not reached the zenith of his powers, so that his course for many years to come will undoubtedly be one of continuous progression.

Mr. Lightner was born in Nauvoo, Illinois, November 22, 1877, a son of William and Louisa (Brayshaw) Lightner. The father was born in Pennsylvania in 1842, while the mother was a native of Illinois. They were married in the latter state and Mr. Lightner still resides at Nauvoo, Illinois, having long survived his wife.

who passed away in 1881. The family is of Holland origin, and the name was originally spelled Leichtner. Late in the seventeenth century representatives of the name crossed the Atlantic and the family was planted on American soil in Pennsylvania. At the time of the Civil war William Lightner responded to the country's call for troops, joining the Union army and rendering valiant aid in defense of the stars and stripes.

Louis Lightner attended the country schools of Platte county, Nebraska, having come to this state in his infancy to live with his aunt, the wife of Hanson S. Elliott. In her home he spent the days of his boyhood and youth, and his education was acquired in the schools of the neighborhood. He was graduated in law, however, from the Nebraska State University at Lincoln as a member of the class of 1910 and immediately afterward removed to Columbus, where he at once entered upon the active practice of his profession, forming a partnership with the Hon. James G. Reeder in 1908. The following year John J. Sullivan, who was a member of the firm, withdrew and removed to Omaha, at which time the firm style of Reeder & Lightner was assumed and so continues. Mr. Lightner is an able lawyer, clear in his reasoning, concise in his appeals before the court and logical in his deductions. He prepares his cases with thoroughness, and his devotion to his clients' interests has become proverbial. He is a director of the Equitable Building, Loan & Savings Association but otherwise concentrates his energies upon his professional activities.

On the 31st of July, 1907, in Liberty, Missouri, Mr. Lightner was married to Miss Margaret C. Griffith. He is well known in fraternal connections as a Master Mason, an Elk, a Modern Woodman of America, a Woodman of the World and as one of the Spanish War Veterans and also as a member of the Sons of Veterans. At the time of the war with Spain in 1898 he joined Company I of the Nebraska National Guard and went with his company into the First Nebraska Volunteer Infantry. The regiment was sent to the Philippines and Mr. Lightner accompanied it, the command sailing from San Francisco in June. He served until December 10, 1898, when he was mustered out. He was present at the capture of Manila on the 13th of August and was in the preceding battles on the 2d and 5th of August. He was a most loyal soldier, bravely defending the interests of his country, and thus his name has been placed on the honor roll along with those who have rendered military service to the United States in its most recent war. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party, and he was a delegate from the thirty-third Nebraska congressional district to the Baltimore convention in 1912. His interests are broad and varied and show a comprehensive understanding of life, upon which he places no fictitious values. He looks at all questions of public moment from a practical standpoint and seeks the good of the community in many ways.

WILLIAM A. ALDERSON.

The home of William A. Alderson at Humphrey is the finest residence in the town and stands as a monument to the enterprise and business ability of the owner, who for many years was closely associated with agricultural interests and by the careful management and control of his affairs gained a substantial measure of

success that now classes him with the men of affluence in Platte county. He is now living retired save for the supervision which he gives to his invested interests. He was born in Wisconsin, September 20, 1850, and is a son of Edmond and Sarah (Woodward) Alderson, who were natives of England. The mother came to the new world with her parents when a maiden of fourteen summers and the father crossed the Atlantic when a young man of twenty-three years. Making his way into the interior of the country, he settled in Wisconsin and was employed in the lead mines for a time and afterward became the owner of a mine, the shaft of which was eighty feet in depth, with a ladder reaching the entire length. One day while descending this ladder he accidentally slipped and was killed, being but thirty-five years of age when his death occurred on the 5th of March, 1856. His widow continued to live in Wisconsin throughout her remaining days, passing away in October, 1893, when she had reached the age of sixty-three years.

William A. Alderson was reared and educated in the Badger state and remained with his mother to the age of nineteen, when he started out independently in the business world as a farm hand. He was employed in that manner until he attained his majority, when in April, 1872, he left Wisconsin and removed westward to Platte county, Nebraska, where he secured a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Humphrey township. Immediately he began to develop and improve that land, upon which, up to that time, not a furrow had been turned. The track of the plow was soon to be seen across the fields and as time went on the wild prairie was converted into rich and productive fields, which he carefully, systematically and profitably developed for thirty-nine years, or until 1911, when he retired and removed to Fremont, where he made his home for a year. He then returned to Humphrey and purchased a fine residence in the southwestern part of the town, standing on a hill which commands a splendid view of the surrounding country. He has since resided in Humphrey and his home is the most beautiful there. It is a large and commodious house of the modern style of architecture, surrounded by well kept grounds, covering twelve acres. He also owns the original homestead, to which he has added as his financial resources increased until his farm possessions now comprise four hundred and ninety-two acres.

While he no longer tills the fields Mr. Alderson is still a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Humphrey, of which he was a director for four years. While living upon the farm he made a specialty of breeding and raising shorthorn cattle and Percheron horses and fed from fifty to one hundred head of cattle annually. He did much to improve the grade of stock raised and his example in that direction and in the work of the fields has constituted a standard which others have profitably followed.

On the 27th of October, 1874, Mr. Alderson was united in marriage to Miss Elmira Slater, a daughter of James O. and Catherine (Goodser) Slater, who were natives of New York. The father was a farmer of the Empire state and during the latter part of his life operated a boat on the Hudson river. He died in 1903, while his wife has also passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Alderson became the parents of six children: Mabel F., at home; Oliver R., a resident farmer of Humphrey township; Rose H., who is teaching in the Humphrey high school; Delia M., the wife of Eugene Ainsworth, who is operating his father-in-law's farm; William A., who is married and is engaged in business as a ladies' tailor at Hastings, Nebraska; and Verne Ashland, who died in 1888 at the age of two years and twenty-eight days.

Mr. and Mrs. Alderson hold membership in the Methodist church and his political views are in accord with the principles of the republican party. His life record is one which should inspire and encourage others, showing what may be accomplished when one has the will to dare and to do. When he came to Nebraska he was sixteen dollars in debt and after paying his homestead fee he had but five dollars in his possession. The change in his financial condition has been reached by earnest, persistent labor, which has made him one of the substantial citizens of the county, owning one of the finest farms within its borders. In all that he has done he has been actuated by a laudable ambition and his record proves that success and an honorable name may be won simultaneously.

CLARA ROSA AERNI, D. C., PH. C.

Dr. Clara Rosa Aerni, one of the most successful chiropractics of Nebraska, following her profession in Columbus, is a native daughter of Platte county, her birth having occurred at Neboville, December 30, 1889. Her parents were Frank and Rosina Aerni, natives of Switzerland. The father was born January 6, 1846, in Herswil, Canton Solothurn, while the mother was from Utzenstorf, in the canton of Bern, her birth having there occurred, December 23, 1862. They emigrated to America on the 19th of May, 1883, embarking on the steamer *Helvetia* as she made her last trip over the Atlantic. They came direct to Columbus, where Mr. Aerni still lives, being considered one of the successful farmers of this part of the state. His wife passed away June 23, 1912.

Dr. Aerni acquired her early education in a little suburban school just three miles north of Columbus, and having completed the course of instruction there, decided to enter the Columbus high school but illness prevented the completion of her course. She afterward studied dressmaking, being graduated from the Women's College of Scientific Dressmaking at La Crosse, Wisconsin, on the 22d of May, 1909. Her next undertaking was music, which she studied in the American School of Music of Chicago, of which she is an alumnus. Later she entered upon a three years' course of chiropractic and was graduated on the 28th of August, 1914, from the Palmer School of Chiropractic at Davenport, Iowa. Chiropractic is a philosophy, a science and an art of things natural and a system of adjusting the articulations of the spine, by hand, for the elimination of the cause of disease (def. by B. J. Palmer, D. C., Ph. C., president of the Palmer School of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa). Chiropractic is unique, as well as universal in its application and by actual application and by actual proof of the fulfillment of its claims, although comparatively in its infancy, it has opened the door to success to over six thousand practitioners who enjoy the favor and good wishes of over one million intelligent people of the world. Yes, this great boon, as it is frequently called, has already before the age of twenty, been carried to many foreign lands, thirteen foreign countries being represented at one time in the Palmer School of Chiropractic (Chiropractic Fountain Head), located in Davenport, Iowa, at which place it was discovered by Dr. D. D. Palmer about twenty years ago. It was a very crude system until the son, Dr. B. J. Palmer, took it in hand and developed it, until today it is almost a painless method, and the only direct method of getting at the cause of the



DR. CLARA R. AERNI

great category of diseases found in the human body. It is a well known fact that therapeutic methods are based on the "treatment of effects of disease." Chiropractic takes the opposite basic principle, that of the "removal of the cause" (no cause, no effect). The fundamental idea is that the source by which nature reaches the various and minute parts of the body is through the brain, spinal cord and spinal nerves, knowing that the nerves pass through an opening in the spinal column formed by two movable vertebrae (segments) which are subject to all kinds of excessive forces in the shape of blows, strains, etc., and which, having gone beyond the limit of natural resistance, become subluxated (slightly misplaced) and thereby a pressure is brought to bear on these most delicate nerve fibers, thus destroying the life carrying capacity of these nerves, thus causing a lack or excess of function of that portion of the body supplied by such nerves. Taking this as a basis, naturally a new method for removal had to be invented, this is the adjustment of vertebrae, or the scientific application of force in the opposite direction of the, by palpation determined, subluxation, thus removing the pressure on nerves, which permits the natural currents to flow freely through the once more normal nerves, and as a result you have normal functionation in your portion of body supplied, making "ease in disease."

After completing her course in the Palmer School of Chiropractic, Dr. Aerni returned to Columbus, opening an office in the Telegram building, on the 3d of September, and since that time she has built up a good practice, her work proving most successful in coping with the intricate problems of health and disease.

Dr. Aerni is an active member of the Universal Chiropractors Association as well as of the Nebraska Chiropractors Association. She expresses her political views as "peace above everything else." She has membership with the Swiss Society of Columbus, in W. C. lodge, and is secretary of the drill team. She is also an active member of the German Reformed church, doing everything in her power to advance its work and extend its influence. She is making her life count as a force for good both in professional and church circles.

WENSEL J. TROJAN.

Wensel J. Trojan, living at Tarnov, has devoted his life to agricultural and banking interests and at the present time is the cashier of the Bank of Tarnov, his close application and indefatigable energy contributing to its growing success. He was born in Colfax county, Nebraska, in September, 1880, a son of Anton and Mary (Panek) Trojan, who were natives of Austria and in the year 1880 left that land to establish a home in the new world. Landing on the eastern coast, they crossed the country to Colfax county, Nebraska, and the father purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land which he cultivated and improved throughout his remaining days. He had learned and followed the blacksmith's trade in Austria but after coming to the new world gave his undivided attention to agricultural pursuits. His life's labors were ended in death April 15, 1905, while his wife passed away February 2, 1912.

Wensel J. Trojan attended the district and public schools of Colfax county, and the Fremont Normal College at Fremont, Nebraska, after which he entered

upon his business career as bookkeeper in the First National Bank at Leigh, where he remained for nine months. He then opened a bank of his own at Royal, Nebraska, which he called the Royal State Bank and which he conducted for two years. He then sold out, returned home and operated a farm for two years but at the end of that time rented the land, although he still owns two hundred acres there, from which he obtains a good annual income. Removing to Tarnov, he became financially interested in the Bank of Tarnov, which is capitalized for fifteen thousand dollars and has sixty thousand dollars on deposit. The officers of the institution are: George P. Bissell, president; J. W. Hutchison, vice president; and Wensel J. Trojan, cashier; and these gentlemen, together with W. J. Panek, constitute the board of directors. Mr. Trojan's long experience in the banking business well qualifies him for the duties now devolving upon him and he is a popular cashier, always courteous to the patrons of the bank and at the same time carefully safeguarding the interests of depositors and of the institution.

Mr. Trojan holds membership in the Catholic church. In politics he is a democrat and has served as overseer of streets, while at the present time he is a member of the town board. He takes an active interest in public affairs and does everything to promote the welfare and upbuilding of the community in which he lives.

HERMAN GEORGE PERSON.

Herman George Person is actively and successfully engaged in business at Columbus as a dealer in agricultural implements and the proprietor of a blacksmith shop. His birth occurred in Leer, Ostfriesland, Germany, on the 9th of May, 1873, his parents being Henry and Marie (Kluever) Person, who were married in that country. The father, born in 1842, was a German soldier during the period of the Franco-Prussian war. In 1893 he emigrated with his family to the United States and took up his abode in Columbus, Nebraska, but at present resides with his wife at Niobrara, Knox county, this state. The ancestry of the family is traced back to Louis de Person, who was a native of France and had a coat of arms but who fled to Germany to escape the religious persecution suffered by the French Huguenots.

Herman G. Person acquired his education in the schools of the fatherland and was a young man of twenty years when he accompanied his parents on their emigration to the new world. During the first two years of his residence in this country he worked on a farm in Platte county, Nebraska, and subsequently spent a year in a wagon shop at Concordia, Missouri. He then returned to this county and started out as an agriculturist on his own account, here carrying on farming for four years. On the expiration of that period he took up his abode in Columbus and opened a blacksmith shop which he has conducted continuously and successfully to the present time, while since 1904 he has also dealt in agricultural implements, finding this branch of his business a remunerative undertaking. In the conduct of his interests he displays excellent ability and sound judgment which insure his continued and growing prosperity.

In November, 1896, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Person was united in marriage

to Miss Sophie Kluever, a daughter of Henry Kluever. They have three sons: Henry George, Rudolph and Herbert. Mr. Person gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has fraternal relations with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of the Maccabees. His religious faith is that of the Baptist church. Both he and his wife are widely and favorably known in Columbus, having won the unqualified confidence and regard of all with whom they have come in contact during the period of their residence here.

WILLIAM FINLEY DODDS.

William Finley Dodds, an honored veteran of the Civil war, is a well known and representative agriculturist residing on section 27, Shell Creek township, and has lived on his present farm for the past twenty years. His birth occurred in Butler county, Pennsylvania, on the 5th of March, 1840, his parents being Joseph and Sarah Ann (Lowry) Dodds, who spent their entire lives in that county. He was reared to manhood on the home farm and attended the common schools in the acquirement of an education, receiving his early instruction in a log schoolhouse. In 1861 he enlisted in defense of the Union as a member of Company D. Eleventh Pennsylvania Reserves, serving with that command for sixteen months. At the seven days' siege of Richmond he received a bullet wound in the knee and had a knuckle shot from his right hand while reaching to pick up the rebel flag. He was taken prisoner and was incarcerated in Libby prison for three months, at the end of which time he was sent home on account of disability. His brother Mathew died in the service of the Union and another brother, John R., also followed the stars and stripes on southern battlefields. The latter lived to come home.

After returning from the war Mr. Dodds turned his attention to agricultural pursuits and successfully followed farming in Pennsylvania until 1880, when he came to Platte county, Nebraska, arriving here on the 18th day of March. Here he has been engaged in farming continuously to the present time, now owning a forty-acre tract of land near Columbus, while for the past twenty years he has lived on his present farm in Shell Creek township, which he operates as a renter in association with his sons. He carries on the work of the fields in accordance with the most modern and practical methods of agriculture and annually gathers rich harvests.

On the 30th of January, 1865, Mr. Dodds was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Jane Shannon, who was born in Butler county, Pennsylvania, March 23, 1842. To them have been born nine children, as follows: Olive, who is the wife of John Cooper, of Beaver county, Pennsylvania; Joseph, who wedded Miss Lena Phillips and lives in Cambridge, Nebraska; Roy, who married Miss Lillian Bartmess and makes his home in Portland, Oregon; John L.; William; Flora Birde, who is engaged in teaching; Anna Marie; Elizabeth May; and Grace Shannon, a trained nurse in Omaha.

Mr. Dodds gives his political allegiance to the democracy and for nine years has served as assessor of Shell Creek township, making a most creditable record in that capacity. He and his wife were formerly members of the United Presbyterian church and now attend the Presbyterian church in their home locality.

They have lived in Platte county for thirty-five years and enjoy an extensive and favorable acquaintance within its borders. Mr. Dodds has now passed the seventy-fifth milestone on life's journey and his career has ever been such that he can look back over the past without regret and forward to the future without fear.

JAMES NOONAN.

When death called James Noonan Platte county lost one of its representative citizens and largest landowners. His life record proved what can be accomplished by determination and intelligently directed energy and constituted an example well worthy of being followed. He worked hard, recognizing the fact that industry is the basis of all honorable success. Born in Ireland in April, 1854, he was a son of James and Bridget (Welch) Noonan, who were also natives of that country and there remained throughout life.

The son spent his youthful days with his parents and the national schools of the country afforded him his educational opportunities. He was ambitious, however, to make the best use of his time and talents and, thinking that the new world offered superior advantages, he came to America in 1871, landing at New York, where he worked for a time in a stone quarry. For four years he continued a resident of that state and then again started westward, making his way to this county, which was still a frontier district, much of the land being yet in possession of the government. He made claim to a homestead in Burrows township, proved up on and secured the title to the place and bent his energies to its development and cultivation. He and his brother Peter engaged in farming together for eighteen years and won recognition as leading agriculturists of the county. As he prospered in his undertakings James Noonan added to his possessions, purchasing more land from time to time until his holdings comprised eleven hundred acres, which his widow now owns. Carefully, systematically and persistently he carried on the farm work, his efforts bringing him substantial success. He was thus busily engaged up to the time of his demise, which occurred in July, 1912, after a short illness, when he was sixty-eight years of age. It seemed that he might yet have been spared for further activity and usefulness, for he had become one of the valued and representative farmers of Platte county. His home place was on section 6, Burrows township, and all of his land was in that township save one hundred and sixty acres lying in Joliet township. His son is now cultivating a tract of one hundred and eighty-five acres, while the remainder of the land is rented to others, bringing the family a good annual income.

In July, 1876, Mr. Noonan was married to Miss Nellie Dixon, a daughter of William and Mary (Flynn) Dixon, both of whom were natives of Ireland, in which country Mrs. Noonan was born in April, 1852. Her father followed farming there and never sought a home in the new world, passing away on the Emerald isle in 1901. His wife had died long before, her death occurring in 1889. Mr. and Mrs. Noonan became the parents of a son, William James, now thirty-three years of age, who is operating the home place.

Mr. Noonan was a Catholic in his church relations, and he was always an earnest democrat from the time that he became a naturalized American citizen. He



JAMES NOONAN

never regretted his determination to come to the new world, for here he found favorable business conditions and in their improvement worked his way steadily upward, winning a most creditable place among the prosperous farmers and highly respected residents of Platte county.

REV. ERNEST DENNINGER.

Rev. Ernest Denninger, pastor of the German Lutheran church in Bismark township, his home being on section 11, was born in Berlin, Germany, on the 9th of October, 1819, and in the acquirement of an education there attended the common and high schools. He had reached the age of twenty-three years when, in 1872, he came to the United States. Later he pursued a course in Concordia College at St. Louis, Missouri, after which he took up the active work of the ministry, to which he has now devoted forty years of his life, his labors being attended with good results and constituting an important factor in the moral progress of the communities in which he has made his home. His first pastoral service was in Holmes county, Ohio, where he remained for eleven years. He afterward spent a year and a half in Clark county, Wisconsin, and eighteen years in Madison county, Nebraska. He was called to his present charge in Bismark township in 1906 and here has a congregation of sixty voting members. In the intervening period of nine years he has conscientiously and zealously carried on his work with good results, his labors constituting an effective force in shaping moral thought and interests in the community.

In Ohio the Rev. Denninger was married to Miss Barbara Lehner, and they have become the parents of nine children: Theodore, who is living in Battle Creek, Nebraska; Lena, the wife of Frank Scheer, of Madison county, Nebraska; Celia, the wife of Oscar Goeriz, of Wurtemberg, Germany; Sybilla, who is a nurse in Fort Wayne, Indiana; Nellie, the wife of Paul Johannes, of Omaha, Nebraska; Robert, a parochial school teacher in Columbus, Indiana; Hulda, who is with her sister Nellie in Omaha; and Walter and Ella, at home. Rev. and Mrs. Denninger are widely known in Bismark township and their part of the county and the warmest regard is entertained for them by all with whom they have come in contact.

FERDINAND FUCHS.

Ferdinand Fuchs is a prominent farmer and stockman, owner of the Humphrey View Farm on sections 29 and 30, Humphrey township. His carefully tilled fields respond readily to the care and labor which he bestows upon them and he is today ranked with the representative agriculturists of his community. He was born in Austria, October 14, 1857, a son of Matthew and Rosella (Steinbeck) Fuchs, both natives of Austria, where the father learned and followed the trade of cloth weaving. After coming to America, however, he turned his attention to farming, settling in 1867 in Dane county, Wisconsin, where for a time he worked at anything that he could get to do which would yield him an honest living. In 1873 he removed with

his family to Platte county, Nebraska, taking up his abode in Humphrey township, where he homesteaded on section 28. There he carried on general farming until 1884, when he retired from active business life and removed to Humphrey, enjoying well earned rest throughout his remaining days. He died in 1898, while his widow, now eighty-seven years of age, makes her home with her children.

Ferdinand Fuchs acquired his education in the schools of Germany. He remained upon the home farm with his parents and assisted in the development of the fields until he reached the age of twenty-five years. He then married and began farming on his own account, at which time he located on his father's place on section 28, Humphrey township, devoting four and one-half years to the further development and improvement of that property. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres where he now lives on section 29 and, removing thereto, has since made it his home. He has worked hard, industry and enterprise being numbered among his salient characteristics, and at various times he has added to his holdings until today he owns eleven hundred and twenty acres of well improved land. Some of this he rents, while his sons farm the remainder. Mr. Fuchs is one of the most prominent, progressive and successful farmers and stock-raisers of Humphrey township. He displays sound judgment in the management of all of his interests and his plans are at once practical and progressive. He was also one of the organizers of the Farmers Elevator Company of Humphrey and has continuously served on its board of directors. He assisted in drawing up the by-laws for the company and his sagacity and sound judgment have constituted strong elements in its success.

On the 26th of June, 1883, Mr. Fuchs was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Brockhaus, whose birth occurred April 5, 1863, her parents being G. H. and Annie (Sommers) Brockhaus, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father emigrated to the United States in 1848, while the mother came later. G. H. Brockhaus located in Boston, Massachusetts, where he was employed as a sailor and fisherman for a time, while subsequently he made his way to Chicago, where he remained a short time, and there worked at the cooper's trade. Later he located on a farm in Wisconsin, but in 1876 came to Platte county, Nebraska, purchased land and located in Grand Prairie township, where he made his home for two years. On the expiration of that period he removed to Humphrey township and bought a farm on which he spent the remainder of his life, passing away on the 16th of January, 1912. He had long survived his wife, who died in 1879.

To Mr. and Mrs. Fuchs have been born twelve children, as follows: John F., whose birth occurred October 20, 1884, and who is a farmer residing on section 27, Humphrey township; Mary, born December 3, 1886; Johanna, whose natal day was January 9, 1889; Joseph, born September 18, 1891; Elizabeth, born August 28, 1893; Rosa, born October 24, 1894; Frank, born December 3, 1896; Henry, born January 4, 1898; George, who was born in April, 1899, and passed away on the 23d of August following; Odelia, born August 24, 1900; Anton, born February 23, 1903; and Alice, born June 21, 1904.

Mr. Fuchs and his family are all members of St. Francis Catholic church of Humphrey, in which he has served as a trustee, and he is also a member of the St. Joseph's Men's Society of that church. His political allegiance is given the democratic party where national issues are involved, but when occasion demands he votes for the candidate whom he regards as best qualified for office irrespective of party lines. His fellow townsmen, appreciative of his worth and ability, have

frequently called him to office and he is now serving for the third year as assessor of Humphrey township, while for one term he was township treasurer and for six years was a member of the Humphrey school board. To become the owner of eleven hundred and twenty acres of land is a notable and creditable record and Mr. Fuchs deserves much credit for what he has accomplished. His activities have been carefully directed and his persistency of purpose, reliable methods and indefatigable enterprise have brought him to a creditable position among the business men of the county.

THEODORE K. MATZEN.

Theodore K. Matzen is a retired farmer living in Columbus. For many years he was actively identified with the work of the fields and his industry and the intelligent direction of his labor brought to him a substantial measure of success that now permits him to enjoy the good things of life without further recourse to active work. He was born at Middelfart, Denmark, May 28, 1835, and is a son of Christian and Hannah (Lund) Matzen. The father devoted his early life to the drug business and afterward engaged in conducting a hotel.

In the family were eleven children, of whom Theodore K. was the fourth in order of birth. He acquired a common-school education and entered the workaday world as cabin boy on a sailing vessel when but thirteen and one-half years of age. Later he was employed as cook and during the war of 1848-9, between Denmark and Germany, the vessel on which he worked carried the wounded. He afterward went to Apenrade, Schleswig, Germany, where he spent three and one-half years in learning the shipbuilding trade, becoming quite expert as a ship carpenter. He then again sailed on the high seas, taking passage on a Danish vessel at Antwerp on which he went by way of Liverpool to South America, carrying a general cargo. From South America the ship sailed to Hongkong and at that place was chartered by a Chinese firm for a period of three years, after which the first trip made was to Rotterdam with a cargo of tea. On that trip the ship lost its chief mate and Mr. Matzen was advanced to the position of second mate, which rank he held until 1863. Through the succeeding two years he was employed in a shipyard in Australia and in 1865 he left Sydney for San Francisco. In that city he made his home for three years and for two years sailed on coast steamers plying between San Francisco and Panama and for one year between San Francisco and San Diego.

In 1867 Mr. Matzen took out his first papers of citizenship. The following year was spent in the mines of Montana and in the fall of 1868 he returned to San Francisco, where for two years he was employed on the Central Pacific Railroad in the bridge department. In 1871 he went to Chicago, arriving in that city soon after the great fire in October. He continued to reside there for two years and was employed by the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company in the car shops as a carpenter.

It was while residing in that city that he met Miss Bertha Marie Iveson, a native of Denmark, who had been a resident of Chicago from 1869. They were married in June, 1872, and in April the next year removed to Platte county, Nebraska, taking up a homestead of eighty acres. Later Mr. Matzen secured

several additional eighty-acre tracts of railroad land until his holdings comprised a half section. He passed through the grasshopper plague and through the drought, the crops being an entire failure for several years, but with unfaltering courage he persevered in his course and his labors were at length rewarded. In addition to tilling the soil in the cultivation of various cereals he engaged in raising Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs and made of his farm a valuable and productive property. As the years passed on he gained a very substantial measure of success and with a handsome competence was able to retire.

Mr. and Mrs. Matzen are the parents of nine children, as follows: Niels, who wedded Miss Carrie Friend and is engaged in the practice of dentistry in California; Chris, who married Miss Laura Carstenson and is a farmer residing at St. Edward, Nebraska; Mamie, a nurse of Columbus who obtained her professional training in Omaha; Emma, who is a graduate of the Illinois Training School and is now a trained nurse living in Chicago; Estelle, a trained nurse of Columbus who prepared for her work in Omaha; Walter M., who follows farming in Columbus township; Elise, at home; and two who are deceased.

In politics Mr. Matzen has always been independent, yet has not been remiss in the duties of citizenship and has been active in furthering many movements for the general good. For many years he served on the school board and in 1899 helped to build the Danish Lutheran church in his township. In the fall of 1908 he removed to Columbus, where he is now residing, spending his days in the enjoyment of well earned rest. In 1913, when seventy-eight years of age, he returned on a trip to his old home in Denmark, spending three months in visiting the friends and scenes of his youth and early manhood. He greatly enjoys fishing and now has leisure to indulge his liking for that sport. He has passed the eightieth milestone on life's journey and is one of the venerable citizens of Columbus, but in spirit and interests seems much younger, and young people as well as those of more mature years find him most companionable.

GLENN H. FRITZ, D. D. S.

Dr. Glenn H. Fritz, engaged in the practice of dental surgery in Humphrey, in which connection his conscientious and efficient work is winning him a well established and enviable reputation, was born in Garnaville, Iowa, on the 3d of August, 1891, a son of H. W. and Matilda (Maurer) Fritz. The father was a native of Mercer county, Ohio, and was of German descent. When a boy, in 1860, he accompanied his parents to Iowa, the family home being established upon a farm in that state. His father, Daniel Fritz, was a bricklayer by trade, but at the time of the Civil war business interests were put aside and he responded to the country's call for troops, serving with distinction throughout the period of hostilities. At the close of the war he returned home and resumed work at his trade. In his youthful days H. W. Fritz learned the brick and stone mason's trade with his father and followed that pursuit until he reached the age of twenty-eight years, when he turned his attention to farming, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land which he capably and successfully cultivated until 1900. He then abandoned the work of the fields and devoted his entire time to the practice of veterinary

surgery, which he is now following in Garnavillo, Iowa. His wife is also a native of Mercer county, Ohio, and in the town where they reside they are widely and favorably known.

At the usual age Dr. Fritz became a pupil in the public schools of Garnavillo and passed through consecutive grades until graduated from the high school with the class of 1908. He then entered the dental department of Creighton University at Omaha in the fall of 1910 and was graduated with honors in the class of 1913, at which time the D. D. S. degree was conferred upon him. In June of that year he came to Humphrey, where he opened an office and began practice. He has since followed his profession and a liberal patronage has been accorded him, for the public recognized that he was acquainted with the most modern scientific methods of dental work, that his office is well equipped and that he is capable of doing the most delicate duties of dental surgery.

Dr. Fritz became a member of the Masonic lodge of Garnavillo and is a worthy exemplar of the craft. In politics he is a democrat where national issues are involved but casts an independent local ballot, regarding the capability of a candidate rather than his party affiliation. The Doctor is a young man possessed of laudable ambition and firm purpose and his friends feel no hesitancy in predicting for him a successful future.

JOHN C. BYRNES.

John C. Byrnes is active in the field of real estate in Columbus. He is engaged in business as partner in the firm of Regan & Byrnes, a firm which has enjoyed continuous and prosperous existence for six years. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri, January 16, 1867. His father, Laurence Byrnes, was a native of County Wicklow, Ireland, and in the year 1831 came to the United States with his parents, being then twelve years of age. In St. Louis he was married to Miss Bridget O'Connor, who now resides in Columbus, Nebraska. Mr. Byrnes still makes his home in St. Louis.

John C. Byrnes was but two years of age when brought to Platte county, Nebraska, in 1869 and his education was acquired in the country schools, which he attended until he reached the age of eighteen years. He worked on the home farm during the periods of vacation and after his textbooks were put aside, and in 1897, when thirty years of age, he was elected sheriff of Platte county, taking the office in 1898. He was prompt and fearless in the discharge of his duties and his capability and loyalty led to his reelection until he had served for three terms. He retired from the position as he had entered it, with the confidence and goodwill of all concerned and since that date—1905—he has been engaged in the real-estate business in Columbus. In 1909 the firm of Ryan & Byrnes was organized and has since been active in the real-estate field. They handle much property, negotiating many important realty transfers and Mr. Byrnes is thoroughly informed concerning realty values and knows what is upon the market, so that he is able to make judicious investments for his clients.

In 1898, in Columbus, Mr. Byrnes was married to Miss Magdalena Gietzen, who died in 1902, leaving a daughter, Mary. Four years later, or in 1906, in

Columbus, he wedded Miss Anna M. Gietzen, a sister of his first wife, and they have three children, Louise, Katherine and Ellen.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church. In his political views Mr. Byrnes has long been an earnest democrat and is one of the leaders of his party in Platte county. He has given earnest support to the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and he has not only held the office of sheriff for three terms but has also been a member of the state legislature for the term covering the years 1907-8. Mr. Byrnes belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters and to the Modern Woodmen of America. He is also connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Knights of Columbus, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Catholic Knights of America, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Woodmen of the World and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. In these associations he is widely known and his popularity is well established.

HON. GEORGE H. THOMAS.

Hon. George H. Thomas, a leading and distinguished citizen of Columbus, is now serving for the second term as judge of the sixth judicial district, being re-elected to that office without opposition in 1911. His birth occurred in Lexington, New York, on the 13th of August, 1857, his parents being Ezekiel and Sarah Maria (Thompson) Thomas, the former a native of Bolton, New York, and the latter of Lexington, that state. They were married in Lexington, New York, and there continued to reside until their demise, Mrs. Thomas passing away in the year 1890. Ezekiel Thomas carried on merchandising throughout his active business career.

George H. Thomas acquired his education in the rural schools of Greene county, New York, and also attended the Catskill Academy of Catskill, New York, for one term. Leaving that institution at the age of sixteen years, he followed the profession of teaching for one term and then made his way to Warrensburg, New York, where he spent a year reading law in the office of Thomas Cunningham. Subsequently he went to Acra, New York, where he spent the summer of 1876 working on a farm, and afterward taught one term of school in Lexington. In April, 1877, he resumed his reading in the law office of Addison C. Griswold, at Catskill, New York, there remaining until October 10, 1877, when he entered another law office and continued therein until July 26, 1878.

Mr. Thomas then came west to Schuyler, Colfax county, Nebraska, arriving on the 31st of the same month. Soon afterward he was admitted to the bar and formed a law partnership with Charles J. Phelps, under the firm style of Phelps & Thomas, practicing in Schuyler. In October, 1884, the partnership was discontinued and Mr. Thomas subsequently practiced alone in Schuyler until 1906, being accorded a liberal and lucrative clientage. In the spring of 1907 he came to Columbus, Nebraska, and in the following fall was elected district judge of the sixth judicial district for a four-year term, making such a commendable record during that time that he was re-elected without opposition in 1911. His decisions indicate strong mentality, careful analysis, a thorough knowledge of the law and an unbiased judgment. The judge on the bench fails more frequently, perhaps, from a deficiency in that broad-mindedness which not only comprehends the details of a situation



HON. GEORGE H. THOMAS



MRS. GEORGE H. THOMAS

quickly and that insures a complete self-control under even the most exasperating conditions than from any other cause; and the judge who makes a success in the discharge of his multitudinous delicate duties is a man of well-rounded character, finely balanced mind and of splendid intellectual attainments. That Judge Thomas is regarded as such a jurist is a uniformly accepted fact.

On the 28th of September, 1884, in Schuyler, Nebraska, Judge Thomas was united in marriage to Miss Ella M. Conant, her father being Elisha Conant, a native of Maine. The political views of Judge Thomas are in accord with the principles of the democracy. In 1884 he was elected to the lower house of the Nebraska legislature, serving therein for one term, while in 1887 he was chosen county judge of Colfax county and also remained in that office for one term. He acted as county attorney of Colfax county for two terms and for a similar period served as a member of the board of education at Schuyler, Nebraska. In 1894 he was nominated for congress from the third district but declined to accept the candidacy. His military record covers a year's service (1886) as lieutenant of Company K, Second Regiment of the Nebraska National Guard. Fraternally he is known as a Master Mason and an Elk, while his religious faith is that of the Episcopal Church. Ever a man of honorable purpose, he possesses, too, a kindly spirit and an affable disposition that make him popular with his friends, whom he judges not by their material wealth but by their worth of character.

CHARLES GERTSCH.

Charles Gertsch is a representative farmer of Bismark township, living on section 13, where he has one of the most beautiful places of the county, his landed possessions aggregating four hundred and fifty-five acres. Mr. Gertsch is a native of Switzerland, his birth having occurred at Bern on the 4th of March, 1855. He was a youth of eighteen years when he bade adieu to friends and native country and sailed for the United States in company with his parents, Christ and Paulina Gertsch, and his three brothers, Paul, Samuel and Albert, the first named also a resident of Platte county. Making his way from the coast into the interior, arriving in Platte county May 11, 1873, the father established the family home here, taking up a homestead of eighty acres and afterward adding to his land by purchasing property at ten dollars per acre.

Charles Gertsch was largely educated in the schools of Switzerland, although he attended school to some extent in the Bismark township district school No. 2. Through the period of his later youth he aided in the work of the farm and has always continued to engage in agricultural pursuits, carrying on general farming and cattle raising. He has worked diligently and persistently and through wise investment has become the owner of four hundred and fifty-five acres of rich and arable land, pleasantly situated in Bismark township. This is a most attractive place. In its midst stands a commodious residence, and there are also good barns and outbuildings adequate for the shelter of all his grain and his stock. He raises the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and he also gives considerable attention to the raising of cattle. In business affairs his judgment is sound and his enter-

prise unfaltering, and he carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

On the 16th of October, 1896, Mr. Gertsch was united in marriage to Miss Lydia Person, a daughter of Henry and Mary Person, of Knox county, Nebraska, and they have become the parents of ten children: Paul, Mary Elizabeth, Carl Christian, Henry Walter, John Ernst, Martha Christina, Theodore Emanuel, Albert Werner, Lydia and Samuel Herbert, all yet under the parental roof. Theirs is a notable record in that the family circle yet remains unbroken.

In his political views Mr. Gertsch is a republican and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day so that he is able to support his position by intelligent argument, but he does not seek nor desire office, having never been an aspirant for political honors. He and his wife hold membership in the German Lutheran church, are interested in its work, contribute generously to its support and exemplify its teachings in their lives. For forty-two years Mr. Gertsch has been a resident of Platte county and has therefore witnessed much of its growth and development, while his interest in its welfare and upbuilding has been manifest in many tangible and helpful ways.

ALBERT JAMES GALLEY.

A prominent representative of commercial interests of Platte county is Albert James Galley, of Columbus, who is the secretary and treasurer of the Galley Dry Goods Company and who has throughout his entire business career been identified with that enterprise. He was born January 5, 1872, a son of James Henry and Helen Galley. The father has resided in Columbus since 1859, while the mother has made her home in Platte county since 1857, being the daughter of H. J. Hudson, one of the well known pioneers of the county. At the time of the Civil war James H. Galley put aside all business and personal considerations to join the army, becoming a member of Company K, Second Nebraska Cavalry, with which he served at the front until honorably discharged. He is now a member of Baker Post, No. 9, G. A. R.

Passing through consecutive grades in the public schools of Columbus, Albert James Galley eventually came to his graduation from the high school with the class of 1888. He attended the Omaha Commercial College in 1889 and 1890 and was thus qualified for a commercial career. He made his initial step in business life as clerk and bookkeeper for his father, J. H. Galley, who was engaged in dealing in dry goods and clothing, having a large and well appointed store and handling a good stock. From 1890 until 1912 Albert J. Galley was an employe in the store, but with the reorganization of the business he became secretary and treasurer of the Galley Dry Goods Company and is now bending his efforts to administrative direction and executive control. He studies closely every phase of the trade and in the conduct of the business never deviates from the high standards which were set up at the beginning. In addition to his other interests he was at one time president of the Columbus Land, Loan & Building Association but has now retired from that connection. He is also secretary and manager of the Columbus City Band.

On the 23d of February, 1909, at Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Galley was united

in marriage to Miss Grace Maude Woods, daughter of Henry and Susan A. Woods. Her father resided in Columbus from 1878 until the time of his death, which occurred in 1887. When the Civil war occurred he went to the front, becoming a member of Company C, Fifteenth Regiment of Indiana Volunteer Infantry, having enlisted as a drummer in 1861 and serving until the end of the war. He was a member of Baker Post, No. 9, G. A. R., and also of Wildly Lodge, No. 44, I. O. O. F. On the 9th of March, 1879, he was united in marriage to Miss Susan A. Clark, whose family came to Nebraska in the year 1877. To them were born two children, namely: Grace Maude, whose natal day was February 26, 1881; and Charles Henry, whose birth occurred July 8, 1883, and who died in February, 1903. The wife and mother was called to her final rest on the 13th of October, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Galley have two children, as follows: Albert Charles, born February 26, 1910; and James Henry, born in February, 1912.

In politics Mr. Galley is a republican and for five years, beginning in 1900, he filled the office of treasurer of the city of Columbus, making a most creditable record in that position. He was a most faithful custodian of the public funds and in other relations of citizenship has been equally loyal. He stands at all times for progress and improvement in community affairs and since 1891 has been an active member of the Columbus volunteer fire department, of which he has acted as chief since 1906. He is now a past president of the Nebraska State Volunteer Firemen's Association and at present is chairman of the board of control of the Nebraska State Volunteer Firemen's Association. He belongs to Wildly Lodge, No. 44, I. O. O. F., of which he is treasurer, and to the Sons of Veterans at Columbus, of which he was division commander from 1905 until 1909 inclusive. He attends the Episcopal church, to which his wife belongs, and is a man of genuine personal worth, his sterling characteristics establishing him in the high regard of his fellow townsmen as a citizen whom to know is to respect and honor.

JERRY F. CARRIG.

There is no name in Platte county more familiar than that of Carrig, and Jerry F. Carrig, who claims the distinction of being the first man to fill the office of register of deeds in this county, is a worthy representative of one of the prominent and well known pioneer families of Shell Creek township. He was born on a farm in that township, December 27, 1869. His father, James Carrig, who was born in County Kerry, Ireland, in 1831, came to the United States in 1848, when but seventeen years of age. He was married in 1857, in Montreal, Canada, to Miss Ellen Langan, and in 1859 he and his two brothers, David and Henry Carrig, located in Shell Creek township, Platte county, Nebraska, only two years subsequent to the first settlements in this district. James Carrig settled on land on section 22 and for many years was actively identified with the agricultural interests of the county. He also took a prominent part in many of the events which shaped the early history of this section. He assisted in organizing the first school district in his locality and he was also one of the charter members of St. Patrick's Catholic church, which was the first religious organization established in Shell Creek township. He is now the only survivor of the three brothers and although he has reached the very

advanced age of eighty-four years he is well preserved, both physically and mentally, and since 1905 has made his home with his son, Charles C. Carrig, in Kearney, Nebraska. The wife and mother, however, passed away in Platte county in 1897.

Jerry F. Carrig spent the period of his boyhood and youth in much the usual manner of farm lads, working on the farm through the spring and summer months, while in the winter seasons he pursued his studies in school district No. 12 of Shell Creek township. He later completed the high-school course in Platte Center, graduating in 1887. Subsequently he took a business course in the Lincoln (Neb.) Business College, graduating from that institution in 1890. He then returned to his work on the farm, remaining there five or six years. He next spent five years as clerk in a store at Platte Center and subsequently spent four years in the capacity of bookkeeper in the employ of a mercantile concern at Beaver Crossing, Seward county, this state. In 1899 he came to Columbus and became an assistant to G. W. Phillips, who was then serving as clerk of Platte county. Mr. Phillips was succeeded in the office by John Graf in the year 1904 and Mr. Carrig was then appointed the latter's deputy, in which capacity he served six years, or until 1909, when the duties of the office were divided and the office of register of deeds was created. Mr. Carrig was then elected to office, becoming the first register of deeds in Platte county, and he is now serving his second term, having been reelected in 1914 on the democratic ticket. His entire political service has been in the interest of the people. He has served them faithfully in the past in every capacity, which is the best recommendation any man can have for future claims.

On the 30th of November, 1900, in Platte Center, Mr. Carrig was united in marriage to Miss Kittie Estella Hayes, a daughter of Patrick Hayes. As above indicated Mr. Carrig is firm in his support of the democratic party and has been secretary of the Platte county democratic central committee, and he is likewise serving as secretary of the Platte County Agricultural Society. He is a communicant of the Catholic church and is prominent in fraternal circles, holding membership with the Elks, Eagles, Modern Woodmen of America, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Business Men's Fraternity. He has a pleasing personality, is most courteous and obliging, and both he and his estimable wife have a host of warm friends and are prominent and popular in the social circles of Columbus.

HENRY GIETZEN.

Henry Gietzen, a well known resident of Humphrey, is now living retired, although for a number of years he was prominently identified with commercial interests as a hardware merchant and with public affairs of the community as postmaster through several presidential administrations. He has now passed the seventy-third milestone on life's journey and deserves the rest which has come to him, as it is the fitting reward of years of earnest, persistent labor along the lines of private business and of public service.

Mr. Gietzen was born in Germany, July 12, 1842, and is a son of Mathias and Catharine Gietzen, also natives of the fatherland. The former in early life learned the trade of dyeing cloth but after coming to America in 1846 established

his home at Fort Washington, Wisconsin, where he owned and conducted a tavern and grocery store. There he resided until 1860, when he removed to the upper peninsula of Michigan, which was his place of residence until 1868, when he came to Nebraska, settling in Dodge county. There he engaged in farming and in the later years of his life lived retired at the home of his son Henry, passing away in 1899. He was then far separated from the place of his birth, which occurred in Rauh, in the kingdom of Prussia, while his wife was a native of Greifswald, Prussia.

Henry Gietzen was but four years of age when the family left the fatherland and came to the United States. He remained at home until he reached the age of seventeen and then began doing general work in the mines of Michigan. He afterward removed with his parents to Dodge county, settling in Fremont, where he was employed at the timer's trade, spending fourteen years with one firm in that place. No higher testimonial could be given of his faithfulness and capability than the fact that he remained so long with one house. After living for a time at Wayne and at Norfolk he came to Humphrey in the spring of 1883 and here established a hardware business, in which he continued for ten years, conducting his trade for a time under the firm name of Gietzen & Eshelbacher and later as a partner of Henry J. Bruenig. He afterward again worked at his trade until he was appointed to the position of postmaster under President McKinley. He served for twelve consecutive years in that position, being reappointed by President Roosevelt and by President Taft, serving until March, 1914, when under democratic administration he retired and is now enjoying a well earned rest.

On the 27th of October, 1867, at Hancock, Michigan, Mr. Gietzen was united in marriage to Miss Louisa Voight, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. F. E. Wubben, a minister of the German Lutheran church. She was born on the 13th of May, 1849, and was but five years of age when she lost her parents, who died during the cholera epidemic in Chicago. She was then adopted by John and Mary Voight, who were natives of Germany and on emigrating to the United States took up their abode in Chicago, Illinois. Subsequently they removed to Sheboygan, Wisconsin, where Mr. Voight worked at the mason's trade. To Mr. and Mrs. Gietzen have been born eight children. Adalfena, whose birth occurred on the 12th of September, 1868, is the widow of Sherman Cockingham and now lives with her parents. Jennie, who was born June 23, 1871, gave her hand in marriage to Erastus Leach, who is engaged in the real-estate business in Omaha and by whom she has one child, Vern. A. Louis, born March 10, 1874, wedded Miss Blanche Rawley, who passed away in Omaha, leaving two children, Gerald and May. Charlie H., born August 2, 1876, is a practicing dentist of Omaha and married Miss Emma McDonald, by whom he has one child, Carroll. Mary E., whose birth occurred June 16, 1879, served as deputy under her father for four years. She gave her hand in marriage to the Rev. William Fowler, a Methodist Episcopal clergyman, who is now a ranchman residing in Porcupine, Montana, and by whom she has a son, Ernest. John B., who was born November 7, 1883, and is a painter and decorator of Humphrey, wedded Miss Grace Walker. William D., born June 28, 1887, married Miss Lola Bates, of Humphrey, by whom he has one child, Harriett. With his brother John he served as deputy postmaster under his father. Ralph L., whose birth occurred on the 6th of May, 1895, died when five years of age.

Mr. Gietzen has always voted with the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and is a firm believer in its principles and in their efficiency as factors in good government. He belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen and his wife to the Degree of Honor, while Mrs. Gietzen is also a member of the Congregational church of Fremont, Nebraska. Theirs is a hospitable home, justly celebrated for its good cheer, and they have a large circle of warm friends who delight to gather at their fireside. Mr. Gietzen's public service has made him widely known and he has ever enjoyed the goodwill and confidence of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

GOTTFRIED MARTY.

Gottfried Marty was brought to Platte county by his parents forty-six years ago, when a little child of but two years. General agricultural pursuits have claimed his attention throughout his entire business career and in association with his sons he now owns six hundred and forty acres of valuable land, his home being on section 23, Sherman township. His birth occurred in Canton Bern, Switzerland, on the 13th of January, 1867, his parents being Benedict and Anna Marie (Simmons) Marty, both of whom were natives of Germany. In 1869 they crossed the Atlantic to the United States and came direct to Platte county, Nebraska, living for a short time in Columbus, where the father passed away. The widowed mother then removed with her family to a farm in Colfax county but subsequently became the wife of Henry Miller and settled on a farm in Sherman township, Platte county, where the remainder of her life was spent. To Mr. and Mrs. Benedict Marty were born three children, as follows: Gottfried, of this review; Adolph, of Sherman township; and Mrs. Melchior Jenny, who also lives in Sherman township.

Gottfried Marty was reared to manhood on the farm, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist as he assisted in the cultivation of the home place. The work of the fields has claimed his attention throughout his entire business career and his efforts have been rewarded with well merited success, so that he now owns six hundred and forty acres of rich and productive land in association with his sons. The property lies in Sherman township and is improved with a commodious residence and excellent buildings for the shelter of grain and stock. Mr. Marty has won prosperity as the logical result of untiring industry and perseverance and has long been numbered among the substantial and representative agriculturists of the county.

On June 7, 1889, Mr. Marty was joined in wedlock to Miss Marie Brock, who was born in Sherman township, this county, on the 14th of November, 1870, her parents being John and Anna Elizabeth (Schueller) Brock, natives of Germany. They came to Platte county, Nebraska, in 1866 and became early settlers of Sherman township, where both passed away. To Mr. and Mrs. Marty have been born twelve children, namely: Gottfried Ernst, at home; Clara, who is the wife of William Johannes, of Creston township; Walter F. and Marie, both at home; Matilda, who died at the age of seven months; Emil Adolf, at home; Anna M.; Arthur H.; Otto J.; Rosa M.; Ernst H.; and Irma E.

Politically Mr. Marty is a democrat and at one time served as justice of the

peace, making a most commendable and satisfactory record in that connection. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church. Both he and his wife enjoy an extensive and favorable acquaintance in their home community and are widely recognized as people of genuine personal worth and upright, honorable lives.

FRED BAUMGART.

Industrial activity and enterprise in Platte county find a worthy representative in Fred Baumgart of Humphrey, who is extensively and successfully engaged in the manufacture of brick, owning and operating a large plant which is thoroughly equipped according to the latest improved processes. Advancement has been his watchword in business and because of his ability and energy he has won substantial success. He was born in Prussia in August, 1868, and is a son of Gottfried and Augusta (Wittrune) Baumgart, who were also natives of that country. The father there followed the occupation of farming and in 1878 removed to Russia, where he again engaged in agricultural pursuits. He still owns and operates land in that country and has now reached the age of eighty-four years. His wife, however, has passed away, her death having occurred in 1901.

Fred Baumgart was reared in Prussia and remained with his father on the farm until he reached the age of nineteen years, when he left home and began learning the blacksmith's trade, at which he worked for two years. He heard and heeded the call of the west in 1889 and, crossing the Atlantic to America, made his way into the interior of the country, settling at Humphrey, where he worked as a common laborer and also as a farm hand for four years. On the expiration of that period he began farming on his own account by renting land, which he cultivated for fourteen years. He then came to Humphrey and purchased a brick manufacturing plant and yard covering fifteen acres. Later he bought a farm of one hundred and ten acres adjoining, which he is also cultivating, and he likewise farms one hundred acres of rented land, having both of these tracts under a high state of cultivation. He carefully tills his fields according to modern scientific methods and his practical and progressive spirit is manifest in the success which is crowning his labors. His brick manufacturing plant is also thoroughly equipped, for he has remodeled and improved it and is well qualified to carry on business of that character. He turns out twenty-five thousand brick per day and employs on an average of twelve men throughout the year. His plant contains three large kilns with a capacity of one hundred and sixty thousand bricks each. This has become one of the important industries of the county and the volume of business is an indication of the success of the undertaking and the careful management of the owner. He ships his output as far as Colorado and the excellence of the product insures a ready sale on the market. In addition to his other interests he is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Humphrey.

On the 15th of August, 1888, Mr. Baumgart was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Kehn, a daughter of Gottfried and Louisa (Rappuhn) Kehn, both of whom are natives of Prussia. The father was a blacksmith by trade and it was under his direction that Mr. Baumgart of this review became familiar with that occupation. Mr. Kehn worked as a blacksmith in Prussia for many years and also in

Russia, being actively identified with that trade from the time he was sixteen years of age until 1893. In 1891 he crossed the Atlantic to the United States, locating in Brooklyn, New York, where he remained until 1893. In the latter year he came to Humphrey, Nebraska, and during most of the time since has made his home with our subject. He is now eighty-four years old, while his wife has attained the age of eighty-five. To Mr. and Mrs. Baumgart have been born seven children, as follows: Fred, a young man of twenty-four years; Edward, who is twenty-two years old; Benjamin, Harry and Emma, who are twenty, sixteen and thirteen years of age respectively; Robert, who was accidentally drowned on the 19th of June, 1908, when twenty-two years of age, at Madison, Nebraska, where he was employed as engineer in the electric light plant; and Anna, who died in 1897 at the age of nine years. The surviving members of the family are still under the parental roof.

Mr. Baumgart holds membership with the Modern Woodmen of America and he gives his political support to the republican party, which finds in him an earnest advocate. His religious belief is that of the German Baptist church and he loyally lives up to its teachings, guiding his life according to its precepts and thus furthering the moral progress of the community.

MARK BURKE.

Mark Burke, who since the spring of 1915 has filled the office of sheriff, is demonstrating his fitness for this position by the able manner in which he is handling the work connected therewith. He was born in Lisbon, Linn county, Iowa, October 16, 1869, a son of John C. Burke, who was born in County Roscommon, Ireland, May 12, 1837, and died in Seward county, Nebraska, November 22, 1908. In 1864 he came as a young man to America and located in Iowa. He was there married four years later, or in 1868, to Miss Margaret Gallagher, who was born in Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, in 1852. She, too, is deceased, her death occurring October 16, 1893. In their family were five sons and two daughters, of whom three sons and one daughter survive. John C. Burke enlisted for service in the Civil war, becoming a member of the Twenty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry in 1864, with which he served until the close of hostilities. He and his brother, Mark Burke, were boilermakers and worked on the Confederate ship Alabama in the English navy yard.

Mark Burke, whose name introduces this record, was reared in his native state, and his early education was pursued in a parochial school in Carroll county, while in 1888 he completed the high-school course at Glidden, Iowa. He then became a brakeman in the employ of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company, so continuing for four years, while subsequently he entered the employ of the Northwestern Railroad Company as conductor. He was thus engaged until April, 1898, when he enlisted for service in the Spanish-American war, enrolling his name at Chadron, Nebraska. He became a member of Company H, Second Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, enlisting as quartermaster, and with his regiment went to Chickamauga Park, Georgia. He was mustered out with his command at Fort Omaha, after which he came to Columbus and resumed work as brakeman, this time in the employ of the Union Pacific line, working with that company for seven



MARK BURKE

years, the last four being spent in the capacity of conductor. He then made a complete change in his vocation, opening a restaurant in Columbus, which he conducted for two and a half years. In 1910 he was appointed deputy sheriff of Platte county to serve under Henry C. Lachnit. On April 1, 1915, the latter resigned and Mr. Burke was then appointed to fill out the unexpired term as sheriff, his duties as deputy well fitting him for his present office.

On the 21st of January, 1902, in this city, Mr. Burke was married to Miss Nellie J. Dineen, a daughter of Michael Dineen, and of this union there is one son, Mark, Jr., born November 22, 1904. The wife and mother passed away January 24, 1913, at the early age of thirty-two years.

In his political views Mr. Burke is a democrat, while in religious faith he is a Catholic. He is also identified with the Knights of Columbus and with the Modern Woodmen of America, and he likewise holds membership with the Order of Railway Conductors, and with the United Spanish War Veterans Association, Department of Nebraska. He is a man of high ideals and is popular among a host of friends.

WILLIAM WEBER.

Among the retired farmers living in Humphrey is William Weber, who was born on the Rhine in Germany, a son of Frank Weber, a cooper by trade. The parents spent their entire lives in the town in which their son William was born on the 8th of March, 1840. In his boyhood days he began earning his living and when old enough was drafted into the German army and served for three years.

Attracted by the opportunities and business conditions of the new world, Mr. Weber came to America in 1870, settling first at Sterling, Illinois, where he was employed as a farm hand. There he was married and afterward rented land which he continued to cultivate until 1885. Wishing to have a home of his own, he resolved to move west where land could be purchased at a lower figure and came to Platte county, where he invested in two hundred and forty acres one mile east of Humphrey, on sections 19 and 20, Humphrey township. He at once took up his abode upon that place and there he lived until 1907, carrying on general farming and stock-raising. His fields were carefully tilled and every branch of the farm work intelligently prosecuted, his energy and careful management bringing to him well merited success. After living upon his farm for twenty-two years he removed to Humphrey, where he purchased a pleasant residence property that he and his wife now occupy.

In 1873 Mr. Weber was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Pott, a daughter of Jacob and Catharine Pott, both of whom were natives of Germany. They emigrated to the United States in 1853 and it was during the ocean voyage that their daughter Mary was born, her natal day being June 28th. They took up their abode in Sterling, Illinois, and there spent the remainder of their lives, the father being first employed as a laborer and subsequently turning his attention to general agricultural pursuits. To Mr. and Mrs. Weber have been born twelve children, as follows: Catharine, who is at home with her parents; Elizabeth, a nurse in the Weise Memorial Hospital of Omaha, Nebraska; Henry, who died at the age of eighteen years; Jacob, who lives in Illinois, is employed as foreman in the Keystone machin-

ery shops and wedded Miss Hazel La Fever, by whom he has two children, Limon and Isabelle; Emma, the wife of Frank Whitler, a carpenter of Columbus, Nebraska, by whom she has five children—Gertrude, Agnes, Clarence, Genevieve and Helen; Joseph, who resides on a claim in Arthur county, Nebraska; William, who is a carpenter living in Humphrey and married Miss Delia Bedtsbader, by whom he has three children—Dorothy, Gerald and Marvin; Edward, at home; Mamie, the wife of Louis Schraeder, who is a house moving contractor of Columbus, Nebraska, and by whom she has two children, Jerome and Henrietta; Nellie, who is living with her sister in Columbus; Lena, the wife of John Teisen, druggist of Humphrey, by whom she has two children, Bernice and La Verna; Frank, who lives in Omaha and is an employe of the Omaha Electric Light & Power Company; and Angela, who lives at home and is an employe of the Humphrey Telephone Company.

Mr. Weber and his family are members of the St. Francis Catholic church of Humphrey and he became a charter member of St. Joseph's Men's Society of that church. He contributes liberally to the support of the church and is active and interested in its work. His political indorsement is given to the democratic party but he has never been an active politician, preferring ever to give his close attention to his business affairs, and by reason of his unfaltering application and energy he has won the place that he now occupies among the substantial residents of Humphrey.

MAX BRUCKNER.

Since 1908 Max Bruckner has been at the head of the Bruckner Mercantile Company, which is one of the foremost business enterprises of Platte Center. His birth occurred at Genuenden, in the kingdom of Bavaria, Germany, October 11, 1862, his parents being Michael and Barbara Bruckner, the father conducting business as the proprietor of a hotel until 1899. The son pursued his early education in the schools of Wurzburg, Germany, and was graduated on the 1st of August, 1875, from a commercial college. He afterward engaged in clerking for five years in a wholesale house in Frankfort-on-the-Main, but heard and heeded the call of the new world and in 1883 crossed the Atlantic to America, making his way to Monmouth, Illinois, where for one year he was employed in a butcher shop. In the year 1884 he came to Columbus, Nebraska, where he worked as a farm hand for a year and a half. At the end of that time he secured a clerkship with I. C. Niemoller in Platte Center, Nebraska, with whom he continued for a year, but, ambitious to engage in business on his own account, he established a general store in Platte Center on the 1st of January, 1887, with Hilger Greisen as a partner. The relation between them was continued for fifteen years, or until 1902, when Mr. Bruckner took over the business under his own name and in 1908 organized the Bruckner Mercantile Company. He now has a large modern store, carries an extensive stock of merchandise and in the conduct of his business conforms his activities to the highest commercial ethics. He has been engaged in merchandising at Platte Center for twenty-eight years and, moreover, he is one of the stockholders of the Platte Center Milling Company, was a director of the Platte County Bank from 1896 until 1899 and is the owner of farm property in this county.

On the 17th of June, 1890, Mr. Bruckner was married in Platte Center to Miss Theresa Gruenther, a daughter of Henry Gruenther, a niece of the Greisen Brothers and a sister of C. M. Gruenther, the present clerk of the district court. Their children are: Agnes, Frank, Louis, Felix, Ralph and Paul, all at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruckner hold membership in the Catholic church at Platte Center and he has taken the third degree in the Knights of Columbus, his membership being in Columbus council. In politics he is a democrat where national issues are involved but at local elections casts an independent ballot. That his fellow townsmen are appreciative of his worth and ability is indicated in the fact that by popular election he was called to the office of councilman of Platte Center for ten terms and was also mayor of the city for one term. He is president of the Farmers and Merchants Club of Platte Center and, in fact, his position is one of leadership in every connection, for he possesses initiative, determination and keen sagacity.

HARRY B. REED.

Harry B. Reed, occupying a clerical position in the postoffice at Columbus, was born February 17, 1862, in Manchester, New Hampshire, a son of Alexander and Eliza Brown. The father enlisted for service in the Civil war in 1862 as a member of Company E, Fourth New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry, and was killed in battle on the 3d of July, 1863.

His son, early left an orphan, was taken from the Howard mission on the Bowery of New York city by John H. and Catherine Reed during his infancy and later was legally adopted by them, receiving the name of Harry B. Reed. He resided with them at Mansfield, Ohio, to the age of fifteen years, at the end of which time the family removed to a farm three miles north of Columbus, Nebraska, now known as the Carl Rohde farm. Subsequently a removal was made to Riverside, California, but Harry B. Reed decided to remain in Nebraska and continue farming. There were two other members in the Reed family, Mrs. A. C. Pickett and Fred M. Reed, now of Riverside, California. While in Ohio, J. H. Reed and his family lived upon the farm of the late Senator John Sherman, which adjoined the corporation limits of Mansfield. Before removing to Nebraska he and his brother H. L. Reed, were engaged in the wholesale dry goods and notion business. He now holds the position of tree and park commissioner, a place of much importance at Riverside, California.

Harry B. Reed attended the public schools of Mansfield, Ohio, and of Columbus, Nebraska, and in early life gave his attention to farming and dairying. For two years he was secretary of the Bismark Creamery, a farmers' cooperative association, and for nine months he was connected with the car shops and roundhouse department of the Union Pacific Railroad. He afterward engaged in farming on a small scale and later became rural mail carrier on route No. 3, so continuing from the 1st of July, 1902, until December 1, 1912. At the latter date he was appointed to a position as clerk in the Columbus postoffice and is now acting in that capacity.

On the 18th of March, 1886, near Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Reed was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Erb, the ceremony taking place at the bride's home.

Her parents, Michael and Elizabeth Erb, were among the very earliest settlers of that county. Mr. and Mrs. Reed have two daughters, May E. and Catherine E. The former gave her hand in marriage to Ervin F. Wilson on the 28th of August, 1913, and resides in Chicago, Illinois.

In his religious faith Mr. Reed is a Presbyterian and fraternally is connected with the Owls Club. He belongs also to the Modern Woodmen of America and was clerk of the local camp in 1914 and 1915. He is a past noble grand of the local lodge of Odd Fellows and was division commander of the Sons of Veterans for Nebraska in 1910 and 1911, while in 1915 he is serving as the secretary of that organization. There is an interesting military chapter in his life record, covering service with the Nebraska National Guard from 1881 until 1886, during which time he went with his command to Omaha, Nebraska, at the time of the graders' strike in the early '80s. In politics he is an active republican and for one year served as clerk of Columbus township. He has made an excellent record in government service, as indicated by his long connection therewith, now covering thirteen years.

JOHN HEINEN.

John Heinen is now living retired in Humphrey but for many years was an active factor in agricultural circles in Platte county. He was born in Germany, July 26, 1852, and is a son of Anton and Susan Heinen, who were also natives of that country. The father was a farmer by occupation and thus provided for the support of his family.

John Heinen attended school in Germany for eight years and in 1872, when a young man of twenty years, came to the new world. He did not tarry in the east but at once made his way to the middle west, settling in Warren county, Iowa. In his native land he had worked as a farm hand, tended cattle and done everything else that he could find to do. After reaching Iowa he was employed in the lumber woods, on farms and at odd jobs, scorning no employment that would yield him an honest living. In May, 1882, he came to Nebraska, establishing his home in Humphrey township, Platte county, where he invested the money that he had previously saved from his earnings in a farm of two hundred and forty acres on sections 29 and 32, Humphrey township. There were few improvements upon it at that time and he at once began to make the changes that transformed it into one of the valuable farm properties of the county. In 1888 he erected a new residence and from time to time added sheds, barns, new machinery and other equipments. In 1911 his barn was destroyed by fire and he at once rebuilt. He planted his orchards and made all the improvements himself and today his place is one of the fine farm properties of Humphrey township, situated two and one-half miles southeast of the town. In 1892 Mr. Heinen bought eighty acres on section 30, Humphrey township, and also owned one hundred and sixty acres on section 31, that township, and one hundred and sixty acres on section 5, Grand Prairie township, besides his original tract. Mr. Heinen resided upon his farm continuously until November, 1914, when he retired and rented his home place to his son Anton, taking up his abode in a new residence which he had purchased in Humphrey. For many years he had

been actively engaged in general farming and stock-raising, and his enterprise and diligence had brought to him well merited and substantial success.

On the 14th of November, 1882, in Platte county, Mr. Heinen was united in marriage to Miss Phillipina Osterhoff, a daughter of Anton and Theresa (Sundrup) Osterhoff, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father, a cloth weaver by trade, emigrated to the United States in 1852, locating first in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked on the river and in the packing houses. In 1879 he came to Nebraska and purchased a farm in Thayer county but the following year came to Humphrey township, Platte county, here buying a tract of land which he cultivated successfully until 1891. The remainder of his life was spent in honorable retirement at Humphrey, where he passed away on the 26th of July, 1895. The death of his wife occurred at our subject's home in Humphrey on the 11th of April, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Heinen have nine children, as follows: Susan, who was born August 21, 1883, and gave her hand in marriage to Otto Schumacher, an agriculturist of Petersburg, Nebraska, by whom she has six children—Alphonse, Camilla, Bernadine, Germaine, Margaret and Raymond; Helena, who was born March 16, 1885, and is the wife of Andrew Magsaman, of Humphrey, by whom she has six children—Mark, Corbenia, Wilbur, Bernida, Renella and Carroll; Annie, who was born November 30, 1886, and is the wife of Barney Wemhoff, of Humphrey; Ludwina, who was born October 19, 1888, and is the wife of Fred Muetting, of Humphrey, by whom she has two children, Eddie Marie and Maynard; Ida, who was born January 1, 1890, and is the wife of Alois Wemhoff, a farmer of Idaho, by whom she has three children—Marcella, Verena and Sylvester; Anton, who was born November 11, 1892, lives on the old home farm and wedded Miss Josephine Wemhoff, by whom he has one child, Norbet; Margaret, who was born December 16, 1895, and is employed as a clerk in the store of Braun & Brockhaus; Theckla, whose birth occurred November 7, 1897; and Marie, whose natal day was August 29, 1902. The three last named are still under the parental roof.

The parents and children are all communicants of St. Francis Catholic church, and Mr. Heinen is a member of St. Joseph's Society of that church. Politically he is a democrat, never swerving in his allegiance to the party but giving to it his earnest and unfaltering support. 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 in their employment has worked his way steadily upward, occupying a creditable position among the successful and self-made business men.

OTTO E. HEUER.

On the roster of county officials in Platte county appears the name of Otto E. Heuer, of Columbus, who is now serving in the capacity of treasurer for the second term. His birth occurred in Germany on the 29th of June, 1856, his parents being August H. C. and Lisette (Determan) Heuer, who were married in that country and there passed away. The father was professor of languages in a school which he conducted at Bremen, Germany.

Otto E. Heuer attended school in his native land until seventeen years of age and in 1873 crossed the Atlantic to the United States, while nine years later he

took up his abode in Columbus, Nebraska, where he has resided continuously since. He held the position of bookkeeper in the First National Bank for five years and subsequently acted as deputy county clerk for two years, while for a period of twelve years he ably discharged the duties of deputy county treasurer of Platte county. In 1911 he was elected treasurer, making such a creditable record in that connection that he won reelection in 1914, so that he is serving in that capacity at the present time.

In 1886, in Platte county, Nebraska, Mr. Heuer was united in marriage to Miss Lena R. Loseke, a daughter of Henry Loseke. To them have been born four children, namely: William A., Otto G., Walter H. and Ernest G., all residents of Columbus. Mr. Heuer gives his political allegiance to the democracy and fraternally is identified with the Modern Woodmen, while his religious faith is that of the German Reformed church. He is a popular member of the Maennerchor and enjoys an enviable reputation as an able public official of the county which has been his home during the past third of a century.

RICHARD OLMER.

Richard Olmer owns and occupies an attractive home in Humphrey, about one block from the business center of the town, and here he is living retired, richly meriting the rest which has come to him as the reward of many years closely devoted to agricultural pursuits. He still has valuable farm property yielding to him a gratifying annual income. A native of Wisconsin, he was born March 16, 1852, a son of John and Frederica (Degenhart) Olmer, both of whom were natives of Germany, whence they came to America in 1851, making their way to Wisconsin, where the father purchased government land. He met the usual experiences of pioneer life while developing and improving his farm but in time converted the wild prairie into a valuable property and resided thereon throughout his remaining days, his death occurring in February, 1891, while his wife survived until December 8, 1894, when she, too, was called to her final rest.

Richard Olmer was reared and educated in Wisconsin and remained with his parents on the old homestead farm through the period of his minority, during which time he gained a fair English education in the public schools. In 1873 he arrived in Nebraska, settling in Platte county, where he preempted land, but after two years he sold that property and returned to the Badger state, where he engaged in farming from 1875 until 1878. He then again came to Platte county and purchased a homestead right of eighty acres. With the change in the land laws he secured eighty acres more situated in Granville township and at once began the task of breaking the sod and converting the place into productive fields. It was not long before his labors wrought a marked transformation in the condition of his land, which year by year yielded him good crops as a reward for the care and labor which he bestowed upon it. In 1910, however, satisfied with the success which he had already achieved and which placed him among the men of affluence in the county, he retired and removed to Humphrey. Later he bought another one hundred and sixty acres of land and now owns three hundred and twenty acres constituting a splendidly improved property. When he took up his abode in Humphrey he pur-

chased a good home about a block from the main street and has remodeled and added to it until he now has a very attractive residence. While upon the farm he made a specialty of raising shorthorn cattle, this being one of the principal features of his business. He is now a stockholder and director of the Farmers Elevator of Humphrey and a stockholder and director in the First National Bank of the town.

In February, 1873, Mr. Olmer was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Pfeifer, a daughter of George and Frances (Wieser) Pfeifer, both of whom were natives of Austria. The father there followed general agricultural pursuits throughout his active life and passed away in 1864. His widow and children subsequently emigrated to the United States, taking up their abode in Wisconsin, in which state Mary Pfeifer became the wife of our subject. Mrs. George Pfeifer came to Nebraska in 1873 and here died the following year. To Mr. and Mrs. Olmer have been born eleven children, as follows: Frederica, who is the wife of Joseph Fangmann, an implement dealer of Humphrey; William, who operates the old home farm; Mary, who is the wife of Joseph Schaefer and resides in Texas; Frances, who is the wife of Killion Ottis and resides on a farm in Platte county; John and Annie, both at home; Joseph, whose demise occurred in 1909; and Julia, Robert, Bryant and Cecelia, who died in infancy.

For several years Mr. Olmer served as assessor of Granville township, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity. He has always been a democrat since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and in religious faith he is a Catholic, also holding membership with the Catholic Order of Foresters. It has been earnest work that has brought him his success, while a well spent life has gained him the favorable regard of his many friends.

HENRY SCHMIDT.

Henry Schmidt, a resident farmer of Burrows township, his home being on section 28, was born in La Salle county, Illinois, October 4, 1889, a son of Peter and Anna (Koebbemann) Schmidt. The father was born in Germany, September 1, 1863, and was a son of Matthew and Sybilla (Schwamborn) Schmidt, who were also natives of the fatherland, where they resided until 1873, when they came to America, making their way to Peru, Illinois, where Matthew Schmidt worked for several years in the coal mines. In 1886 he arrived in Nebraska and his remaining days were spent in this state, his death occurring in 1889.

Peter Schmidt began his education in the schools of Germany but was a lad of only ten years when the family came to the new world, so that his education was continued in the schools of Peru, Illinois. In his boyhood days he went to work in the mines and later he was employed as a farm hand, earning his living from an early age. He afterward came to Platte county, Nebraska, in the year 1894 and took up his abode near St. Mary, where he rented land for one year and then located near where his widow now lives. During that period he carefully saved his earnings, practicing close economy as well as industry, and at the end of seven years he had a sum sufficient to enable him to purchase one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 28, Burrows township. He then bent his energies to the further development and improvement of that place until his death, which

occurred May 31, 1911. On the 27th of November, 1888, he had wedded Anna Koebbemann, a daughter of Henry and Maria M. (Lenz) Koebbemann, both of whom were natives of Germany. During his active life Peter Schmidt added one hundred and sixty acres to his original farm. He displayed sound business judgment, was diligent and persevering and won the legitimate rewards of labor. His widow still resides upon the old homestead with her children, who are five in number, namely: Henry, of this review; William, who operates a part of the home place; and Hilda, Otto and Albert, all at home.

The eldest son, Henry Schmidt, was reared to farm life and early took up the active work of the fields. He now carries on general farming and stock-raising, renting from his mother one hundred and twenty acres of land which he carefully and systematically cultivates. His work is seen in well tilled fields which return golden harvests. Everything about the place is kept in good condition and his enterprise and careful management are continuously in evidence.

On the 14th of June, 1912, Mr. Schmidt was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie Pillen, a daughter of William and Gertrude (Ripp) Pillen, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Platte county, Nebraska. Mr. Pillen first purchased eighty acres of land near Tarnov and subsequently bought a tract of one hundred and twenty acres in Burrows township, whereon he still makes his home. His wife passed away in the year 1897, leaving the following children: Mrs. Lizzie Schmidt, Agnes, Annie and Henry. In 1900 William Pillen was again married, his second union being with Josephine Wans, by whom he has three children, namely: Jacob, Johanna and Gertrude.

Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt have but one child, Harold, born April 10, 1914. The parents are consistent communicants of St. Anthony's Catholic church, and in his political views Mr. Schmidt is a democrat. His time and attention, however, are mostly taken up with his farm work and, busily employed, he is making steady progress along the path of affluence.

MELCHIOR JENNY.

Melchior Jenny, a well known representative of farming interests in Sherman township, living on section 24, was born in Canton Glarus, Switzerland, on the 29th of January, 1852, a son of Rudolph and Magdalena (Aebli) Jenny. The parents always remained residents of the land of the Alps, although the maternal grandfather, Henrich Aebli, became a pioneer settler of New Glarus, Wisconsin.

Melchior Jenny spent the first twenty years of his life in his native country and then crossed the Atlantic to the new world, arriving in February, 1872, making his way to New Glarus, Wisconsin, in company with his twin brother, Rudolph. When a lad he had learned the cheese making trade and after arriving in the United States he worked upon a farm and engaged in the manufacture of cheese. After a year spent in Wisconsin he came to Nebraska in 1873, settling in Platte county, where he entered eighty acres of land. He has since engaged in general farming, and as the years have passed on he has purchased property from time to time, until he is now the owner of six hundred acres of rich and valuable land in Sherman township. He has brought his fields under a high state of cultivation and has



MELCHIOR JENNY AND FAMILY



an excellent property, equipped with all the accessories and conveniences of a model farm. He makes stock-raising an important feature of his business, handling Holstein cattle and Jersey Red hogs.

On the 4th of December, 1880, Mr. Jenny was united in marriage to Miss Anna Maria Marty, who was born in Switzerland on the 10th of February, 1864. They became the parents of six children, of whom one daughter, Rosie, died ere the mother's death. The others are: Mrs. Anna Dasenbrock, Mrs. Lena Weber, Mrs. Mamie Weber, Rudolph and Benedict. The family circle was again broken by the hand of death when, on the 3d of April, 1915, Mrs. Jenny passed away at the age of fifty-one years, one month and twenty-three days. She had been ill of pneumonia for only a few days and her death was a great shock to the community. She was widely known and greatly loved, and her first interests were ever her family and her home. She was also most loyal in friendship and was a kind and helpful neighbor whose place will be hard to fill and whose kindly influence will live long in the memory of those with whom she came in contact. She had many admirable traits of character and her life was filled with good deeds, endearing her to all.

In his political views Mr. Jenny is a democrat and has been called to a number of public offices. He served as road overseer for several years and for many years had the postoffice at Neboville. He was also a school director for twenty-six consecutive years and did everything possible to advance the interests of public education in the district. His life is guided by the teachings of the German Lutheran church, of which he is a devoted member, and his many sterling traits of character are attested by his friends, who recognize in him a progressive farmer and stock-raiser and a loyal and public-spirited citizen who in every relation of life is upright and reliable.

FRANK ANSON.

Frank Anson, a well known and worthy citizen of Creston, who contributes much to the business development of the town, is now engaged in buying cream, butter, eggs and poultry, in which connection he has built up a business of large and gratifying proportions. His undertaking furnishes a market for producers and the enterprise and diligence which he displays in the conduct of his interests has made the business one of the foremost commercial enterprises of this part of the county.

Mr. Anson was born in New York, August 21, 1847, a son of Leonard and Sarah (Lord) Anson, who were natives of New York. The father was a farmer and followed that occupation in the Empire state until his removal to the middle west, at which time he took up his abode in Mills county, Iowa, where he remained for three years. In 1872 he brought his family to Platte county and secured a homestead claim in Creston township which he developed, improved and operated for many years. His wife died upon that farm in 1880, after which he sold the place and removed to Creston, living with his children until his demise, which occurred in 1890.

Frank Anson was reared and educated in New York, remaining with his parents until after he attained his majority. He went to Mills county, Iowa, with his

father and in 1871 arrived in Platte county, coming a year prior to the removal of his parents. In 1872 he also secured a homestead on the same section with his father and improved and developed the property, carefully cultivating the fields until 1885, when he left the farm and went to Columbus, where he turned his attention to the hotel business, becoming proprietor of the Lindell Hotel, which he conducted for six years. He then sold out and went to Georgia, where he carried on farming for two years, after which he returned to Platte county and engaged in the hotel business at Creston for two years. He also operated a dray line for a year and on the expiration of that period turned his attention to the business in which he is now engaged—buying cream, butter, eggs and poultry. In this connection he has won substantial success, handling a large amount of such produce annually. He owns a nice home which he erected. He hauled the lumber thirty-two miles from Schuyler county in order to put up the buildings upon his farm. In all that he has undertaken he shows a spirit of unfaltering enterprise and perseverance and in his business affairs has ever been prompted by laudable ambition.

In January, 1881, Mr. Anson was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Felt, a daughter of William and Matilda (White) Felt, natives of Ohio. At an early day in the development of Iowa the father removed to that state and for many years engaged in farming in Muscatine county. Subsequently he took up his abode at West Liberty, where he conducted an elevator for several years. He then went to Lee, Colfax county, Nebraska, where he made his home for some time and later, retiring from active business, he went to live with his children, with whom he spent his remaining days, passing away in 1898. His widow now makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. Anson at the age of eighty years. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Anson, namely: Robert, a resident farmer of Humphrey township; Nellie, the wife of Clarence Hogle, living in Rising City, Nebraska; Frank R., a farmer whose home is in Keith county, Nebraska; Arthur, employed by the Crowell Elevator Company at Creston; William, who died in February, 1891; Mina, the wife of J. P. Schmidt, living in Benson, Nebraska; and Ruby and Edward, both at home.

The family are widely and favorably known and the hospitality of the best homes of Creston is freely accorded them. Mr. Anson is a republican in his political views, having firm faith in the principles of the party, yet never desiring office as a reward for party fealty. His religious faith is that of the Methodist church and in its teachings he finds the guiding principles of his life, which make him at all times observant of the rights and privileges of others and find expression in consideration, kindness and business integrity and justice.

GERHARD LOSEKE.

Gerhard Loseke, a retired farmer living in Columbus, was born in Oldenburg, Germany, May 6, 1852, his parents being John H. and Anna M. (Grotclueschen) Loseke, who were also natives of Oldenburg. Both have now passed away, the father having died March 18, 1891, at the age of eighty-one years and three months, while the mother's death occurred August 8, 1879, when she had reached the age of sixty-nine years and twenty-two days. The father worked as a farm hand in Ger-

many and devoted three years of his early manhood to military service. In 1858 he brought his family to the new world and after landing in the east traveled by rail to Iowa City and thence across the country to Platte county, Nebraska. He settled on a stream that is now called Loseke creek, in Bismark township, being one of the first settlers of that district. All around him was the unbroken prairie. Indians were still to be seen in the neighborhood and there were a few buffaloes and much wild game. Railroads, however, had not yet been built in this section of the state. He settled on government land and built a dugout, the family beginning life in America in that crude pioneer home. He was a member of the German Lutheran church and after he had resided in the county for some time a house of worship for that denomination was erected on land which he owned. His political allegiance was given the democratic party. In his family were three sons and a daughter, Henry, Herman, Anna and Gerhard, and it was at the home of the last named that the parents passed away. The mother's brother, Henry Lueschen (the name being Grotelueschen in Germany) built one of the first log cabins in Columbus in 1856.

Gerhard Loseke was a little lad of but six summers when brought by his father to the United States. He attended the district schools in Bismark township, in district No. 2, which was one of the first schools established in the township, the schoolhouse being built of logs. The methods of instruction, too, were somewhat primitive, but there were also many lessons to be learned in the school of experience, as he assisted in the arduous task of developing a new farm. Being the youngest son, he remained at home and assisted in the work of the farm. At the age of seventeen years he began farming for himself with ox teams, and his parents lived with him until they were called to their final rest.

As his financial resources increased as the result of industry and economy Gerhard Loseke kept adding to his farm, making purchases of land at from four to one hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre. In this manner he acquired over one thousand acres in the county, being numbered among the most extensive landowners. He has since given all of his children good farms, retaining only one hundred and twenty acres for himself. He concentrated his efforts upon the development and cultivation of his fields and to his farms added many modern improvements so that all became valuable properties. In addition to tilling the fields he engaged extensively in stock-raising and whatever he undertook he carried forward to successful completion, for industry and determination enabled him to overcome all of the difficulties and obstacles in his path. He raised high grade Hereford cattle and always topped the market. He was one of the first in the county to begin shipping stock and his success in that undertaking constituted an example that others profitably followed. When a boy he used to see many Indians, the redskins far outnumbering the "palefaces" in his locality. There were few of the comforts and none of the luxuries of life to be enjoyed and existence on the Nebraska prairies at that time meant earnest, persistent labor in order to gain a living. Mr. Loseke continued to make his home by the side of the creek which was named in honor of his family until 1913, when he retired from active business and took up his abode in Columbus. He started out empty-handed, but by hard work won a gratifying measure of success.

On the 11th of July, 1873, Mr. Loseke was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Mueller, who was born in Hanover, Germany, May 2, 1855, and died June 2, 1893. Her father, Henry Mueller, came to Platte county in pioneer times and took up

a homestead in Bismark township, remaining upon his farm until his death. To Mr. and Mrs. Loseke were born eight children: E. Wilhelmina, is the wife of Charles Wurdeman, an architect of Columbus, and has three children. Emeline Josephine is the wife of Adolph Frese, of Bismark township, by whom she has six children. Edward Gustave, who was born December 23, 1881, and is engaged in farming and the raising of Hereford cattle on the home place, married Emma Luers and has three children. George E. was born February 17, 1884, and married Lillie Korte, who died February 25, 1909, leaving a daughter, Violet. Edwin Gerhard, who was born May 4, 1886, and follows farming, married Alma Huntemann and has three children. Emma Eliza is the wife of William Luckey, a farmer, and has two children. Emil Gottfried, a farmer by occupation, was born January 21, 1891, and married Anna Mueller, by whom he has one child. Ernst Walter, who was born March 19, 1893, and after attending the Lincoln School of Agriculture began farming, married Martha Arnold. All are now residents of Bismark township. In 1913 Mr. Loseke was again married, his second union being with Miss Emma Hanstadt.

In his political views Mr. Loseke is a republican and while never an active party worker has always been a progressive citizen and is a broad-minded, intelligent man. His activity has been a source of public benefit as well as of individual success, for his efforts demonstrate what can be accomplished by the utilization of the natural resources of the county. He is one of the honored pioneer settlers and his memory forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present, for he has lived in the county through fifty-seven years, during which a marvelous change has occurred, for the wild prairie, dotted with millions of flowers in June and covered in winter by a dazzling, unbroken sheet of snow, has been converted into rich and productive fields, in the midst of which stand substantial farmhouses, while here and there towns and villages have sprung up and all of the evidences of modern civilization are to be found on every hand.

WILLIAM S. EVANS, M. D.

Dr. William S. Evans is a prominent physician of Columbus who has practiced his profession in this city continuously since 1905, devoting special attention to surgery. His birth occurred in Tarentum, Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, on the 17th of October, 1863, his parents being John C. and Nancy A. (Gilliford) Evans, the former born in Butler county, Pennsylvania, October 22, 1838, and the latter in that state on the 29th of July, 1840. Their marriage was celebrated on the 23d of December, 1862. The year 1879 witnessed their arrival in Columbus, Nebraska, where John C. Evans passed away in 1914 and his wife in 1903. More extended mention of them will be found on another page of this work.

After completing the high-school course in Columbus, Nebraska, William S. Evans went to Baltimore, Maryland, for professional training, being graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1903. During the years of 1903 and 1904 he was resident surgeon of the Baltimore City Hospital and subsequently practiced in Pittsburg for a year. In 1905 he returned to Columbus and has here remained continuously since, largely specializing in surgical work. With the con-

stant progress of the profession he keeps in close touch through his membership in the Columbus Medical Society, the Platte County Medical Society, the Nebraska State Medical Association and the American Medical Association.

Dr. Evans has been married twice. In 1890, in Salt Lake City, he wedded Miss Imogene Williams, who passed away in 1907, leaving four children, namely: Robert G., Leland H., Imogene W. and Ira Kenneth. In 1908, in Los Angeles, California, he was again married, his second union being with Miss Florence Whitmoyer, a daughter of Colonel Michael Whitmoyer, of Columbus, Nebraska. In politics Dr. Evans is a progressive and his religious faith is that of the Federated church. He is a worthy exemplar of the Masonic fraternity, being identified with the York Rite and also belonging to the Mystic Shrine. He is past commander of the commandery at Salt Lake City, Utah, and he is likewise a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

BERNARD LOHAUS.

Many of the residents of Platte county have had their nativity in or trace their ancestry to Germany, among which number is Bernard Lohaus, who was born in Humphrey township on the 1st of January, 1878, a son of Henry and Mary (Elpers) Lohaus, natives of Germany. The father came to America in early life, crossing the Atlantic about 1865, at which time he took up his abode in Baltimore, Maryland, where he remained for two years. He then went to Iowa, where he engaged in farming for a decade, at the end of which time he came to Platte county, Nebraska, and purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Humphrey township. He then concentrated his energies upon the cultivation and improvement of his farm, which he operated throughout his remaining days. He also secured a timber claim of one hundred and sixty acres and thus became the owner of two hundred and eighty acres of rich land, which he converted into a valuable farm property. He died in March, 1906, while his wife survived for seven years, passing away in March, 1913.

Under the parental roof Bernard Lohaus spent the days of his boyhood and youth and his education was acquired in the parochial schools at Humphrey. As his age and strength increased he assisted more and more largely in the work of the home farm and upon the death of his father he came into possession of the old home place by purchasing the interest of the other heirs in the property. His farm comprises one hundred and twenty acres on section 18, Humphrey township, and one hundred and sixty acres on section 13, Granville township. For the past nine years he has been in entire control of the place, which he is now carefully and systematically cultivating. He has wrought a marked change in its appearance by the many improvements that he has put upon it. He has but recently completed a five thousand dollar residence, modern in every respect, and he has other good buildings upon his farm, providing ample shelter for grain and stock. Well kept fences divide the farm into fields of convenient size, and he uses the latest improved machinery to facilitate the work of developing and caring for his crops. He makes a specialty of raising Polled Durham and Shorthorn cattle, Duroc Jersey hogs and White Orpington chickens, and his work in this direction sets a standard

for others. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Humphrey.

In May, 1903, Mr. Lohaus was united in marriage to Miss Cunnigunda Braun, a daughter of Joseph and Eva (Scheidemantel) Braun, who are represented elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Lohaus have become parents of six children: Alphonse, Henry, Lucy, Leander, Syra and Mary, all at home.

The family attend the Catholic church, of which the parents are members, and Mr. Lohaus is also identified with the Catholic Order of Foresters and the Knights of Columbus. Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise he has voted with the democratic party, and he has served as township committeeman, taking a deep interest in political affairs and keeping well informed on the questions and issues of the day at all times. His life has been one of well directed industry and thrift, and along clearly defined lines of labor and business integrity he has won his success.

HENRY C. LACHNIT.

Henry C. Lachnit for a number of years occupied public office in Platte county and is now engaged in the retail liquor business in Humphrey. He was born in Columbus township, April 7, 1878, a son of Frank and Josephine (Meir) Lachnit, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father, a farmer by occupation, came to the United States in 1874 and settled on a farm near Columbus, Nebraska, renting land for a time but afterwards purchasing farm property which he owned and cultivated until 1900. He then retired and removed to Columbus, spending his remaining days in the enjoyment of a rest which he had truly earned and richly deserved. His wife passed away February 2, 1910, and he survived her only twenty-six days, his death occurring on the 28th of February.

Henry C. Lachnit attended the district schools and remained at home to the age of twenty-one years, when he enlisted as a member of Company A, Thirty-ninth United States Volunteers for service in the Spanish-American war. He was with that command for two years in active service in the Philippines, and, although he joined the army as a private, he was promoted to the rank of corporal October 1, 1899, and was mustered out as sergeant on the 4th of March, 1901. He took part in a number of the engagements in the Philippines, including the battle of Colomba, January 1, 1900; Lipa, January 13th; San Diego Hill, January 21st; Majaijay, January 23d; Santa Cruz Bridge and San Diego Hill, March 16th; and again in the engagements at Colomba, August 29th and September 12, 1900. He enlisted on the 27th of September, 1899, and was discharged at San Francisco May 6, 1901, with the creditable record of "honest and faithful."

When the country no longer needed his military aid Mr. Lachnit returned home and assisted in the further development and improvement of his father's farm for two years. In 1904 he was appointed deputy sheriff under Sheriff C. J. Carrig, with whom he served for four years. He then resigned and entered the retail liquor business at Lindsay, where he remained for two years, when, in 1909, he was elected on the democratic ticket to the office of sheriff of Platte county, assuming the position in 1910 and serving for five years and three months, having been twice



HENRY C. LACHNIT

reelected. At the close of his term he came to Humphrey, where he has since engaged in the retail liquor business.

On the 21st of August, 1907, Mr. Lachnit was married to Miss Mary Griffin, a daughter of Morris and Margaret Griffin. Their children are: Ramona, born June 24, 1908; and Morris and Margaret, twins, born July 26, 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Lachnit are members of the Catholic church and he is identified with the Knights of Columbus, with the Elks Lodge, No. 1195, of Columbus, and the Columbus Aerie of Eagles, in which he has filled all of the chairs and is a past worthy president. He is likewise a member of the Sons of Herman and belongs to the Spanish War Veterans Association and the Maennerchor. In these different organizations he has gained many friends, and that he made a creditable record in public office is indicated in the fact that he was three times chosen by popular vote for the position which he filled.

JOHN T. STEFFES.

No history of Humphrey would be complete without extended reference to the members of the Steffes family, who have borne so important and prominent a part in promoting the business activity and material development of the town, their labors being of far-reaching effect and benefit. John T. Steffes is engaged in the real-estate and insurance business as a recognized leader in that line and he is also a member of the firm of Steffes Brothers, general merchants. His enterprise is of the character that brooks no obstacles or difficulties that can be overcome by persistent, earnest effort and gradually he has advanced along business lines until in this connection he is recognized as one of the foremost residents of Humphrey.

Mr. Steffes is a native of northern Michigan. He was born July 25, 1870, a son of Jacob and Mary Catharine (Wagner) Steffes, who were natives of Germany, the father having been born on the Rhine, while the mother was a native of Saxenburg. Jacob Steffes, who followed the occupation of mining, came to America on attaining his majority and settled in Michigan. His wife had been brought to the new world when but three years of age by her parents, who located in the upper peninsula of Michigan. It was to the mining regions of that district that Jacob Steffes made his way and found employment, and after his marriage his wife conducted a tavern and saloon while Mr. Steffes followed mining, their united labors thus contributing to their success. In 1875 they came to Nebraska, settling in Madison county, where their earnings were invested in two hundred and forty acres of land on sections 33 and 34, Green Garden township, on Union Creek. They occupied that farm until 1880, meeting with good success in its cultivation and improvement, and then removed to Humphrey, where Mr. Steffes engaged in the hotel, livery and saloon business, continuing his activity along those lines until his death, which occurred in 1888. His wife survived him for many years, passing away in 1904.

John T. Steffes attended the Humphrey parochial schools and also the school at St. Bernard and made his initial step in the business world as a clerk in the store of William Eimers in Humphrey, spending four years in that connection. In 1895 he turned his attention to the live-stock business, buying and selling live stock

and also operating a butcher shop until 1904, when he entered the employ of P. McKillip and for several years worked for him in the real-estate business. In 1909 he established a real-estate agency on his own account and today is enjoying a substantial success in that field. In 1914 he extended the scope of his business to include general insurance and in that department has won a liberal clientage. Even this does not cover the scope of his activities, for in 1907, in partnership with his brothers, Jacob, Henry and Nicholas, he opened the largest general mercantile store in Humphrey and they also own and conduct a similar establishment at Cedar Rapids, Nebraska, of which Henry Steffes is acting as manager.

On the 9th of March, 1898, Mr. Steffes was united in marriage to Miss Lena M. Edwards, a daughter of Dr. William and Lena (Schneider) Edwards, the former born near London, England, and the latter in Erie county, New York. They were married in Omaha, Nebraska, where for a number of years Dr. Edwards was actively engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery. Subsequently he removed to Platte Center, this county, and here followed his profession until his death in 1892, when he was fifty-seven years of age. His widow then removed to Humphrey and now makes her home with our subject. Mr. and Mrs. Steffes have the following children: Leona, Viola, Florence, Cecelia, Leonard, John and Francis. Death also claimed two of their children, Catharine and Marian.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church, and Mr. Steffes belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters. In politics he is a democrat but not an aspirant for office. He ranks with the substantial young business men of Humphrey, guided in all he does by a laudable ambition that has prompted him to put forth the most earnest and persistent efforts for the attainment of creditable success. His business activities, too, have been of a character which have contributed to general prosperity and to the upbuilding of the community as well as to individual advancement.

GEORGE FAIRCHILD.

George Fairchild, of Columbus, was a prominent figure in connection with the annals of Nebraska as well as in local affairs of his home locality and thus it was that his death proved not simply a private bereavement but a public misfortune. He was born in Danbury, Connecticut, September 21, 1854, and was a youth of about seventeen years when he removed from Columbus, Ohio, to Platte county, Nebraska, in the year 1871. Here he accepted a position in the Arnold jewelry store of Columbus, in which he learned the trade and in which he remained for several years. He was for some time in the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad, was an accountant with the firm of Spiece & North and for several years was associated with W. A. Way in the coal business. Each step in his career marked an advance in his business interests and responsibilities. He became the first local manager for the Bell Telephone Company at Columbus and afterward he was appointed to the responsible position of accountant in the office of the state auditor. So efficient was his work in that connection that his services were retained for some time, his last duties being those of examiner of the county treasurer's books. He

always regarded a public office as a public trust and it was well known that no trust reposed in him was ever betrayed in the slightest degree.

On the 6th of May, 1885, occurred the marriage of Mr. Fairchild and Miss Elenora Bremer, a daughter of Charles and Mary Bremer. She was born in Omaha, February 16, 1864, and they became the parents of a daughter, Mary, now the wife of Frank Justus, of Columbus.

The family circle was broken by the hand of death when on the 7th of October, 1914, Mr. Fairchild passed away at Wilbur, Nebraska. He was a consistent member of Grace Episcopal church and he belonged to various fraternal organizations, including the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Royal Arcanum, the Royal Highlanders and the Modern Woodmen. His political allegiance was always given to the republican party and he did everything in his power to further its legitimate success. In Columbus he long figured as a prominent and influential citizen and was the first chief of the fire department, while with many other concerns of public importance he was actively and helpfully associated. He enjoyed the confidence and goodwill of colleagues and contemporaries in business life and in public office and thus it was that his sterling qualities made his death a matter of deep and sincere regret.

ARTHUR A. BENHAM.

Arthur A. Benham, manager for the T. B. Hord Grain Company at Humphrey, where he also buys live stock and handles coal, has through close application and unremitting energy made for himself a creditable position in business circles. He was born at Wautoma, Wisconsin, August 15, 1870, his parents being Allen B. and Mary (Trufant) Benham, natives of New Hampshire. The father became a merchant in early life. On leaving New England he went with his parents to Wisconsin, his father becoming a farmer of the Badger state. Allen B. Benham was then a young lad. When he had attained a sufficient age he began learning the tinner's trade, which he followed for about twelve years. In 1872 he removed to New Windsor, Illinois, where he established a hardware store, conducting business at that point and at Kewanee, Illinois, for several years. Success attended his efforts and he finally retired with a substantial competence. He then removed to Omaha, where he now resides at the age of sixty-eight years, while his wife is still living at the age of sixty-seven.

Arthur A. Benham was reared and educated in Cedar Rapids, Nebraska, where his father was working as a tinner. He continued with his parents to the age of twenty-seven years and when his education was completed and his textbooks put aside he began buying grain and hogs in the employ of others. He was thus engaged in Cedar Rapids for nineteen years, at the end of which time he came to Humphrey as manager for the T. B. Hord Grain Company, which he still represents. He displays sound judgment in buying grain and has developed a good business at this point. He also buys stock and handles coal and his business interests are carefully and systematically managed.

In June, 1897, Mr. Benham was united in marriage to Miss Lena Beggs, a daughter of A. J. Beggs, who was engaged in farming in Illinois at an early period

and subsequently removed to Iowa, in which state he was actively identified with general agricultural pursuits until 1894. In that year he took up his abode in Boone county, Nebraska, and there followed farming for several years but at the present time is living retired in the enjoyment of well earned rest. His wife passed away in 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Benham have two sons, Ralph B. and Howard B., who are sixteen and fourteen years of age respectively.

The parents belong to the Episcopal church and in his political views Mr. Benham is a republican but not an aspirant for office. He exemplifies in his life the beneficent spirit of the Masonic fraternity, to which he belongs, and his course has ever been an upright, honorable one, gaining for him the high regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact through business or social relations. He has attractive social qualities which have won him popularity and throughout the community he has a host of warm friends.

REV. HERMAN MIESSLER.

Rev. Herman Miessler, pastor of the German Lutheran church at Columbus, has done splendid work for the moral development in the community in which he lives, his influence being a direct and tangible force for uplift in many lives, not only in Columbus, but in various sections of Nebraska. A native of Michigan, he was born in Isabella county in 1861. His father, Gustav Miessler, now living at Crete, Illinois, went to Michigan as a missionary among the Chippewa Indians but on account of ill health resigned his position there in 1869 and removed to Chicago, where he studied medicine at Hahnemann College. In due time he was graduated and entered upon practice in Chicago but is now living in Crete.

Rev. Miessler obtained a common school education in Michigan and attended high school in Chicago. He afterward entered Concordia College at Fort Wayne, Indiana, from which he was graduated with the class of 1880 and then entered Concordia Seminary at St. Louis, Missouri, where he completed his course in 1883. Immediately afterward he came to Columbus, at which time the congregation of the German Lutheran church consisted of only ten families. He also had charge of two smaller churches in the district until they became self-sustaining. He entered with zeal and enthusiasm upon his work and his efforts were soon manifest in tangible results. Under his guidance the church has steadily grown until there are now one hundred families connected with the Columbus church and a parochial school is also maintained. He is actively identified in establishing churches throughout this section of Nebraska and also in founding various parochial schools, and his influence has been an immeasurable force for good. He is a member of the Missouri synod of the German Lutheran church and also of the teachers' board of the seminary at Seward, Nebraska.

On the 5th of October, 1884, Rev. Miessler was united in marriage to Miss Clara Wurmb, a daughter of Theobald von Wurmb, who was born in South Africa, his father being a missionary to the Hottentots. Through family connections Mrs. Miessler is related to the great German Schiller. To Rev. and Mrs. Miessler have been born the following children: Walter, who wedded Emma Schreiber and is



REV. HERMAN MIESSLER

engaged in the drug business in St. Louis, Missouri; Adela; Olga; Eugene, who is assisting his brother Walter in the drug store in St. Louis; Elmer; and Marcella.

In his political views Rev. Miessler is a democrat and keeps well informed on the issues of the day, being not unmindful of the duties and obligations of citizenship, yet he never seeks nor desires preferment in that connection. He is recognized as a man of marked ability, of strong intellectual force and effective power as a speaker. He is a man of large physique and commanding personality and of keen sympathy and is well liked not only by people of his own congregation but by representatives of all denominations.

EDWIN AHRENS.

Edwin Ahrens, directing his attention entirely to farming interests, belongs to that class of representative business men who win success through perseverance, laudable ambition and unfaltering energy. He has been a lifelong resident of Platte county, for he is one of her native sons, his birth having occurred on the old home farm of the family in Bismark township, September 24, 1884, his parents being Edwin and Anna (Loseke) Ahrens. The father was born in Oldenburg, Germany, June 21, 1831, and acquired a fair education in that country. He also worked on a farm there and for about two years served in the German army. Coming to America, he made his way to Nebraska and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in Platte county. The entire district was then largely undeveloped and unimproved and on the tract which came into his possession not a furrow had been turned. He met the usual experiences and hardships of pioneer life when one has to break the sod and prepare the fields for cultivation before crops can be planted. He was energetic and resolute, however, and he bravely met the difficulties which confront the settler upon the frontier. In time his labors brought about a marked change in the appearance of his farm, which was converted into productive fields, bringing forth abundant harvests. In April, 1861, he had wedded Miss Anna Loseke, also a native of Oldenburg, Germany, who is now living in Leigh, Nebraska. To them were born the following children: John, who is a resident of Columbus; Minnie, who is the wife of Fritz Loseke, of Bismark township; Margaret, who gave her hand in marriage to Henry Sander; Herman, living in Bismark township; Anna, who is the wife of Louis Groteluschen, of Audubon county, Iowa; Bertha, who is the wife of Erich Wurdeman, living south of Leigh; Edwin, of this review; and Ella, at home with her mother.

The death of Edwin Ahrens, Sr., occurred on the 11th of January, 1892, and was the occasion of deep and widespread regret, for during the years of his residence in Platte county he had won a place among the substantial and highly respected citizens of the district. In politics he was a democrat and for a number of years was treasurer of his township, making an excellent officer, which fact is indicated by his frequent reelections. He belonged to the German Evangelical Lutheran church and guided his life according to its teachings.

Edwin Ahrens, whose name introduces this review, obtained a public-school education while spending his youthful days under the parental roof and through the periods of vacation he worked upon the home farm, early becoming familiar

through experience with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He has never sought to change his occupation and in fact finds farming a congenial pursuit and one which is bringing to him a substantial and gratifying annual income. He is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres and the farm is divided into fields of convenient size by well kept fences, while all the farm work is conducted according to modern methods and exemplifies the ideas that science has put forth, while practical experience has proven their value.

On the 28th of October, 1909, Mr. Ahrens was united in marriage to Miss Emma Müller, who was born in Bismark township, this county, June 8, 1885, her parents being Friedrich and Magdalena (Karlin) Müller. They now have two sons, namely: Paul Frederick, who was born August 23, 1910; and Arlo Edwin, whose natal day was February 2, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Ahrens are well known in this county, having an extended acquaintance, while many come within the closer circle of friendship. Those who know them speak of them in terms of warm regard and among business acquaintances Mr. Ahrens is mentioned as one who is as reliable as he is enterprising.

DANIEL WEISER.

Daniel Weiser is a resident farmer of Sherman township, living on section 8, where a valuable property of three hundred and sixty acres pays tribute to the care and labor which he bestows upon it. He was born in Austria, February 3, 1855, a son of Frank and Johanna (Browner) Weiser, both of whom have passed away, at the ages of forty-five and forty-seven years respectively. The father was a weaver by trade and served for seven years in the Austrian army as an officer of minor rank. He belonged to the Catholic church, passing away in that faith after having spent his entire life in Austria.

When Daniel Weiser put aside his textbooks, after attending the public schools, he worked as a farm hand in Austria, being thus employed until 1877, when at the age of twenty-two years he came to the United States. He then purchased land in Sherman township, paying one hundred and fifty dollars for eighty acres. Upon this tract he put up a sod house and with characteristic energy began the arduous task of developing and improving the farm, to which he has kept adding from time to time until he now has three hundred and sixty acres, on which is to be seen a fair set of buildings. His entire life has been devoted to general agricultural pursuits and the success which he has attained is the merited reward and legitimate result of his labors.

In 1883 Mr. Weiser was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Beitel, a native of Austria and a daughter of August and Bertha (Koenig) Beitel. The father, a factory worker in Austria, emigrated to the United States and in 1879 took up a homestead claim of eighty acres in Humphrey township, Platte county, Nebraska, where he devoted his attention to general farming. Mr. and Mrs. Weiser are the parents of eight children, namely: Anna, the wife of Adam Kimig, who is an agriculturist of Sherman township and by whom she has one child; Louis; Emma; Bertha; Paulina; Martha; Ella; and Ida.

The family hold membership in St. Mary's Catholic church of Grand Prairie

township. Mr. Weiser has been active along no line outside of business, preferring ever to concentrate his energies upon the development and improvement of his farm, whereby he has provided a comfortable living for his family and gained for himself a place among the substantial and well-to-do residents of the township.

HENRY F. J. HOCKENBERGER.

Henry F. J. Hockenberger, numbered among the most prominent citizens of Columbus, is actively identified with real-estate, loan and insurance interests as a member of the Becher, Hockenberger & Chambers Company. His birth occurred in Corning, New York, on the 8th of September, 1860, his parents being William and Charlotte (Rochrig) Hockenberger, the former a native of Baden, Germany, and the latter of the Rhine province. William Hockenberger, born in 1818, emigrated to the United States in 1846, while his wife came to this country with her parents in 1837. Their marriage was celebrated in Rochester, New York, in 1847. The death of Mrs. Charlotte Hockenberger occurred in 1865 and the following year Mr. Hockenberger wedded Mrs. Mary Halm nee Kling. In 1878 they removed to Boone county, Nebraska, where his demise occurred in 1887 and his widow then returned to New York, in which state she passed away in the year 1905. George Hockenberger, the paternal grandfather of our subject, spent his entire life in Baden, Germany, and was an agriculturist by occupation.

In his youth Henry F. J. Hockenberger attended the public schools of Elmira, New York, and Blossburg, Pennsylvania, the family home having been established in the latter town in 1868. He put aside his textbooks at the age of thirteen years and subsequently worked at coopering in Elmira, New York, for two years. On the expiration of that period he returned to Blossburg, Pennsylvania, where he was employed in his father's brewery for two years and then accompanied his father and stepmother to Nebraska. Here he worked on a farm and in a flour mill for one year and occupied himself with odd jobs for a time. At the age of eighteen years he secured a position with the Columbus real-estate, loan and insurance firm of Becher & Price, which at the end of two years became Gus G. Becher & Company. He continued in the service of that concern for ten years and on the expiration of that period, in 1891, he was admitted to a partnership in the firm, which then became Becher, Jaeggi & Company and was changed to Becher, Hockenberger & Chambers when in 1900 Leopold Jaeggi was succeeded by E. H. Chambers. In 1913 the business was incorporated as the Becher, Hockenberger & Chambers Company. The record of Mr. Hockenberger is a splendid illustration of the power of industry, perseverance and energy in the attainment of success, for he has worked his way upward from a humble position in the business world to one of prominence and influence. Since 1886 he has served as secretary and director of the Columbus Land, Loan & Building Association and for the past two years he has been the chief executive officer of the Young Men's Christian Association in Columbus.

On the 8th of September, 1883, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Hockenberger was united in marriage to Miss Amelia L. Metz, a daughter of Philip and Josephine (Becher) Metz, her father being one of the founders of the Metz Brothers Brewing

Company of Omaha. To our subject and his wife have been born six children, as follows: Lottie M., who gave her hand in marriage to Julius S. Nichols, of Columbus, Nebraska; William E.; Philip R.; Elaine K.; Paul H.; and Josephine Charlotte.

Politically Mr. Hockenberger is a staunch prohibitionist and a member of the state committee of prohibition. He has also served on the Columbus school board and the library board, being now a member of the latter. In 1881 he joined the Columbus Militia and was connected therewith for two years or until his company was disbanded, doing service in Omaha during two weeks of strike riots in 1882. Fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America and he likewise belongs to the Men's Club, the Young Men's Christian Association and the Commercial Club and is an honorary member of the fire department, having served thereon for eight or nine years. He attends the Grace Episcopal church, in which he is serving as vestryman, but he is a member of the Baptist church. His energy, enterprise and progressive spirit have carried him forward into important relations with various interests of the community and have made him a citizen whose worth is widely known.

JOHN JANICEK.

John Janieck is a resident of Columbus, his home being at the corner of Seventeenth and Platte streets, but he is proprietor of a garage at Humphrey, where he spends three or four days each week. He was born in Austria, January 24, 1868, and is a son of Frank and Caroline Janieck, who were natives of the same country, there remaining until the year 1877, when they bade adieu to friends and native land and sailed for the new world. They did not tarry on the coast but made their way at once into the interior of the country with Butler county, Nebraska, as their destination. The father had followed farming in Austria and on coming to this state he purchased and improved eight hundred acres of land, which he continued to cultivate until 1899, when he retired and removed to Columbus, there residing for thirteen years. His wife died in 1901, after which he made his home with his children until he, too, passed away in March, 1912.

John Janieck was a lad of nine years when he accompanied his parents on their emigration to the new world, after which he was reared in Butler county, Nebraska, where he remained, assisting his father in the development and improvement of the home farm until he reached the age of twenty-seven years, when he removed onto a tract of one hundred and sixty acres given him by his father. This he improved and later extended the boundaries of his farm by additional purchase until he owned a half section of land, which he further developed and cultivated for about sixteen years. At the end of that time he sold his farm and invested in a section of land in Greeley county, Nebraska, an improved farm that he still owns and now rents, deriving therefrom a good income. At the end of that time he removed to Columbus, where he has since resided, being now pleasantly located in an attractive home at the corner of Seventeenth and Platte streets. In April, 1915, however, he established a garage at Humphrey for his son and now spends about

three or four days each week in supervising the business there. He also has the agency for the Ford cars and he is a stockholder in the Portland Cement Company of Superior, Nebraska.

In November, 1894, Mr. Janicek was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Thanel, her father being Emanuel Thanel, a native of Austria, who is still engaged in farming in that country. Our subject and his wife have three children, namely: Frank, who is engaged in the automobile business at Humphrey, Nebraska; and Annie and Rudolph, both attending school.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church and politically Mr. Janicek is independent, voting according to the dictates of his judgment and the demands of the times. His life has been one of persistent energy and his efforts have been fruitful of good results, bringing him substantial return for his labor as the years have gone by.

EDGAR HOWARD.

Edgar Howard, owner and publisher of the Telegram of Columbus since 1900, was born at Osceola, Iowa, September 16, 1858, a son of James Dakin and Martha (Daniel) Howard. They were natives of Ohio and Virginia respectively and were born on the same day—July 9, 1824. The father spent his boyhood days in Ohio and afterward removed to Indiana, whence in 1853 he went to Iowa, where he engaged in the cattle and merchandise business. He had previously been a school teacher and merchant. For more than three decades he remained a resident of Iowa, passing away in Des Moines in 1884. His wife long survived and died at Enid, Oklahoma, in 1913.

Edgar Howard attended private and public schools and afterward became a student in the Iowa College of Law, a department of Drake University, but did not graduate. He was admitted to the bar at Papillion, Nebraska, in 1885. He first became connected with newspaper publication on the Glenwood (Ia.) Opinion and as a boy printer traveled extensively over the country, never remaining long at any place. He filled the positions of printer, reporter and city editor, and for quite a time was connected in the last named capacity with the Daily Herald, of Dayton, Ohio. He first began newspaper publication on his own account at Papillion, Nebraska, where he was owner of the Times in partnership with George Magney, now county attorney at Omaha. After remaining there for three years he went to Benkelman, Nebraska, and established the first democratic paper published between McCook and Denver. He also spent three years there, after which he returned to Papillion and again purchased the Times, which he published until 1900, when he came to Columbus and purchased the Telegram from Senator Pascal, since which time he has edited that paper. He has attracted some attention as a political writer. His writings have always shown forth strong antagonism to special interests and trusts menacing the welfare of the masses. In politics he has ever been an earnest democrat, giving stalwart support to the party principles and never hesitating to express clearly and forcibly his convictions. In 1894 he was elected to the state legislature from Sarpy county, and was the only member

elected as a straight democrat. He resigned his legislative seat to take the office of probate judge of the same county, which he filled from 1895 to 1900.

On the 11th of November, 1884, at Clarinda, Iowa, Mr. Howard was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Burtch, her father being Alexander Burtch, who was a pioneer postmaster at Bellevue, Nebraska, in 1857 and 1858. To them have been born three children, namely: Findley Burtch, whose birth occurred October 8, 1885, and who is now in the United States treasury department service at Cristobal, Panama (canal zone); Mary Burtch, who was born February 5, 1888, and gave her hand in marriage to Harry Rex, of Creston, Iowa; and Helen Burtch, who was born November 2, 1893, and lives at home.

In religious belief Mr. Howard is an Episcopalian. He enjoys Bohemian life and cares little for the conventionalities which are based upon custom rather than common sense. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons, having attained the Knight Templar degree of the York Rite and the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite, while with the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine he has crossed the sands of the desert. He is also identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Woodmen of the World and the Imperial Mystic Legion. Mr. Howard has become well known in newspaper circles in Nebraska.

LOUIS F. PHILLIPPS.

The attractiveness of Platte county as a place of residence is evidenced in the fact that many of her native sons have remained within her borders, finding here business conditions and opportunities which have enabled them to win success and gain a creditable position among men of affluence. To this class belongs Louis F. Phillipps, who is now living retired in Columbus after long connection with mercantile interests in his native county.

He was born December 29, 1863, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Phillipps, in whose family were six children, and three sons and two daughters are still living. The father, a native of Baden, Germany, died in 1907, at the age of eighty-two years, having long survived his wife, who was a native of Switzerland and died at the age of sixty-eight. He was a shoemaker by trade and on coming to the United States settled in Missouri but in 1856 cast in his lot with the pioneer residents of this county, having made the journey by team to Nebraska. He secured a homestead claim in Loup township, where he faced the conditions and hardships of frontier life. The Indians were still numerous in this part of the state. Wild game of all kinds could be had in abundance and there were many other evidences of the fact that civilization was just beginning to push its way into the western region. Mr. Phillipps used ox teams in cultivating his farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which was situated a half mile from the Platte river. His early home was a dugout and it contained few comforts and conveniences, but with resolute spirit he set to work to develop his land and provide a living for his family. He carried on general farming and when the grasshoppers destroyed his crops he removed to Columbus and worked at his trade. In time he established a store for the sale of shoes and later added a stock of groceries, becoming one of the enter-



LOUIS F. PHILLIPPS AND FAMILY

prising merchants of the town, continuing active in business until fifteen years prior to his death, when he retired. His religious belief was that of the Catholic church.

Louis F. Phillippo attended the public schools of Columbus and when fifteen years of age became an apprentice in a painter's and carpenter's shop. He continued to engage in painting until twenty-one years of age, when his health became poor and he took up carpentering, at which he worked for six years. In 1893 he engaged in the sporting goods business, carrying a stock of guns, bicycles, phonographs and other merchandise of similar character. He had practically no capital with which to start in this business but his enterprise, diligence and honorable dealing carried him through and he won success, remaining active along that line until 1909, when he retired. His trade in the meantime had increased to extensive proportions, bringing to him a gratifying annual income. He is still the owner of valuable landed possessions, having three hundred acres in Nance county, Nebraska, together with two hundred and thirty-five acres on what is known as Buck Island, at the mouth of the Platte and Loup rivers.

In 1894 Mr. Phillippo was joined in wedlock to Miss Margaret Wellmann, who was born on the same lot in Columbus on which their home now stands. To them have been born two children: Harold, who is a graduate of the Columbus high school; and Catherine, at home.

Mr. Phillippo is a prominent and well known figure in fraternal circles. He has been a very active and zealous member of the Knights of Pythias lodge, in which he has held all of the offices. He also belongs to the Woodmen of the World, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Sons of Herman. His connection with the Maennerchor indicates his activity in musical circles and he is likewise a charter member of the Orpheus Society. His political indorsement has been given to the democratic party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his ability, have several times called him to public office. For six years he served as a member of the city council, exercising his official prerogatives in support of various movements for the public good. He has also been water commissioner and for six years was a member of the school board, serving for one year as its president. He stands at all times staunch in support of those measures which are a matter of civic virtue and civic pride.

TIMOTHY JOSEPH CRONIN.

Timothy Joseph Cronin, of Platte Center, who is conducting a livery and feed business and is also a breeder of fine horses and mules, was born in County Kerry, Ireland, on the 11th of May, 1872, and spending his youthful days in that country pursued his education in the public schools. He was a young man of nineteen years when he bade adieu to friends and native land and sailed for the United States in 1891, settling at Erie, Pennsylvania. There he learned the boiler maker's trade and for two years was in the employ of the Erie City Iron Works, after which he sought the opportunities and business advantages of the growing west.

It was on the 12th of December, 1893, that Mr. Cronin arrived in Platte county, Nebraska, where he engaged in farming for his uncle, Mike Cronin, for about three years. He then began farming on his own account by renting land in 1897

and for about a year carried on general agricultural pursuits. At the end of that time he accepted a position in the general store of Bruckner & Greisen, with whom he remained for two years, when he entered the livery and feed business and began breeding horses and mules. He is an excellent judge of stock and has bred some very fine horses, his business having now reached large and profitable proportions.

On the 15th of November, 1910, Mr. Cronin was united in marriage to Miss Nellie Fenton, a daughter of Simon and Mary Fenton. They have two children, James Jeremiah and Fenton Thomas. The parents hold membership in the Catholic church and Mr. Cronin belongs to the Modern Woodmen Camp No. 3264 and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. He is a democrat in his political belief and has filled the office of road supervisor. He is now serving as chief of the Platte Center fire department and manifests at all times a progressive citizenship, giving earnest and effective support to public movements which tend to benefit the community.

FRANK M. LEACH.

On the roll of Creston's leading citizens appears the name of Frank M. Leach, an enterprising merchant now engaged in the hardware and implement business under the firm name of Leach & Palmateer. He was born in New York, September 7, 1864, a son of L. B. and Ann P. (Dickinson) Leach, who were natives of New York. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, removed to the middle west in 1865, settling in Clinton, Iowa, where he purchased land which he owned and cultivated until 1871. He then sold that property and came to Platte county, where he secured a homestead in Humphrey township. He then bent his energies to the development and improvement of that place, continuing its cultivation throughout his remaining days. He died December 6, 1906, while his wife survived until June 10, 1910.

Frank M. Leach was reared and educated in Platte county, Nebraska, being but seven years of age when his parents came to this state. He remained under the parental roof until he attained his majority and then started out in life for himself by renting land, which he continued to cultivate for five years. Removing to Boyd county, he there homesteaded and spent two years in cultivating a new tract. He then returned to the old home place in Humphrey township, which he later purchased, and continued to develop and further improve that farm until he decided to put aside agricultural pursuits and enter commercial circles of Humphrey, where he purchased the Humphrey Buck Works, which he conducted for three years. He then sold that plant and bought land in Creston and Humphrey townships, carrying on general farming for three years, after which he once more sold his farm and removed to Creston. Here he purchased the hardware and implement business of G. W. Smith and has since conducted it, having a well appointed establishment and a good trade. In the spring of 1912 he admitted Arthur Palmateer to a partnership under the firm style of Leach & Palmateer. They carry a full line of shelf and heavy hardware and they also handle the Ford and Studebaker cars, both branches of their business bringing to them substantial returns. Mr. Leach is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of

Creston and in the Citizens State Bank of Creston, and is a stockholder and vice president of the Humphrey Telephone Company. Throughout his entire business life he has ever been watchful of opportunities and has improved many which others have passed heedlessly by. His time has been well spent and deserved success crowns his efforts.

On the 13th of February, 1887, Mr. Leach was married to Miss Frances M. Hummel, a daughter of Daniel and Sarah (Snyder) Hummel, who were natives of Pennsylvania. The father was a farmer by occupation and in an early day left the east, removing to Jackson county, Iowa, where he purchased land, there carrying on general farming throughout the residue of his days. He passed away in June, 1895, having for almost three years survived his wife, who died in September, 1892.

Mr. and Mrs. Leach have six children: Vera, born December 31, 1887; Pearl, whose birth occurred April 1, 1889; Stella, who was born on the 10th of February, 1893; Clifford, born April 24, 1895; Raymond, born January 4, 1898; and Ruth, October 1, 1907. In his religious faith Mr. Leach is a Presbyterian and fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias and with the Modern Woodmen of America, having been identified with the latter organization for twenty-two years. Politically he is a democrat and is the present assessor of Creston township, while for the past five years he has been a member of the town board. For several years he has served on the democratic county central committee and takes an active and helpful part in advancing the principles in which he believes. He is a man ever loyal to his honest convictions and his position is never an equivocal one, for he fearlessly announces his course and adheres thereto.

JOSEPH BENDER.

Joseph Bender owns and occupies a fine residence in Humphrey and is today enjoying a well earned rest—the fruits of his former toil. He was long actively and prominently identified with agricultural pursuits and as the years went on his carefully directed efforts brought to him a substantial measure of success. He was born in Henry, Marshall county, Illinois, June 7, 1866, and is a twin brother of Henry C. Bender, of Granville township, and a son of Peter and Catharine (Mallmann) Bender. The father was born in Menamebach, Germany, October 3, 1825, and the mother's birth occurred in Wenhausen, Germany, February 17, 1832. He was a farmer by occupation and he served for three years in the German army. In 1856 he came to America, settling in Henry, Illinois, where he rented land and engaged in farming until the spring of 1886. In that year he came to Humphrey and purchased large tracts of land in Humphrey and Granville townships, owning at least one thousand acres. He afterward gave each of his eight children eighty acres of land as they became of age. He located in the town of Humphrey and carried on general farming with the help of his sons, being known both in Illinois and Nebraska as a prominent stockman and farmer because of his extensive interests and the able manner in which he managed his affairs. He retired from active business life at the death of his good wife December 29, 1906, and was making his home with his son Joseph at the time of his death on the 7th of

November, 1910. He was a man of keen business discernment, readily recognizing the possibilities of a situation, and his energy and enterprise brought to him substantial and gratifying success.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bender became the parents of nine children, as follows: Peter, who was born June 12, 1853, and died on the 9th of April, 1915; Phillip, whose birth occurred June 24, 1855, and who passed away November 3, 1912; John William, who was born May 11, 1858, and follows farming in Humphrey township; Mary, whose natal day was July 5, 1859, and who died on the 17th of September, 1863; Catharine, who was born May 23, 1862, and gave her hand in marriage to Edward Leible, of Elgin, Nebraska; Annie, who was born July 11, 1863, and is the wife of Stephen L. German, a farmer of Granville township; Joseph, of this review; Henry C., who was born June 7, 1866, is a twin brother of Joseph and is engaged in farming in Granville township; and Lizzie, who was born February 22, 1876, and is the wife of Fred Van Ackeren, of Cedar Rapids, Nebraska.

Joseph Bender attended the common schools of Marshall county, Illinois, and assisted his father in the cultivation and improvement of the home farm until twenty years of age, when he located on the eighty-acre tract given him by his father, situated on section 22, Humphrey township. There he lived and farmed for twenty years and to his original holdings he kept adding until he owned three hundred and twenty acres of good land, which he brought under a high state of cultivation and to which he added many modern improvements. Year by year his farm work was systematically and carefully carried on. He studied soil conditions, knew the crops best adapted to climate and became acquainted with the needs of all kinds of cereals raised in this part of the country. His work was directed by intelligent judgment and brought splendid returns. In 1907 he retired and removed to Humphrey, where he purchased eighteen acres of town property, including a fine residence. He then rented his farm and today lives retired, enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. For years while upon the farm he handled registered Poland China hogs and took many premiums thereon. He also owned a thoroughbred Percheron stallion, Black Champion, and all of the stock which he kept upon his farm was of high grade. He now has another property in the city besides his home, which is one of the finest residences of the county.

On the 21st of January, 1890, Mr. Bender was united in marriage to Miss Katie Wunder, a daughter of Simon and Paulina (Yachter) Wunder, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father became an agriculturist of Henry, Illinois, and there spent the remainder of his life. Mr. and Mrs. Bender have two children, namely: Tracie, who was born on the 30th of March, 1891; and Irene, who was born March 25, 1894, and gave her hand in marriage to Tony Schaeher, of Humphrey.

Mr. Bender and his brother Henry challenge any pair of twins in the state for weight, the former tipping the scales at two hundred and forty and the brother at three hundred pounds. In his political views Joseph Bender is a democrat and has filled a number of local offices. He was a member of the township board for six years, was road boss of Granville township for seven years and has been constable and justice of the peace in Humphrey township. He is a member of the city council, now serving his seventh year, and at the present time he is mayor

of Humphrey. He has also been officially connected with the schools as director and trustee. He and his family are identified with St. Francis Catholic church of Humphrey, of which he is a trustee, and he is a member of Humphrey Council of the Knights of Columbus. His has been an active and useful life, fraught with good for the district in which he has lived, his labors being farreaching and important along lines that have led to public progress and improvement.

JANET CLAIRE McALLISTER.

Janet Claire McAllister is filling the position of assistant postmaster at Columbus, proving most efficient in that connection. She was born May 26, 1890, in the city which is still her home, a daughter of William Alexander and Mary (Coalter) McAllister, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. Passing through consecutive grades in the public schools, she became a student in the Columbus high school and was graduated therefrom on the 6th of June, 1908. Later she attended the Nebraska State University and for one year engaged in teaching, but turned from that profession to accept a clerkship in the Columbus postoffice, with which she is now connected, having been appointed assistant postmaster on the 19th of November, 1913. She knows every phase of postoffice work, is most systematic and careful in conducting the interests of the office and has maintained a most creditable and satisfactory record in the discharge of her duties. Miss McAllister is a member of the Presbyterian church of Columbus and has a very wide acquaintance in this city, in which her entire life has been passed and in which her attractive qualities have gained her wide popularity.

WILLIAM R. FREY.

William R. Frey is the owner of a bottling works at Humphrey, his native town. He has always resided there and, active along business lines, has made for himself a creditable position in commercial circles. He was born December 31, 1890, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Schmitz) Frey, natives of Germany. The father came to America when eighteen years of age and made his way to Illinois, where he worked as a farm hand. He afterward cultivated a rented farm for several years and later removed to Platte county, Nebraska, where he purchased land which he continued to develop and improve until 1905. He then retired and removed to Humphrey, where he and his wife now make their home, enjoying a well earned rest.

William R. Frey was reared and educated in Humphrey and attended both the public and parochial schools. He started out in the business world in connection with the implement trade and a year later he entered the employ of Mr. Baekes, a nurseryman with whom he remained for a year and a half. He next purchased a dray and engaged in teaming for two or three years, after which he bought out the Humphrey Bottling Works and has since conducted business along that line. He bottles soft drinks, all of his own manufacture, including soda water,

pop and various other light beverages. He has a well equipped plant and does a good business. The excellence of his product insures a ready sale of the output.

On the 10th of November, 1914, Mr. Frey was united in marriage to Miss Josie Foley, a daughter of John and Rachel (Johnson) Foley. The father, who has been in the service of the Illinois Central Railroad Company as section foreman for the past twenty-eight years, now makes his home at Anthon, Iowa. The mother passed away in 1905.

In religious faith Mr. and Mrs. Frey are Catholics and he holds membership with the Knights of Columbus. Politically he is a democrat, voting for the men and measures of the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He is well known in Humphrey and this part of the county and has many friends among those who have known him from his boyhood as well as among the acquaintances of later years.

JUDGE ERNST C. HALM.

Judge Ernst C. Halm is one of the substantial and highly respected citizens of Humphrey, where he is filling the office of justice of the peace and also conducting an insurance agency. His life, having always been well spent, has gained him warm regard and he has the faculty of winning the friendship of those with whom he comes in contact. He was born in Dansville, New York, December 14, 1861, a son of John Baptist and Marie (Kling) Halm, who were natives of Prussia. It was about 1848 that the father came to America, settling in New York city, where he became associated with the German Staats-Zeitung, the largest German daily paper in this country. He acted as traveling representative for the company, visiting all parts of the United States in the interest of the paper. While at New Orleans he accidentally slipped from a gang plank and the injuries which he sustained resulted in his death in 1863. His widow survived him for many years, passing away at Mount Vernon, New York, in August, 1905.

Judge Halm was reared and educated in New York city, in Elmira, New York, and in Blossburg, Pennsylvania, the last named town being just across the boundary line from New York. His time was passed in the three places until he reached the age of fifteen years. His mother had married again about 1865, and in 1877 the family removed to Boone county, Nebraska, where his stepfather homesteaded a quarter section of prairie land and also secured an eighty-acre timber claim. Judge Halm remained with his mother and stepfather until he attained his majority, when he started out in life on his own account, going to Columbus, Nebraska, where he was employed in a grocery store as clerk for two years. He then entered into partnership with C. G. Hickok and Julius Rasmussen, and in addition to conducting a grocery business at Columbus they established a store at Platte Center, conducting both places for three years. On the expiration of that period they sold out to C. C. Carrig, with whom Judge Halm remained for six years or until September, 1895, when he removed to Humphrey to work in a general store. There he remained for seven years, after which he returned to Columbus and was employed in a dry goods store for five years. He then again came to Humphrey and accepted a position in the general store of McKillip & Ewing, with whom he

continued for three years, when he turned his attention to the fire insurance business, in which he has since been engaged. In 1911 he was elected justice of the peace of Humphrey and has since occupied the position, with office in the city hall. He has made a most creditable record, his decisions being strictly fair and impartial, based upon the law and the equity in the case. At the same time he is successfully conducting an insurance agency, handling life, accident and fire insurance and writing many policies annually.

Judge Halm has been married twice. In January, 1882, he wedded Miss Jennie Johnson, a daughter of John Johnson, who was a native of Sweden. To them was born a son, Eugene W., who is now thirty-one years of age and acts as advertising manager for the Bankers Realty Investment Company of Omaha. The wife and mother passed away in 1889 and in 1893 Judge Halm was again married, his second union being with Ada Todd Farrell, a daughter of John and Jane (Almond) Todd, natives of England. They emigrated to the United States in an early day and the father worked at the machinist's trade in Illinois during the remainder of his life. After his death Mrs. Todd became the wife of Mathew Farrell, a pioneer agriculturist of Platte county, Nebraska, who took up a homestead claim here in the late '60s. He is an honored veteran of the Civil war and since putting aside the active work of the fields, in 1905, has resided at the Soldiers Home at Grand Island. His wife passed away in the year 1907. Judge and Mrs. Halm have a daughter, Burdetta M., who is twenty-one years of age and is engaged in teaching school.

Judge Halm is a Catholic in religious belief and is identified with the Knights of Columbus and with the Modern Woodmen of America. In community affairs he has taken a deep and helpful interest, has served on the school board and when a resident of Platte Center was a member of the town council and also mayor of the town, largely furthering its interests by his public-spirited devotion to the general good. He now owns two fine residences in Humphrey, one of which he rents, occupying the other, which he and his wife have made a most hospitable home, its doors being ever open for the cordial reception of their many friends.

COLUMBUS CLUB HOUSE.

The Columbus Club House is one of the most enterprising business interests of the county seat of Platte county. It is owned by the firm of Whitcomb & Ellsworth and is the only undertaking of that character in the city. It furnishes a place of clean amusement and is splendidly equipped for the purpose for which it is intended. There are three bowling alleys of the finest maple and they were used in the national tournament at Peoria, Illinois, held in March, 1915. The alleys are equipped with the latest pin-setting devices and all around the room is a large balcony for the comfort and pleasure of those who desire to watch the game but do not care for the moment to participate therein. The alleys are liberally patronized by gentlemen and ladies. In fact it is the purpose of the firm to maintain an amusement house that the people of highest standing will attend. There are three pocket billiard tables on the first floor and a liberal patronage is also accorded in that department. In addition to the billiard tables on the first floor there is also one

in the rear of the balcony which is always in use. The club house also maintains one of the finest equipped cigar and tobacco stores in Nebraska and their soda fountain can scarcely be surpassed. Both proprietors are very considerate of the wishes of their patrons, doing everything to further their comfort and pleasure, and there is no convenience lacking that is usually found in an establishment of the kind. In a word, the Columbus Club House is an establishment worthy of and receiving the patronage of the best and the city has reason to be proud of this well conducted and ordered business carried on by the firm of Whitcomb & Ellsworth.

P. H. L. MEYER.

P. H. L. Meyer is the owner of one of the splendidly improved properties of Humphrey township, his home farm being on section 35. He there has a fine modern residence, while other equipments and accessories of the model farm add to the attractive appearance of his place. He has gained prominence as a breeder and raiser of registered stock, his name in this connection being known throughout western Nebraska. Germany has furnished a large percentage of citizens to Platte county and among this number is Mr. Meyer, who was born near Hamburg on the 25th of April, 1867. His father, Henry Meyer, was also a native of that place. He was a farmer by occupation and was left a large fortune by his father, who was with Napoleon in his march against Russia. Henry Meyer became a very extensive landowner and attained large riches in the old country.

P. H. L. Meyer pursued his education in the schools of the fatherland and in 1885, when a young man of eighteen years, crossed the briny deep to the new world, settling in Platte county, Nebraska, where he engaged in merchandising. While living at Creston and at Humphrey he visited every family in this part of the state, selling to them all kinds of merchandise, and he still has the covered wagon from which he disposed of five hundred thousand dollars worth of goods. His business affairs were most carefully and wisely conducted, hence his success. In 1902 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land on section 35, Humphrey township, and removed to that farm, upon which he has since resided. He carried on general farming and stock-raising until 1914, when he retired from active farm work and rents out his land, while at the present time he is engaged in the piano and sewing machine business as a retail dealer. In 1915 he built a new residence upon his farm and has also erected a large cattle and horse barn. In addition he has built a hennerly eighty feet long and is raising pure blood Rock Island Reds, his chickens being famous throughout this part of the state. He also breeds pure blooded Duroc Jersey hogs, keeping registered stock and selling for breeding purposes all through this part of Nebraska. He began breeding pure-blood hogs in 1907 and success has attended his efforts in large measure.

In February, 1892, Mr. Meyer was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Westmeyer, who came to this country from Germany, her native land, when a little maiden of eight years. To them have been born twelve children, nine of whom still survive, as follows: Ernest, who follows farming in Humphrey township; Ida; Hilda; Regina; Dora; Elmer; Allen; Raymond; and Louis.

In his political views Mr. Meyer was for many years a stalwart republican



P. H. L. MEYER

but is now independent. He and his wife and children are members of the German Lutheran church. He thinks out along independent lines and is a progressive man in thought, purpose and action. Indefatigable industry has ever been one of his salient characteristics and upon it he has builded his success, becoming one of the prosperous residents of his part of the state.

ADAM HYDO.

When sixteen years of age Adam Hydo came alone to the new world and has since been dependent entirely upon his own resources, so that whatever success he has achieved and enjoyed is the merited reward of persistent, earnest effort. At the present time he is manager of the Omaha Elevator Company at Tarnov. He was born in Austria in December, 1891, and is a son of Andrew and Anna (Fida) Hydo, who were natives of that country, where the father was a hotel proprietor. He never came to the new world but passed away in Austria in 1912, while his wife's death occurred there in 1911.

Adam Hydo attended school in his native country and in 1907 bade adieu to friends and family and sailed for the United States, being then a youth of sixteen years. He settled first at South Omaha, where he worked on a Polish weekly paper, and later he removed to Fullerton, Nebraska, securing employment in that locality as a farm hand. He was afterward employed in different stores for five years and on the 28th of December, 1914, he came to Tarnov, where he accepted the position as manager of the Omaha Elevator Company of Omaha, having charge of their business at this place. He buys grain and is developing a good business at this point.

Mr. Hydo holds membership in the Catholic church and is a member of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. He also belongs to the Fraternal Order of Eagles, while his political support is given to the republican party. He has worked earnestly to advance along business lines and already has attained a creditable position for one of his years.

ALBERT F. PLAGEMANN.

Albert F. Plagemann has since the fall of 1908 been identified with the German National Bank of Columbus, its stockholders representing some of the best known and wealthiest citizens of Platte county and, since April, 1909, he has served as cashier of this financial institution. Mr. Plagemann was born on a farm in Polk county, Nebraska, November 26, 1871, and is a son of Frederick and Augusta (Schulz) Plagemann, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father, who was born in Mecklenberg in 1813, engaged in milling in the fatherland. He was there married and about 1864 emigrated with his family to the new world. He took up a homestead claim in Polk county, Nebraska, and was identified with agricultural interests until the time of his death, which occurred in that county in 1878, when he was about sixty-five years of age. The mother survived for more

than a quarter of a century and passed away in Columbus in 1905, at the age of seventy-two years.

Albert F. Plagemann was reared on the home farm in Polk county and at the usual age entered the country schools there. Subsequently he pursued his studies for one winter in the public schools of Columbus. At the age of sixteen he became a clerk in a hardware establishment of this city, there remaining two years. He then spent eight months in a commercial college in Omaha, where he pursued a business course. Subsequently he went to Kansas and for two years was employed at farm labor. In November, 1897, he once more returned to Columbus and became collection clerk for the Columbus State Bank, remaining in that capacity for twenty-six months. He next entered the employ of the First National Bank of this city as bookkeeper, being thus engaged eight years, and in September, 1908, he was employed by the German National Bank in a similar capacity. His ability was soon recognized and in January, 1909, he was made assistant cashier, while in April following he was made cashier and has since filled this important and responsible position. His career has been a constant progression. From the time of his entrance into business circles he was keenly alive to the interests of his employers, at the same time safeguarding his own, and this is the key which always unlocks the door to promotion. Mr. Plagemann is also a director in the Home Savings Bank of Columbus.

It was on the 16th of December, 1908, that the marriage of Mr. Plagemann and Miss Mary A. Schneider occurred. She is a daughter of August Schneider and by her marriage has become the mother of one daughter, Martha Augusta Rosetta.

In politics Mr. Plagemann is a democrat, while in religious faith he is a Lutheran. He has never been active in public affairs, and the only office he has held was that of a member of the school board. His life has ever been characterized by integrity, accuracy, promptness and courteous treatment of customers. Quiet and unassuming in manner, he has raised himself to a prominent position with one of the strongest financial institutions in Platte county.

WILLIAM KLUG.

All of the substantial improvements which are seen upon the farm of William Klug on section 25, Bismark township, are the work of his hands and he is accounted one of the enterprising and progressive agriculturists of the community in which he lives. Nebraska numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Colfax county, August 4, 1873. His father, John Klug, whose name indicates his German nativity, was united in marriage to Miss Annie Gisen, a native of Switzerland. They came to America in or about 1868, arriving on the 3d of July, and in that year John Klug homesteaded in Colfax county, Nebraska. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made upon his place, but with characteristic energy he began its development and in course of time converted it into productive fields. Both he and his wife passed away in the same year, 1913, the former at the age of seventy-seven and the latter when fifty-eight years of age.

William Klug was reared in his native county and the usual experiences of the farm boy were his, his time being spent in the enjoyment of youthful pleasures, in

the work of the fields and in the duties of the schoolroom. His training brought to him a knowledge of the value of industry, economy and perseverance, and the lessons which he thus early learned have proven of value to him in his later years. He has always devoted his life to farming and is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 25, Bismark township, constituting a good farm property. The improvements thereon, all made by himself, stand as a monument to his thrift, industry and progressive spirit. He carries on general farming, producing good crops, and his labors are being attended with substantial success. He also owns other land, including one hundred and twenty acres in a body in Colfax county and two or three smaller tracts.

In 1899 Mr. Klug was married to Miss Anna Schutte, who was born in Colfax county, a daughter of Henry and Gesine Loseke. Her father is now deceased, but her mother resides in Columbus. Mr. and Mrs. Klug have become parents of six children: Ewald, Louis, Laura, Esther, Alvina and Raymond. In politics Mr. Klug is independent, voting according to the dictates of his judgment and the requirements of the situation. He has served as a member of the school board and believes in the employment of good teachers and the maintenance of schools which shall be of practical value in training the young for the duties of life. He has also served as a member of the board of the German Lutheran church, in which he holds membership, and his life is guided by the teachings of that organization.

JOSEPH BROCKHAUS.

Among the active, energetic farmers of Humphrey township is numbered Joseph Brockhaus, who is living on section 31. He arrived in this county when a youth of fifteen years, his birth having occurred in Wisconsin, February 2, 1861, his parents being G. H. and Annie G. (Summers) Brockhaus. He began his education in the schools of his native state and there had the usual training of the farm lad, remaining in Wisconsin until 1876, when he came with his parents to Platte county, Nebraska. He has always remained with his parents but started in business independently at the age of twenty-five years, when he took charge of the home place, which he has since cultivated, his father turning over two hundred and forty acres to him at that time. He now has a splendidly developed farm on which are lacking none of the accessories and improvements of the model farm of the twentieth century. He has added to his original holdings by the purchase of one hundred and twenty acres adjoining, so that he now has an excellent farm of three hundred and sixty acres situated on section 31, Humphrey township. He afterward bought two hundred and twenty acres on section 3, Humphrey township, which is also improved and which he rents. His work has been carried on along systematic lines, and the results of his carefully and intelligently directed labor are seen in the success which has crowned his efforts, his five hundred and eighty acres of land being the visible evidence of a life of well directed energy and thrift. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Humphrey and of the Farmers State Bank there.

On the 16th of February, 1886, Mr. Brockhaus was joined in wedlock to Miss Josephine Fangmann, who was born in Kentucky, June 7, 1868, a daughter of Anton and Carrie Fangmann, who were natives of Germany. They came to America at

an early-day and located in Kentucky. The father was a cigar maker by trade and became the owner of a cigar factory and store in Kentucky, where he resided until he removed to Nebraska, settling in Omaha, where he engaged in the same business. He afterward came to Platte county and purchased land, which he cultivated for several years and then retired, at which time he removed to Humphrey, where he has since resided, being now eighty-five years of age. His wife died in September, 1913, at the age of eighty-three years. Their daughter, Mrs. Brockhaus, passed away March 18, 1909, after an illness of only four days, her death being a matter of deep regret to her many friends as well as to her relatives and immediate family. She had become the mother of nine children: Mary, the wife of John Wemhoff, a resident farmer of Idaho; Annie, the wife of August Weiser, who follows farming in Humphrey township; Gertrude, the wife of Edward Weiser, a resident farmer of Grand Prairie township; and Lizzie, Katie, Johanna, Frank, Ferdinand and Theresia, all at home.

The Catholic church claims the allegiance of Mr. Brockhaus, who has been a lifelong member thereof. He gives his political support to the democratic party but aside from casting his ballot in defense of its principles is not an active politician, for he does not seek nor desire office as a reward for party fealty. On the contrary, he prefers to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs and, working persistently along the lines of modern farming, he has become one of the most prosperous and progressive agriculturists of his part of the county.

FRANK H. MORROW, B. S., M. D.

Dr. Frank H. Morrow is an able and successful representative of the medical profession in Columbus, where he has practiced continuously for the past seven years, specializing in surgery. His birth occurred in Turin, New York, on the 5th of February, 1880, his parents being Thomas and Mary (McDonald) Morrow. The father, born in County Sligo, Ireland, in 1839, emigrated to the United States with his mother in boyhood and was married in the Empire state. In 1881 he removed with his family to Holt county, Nebraska, and in 1905 took up his abode in Scotts Bluff county, this state, where he has since resided.

Frank H. Morrow acquired his early education in the country schools of Holt county, Nebraska, afterward pursued a high-school course in Atkinson and subsequently entered the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, from which institution he was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1906. He prepared for a professional career in the medical department of the same institution, winning the degree of M. D. in 1908. He then opened an office in Columbus and has here remained during the intervening years, specializing in surgery and being accorded an extensive and gratifying practice in recognition of his superior skill. That he keeps in close touch with the work and progress of his profession is indicated in his membership in the Columbus City Medical Society, the Platte County Medical Society, the Nebraska State Medical Association and the American Medical Association.

On the 4th of November, 1914, in Columbus, Nebraska, Dr. Morrow was united in marriage to Miss Marie Catharine Rusche, a daughter of F. H. Rusche. He gives his political allegiance to the democracy and fraternally is identified with the

Royal Highlanders, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Knights of America and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He is also a devout communicant of the Catholic church. Both the Doctor and his wife are well known in social circles of Columbus and have a host of warm friends.

JACOB OLK.

Jacob Olk is proprietor of the only hardware and implement store at Cornlea and is conducting a gratifying and growing business. He was born in Germany, October 12, 1859, and is a son of Nicholas and Angella Olk, who were also natives of that country. The mother died there thirty-five years ago, but the father is still living in Germany at the very advanced age of eighty-seven years.

Jacob Olk remained at home until, according to the laws of his native land, he joined the army, serving for two years. On coming to America in 1884 he settled in Carroll, Iowa, and for a year thereafter was employed as a farm hand by the month. He next removed to Earling, Iowa, where he worked at farm labor for two years and then went to Council Bluffs, spending a year as a farm hand near that city. On the expiration of that period he entered the shops of the John Dersk Manufacturing Company, in which he continued for two years, after which he came to Nebraska, settling at Pilger, where he established a blacksmith shop, which he conducted for fifteen years, gaining a liberal patronage, so that his business yielded him a fair profit. In 1901 he removed to Cornlea, where he now makes his home, and in that year he opened a hardware and implement store, which he has since conducted, covering a period of fourteen years. He has built up a large trade, for his is the only store of the kind in the town and in addition to shelf and heavy hardware he carries a general line of farm implements and is ready to meet any demands in his line. He is obliging and ever courteous to his patrons and his carefully directed interests are bringing to him substantial success.

On the 18th of October, 1889, Mr. Olk was united in marriage to Miss Lydia Rustermeyer, a daughter of John and Charlotte (Swebach) Rustermeyer, who were natives of Holstein, Germany. The father was an agriculturist by occupation and on emigrating to the United States located first in Wisconsin, while subsequently he took up his abode in Staunton county, Nebraska, where both he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. John Rustermeyer passed away on the 31st of July, 1907, having for a number of years survived his wife, who died in August, 1898.

To Mr. and Mrs. Olk have been born nine children, as follows: Mollie, who was born March 29, 1892, and is the wife of George A. Wittler, a retail liquor dealer of Cornlea, by whom she has two children, Jay and Sedona; William, who was born October 26, 1893, and is the assistant cashier of the Cornlea State Bank; Otto, who was born May 1, 1895, and clerks in his father's store; Ella, whose birth occurred July 12, 1896, and who is employed as clerk in the store of Albert Pilger at Pilger, Nebraska; Emma, whose natal day was January 16, 1899; Anita, whose birth occurred April 11, 1902; Leo, born August 4, 1903; Ivan, born November 21, 1906; and Angella, whose birth occurred July 18, 1908, and who died in infancy.

On becoming an American citizen Mr. Olk indorsed the principles of the republican party, of which he has since been an earnest advocate. He is now serving as a member of the town board and of the school board of Cornlea and is interested in every plan and measure for the general good, cooperating in many projects which have greatly benefited the community. He and his family are communicants of the Catholic church. Mr. Olk is a self-made man and deserves much credit for what he has accomplished. He now owns a section of good land in Cheyenne county, Nebraska, and its rental brings him a gratifying financial return. He devotes the major part of his attention, however, to his hardware and implement business and is accounted one of the progressive merchants of the county and one of the most highly respected citizens of Cornlea.

HENRY BEHLE.

Henry Behle, carrying on general farming on section 26, Shell Creek township, has been a resident of Platte county for forty years and is therefore entitled to mention with its pioneer settlers—the men who have laid broad and deep the foundation upon which has been built the present progress and prosperity of the county. A native of Germany, he was born in Waldeck, January 7, 1850, a son of John and Mary (Rohmer) Behle, who were also natives of Waldeck, where the father became the owner of a farm and spent his entire life, giving his attention to general agricultural pursuits. He was an active worker in and a faithful member of the Lutheran church and his life was guided by its teachings. He died in 1880, at the age of seventy years, having for two years survived his wife, who passed away at the age of sixty-five.

Henry Behle was the fifth in order of birth in a family of seven children. He left home at the age of fifteen years, after having attended the schools of Germany, and, crossing the Atlantic, became a resident of Decatur, Illinois. He soon secured work in that locality as a farm hand and was thus employed until 1875, when he came to Nebraska at the age of twenty-five years. Since that time he has been identified with agricultural pursuits in Platte county. His first purchase of land made him the owner of an eighty acre tract, for which he paid ten dollars per acre. The improvements upon it consisted of a sod house and sod barn, but with characteristic energy he began to till and develop the fields and soon the eighty acre tract was converted into a productive farm, bringing forth good crops annually. As he found ready sale for his crops he was able to add to his holdings from time to time and is now the owner of four hundred acres of rich land in Shell Creek township, in the midst of which stands a nice country residence, large barns and other equipment of a model farm. Mr. Behle is still active in business and may well be numbered among the representative farmers of the district. He has always raised a good grade of stock and feeds and ships cattle and hogs. When he first took up his abode in Shell Creek township there was only one house between his home, on section 26, and Columbus. All was open prairie and the conditions of pioneer life had to be met. While Mr. Behle is now a prosperous farmer not all days in his career have been equally bright. In fact, during the early part of his residence here he had trouble in getting started. There were droughts and grasshoppers in

addition to the usual hardships of frontier life, but he had courage and perseverance and his close application and unfaltering energy brought him success in due time.

Mr. Behle was united in marriage to Miss Amelia Babbler, who was born in Beardstown, Illinois, a daughter of Allen Babbler, a native of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany. The father was a farmer by occupation and on coming to the new world settled in Cook county, Illinois, where he resided upon a farm until his death. He held membership in the German Methodist church. To Mr. and Mrs. Behle have been born eight children: Louise, who is the wife of Fred Wille, mentioned elsewhere in this work; Nora, the wife of Henry Claussen, a resident farmer of Iowa; Adam, living upon the home farm; and Henry, Amelia, Olive, Gretchen and Erick, all at home.

Mr. Behle belongs to the German Lutheran church and assisted in organizing the German Lutheran parochial school. He has served as moderator in his church and is interested in all that furthers its welfare and extends its influence. In a word, he has contributed to the moral progress of the community as well as to its agricultural development and his aid and influence are always to be counted upon to further the cause of right, justice, improvement and progress.

WILLIAM HAFLERLAND.

During the years in which he was actively engaged in farming William Haferland, of Humphrey, won a comfortable competence that now enables him to live retired. His name indicates his German lineage. He was born in Hanover, Germany, on the 25th of July, 1840, a son of Henry and Annie (Gannan) Haferland, who were also natives of that country, where the father followed the occupation of farming, spending his entire life there. He died in 1874, while his wife, who survived for fourteen years, passed away in 1888.

The public schools of Hanover afforded William Haferland his educational opportunities. He remained with his parents to the age of fourteen years and then started out to earn his own living by working on a farm, being employed in that manner until twenty-six years of age, when he bade adieu to friends and fatherland and sailed for the new world, believing that he might have better opportunities on this side the Atlantic. He made his way to Cincinnati, Ohio, and was employed in a packing house there for twelve years, after which he removed to Carroll county, Iowa, and invested the capital that he had gained through his industry and economy in a farm. This he operated with continued success until 1899, when he sold that property and made his way to Humphrey. Soon afterward he completed arrangements whereby he became the owner of a farm in Humphrey township, and immediately began its further development and improvement, converting it into a very productive tract of land which he continued to operate until 1905, when he retired and took up his abode in Humphrey, purchasing a nice home that he has since occupied. He is now a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company but otherwise has no business connections.

In June, 1869, Mr. Haferland was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Bölling, a daughter of Lucas and Elizabeth Bölling, who spent their entire lives in Germany. To Mr. and Mrs. Haferland have been born eleven children, as follows:

Henry, who passed away on the 13th of December, 1913; Annie, who is the wife of Anton Hoffman and resides in Carroll county, Iowa; Lizzie, who is the widow of Frank Rinard and makes her home in Humphrey; Frank, a resident of Granville township, this county; William, who operates his father's farm in Humphrey township; Kate, who gave her hand in marriage to Charles Maximan and makes her home in Colorado; Caroline, who is a Catholic sister at La Crosse, Wisconsin; Mary, who is the wife of Peter Shoemaker, of Granville township, Platte county; and Katie, Louis and George, all of whom died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Haferland belong to the Catholic church. In politics he is a democrat and while living in Carroll county served as road supervisor, but he has never sought or desired public office, preferring always to concentrate his time and energies upon his business affairs, in which he has met with growing and well merited success, bringing him at length to a financial position that enables him to live retired and yet enjoy many of the comforts and luxuries of life.

DIEDRICH HARMS.

The productive soil of Platte county has yielded rich rewards to those who had the courage to begin its development in pioneer times and who with the passing years continued the work of cultivating the fields. Many of the farmers have won prosperity in considerable measure and are now able to rest from further labor. Among these is Diedrich Harms, who is now living retired in Columbus. His life record had its beginning in Oldenburg, Germany, on the 20th of July, 1853, his parents being Gerhard and Elina (Behrens) Harms. The father was born in 1820 and was a farmer and sheep rancher of his native country. He served as an infantryman in 1848 and was decorated with a medal by the Kaiser for his gallantry at Duppel in the war with Denmark. His entire life was passed in Germany, his death occurring when he had reached the advanced age of ninety-one years and six months. His wife, who was born in 1823, died at the age of seventy.

Diedrich Harms attended school in Germany and there worked upon a farm until he came to the United States with his wife and one child, establishing his home in Columbus in 1884. They left their elder son in Germany with his paternal grandfather that he might attend school there. In 1885 the family removed to Bismark township and in the year 1892 Mr. Harms purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Joliet township, for which he paid thirty-two hundred dollars. In the meantime he had returned to Germany in 1887 and brought his son back with him to the United States. The family home was maintained in Joliet township for a time but afterward he sold that property and purchased other lands, carrying on farming in connection with his sons in Lost Creek and Burrows townships, where they had three hundred and twenty acres. Their labors resulted in bringing the fields under a high state of cultivation, rich crops being annually gathered. They also raised shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs and also fed both cattle and hogs for the market. Business affairs were carefully and systematically managed and the farm work was conducted along practical and progressive lines, resulting in the attainment of substantial success. In addition to his



DIEDRICH HARMS



MRS. DIEDRICH HARMS

farming interests Diedrich Harms became a stockholder of the Platte County State Bank at Platte Center and is still serving as one of its directors.

In 1875 Mr. Harms wedded Miss Helena Rippen, a native of Oldenburg, Germany, and a daughter of Gerhard and Mary Rippen. Her father, who was the owner of a small sheep ranch, was born in 1819 and died at the age of eighty-six years. Her mother was born in 1821. Mr. and Mrs. Harms became parents of two sons. Gerhard is married and resides on the farm in Lost Creek township. Diedrich is still with his parents.

In March, 1911, Mr. Harms was called back to his native town on account of his father's death. He made the trip of three thousand and eighty miles on the George Washington of the North German Lloyd Line, and though they encountered very severe weather, the voyage was completed in six days. This is the only trip which Mr. Harms has made back to the fatherland since leaving there more than three decades ago. His life has been actuated by his Christian faith. He has long been a devoted member of the German Lutheran church, in which he has taken a deep and helpful interest. In 1902 he served on the building committee that erected the church in Lost Creek township at Platte Center and he contributed largely to the work. Since taking up his abode in Columbus he has been very active in the German Lutheran church in this city and aided liberally in the erection of the school and church buildings, being on the building committee that made the additions to the church. He is now serving as senior steward and he co-operates heartily in all plans to promote the growth of the church and extend its influence. He has never regretted his determination to come to America, for in this country he has found the opportunities which he sought and by utilizing business conditions and advantages he has won prosperity, being now numbered among the men of affluence in Columbus.

SEBASTIAN E. MARTY.

Sebastian E. Marty has lived in Columbus for nearly a third of a century and has been long and successfully identified with business interests here, while at present he is the efficient incumbent in the office of postmaster. His birth occurred in New Glarus, Wisconsin, on the 28th of March, 1862, his parents being Friedolin and Anna (Blumer) Marty, who were married in Switzerland. The father, born in Glarus, Switzerland, in 1808, emigrated to the United States in 1854 and for four years resided in Chicago, Illinois. He then removed to Wisconsin, where his demise occurred in 1869, while his wife passed away in that state in 1877. Our subject has one living sister, Salome, who is the widow of Jacob Eierdan and resides in Chicago.

In the acquirement of an education Sebastian E. Marty attended the schools of his native town, but his advantages in that direction were limited, as he attended during only three months in the year. When about fourteen years of age he put aside his textbooks and subsequently worked at various occupations including rail-roading. He was telegrapher for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad at Brooklyn, Wisconsin, whence in 1883 he came to Columbus, Nebraska, being here employed as clerk in a meat market for two years. He then embarked in that line of busi-

ness on his own account and for a period of twenty-eight years remained proprietor of a meat market in Columbus, enjoying an extensive and profitable patronage. In October, 1913, he sold out and the next year secured a position as book-keeper in the Reaming mill at Columbus, being thus employed until April, 1915. On the 9th of February of that year he was selected for the position of postmaster at a primary held by the citizens of Columbus. There were five candidates for the office and he received seven hundred votes, being thus chosen by a flattering majority, as the next highest vote was three hundred and ninety. In this capacity he is making an excellent record, discharging his duties with ability and promptness.

On the 4th of May, 1885, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Marty was united in marriage to Miss Anna C. Marti, a daughter of Jacob Marti, who has passed away. To them have been born four children, namely: Louise M., who is the wife of Clayton C. Stafford, of Los Angeles, California; Anna C., who gave her hand in marriage to Sophus C. Pedersen; Frederick J.; and Carl Sebastian.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Marty has supported the men and measures of the democracy, while his religious faith is that of the German Reformed church. Fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Sons of Herman. He is a man of progressive spirit and of high principles and his genuine personal worth commends him to the confidence and goodwill of all with whom he comes in contact.

JOSEPH N. SMITH.

Joseph N. Smith is proprietor of a meat market in Humphrey and is also engaged in buying and shipping cattle to Omaha. Industry and determination are numbered among his salient characteristics and these qualities have gained him a creditable place in the business circles of his town. His residence in Platte county dates from 1883 or from the time that he was eleven years of age. He was born in Illinois in November, 1872, his parents being Benedict and Richartia (Wendling) Smith, who were natives of France. The father was but three years of age when he was brought by his parents to the United States in 1840, the family settling where Chicago now stands. The paternal grandfather owned land now included within the loop district of that city.

Benedict Smith was reared and educated in Illinois and after reaching man's estate turned his attention to farming. He became the owner of a tract of land in Dupage county, which he developed and improved, continuing its cultivation until 1877, when he removed to Arkansas, where he again carried on farming for six years. On the expiration of that period he arrived in Platte county, Nebraska, and for a time resided in Columbus but afterward rented a farm near Platte Center, which he continued to cultivate until he removed to Lindsay, where he purchased a place. He afterward retired from active business and became a resident of Humphrey, where his remaining days were passed, his death occurring in October, 1913, when he was about seventy-six years of age. His widow still survives and now makes her home with her son Joseph.

After spending the first five years of his life in his native state Joseph N. Smith

was taken by his parents to Arkansas and at the age of eleven years became a resident of Platte county, where he has since made his home. He attended the schools of Columbus and afterward went to Lindsay, where he operated a lumber yard and elevator for twelve years in connection with a partner. He next came to Humphrey and occupied the position of bartender with his brother for five years. His brother was also owner of a butcher shop in Humphrey and in 1903 Joseph N. Smith purchased the business which he has since conducted. He devotes much of his time to buying cattle and hogs, which he ships to Omaha, and this branch of his business is proving very profitable, for he is an excellent judge of stock and his purchases are therefore judiciously made, enabling him to realize handsomely on his sales. He is likewise a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Humphrey and in the First National Bank, his business interests being thus extensive and important.

In August, 1899, Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Alma Anderson, her father being August Anderson, a native of Sweden. Emigrating to the United States in an early day, the latter established his home in Platte county, Nebraska, and for twenty years was employed as section foreman by the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company. He is now living retired at Newman Grove, where he owns two farms. To Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been born six children, namely: George, who is fourteen years of age; Pearl, a maiden of eleven summers; Eugene, Florence and Raymond, who are eight, five and two years of age respectively; and Eldina, who passed away in 1900.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church and Mr. Smith also holds membership with the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Order of Foresters, and the Eagles. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the democratic party but is not an aspirant for office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon the business interests which now claim his time and attention and which are proving a substantial source of revenue. He has a wide acquaintance in the county in which the greater part of his life has been passed and where he is now well established in the regard and esteem of many friends.

JOHN FREDERICK FEYE.

Among the excellent citizens whom Germany has given to Platte county is John Frederick Feye, who is successfully engaged in farming on section 9, Sherman township. He was born in Ahlhorn, Oldenburg, Germany, July 22, 1873, a son of J. Herman and Louisa (Leiszner) Feye. The father owned a small farm and devoted his time to its operation. Both parents were lifelong residents of Germany. Their religious faith was that of the Lutheran church, and they were highly respected in their community.

John Frederick Feye attended school in his native village but as his father died when he was a small boy he was early compelled to provide for his own support. He worked upon the home farm until 1890, when he emigrated to the United States and made his way to Platte county, Nebraska. He was employed as a farm hand here for two years and also learned the carpenter's trade which he followed for about nine years. At the end of that time he was married and began farming on

his own account. He has gained a gratifying measure of success and now owns three hundred and twenty acres of land which formerly belonged to his father-in-law. He is energetic and, as he plans his work carefully, he receives a gratifying income from his land.

On July 26, 1900, Mr. Feye was united in marriage to Miss Alma Wurdeman, further mention of whose family is made in the sketch of J. H. Wurdeman which appears elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Feye have three children, Otto Fredrick, Walter Hellmuth and Arthur William.

Mr. Feye is a republican but confines his political activity to the exercise of his right of franchise. He is a member of the Lutheran church, to the support of which he contributes, and he co-operates with movements seeking the moral advancement of his community. Since becoming a resident of Platte county he has gained the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens and has made many personal friends.

AUGUSTUS W. CLARK.

Augustus W. Clark is a retired farmer living in Columbus and also one of the veterans of the Civil war, as is indicated by the fact that he wears the little bronze button of the Grand Army of the Republic. That he has been a loyal and patriotic citizen in times of peace as well as in times of war entitles him to representation in this volume. He was born in Ashtabula county, Ohio, June 11, 1838, and is a son of W. O. and Lois (Greene) Clark, natives of New York. The father, who devoted his life to agricultural pursuits, removed from the Empire state to Ohio and for fifteen years lived in Ashtabula. In 1848 he went to La Salle county, Illinois, where he found pioneer conditions, but on the prairies of that state he took up general farming and became the owner of valuable land, winning a place among the representative agriculturists of his district. He was also active in neighborhood affairs, gave his political allegiance to the democratic party and upheld the Universalist church as one of its members. He continued to reside upon his farm in Illinois until his death, which occurred when he was seventy-two years of age, while his wife passed away in La Salle county at the very advanced age of ninety-five years.

Augustus W. Clark acquired a common-school education in that county and remained at home until October 16, 1861, when he enlisted as a member of Company B, Fifty-third Illinois Infantry, the regiment being formed at Ottawa. The command was with Cushman's Brigade. Mr. Clark enlisted first as a musician and was promoted from principal musician to sergeant major. The troops left Ottawa for Camp Douglas, Chicago, relieving General Sullivan's command that was guarding prisoners from Fort Donelson. After about two months they were relieved by newer troops and reported at Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, in the early part of 1862, remaining at that place for some time. With his regiment Mr. Clark participated in the siege of Corinth, the siege of Vicksburg and that of Atlanta and went with Sherman on the march to the sea. He was slightly wounded in the face and again in the back. The Fifty-third, because of the heavy losses which had decimated its ranks, was consolidated with the Forty-first Illinois Infantry, and with

that command Mr. Clark was mustered out at Savannah, Georgia, December 29, 1864.

He then returned to Illinois and began farming in La Salle county, where he lived for about fifteen years, owning land in that state until 1880, when he sold out and came to Platte county, Nebraska, where he purchased property and engaged in farming until 1900. His home was in Columbus township, where he had two hundred acres, upon which he extensively engaged in raising stock. His business affairs were carefully and systematically conducted and success in gratifying measure attended his efforts. When he put aside all business cares in 1900 he took up his abode in Columbus, where he has since enjoyed a well earned and well merited rest.

In February, 1886, Mr. Clark wedded Miss Elizabeth C. Westcott, who was born in New York, a daughter of George W. and Miriam (Eddy) Westcott, also natives of the Empire state. During the greater part of his life her father followed blacksmithing. Removing to Illinois, he lived for a time in Aurora and afterward followed his trade in different towns in La Salle and other counties. He lived for a time at Marseilles, Illinois, but in 1879 came to Platte county, settling on a farm two miles north of Columbus, where he owned one hundred and sixty acres of land. He was a very active and progressive citizen of his township and served as assessor, to which position he was elected on the republican ticket. Mr. and Mrs. Clark have become the parents of eight children, five of whom are still living: Addie L., who became the wife of J. F. McGill, a farmer of Platte county and died in April, 1914, leaving four children; Otis, of Columbus, who is married and has four children; Clarence J., a carpenter of Columbus, who is married and has one child; Eugene A., who is married and is a carpenter and millwright of Columbus; and Hazel, at home.

Mr. Clark has been an active member of the Masonic fraternity for many years and belongs also to the Modern Woodmen of America. His political allegiance is given the democratic party and he was active in politics in Columbus township, where he served as clerk for eight years, as township supervisor for a similar period and as township assessor. He also filled the office of assessor in the city of Columbus, and he served as councilman for seven years, during which period he was also a bailiff of the Platte county district court. He has long been a devoted member of the Grand Army post at Columbus, of which he has served as commander and is now chaplain. He proved a valiant soldier when he followed the nation's starry banner on southern battlefields and he has also been equally loyal to the best interests of the country in times of peace, and stands as a splendid representative of American manhood and chivalry.

GEORGE H. BENDER.

George H. Bender is an enterprising general merchant of Cornlea, where he now conducts a business of large and gratifying proportions. He was born in Henry, Marshall county, Illinois, February 11, 1879, a son of Peter and Kate (Hatzbuehler) Bender, the former a native of Menamebach, Germany, born June 12, 1852. When four years of age he was brought to America by his parents.

the family home being established near Henry, Illinois. He became a farmer, devoting his life to that occupation.

George H. Bender attended school in the home district until he had mastered the branches of learning therein taught and subsequently he entered the normal school at Fremont, Nebraska, from which he was graduated in 1901. In 1903 he came to Cornlea, where he established a general mercantile store of which he has since been the proprietor. In 1907 he was joined by his father in a partnership that has since been maintained under the firm name of Bender & Son. They enjoy a large patronage and carry an extensive stock of dry goods and general merchandise. Their store is well appointed and tastefully arranged and the reasonable prices and honorable business policy of the firm bring to them a constantly increasing patronage which makes the undertaking a profitable one.

On the 15th of February, 1901, Mr. Bender was united in marriage to Miss Celia Ratterman, a daughter of John and Kate (Zavadil) Ratterman, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Bohemia. John Ratterman is now serving as judge of Platte county, but his wife has passed away. To our subject and his wife have been born six children, as follows: Elnora, who attends the school of the Sacred Heart church at Cornlea; Francis; Theodore; Margaret; Ethel and Celia.

In his political views Mr. Bender is a democrat and for the past ten years has served as secretary of the democratic conventions held in Platte county. He has long been recognized as an active worker in party ranks and his opinions carry weight in the local democratic councils. He is now clerk of the town board and has also served as clerk of Granville township. He and his family are all members of the Catholic church of Cornlea and he belongs also to Humphrey Council of the Knights of Columbus and the Modern Woodmen camp of Cornlea. His time and attention, however, are given in largest measure to his business affairs and he is an alert, energetic business man who early in his career recognized the eternal principle that industry wins and has made industry the beacon light of his life.

RUDOLF FRIEDERICH LEOPOLD JAEGGI.

Rudolf Friederich Leopold Jaeggi is the owner and editor of the Nebraska Biene, the only German paper published in Platte county. He is well known to the German-American citizens of the district and is one whose efforts have been a forceful factor in upholding the standards of citizenship and in advancing public progress in his part of the state. He was born July 29, 1850, in Bueren, Canton Bern, Switzerland, and by inherited right became a full citizen of the city of Bern. He belonged to the Guild of Pfistern (bakers and millers). His parents were Carl Ludwig, a minister of the state church of Switzerland, and Margarethe Rosina (Kistler) Jaeggi. The paternal grandfather was also a minister. He had a coat of arms and the genealogical history of the family can be traced back for six centuries, one of the original ancestors having aided in building the city of Bern. The maternal grandfather was a military man and was captain of the Swiss guards of Napoleon. Mrs. Jaeggi was a granddaughter of Colonel Von Tillier, who was the commander of one of the three regiments of Swiss guards that defended the Tnil-



RUDOLF F. L. JAEGGI

leries in the French revolution in the last decade of the eighteenth century and was saved by a French nobleman when laying unconscious on the sidewalk suffering from twenty-two wounds. One of his ancestors was Schultheiss, of the old republic of Bern in the middle ages, who was the chief officer of the town, his position being practically that of head of the republic. Medals, scepters and other rewards of bravery were adornments on the walls of the home of Carl Ludwig Jaeggi. He in turn, when a young man, before becoming a minister of the gospel, was stenographer at the great council in Bern for a number of years. He afterward became a higher grade teacher at the gymnasium at Burgdorf, Switzerland, and for a time was one of the political leaders of the country, aiding in the overthrow of the old patrician government in Switzerland in the '30s. At that time Switzerland was not a democratic republic and the common citizen did not have equal rights with the nobleman. After becoming a clergyman Carl Ludwig Jaeggi did not take part in politics and never discussed political questions, but at one time he was candidate for the national council but was defeated by the party of Jacob Staempfli, who became a most brilliant president of Switzerland and famous as international judge in the settlement of the Alabama question between England and the United States.

Leopold Jaeggi pursued his education at Bueren on the Aare river, passing through eight grades of the primary schools and two grades of the secondary school. Later he pursued the work of the fifth grade of the leading cantonal school in Bern, the capital of the county, and in Neuveville, the French part of the canton of Bern, where he finished his education in a boarding school or college. After serving a two years' apprenticeship in a wholesale business house in Burgdorf, Canton Bern, Switzerland, he also spent two years as an apprentice in a confectionery establishment at Geneva, Switzerland, where he continued from the spring of 1869 until the 1st of March, 1871. Subsequently he was employed at Bex, in the canton de Vaux, Switzerland, in Bern, in Strausburg and Weissenburg in Alsace, and in Aarau, Switzerland. While in Geneva he witnessed the war between Germany and France and registered as a volunteer to help protect the Swiss neutrality but was not called upon for active military service. The next fall, however, he had to enlist in the regular army, as it was the law that every young man must serve in the Swiss militia. In that connection he advanced to the rank of sergeant and in that capacity served for two or three terms of from seven to eight weeks each with new recruits. He was ordered for another term, with the possibility for advancement to the rank of lieutenant, but in 1873 he left his native country for the United States, arriving at Columbus, Nebraska, on the 1st of November, of that year.

When the family came to this state the mother and two brothers each secured an eighty acre homestead in Polk county near the Platte river, their tracts adjoining, but the grasshoppers destroyed their crops in 1873 and again wrought devastation in 1874. Leopold Jaeggi then returned to Omaha to work in a confectionery establishment, but, not liking the methods of conducting the business, he left the position and established a flour store on Thirteenth street between Farnum and Harney, handling the flour of the Sarpy county and other mills. He did not earn more than a living in that connection, however, and, accordingly, accepted a position as clerk in the Columbus State Bank, where he remained for four years. On the expiration of that period he entered the lumberyard of Jaeggi & Schupbach and later managed a yard for them at Genoa and afterward in Humphrey, Nebraska.

In January, 1880, he purchased an interest in the business of Gus G. Becher & Company, insurance and loans, and in 1883 he was called back to Bern by a relative, who wished to enter into business relations with Mr. Jaeggi's firm and who assisted him to enter into a like business relation with a leading bank in Basel, Switzerland, for which the firm of Becher, Jaeggi & Company, loaned money to the farmers until the year 1897. For a time the company did a large and satisfactory business, never losing a dollar for the Switzerland firm which they represented, but finally interest became so low that Europe could not compete.

Mr. Jaeggi is now the owner and editor of the *Nebraska Biene*, which commenced its twenty-first year with the issue of May 15, 1914. It has celebrated the thirty-sixth anniversary of its origin under the name of the *Columbus Wochenblatt*, which makes it the oldest paper of Columbus still in existence. Thirty-seven years ago a young German-Pole of culture and education by the name of Robert Lange established the *Columbus Wochenblatt* with three patent pages that were furnished him and, adding the front page of local news, addressed it to his subscribers. Emil Pohl, then a well known musician and director of the *Columbus Macnnerchor*, the first German singing society in Columbus, was his assistant editor and wrote his political articles. Although Platte was in those days already considered one of the prominent German counties of Nebraska, still the county was just in the making, was not thickly settled and the German homesteaders could not afford to spend much time in reading newspapers and they needed their money in order to gain a start, so that Mr. Lange sold his paper to Dr. Schonlau, an old German physician with a large family, who conducted the paper until his death in 1890. Up to that date the *Wochenblatt* had been a democratic paper, but after the death of Dr. Schonlau the late Major J. N. Kilian bought the paper and in 1893 changed its politics as well as its name and made it a republican paper under the style of the *Nebraska Biene*. In 1898 Mr. Kilian was made captain of Company K, of the First Nebraska Militia Regiment and went to the Philippine islands to participate in the war. His local agent, J. H. Johannes, became his successor as owner and manager of the *Nebraska Biene*. Having been raised on a farm among the German settlers on Shell creek, understanding the needs of the paper and being a hard worker, he succeeded in raising the subscription list above the two thousand mark and made it a well established journal. He also changed its politics back to democratic. On the 12th of February, 1908, Mr. Johannes died after a brief illness and Henry Wilkens became owner of the paper but left its management and publication to Otto Kinder, now on the staff of the *Omaha Tribune*, who remained for a while as foreman after E. A. Harms, now a real-estate dealer of Norfolk, became its owner and made the paper independent as to politics.

On the 11th of January, 1913, Leopold Jaeggi became the owner through purchase of the paper, which he continues as an independent journal, not interfering with the political views of his subscribers who represent different political parties. It is his effort to further the interests of the German speaking citizens of the community and of the state regardless of political or religious creeds. As he comes from the oldest republic—the republic of Switzerland—a country widely respected and composed of three different races, using as many languages, all having learned in past centuries to unite as true citizens of the one country, beloved by all for its splendid organization of free and human institutions, he hopes to make the *Nebraska Biene* a true servant of this great land of the brave and the free by helping its citi-

zens to better understand each other when prejudice and false national pride threaten to disturb their harmony. He holds to the viewpoint of the former very patriotic secretary of state, Carl Schurz: "My country, right or wrong; if right to be kept right, if wrong to be set right."

In October, 1883, Mr. Jaeggi was married in Aarburg, Switzerland, to Miss Bertha Meyer, a daughter of Dr. Arnold Meyer, a citizen of Herisau in the canton of Appenzell, Switzerland, whose father was also a minister. Mrs. Jaeggi possesses considerable musical skill as a pianist and also displays talent in painting and in household arts. To Mr. and Mrs. Jaeggi have been born three daughters: Gertrude, now the wife of Dr. F. Conrad Krüger, of the State University of California at Berkeley; Hedwig, a well known violinist and the wife of Maurice Fontein, a dealer in pianos, violins and player pianos; and Else, who has engaged in teaching school and is now soliciting manager and bookkeeper for the Nebraska Biene.

For the past thirty years Mr. Jaeggi has been a notary public, his commission expiring January 9, 1918. In former years he was a member of the Omaha lodge of Odd Fellows and he now holds membership with the Woodmen of the World. He is also a charter member of the Columbus Maennerchor Singing Society and is still one of its active representatives. He possesses musical talent which has made him a valued factor in the musical circles of the city. He is somewhat independent in thought along religious and political lines but holds membership with the Evangelical German church. He does not hold to any political party but is a believer in personal liberty and that education alone makes men wise and moral.

M. E. COONEY.

M. E. Cooney is the owner of one of the model farm properties of Burrows township, his home being on section 33, where he has two hundred and fifty acres of valuable and productive land. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, March 14, 1854, a son of John and Ann (Murray) Cooney. The father was a native of Ireland and in 1846 bade adieu to the Emerald isle and to his friends of that country and sailed for the United States, with Chicago as his destination. There he engaged in teaming and continued to make his home throughout his remaining days, his death occurring in 1880. His wife, who was also born in Ireland, died in Cook county, Illinois, in 1890.

M. E. Cooney attended school in Chicago and afterward worked upon a farm in Lake county, Illinois, which his father had purchased. His time was thus spent until he reached the age of twenty-four years, when he began working for other farmers, continuing in that employ until 1878, when he removed to Nebraska, settling in Platte county. Later, however, he returned to Chicago and drove a bobtail car for the Chicago City Railway Company. In 1881 he once more came to Platte county and invested his earnings in one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 33, Burrows township, where he now lives. Later he extended the boundaries of the place by additional purchase until he now has two hundred and fifty acres of valuable land devoted to general farming and stock-raising. He keeps good grades of stock but feeds hogs only. His place has undergone a marked transfor-

mation, owing to the care and labor which he bestows upon it. He is thoroughly progressive in his farm work and upon his place are lacking none of the accessories and conveniences of a model farm property. In 1904 he built large barns and in 1905 he erected his present residence, which is a very modern and attractive country place. In 1914 he gave up the hard work of the fields, turning over the management and cultivation of the farm to his sons.

Mr. Cooney has been married twice. In Chicago he wedded Miss Nora Kearney, who passed away in 1890, after he had located on his present farm. To them were born four children, as follows: John, who is engaged in farming in Lost Creek township; Frank, an agriculturist residing at Pinebluff, Wyoming; Elizabeth, living in Chicago; and Genevieve, who is deceased. In 1892 Mr. Cooney was again married, his second union being with Miss Jennie Macken, of Lost Creek township, by whom he has the following children: Cyril, a farmer residing in Montana; Alice, a school teacher of District No. 17, Lost Creek township; and Mary, Walter, Alvin and Irene, all at home.

Mr. Cooney votes with the democratic party and fearlessly espouses his honest convictions. He is a member of the Platte Center Catholic church, as are all of his family, and he and his son Frank belong to Columbus Council of the Knights of Columbus, while the father has membership with the Modern Woodmen of America at Platte Center and is a member of the Guarantee Fund Life Association of Omaha. He has filled the office of town clerk for four years and has given active aid and support to many measures and movements for the general good, being regarded as one of the worthy citizens and highly respected residents of Burrows township. He may truly be called a self-made man, for he has always depended entirely upon his own resources since starting out for himself, and it is because he has not been afraid of hard work but has displayed diligence and determination that he is now numbered among the men of affluence in Platte county.

M. BRUGGER.

M. Brugger, president of the Columbus State Bank, has through the steps of an orderly progression reached his present position of trust and responsibility in business circles. He is alert, enterprising and energetic, readily recognizes the opportunities of modern life and improves his chances to the benefit of his individual fortunes and to the advancement of the public welfare. Mr. Brugger is of Swiss birth and ancestry. He was born at Meyringen, in the canton of Bern on the 27th of November, 1854, his parents being John and Elizabeth (Zwald) Brugger, who in the year 1872 left the land of the Alps and sailed for the new world. In 1874 they became residents of Platte county, Nebraska. The paternal grandfather was a Swiss soldier in the army of Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo. John Brugger departed this life in 1900 and his wife died in 1876.

M. Brugger, whose name introduces this review, acquired his education in the schools of Switzerland and upon becoming a resident of Platte county, Nebraska, at the age of twenty years, he took up the profession of teaching, which he followed until 1884, being recognized as one of the successful early educators of the county. He next entered the Columbus State Bank in the position of bookkeeper and gradually



M. BRUGGER



worked his way upward until he was made cashier in 1894 and was chosen for the presidency in 1903, since which time he has been the chief executive head of the institution. He is a very progressive business man, watchful of opportunities, which he improves to good advantage, and he has made the institution of which he is the president one of the strongest financial institutions of his part of the state.

In June, 1884, at Columbus. Mr. Brugger was united in marriage to Miss Mathilda Stenger, a daughter of Martin Stenger, and they have two sons, Albert and Melvin, who are mining engineers and graduates of the Colorado School of Mines. The former is now following his profession in central Africa, and the latter in old Mexico. The three daughters of the family are: Elsie, Helen and Florence.

The family attend the Congregational church, of which Mr. Brugger is an active and earnest member. Fraternally he is a Master Mason and his life measures up to the standards which constitute the basic elements of church and lodge. He has served on the school board of Columbus for many years, and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. He is himself highly educated, having gained that broad culture which comes from wide reading and study of the questions of the day as viewed in the light of history and experience. In politics he is independent but is a stalwart temperance worker, and, in fact, his influence is always on the side of those uplifting regenerative forces which count most in human progress and in the world's civilization.

WILLIAM SHERMAN DIXON.

William Sherman Dixon owns and cultivates a farm adjoining Humphrey, comprising fifty-seven acres of rich and productive land. He has been a resident of Platte county since 1886, arriving here when a young man of about twenty-one years. His birth occurred in Marshall county, Illinois, October 21, 1865, his parents being John and Margaret (McVicker) Dixon, natives of West Virginia and Illinois respectively. The father was a farmer by occupation and in early life went to Illinois, purchasing land in Marshall county, where he continued to engage in general agricultural pursuits until his life's labors were ended in death in 1884. He had long survived his wife, who passed away in 1867.

William S. Dixon was reared in the usual manner of farm lads, spending his boyhood and youth in Marshall county. He was only two years of age at the time of his mother's death, when he went to live with his grandparents, with whom he remained until fourteen years of age. He then returned home and lived with his father until the latter's death in 1884, assisting him in the work of the fields and becoming familiar with every department of farm labor. At the father's death he and his brother took charge of the home place, which they cultivated for two years or until William S. Dixon attained his majority, when they sold the farm and divided the estate. In 1886 William S. Dixon came to Platte county and invested in eighty acres of land in Humphrey township, upon which he took up his abode, bending his energies to the further development and improvement of that place for ten years. He then sold out and went a mile south, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land which he further developed and cultivated until 1913. He then rented that farm and removed to his present place, which is a tract of fifty-seven acres

adjoining the corporation limits of Humphrey. He is now pleasantly located here, his home being conveniently situated just outside the city limits, while the place is supplied with many modern improvements, including an attractive residence. He still retains the ownership of his other farm and derives from it a good rental.

On the 21st of October, 1891, Mr. Dixon was united in marriage to Miss Clara F. Morris, her parents being Bluford and Sarah (McPherson) Morris, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Dodgeville, Wisconsin. They came to this county from Wisconsin in an emigrant wagon in 1872, taking up their abode among the first settlers here. Mr. Morris took up a homestead claim and cultivated the same during the remainder of his life, carrying on general agricultural pursuits with gratifying success. During the period of the Civil war he served for three years as a member of Company F, Third Wisconsin Regiment. His demise occurred in 1908, while his wife was called to her final rest on the 8th of June, 1911. To Mr. and Mrs. Dixon have been born three children, as follows: Lester B., whose natal day was July 1, 1892; Neva E., born June 15, 1897; and William S., whose birth occurred September 15, 1900.

Mr. Dixon maintains an independent attitude upon political questions and has never been an aspirant for public office, although he served for two years as supervisor of Humphrey township. He belongs to the Highlanders lodge and is a member of the Methodist church, to which he loyally adheres. He has many sterling traits of character, manifest in his patriotic citizenship, his reliability in business and his faithfulness in friendship—qualities which have gained for him the warm and well merited regard of his fellow citizens.

HENRY GASS.

Henry Gass is a pioneer citizen and business man of Columbus, having been continuously identified with its interests for the past forty-five years. In fact when he came here the business and most of the residence district was on the south side of the city but as the town grew business houses began to spring up on the north side, which is now the prominent business center, and in 1912 Mr. Gass erected a modern and up-to-date two story brick building, in which he is successfully conducting a furniture and undertaking establishment, which would do credit to a city of much larger size. Mr. Gass is one who came from foreign lands to become prominent in business circles here, for his birth occurred in Switzerland on the 13th of May, 1844. His parents were Christian and Anna (Tiesin) Gass, who were likewise natives of the land of the Alps, and there spent their entire lives.

Henry Gass remained in his native country to the age of twenty-four years, having in the meantime acquired his education in the public schools there. It was at that period in his life, in 1868, that he set sail for the United States and, landing in New York city, he there remained for a time. He then sought the opportunities of the west, and on the 2d of February, 1870, arrived in Columbus, Nebraska, which was at that time a mere village and gave little promise of becoming a city of its present proportions. For a year thereafter he worked at the carpenter's trade and then opened a cabinet-maker's shop and also engaged in the undertaking business, being the pioneer in that line in the city. In 1878 he added a stock

of furniture. Success was assured from the beginning and as the business grew he kept adding to his stock and eventually became the proprietor of three stores located in various parts of the city, his first location being on the south side. Eventually business moved to the north and Mr. Gass was one of the first to open a store in that part of the city. As the years passed his business grew to large proportions and in 1912 he erected a modern brick building on the main thoroughfare. His store is conveniently arranged for the handling of his large stock of furniture and his large display windows are always fitted up in most attractive style. He is also engaged in the undertaking business, doing practically all the work in that line not only in his home city but in the surrounding districts. He has made a close study of this business and is always prepared to answer all calls for his services and to meet the demands of the public, keeping on hand a large line of caskets and burial supplies. His success is marked and his business methods are of interest to the commercial world, for he is now at the head of one of the largest and most important enterprises in Platte county.

Mr. Gass was married in Rock Island, Illinois, in August, 1872, to Miss Elizabeth Smedt, and their living children are: Samuel, who wedded Winnie Higgins; Henry, who wedded Sophie Kaufman, both sons residing in Columbus; and Rosina. The deceased members of their family are: Emily, who became the wife of August Merz, and both are deceased, the daughter passing away in June, 1911; Walter, who died at the age of seven years; Albert, who died when but a few months old; and two sons who died unnamed.

In politics Mr. Gass is a democrat, and he has been identified with the German Reformed church since 1874. He has also for the past thirty-seven years been a member of the Maennerchor Society, which is one of the largest and most prominent social organizations of the city. His enterprising and progressive spirit has made him a typical American in every sense of the word. He has never taken part in public affairs, but, modest and unassuming, his time has been devoted to his family and his business. He has learned well the lessons of life and has put them to practical account, and his establishment is the expression of himself, his ideals, his character and his quiet, persistent industry and ability.

ROY S. PALMER.

Roy S. Palmer is a member of the firm of Palmer & Berger, although before he was joined by his partner in 1912 he had conducted the business alone for eight years. In addition to merchant tailoring the firm conduct a cleaning, dyeing and repairing establishment and a laundry business and the enterprise and energy with which Mr. Palmer manages his interests constitute important features in his growing success. He was born in Glenwood, Iowa, December 17, 1869, a son of Thomas G. and Jane Palmer, who in the year 1858 became residents of Plattsmouth, Nebraska. The father and his brother David operated the first ferry boat across the Missouri river at that point and also engaged in freighting with a pack train to Denver, Colorado, from 1858 until 1861. Later Thomas G. Palmer engaged in the livery business until 1869, when he removed to Union county, Iowa, and worked at his trade of cabinetmaking for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Com-

pany until he was injured in an accident. He then went to Labette county, Kansas, where he engaged in farming until 1888. In the latter year he removed to Grand Island, Nebraska, where he passed away in 1889.

Roy S. Palmer acquired his education in the common schools of Creston, Iowa, and in 1880 began learning the tailor's trade at Cherryvale, Kansas. In 1886 he came to Columbus and worked for one season with Carl Kramer. He was afterward away from the city until 1892 but since that year has resided continuously in Columbus, where he has made a creditable position in business circles. For twelve years he worked at his trade with C. A. Lindstrum and in 1904 he established business on his own account and under his own name but in 1912 was joined by Adolph Berger, under the firm style of Palmer & Berger. They conduct a merchant tailoring business, making suits to order, and also do cleaning, dyeing and repairing. They make a specialty of Panama hats and in addition to their other lines conduct a laundry, doing rough dry and family washing. They have secured a liberal and well merited patronage, their business now having reached extensive proportions.

On the 12th of July, 1893, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Palmer was united in marriage to Miss Frances L. Tiffany, a daughter of Joseph C. and Jennie B. Tiffany, who took up their abode among the pioneer settlers of Platte county in 1868. To our subject and his wife have been born three children, namely: Mildred, who is eighteen years old; and Carl and Mary, who are fourteen and eleven years of age respectively. Mr. Palmer is a republican but without aspiration for office. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, while his religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church, to which he loyally adheres, guiding his life by its teachings.

WILLIAM J. HAVERLAND.

William J. Haverland, who carries on general farming on section 27, Humphrey township, was born in Carroll, Iowa, on the 19th of October, 1879, a son of William and Caroline Haferland, who are mentioned elsewhere in this work. He was reared and educated in his native county, having the usual experiences of the farm lad who divides his time between the work of the fields, the duties of the school-room and the pleasures of the playground. He continued on the old home farm with his father until he reached the age of twenty-one years, when he went to work as a traveling salesman for the Case Machine Company. Through the summer and fall months he also engaged in harvesting and still works along that line. At the age of twenty-five years he took charge of the home place and has since largely concentrated his time and energies upon its further development and improvement, cultivating two hundred and forty acres of land, which he has converted into highly productive fields and from which he annually gathers good harvests. The place is situated on section 27, Humphrey township, and constitutes one of the attractive features of the landscape.

On the 16th of August, 1905, Mr. Haverland was united in marriage to Miss Mary Braun, a daughter of Joseph and Eva (Scheidemantel) Braun. They have become parents of four children: Maurice W., born July 12, 1906; M. Isabella, January 7, 1908; Dorothy, December 12, 1910; and Florence, April 26, 1913.

Mr. Haverland and his family are adherents of the Catholic faith and he holds membership with the Knights of Columbus. He does not ally himself with any political party but votes independently according to the dictates of his judgment and desires. Analyzing his life, it is seen that his success is the direct and legitimate outcome of persistent, earnest labor.

PETER LUBISCHER.

Since starting out in life on his own account Peter Lubischer has steadily worked his way upward until he has gained a place among the well-to-do farmers of Granville township, where he now makes his home, owning land on sections 23 and 24. He is a native of Germany, born March 15, 1846, and his parents, Phillip and Anna (Roos) Lubischer, were also natives of that country. The father followed the occupation of farming throughout his entire life and passed away in Germany, December 31, 1885. He had for three decades survived his wife, who died on the 22d of May, 1855.

Peter Lubischer was reared and educated in Germany, remaining with his parents to the age of thirteen years, when he started out to earn his own living, working as a farm hand. He was afterward employed in factories of that country to the age of twenty-six years, when in 1872 he determined to seek a home in the new world, attracted by the favorable reports which he had heard concerning business conditions and advantages in America. He therefore bade adieu to friends and fatherland and sailed for the United States. For a brief period he resided in Chicago and then went into the country, working as a farm hand until 1878. In that year he returned to Germany to visit his parents, but in 1879 again came to America, securing employment in a brewery at Omaha. He also worked in a lumber and coal yard there, continuing his residence in that city until 1889, when he arrived in Platte county and invested his savings—the result of his industry and economy—in eighty acres of land on section 23, Granville township. This was the first property which he ever owned and it was with much pleasure that he set about developing and improving the tract. Later he added to it by the purchase of sixty acres adjoining on section 24, and he has since devoted his time and attention to the further development and improvement of his farm of one hundred and forty acres. He has brought his fields to a high state of cultivation and his place presents a neat and thrifty appearance. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Humphrey.

On the 4th of February, 1886, Mr. Lubischer was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Nick, a daughter of Peter and Catherine (Rothenberger) Nick, who were natives of Germany. Mrs. Lubischer was born February 6, 1866. Her father was a farmer and never came to the new world, passing away in Germany, September 23, 1898. His wife had died on the 24th of November, 1887. Their daughter Catherine was a young woman of eighteen years when in 1884 she crossed the Atlantic to the United States. She worked out in Omaha, Nebraska, until her marriage and since that time has carefully managed her household interests. To Mr. and Mrs. Lubischer have been born ten children: Annie, the wife of Barney McDermott, a farmer living in Madison county, Nebraska; Catherine, the wife of

William Olmer, who follows farming in Granville township; Sophie, who is engaged in dressmaking and lives at home; Elizabeth, a nurse, residing in Omaha; and John, Mary, Phillip, Monica, Francis and Richard, all yet under the parental roof.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church. In his political views Mr. Lubischer is independent, holding himself free from party ties in order that he may vote according to the dictates of his judgment. While he came to America a young man, empty handed, he is today numbered among the substantial farmers of Granville township, his life indicating what may be accomplished when there is the will to dare and to do.

JOSEPH F. DISTERHAUPT.

Joseph F. Disterhaupt, owner and proprietor of the V. T. Mills of Humphrey, is numbered among the progressive, enterprising and successful business men of his city. He was born in Dodge, Nebraska, February 2, 1875, a son of William and Frances (Karnik) Disterhaupt. The father, a native of Germany, was a carpenter by trade and followed that pursuit in his native land until 1872, when he crossed the Atlantic to America and made his way to Dodge county, Nebraska, where he engaged in farming for many years. His wife is a native of Bohemia, and they are now well known residents of Dodge, Nebraska, where Mr. Disterhaupt is living retired.

Joseph F. Disterhaupt attended the common schools in his native county and on attaining his majority began farming for himself, purchasing land near Howells, Nebraska, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits for nine years. He then went to Atkinson, Nebraska, where he purchased a stock ranch, continuing there for six years, and on the 9th of May, 1913, he came to Humphrey, trading a half section of land for the mill which he now owns and which was formerly the property of Vanderheiden Brothers, who were operating it at the time. Mr. Disterhaupt at once took charge and has since carried on the business, being now actively and successfully engaged in the manufacture of Winky-eye flour, a high grade product, Cream Loaf flour, also a high grade product, and Teddy Bear flour, a second grade product. He has built up a fine trade throughout this part of Nebraska, having a large sale for the different brands of flour which he makes. He also buys and sells grain, and that branch of his business contributes in considerable measure to his income.

On the 3d of February, 1896, Mr. Disterhaupt was married to Miss Josephine Tresnak, a daughter of Anton and Anna (France) Tresnak. Her father, a native of Bohemia, came to the United States in 1884 and established his home upon a farm near Dodge, Nebraska, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits for some time, but afterward removed to Atkinson, Nebraska, where he is now living. His wife died upon the Dodge county farm in 1895. Mr. and Mrs. Disterhaupt were married in Dodge, Nebraska, by the Rev. Father Brusich, pastor of St. Wencesel's Catholic church of that place, and they have become parents of four children: Mary, who was born January 30, 1899; Joseph, born February 3, 1901; Frank, born December 23, 1903; and Eddie, December 22, 1909.

Mr. and Mrs. Disterhaupt are members of St. Francis Catholic church of



JOSEPH F. DISTERHAUPT



Humphrey, and his political allegiance is given to the republican party, which finds in him a stalwart champion. He concentrates his energies, however, upon the operation of the mill and the conduct of the business, in which he is assisted by his eldest son Joseph. Resolution and energy enable him to overcome all difficulties and obstacles in his path and, working his way upward along legitimate business lines, he is now classed with the substantial citizens of Humphrey.

ARTHUR M. GRAY.

During the past twenty-three years Arthur M. Gray has been actively and successfully identified with mercantile interests of Columbus as proprietor of an up-to-date and well patronized shoe store. His birth occurred in Arlington, Illinois, on the 28th of June, 1869, his parents being Sidney C. and Rowena R. (Ransom) Gray, of whom more extended mention is made on another page of this work in connection with the sketch of Clinton C. Gray, brother of our subject.

In the acquirement of an education Arthur M. Gray attended high school at Princeton, Illinois, and in 1884 was graduated from the high school in Columbus, Nebraska. Subsequently he spent two years at work on a cattle ranch in this county and was then for three years employed as bookkeeper in the First National Bank of Columbus. In 1892 he embarked in business in association with John Griffin as a dealer in furnishings and shoes, the firm of Griffin & Gray existing for two years or until the senior partner sold out to Sidney C. Gray, the father of our subject, who remained in the business for about a year. Since that time the establishment has been conducted under the name of A. M. Gray, who has built up an extensive and profitable enterprise, being accorded a most enviable patronage. He is a director of the Commercial National Bank of Columbus.

In November, 1896, in Columbus, Mr. Gray was united in marriage to Miss Clara L. Lehman, her father being George Lehman, an old settler and one of the best known hotel men in the state. To Mr. and Mrs. Gray have been born two children, Arthur M., Jr., and Lucile.

Mr. Gray gives his political allegiance to the republican party, while his religious faith is that of the Episcopal church. He is a man of marked strength of character, genial disposition and genuine worth and enjoys the unqualified respect and goodwill of his fellowmen.

FRIEDRICH MULLER.

Friedrich Müller, who carries on general farming on section 28, Bismark township, was born in Hanover, Germany, on the 22d of April, 1819, and spent the first twenty years of his life in the land of his nativity. The favorable reports which reached him concerning America and her opportunities led him to determine to try his fortune in the new world, and in 1869 he bade adieu to friends and native land and at the age of twenty years sailed for the United States with his parents, who established the family home in Dane county, Wisconsin. There they remained for

two years, at the end of which time they came, in 1871, to Platte county, where the father homesteaded eighty acres, which was the nucleus of our subject's present fine farm. A difficult task awaited them in developing and cultivating the new land, but strenuous labor did not deter them and the persistent, earnest effort which was put forth soon converted the place into rich and productive fields.

As time passed and Friedrich Müller's financial resources increased he added to his holdings by the purchase of an additional tract of two hundred and forty acres and he has since also bought one hundred and sixty acres in Colfax county, so that now he owns altogether four hundred and eighty acres of rich and valuable land in this part of the state. On his farm stand a comfortable residence and substantial barns and outbuildings. He carries on general farming, including the raising of cattle and hogs, and his business is carefully, wisely and successfully managed.

On October 23, 1879, Mr. Müller was united in marriage to Miss Magdalena Karlin, and they became the parents of ten children: Martha, now the wife of Frank Aerni, living in this county; Adolph, who married Mary Shutt and is now farming in Bismark township; Louise, the wife of Albert Aerni, farming in this state; Emma, the wife of Edwin Ahrens, living in Bismark township; Carl F., whose home is in Colfax county, Nebraska; Albert, upon the home farm; Minnie, the wife of Alfred Berchtold of Columbus township; Anna, the wife of Edward Ahrens, of Bismark township; Rosa, the wife of Otto Held, of Columbus; and Magdalena, at home. Theirs is a notable family record in that the circle yet remains unbroken by the hand of death.

Mr. Müller is independent in politics and his religious faith is that of the German Lutheran church. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to establish his home in Nebraska, for, while earnest work awaited him here in the development and improvement of his farm, he has gradually advanced along well defined lines of labor and is now one of the substantial and representative citizens of Platte county.

ANTON VOGEL.

Anton Vogel, of Columbus, is a retired baker, having in 1912 put aside the active work of the trade in which he had so long been engaged and which brought to him a substantial measure of prosperity. A native of Germany, he was born at Lauda, Baden, in 1860, a son of Anton and Katherine (Kopf) Vogel, in whose family were seven children, of whom three are yet living.

The son Anton acquired a common-school education in his native land, in which he remained to the age of nineteen years, when in 1879 he came to America to join his brother Marcus, who was a resident of Columbus, Nebraska, and was engaged in the bakery business. In 1880 Anton Vogel secured a position in a bakery in Red Oak, Iowa, where he remained until 1884, and after his return to Columbus he worked for his brother in the bakery for ten years. In 1896 he purchased the business, which he conducted with substantial and growing success for sixteen years, enjoying a large and gratifying patronage. Because of the excellence of his product and the reliability of his business methods he gained a most

gratifying trade and when he retired in 1912 he was the possessor of a substantial capital that had come to him as the direct reward of his labors and careful business management.

On the 11th of February, 1896, Mr. Vogel was united in marriage to Miss Maggie Schmitz, her father being Joseph Schmitz, an old resident of Platte county, Nebraska. To them was born a daughter, Margaret, who died in April, 1910. In politics Mr. Vogel has always been a democrat but never an active partisan nor an office seeker. He belongs to the Catholic church and contributes generously to its support. He still owns the building now occupied by the Imig Brothers Bakery and he has other property holdings which return to him a good income, enabling him to live retired. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world and he found that reports concerning business conditions here had not been exaggerated. He brought with him no false idea that prosperity was to be had for the asking, but he soon demonstrated the fact that in this country there is no bar to progress for the ambitious, energetic young man and as the years passed he gradually worked his way upward, remaining for a long period proprietor of one of the foremost bakery establishments of Platte county.

HARRY H. CRUICKSHANK.

Harry H. Cruickshank is local manager at Cornlea for the Crowell Lumber & Grain Company. He operates an elevator at Cornlea and controls the business, which under his direction has been steadily growing. He was born in Dodge county, Nebraska, February 27, 1889, a son of James M. and Mary (Davidson) Cruickshank, both of whom were natives of Scotland. After coming to America the father took up railroad work and served as a conductor on the Union Pacific for sixteen years and also for a number of years was with the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company. Called to public office, he filled the position of clerk of the district court of Dodge county, Nebraska, at Fremont for eight years, the capability which he displayed in his first term leading to his reelection. With his retirement from office he retired from active business life and was living at North Bend, Nebraska, at the time of his death, which occurred in 1912. His wife had passed away in Dodge county, Nebraska, in 1897. They were people of the highest respectability and enjoyed the friendship and warm regard of all with whom they came in contact. They had a family of five children, namely: George, who is a resident of North Bend, Nebraska; Agnes, living in Omaha; Mary, of Fremont; and Arthur, who also resides in Omaha.

Harry H. Cruickshank, the youngest of the family, attended the district school in Pleasant Valley township, Dodge county, and also the Fremont graded school and when nineteen years of age he began farming on his father's place. In 1910 he removed to Deuel county, Nebraska, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits for a year. He afterward removed to Snyder, Nebraska, where he remained for two years, acting as local manager of the Farmers Telephone Company and for one year worked in the Snyder Roller Mills. In June, 1914, he came to Cornlea and took charge as manager of the elevator of the Crowell Lumber & Grain

Company. He remains in this connection today and handles annually two hundred and twenty-five car loads of grain. He not only buys and sells grain but also coal and hogs and is in control of an extensive and growing business.

On the 16th of February, 1910, Mr. Cruickshank was united in marriage to Miss Emma Jones, a daughter of Cassamer and Sarah Jones, both of whom now reside at Uehling, Nebraska, where the former owns and operates a dray line. Mr. and Mrs. Cruickshank have one child, Cecil, born July 13, 1915.

The parents are members of a Presbyterian church in Dodge county and socially they are highly esteemed wherever known. In politics Mr. Cruickshank is a democrat and fraternally he has connection with the Ancient Order of United Workmen at Snyder, Nebraska. He greatly enjoys athletics and manly outdoor sports and is a member of the Cornlea Baseball Club, while at Snyder, in 1912, he threw Anton Stecker, brother of Joe Stecker, the world's champion, in three minutes in a wrestling bout. While greatly interested in these things, he never allows them to interfere with his business duties. He is fortunate in possessing character and ability that command respect and the simple weight of his character and ability has carried him into important business relations.

JOSEPH W. SMITH.

Within a few decades Platte county has been converted from a broad tract of wild prairie land into highly cultivated farms, the productiveness of which is constantly being enhanced by the efforts and labors of a class of energetic and persistent men. Among these is Joseph W. Smith, who makes his home in Granville township. It was in that township that he was born October 13, 1893, a son of Joseph W. and Anna (Lachnit) Smith, the former a native of Holland and the latter of Austria. The father was a fisherman in the old country, but when a young man came to America and took up his abode in Keokuk, Iowa, where he worked for a short time as a laborer. He afterward continued his westward journey to Platte county, Nebraska, where he became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land situated on section 36, Granville township. With characteristic energy he set about improving the place and devoted his remaining days to its further cultivation and development, making it a productive and valuable farm. In his passing on the 12th of April, 1902, the community lost a worthy citizen. His widow survives and now makes her home in Humphrey.

Joseph W. Smith spent his youthful days under the parental roof, meeting with the usual experiences of the farm boy who divides his time between the work of the fields and the acquirement of an education. He attended the district schools and afterward became a pupil in the parochial school at Humphrey. When his textbooks were put aside he became active in the work of the farm, which he now rents from his mother. He is busily engaged in its further cultivation and his labors are responsible for the excellent appearance of the farm, which is a well kept property. His sister Mary acts as his housekeeper. There are six children in the family: William, now a resident of Humphrey; Joseph W.; Mary; Anthony, also living in Humphrey; and Clara and George, who are with their mother.

Joseph W. Smith is a communicant of the Catholic church and belongs to the

Catholic Order of Foresters, while his political allegiance is given to the democratic party. He has always lived in Platte county, where he has worked steadily and persistently to gain a living and lay up something for the future. Life is to him purposeful and his efforts have brought good results.

A. J. ZELLER.

A. J. Zeller is now living retired in Creston but for a long period was identified with agricultural pursuits in this state and in the careful conduct of his farming interests won success, whereby he is enabled to rest without further recourse to business affairs to yield him a comfortable living. Born in Bavaria, Germany, his natal day was February 29, 1843, his parents being Conrad and Magdalena (Honge) Zeller, who were also natives of Germany. In early life the parents came to the new world and settled in Trenton, New Jersey. The father was a blacksmith and worked at his trade for a long period in New Jersey but finally removed to the middle west, settling in Jones county, Iowa, where he lived retired for a considerable period. He then returned to New Jersey, where he passed away in February, 1888, at the age of eighty-seven years, having long survived his wife, who died in 1855.

A. J. Zeller spent his youthful days in his native country and in New Jersey and acquired a public-school education. He continued with his parents until he attained his majority and then removed westward to Jones county, Iowa, where he rented land for a time. He next purchased one hundred and sixty acres and thereon followed general farming until 1882, when he removed to Nebraska, settling in Platte county. He purchased three hundred and twenty acres on section 2, Creston township, and with characteristic energy began to till the soil, for at that period not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made upon the place. He afterward rented the land and has continued to lease it to the present time. Having purchased two hundred acres just across the line in Madison county, he also rents that property and derives therefrom a good income. He also had eighty acres more in Creston township, adjoining the town, which he gave to his son. Erecting a fine residence in Creston, he has since made his home in the city and is widely and favorably known there, taking an active and helpful interest in all affairs calculated to benefit the community.

On November 29, 1869, Mr. Zeller was united in marriage to Miss Monica Wolf, a daughter of Kadros and Christina (Zeller) Wolf, who were natives of Germany. They came from Germany in early life and settled in New York, where the father soon afterward passed away, his death occurring in 1852. The mother married again and became a resident of St. Louis. Her second husband died in that city, after which she and her children went to Jones county, Iowa, where she now makes her home. She has reached the advanced age of eighty-eight years. Mr. and Mrs. Zeller have become the parents of five children: Mary M., the wife of S. T. Fleming, a banker of Creston; Addie, the wife of Henry Cashman, living with her father; Fred, a farmer of Creston township; Frank, who was a twin brother of Fred and died in 1892; and Ida, who was a twin sister of Addie and died in January, 1875.

In his political views Mr. Zeller has always been an earnest democrat and has served on the town board in Creston but otherwise has not held nor sought public office. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and to the Methodist church, and an honorable, upright life has won for him the high regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact, while in business affairs his capable management and wise investments have gained for him substantial and well merited prosperity.

JAMES G. LEE.

Business enterprise in Platte Center finds a worthy representative in James G. Lee, who is conducting a restaurant there and who closely and carefully watches over his business, seeking success along well defined lines of trade. Nebraska claims him as a native son, for his birth occurred upon a farm near Schuyler on the 11th of November, 1885. His parents, Patrick and Anna Lee, were early settlers of Colfax county and the father is now living at Lee this state, but the mother is deceased. He pursued his education in the schools of Colfax county, dividing his time between the mastery of the lessons therein taught and farm work in the fields as he assisted his father in cultivating the home place. He was actively identified with farming in Colfax county until 1907, when at the age of twenty-two years he removed to Platte county, where for a time he carried on farm work. Later he took up his abode in Platte Center and engaged in the dray and transfer business but eventually purchased the restaurant of which he is now proprietor. He caters to the wishes of the people, supplies his table with the best the market affords and is now enjoying a liberal patronage.

On the 25th of October, 1905, Mr. Lee was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Hennessy, a daughter of John and Mary Hennessy of Platte Center. They have one son, James Francis Ronald, who was born on the 11th of April, 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Lee are communicants of the Catholic faith and he is a democrat in his political views. His life has been quietly passed without any spectacular phases or connections. He has depended upon business for the attainment of success, and close application and indefatigable energy have been used as the salient features to win for him a comfortable competence.

JOHN RUDOLPH LUSCHEN.

John Rudolph Luschen is identified with business interests of Columbus as proprietor of a large and well appointed grocery establishment. His birth occurred at Shellcreek, Colfax county, Nebraska, on the 8th of November, 1873, his parents being John H. and Anna Maria (Berchers) Luschen, both of whom were natives of Saage, Oldenburg, Germany, and were married at Gross Kneten, in the grand duchy of Oldenburg. The father, born in 1833, emigrated to the United States in August, 1869, and took up his abode at Shellcreek, Colfax county, Nebraska, where he still makes his home. The mother passed away on the 1st of June, 1900.

John H. Lütjelüschen, the grandfather of our subject, emigrated to America in company with John H. Lütjelüschen and passed away in 1876 when eighty-eight years of age, while his wife died at the age of seventy-six years. He was the oldest man buried in Platte cemetery.

John Rudolph Luschen attended school at the old Becker & Welch mill in Shell Creek township and after putting aside his textbooks followed farming until 1900. In that year he came to Columbus, Nebraska, and he engaged in the stock business, buying cattle, etc., until 1908. Subsequently he returned to his farm in this county, carrying on agricultural pursuits for three years or until 1913, when he returned to Columbus and purchased a grocery store which he has since conducted. He carries an extensive line of staple and fancy groceries and is accorded a most gratifying patronage.

On the 12th of March, 1908, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Luschen was united in marriage to Miss Martha Catharine Zollars, a daughter of David Zollars. They have three children, namely: Lillian W., Alice Gertrude and Norris Wade. In politics Mr. Luschen is a progressive republican and he has twice been chairman of the republican central committee. He has also taken an active part in state politics. He is a public-spirited and enterprising citizen and an energetic and capable business man, and his worth is widely acknowledged.

JACOB GLUR.

On the list of Platte county's honored dead appears the name of Jacob Glur, who was a self-made man, strong and resourceful in business, active and enterprising in his connection with the public. He was born May 24, 1856, in the canton of Bern, Switzerland, and there spent the days of his boyhood and youth, coming to the new world when a man of twenty-seven years. He made the voyage across the Atlantic in 1883, accompanied by his sister, Caroline, and immediately after reaching the American coast traveled over the continent to Columbus, Platte county. His sister became the wife of Max Scherrer, of Columbus, who was at that time operating a dairy in the city. Mr. Glur went west to California, where he remained for a time and later traveled north to Oregon and on to Washington, where he engaged in herding sheep. He was also employed in a logging camp but after the close of his sojourn in the northwest he returned to Platte county, Nebraska, in October, 1884, and established cement works, making the enterprise one of continued and substantial success. He put in nearly all of the cement walks in and around Columbus and also built cement walks in some of the smaller towns in this part of the state. He had a well equipped plant supplied with the latest improved machinery to facilitate the work, and as the years passed he carefully managed his interests so that his product found a ready sale upon the market. He continued active in the business until his death, which occurred December 22, 1913.

On the 1st of January, 1885, Mr. Glur was united in marriage to Miss Anna Urech, who was born December 27, 1860, her parents being John and Elizabeth Urech, of Canton Aargau, Switzerland. In June, 1884, she came alone to the new world and by her marriage she has become the mother of nine children, as

follows: Elizabeth, who is the wife of John Egger, of this county; Bertha, at home; Anna, who gave her hand in marriage to William Ernst, of Columbus, Nebraska; Minnie, who wedded T. F. Askew, of Ogden, Utah; John and Rosa, both at home; Lena, the wife of Lewis Criss, of Benedict, Nebraska; and Jacob and Carl, also at home.

Mr. Glur was a democrat in his political views and kept well informed concerning the questions and issues of the day. He belonged also to the Maennerchor Society, to the Swiss Verein and to the Modern Woodmen camp. In all of these organizations he was popular, for he had the faculty of making friends owing to his kindly spirit and many good qualities. He never regretted his determination to come to the new world, for here he found good business opportunities and in their utilization worked his way steadily upward, so that his daily toil returned to him a good living.

GEORGE BORCHER.

The population of Columbus includes a large percentage of retired farmers—men who have recognized and improved the agricultural advantages offered by Platte county and who have gained thereby substantial success. For a considerable period George Borchers carried on general agricultural pursuits and became the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land. He belongs to the German colony that came from Oldenburg, his birth having there occurred on the 21st of July, 1852. His parents were John and Anna (Eilis) Borchers, who were also natives of the fatherland. The former was a laborer and never came to the United States, his death occurring in Germany, in 1867, when he had reached the age of forty-nine years.

George Borchers was the third in order of birth in a family of five children. After attending school in his native country he worked as a farm hand there until he came to the United States, settling in Macon county, Illinois, in 1881. Again he secured employment on a farm, remaining in that locality until 1886, when he removed to Shelby county, Iowa, living near Defiance. He was identified with farming interests of that locality until 1892, which year witnessed his arrival in Platte county. He first rented land near Tarnov in Burrows township but after three years removed to the vicinity of Platte Center, where he rented and occupied a farm for six years. During all this time he was carefully saving his earnings and at length his industry and economy enabled him to purchase land. He then invested in one hundred and twenty acres in Sherman township and carried on general agricultural pursuits in most successful manner until he put aside business cares, removing to Columbus in 1914.

In 1885 Mr. Borchers wedded Miss Lena Hulsebus, who was born in Friesland, Germany, a daughter of Peter and Mary (Prehn) Hulsebus. Her father owned a small tract of land and engaged in farming in Germany but before his marriage was a sailor and as a member of the crew of old-time sailing vessels visited many of the larger seaports of the world. Of the Baptist church he was an active member. Mr. and Mrs. Borchers have become parents of a daughter and son: Mary, the wife of August Woodlich by whom she has one child, George; and John, who is



GEORGE HORCHER AND FAMILY

married and lives on a farm in Platte county. A niece, Miss Anna Borchers, now makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. George Borchers.

The religious faith of the family is that of the German Baptist church and Mr. Borchers aided in organizing the congregation which met near his home when he was upon the farm. He held various offices in the church and at all times he has been active in advancing the cause of religion, taking deep interest in the moral progress of his community. Since 1911 he has lived retired, enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves, his residence being at 1707 Olive street.

JOSEPH G. MUETING.

Joseph G. Mueeting is a leading merchant of Cornlea, where he is also filling the position of postmaster. In the community where he lives he is recognized as a man of influence and the part which he has played has constituted an important one in advancing the material interests of the district. He has ever displayed sterling qualities, which have won for him regard, and his course is one which may well be followed by others. He was born in Clayton county, Iowa, August 11, 1872, a son of John and Frederica (Schutte) Mueeting, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father came to America in the spring of 1861 and made his way to Clayton county, Iowa, where he worked as a farm hand for many years. However, he carefully saved his earnings, being ambitious to engage in farming on his own account, and eventually his capital was sufficient to enable him to purchase land, which he owned and cultivated until 1880. He then disposed of his Iowa property and came to Platte county, Nebraska, where he made other investments in land in Burrows township. This he continued to improve and develop, converting it into one of the excellent farms of the district, and thereon he spent his remaining days, his death occurring in 1895, when he had reached the age of sixty-one years. His wife survived him for two decades, dying in May, 1915, at the age of seventy-three years.

Joseph G. Mueeting was a little lad of eight summers at the time of the removal of the family to Nebraska, so that his education was largely acquired in the district schools of Platte county. He remained with his parents upon the home farm until he attained his majority, when he began working as a farm hand for others, spending three years in that way. He afterward rented land, which he cultivated for six years, after which he purchased eighty acres in Burrows township and thereon followed general farming for four years. Once more he sold out and removed to Cornlea, there establishing a saloon, which he conducted for one year. Disposing of that business, he next operated a dray line for two years and later opened a general mercantile store, which he has since conducted. He carries a carefully selected line of goods, buying the best that the market affords and at all times studying the wants and wishes of his patrons in making his purchases. His stock is attractively arranged and his honorable business methods bring to him growing success. On the 15th of March, 1910, he was appointed postmaster of Cornlea and has since occupied that position, conducting the office in connection with his store.

On the 30th of July, 1901, Mr. Mueeting was joined in wedlock with Miss Ida

Kruse, a daughter of Joseph and Carrie (Hay) Kruse, who were natives of Germany. The father was a farmer by occupation and came to America in the '50s, making his way to Illinois, where he purchased land across the river from Dubuque, Iowa. There he carried on farming until 1878, when he came to Platte county, Nebraska. In this county he purchased land, which he developed and improved until 1900, when he retired from active business life and is now making his home with his children. His wife passed away in 1905. Mr. and Mrs. Muetting have become the parents of six children, Joseph, Lawrence, Leota, Marcella, Lavera and Adelia.

Mr. Muetting and his family in their religious faith are adherents of the Catholic church. Politically his indorsement is given to the democratic party and he has served on the town board of Cornlea. He is actively interested in all that pertains to the welfare and upbuilding of the town and of the county and his influence is always given on the side of advancement and progress.

DIRK ALBERS BECHER.

Dirk Albers Becher has been a resident of Platte county for the past thirty-five years and since 1911 has held the position of cashier of the Commercial National Bank of Columbus. He has likewise been a prominent factor in public life, representing his district in the Nebraska legislature for two terms. His birth occurred in Hanover, Germany, on the 17th of January, 1859, his parents being Siefke Dirk and Johanna (Mohlman) Becher, who were born, reared and married in that province. The father passed away in Hanover, in 1874, and six years later the widowed mother emigrated to the United States, her demise occurring in Platte county, Nebraska, in 1886.

Dirk A. Becher acquired his education in the schools of his native province and was twenty-one years of age when in 1880 he accompanied his mother and four sisters on their emigration to the new world. In the fall of that year the family established their home on a farm in this county, and our subject devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits continuously and successfully until 1904. During the following four years the Bechers lived in Columbus and then all returned to the farm. At the end of three years, in 1911, D. A. Becher came back to Columbus and entered the Commercial National Bank as cashier, having since served in that capacity and being also a director of the institution. He has proved an able and popular official of the bank and his efforts are an element in its continued success.

Mr. Becher has been married twice. In 1880, in Illinois, he wedded Miss Anna Johnson, who passed away in 1887, leaving three sons: John S., Frederick and Dietrich. In 1888, in Platte county, Nebraska, Mr. Becher was again married, his second union being with Miss Catharine Gesine Johannes, by whom he has two sons and four daughters, as follows: Herman; Anna, the wife of William Iuselman; William; Hannah; Emma; and Louise.

Mr. Beeher gives his political allegiance to the democracy and has been an active worker in party ranks. In 1901 he was chosen to represent his district in the state legislature, serving for two terms and ably advancing the interests of

his constituents as a member of that body. In 1904 he was chosen county treasurer of Platte county and by reelection was continued in the office for two terms. His religious faith is that of the German Evangelical Lutheran church, the teachings of which find exemplification in his honorable and upright life. No breath of suspicion has ever assailed his good name and on the contrary he stands as a splendid type of the honorable, reliable, successful man, the public-spirited citizen and the trustworthy friend.

ANDREW JAROSZ.

Although of Austrian descent, Andrew Jarosz has spent his entire life in Platte county, his birth having occurred in Burrows township on the 12th of September, 1891. His parents, William and Agnes (Garka) Jarosz, were natives of Austria and came to the United States in early life. They settled in Platte county, Nebraska, where the father followed farming upon rented land for two years, during which period he carefully saved his earnings and then bought property in Burrows township, developing and improving a good farm there. He spent his remaining days upon that place and died in 1901. His widow still occupies the old homestead.

Andrew Jarosz was reared on the old home farm and pursued his education in the district school and in the parochial school at Tarnov. When not busy with his textbooks his attention was given to the work of the fields, and he continued to assist his parents until he reached the age of twenty-one, when he went to Omaha, where he learned the barber's trade. He then came to Tarnov, bought out the pool hall at that place and also established a barber shop. He is still continuing business along both lines and is liberally patronized.

Mr. Jarosz is also the present marshal of Tarnov, in which position he has served for two years. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party, while his religious faith is that of the Catholic church, and he is a member of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. He has always been a resident of Platte county and is widely known among the citizens of Tarnov and that locality.

GEORGE A. WITTLER.

George A. Wittler, a retail liquor merchant of Cornlea and also conducting an insurance agency, was born in Chatsworth, Illinois, March 30, 1879, his parents being Frank and Mary (Weibel) Wittler. The father was a native of Germany, while the mother's birth occurred in Switzerland, but in early life they came to the new world and were married in Chatsworth, Illinois. They began their domestic life upon a farm in that district and in fact Mr. Wittler became identified with agricultural pursuits near Chatsworth almost immediately after reaching the new world. His entire life was devoted to the work of the fields and he remained in Illinois until 1880, when he removed to Staunton county, Nebraska, becoming owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land upon which he spent his

remaining days, his death there occurring in 1886. His widow continued on the old homestead for eighteen years or until 1904, when she went to Humphrey, where she passed away August 7, 1910.

George A. Wittler attended school in Stanton county, Nebraska, and was also a pupil in the parochial schools of Humphrey. He received good business training on the old homestead farm and worked for his mother there until he attained his majority, when he rented the place and engaged in farming on his own account for four years. He was afterward employed for eighteen months as bartender at Creston, Nebraska, by John Mattheissen and in like capacity was employed for two and one-half years by George N. Smith, of Humphrey. He then entered into partnership with Mr. Smith, since which time the business has been conducted under the firm style of Smith & Wittler. He owned and conducted a pool hall in Humphrey until 1914 and then went to Columbus, where he was employed by Christ Wunderlich until 1915. On the 1st of May of that year he removed to Cornlea and opened a retail liquor store, which he still conducts. He is also agent for the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Lincoln and for the Security Mutual Company of that city.

On the 7th of January, 1909, Mr. Wittler was united in marriage to Miss Mollie Olk, her father being Jacob Olk, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work. They now have two children, namely: Jacob, who was born December 14, 1909; and Sedona, whose birth occurred August 20, 1911. The parents are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Wittler gives his political support to the democratic party.

JOHN JAMES GALLEY.

John James Galley is a prominent representative of financial interests in Columbus as president of the Commercial National Bank. His birth occurred in Utah on the 29th of August, 1858, his parents being George W. and Mary Ann (Pyatt) Galley, who were married in that state. The father, born in England in 1831, emigrated to America in 1851 and in 1859 brought his family to Platte county, Nebraska. Here he continued to reside until his death nearly a half century later, being widely recognized as one of the substantial and esteemed citizens of the community. He passed away on the 4th of March, 1907, having long survived his wife, who was called to her final rest in the year 1866.

John J. Galley, brought to this country in his infancy, here attended school to the age of eighteen years and after putting aside his textbooks followed farming until 1879. Subsequently he undertook other occupations and sojourned in various places, spending a year in Idaho and being largely engaged in railroad work. In 1884 he was married and began farming on his own account, devoting his attention to the work of the fields with excellent success until 1909. In 1912 he was chosen vice president of the Commercial National Bank and in 1914 became president of the institution, having since remained at its head. He keeps well informed on the financial interests of the country and in his management of affairs has followed a safe, conservative policy which has won the commendation of the patrons of the bank and gained the confidence of the general public.

On the 14th of March, 1884, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Galley was united in marriage to Miss Emily L. Button, her father being Stephen G. Button, who is deceased. To them have been born three children, as follows: Charles Button Galley, whose birth occurred in 1884; Alfred Ernest, born in 1887; and Nellie Lobine, who died November 19, 1909, when nineteen years of age.

Mr. Galley is a democrat in politics and for eleven years held the office of justice of the peace in Columbus township, this county, while for four years he served as county assessor, making an excellent record as a capable and trustworthy public official. From 1879 to 1880 inclusive he was a member of Company K, First Regiment Nebraska National Guards. His salient characteristics are such as have gained for him the friendly regard and goodwill of all with whom he has been associated in the various relations of life and he is entitled to a place among the representative and valued citizens of Platte county.

REV. GUSTAVE F. F. MUELLER, D. D.

Rev. Gustave F. F. Mueller has largely devoted his life to the work of the ministry and has not been denied the full harvest of his labors nor the aftermath as a preacher of the German Evangelical Lutheran church. He is a man of very liberal education, broad-minded, looking at life from the standpoint of sympathy and charity. He was born September 27, 1860, near Marienwerder in West Prussia. His collegiate and university work were extended and developed the talents with which nature endowed him. He has been at different periods a student in Jena University, in Greifswald University, in Breslau University and in Berlin University, studying law and later theology after determining to devote his life to the ministry. In 1885 he went to Chicago, where he completed his theological studies by graduation from the German Theological Seminary of the General Synod with the class of 1888, and in the year 1912 Midland College of Kansas conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

Having prepared for the ministry, Dr. Mueller accepted the pastorate of the church at Lanham, Nebraska, where he remained for two years and nine months. He then came to St. John's church, Bismark township, Platte county, where he continued for nine years, and later in Russell, Kansas, during his year's stay there, he organized the congregation and built the church. He was afterward for two years and two months engaged in work as a traveling missionary, at the end of which time he was called to the pastorate of the church at Yutan, Saunders county, Nebraska, where he continued for five years and three months. He then went to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he had charge of the Tabitha Home for nine months, and in 1909 he returned to Platte county and again took up his work at St. John's church, where he is now living, his home being on section 24, Bismark township.

On the 22d of March, 1886, the Rev. Mueller was united in marriage to Miss Deborah Greiner, who was born in the grand duchy of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, May 5, 1864. To them was born a daughter, Margaret, who is now the wife of George Engel. In politics Dr. Mueller may be termed an independent democrat, for while he usually votes along party lines, he does not consider himself bound by party ties and casts an independent ballot if his judgment so dictates. He is not remiss

in the duties of citizenship. In fact he looks out broadly over the field of public concern and gives his aid and his influence where he can further the public welfare. It would be tautological in this connection to enter into any series of statements showing him to be a man of broad scholarly attainments, for this has been shadowed forth between the lines of this review; but it is only just to say in a history that will descend to future generations that he combines with his strong intellectuality a marked human sympathy that has gained for him confidence and high regard. He is ever ready to extend a helping hand, to speak a word of encouragement, and his understanding of human nature tells him how, when and where to do this.

LESTER A. GATES.

Lester A. Gates, a partner of George D. Hoar in the ownership and conduct of the Diamond Bar, was born near Central City, Merrick county, Nebraska, October 26, 1877, a son of Amos and Emma (Whiteaker) Gates. The father was a native of New York, born near Buffalo. The son acquired a fair education, being graduated from the high school at Silver Creek, Nebraska, with the class of 1896. He learned the barber's trade, which he followed for sixteen years at Silver Creek and then in 1910 came to Columbus, where he established a saloon. He has since been connected with this line of business and in 1912, in company with George D. Hoar, bought out the Diamond Bar, which is liberally patronized, making his business one that yields substantial profits.

On the 26th of June, 1899, Mr. Gates was united in marriage to Miss Ethel Lundy, whose birth occurred in Missouri, May 24, 1877. To them have been born four children, namely: Ila, Dorothy, Wilma and Nina, all attending school. Mr. Gates belongs to Columbus Lodge, No. 1195, B. P. O. E., is a charter member of Platte Aerie, No. 1834, F. O. E., and also belongs to the Columbus Gun Club. In politics he is independent, voting according to the dictates of his judgment without regard to party ties.

FRED W. LUEDERS.

Each community has its representative citizens, men who are the leaders in business enterprise and are therefore most active in advancing the welfare and upbuilding of the town. Such a one is Fred W. Lueders, proprietor of a harness shop. He is thoroughly acquainted with the trade, is able to manufacture harness of the highest grade and is accorded a liberal and desirable patronage. He was born in Quincy, Illinois, December 7, 1885, and is a son of Fred W. and Anna M. (Bonhoff) Lueders, who were natives of Germany. In early life they left the fatherland and crossed the Atlantic to the new world, settling in Iowa, but finally removed to Quincy, Illinois, where the father worked in the stone quarries and also engaged in teaming for many years. He still resides in that city at the age of sixty-five years, but his wife passed away in October, 1906.

Fred W. Lueders was reared and educated in Quincy, his youth being unmarked

by any event of special importance until he started out in the business world on his own account. He decided that he would like to learn the harness maker's trade and spent three years in a shop in Quincy, during which he gained a comprehensive and accurate knowledge of the business. On the expiration of that period he went to Omaha, Nebraska, where he worked at his trade for four and a half years and then removed to Fremont, where he spent three and a half years in a harness shop. On the expiration of that period he came to Cornlea, where he established a business for himself, opening a harness shop and putting in an entirely new stock. He has the only shop of the kind in the town and enjoys a very gratifying patronage, for his business methods are thoroughly reliable, his prices are reasonable and his enterprise is unfaltering.

Mr. Lueders has not only won for himself an enviable position in business circles, but is also attractively situated in his home life. He was married in June, 1911, to Miss Gesche C. Moller, a daughter of Frederick and Anna M. (Deirks) Moller, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Nebraska. In early life her father crossed the country to this state in company with his parents, the family home being established in Fremont county, where he now lives, filling the position of city mail carrier. His wife also survives. Mr. and Mrs. Lueders have become the parents of a son, Wade Frederick, now an interesting little babe in his first year.

Mr. Lueders is a member of the town board of Cornlea, to which position he was elected on the democratic ticket, making an excellent record in office. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church and he is ever loyal to its teachings and its purposes. His life is at all times honorable and upright and the success which has come to him is the merited reward of earnest, persistent labor.

JAMES EDWARD MAHER.

One of the enterprising merchants of Platte Center is James Edward Maher, who owns and conducts a harness shop. He has led a busy and useful life since putting aside his textbooks and making his initial step in the business world. He is one of Platte county's native sons, his birth having occurred in Lost Creek township, January 26, 1874, his parents being John and Catherine (Butler) Maher. The father was a native of Ireland and when a youth of sixteen left Dublin and sailed for the new world, making his way to Keene, New Hampshire, where he worked in a tannery. He afterward became a resident of Lowell, Massachusetts, where he was living at the time of his marriage. In 1871 he removed westward to Nebraska and took up a homestead of eighty acres in Lost Creek township, Platte county, thereafter devoting his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits. He died in October, 1904, while his wife survived for less than a year, passing away in September, 1905. In their family were eight children, of whom seven are still living.

James Edward Maher, who is the second oldest, is indebted to the common-school system of the county for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. During vacation periods and after his school days were over he worked upon the home farm until he reached the age of twenty years, when his father sold that

place and removed to Platte Center, after which James E. Maher engaged in farming with his brother for several years, while for five years he worked in or near Platte Center. In 1906 he purchased the harness shop of D. P. Mahoney and has since conducted the business. He carries a large line of well-made harness and the thorough reliability of his business methods and his earnest efforts to please his customers have brought him a substantial trade, his business being now a large and desirable one.

On the 10th of November, 1908, at Platte Center, Mr. Maher was united in marriage to Miss Mary Alice Weddell, a daughter of S. A. Weddell, who was formerly a resident of Whiteside county, Illinois, and removed with his family to Nebraska when his daughter Mary was a maiden of fifteen summers. Mr. and Mrs. Maher have become parents of two children, Norbert and Roberta.

In his political views Mr. Maher is a democrat and has filled the office of city and township assessor for sixteen consecutive years, his public service being marked by the utmost fidelity to duty. He belongs to the Highlanders Lodge of Platte Center and to the Catholic Order of Foresters, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the St. Joseph Catholic church. He is a progressive man, constantly seeking to make advancement along all those lines which affect the general interests of society and promote individual welfare. He is social and genial by nature and is therefore well liked.

CAMDEN J. GARLOW.

Camden J. Garlow, who has been an active representative of the legal profession in Columbus for the past three decades, has the reputation of being one of the three most prominent attorneys in this part of the state and makes a specialty of insurance litigation. He likewise enjoys an enviable reputation as a leading and successful business man, his ability in this direction being no less pronounced than as a member of the bar.

His birth occurred in Marion county, Virginia (now West Virginia), on the 23d of March, 1859, his parents being Joseph and Retta (Morgan) Garlow, the former a native of Virginia and the latter a daughter of Colonel David Morgan, who served in the Union army together with his five sons. In 1863 Joseph Garlow served for three months in the West Virginia Infantry with the rank of major. His demise occurred in 1889, while his wife was called to her final rest in 1878.

Camden J. Garlow acquired his early education in the schools of his native county and subsequently attended the Fairmont State Normal School at Fairmont, West Virginia, until within a month of graduation, when he left college on account of the death of his mother. In 1881 he came to Creston, Platte county, Nebraska, and for about four years followed the profession of teaching in the country schools, while for one year he acted as an instructor in the third ward school of Columbus. He had begun studying law and afterward entered the office of the late Judge John G. Higgins, being admitted to the bar in 1886, since which time he has practiced in Columbus continuously to date. He makes a specialty of insurance litigation, in which branch of the profession he has won recognition and success in gratifying degree. His manifest ability and sound judgment have also been called into requis-



CAMDEN J. GARLOW

tion in the conduct of important business enterprises and at present he acts as chief executive officer of the Platte County Independent Telephone Company, the Columbus Gas Company, the West End Sewer Company, the Humphrey Telephone Company and the State Telephone Association.

On the 14th of September, 1886, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Garlow was united in marriage to Miss Mamie A. Winslow, her father being Henry M. Winslow, a native of Vermont, who has passed away. They have one daughter, Ethel Gwendolyn, who is the wife of Grover Long.

Politically Mr. Garlow is a staunch republican and for two years he served as a member of the city council in Columbus. For two years he was a member of Company K, First Regiment of the Nebraska National Guard, acting most of the time as quartermaster. His fraternal connections come next in importance to his professional and business interests. He has taken the degrees of the York and Scottish Rites in Masonry, also belongs to the Mystic Shrine and has held the highest offices in the lodge, chapter, commandery and council. He is past master of Lodge No. 58, A. F. & A. M.; past high priest of Orient Chapter, No. 18, R. A. M.; past eminent commander of Gethsemane Commandery, No. 21, K. T.; and thrice illustrious master of Gebal Council, No. 12, R. & S. M. His religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church. Such in brief is the record of one of Platte county's leading attorneys, business men and citizens—a gentleman who in every relation of life has manifested the high principles which govern his conduct.

HERMAN LOSEKE.

Herman Loseke is numbered among the pioneer residents of Platte county and for many years has been an interested witness of the growth and development of this section of the state. He devoted his attention to farming for an extended period but is now living retired, making his home in Columbus. A native of Germany, he was born in Oldenburg, July 9, 1840, and is a son of John Henry Loseke, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. On coming to the United States Herman Loseke settled in Bismark township, Platte county, on Loseke creek, at which time the survey of the county was just being made. He secured a homestead claim and began farming in accordance with the primitive methods of the times, using ox teams and machinery that is very crude in comparison with the farm implements of the present. At that day all merchandise was hauled from Omaha and the most farsighted could scarcely have dreamed of the wonderful changes which would occur, converting wild prairie land into richly cultivated fields stretching away for miles and miles. He engaged very extensively in stock-raising and became the owner of large tracts of land, adding to his possessions from time to time as his financial resources permitted, but he has given most of his farm property to his children.

His wife, who bore the maiden name of Anna Johannes, was born in Oldenburg, Germany, November 18, 1844, a daughter of Henry and Katrina Johannes. Her father was a native of Germany and in 1867 left the fatherland to become a resident of the new world. Making his way to Nebraska, he secured a homestead claim and lived with his sons in Shell Creek township, where he remained

until his death. In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Loseke are nine children, as follows. Emma is the wife of August Schutte, an agriculturist of Colfax county, Nebraska, by whom she has five children. Gustav, who was born April 11, 1870, follows farming in Columbus township, is married and has three children. William, who was born March 6, 1872, follows farming in Colfax county, is married and has six children. Otto, who was born January 7, 1875, follows farming near Creston, this county, is married and has seven children. Anna is the wife of William Hespe, an agriculturist and hardware merchant of Leigh, Nebraska, by whom she has five children. Ida gave her hand in marriage to Henry Hespe, who is a brother of William Hespe, and is an agriculturist of this county, and they have two children. Bertha is the wife of William Asche, who is a farmer of Platte county and by whom she has two children. Herman, who was born October 1, 1884, follows farming in Platte county, is married and has one child. Clara is at home.

Mr. Loseke was active in public affairs of the early days, was a stalwart supporter of the democratic party and a zealous member of the German Lutheran church. He retired and removed to Columbus, November 1, 1911. At different times he held some local offices and from the beginning of his residence in the county he has taken an active and helpful interest in movements relating to the general welfare. His work has been especially helpful along agricultural lines and yet he has not neglected his duty in promoting political and moral advancement. He can look back to the past when the highly cultivated farms of Platte county were tracts of wild prairie, starred with a million wild flowers in June and covered in December with a dazzling and unbroken sheet of snow. But as the years passed, settler after settler came to take up the land and use it for the purposes of civilization and conditions of pioneer life gave way until now all of the conveniences and comforts of the older east are to be obtained in Platte county.

EDWARD JOHNSON.

Edward Johnson is president of the First National Bank, which position he has held during the past six years. His birth occurred in Dexter, Maine, on the 15th of July, 1861, his parents being Samuel and Sarah Ann Johnson, who were born, reared and married in England. The father was born in 1825 and in the year 1857 crossed the Atlantic to the United States. He passed away in January, 1912, having for nearly a half century survived his wife, whose demise occurred in 1864.

Edward Johnson acquired his education in his native state and following the completion of a high-school course at Bridgton entered the medical department of Bowdoin College, from which he was graduated in 1883. He then made his way to Shell Lake, Wisconsin, and there began the practice of medicine but a few months later removed to Andover, South Dakota, where he followed his profession for three years. On the expiration of that period he located in Fullerton, Nance county, Nebraska, where he remained for about twenty-three years. In 1908 he came to Columbus and was made vice president of the First National Bank, of which institution he became president the following year and has since so remained. He studies the banking business from every possible standpoint and is thoroughly informed concerning the money market. While he seeks progress, his progressive-

ness is tempered by a safe conservatism and none ever questions his business integrity or the honesty of his methods.

In November, 1885, in Andover, South Dakota, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Fannie R. Boyington. His political allegiance is given to the democracy, while fraternally he is identified with the Knights Templar Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. In all matters of citizenship he stands for that which works for the best interests of the community and he holds to high ideals of life in every relation. Anyone meeting Mr. Johnson 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 any emergency. His quietude of deportment, his easy dignity, his frankness and cordiality of address, with the total absence of anything to conceal, foretold a man who is ready to meet any obligation of life with the confidence and courage that come of conscious personal ability, a right conception of things and an habitual regard for what is best in the exercise of human activities.

MICHAEL J. CLARK.

Michael J. Clark is now living retired in Cornlea but still has extensive landed possessions, his holdings embracing five hundred and sixty acres in Platte county. This indicates what was formerly the nature of his business, for through many years he was actively engaged in general agricultural pursuits. He has lived on this side of the Atlantic since early manhood, his birth having occurred, however, in Ireland in September, 1847. His parents were Michael and Julia Clark, also natives of the Emerald isle, where the father followed the occupation of farming until his life's labors were ended in death. He passed away in 1889 and for six years was survived by his wife, who died in 1895.

Michael J. Clark spent his youth in his parents' home and obtained his education in Ireland. He continued to work with his father until he reached the age of twenty-seven, when he came to America, attracted by the favorable reports which he heard concerning business conditions and advantages on this side of the Atlantic. Landing at New York, he there remained for a month, after which he went to New Jersey, where he resided until he heard and heeded the call of the west, making his way to Platte county, Nebraska. However, the grasshoppers totally destroyed the crops of the state and he returned to Omaha, where he was employed until August 25, 1875. Believing it would then be possible to carry on farming advantageously, he took up a homestead in Platte county and sought to improve his land, which he operated until 1913, when he retired and removed to Cornlea, where he has since lived. In the meantime he had won a place among the progressive and substantial farmers of the county. He performed the arduous task of converting the wild prairie land into productive fields, breaking the sod and planting the seed and in due time gathered rich harvests. As time passed his financial resources increased and he kept adding to his holdings until he had five hundred and fifty-six acres in Joliet township. This he still owns and has rented, so that he now derives therefrom a very gratifying annual income. When

upon the farm he engaged quite extensively in feeding stock, shipping about two carloads annually. He is now identified with the financial interests of the county as a stockholder of the Cornlea Bank.

Mr. Clark has been married twice. In 1880 he wedded Miss Mary Sheedy, who passed away the same year. The child born of that marriage died in infancy. In January, 1885, Mr. Clark was united in marriage to Miss Bridget Whalen, a daughter of Mort and Mary (Wrath) Whalen, who were natives of Ireland, where they spent their entire lives.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark belong to the Catholic church and he gives his political support to the republican party. When one analyzes his life record it is evident that his success has been built upon the sure foundation of industry, energy and perseverance and his course in this regard furnishes an example well worthy of emulation.

WILLIAM OLMER.

William Olmer, a successful young farmer of Granville township, was born January 8, 1884, on the farm on section 24 where he now lives and which he rents from his father. He is a son of Richard Olmer, who was born in Wisconsin, March 16, 1832. His parents, John and Frederica (Degenhart) Olmer, were natives of Germany and on coming to America in 1851 settled in Wisconsin, where John Olmer purchased government land and began the development of a farm, to which he devoted his energies throughout his remaining days. He died in February, 1891, while his wife passed away December 8, 1894. Richard Olmer spent his youthful days in Wisconsin and there engaged in farming until he attained his majority. In 1873 he arrived in Platte county, Nebraska, and preempted land which he sold two years later. He then returned to his native state, where he engaged in farming from 1875 to 1878, when he once more came to Platte county and purchased a homestead right of eighty acres. He afterward obtained eighty acres more in Granville township and lived upon that farm until 1910, when he retired and removed to Humphrey. He afterward bought one hundred and sixty acres and is today the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of valuable and productive land. On coming to Humphrey he purchased a good home within a block of the main street and there still resides. He is a stockholder and director in the First National Bank of Humphrey and also in the Farmers Elevator Company. Further mention of him is made on another page of this volume.

William Olmer attended school in his youthful days, dividing his time between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the fields. He continued to assist his father until he reached the age of twenty-four years, when in 1908 he began farming on his own account a mile east of the old home place. In 1910, when his father retired and removed to Humphrey, William Olmer took up his abode upon the old homestead and has since resided there. He owns eighty acres of land on section 13, Granville township, and cultivates altogether three hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land. He carries on general farming and stock-raising, breeding shorthorn cattle and also raising a good grade of horses and hogs. He feeds all the grain that he raises and sells

his stock to shippers. His business affairs are carefully conducted and able management and sound judgment are bringing to him success.

On the 20th of January, 1908, Mr. Olmer was united in marriage to Miss Catharine Lubischer, a daughter of Peter and Catharine Lubischer. Her father was born in Germany, March 15, 1846, and her paternal grandparents were Phillip and Anna (Roos) Lubischer, also natives of that country. Phillip Lubischer followed farming throughout his entire life and remained a resident of Germany until called to his final rest December 31, 1885, while his wife passed away on the 22d of May, 1855. Peter Lubischer is a self-made man. He started out on his own account when but thirteen years of age and after working for some time as a farm hand secured employment in the factories of Germany. In 1872, when twenty-six years of age, he sailed for the new world and after a brief period spent in Chicago was employed as a farm hand in Illinois until 1878. He then returned to Germany to see his parents but came again to the United States in 1879 and was employed in a brewery at Omaha. He also worked in a lumber and coal yard there until 1889, when he came to Platte county and bought eighty acres on section 23, Granville township. To this he afterward added sixty acres on section 24 and has since given his time and attention to the improvement of his farm. He was married February 4, 1886, to Catharine Nick, a daughter of Peter and Catharine (Rothenberger) Nick, natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Lubischer became parents of ten children and more extended mention of the family is made on another page of this volume.

Mr. and Mrs. Olmer have become parents of three children; namely: Margaret, who was born October 26, 1908; Helen, whose birth occurred August 23, 1910; and Cecelia, born February 22, 1912. The parents are members of St. Francis Catholic church of Humphrey and Mr. Olmer is identified with the Catholic Order of Foresters. His political indorsement is given to the democratic party and he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He has worked hard to attain success and his persistency of purpose, his energy and determination have been the salient points in winning for him the prosperity which he now enjoys.

ALBERT CLOETERS.

Albert Cloeters is actively engaged in general farming and stock-raising on section 6, Burrows township, where he has eighty acres of land. His farm, however, embraces three hundred and twenty acres, lying in three different townships, and in the management of the property he displays sound judgment and unfaltering energy. He was born in Germany, August 22, 1867, and is a son of Albert and Mary (Schnitzel) Cloeters, who were also natives of the fatherland, where the father followed farming for many years. He is now living retired in that country at the venerable age of eighty years. He did military duty for his country, serving in the Franco-German war in 1866 and 1870. His wife passed away in 1895.

After acquiring his education in the schools of his native country Albert Cloeters rendered military service to Germany, joining the army when a young man of nineteen years and remaining in the service for three years. Then exempt from further military duty, he determined to try his fortune in the new world and in

1890 came to the United States, making his way to Platte Center, Nebraska, where he arrived with a cash capital of but five dollars. His financial condition rendered it imperative that he seek and obtain immediate employment and for a year he worked as a farm hand. He then rented the Duseman place, which he occupied and cultivated for eleven years, during which period he carefully saved his earnings until industry and economy had brought him capital sufficient to enable him to purchase a farm. He then invested in one hundred and sixty acres in Boone county, Nebraska, but afterward sold that property and bought two hundred and forty acres in Platte county, to which he subsequently added an eighty-acre tract. His farm is in three townships, one hundred and sixty acres being on section 31, Granville township, eighty acres on section 1, Joliet township, and eighty acres on section 6, Burrows township. His home stands in Burrows township and for the past twelve years he has cultivated and developed this farm, which is now a splendidly improved property, the fields yielding to him golden harvests as a reward for the care and cultivation which he bestows upon them. In addition to general farming he makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred Hampshire hogs and he feeds about two car loads of hogs and two car loads of cattle each year, his sale of stock bringing to him a very substantial financial return.

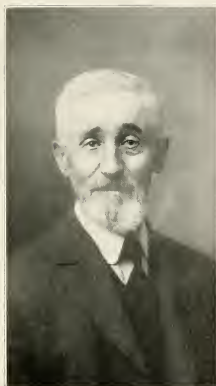
In June, 1894, Mr. Cloeters was united in marriage to Miss Anna Kehn, a daughter of Gottfried and Louisa (Rappuhn) Kehn, of whom more extended mention is made on another page of this work in connection with the sketch of Fred Baumgart, brother-in-law of Mrs. Cloeters. Mr. and Mrs. Cloeters are the parents of six children, as follows: Amanda, who is twenty-one years of age and is the wife of Carl Jansen, a blacksmith of Cornlea, Nebraska; William, who is eighteen years old; Hilda, a maiden of sixteen; and Adolph, Anna and Mary, who are twelve, nine and three years of age respectively.

The family are German Baptists in religious faith, and Mr. Cloeters belongs also to the Modern Woodmen camp. He votes with the republican party and keeps well informed concerning the salient questions and issues of the day. Coming to the new world in young manhood, he has worked his way steadily upward, placing his dependence upon the substantial qualities of industry, perseverance and integrity. In his life there have been few leisure hours and his farm indicates what may be accomplished when there is a will to dare and to do.

THEODOR MEYER.

Theodor Meyer, who owns valuable farm property on sections 25 and 26, Granville township, was born in Osnabruck, Germany, April 27, 1843, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Meyer, who were also natives of the same locality. The father, who devoted his entire life to the occupation of farming, passed away in Germany.

Theodor Meyer remained a resident of his native country until he reached the age of thirty-two years, when in 1875 he crossed the Atlantic to the United States. He had previously engaged in farming the old home place in Germany and was there married, in June, 1872, to Miss Katie Wilhelmina Rielag, who was born in Osnabruck, Germany, December 26, 1846, a daughter of Henry Rielag. Her



MR. AND MRS. THEODOR MEYER

father was a native of Germany and a distiller of that country. She is now deceased, passing away at Columbus Hospital on the 5th of November, 1914.

On coming to the United States Mr. and Mrs. Meyer had made their way to Meadville, Pennsylvania, in 1875 and for four months lived with his brother, the Rev. George Meyer. They then went west to Carroll county, Iowa, where Theodor Meyer established a home, purchasing land and carrying on farming there for nine years. In 1885 he arrived in Platte county, Nebraska, and invested in two hundred acres of land on section 26, Granville township. With characteristic energy he began its further development and improvement, bringing his fields under a high state of cultivation and adding to the place all of the equipments and accessories of a model farm. Year by year he carefully tilled his fields, gathering good crops for which he found a ready sale on the market. In 1910, however, he retired from active life and removed to Columbus, renting his land, but indolence and idleness are utterly foreign to his nature and he was not content in the city without some occupation. Accordingly in 1913 he returned to the farm, whereon he now resides, although he is leaving the active work of the fields to his sons, who carry on farming and stock-raising.

To Mr. and Mrs. Meyer were born seven children, as follows: Henry, who wedded Miss Letta Moore and is a practicing attorney of Omaha; George, an attorney of Los Angeles, California; Annie, the wife of Dr. August Kuhlmann, of Melrose, Minnesota, by whom she has five children—Laurence, Arnold, Louise, William and Raymond; August, at home; Joseph, who passed away on the 17th of August, 1911, when twenty-four years of age; John, at home; and Michael, who is also on the home place with his father and who wedded Miss Annie Heine, of Afton, Iowa. She is a daughter of John and Margaret (Trough) Heine, the former owning and operating a brewery in Afton, Iowa, until his demise.

In his political faith Mr. Meyer is a democrat and he and his family are all members of St. Francis Catholic church of Humphrey, while he is also connected with St. Joseph's Men's Society. His son Michael belongs to the Knights of Columbus of Humphrey, being a charter member of that organization. His son August is a member of Company H, Fourth Regiment of the Nebraska National Guard. Mr. Meyer deserves much credit for what he has accomplished, as he started out in life empty-handed and has always been dependent upon his own resources for financial advancement. Gradually he has worked his way upward and his record is a most creditable one.

SAMUEL E. EWING.

Samuel E. Ewing is the proprietor of the only drug store at Creston and enjoys a liberal patronage from his fellow townsmen and from the citizens of the surrounding country. He is a western man by birth, training and preference, and the spirit of western enterprise and progress finds manifestation in his business career. He was born in Chariton, Iowa, August 1, 1879, a son of John and Rachel (Evans) Ewing, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Iowa. The father followed farming and stock-raising in the east and at an early period in the development of Iowa took up his abode in Chariton, where he resided until 1885.

He then removed to Boone county, Nebraska, purchased land and carried on general farming until 1893, when he went to Edmund, Oklahoma. There he engaged in the live-stock business for three years, after which he returned to Boone county, where he lived for five years. On the expiration of that period he became a resident of California, where he purchased a fruit ranch, which he cultivated for ten years. He then established his home in Gary, Oklahoma, where he continued to live until his life's labors were ended in November, 1913. For two decades he had survived his wife, who passed away May 21, 1893.

Samuel E. Ewing pursued his education and spent his youth in Cedar Rapids, Nebraska. He remained with his parents until he had passed the twentieth milestone on life's journey, when he started out in the world independently, securing employment in a drug store, in which he remained for five years. Wishing more scientific training than his practical experience had given him, he then entered the Creighton College of Pharmacy at Omaha, from which he was graduated with the class of 1905. He then secured employment as a drug clerk in Omaha, where he remained until 1907, when he came to Creston and bought out a drug store. He has since conducted the business and, having the only store in the town, is liberally patronized. He not only carries a large line of drugs and druggists' sundries but also handles jewelry, and his business is enjoying a substantial growth. That he ranks high in his chosen field of labor is indicated in the fact that he has been made a member of the state board of pharmacy examiners, having served for two years of a five years' term.

On the 14th of July, 1908, Mr. Ewing was married to Miss Leila Graham, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Graham, pioneers of this county. Arriving here at an early epoch in the development of this part of the state, her father homesteaded and has since cultivated his farm, although he is now seventy years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Ewing have become the parents of two children: Eugene G., born December 18, 1910; and Helen R., born October 5, 1912.

Mr. Ewing has always voted with the republican party since attaining his majority and does everything in his power to promote its growth and insure its success. He is now a member of the town board of Creston and has served in the office for five years, making a creditable record through his capability and his fidelity to duty. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge and attends the Methodist Episcopal church—associations which indicate much of the character of his interests and the principles which govern his conduct.

JOHN SCHMOCKER.

Among the well known and successful business men of Columbus is John Schmocker, a real-estate and insurance agent. He was born in Canton Bern, Switzerland, November 22, 1848, and is a son of Jacob and Anna (Hostetter) Schmocker, who were married in Switzerland in 1845 and came to the United States in 1866. For one year they lived in New Philadelphia, Ohio, and then removed to Osage county, Missouri, where they resided upon a farm for about ten years. The father served as president of the school board in Chamois, Missouri, and was highly

esteemed in his community. He passed away November 30, 1874, and was survived by his widow until October 15, 1888.

John Schmocker received his education in his native land and accompanied his parents on their removal to the United States. He remained with them until 1878, when he came to Columbus, Nebraska, where he worked in a lumberyard for two years. At the end of that time he located on a farm in Platte county but ten years later he again took up his residence in Columbus, where for twelve years he engaged in the poultry business. Later he turned his attention to collections and was for four years clerk in the county assessor's office but is now engaged in the real-estate and insurance business. He is alert, energetic and possesses sound judgment, and it is but natural that he should prosper in his business affairs.

On the 27th of December, 1879, Mr. Schmocker was married in Chamois, Missouri, to Miss Mary E. Wnethrick, and they have become the parents of the following children: Fred C.; Louise, now Mrs. J. W. Becker, of Ottawa, Kansas; Lena M.; and Oscar E.

Mr. Schmocker is a democrat, has served as justice of the peace since 1911, was for one term constable of Platte county and since 1905 has been registrar of births and deaths in Columbus and vicinity. Fraternally he is connected with Camp No. 35, Woodmen of the World, of Columbus, and since 1902 has been clerk of that body. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a valued citizen of Columbus and all who know him entertain for him high regard and sincere respect.

AUGUST BOETTCHER.

Various business interests have claimed the time and attention of August Boettcher but at the present writing, in the fall of 1915, he is living retired, enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. He now makes his home at No. 324 East Ninth street in Columbus, where he took up his abode in 1882. His birth occurred on the island of Rügen, Germany, March 15, 1850, his parents being Carl and Katrina (Hader) Boettcher. The father worked as a laborer in his native country and there passed away, but the mother afterward came to the new world and died in Columbus.

August Boettcher had very limited educational privileges in his native country and at an early age began earning his living as a fisherman, continuing in active employment of that character until the fall of 1871, when he came to the new world, establishing his home in Dodge county, Wisconsin. There he engaged in clerking in a general mercantile store until the spring of 1873, when he came to Columbus, where he gave his attention to the sale of harvesting machinery. He also homesteaded eighty acres of land, for considerable sections of the country were at that time unclaimed and uncultivated. After devoting six years to the improvement of his farm he purchased a hotel in Duncan, which he conducted for a year and a half or until the spring of 1882, when he made a trip to the old country and returned with his mother and sister after spending six months in the land of his birth amid the friends and scenes of his early youth.

In the fall of 1882 Mr. Boettcher took up his abode in Columbus, where he

purchased grain for an elevator for about two years. In 1884 he purchased the hardware store of E. Pole & Company and conducted the business for twenty-four years, during which time he was accorded a liberal and gratifying trade. He always recognized that satisfied customers are the best advertisement and made every effort to please his patrons and give them full value for money invested. His reasonable prices and his honorable dealing brought him success that now enables him to live retired. However, he is still the owner of two hundred and forty acres of valuable land west of Columbus and two hundred acres lying to the northeast and is also a stockholder in the German National Bank.

Mr. Boettcher has been married twice. In April, 1874, he wedded Miss Mary Loseke, who died of diphtheria. In October, 1885, Mr. Boettcher was again married, his second union being with Miss Jennie Adamson, by whom he has twelve children, eight sons and four daughters.

In his political views Mr. Boettcher has always been a democrat since becoming a naturalized American citizen and he has served as a member of the city council and also as mayor of Columbus, his administration being characterized by many needed reforms and improvements and by active service for the welfare of the city along those lines which are ever a matter of civic virtue and of civic pride. He belongs to the Independent Lutheran church and is identified with the Woodmen of the World, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Sons of Herman and the Maennerchor. He has made several trips back to his native land and in 1915 visited the Panama Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. He now has leisure for the enjoyment of those things which are to him a matter of interest and recreation and his prosperity is the fitting crown of a well directed life of labor, characterized by honor and honesty in all transactions with his fellowmen.

CARL ROHDE.

Carl Rohde, a popular and prosperous citizen of Columbus, has made his home in Platte county for more than a quarter of a century and since February, 1908, has continuously served as secretary of the Sons of Herman, a German fraternal organization. His birth occurred in Hanover, Germany, on the 30th of March, 1856, his parents being Louis and Artemise (Lyssmann) Rohde, both of whom were natives of Hanover, Germany, the former born December 15, 1793. Louis Rohde was in the battle of Waterloo, under the command of the Duke of Wellington, and afterward at Paris. He died in Hanover on the 12th of August, 1869, while his wife passed away in that province in September, 1889. The paternal grandfather of our subject was a lifelong resident of Hanover.

Carl Rohde spent the first seventeen years of his life in his native province and then emigrated to the United States in 1873, making his way to Rock Island, Illinois, where lived a married sister. He secured employment as a farm hand near the town and worked during one year for a remuneration of eight dollars per month and board. He then took up his abode in Rock Island and there resided for four years, spending the entire period at work in a brewery with the exception of six months' labor in a lumberyard. Subsequently he went to Texas but at the end of six months returned to Rock Island, Illinois, and in the spring of 1879



CARL ROHDE

made his way back to his home in Hanover because of impaired health, for he had suffered from malarial fever contracted in Texas. Two years later, however, he again crossed the ocean to the United States and settled in Tecumseh, Johnson county, Nebraska, where he engaged in farming until the spring of 1884. He next followed farming in Minnesota for six months and then embarked in business in Jackson, Jackson county, that state, there continuing to reside until the spring of 1886. During the next two years he conducted a business enterprise at Auburn, Nemaha county, Nebraska, and in 1888 came to Columbus, this state, being here engaged in the liquor business for four years. Subsequently he devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits in Platte county for three years and then again embarked in the liquor business in Columbus, successfully carrying on the enterprise until 1907. During the next year he rested and in February, 1908, he was appointed secretary of the German fraternal organization known as the Sons of Herman, which he has served in that capacity continuously to the present time, winning reelection in recognition of his ability in the discharge of the important duties devolving upon him. He owns farms and other property and is widely recognized as a substantial, representative and esteemed citizen of Columbus.

On the 29th of April, 1890, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Rohde was united in marriage to Miss Marguerite Mack, a daughter of George Mack, who is deceased. They now have four children, namely: Carl G., born July 23, 1891, who was graduated from the University of Nebraska with the class of 1914; Ernestine; Frank G., whose natal day was May 4, 1896; and Agnes Louise.

Mr. Rohde gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is now chairman of the committee of forestation of the sand hills of Nebraska. Fraternally he is identified with the Knights of Pythias and the Sons of Herman. He is a Lutheran in religious faith and belongs to the Maennerchor, of which society he is a trustee. Mr. Rohde has never had occasion to regret his determination to seek a home in the new world, for here he found the opportunities which he sought and has won both success and happiness.

EDWARD EDWARDS.

Edward Edwards had passed the seventy-sixth milestone on life's journey when he was called by death to the home beyond. He had previously been closely identified with farming interests in Platte county for many years and his life record indicates what can be accomplished when energy and determination lead the way.

Mr. Edwards was a native of Wales, born in May, 1833, and his parents, Thomas and Mary Eggers, were also natives of that little rock-ribbed country, in which they have always remained, never crossing the Atlantic to the United States. The youthful days of Edward Edwards were spent in the land of his nativity and to the public-school system he is indebted for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. He was ambitious to make the most of his time and opportunities and when twenty-five years of age he resolved to seek a home beyond the Atlantic. When his arrangements were perfected he bade adieu to friends and native country and made the voyage to New York, whence he traveled into the interior of the country, settling near Iowa City, Iowa. There he worked for two years, at the end of which

time he purchased a farm, which he cultivated with growing success for sixteen years. He then sold that property and went to Red Oak, Iowa, where he also bought and operated land. Upon that farm he lived for fifteen years, after which he came to Platte county, Nebraska, and invested in another tract of land, which he at once began to develop and improve, continuing its further cultivation with good success until his demise, which occurred in 1909.

Mr. Edwards was married in June, 1856, to Miss Ann Thomas, a daughter of Morgan and Margaret (Trutor) Thomas, who were also natives of Wales. Her father engaged in mining in that country, in which he spent his entire life, passing away there in 1843. His widow afterward came to the new world and died in Iowa City, Iowa, in 1866. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Edwards was blessed with nine children, namely: Mary; William; John and Ed, twins; Lou, deceased; Margaret, who has also passed away; Albert; David; and Richard.

Mr. Edwards voted with the republican party but never sought or desired office, always preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs. This was one of the secrets of his success and another was his unflagging energy and straightforward dealing. He guided his life at all times by the teachings of the Congregational church, of which he was a consistent member, and in his career he attempted to follow the golden rule, doing unto others as he would have them do unto him.

JACOB C. ASCHLER.

Jacob C. Aschler is now living retired in Columbus but for many years was actively connected with general agricultural pursuits in Platte county. He has passed the eighty-fifth milestone on life's journey and is therefore one of the venerable citizens of the state. His birth occurred in Canton Bern, Switzerland, where he pursued his education and continued his residence to the age of twenty-four years. At the end of that time he determined to come to the new world and bade adieu to friends and native country, after which he sailed for America in 1854, settling first in Minnesota, where he secured a homestead claim of eighty acres. Taking up his abode upon that tract, he there engaged in farming for sixteen years and in 1870 removed to Platte county, Nebraska, which was still a frontier district, much of the land being yet in possession of the government. He secured a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres and later he bought eighty acres more. With characteristic energy he bent his efforts to the development, cultivation and improvement of the place. He carefully tilled his fields and converted his farm into a productive tract of land, good crops annually rewarding his early planting and the later care which he bestowed upon his fields. He carried on general farming and also conducted a successful dairy business until 1889, when he felt that his industry and capable management had brought him sufficient capital to enable him to spend his remaining days in the enjoyment of well earned rest. Since that time he has had no business interests save for the supervision which he has given to his investments.

On the 17th of March, 1870, Mr. Aschler was united in marriage to Miss Louise Disher, a native of Prussia, Germany, who passed away February 15, 1915. To

them were born ten children, namely: Jacob; Samuel; Gottlieb; Ernst; Mary and David, both of whom are deceased; Bertha; Emma; Louise; and Ross.

On September 20, 1915, Mr. Aschler was again married, Mrs. Lena Anthon, of Columbus, becoming his wife. She has lived here forty years and is a representative of one of the prominent old families of the county. Her parents, Adam and Josephine (Flicker) Lachner, came to Platte county in 1873.

After coming to the new world Mr. Aschler studied the political situation and conditions of the country and became a staunch ally of the republican party, feeling that its plan of government, if carried out, would work for the best interests of the community and the country at large. In religious faith Mr. Aschler is a Methodist and has long been a devoted follower of his church, attempting always in his life to adhere closely to the golden rule and do unto others as he would have them do unto him. He is now one of the venerable residents of Columbus, esteemed wherever known and most of all where he is best known.

OTTO GROTELUESCHEN.

Otto Grotelueschen was born September 4, 1881, on the farm on which he now resides on section 2, Bismark township, being a representative of one of the old families long connected with the development and improvement of Platte county, especially along agricultural lines. His father, John Grotelueschen, was born in Germany and married Anna Loseke, also a native of that country. They came to Platte county among its early settlers and the father homesteaded eighty acres of land on section 2, Bismark township. His first home was a primitive one, a little sod house, but after the first years of struggle and hardships success attended his efforts and gradually he worked his way up financially. As his resources increased he added to his holdings and became one of the extensive landowners of the county, having nine hundred and twenty acres. His worth as a business man and citizen was widely acknowledged. He passed away in August, 1902, while his wife survived until November, 1913. They had a family of eleven children: Louis, who is living in Iowa; Ida, the deceased wife of Fritz Otto, of Colfax county, Nebraska; Adolph, mentioned elsewhere in this work; Lena, the wife of Louis Loseke, a resident farmer of Sherman township; Lizzie, the wife of William Loseke; Emil, living in Colfax county, Nebraska; Otto; Clara, who died in childhood; Rosa, the wife of Henry Luchen; Bertha, the wife of Otto Korte; and Minnie, who completes the family.

Otto Grotelueschen, born and reared on the old homestead farm and educated in the public schools of this locality, is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of rich and valuable land which formerly belonged to his father. He resides on the old homestead property and carries on general agricultural pursuits, raising both grain and stock, while his work along both lines is attended with good results. He has acquainted himself with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops and diligence and perseverance have at all times characterized his life's labors.

Mr. Grotelueschen was married in 1909 to Miss Minnie Dirks, a native of Sherman township, this county, where her father, Martin Dirks, is still engaged in farming. Mr. Grotelueschen takes no active part in politics but is a loyal member of

the German Lutheran church. His life is quietly and unostentatiously passed, but his sterling worth is recognized by his friends and neighbors among whom he has always lived.

JOHN M. VAN ACKEREN.

John M. Van Ackeren, who follows farming and stock-raising on section 7, Humphrey township, was born in Germany, June 24, 1876, a son of Joseph and Lena (Oenting) Van Ackeren, the former born in the fatherland in May, 1848. Joseph Van Ackeren was reared and educated in Germany and remained with his parents to the age of twenty-four years, when he began farming on his own account, following that pursuit in his native land from 1872 until 1881. He then crossed the Atlantic to the new world and, continuing his journey westward, at length reached Westpoint, Nebraska, where he was employed for a few months. He then went to Pierce county, Nebraska, where he cultivated rented land for three years, after which he returned to Westpoint, where he lived for a year. Removing to South Dakota, he secured a homestead and timber claim, which he improved, spending seven years in the development and cultivation of that property. He then disposed of his South Dakota land and came to Platte county, where for eight years he engaged in the cultivation of a rented tract of two hundred and forty acres. He next went to Cedar Rapids, Nebraska, where he engaged in farming for six years, after which he traded two sections of land for one hundred and sixty acres in Platte county and three hundred and twenty acres near Cedar Rapids. In 1911 he purchased his present place of one hundred and sixty acres on section 11, Granville township, and since that time has wrought a marked transformation in the appearance of the place. No finer improvements can be found upon any farm in the county. There is a large and commodious residence, substantial outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock, well kept fences and the latest improved farm machinery. He is most careful in cultivating his fields and practical experience has brought him a knowledge of scientific farming, for he has learned to know the needs of the crops, the condition of the soil and other things which are now taught in the agricultural schools. He is extensively engaged in stock-raising, feeding about two car loads of sheep and two car loads of cattle annually.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Van Ackeren are the parents of six children, namely: John M., of this review; Edward, who follows farming near Cedar Rapids, Nebraska; William, who is also engaged in farming in Humphrey township; Ben, at home; Louise, the wife of Jim Gordon, a farmer residing near Cedar Rapids; and Cecelia, at home. The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church and Mr. Van Ackeren gives his political allegiance to the democratic party but has no desire for office.

John M. Van Ackeren was a lad of five years when he accompanied his parents to the new world and through the period of his boyhood he attended the district schools, mastering the common branches of learning. In the summer seasons he worked upon the home farm, assisting his father until he reached the age of twenty-eight years, when a desire to benefit more directly by his labors led him to engage in farming on his own account. For two years he rented a farm in Humphrey town-

ship and then removed to a place near Cedar Rapids, Nebraska, where by purchase and by gift he secured altogether three hundred and twenty acres of pasture land and bought one hundred and sixty acres of farm land. He remained thereon for three years, at the end of which time he sold all of his property and purchased two hundred and forty acres in Humphrey township, where he now resides. He today has a well improved place equipped with a modern residence which he erected in 1910, a large cattle barn built in 1911 and other substantial outbuildings which furnish ample shelter to grain, stock and farm machinery. He has secured the latest improved agricultural implements and his fields are highly cultivated, bringing forth good crops annually. He raises much small grain and also devotes his attention successfully to the raising and feeding of cattle and hogs, being regarded as one of the most successful of the younger farmers in the northern part of the county. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevators at Humphrey and at Cedar Rapids.

On the 24th of May, 1905, at the home of the bride in Westpoint, Nebraska, Mr. Van Akeren was united in marriage to Miss Louisa M. Keller, a daughter of Henry and Johanna (Euvens) Keller, who were born, reared and married in Germany. On emigrating to the United States in 1881, they located first at Westpoint, Nebraska, where they spent a short time, while subsequently the father purchased land and took up farming in Pierce county, being thus engaged throughout the remainder of his active business career. He and his wife are now living retired in Westpoint. To Mr. and Mrs. Van Akeren have been born six children, namely: Joseph, whose birth occurred March 2, 1907, and who attends St. Francis school at Humphrey; Carl Henry, who was born March 24, 1908, and died on the 21st of September following; Leona Mary Anna, who was born August 24, 1909, and attends St. Francis school; Albert William, whose natal day was July 14, 1911; Beatrice Marian Eleanor, born February 13, 1913; and Agnes Johanna, born January 30, 1915.

Mr. Van Akeren exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the democratic party and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day but does not seek or desire office. He and his family are members of St. Francis Catholic church of Humphrey and he belongs to the St. Joseph's Men's Society of that church and the Knights of Columbus. Much of his life has been spent in this county, where he has a wide and favorable acquaintance. His substantial business qualities, his progressive citizenship and his sterling traits of character have gained for him warm and enduring regard.

WALTER G. McCULLY.

Walter G. McCully, the efficient manager of the local electric light, heat and power company of Columbus, is a native of Macon county, Missouri, and his natal day was August 24, 1850. His parents, Henderson and Mary J. (Harvey) McCully, were born respectively in Tennessee and Missouri. The father engaged in farming in Macon county, Missouri, and also operated a sawmill. He passed away in 1889 but was survived by his widow until 1907. The paternal grandfather of our

subject was born in Tennessee but removed to Missouri when his son Henderson was an infant.

Walter G. McCully received his early education in the public schools of Bloomington, Missouri, and later attended Central College at Fayette, that state, for several years. When twenty years of age he left school but continued to reside in Macon county, Missouri, the greater part of the time until 1906. In that year he went to Kearney, Nebraska, where he assumed charge of the electric light plant. Three years later he was made manager of the electric light, heat and power plant of Columbus, Nebraska, and has since resided here. He understands thoroughly all phases of the business and under his management the plant has given excellent service to the people of Columbus.

On the 28th of April, 1875, Mr. McCully was married in Macon, Missouri, to Miss Mary M. Miller, and the children of this union are: Walter M.; Richard O.; Louise M., the wife of H. H. Maxwell; Howard H.; Mary M., now Mrs. Claude L. Freeman; and Allen M., at home.

Mr. McCully is a democrat and served for a number of years as deputy tax collector of Macon county, Missouri, and for four years was tax collector. He is a man of high principles, and as a citizen manifests a commendable regard for the public welfare, while as manager of the electric light, heat and power plant his services have been very satisfactory to all concerned.

GUSTAV AUGUST SCHROEDER.

As sole proprietor of the Columbus Roller Mills, Gustav August Schroeder is conducting one of the important industrial concerns of Columbus and Platte county. As the name implies, he is of German birth, his place of nativity being Prussia, and his natal day December 11, 1848. His parents, Carl L. and Wilhelmina Henriette (Dittman) Schroeder, were likewise natives of that country and there the mother passed away in early life, her death occurring in 1855. The father continued his residence there until 1865, when he emigrated to the new world and made his way to Cleveland, Ohio, where he joined his children. In that city the father's death occurred in 1868.

Gustav August Schroeder was only six years of age when he lost his mother and was a youth of fifteen at the time of his emigration to the new world. Upon landing on American shores he made his way at once to Cleveland, Ohio, where he spent two years learning the cigarmaker's trade. He then went to Youngstown, Ohio, and there learned the machinist's trade, remaining in the latter city until 1868. In December of that year he made his way westward to Columbus, Nebraska, and after looking about for a location preempted one hundred and sixty acres of land in Bismark township, Platte county, paying for the same two dollars and a half per acre. He proved up on this land and subsequently, in 1872, disposed of it at five dollars an acre and the same land is today valued at two hundred and seventy-five dollars an acre. He then located on another homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Bismark township, but later disposed of it and took up his abode in Columbus. In 1873 he and his brother operated the first machine shop in the city. In 1875 he embarked in the implement business in this city,



GUSTAV A. SCHROEDER



MRS. GUSTAV A. SCHROEDER

becoming one of the early merchants here. Two years later, in 1877, he added a stock of hardware and continued to conduct the two lines until 1883, when he sold out and engaged in farming for three years in Stanton county, Nebraska. In 1885 the Columbus Milling Company was organized and Mr. Schroeder was made secretary of the corporation, with which he continued until the concern went out of business in 1891. He then secured the assets of the company and reorganized under the name of the Columbus Roller Mills, of which he has since been sole proprietor. Under his able management the mill has become one of the important industrial enterprises of that section of Platte county and the output has been increased from year to year until the capacity of the mill is now two hundred barrels of flour per day.

Mr. Schroeder was married in Columbus, in 1877, to Miss Ida E. Hagel, a daughter of William Hagel, by whom he has two daughters and one son: Louisa Mary, the wife of L. A. Gitzen, of this city; Walter H.; and Clara Louisa, who is a musician. By a former marriage Mr. Schroeder also has a daughter, Melissa, now Mrs. Eddy, a resident of Warren, Ohio.

In politics Mr. Schroeder is a democrat where national questions are involved but at local elections he votes an independent ticket. He has taken the degrees in the Scottish and York Rites in Masonry and is a member of the Mystic Shrine. He likewise holds membership with the Elks and in religious faith is a Lutheran. Although he has led a busy and useful life in connection with his private business interests he has yet found time to cooperate in matters in which others are interested, being a director in several manufacturing institutions, while for four years he was a member of the city council from the first ward. He put in the first acre light in Columbus and has always been up-to-date and progressive in his methods. He has ever been a tireless worker and has developed a robust constitution capable of undergoing much physical endurance. He started out in early life to make his own way in the world and perhaps the highest tribute that can be paid him is that he has been successful in all his undertakings and that he has so discharged his duties as a citizen and as a business man as to merit the confidence of those who know him.

JAMES HENRY GALLEY.

During the formative period in the history of the development of Columbus along commercial lines James Henry Galley established a store in the little frontier city and with its growth his business interests have developed. In a word, he has been an element in the commercial progress of his city and outside the strict path of business he has done much to further public improvement and uphold high standards that have found expression in the city's welfare. A native of England, he was born in Macclesfield, April 23, 1840, a son of James and Ann (Whittaker) Galley. His father was a native of Manchester, England, and the straitened financial circumstances of his parents made it necessary that he begin earning his living at an early age. While employed in a cotton mill in Manchester he wrote upon the floor in front of him with chalk problems and lessons which he sought to master. In the evenings he would walk three miles to secure further instruction and it was

in this way and under such difficulties that he secured an education, eventually becoming qualified to take up the profession of teaching. He pursued that calling with marked success for a number of years and displayed exceptional ability in the line of mathematics and noted skill as a fine penman. He wedded Ann Whittaker, a lady of liberal education, whose father was proprietor of a small store in Macclesfield and also owner of a number of brick residences in that city. He was likewise a member of the militia there and his command was ordered to join the forces of Wellington at the battle of Waterloo, where he arrived just in time to witness the surrender of Napoleon. As stated, his daughter became the wife of James Galley and to them were born nine children, of whom seven reached adult age. Among the number was George W. Galley, now deceased, but at one time a resident of Columbus. Martha became the wife of John Barrow and resided in Utah but has also passed away. Mary was the wife of William Draper and is deceased. Samuel followed merchandising in Creighton, Nebraska, until his demise. Sarah Ann is a resident of Creighton. James H. completes the family.

In 1853 the father left England with his wife and children and on the 18th of January took passage on a sailing vessel, which reached the harbor of New Orleans on the 6th of March. From that point they proceeded up the Mississippi by steamer to St. Louis and six weeks later resumed their journey by steamboat to Keokuk, Iowa, from which point they traveled by team across the state to Council Bluffs, Iowa, which was then but a small steamboat landing. The Missouri river was then at high water the water spreading over the bottoms on the east side of the river as far as Florence. At that point the family crossed the river on a flat boat and then traveled on over the plains to Salt Lake City, Utah, from which place they soon afterward removed to Cedar Valley, where General Johnson established his camp in 1857. Not pleased with conditions in Utah, the father determined to return to the States and in September, 1859, arrived at Columbus, Platte county, Nebraska, where he purchased three hundred and eighty-nine acres of government land and began the development of a farm. Not only did he give his attention to agricultural interests but also cooperated in many movements of benefit to the community. He was a man of considerable ability and was elected one of the first justices of the peace in his part of the county. Death called him in 1861 and his wife survived him for only three months.

During his early youth James H. Galley received instruction from his father and at the age of twelve years came with his parents to the new world. He earned his first money in America by herding sheep about twenty miles south of Salt Lake City, along the mountain sides, his employer being Abraham Hunsaker, the owner of a sheep ranch. After about two years thus passed Mr. Galley received twenty sheep and a yoke of three-year old steers in payment for his services. Money was almost unknown in that locality and Mr. Galley states that from the time of his arrival in Utah in 1853 until 1857, when General Johnson located a camp in the valley in which he lived, he never saw any coin or currency.

When the family removed to Platte county in September, 1859, Omaha was their nearest trading point and they had to go to Calhoun or Milford to have their grist ground, it often requiring a week to make the trip. On one occasion, after going to the mill, Mr. Galley had to go into the woods and secure fuel to be used in operating the mill. The winter of 1859-60, the first winter which he spent in the state, was memorable because of the severity of the weather. In January of

that year he and a party of companions started to market corn, which they sold at Fort Kearney and at the ranches along the Platte. Mr. Galley was accompanied by his brother Samuel, his brother-in-law, William Draper, Tom French, of Plum Creek, and Pat Malloy. They took with them three wagons loaded with ear corn, each drawn by three yoke of cattle. After crossing the Loup river on the ice they camped for the night and ere morning broke a genuine blizzard had hemmed them in so that they were snowbound for three days. They just crawled out of their wagons to prepare a little coffee and then back into them to roll up in their robes. At no time during those three days could they see more than two rods from their wagon. They turned their cattle loose into the bushes to care for themselves, nor did the owners dare look for them until the storm was over. When the storm had passed, however, the cattle were found in safety and the young men proceeded to Fort Kearney, the snow laying upon the ground to a depth of two feet. They were obliged to sleep in their wagons at night, for there were few settlements along that route. When they reached the Platte river it required all day to ford the stream, which was accomplished by hitching the nine yoke of cattle to one wagon at a time, this being the only way in which they could get safely through the water and ice. Such were some of the hardships experienced by the early settlers and Mr. Galley could relate many another interesting tale of the conditions of pioneer times.

In the fall of 1862 he enlisted as a private of Company K, Second Regiment, Nebraska Cavalry, and participated in the Indian war and in the battle of White Stone Hills in South Dakota under command of General Sully. After being honorably discharged at Omaha in 1863 he returned to Columbus and devoted his attention to farming until the spring of 1866. He then embarked in merchandising in partnership with Vincent Kummer, who at that time was county treasurer of Platte county. A year later, however, they disposed of their store to Dale & Willard and Mr. Galley resumed agricultural pursuits. In 1873 the firm of J. H. Galley & Brother was established for the conduct of a mercantile business and success attended the new enterprise so that in 1880 they established a branch store at Creighton. Their partnership was continued until 1892, when the firm dissolved, Samuel Galley taking the Creighton store, while James Galley retained the ownership of the Columbus establishment. Here he has since continued business and is one of the prosperous merchants and one of the most reliable, progressive and enterprising business men of this section of the state. Not to know J. H. Galley in Platte county and this part of Nebraska is to argue oneself unknown. He is one of the oldest pioneer merchants and has a most extensive acquaintance, being held in the highest esteem by all with whom he has come in contact.

On the 22d of February, 1871, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Galley and Miss Helen Hudson, a daughter of the late Judge H. J. Hudson, of Columbus, who was one of the pioneers of Platte county. They have become parents of eight children, six sons and two daughters. Albert J., who is a graduate of the Columbus high school and of Rhoebaugh's Commercial College of Omaha, is now secretary and treasurer of the Galley Dry Goods Company. Vincent H. also attended the Rhoebaugh Commercial College, but has passed away. Walter, who completed a course in the Gem City Commercial College at Quincy, Illinois, is now living in St. Joseph, Missouri. Ethel G., who was graduated from the Columbus high school and from the University School of Music at Lincoln, is now the wife of Mark H. Rathburn, of Columbus. Earl R. occupies a clerical position in the First National Bank. Wil-

liam H. has been called from this life, Maud E. is a graduate of the Columbus high school and is now teaching in the public schools, and Clifford R., who was graduated from the high school of Columbus, is in Seattle, Washington.

Mr. Galley rejoices in the fact that he was able to give his children much better educational advantages than were accorded him. He has always stood for that which works for progress and improvement and his efforts have been an element in public advancement. For twelve years he was a member of the board of education of Columbus and was treasurer of school district No. 9 for several years. His political allegiance has always been given to the republican party and he was elected on its ticket to the office of coroner of Platte county in 1867. He has also served for several terms in the Columbus city council, exercising his official prerogatives in support of many plans and measures for the general good. Fraternally he is connected with Baker Post, No. 9, G. A. R., and was honored with the office of commander for two terms, during which period he was instrumental in procuring the erection of a monument in the public park of Columbus in honor of the soldiers and sailors of the Civil war. Since 1878 he has been a member of the Royal Arcanum, has held all of the offices of the local lodge and has twice been a member of the grand council, but was forced out by the excessive rates imposed by the grand council on all members over sixty-five years. Aside from his commercial interests he has been vice president of the First National Bank of Columbus and over his business and political record there falls no shadow of wrong nor suspicion of evil. His life has indeed been well spent and is fruitful of good results, gaining for him not only a substantial competence but the merited respect and esteem which are the reward of a well spent life.

JOHN W. EGGERS.

John W. Eggers, living in Humphrey, is proprietor of a delivery line and delivers goods for all of the stores and meat markets of the town. He has conducted this business for three years, meeting with growing success in the undertaking. He is one of Platte county's native sons, his birth having occurred in Lindsay, October 27, 1888. His parents were John H. and Augusta (Wendt) Eggers, who were natives of Germany. The father came to America when eighteen years of age, crossing the Atlantic in 1882. Attracted by the opportunities of the growing west, he made his way into the interior of the country, settling at Lindsay, Platte county. He was a wagon maker, having learned the trade in the old country, where he followed it until he crossed the Atlantic, and he resumed work along that line in America. He also engaged in carpentering and worked at that business during the greater part of the time of his residence in Lindsay and in Humphrey. In 1911 he removed to Bellingham, Washington, where he now resides at the age of fifty-one years, and his wife has also reached the same age.

John W. Eggers was reared in Humphrey, attending the public schools, and when his textbooks were put aside he began work as a farm hand, following that occupation for four years. He afterward carried on farming on his own account for one year, at the end of which time he removed to Humphrey and bought out the delivery line which he now owns and conducts. He has secured a liberal patronage,

delivering goods for all the stores and the meat markets of the town, continuing this business with gratifying success for three years.

On the 12th of February, 1912, Mr. Eggers was married to Miss Anna Braun, a daughter of Joseph and Eva (Scheidemantel) Braun, natives of Wisconsin. Her father engaged in teaching school in that state, in Iowa and in Nebraska. After coming to Platte county in 1878 he put aside the work of the schoolroom and secured a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Humphrey township, which he has since owned and cultivated, making many modern improvements upon it and developing a farm according to enterprising agricultural ideas of the present. He is now sixty-five years of age, while his wife has reached the age of sixty-two years.

Mr. and Mrs. Eggers have become the parents of one child, Dennis Jean, who was born June 4, 1915. Mr. Eggers is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and his religious belief is that of the Catholic church, to which his wife also adheres. His political faith is that of the democratic party, but he has never sought nor desired office, preferring always to give his attention to his business affairs. He has worked earnestly and persistently and his success has its root in his diligence.

GEORGE G. ENGELHORN.

For an extended period George G. Engelhorn was actively identified with industrial interests in Platte Center, where for twenty years he engaged in wagon manufacturing. He then retired and is now resting from further labor, his previous success having been sufficient to supply him with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life. He was born in Baden, Germany, November 2, 1850, a son of Jacob and Elizabeth Engelhorn, who in the year 1852 brought their family to the United States and settled in Lansing, Iowa, where the father purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land. He at once began to till the soil and carried on general farming until his death.

George G. Engelhorn was only two years of age when brought to America and at the age of fourteen he put aside his textbooks and began learning the wagon maker's trade, which he followed for several years as apprentice and employe. He afterward removed to Albion, Iowa, where he established a wagon factory, conducting business at that place for eleven years. He next went to Hay Springs, where he continued in the same business for several years, and in 1893 he came to Platte Center, where he began the manufacture of wagons, continuing in the business up to the time of his retirement in the year 1913. During all this period he held to a high standard of excellence. His wagons were thoroughly constructed and well finished, having qualities of stability and endurance that recommended them to the public patronage. He therefore won a good trade and his business became a profitable one.

On the 22d of January, 1878, Mr. Engelhorn was united in marriage to Miss Mattie Rippie, her parents being George and Katherine Rippie, of Germany. To them have been born six children, as follows: Lizzie, who is the wife of Peter Anderson, a farmer residing near Monroe, Nebraska; George; Edward, a resident

of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; Charles, who is on the United States battleship, Tennessee; William, living in Winnipeg, Canada; and Clarence, at home.

Fraternally Mr. Engelhorn is connected with the Royal Highlanders of Platte Center, being a charter member of that organization. His political views coincide with the principles of the democratic party. He belongs to the German Lutheran church and his life measures up to its standards, for he has closely followed its teachings and has taken an active part in furthering its work and extending its influence. Mr. Engelhorn deserves great credit for what he has accomplished and may well be termed a self-made man, for he has been both the builder and architect of his own fortunes. Starting out empty-handed at the early age of fourteen years, he gained thorough knowledge of the business in which he ever afterward continued until he put aside business cares, and his concentration of purpose and close application were salient features in his prosperity.

PETER RIPP.

Peter Ripp is numbered among the early settlers of Platte county, and the farm upon which he now lives and which is one of the well developed properties of Burrows township was a tract of raw prairie covered with wild grasses when it came into his possession. He has lived to witness almost the entire development and improvement of the county and has contributed in large measure to its progress along agricultural lines.

Mr. Ripp was born on the Rhine, in Prussia, September 12, 1839, a son of Henry and Gertrude (Hoch) Ripp, who were likewise natives of that country. The father was reared to the occupation of farming and in 1855 he came to the United States, settling in Springfield, Dane county, Wisconsin, where he purchased land and carried on general agricultural pursuits, making his home there for about fifteen years or until 1869, when he removed to Platte county, Nebraska, taking up his abode six miles northwest of Columbus. There he purchased railroad land and settled upon it, concentrating his efforts upon its cultivation and improvement, his labors bringing a marked transformation in the appearance of the property, which he converted into productive fields. Upon that farm the father passed away and after his death the mother removed to Humphrey, where her demise occurred.

Peter Ripp attended school in Germany and was reared upon the home farm. He came with his parents to the United States and continued to assist his father until he reached the age of twenty-three years, when he secured a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres on section 26, Burrows township, and has since resided there, covering a period of more than a half century. He afterward cultivated, developed and improved this place until 1900, when he gave up active farm work and retired from business life, renting his land to his sons. In the meantime he had added one hundred and twenty acres to the original farm, but he has since divided his property with his children and now owns only one hundred and sixty acres.

On the 31st of October, 1862, Mr. Ripp was united in marriage to Miss Agnes Warringer, a native of Germany. They celebrated their golden wedding in 1912, on which occasion their children and grandchildren were all in attendance. A big

feast was held and the bride and groom of fifty years before received many beautiful and valuable gifts from friends and relatives. Mrs. Ripp was the daughter of Mrs. Gertrude Warringer, a native of Germany, who with her daughter Agnes came to the United States, settling in Chicago. Later they removed to Madison county, Wisconsin, where Mrs. Warringer passed away. She lost her husband during the early girlhood of Mrs. Ripp. To Mr. and Mrs. Ripp were born eleven children, of whom six are yet living, as follows: Henry, who was born August 6, 1865, and who is now a farmer of Buffalo county, Nebraska; Jacob, who was born July 28, 1865, and also follows farming in Buffalo county, this state; Annie, who was born in 1868 and is the wife of August Hamling, an agriculturist of Platte county; Elizabeth, whose birth occurred in 1870 and who gave her hand in marriage to Henry Juchter, a farmer of Burrows township; Katie, who was born May 7, 1871, and who now lives with her parents, being the widow of Joseph Leoffelholz, who died August 20, 1913; and William, who was born July 2, 1879, and is an agriculturist of Madison county, Nebraska.

Mr. Ripp was one of the organizers of St. Anthony's Catholic church of Burrows township, to which he and his family belong, and for several years he served as one of the trustees of the church. In politics he is a democrat and has filled the office of road supervisor. There are few residents of Platte county who have remained within its borders for a longer period than Mr. Ripp, whose farm at the time he took possession of it was a tract of raw prairie covered with the native grasses and starred with a million wild flowers in June, while the winter months brought a sheet of snow. Comparatively few roads had been laid out and only here and there was a settlement to show that the work of improvement had begun. Mr. Ripp built house and barns upon his place and carried on the work of general improvement upon his farm for many years, gaining therefrom a good living, but in the evening of his days he is now retired and he well deserves the rest and comforts that are his.

HENRY W. ABTS.

Henry W. Abts, who is at the head of the H. W. Abts Company, a wholesale grocery concern, has been a potent factor in the commercial development of Columbus. He was born in Cassville, Wisconsin, September 4, 1863, and is a son of John P. and Elizabeth (Greenback) Abts, both natives of Germany, the former born in 1833. They were married in their native land and continued to reside there until 1858, when they emigrated to the United States, making their way to Wisconsin, where they located and where the father followed agricultural pursuits. In 1870 they removed to Cedar county, Nebraska, whence they came in 1877 to Platte county. The father died here in 1906 and the mother passed away in this county in 1900.

Henry W. Abts received his education in the public schools of Cedar and Platte counties, Nebraska, but at the age of sixteen years put aside his textbooks and began providing for his own support. He followed agricultural pursuits until 1882, when he came to Columbus, Nebraska, where he engaged in the drayage business for about seven years. In 1888 he entered the wholesale grocery field and has built

up a large business which is conducted under the name of the H. W. Abts Company. Their goods are of high quality, their prices reasonable and their methods thoroughly honorable, and their line is popular with the trade.

Mr. Abts was married October 26, 1887, in Columbus, to Miss Mary Henkelman, a daughter of the late John Henkelman, and they have six living children, namely: Matthew C., Clara C., John, Mary O., Henry J. and Dorothea B. They lost a daughter, Lizzie, who died July 8, 1900, when nine and a half years of age.

Mr. Abts is a democrat but has been too much absorbed in his business affairs to take an active part in politics. He belongs to the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Knights of America and to the Foresters, and, as these affiliations indicate, is a communicant of the Roman Catholic church. He is a man of great capacity for work and unfaltering determination, and, although he began with nothing, he is now at the head of a large and growing business. He has not only gained financial independence for himself but has also contributed in no small measure to the commercial expansion of Columbus.

GEORGE M. SMITH.

George M. Smith, who for a number of years was connected with the business interests of Humphrey, passed away on the 20th of June, 1913. He was then but forty-seven years of age, his birth having occurred in Missouri on the 22d of May, 1866.⁶ His parents were Benedict and Relida (Wingburg) Smith, both natives of Germany, whence they came to the new world in early life, settling in Kansas. The father resided in that state for several years and followed the occupation of farming there, but his property holdings were entirely destroyed in a cyclone. He afterward came to Platte county, Nebraska, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits for several years or until his life's labors were ended in death in September, 1913. His widow still survives and now makes her home in Humphrey.

George M. Smith spent the days of his boyhood and youth in his native state, acquired a public-school education and remained with his parents much of the time until his marriage. However, before that event was celebrated he went to Omaha, Nebraska, where he learned the butchering business and followed it in that city for a time. He was afterward employed as a butcher in Columbus and in 1886 he came to Humphrey, where he opened a meat market in partnership with Walter Gehr. This they conducted for a year, at the end of which time Mr. Smith purchased his partner's interest and continued business alone for several years. He then sold out and established a saloon, which he conducted throughout his remaining days.

On the 25th of April, 1886, Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Louisa Snyder, who was born in Buffalo, New York, February 22, 1863, her parents being Phillip and Catherine (Natcher) Snyder, natives of Germany. They emigrated to the United States in the late '40s, locating in Sheldon Center, New York, where the father carried on general agricultural pursuits until his demise in July, 1888. The death of the mother occurred in November, 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Smith reared



GEORGE M. SMITH

two adopted children, Minnie M. and Thomas, who are now eighteen and nine years of age respectively.

Mr. Smith was a communicant of the Catholic church and passed away in that faith. Politically he was a democrat and at one time was a member of the town council of Humphrey. Many of his fellow townsmen entertained for him warm regard and felt deep regret when he was called to his final rest.

DAVID T. MARTYN, JR., M. D.

Dr. David T. Martyn, Jr., who stands in the first rank of the medical fraternity in Columbus, has there been engaged in general practice since 1902 and has won an enviable reputation as a skilled and successful representative of the profession. His birth occurred in Columbus, Nebraska, on the 13th of January, 1878, his parents being David Thomas and Susan P. (George) Martyn. A sketch of the father, "than whom no other physician was ever more loved and respected," is given on another page of this work.

David T. Martyn, Jr., completed the high-school course in Columbus by graduation in 1897 and four years later received the degree of M. D. from the medical department of Creighton University at Omaha. In 1901 and 1902 he pursued post-graduate work in Chicago and then located for practice in Columbus, where he has since remained and where he has won merited recognition as a prominent and able physician. His skill has brought to him a liberal and gratifying practice, while his close conformity to the ethics of the profession has gained for him the high regard of his brethren of the medical fraternity. He is a man of broad ideals, scrupulous conscientiousness and superior professional attainments and has advanced through his own efforts to a place of distinction in his chosen field.

On the 21st of October, 1909, in Mount Sterling, Illinois, Dr. Martyn was united in marriage to Miss Winifred P. Rottger, by whom he has two children: Eugenia Susan; and Lucy R., who was born June 18, 1915. In his political views the Doctor is independent, supporting men and measures rather than party, while fraternally he is known as a Master Mason and an Elk.

BRUNO ZUERLEIN.

The name of Zuerlein has become a synonym for high standard of work at the tradè of a brick and stone mason. It is this pursuit which Bruno Zuerlein follows and it is also the chosen occupation of his brother, Joseph Zuerlein, and was followed by their father before them. Bruno Zuerlein understands every phase of the business and the excellence of his work has gained for him a liberal patronage.

Mr. Zuerlein was born in Germany, March 2, 1856, and is a son of George and Catherine Zuerlein, of whom mention is made on another page of this work in connection with the history of Joseph Zuerlein. His youthful days were spent in his native land and when his public-school education was completed he began learning the stone and brick mason's trade, which he followed in Germany until 1882. In

that year he bade adieu to friends and native country and sailed for America, taking up his abode in New Jersey, where he was employed until March 2, 1884, when he started across the country with Humphrey, Nebraska, as his destination. Here he has since followed his trade and has won a liberal measure of success. He built and owns a two-story brick residence in Humphrey and his property holdings include three vacant lots in the city.

In November, 1880, Bruno Zuerlein was united in marriage to Miss Dora Zuerlein, a daughter of Michael Zuerlein, who was a native of Germany. He, too, was a stone and brick mason and in 1884 came to the new world, working at his trade in Humphrey for many years. He is now living retired, having reached the advanced age of eighty-four years. The mother of Mrs. Zuerlein passed away in 1893. To Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Zuerlein have been born eleven children: Joseph, Christina, Michael, Frank, Agnes, Herman, Catherine, Henry and Cecelia, all of whom are living, and Anna, the third born, and Margaret, the fifth in order of birth, now deceased.

In his political views Mr. Zuerlein is a democrat, having given stalwart support to the party since he became a naturalized American citizen. He and his family are communicants of the Catholic church and he belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters. He is widely known in Humphrey, where he has now made his home for thirty-one years, and his substantial qualities as a business man and citizen have gained him the warm regard of all.

JAMES McDERMOTT.

That Platte county is an excellent agricultural district is indicated in the fact that among the citizens of Columbus there is a large percentage of retired farmers, men who in cultivating their fields have won substantial prosperity that now enables them to rest from further labors. A representative of this class is James McDermott, who now makes his home at 1922 Platte street. He was born in County Monaghan, Ireland, April 10, 1844, a son of Bernard and Anna (Murphy) McDermott. He was the youngest in their family of nine children and, like the others of the household, acquired a common-school education. He has been a resident of America since reaching the age of twenty-one years. Settling in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, he was employed as a farm hand for eleven or twelve years and in 1889 came to Platte county, securing one hundred and sixty acres in Granville township. This was railroad land for which he paid five dollars per acre. With characteristic energy he began its development, broke the sod, planted the seed and in due course of time gathered good harvests. Year after year he carefully and persistently continued the work of the farm and as time passed gained a substantial competence as the reward of his labors. He continued to live upon the old homestead until the spring of 1907, when he removed to Columbus. He is still interested in lands in Madison county, Nebraska, and derives therefrom a good income. He is also a stockholder in the German National Bank of Columbus.

In Lafayette county, Wisconsin, Mr. McDermott was united in marriage to Miss Jane Donohue, her father being Edward Donohue, an old settler of that county. To them have been born seven children, as follows: Bernard, who wedded

Miss Anna Lubischer and is engaged in farming near Humphrey, this county; Mary, who is the wife of Max Stenger, of Madison county, Nebraska; Kate, who is a resident of Madison, Nebraska; Edward, who is in the service of the Nebraska Bridge & Supply Company of Omaha; Lydia, living in Madison, this state; John, who is a resident of David City, Nebraska; and George, at home.

The parents and children are members of the Catholic church and in his political views Mr. McDermott has always been a democrat. He has never sought nor desired political office but for eighteen years served as school director in District No. 66 and was an enthusiastic advocate of good schools. Fraternally he is connected with Columbus Lodge of the Knights of Columbus, an organization which draws its membership from the representatives of the Catholic church. Since starting out in the business world on his own account he has made his way unaided and whatever success he has achieved or enjoyed is the direct reward of his earnest purpose and indefatigable effort.

JOHN F. FUCHS.

John F. Fuchs is a representative of one of the old families of Humphrey township and makes his home on section 27, where he is engaged in general farming. He was born in that township, October 20, 1881, his parents being Ferdinand and Elizabeth (Brockhaus) Fuchs, who are mentioned elsewhere in this work. At the usual age he began his education, attending the parochial school in Humphrey, while in the school of experience he also learned many valuable lessons concerning those things which are vital in life and concerning the best methods of tilling and developing a farm. He early began work in the fields, assisting his father, and he remained upon the home farm with his parents until he reached the age of twenty-seven years, when his father gave him one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 27, Humphrey township. In addition to his home property he also operates one hundred and sixty acres adjoining which he rents from his father. His time is well spent in the management of his farm, and in its cultivation he follows modern, progressive methods, carefully rotating his crops and studying the questions of soil and crop production. From practical experience he has learned many valuable lessons and the excellent appearance of his property indicates him to be one of the leading farmers of the county. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Humphrey but concentrates the greater part of his attention upon the work of the fields on his home place.

On the 12th of November, 1912, Mr. Fuchs was united in marriage to Miss Mary Smith, a daughter of Fred H. and Anna (Ottis) Smith, the former a native of Johnsburg, Illinois, and the latter of Mount Calvary, Wisconsin. Her father lived with his parents until he reached the age of twenty-two years, when he came to Platte county, Nebraska, where he purchased land, which he afterward cultivated until 1901, when he sold out and went to Oklahoma. There he purchased land, which he is still cultivating. Both he and his wife are living and both are fifty-six years of age. There were ten children in their family, five of whom survive, namely: John K.; Mrs. Thomas Werner; Mrs. John F. Fuchs; Catherine and Anthony.

Mr. and Mrs. Fuchs have but one child, Freddie J., who was born November 6, 1913. The parents are members of the Catholic church, and Mr. Fuchs is identified with the Catholic Order of Foresters. At the polls he is a democrat, voting for the men and measures of the party, but he is not an active party worker, preferring to give his undivided attention to his farm. He realizes fully the value of industry and determination, and persistent, earnest effort is winning for him a comfortable competence.

PETER BENDER.

Peter Bender, deceased, was one of the largest landowners of Platte county and the importance of his business affairs and the creditable relation which he maintained toward public interests marked him as one of the valued citizens of his community, causing his death to be deeply regretted when he passed away. He was one of the worthy citizens that Germany furnished to Nebraska. His birth occurred in Menamebach, Germany, June 12, 1852, his parents being Peter and Catharine (Mallmann) Bender. The father's birth occurred in the same place October 3, 1825, and the mother was born in Wenhausen on the 17th of February, 1832. They came to America with their family when their son Peter was but four years old and settled upon a farm near Henry, Illinois. There the son was reared to young manhood, early becoming familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist.

In 1876 Mr. Bender was united in marriage to Miss Kate Hatzbuehler, who passed away in 1894. To them were born nine children, seven of whom still survive, as follows: William, George, Charles, Edward, Mrs. C. P. Hittner, Mrs. J. R. Ternus and Mrs. Chester Waglie. In 1895 Mr. Bender was again married, his second union being with Miss Katie Tohlen, daughter of Tobias and Catharine Tohlen, both of whom were natives of Germany. Mrs. Bender was born in Germany, July 7, 1862, and on coming to the United States in 1894 became a resident of St. Andrews. Her parents never crossed the Atlantic, her father dying in Germany in August, 1892, while his wife survived until October, 1894. Following her marriage Mrs. Bender lived upon the home farm on section 32, Granville township, but after her husband's death, which occurred April 9, 1915, she removed to Cornlea, where she now makes her home. To Peter and Katie (Tohlen) Bender were born five children, namely: Nellie, whose birth occurred October 8, 1895, and who is the wife of Met Schunacher; Daniel, who was born November 6, 1896, and operates the home farm; Margaret, who was born May 17, 1898; Joseph, deceased; and Johnnie, whose natal day was July 26, 1901.

It was in the year 1885 that Mr. Bender removed to this county, taking up his abode upon a tract of land of eighty acres in Granville township, which had been given him by his father. He at once began the task of developing and improving the tract, and to his original holdings he added whenever opportunity offered until he became one of the extensive landowners of the county, having at the time of his death nine hundred and twenty acres of highly cultivated and well improved land in this part of the state. His possessions constituted the visible evidence of a life of well directed energy, thrift and determination. He was always actuated

by a laudable ambition that enabled him to make good use of his time and opportunities and thus he won his prosperity. He also owned twenty-seven lots and buildings in Cornlea and held twenty-six shares in the Cornlea State Bank, which he aided in organizing and of which he served as vice president, also acting as a member of the board of directors from its establishment.

In his political views Mr. Bender was a democrat and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his ability, called him to various public offices. He served as township trustee, was for fourteen years a member of the board of county supervisors, was a member of the township and village boards and also of the school board of Granville township for a number of years. He recognized fully his duties and obligations toward the public and was loyal to every trust reposed in him. He was also a man of generous spirit and gave freely of his means to help an individual or to further any movement of public worth. He was the first to contribute five hundred dollars toward the building of the Catholic church at Cornlea, of which he was a most prominent member and earnest worker. Life was to him purposeful and he never heedlessly passed by the opportunity to do good. He was interested in the progress and improvement of his community and in every possible way contributed to its advancement. The worth of his public work and his ability in business made him indeed one of the valued and honored citizens of Platte county.

LOUIS WILKEN.

Louis Wilken makes his home upon a farm on section 9, Bismark township, where he has two hundred and eighty acres of land. This constitutes the old homestead property of the family and thereon he was born February 18, 1884. His parents were Herman and Anna Wilken, who were natives of Oldenburg, in the northern part of Germany. They came to the United States in 1866 and following the outbreak of the Civil war Herman Wilken responded to the call of his adopted country for aid and enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He went to the front and did active service in defense of the Union until the cessation of hostilities. When the war was over he came to Nebraska and settled upon the place which is now the home of his son Louis. There he carried on general farming until his life's labors were ended in death in December, 1889. In his passing the county mourned the loss of a worthy citizen.

Louis Wilken attended the district schools. He was only five years of age when his father died and when still quite young he assumed the management of the home farm for his mother. In all the intervening period to the present time he has diligently and carefully cultivated the place and has added many excellent improvements thereto. He has built a comfortable and attractive residence and a large barn and has also added other modern improvements. Aside from tilling the soil he raises shorthorn cattle and finds it a profitable source of income.

On the 4th of January, 1905, Mr. Wilken was united in marriage to Miss Freda Hilmer, a daughter of Christ and Vipeka Hilmer. She died October 11, 1907, and Mr. Wilken has since married again, his second union being with Miss Emma Krumland, a daughter of Gerhard Krumland. His second marriage, which

was celebrated September 20, 1910, has been blessed with three children: Luella, Clarence Herman and Wilbert Louis.

The parents are members of the German Lutheran church and in his political views Mr. Wilken is a republican, having supported the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He is interested in matters pertaining to public welfare and his cooperation can be counted upon to further measures for the general good, but his time and attention are largely demanded by his farming interests, and the excellent and well kept appearance of his place of two hundred and eighty acres indicates that he leads a busy and useful life.

HERMAN LAMMERS.

Herman Lammers, a retired farmer living in Columbus, was born at Wilhelms-haven, Germany, March 20, 1843. He never saw his father, who died during the early infancy of his son. The boy went to school in Germany and in early life started to earn his living by working as a farm hand in his native country. In 1869 he came to the United States and settled in Illinois, working first as a farm hand near Hillsboro in Montgomery county. Purchasing land in that state, he carried on general farming and prospered as the years went by, his record being that of a self-made man, for he had only one dollar when he landed in the United States. In 1894 he came to Platte county and began farming in Monroe township, where he purchased land that he devoted to the cultivation of various crops and to stock-raising. To his original purchase of one hundred and sixty acres he has added from time to time until he is now the owner of three valuable and productive farms, two comprising one hundred and sixty acres each, while the third covers two hundred acres. All three are located in Monroe township and to the work of general farming he devoted his energies until 1907, when he removed to Columbus, where he is now living retired, his rest being truly deserved. He has been throughout life an active member of the German Lutheran church, doing much to upbuild the cause both in Illinois and in Nebraska. He gave a tract of land on section 1, Monroe township, for the building of the German Lutheran church and has ever been most generous in its support.

Mr. Lammers has been married three times. By his first marriage he had one child, John, who is married and has two children and who occupies the old homestead. For his second wife he chose Meta Stamer, a native of Germany, who passed away in 1908, at the age of forty-six years. Her father, Fred Stamer, worked as a farm hand in Germany and after emigrating to the United States made his home with our subject until called to his final rest in 1900, when sixty-eight years of age. To Mr. Lammers and his second wife were born four children, as follows: Anna, the wife of Carl Brandt, who follows farming in Monroe township and by whom she has one child; Lena, the wife of Jake Moore, who operates the farm of his father-in-law and by whom she has two children; Josephine, who keeps house for her father; and Fred, who was born in 1902 and is at home. For his third wife Mr. Lammers chose Marie Lubben.

He has led a very active and useful although quiet and retiring life. He has always wisely used his opportunities and through untiring industry he gained for

himself a place among the substantial agriculturists of Platte county, where he has now lived for twenty-one years. His activities have always been an exemplification of high and honorable principles and in none of his business affairs has he ever been known to take advantage of the necessities of his fellowmen.

CARL BAUMGART.

One of the well improved farms of Granville township is the property of Carl Baumgart, who lives on section 12, where he owns one hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land. In addition, however, he is extensively engaged in cultivating rented land and is one of the largest producers of corn in this part of the state. His early training was that of the farm, for through his boyhood and youth he aided in cultivating the fields at the old home place in Germany. He was born in Prussia, December 16, 1870, and is a son of Gottfried and Augusta Baumgart, who were natives of that kingdom. The father was a farmer of Prussia for a considerable period and afterward went to Russia, where he has since engaged in farming. He is now eighty-four years of age. His wife, however, has passed away, her death occurring in 1903.

Carl Baumgart was reared and educated in Prussia and remained with his parents until he reached his majority, when he determined to try his fortune in the new world and came to America, settling in Humphrey, Platte county, Nebraska, in 1890. There he worked in a brickyard for a year, after which he resumed the occupation to which he had been reared, renting land, which he cultivated for fifteen years. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 12, Granville township, and at once began its development and improvement. He has one of the best improved farms of the county and has carefully and persistently cultivated it with the result that it is a most productive tract of land. He also rents five hundred and sixty acres and has altogether four hundred and seventy acres planted to corn. The careful methods which he follows in developing his fields lead to good harvests and success in gratifying measure has crowned his efforts. In addition to his farming interests Mr. Baumgart is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Humphrey and in the Bell Telephone Company. At one time he owned one hundred and sixty acres of land in addition to the home tract, but in the spring of 1915 he sold this.

In March, 1893, Mr. Baumgart was united in marriage to Miss Augusta Kehn, a daughter of Gottfried and Louisa Kehn, who were natives of Prussia, where the father learned and followed the blacksmith's trade until 1891, when he came to the United States, settling first in Brooklyn, New York, where he remained until 1893, when he came to Humphrey, where he has since resided. He now lives with Fred Baumgart, a brother of Carl, and both he and his wife have reached the advanced age of eighty-four years. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Baumgart have become the parents of eleven children: Arthur, Charlie, Otto, Walter, Clarence, Alvin, Elmer, Ella, Lydia, Clara and Rose.

In religious belief the family are connected with the German Baptist church and fraternally Mr. Baumgart is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Woodmen of the World. Politically he is a republican, conversant with

the leading questions and issues of the day, so that he is able to support his position by intelligent argument, but he does not seek nor care for public office, as his time is fully occupied with his business affairs, which have grown in volume and importance until he is today one of the foremost farmers of the county.

HENRY DEYKE.

Henry Deyke is a resident farmer of Sherman township, living on section 30, where he now has two hundred and forty acres of finely cultivated land, his time being devoted to general farming and stock-raising. He was born in Grossenkneten, Oldenburg, Germany, September 17, 1849, a son of John Henry Deyke, who spent his entire life in his native country. He there extensively engaged in farming and in stock-raising and was also an active and prominent member of the German Lutheran church.

Henry Deyke acquired his early education in the village schools and in early manhood inherited a part of his father's farm but conditions were then not favorable to money making and he gave his farm to his sister and came to the United States, arriving in Platte county in 1873. He was pleased with the rich land of this district and the opportunities here offered and entered a homestead claim of eighty acres on section 30, Sherman township. His residence in pioneer times was a sod house and he used ox teams to break the sod and turn the furrows. There were no improvements on the land, not even prairie grass covered the soil, for prairie fires had burned it off. In early years after he planted crops they were devastated by the grasshoppers and he had to go to the home of friends in Columbus for his meals. He then sought employment in other ways, securing work on the Union Pacific Railroad, which was then being built to Norfolk. When this had brought him a little money he resumed his farming operations and gradually he has worked his way upward, being now the owner of two hundred and forty acres of rich and productive land on section 30, Sherman township. Today the farm is well improved and is neat in appearance. All of the improvements upon the place are the result of his handiwork. He has erected good buildings, has set out good trees and has otherwise developed the place until it is now an excellent property. In addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he raises Poland China hogs and his annual sales bring him a gratifying financial return.

On July 8, 1881, Mr. Deyke was united in marriage to Miss Helena Neemeyer, who was born in Oldenburg, in 1863, a daughter of Frederick Neemeyer, who in 1880 emigrated from Germany to Platte county and settled on railroad land in Grand Prairie township. His place comprised one hundred and sixty acres, on which he made all the improvements and there he engaged in farming until the time of his death in the early '80s. His religious faith was that of the Lutheran church. To Mr. and Mrs. Deyke have been born five children: Martha, the wife of Otto Schulz, by whom she has three children; Fred, who is principal of the high school at Deshler, Nebraska; Amelia, the wife of William Schulz, by whom she has three children; Aline, the wife of Martin Meyer and the mother of one daughter; and Henry, at home.

Mr. Deyke was one of the organizers of St. John's Lutheran church in Grand



HENRY DEYKE AND FAMILY



Prairie township and assisted in erecting its house of worship. He served as one of its trustees for many years and has always contributed generously to its support. Mr. Deyke is well known in this county, where he has made his home for forty-two years. He has a wide acquaintance and the substantial traits of his character have gained him the warm regard of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

ANTON J. GLODOWSKI.

Anton J. Glodowski, filling the office of postmaster of Platte Center, to which he was appointed in January, 1915, was born in Colfax county, Nebraska, January 27, 1886, a son of Joseph and Mary (Pojar) Glodowski, who settled in Colfax county in 1883. It was there that Anton J. Glodowski was reared, pursuing his education in the country schools until he had completed the work of the eighth grade. He afterward concentrated his energies upon farm work, in which he engaged until 1909, becoming familiar with every phase of agricultural life in connection with the raising of grain and stock. In the year mentioned he removed to Platte Center and opened a furniture and undertaking establishment, continuing actively in the business for four years and building up a good trade. Subsequently he was employed for a year as clerk in a store. In January, 1915, he was appointed to the position of postmaster and is making a creditable record in that office.

On the 28th of January, 1908, at Dodge, Nebraska, Mr. Glodowski was married to Miss Emma Hanzel, a daughter of Frank Hanzel, and to them have been born two children, Zelma and Bernard. Mr. Glodowski is a young man, having not yet completed his third decade, but he has become firmly established as a representative resident of Platte county, where his good qualities have endeared him to his fellow townsmen and his ability has gained him recognition through appointment to office.

OLIVER HUGH WALTERS.

Oliver Hugh Walters is the proprietor of the Art Printery of Columbus, which is one of the most important enterprises of the kind in this section of the state, business being conducted along modern, progressive lines. He was born February 18, 1887, at Garner, Nebraska, a postoffice five miles west of Petersburg which has since been discontinued. His father, Oliver E. Walters, was a native of Brooklyn, New York, and on coming to the west homesteaded in Boone county in the '70s. He became a prominent citizen and business man there, serving for seven years as county clerk and afterward entering the abstract and real-estate business. His wife, Mrs. Cora E. Walters, was a native of Wisconsin and went to Boone county with her parents in her childhood days, so that on both sides Oliver Hugh Walters is a representative of pioneer families in this state.

His early education was acquired in the primary department of the schools at Petersburg and he left the high school at the age of fifteen years to take up the duties of "devil" in the office of the Petersburg Index, which was then owned by his

father. He spent four years in that connection, during which he became thoroughly acquainted with the business, and later he was employed as a printer in two different printing offices at Albion, Nebraska, for two years. On the 10th of June, 1907, he arrived in Columbus to accept the position of foreman on the Columbus Tribune, then owned by Richard Ramey. He continued to act in that capacity for five years but left the position in the spring of 1912 to establish the job shop which he now owns. He entered into partnership with G. W. Davis and on the 1st of March, 1912, opened the Art Printery for business. A year later he purchased the interest of his partner and has since conducted the business independently. He had little capital when he started out, but he has succeeded in discharging all indebtedness upon the plant or business and is today enjoying a liberal patronage. The work which he turns out is of high grade and its neat and attractive appearance, combined with reasonable prices, have insured growing success for the undertaking.

On the 14th of June, 1911, at Columbus, Mr. Walters was united in marriage to Miss Ettua C. Linstrum, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Linstrum. She was born at Sutton, Nebraska, and when three years of age was brought by her parents to Columbus, where she has since resided. To Mr. and Mrs. Walters have been born two children, a daughter, Davida E., now three years of age, and a son, Oliver Wendell, aged ten months. The parents hold membership in the Methodist church, in the work of which they take an active and helpful part. Mr. Walters is now secretary of the official board of the church and has held the position of superintendent of the Sunday school for two terms. He does all in his power to advance the interests of the church and thereby promote the moral progress of the community, and he gives his aid and support to many measures which are planned to advance the general welfare.

JOSEPH ZUERLEIN.

Joseph Zuerlein, a brick mason of Humphrey, actively connected with the building interests of the town, was born in Germany, September 23, 1854, a son of George and Catherine Zuerlein, who were also natives of that country. The father was a stone and brick mason and followed his trade in Germany throughout his entire life, there passing away in 1887. His wife survived him for only a brief period, dying in 1888.

Joseph Zuerlein was reared and educated in Germany and learned the trade of brick and stone mason from his father. He was employed along that line in Germany until 1883, and that he had long experience in the work is indicated in the fact that he laid brick when he was but fifteen years of age. On coming to the United States he settled first in New Jersey, where he worked in a factory for three years. In 1886 he arrived in Humphrey, where he has since conducted business as a stone and brick mason. He owns a nice residence which he erected near the Catholic church and which stands on an acre of ground, being one of the pleasant and attractive homes of the city. His expert workmanship and thoroughly reliable business methods have brought to him a liberal patronage which he well merits.

On the 8th of February, 1880, Mr. Zuerlein was married to Miss Agnes Groemling, a daughter of Adam and Margaret Groemling, who were natives of Germany.

Her father was also a stone and brick mason and followed that pursuit throughout his entire life. He met an accidental death by the caving in of a ditch in Germany in 1867, while his wife passed away there in 1862. Mrs. Zuerlein was born in Germany, September 8, 1856, and by her marriage has become the mother of eleven children: Thomas, Katie, Bruno, Dora, Edward, Christina, Mary, John and three who died in infancy.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church and Mr. Zuerlein belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters. Politically he is a democrat, exercising his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the party, but never seeking office for himself, as he prefers to give his undivided attention to his business affairs, which have made him a prominent representative of industrial interests in Humphrey.

JOHN G. JOHNSON.

John G. Johnson, who carries on general farming on section 10, Granville township, and is also engaged in feeding stock, was born near Grundy Center, Iowa, in January, 1881, a son of Johan and Johannah Johnson, the former a native of Norway and the latter of Stockholm, Sweden. The father came to America when twenty years of age and for a time was a resident of Illinois. He was a tailor by trade and followed that pursuit in Illinois and New Mexico, Colorado and Iowa. He at length took up his abode in Grundy Center, Iowa, and purchased eighty acres of land, which he continued to cultivate successfully until 1886, when he came to Platte county, Nebraska. That was before the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad was built into Humphrey. Settling in Granville township, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 10, and at once began to cultivate and improve the tract, which he operated until 1899. He then retired from active business and removed to Seattle, Washington, where he has since made his home, being now seventy-one years of age. His wife passed away in 1887, her death being deeply regretted by many friends as well as by her immediate family.

John G. Johnson was reared and educated in Platte county, attending the district schools. He remained with his father until the latter removed to Washington, at which time John G. Johnson went to Madison, Nebraska, and in the vicinity of that place worked as a farm hand for three years. He then rented land in Madison county which he cultivated for two years, after which he returned to Platte county and rented the old home place, which he has since operated, covering a period of eleven years. He has brought the fields to a high state of cultivation and annually harvests good crops. He also feeds about a carload of cattle and from one to three carloads of hogs annually. In the fall of 1914 he purchased eighty acres of land on section 17, Granville township, which he also operates in addition to the home place and which is a well improved tract. His business affairs are carefully and systematically managed and prosperity is rewarding his efforts. In addition to his other interests he is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Humphrey and is a stockholder in the First National Bank.

In December, 1904, Mr. Johnson was joined in wedlock to Miss Clara White, a daughter of Frank and Rika White, natives of Illinois. Her father, a farmer by occupation, removed to Madison county, Nebraska, at an early period in its development and there secured a homestead claim which he has since cultivated and improved, making it a valuable property. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have become parents of three children: Irvin F., nine years of age; Elmer P., six years old; and Ralph O., aged two.

The parents are members of the Lutheran church and guide their lives according to its teachings. In his political views Mr. Johnson is an earnest republican, but, while he does not seek nor desire political office, he has served for three years as school director. He is in favor of all public improvements and gives hearty indorsement to many measures for the general good. In business he is persistent and energetic, carrying forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes, and his well defined plans, carefully executed, have brought to him a very desirable and creditable measure of success.

WILLIAM KNIGHT.

William Knight, one of the oldest settlers in Platte county, and one of the most successful farmers of his locality, has a finely improved place in Creston township. He was born in Canada in October, 1842, a son of Charles and Bridget (Doyle) Knight, natives respectively of Ireland and of Canada. The father followed agricultural pursuits in Canada and passed away in that country in 1880. The mother died in 1858.

William Knight grew to manhood in Canada and there received his education. He remained at home until his father was married a second time, when he left and began learning the blacksmith's trade, which he subsequently followed in Canada for five years. In 1869 he removed to Iowa and was similarly employed in Clinton county until 1872, in which year he settled in Platte county, Nebraska. He took up a homestead of eighty acres in Creston township and a tree claim of eighty acres adjoining, and subsequently he purchased an additional eighty acres, also on section 19. He has since cultivated his land and has made many improvements on his farm. After locating thereon he erected a blacksmith shop on his land and for several years did a large blacksmithing business. In addition to his fine farm in this county he owns three hundred and twenty acres of land in Frontier county, this state, and his holdings return to him a good income.

On the 21st of August, 1871, Mr. Knight married Miss Elvira Cherry, who was born in Canada in December, 1851. She is a daughter of John and Laura (Stringer) Cherry, also natives of the Dominion. Her father died when she was two years old. Her mother removed to Iowa and later to Platte county, Nebraska, where she passed away July 19, 1892. Mr. and Mrs. Knight have had eight children: Mary, the wife of T. J. Lohr, of Creston; James W., who is farming land belonging to his father; Rosella, the wife of Carl Long, a resident of Stanton county, this state; Jessie E., the wife of J. W. O'Neill, of Grand Island, Nebraska; Charles H., who died June 30, 1888; Lulu B., who is teaching school in Creston township and who has followed that profession for seven years; Winnie,

the wife of H. L. Haskins, of Madison county, this state; and Charles L., at home. Mr. and Mrs. Knight also reared a boy named Marion Mader from the time that he was fourteen years old.

Mr. Knight is a staunch democrat and has served ably as constable and school director. He is a member of the United Brethren church, to the support of which he contributes, and all measures seeking the moral advancement of his community receive his hearty cooperation. For many years he has resided in Platte county and those who have known him longest and most intimately are his staunchest friends, a sure evidence of his genuine worth.

EAGLE CAFE.

The Eagle Cafe, of which Mrs. W. W. Scott is the proprietor, is one of the well known and liberally patronized business interests of Columbus and may well be termed one of the most popular cafes in the city. Mrs. Scott started the business with little capital but energy and determination served as the foundation for her success, which has grown steadily. She now owns the building which she occupies—a one-story structure built of brick, its dimensions being twenty-two by eighty-eight feet. There is a large kitchen equipped with the finest ranges, serving tables and everything to be found in a modern establishment of this character. The front of the building is of plate glass and along one side is a counter seating about fifty, with tables at the side. Everything that the market and the season affords can be secured here and is prepared by experts. Mrs. Scott gives clean, prompt and efficient service, personally supervising the business, and her liberal patronage brings her an income of about two thousand dollars a month. She is a woman of excellent business ability, farsighted, sagacious and enterprising. She has studied the wishes of the public and gives to them a service that is highly satisfactory in every particular.

PATRICK L. KELLY.

Patrick L. Kelly, cashier of the Cornlea State Bank, has been identified with financial interests since attaining his majority and has become thoroughly informed concerning the banking business in every particular, being therefore well qualified to take part in the control and management of the institution with which he is now associated. He was born in Dodge county, Nebraska, June 13, 1889, a son of Thomas and Catharine (O'Hare) Kelly, the former a native of Cleveland, Ohio, and the latter of Centralia, Pennsylvania. The mother was of Irish lineage and they were married in North Bend, Nebraska, the father becoming a farmer of this state. He still occupies the old homestead farm there, but his wife passed away on the 8th of May, 1914.

Patrick L. Kelly was reared under the parental roof and early became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He attended the schools of Fremont, Nebraska, and remained upon the home farm until he

reached the age of twenty-one years, when, thinking to find other pursuits more congenial than the life of the agriculturist, he turned his attention to banking, accepting the position of bookkeeper in the First National Bank at Schuyler, where he remained for seven months. On the 14th of September, 1912, he became cashier of the Cornlea State Bank and still remains in that position. This institution is capitalized for fifteen thousand dollars and has deposits amounting to one hundred and thirty-one thousand five hundred dollars. Mr. Kelly is also a member of the board of directors of this bank and his efforts have been a strong element in advancing its success, for he is a popular official. He was also one of the organizers and is the president of the Farmers State Bank of Humphrey. His associates in the Cornlea bank are: D. W. Killen, of Schuyler, president; and Nicholas J. Hemmer, of Cornlea, vice president.

Mr. Kelly is a member of the Catholic church at Cornlea and holds membership with the Knights of Columbus and with the Catholic Order of Foresters at Humphrey. He votes with the democratic party and seeks to secure its success but has little time or opportunity to take active part in politics. He stands, however, for progressiveness in citizenship and is interested in all that pertains to the upbuilding and improvement of the town.

LEANDER GERRARD.

Honored and respected by all, there has been no citizen in Columbus who has occupied a more enviable position in public regard than Leander Gerrard, not alone by reason of the success which he achieved but also owing to the honorable, straightforward policy which he ever followed from the time when he became connected with the interests of the city in the pioneer period until his death in recent years. It was characteristic of him that he carried forward to successful completion whatever he undertook, and while advancing individual success he also contributed in substantial measure to public prosperity.

Mr. Gerrard was a native of England, his birth having occurred in the city of Manchester on the 31st of August, 1837, his parents being Joseph and Adeline Gerrard, who were residents of New England, being on a visit to England at the time of the birth of their son. Manchester, however, was the old home of the family. It was there that the paternal grandfather of Leander Gerrard was born and reared. He was a very intelligent man, liberal educational advantages having been accorded him, and he became a prosperous cotton manufacturer of Manchester, in which city he spent his entire life. His son, Joseph Gerrard, also born in Manchester and accorded liberal educational opportunities, became identified with his father's business and when a young man went to New York, where he bought raw cotton, which he shipped to England and afterward sold the manufactured product in America. In 1825 he wedded Adeline Allen, of New Bedford, Massachusetts, who was a member of a wealthy Quaker family and came of Mayflower stock. While in the east Joseph Gerrard was a member of the famous Cobden Club. In the year 1838 he removed westward with his family, settling in Rock Island, where he remained until 1858 and then came to Monroe, Platte county, Nebraska. He was engaged in farming and other pursuits in this county, where he



LEANDER GERRARD



passed away in 1870, while his wife, surviving him for more than a quarter of a century, died in 1896.

Leander Gerrard pursued his education in the schools of Rock Island, Illinois, and made his initial step in the business world in that city as a clerk in a clothing store. In 1855, when about eighteen years of age, he went to Des Moines, Iowa, where for one year he clerked in a bank, and in 1856 he removed to Omaha, Nebraska, where he entered the law office of J. M. Newton, with whom he continued until 1858. During one year of this time he was in partnership with Mr. Newton in the conduct of a land agency and during that period Mr. Gerrard, in company with others, founded the city of Fremont, Nebraska. In 1857 he removed to Monroe county, Nebraska, which he aided in organizing and also laid out the town of Monroe. At a subsequent date a part of Monroe county was divided and became Platte county. Mr. Gerrard was engaged in trading with the Indians of the Pawnee reservation from 1860 until 1866 and also conducted a trading post and did a freighting business between Fort Kearney and Monroe.

The following year Mr. Gerrard removed to Columbus, where he resided until his death, and in 1867 he entered upon the practice of law and the conduct of a real-estate business. From that time forward he figured as one of the most prominent, active and influential residents of Platte county and his efforts contributed in large measure to the upbuilding of its material interests and the utilization of its natural resources. For many years he was a member of the firm of Whitmoyer, Gerrard & Post, attorneys at law, the firm occupying a very prominent position at the bar. Mr. Gerrard's mind was naturally analytical, logical and inductive, his reasoning was clear, his arguments sound and his success was the natural sequence of marked ability in the path of his chosen profession. Moreover, he was resourceful and active in other fields. In 1871 he became senior partner in the firm of Gerrard & Reed, which established a private bank of which he continued president until his death. This was conducted as a private banking institution until 1875 and was then merged into the Columbus State Bank, of which Mr. Gerrard was the first president. He also became heavily interested in land, making judicious investment in property and carrying on farming and stock-raising on an extensive scale. His discrimination was keen and he was seldom, if ever, at fault in matters of business judgment.

On the 31st of May, 1870, Mr. Gerrard was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Caroline Weaver, who was born in Columbus, Ohio, April 5, 1852, her parents being Michael and Dorothea (Heckman) Weaver. The father's birth occurred in Wurtemberg, Germany, January 7, 1828, while the mother was born in Bavaria, Germany, January 28, 1830. Michael Weaver, who was a carpenter by trade and became a pioneer settler of Platte county, passed away in the year 1900. To Mr. and Mrs. Gerrard were born four children, namely: Clarence L., who is the inventor of a flour bleacher; Ernest A.; Phoebe; and Grace.

The death of Mr. Gerrard occurred March 5, 1913, and because of his prominence proved not only a personal bereavement to his many friends but a public misfortune as well. He had been connected with many movements which had direct bearing upon the welfare and upbuilding of city and state. In 1858 he became one of the organizers of the republican party in Nebraska and he served as a member of the first state legislature. He was chairman of the first republican state convention, which was held at Plattsmouth, and from that time forward was actively

identified with shaping the policy and promoting the interests of his party. In 1870 and 1871 he was a member of the state senate and was the author of the Herd law, protecting agricultural interests. In the latter year he received appointment from President Grant to the position of United States district attorney but refused to accept the office. He had been a delegate to the national republican convention which nominated Grant for the presidency and he was always a delegate to the state conventions of his party, but he had little aspiration in the way of office seeking, regarding the pursuits of private life as in themselves abundantly worthy of his best efforts. That he was a most valued and honored citizen is indicated in the glowing resolutions which were passed by the state senate following his demise. He was ever faultless in honor, fearless in conduct and stainless in reputation and his record reflected credit upon the state which honored him. Mrs. Gerrard still makes her home in Columbus, where she is active in temperance work and where she occupies the position of president of the Women's Club. She is most highly esteemed in social circles and shared with her husband in the respect which was everywhere tendered him.

FRED BONING.

Fred Boning, a well-to-do farmer residing on section 9, Creston township, was born in Germany on the 7th of October, 1859, a son of John H. and Catherine (Hillen) Boning, also natives of that country. The father followed farming throughout his entire active life and passed away in the fatherland in 1893. The mother survived for six years, dying in 1899.

Fred Boning grew to manhood under the parental roof and received his education in the schools of his native land. He remained with his parents until he reached the age of twenty-two years, or until 1882, when he emigrated to America and made his way to Platte county, Nebraska. For ten years he was employed as a farm hand and during that time carefully saved his money and was at length able to purchase one hundred and twenty acres of land in Sherman township. He took up his residence thereon and improved and operated the place for thirteen years, or until 1905, when he sold out and removed to Creston township, buying one hundred and sixty acres on section 9, where he has since resided. He has not only improved that quarter section but he has bought additional land and now owns three hundred and twenty acres, which he cultivates. He engages in stock-raising to a considerable extent, feeding a carload of cattle and two carloads of hogs per year. His farm work is well managed, and he receives a gratifying income from his land. He also owns stock in the Farmers Elevator Company of Creston.

Mr. Boning was married on the 17th of May, 1892, to Miss Johanna Ritterhoff, who was born in Germany, November 24, 1864, a daughter of Louis and Louisa Ritterhoff, likewise natives of Germany. The father devoted his life to farming and passed away in Germany, as did the mother. Mrs. Boning died on the 22d of May, 1908, after a short illness. She was the mother of four children, namely: Herman, born May 16, 1893; Anna, June 30, 1894; Louis, July 1, 1896; and Clara, June 12, 1898.

Mr. Boning is a republican in his political belief and his religious faith is that

of the Lutheran church. He has never regretted his decision to come to this country, for here he has found opportunities through the utilization of which he has gained a gratifying measure of success. He has thoroughly identified his interests with those of Platte county and can be depended upon to further the public good in any way possible.

PETER NOONAN.

Peter Noonan is the proprietor of the Walnut Grove Farm, his home being situated on section 8, Burrows township. His is a valuable property, his landed possessions aggregating eight hundred and sixty-one acres, all acquired through his intelligently directed industry and perseverance combined with sound business judgment. He was born in Ireland, March 13, 1849, a son of James and Bridget (Welch) Noonan, who were also natives of the same country. The father devoted his life to farming and always remained a resident of the Emerald isle, there passing away in 1886, after having survived his wife for twenty-one years, her death occurring in 1865.

The youthful days of Peter Noonan were spent in Ireland and England, and he remained with his parents until he attained his majority. But the opportunities of the new world attracted him and in 1873, when a young man of twenty-four years, he sailed for America, establishing his home in New Jersey at a place called Fort Lee. There he largely devoted his time to wood chopping until the year 1874, when he came to Nebraska, settling in Platte county. Here he secured a homestead claim of eighty acres and at once began to develop the then unbroken prairie and improve his farm by the erection of the necessary buildings. His business affairs were carefully and systematically directed and brought to him growing success, enabling him to add to his possessions by purchase from time to time until he is now the owner of eight hundred and sixty-one acres of rich and valuable land. He owns all of section 8, Burrows township; eighty acres on section 7; one hundred and twenty acres on section 6; and twenty-one acres on section 31 and thus has become one of the extensive landowners of the county, while his place is regarded as one of the best improved farms in this part of the state, lacking in none of the accessories and conveniences of the model farm property of the twentieth century. He has a large and attractive residence supplied with every modern comfort, including electric lights, steam heat and hot and cold water. He has four sets of buildings upon his section of land and he has been very successful in his farming operations. Experience and study have taught him the best time for planting and the best methods of cultivating his fields, and he annually harvests large crops. He also feeds about a carload of cattle each year, four carloads of sheep and two carloads of hogs. He is cultivating three hundred and eighty acres of his land, while the remainder he rents. He is also a stockholder in the Cornlea State Bank.

On the 15th of August, 1891, Mr. Noonan was married to Miss Catherine Roddy, a daughter of Martin and Catherine (Brahany) Roddy, who were natives of Ireland, where the father followed the occupation of farming throughout his entire life, his labors being ended in death in 1901, while his wife survived until

1903. To Mr. and Mrs. Noonan have been born ten children, namely: James, born May 27, 1892, who is attending college at Omaha, Nebraska; John P., born September 18, 1893; Bridget Rose, February 17, 1895; Catherine A., November 16, 1896; Peter J., January 22, 1900; Mary A., February 8, 1903; Michael T., July 2, 1905; Ellen M., November 3, 1906; Thomas E., June 22, 1909; and Joseph P., March 29, 1911.

Mr. Noonan votes independently as he does not desire to bind himself by party ties, exercising his right of franchise according to the dictates of his judgment. He was the first supervisor of his part of the county and served in that office for one year, while for four different terms of one year each he has filled the position of assessor. He has likewise been a school officer for the past thirty-eight years and has done much to further the interests of education. He was nominated for the legislature but failed of election. His religious faith is that of the Catholic church and he belongs to the Order of St. Francis. There is no person living within fifteen miles of Mr. Noonan with whom he has not had business dealings and all speak of him in terms of respect and regard because of the integrity of his methods and his unfailing enterprise. His course has always been so upright and honorable that he has never had any trouble with those with whom he has had dealings and has never been engaged in a lawsuit. Coming to this country without capital, save the determination to win success by honorable methods, he has constantly worked his way upward and his record should well serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others.

REV. CYRIAC STEMPEL, O. F. M.

Rev. Father Cyriac Stempel, O. F. M., has charge of St. Bonaventure's Catholic church in Columbus. He was born in St. Libory, Illinois, a son of Joseph and Gertrude (Pohlmeyer) Stempel, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father was born December 8, 1800, and the mother was born February 5, 1819. The father emigrated to the United States in 1829 and was married in St. Libory, Illinois, in 1859.

The son was educated in the parochial school of his native place and at the age of thirteen was sent to Teutopolis, Illinois, to take a college course, which he completed in 1878, when he joined the Order of St. Francis. From 1881 until 1883 he studied philosophy in Quincy, Illinois, and from 1883 until 1886 he studied theology in St. Louis, Missouri, where he was ordained priest April 26, 1886. His first charge was Bishop Creek, near Teutopolis, Illinois, in 1887, for one year. At the same time he was made professor in the college at Teutopolis, filling the chairs of Latin, English and German until July, 1893, when he was made chaplain of the Illinois State Penitentiary at Joliet, Illinois. In September, 1900, he was made pastor of St. Francis church at Petoskey, Michigan, where he remained until August, 1906, when he became assistant to St. John's church at Joliet, Illinois. On the 5th of January, 1911, he came to Nebraska and took charge of Platte Center parish until August, 1912, when his superiors made him pastor of St. Bonaventure's church in Columbus. This is one of the largest parishes in Platte county. It numbers at present about two hundred and fifty families, com-



REV. CYRIAC STEMPEL



posed of English, German and Polish. A hospital conducted by the Sisters of St. Francis and a parochial school and academy are in connection with the church. The work in these various institutions makes heavy demand upon the time and attention of Father Cyriac, as he is commonly called. Although he has made his home in Columbus for only a brief period, he has gained the esteem of his parishioners and of all with whom he has come in contact.

CAPTAIN LUTHER H. NORTH.

Fiction furnishes no more interesting or thrilling tales than those offered in our own western history. The record of the experiences of Captain Luther H. North are such as would claim the attention of any youth if given in detail. There is no phase of scout life or of Indian warfare in the west with which he is not familiar, and he is numbered among those who have aided in shaping the history of this section of the country. He now makes his home at No. 918 West Fifteenth street in Columbus but is a native of Richland county, Ohio, born March 6, 1846, his parents being Thomas J. and Jane (Townley) North. The father was born in 1812, in Tompkins county, New York, which was also the birthplace of the mother, whose natal year was 1820. Removing to Ohio, the father engaged in business at Rome, Richland county, and was there county surveyor for many years. He was an active representative of the democratic party, taking a helpful interest in promoting the interests of the party in that locality. Removing westward to Chicago, he afterward became a resident of Nebraska, making the journey by rail to Iowa City, Iowa, and thence by stage to Omaha in 1855. He was with a surveying party that helped sectionize all the country between Omaha and Elkhorn, Nebraska. The year after his arrival in this state his family joined him in the west and in March, 1857, he started out with a party of surveyors who were laying out claims. One of this party, John Davis, gave out, after which Thomas J. North aided him to reach a deserted log cabin and then set out to bring help from the ranch house where they were staying but became lost in the deep snow on the Little Pappipio river and was frozen to death. When found by a searching party he was less than a mile from the house he was looking for. His widow long survived him, passing away in 1908.

Captain North of this review began his education in Ohio and attended school to a limited extent in Florence, Nebraska, to which place the family removed after the father's death. He was the third in order of birth of five children. When only thirteen years of age he came to Columbus and became a mail carrier on the Star route between Columbus and Monroe. There were many Indians in the state at that time and in 1859 the Pawnee outbreak occurred. Captain North became familiar with all of the experiences of life on the frontier and with every phase of pioneer existence. After carrying the mail for a year he became associated with his brother James in running a big bunch of cattle on the prairie. In those days all kinds of wagon trains passed through the district on their way to California, Pike's Peak and other places in search of gold. In the fall of 1862 Captain North responded to the country's call for aid, enlisting at Columbus in Company K, Second Nebraska Cavalry, being mustered in at Omaha. He returned from

that city to the Pawnee Indian reservation, then near Genoa, in Nance county, Nebraska, the Second Regiment being assigned to guard duty against the Sioux, who were then harassing the Pawnees. In the spring of 1863 the command was ordered to Sioux City and joined General Sully's forces, proceeding up the Missouri river to head off a band of Indians. A battle occurred at White Stone Hill in Dakota, in which the Second Nebraska and the Sixth Iowa participated, many Indians and some soldiers being killed.

In 1861 Captain North began freighting from Omaha west to Columbus, Kearney and Cottonwood Springs, the name of the latter place being ultimately changed to Fort McPherson. When hauling grain for an outfit that was going to Virginia City, Nevada, he turned back at Pawnee Springs and was camped near what is now Gothenburg, then known as Brady Island, where he ran into a band of about twenty hostile Sioux. One of the number drew his gun and Captain North was certainly at his mercy, as he had no weapon, but another of the band told his companion not to shoot and nothing was done. However, with reinforcements that same band attacked an emigrant train the next day near Plum creek and killed thirteen. There was always the possibility of an attack when he was engaged in freighting and one had to be continually on the alert.

In 1866 Captain North went to Michigan, where he attended school. The following year his brother Frank recruited four companies of Pawnee Indians and Luther H. North became captain of Company D, First Battalion Indian Scouts. That year, with his command, he participated in several skirmishes. When at Ogallala, Nebraska, doing guard duty for the supply trains, a running fight was held with some Indians under Spotted Tail, the Ogallala Sioux chief, and his son was killed in the encounter. In 1867 Turkey Leg and a band of warriors killed the crew of a train at Plum creek. Captain North's brother, with forty-five men, gave chase and seventeen Cheyennes were killed, while Turkey Leg's squaw and his son were captured. Later in 1867 a council was held between Generals Sherman, Sheridan, Harney and several of the Indian chiefs, among them Turkey Leg, and his squaw and son were exchanged for three white boys and two girls. After a year Luther H. North was made captain of Company A. All of the service was in the spring and summer months, as the Indians would not go on a winter campaign. In 1869 a battle was fought against Tall Bull at Summit Springs, Colorado. The battle was originally called Susanna Springs, as in the encounter a woman named Susanna was recaptured from the Indians. In that engagement about one hundred of the red men were killed.

Captain North continued in active service until 1870 and then, retiring from the army, came to Columbus, where he engaged in the livery business until 1876. In that year General Sherman called him and his brother Frank to Chicago and they went to the Indian territory, where the Pawnees were then upon a reservation. They were sent to Fort D. A. Russell after being equipped at Sidney, Nebraska. Frank North, who was an unusually fine pistol shot, was post guide at Fort Russell. From Sidney the troops went north to Fort Robinson and drove Red Cloud off Chadron creek and back to Fort Robinson. They proceeded on to Fort Laramie and then joined the command of General Crook. On the 26th of November they found a band of Cheyennes under Dull Knife and a big battle was fought on the Powder river in the Big Horn mountains, in which more whites were killed than Indians. After the Indians were forced to surrender the village was destroyed,

together with about fifteen hundred buffalo skins. Captain North was mustered out of service in 1877. Between the years 1870 and 1876, although not an enlisted soldier, he did some scout duty for a company of infantry and cavalry located at Fort Hartsuff on the Loup river at St. Paul, Nebraska. In 1877 he engaged with his brothers and W. F. Cody, better known as Buffalo Bill, in the cattle business on Dismal river in Nebraska. In 1882 he returned to Columbus and bought and sold horses and cattle. In 1886 he was appointed by Cleveland as deputy internal revenue collector and upon his return to Columbus in 1889 he engaged in the livestock business. In 1900 he began farming, to which he devoted his attention until 1910, when he entered the service of the United States government as store-keeper gauger at Omaha. However, he has called Columbus his home since 1859 and is now living retired here, occupying a pleasant residence at No. 918 West Fifteenth street.

In 1898 Captain North married Miss Elvina Sprague, a daughter of James K. Sprague, who went west to California and afterward returned to Nebraska, becoming a blacksmith and farmer at Silver Creek, Merriek county, where he also conducted a store. When Captain North can be prevailed upon to enter into reminiscences concerning his life as scout and Indian fighter, his tales are most interesting. He thoroughly knows the red man, his habits, his methods of warfare, his customs, his beliefs and his ideas. He speaks the language of some of the tribes and takes a fair and impartial view of the Indian problem, having his information concerning the red race at first hand. His efforts have been an effective force in reclaiming this region for the purposes of civilization and his name deserves a prominent place on the pages of Nebraska's history.

JACOB GREISEN.

Jacob Greisen, a well known merchant of Columbus, was born on the Rhine, in Germany, June 10, 1849. His parents, Christian and Mary (Mouss) Greisen, were married in the fatherland and there resided until 1868, in which year they crossed the Atlantic to America and made their way to Dane county, Wisconsin, where they located upon a farm. Three years later they came to Platte county, Nebraska, and took up their residence upon a farm here. The father died in 1878 and the mother in 1894.

Jacob Greisen received his education in his native land and in 1868 accompanied his parents to the new world. He remained under the parental roof until 1871, when he went to Chicago, arriving in that city just after the great fire which devastated it. He remained there until August, 1872, and then came to Columbus, Nebraska, where in 1874 he opened a shoe store which he has since conducted. During the forty-one years that he has been engaged in business here he has won recognition as a merchant of sound judgment, enterprise and unquestioned reliability. He carries a complete and well chosen stock, and his liberal policy has enabled him to build up a large and representative trade.

In November, 1894, in Columbus, occurred the marriage of Mr. Greisen and Miss Anna Wagner, a daughter of Robert Wagner, deceased. To this marriage have been born two children, Marie and Katharyne.

Mr. Greisen is a democrat and for three terms, or six years, served on the Columbus city council, proving an efficient and public-spirited alderman. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Columbus and the Sons of Herman, and his religious faith is that of the Roman Catholic church. For more than four decades he has been intimately connected with the commercial growth and development of Columbus, and he is also identified with its financial interests as a director of the First National Bank. He possesses the characteristic virtues of his race, being sagacious and dependable, and the city owes much of its prosperity to men such as he, men who quietly and steadily perform the duties that devolve upon them and manage their business affairs with sound judgment.

JOHN TERNUS.

Through well directed effort John Ternus became one of the extensive land-owners of Platte county and now occupies a highly improved and valuable farm situated on section 20, Granville township. His life record might serve as the text of a valuable lesson, for it shows what may be accomplished through hard work intelligently directed. He was born in Germany, March 12, 1852, a son of John and Annie (Wagner) Ternus, also natives of that country, where the father followed farming throughout his entire life. He passed away in 1885, while his wife died in 1900.

John Ternus was reared and educated in Germany, remaining with his parents to the age of twenty years, when in 1872 he crossed the Atlantic and became a resident of Marshall county, Illinois, where he worked as a farm hand for six years. During that period he carefully saved his earnings until at length he had money sufficient to enable him to purchase seventy-two acres of land in Marshall county. Taking up his abode thereon, he cultivated that farm for nine years, at the end of which time he sold out and removed to Platte county, Nebraska, investing in two hundred and forty acres of land on section 21, Granville township. With characteristic energy he began to develop and cultivate that tract and soon wrought a marked transformation in its appearance. To his original holdings he added from time to time as his financial resources increased until he now owns eight hundred acres of land, four hundred of which lie in Granville township, one hundred and sixty acres in St. Bernard township and the remainder in Humphrey township. He continued the cultivation of his farm until 1905, when he retired and removed to Humphrey, where he lived for four years. He afterward spent a year in Omaha but he could not be contented without some occupation, for indolence and idleness are utterly foreign to his nature and he returned to the old homestead, building a nice residence on another part of his farm, on section 20, Granville township, near Cornlea. He has since occupied that home and is now again content in the supervision of his place. His has been an active, busy and useful life crowned with well merited success. He is a stockholder in the new bank of Humphrey, known as the Farmers State Bank, and at one time he was extensively engaged in feeding cattle, shipping about two car loads annually. He now largely leaves the work of the farm to others, however, but manages to

keep busy in the care and general supervision of his property. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator company of Humphrey.

In February, 1878, Mr. Ternus was united in marriage to Miss Rosa Maier, by whom he had eight children, two of whom are deceased. The surviving are as follows: Frank, who follows farming in Humphrey township; John H., an agriculturist of Granville township; Mary, who is the wife of Conrad Frey, of Humphrey township; Elizabeth, who gave her hand in marriage to John Van Dyke, a farmer of Humphrey township; Peter J., who is a banker of Humphrey and a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work; and Conrad, a farmer of Granville township. The wife and mother passed away April 29, 1892, and in September, 1900, Mr. Ternus was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Monica (Schraffe) Nick. To them have been born two children, Edward P. and Herman L.

In religious faith Mr. Ternus is a Catholic, while his political belief is that of the democratic party. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for here he found good business opportunities and in their utilization has won a very gratifying and substantial measure of success, all of which he well deserves.

REUBEN MARSHALL CAMPBELL.

Reuben Marshall Campbell, who has held the position of superintendent of schools in Columbus since the fall of 1910, has been engaged in educational work for a number of years with splendid success. His birth occurred in Adams county, Indiana, on the 20th of March, 1866, his parents being Sylvester and Mary (Wood) Campbell, both of whom were natives of Ohio, the former born in Guernsey county in 1830. Their marriage was celebrated in Indiana in 1861. Sylvester Campbell passed away in November, 1913, but is survived by his widow. The family comes of Scotch origin in the paternal line, and John Campbell, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of New York.

Reuben M. Campbell acquired his early education in the public schools of his native state and in 1892 was graduated from Franklin College of Franklin, Indiana, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. Subsequently he pursued post-graduate work in Chicago University and then took up the profession of teaching, first acting as teacher in the high school at Winfield, Kansas, for two years. In 1894 he returned to Franklin College, studying in that institution for one term and receiving the Master of Science degree. The same year he came to Platte county, Nebraska, and after serving as principal of the high school at Platte Center for two years became assistant principal of the high school in Columbus, teaching Latin and chemistry. He next acted as principal of schools at Humphrey, this county, for four years and afterward spent a similar period as superintendent of schools at Westpoint, Cuming county, Nebraska. In the fall of 1910 he took his present position as superintendent of schools at Columbus, in which connection he has made a most creditable record, the efficiency of his work being manifest in the improvement of the school system of the city. He is a director of the German National Bank and of the Young Men's Christian Association.

On the 27th of June, 1907, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Campbell was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth G. Sheldon, a daughter of Channey H. Sheldon. They have one son, Donald Clarence Campbell, who was born June 27, 1910. Mr. Campbell gives his political allegiance to the republican party, while his fraternal connections make him a Master Mason. His religious faith is that of the Congregational church. He is a man whose life has always been in keeping with high standards and he justly deserves the full measure of confidence and respect now entertained for him by all who know him.

AUGUST RUNGE.

August Runge is numbered among the substantial citizens that Germany has furnished to Platte county, where for many years he carried on general farming but is now living retired in Columbus, having reached the eightieth milestone on life's journey. He was born in Prussia, October 7, 1835, a son of Charles and Eva (Schwartz) Runge. The father died at the age of sixty years and the mother passed away at the age of fifty-five years, five months and five days. The educational opportunities of August Runge were very limited. He worked as a farm hand in Germany and was engaged in active military duty in the war of 1861 and 1866.

At length he determined to come to America, attracted by the reports which he heard concerning opportunities in this country. His brother-in-law, Charles Reinke, one of the early settlers of Platte county, sent him money for the trip and he crossed the Atlantic in 1867, casting in his lot with the pioneer settlers whose efforts were bringing about the development of this section of the country. He secured a claim of eighty acres on section 26, Bismark township, built a sod house and there lived for thirteen years, experiencing all the hardships and privations incident to settlement on the frontier. He was poor and had to work hard to get a start and he practiced the closest economy in the early days, but as time passed on his labors were rewarded with good crops and the sale thereof enabled him to purchase additional lands until he became the owner of a farm of three hundred and sixty acres in Platte county and another of two hundred acres in Colfax county. He made splendid improvements upon his land and engaged extensively in the raising of stock. Earnest, persistent labor at length won him prosperity and he has been most generous with his children, dividing his lands among them since he has retired from active farm life.

In 1860 Mr. Runge was united in marriage to Miss Augusta Reinke, who was born in Germany in 1833 and passed away in 1899. Her father, Sam Reinke, was a sheep raiser and farmer in Germany. To Mr. and Mrs. Runge were born six children, as follows: August, who lives on a farm in Bismark township, is married and has four children—Arthur, Sophie, August and Katherine; Emma, the wife of Kasper Karl, of Colfax county, by whom she has four children—Arthur, Walter, Kate and Emma; two who died in infancy, while the parents were still residents of Germany; and two who died in America as infants.

Mr. Runge now lives alone in Columbus, having retired from active business. He has ever been a devoted member of the German Lutheran Evangelical church,



AUGUST RUNGE



uniting with the church near his home that stood on land which was given for the purpose by Charles Reinke. One of his most cherished possessions is a medal of honor sent him by William I, emperor of Germany, for bravery as a soldier in the German army. Although now eighty years of age, Mr. Runge does not look more than fifty and in spirit and interests seems yet in his prime, keeping in touch with all questions and issues of the day and with local affairs of moment. His life record should serve to inspire and encourage others who have to start out empty-handed as he did, for his career shows what may be accomplished when determination and energy lead the way.

SIEBERT HEIBEL.

A large proportion of Platte county's citizens are of German descent or have had their nativity in the fatherland, and in the new world they have found the opportunity for advancement and progress along business lines and have aided in upbuilding a substantial commonwealth. To this number belongs Siebert Heibel, who was born in Hessen, Germany, July 1, 1856. His father, Valentine Heibel, also a native of the same country, came with his family to the United States in 1867 and for two years was a resident of Illinois, after which, in February, 1869, he came to Platte county and secured a homestead claim in Bismark township. With characteristic energy he began the development of the farm and his labors were attended with good results. He had become a well known and highly esteemed citizen long ere he passed away in Bismark township in the fall of 1883. His widow, Mrs. Angelica Heibel, also a native of Germany, survives and is now making her home with her youngest son at the very advanced age of ninety years. In the family were five children: Anna, the wife of Charles Dittberner, living in Madison county; John, whose home is in Columbus; Katie, the wife of John Rickert, also of Columbus; Siebert, of this review; and Julius, who occupies the old home farm in Bismark township.

Siebert Heibel was a lad of about eleven years when he accompanied his parents on their emigration to the new world, and was in the thirteenth year of his age when he became a resident of Platte county. He has remained within its borders throughout the intervening period and thus for forty-six years has been a witness of the growth and development of this part of the state. He knows what farming meant in the early days when farm machinery and implements were crude and when it was a most arduous and strenuous task to convert the wild prairie into productive fields. He has lived to witness many changes in the methods of farming and at all times has kept in touch with the trend of modern progress. He has always carried on general farming and is now the owner of two hundred and sixty acres of excellent land on section 24, Bismark township, known as the Charles Reinke place, having belonged to one of the earliest settlers of the township.

Mr. Heibel was united in marriage to Miss Louisa Lucke, a native of Germany, and a daughter of Gerhard Lucke, one of the early settlers of Platte county. Seven children were born of this marriage: Bertha, the wife of Paul Roth, of Columbus; Clara, the wife of Otto Korte, living on her father's farm; Mary, who died in young womanhood; and Carl, Paul, Walter and Madeleine, all yet at home. The

family circle was again broken by the hand of death, when on the 25th of October, 1903, the wife and mother passed away, leaving behind her many warm friends who mourned her loss because of her excellent traits of character which had endeared her to those with whom she came in contact.

Mr. Heibel has been a democrat since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and is recognized as one of the local leaders of his party. For twenty-nine years he has filled the office of assessor of Bismark township, making a most creditable record by his promptness and fidelity. For a quarter of a century he has been treasurer of the school district and he is always interested in progressive education. He belongs to the German Lutheran church and his life has been one of high and manly purpose.

WILLIAM FOLTZ.

William Foltz is living on section 22, Granville township, where he owns and cultivates one hundred and sixty acres of good land. In the midst of the place stands an attractive modern residence and all of the improvements of a model farm are there found. A native of Indiana, he was born in Ripley county, May 14, 1863, a son of Ignatz and Caroline (Cook) Foltz. The father, a native of Baden, Germany, was a farmer by occupation and also learned and followed the butcher's trade. He came to America in 1824, settling in Cincinnati, Ohio, and in that city he was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Cook, also a native of Baden. While living in Cincinnati he worked at the butcher's trade but afterward removed to Ripley county, Indiana, where he turned his attention to farming, spending his remaining days there. He passed away in that county in 1907, when he had reached the very venerable age of ninety-four years. He had long survived his wife, who died upon the home farm in Indiana in 1878.

William Foltz remained with his parents until he reached the age of thirteen years and then, at a time when most boys are busy with the duties of the school-room, he started out to earn his own living, working as a farm hand for six dollars per month. He continued to work at farm labor until he reached the age of twenty-two years, when he rented land for two years. He was then married and removed to Princeville, Peoria county, Illinois, where he again engaged in farming upon rented land for five years. In 1892 he came to Platte county, Nebraska, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 22, Granville township, upon which he has since resided. He has also purchased four hundred acres in Western Nebraska, near Alliance. His place was raw prairie but he converted it into rich and productive fields and has continuously carried on general farming and stock-raising, following practical, progressive methods that produce good results. In addition he owns a fine town residence in Humphrey and he is one of the stockholders in the Farmers State Bank of that place. His attention is now largely given to the breeding and raising of high-grade stock and he feeds both cattle and hogs. When he purchased his place there were no improvements upon it worthy of mention but in 1904 he erected a fine new residence and in 1909 built large and commodious barns. He also has the best machinery to facilitate the work of the fields and everything about the place is indicative of the spirit of

enterprise which has characterized him in the conduct of his farming interests since he started out on his own account.

On the 21st of April, 1887, Mr. Foltz was united in marriage to Miss Julia Stenger, a daughter of Frank and Mary Stenger, both of whom were natives of Germany, the latter being now deceased. Frank Stenger, who followed general agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career, is now eighty years of age and makes his home in Kickapoo, Peoria county, Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Foltz have been born six children, as follows: Carrie, whose birth occurred March 6, 1888, and who is now the wife of Ruckus Pfeifer, a farmer of Granville township; Amelia, who was born June 4, 1890, and died October 15, 1898; Edward, born March 28, 1892; Annie, born February 17, 1894; Theresa, who was born June 19, 1896, and died in infancy; and Rosie, whose birth occurred on the 2d of March, 1898. Edward, Annie and Rosie are at home. In addition to their own children Mr. and Mrs. Foltz are rearing a little boy, August, an orphan whom they brought from New York on the 16th of December, 1913, and he is now eight years of age.

Politically Mr. Foltz is a democrat, while his religious faith is that of the Catholic church, he and his wife and children all being communicants of St. Francis Catholic church of Humphrey. For years he has served as one of its trustees, is a member of St. Joseph's Men's Society of that church and does all in his power to further the work of the church and promote its upbuilding. There have been no unusual chapters in his life history but the record proves what may be accomplished when determination and industry constitute the salient traits of character of the individual.

JOHN J. BURKE.

The value of industry and enterprise is well illustrated in the career of John J. Burke who, starting in life with no capital and with but a limited education, has so capably managed his business interests that today he is a prominent stockman of Columbus and Platte county, meriting the esteem and respect which is everywhere accorded him. He was born in Champaign county, Ohio, September 6, 1854, and comes of Irish parentage. His father, Patrick Burke, was a native of the Emerald isle, as was also his mother, who bore the maiden name of Johannah Carrig. They were married in the land of their nativity and subsequently emigrated to the United States, choosing Champaign county, Ohio, as their home. In 1864 the father, with his wife, three sons and three daughters, removed to a farm in Shell Creek township, Platte county, Nebraska, and was identified with agricultural pursuits throughout his remaining years. He was permitted to enjoy his new home for less than a decade, however, for he passed away in 1873. The wife and mother survived and departed this life in 1898.

John J. Burke was a lad of ten years when he accompanied the other members of the family to Platte county. At an early age he was assigned the tasks on the home farm that usually fall to the farmer boy and the educational advantages he received were somewhat limited, as he was only permitted to attend school for eight or nine terms and that only during the winter seasons. He spent forty-two

years on the home farm and then in April, 1906, took up his abode in Columbus and began buying and shipping hogs and cattle, having engaged in the stock business continuously since that time. In recent years, however, he has given his attention exclusively to buying hogs and is meeting with splendid success in this business venture.

Mr. Burke is a democrat in his political belief and is a communicant of the Catholic church. His fraternal relations connect him with the Knights of Columbus. For four years he acted on the board of supervisors of Platte county and also served on the school board of districts Nos. 12 and 4. He may truly be called a self-made man, for in his earlier life he was obliged to perform the hardest kind of physical labor on the farm, but he has gradually worked his own way up in the business world until he is numbered among the prominent stockmen of this section and is looked upon as a shrewd business man, who fully merits the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens.

TONEY SCHMITZ.

Toney Schmitz is proprietor of the only dray line at Cornlea and, having no competition, is doing an extensive business, while his honorable and reliable methods commend him to the confidence of all. Platte county numbers him among her native sons, for he was born within her borders September 21, 1891, being a son of Joseph and Margaret Schmitz, natives of Germany. The father came to the new world in an early day and when a young man took up his abode in Wisconsin. He was a blacksmith by trade, having learned the business ere coming to the new world. After living for some time in Wisconsin he removed to Platte county, Nebraska, and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres which he at once began to develop and improve, continuously and successfully operating the land until 1906, when he rented his farm and retired. He now lives with his son on the old home place and has reached the age of sixty-eight years. His wife passed away June 1, 1906.

There were nine children in the family, namely: Peter, a resident farmer of Boone county; Mary, the wife of George Shacher, living in Boone county; Annie, the wife of Henry Besch, of the same county; Joseph, who is cultivating the old homestead farm; Matt, who follows merchandising at St. Bernard; Kelly, a resident farmer of Platte county; John, who is engaged in farming near Petersburg; Nicholas, who is residing in Cedar Rapids, Nebraska; and Toney.

The last named was reared on the old homestead farm and at the usual age became a pupil in the district schools, thereby acquiring an education which fitted him for life's practical and responsible duties. He remained at home until his mother died in 1906 and then went to work as a farm hand in the neighborhood, being employed in that manner for eight years. On the 21st of June, 1915, he came to Cornlea and bought out the dray line. This is the only business of the kind in the town and he is accorded a liberal patronage, so that he derives a good annual income from his labors.

On the 7th of September, 1915, Mr. Schmitz was united in marriage to Miss Mary Thieman of Phillipsburg, Nebraska. Politically he is a democrat, while his

religious faith is that of the Catholic church. He is well known in the county, having spent his entire life here, and his friends, and they are many, speak of him in terms of confidence and warm regard.

CARL F. EWERT.

Among the representative citizens whom Germany has given to Platte county is Carl F. Ewert, who is dealing in agricultural implements in Columbus. He was born on the 26th of September, 1879, a son of Carl and Caroline (Boettcher) Ewert, who were married in Germany and continued to reside there until 1884, when they crossed the Atlantic to America. They located on a farm in Platte county, Nebraska, where they have since lived, their home being at present in Columbus. The father served in the German army during the Franco-Prussian war. To them were born six sons and seven daughters but four of the daughters have passed away.

Carl F. Ewert was but five years of age when brought to this country and the greater part of his life has been passed in Platte county. He remained under the parental roof until 1910, when he went to Monroe and established a general store, which he conducted for two years. At the expiration of that period he sold out and came to Columbus, where he has since resided. He is engaged in the agricultural implement business and has been accorded a large patronage. He understands thoroughly the needs of the farmers in the county and as he is also familiar with the various lines of implements upon the market he always has in stock the machines and implements which his customers desire.

On the 7th of May, 1905, Mr. Ewert was married in Platte county to Miss Minnie Hake, a daughter of Henry Hake, a native of Germany, who also served in the Franco-Prussian war. To this union have been born six children, Esther, George, Walter, Margaret, Oscar and Eleanora.

Mr. Ewert casts his ballot in support of the democratic party but has never been an aspirant for public office. His religious faith is indicated in his membership in the Lutheran church, in the furtherance of whose work he takes a great interest. He ranks among the successful business men of Columbus and his prosperity may be attributed entirely to his capacity for hard work, his wise management of his affairs and his earnest desire to satisfy his customers.

JOHN PETER BECKER.

No history of Platte county would be complete were there failure to make reference to John Peter Becker, who was one of the founders of Columbus and for many years an active and prominent business man, his enterprise and industry contributing in marked measure to the development and upbuilding of the city. He also left his impress upon the history of Nebraska as a member of the territorial legislature and as a member of the constitutional convention. In fact his efforts

were far-reaching and at all times proved beneficial to the community and to the commonwealth.

Mr. Becker was a native of Warsaw, Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, born on the 29th of May, 1833. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Phillip Becker, born on the 13th of March, 1804, and on the 4th of June, 1809, respectively, were married in 1828. In the year 1837 they emigrated with their family to America, settling in Columbus, Ohio, where the father worked at the carpenter's trade. There John Peter Becker attended a private school, receiving instruction in English and German in the common branches. When he was fifteen years of age his textbooks were put aside that he might learn the more arduous and difficult lessons in the school of experience. He was apprenticed to the carpenter's trade, at which he served for three years, after which he was employed at his trade and at nineteen years of age, when his father became ill, he took his place and superintended the erection of a four-story brick building known as the Quyne block, which is still standing at the corner of Town and Third streets in Columbus, Ohio. It is a monument to the marked ability, expert workmanship and enterprise of Mr. Becker and displayed one of his strong characteristics—his willingness to undertake any duty that came to him and to carry it forward to successful completion. During the years 1854 and 1855 he worked as a journeyman carpenter in the middle west and in October, 1856, became one of the original members of the Columbus Company that came to Nebraska and founded the city of Columbus.

For miles around stretched the wild, unbroken prairie, hardly a settlement having been made in this section of the state, which was still the hunting ground of the Indian. The most farsighted could scarcely dream of the changes which were to occur and transform this into a populous, prosperous district. Mr. Becker lived in a sod house and walked to Omaha for supplies. He experienced all of the hardships and privations attendant upon life in a new country without railroad connection and with no towns upon which to draw for the necessities of life. The early settlers had to depend upon what could be raised and amid ungenerous surroundings they fought conditions of pioneer life but at length won the victory. In 1860 Mr. Becker went to the mountains in search of gold but was unsuccessful and, returning home, he resumed work at his trade, utilizing every means at hand that would promote legitimate advancement in a business way. He entered all the land for the Columbus Company and at one time was the owner of the tract from Olive street west that was laid out as Becker's addition. In 1863 he opened a grocery and general mercantile store in Columbus and also began dealing in grain. He never feared to venture where favoring opportunity led the way and continually broadened his activities, while at all times his business interests were of a character that contributed to general prosperity as well as to individual success. In 1869 he entered into partnership with Jonas Welch and built the first grist mill in the central part of the state. This proved a blessing to the isolated frontier community and was patronized by farmers who came from one hundred miles in every direction. It proved a profitable undertaking and was conducted by them until 1886, when they sold out. They also bought cattle, hogs and sheep and as dealers in live stock also won prosperity, the firm of Becker & Welch continuing its existence until 1892 and ranking throughout the entire period as one of the foremost business combinations of the county.

Mr. Becker was most happily situated in his home life and was devoted to the

welfare of his family. At Columbus, on the 15th of April, 1875, he wedded Miss Phillipina Schram, by whom he had four children, two of whom died in infancy. The surviving children are: Minnie Fredericka, the wife of Professor Weaver of the Morrison (Ill.) schools; and Albert D., assistant cashier of the Commercial National Bank of Columbus. Mr. Becker took the greatest interest in the welfare of his children and gave to them every possible advantage, educational and otherwise, thus qualifying them for the responsibilities that come with mature years. The family still own lands near the town which were entered from the government by Mr. Becker.

In his political views Mr. Becker was an earnest democrat, recognized as one of the leaders of his party in the state. He was the first recorder of deeds in Platte county and in 1861 was chosen a member of the territorial legislature, thus aiding in shaping the policy of the state during its formative period. In 1866 he was appointed by President Johnson to the position of Pawnee Indian agent, serving in that capacity for a year. In 1875 he was made a member of the constitutional convention, in the work of which he took a very active part, leaving the impress of his individuality and ability upon the organic law of the state. His opinions carried weight in democratic councils, his advice being listened to by those who were most active in directing the interests and policy of the party. For one term he served as mayor of Columbus and was called to various other positions of honor and trust. He was a charter member of Lebanon Lodge, No. 59, A. F. & A. M., and was a devoted, faithful and generous member of the Lutheran church. His cooperation could always be counted upon to further any plan or project for the public good and he measured up to the highest standards of citizenship. He also held friendship inviolable and was a great lover of home and family. He delighted to recount to the members of his household the story of pioneer days, and all must needs honor him for the part which he played in bringing about the present development. He died January 14, 1892, when in the fifty-ninth year of his age, and thus ended a life of great usefulness and worth. Time gives the perspective which places all things in their true value and relation, and time has but served to heighten the fame and win recognition of the worth of John Peter Becker, long one of the foremost citizens of Platte county.

PETER J. TERNUS.

The name of Ternus has become a synonym for business enterprise and progress in Platte county and in his life record Peter J. Ternus displays the substantial qualities of industry, close application and firm purpose. He is one of the native sons of Platte county, his birth having occurred in Granville township, April 10, 1888, his parents being John and Rose (Maier) Ternus, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. His youthful experiences were those which usually come to the farm lad. He acquired his education in the district school near his father's home and in the parochial school at Humphrey and finished his course in the Omaha Commercial College. He then entered the Cornlea State Bank, where he served in the capacity of bookkeeper for a year and a half. He next became bookkeeper in the First National Bank of Humphrey, where he remained

for a year, and afterward entered the Otis & Murphy Bank at Humphrey, in which he served as assistant cashier for three years. He afterward went to Tarnov and organized the Bank of Tarnov, in which he accepted the position of cashier, continuing in that connection for three and one-half years, or until May, 1915, when he sold out and came to Humphrey, where he organized the Farmers State Bank, which was opened on the 1st of October in a new building erected on Main street especially for the purpose and splendidly equipped for the conduct of a modern banking business. The institution is capitalized for fifty thousand dollars and the officers are: P. L. Kelly, president; Vincent Weiser, vice president; and Peter J. Ternus, cashier. These officers, together with Oliver Alderson and Frank Ternus, constitute the board of directors.

On the 20th of October, 1909, Mr. Ternus was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Fangmann, a daughter of Anton and Kate (Brachle) Fangmann, who were born in Illinois. The father came to Platte county at an early period in its development in company with his parents and here was reared to manhood. He purchased land in Granville township and cultivated and developed it for a long period but in 1899 removed to Humphrey, where he was proprietor of a store for some time. He is now acting as manager for the Nye-Schneider-Fowler Company, dealers in lumber, grain and coal, and he and his wife are well known and highly respected in Humphrey. Mr. and Mrs. Ternus have two children: Mildred, born February 20, 1911; and Alvin, born in June, 1913.

Politically Mr. Ternus is a democrat and while living at Tarnov served as chairman of the board of trustees. He belongs to the Catholic church, to the Catholic Order of Foresters and to the Knights of Columbus. Throughout his entire business career he has been identified with banking and is thoroughly acquainted with the business in every phase, so that his experience well qualifies him for his present position and gives to the patrons of the bank a sense of security and satisfaction.

CHARLES W. TALBITZER.

Charles W. Talbitzer is a retired farmer living at Monroe and is also one of the prominent members of the Grand Army of the Republic, proudly wearing the little bronze button that proclaims him a veteran of the Civil war, and still maintains friendly and cordial relations with his comrades who wore the blue. He has always been actuated by a spirit of patriotism from early youth, although he is an adopted son of America. His birth occurred in Canton Bern, Switzerland, November 13, 1841, his parents being Charles J. and Anna (Haggar) Talbitzer. The father's birth occurred at Heyday, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, in 1806 and the mother was born near Bern, Switzerland, in 1816. The father learned the trade of a miller and millwright and built and operated wind and water mills. He traveled quite extensively over Europe, at length reaching Switzerland, where he lived for some time. He rebuilt and operated a mill about six miles from Neuchatel and for some time also conducted a hotel, but was forced to leave that country because of a political entanglement and came to the United States in 1846. For a brief period he tarried in New York and then went to Pittsburgh, Pennsyl-



CHARLES W. TALBITZER AND FAMILY

vania, after which he was employed in the salt works near Tarentum, Pennsylvania, for about two years. While there he took out his first naturalization papers. He afterward removed to Niles, Ohio, and in 1856 took out his final papers at Warren, Ohio, thus becoming a citizen of the American republic. He worked in the rolling mills at Niles, being employed in the old McKinley furnace works at that place, but in 1857 he turned his attention to gardening near Niles, following that pursuit until the outbreak of the Civil war, when he offered his services to his adopted country, enlisting in September, 1861, as a member of Company C, Nineteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which command was at Camp Denison. From that point they proceeded to Louisville, Kentucky, where they arrived about Christmas, 1861, being attached to the brigade commanded by General Mitchell. Later they proceeded to Columbia, Kentucky, where the winter of 1861-2 was spent. Mr. Talbitzer was wounded at Shiloh on the second day of the battle, April 8, 1862, and was sent home, for the government did not have hospital facilities to take care of the troops. Hospital boats conveyed the wounded to Cincinnati and from that point Mr. Talbitzer made his way home, where he arrived on the 4th of May, his death occurring the following day.

His son, Charles W. Talbitzer of this review, was the eldest in a family of eight children. He attended school at Niles, Ohio, from 1854 until 1857, when he was a classmate of President William McKinley. He then began working in the mills and through the winter seasons continued his education. From 1857 until 1861 he was employed in a nail factory. He would contract for machines and hire the men to feed the machines, while he acted as overseer of the floor. His youth was a period of earnest and unremitting toil and responsibilities devolved upon him at an early age, but with the outbreak of the Civil war all personal interests and ambitions were put aside and on the 27th of April, 1861, at Warren, Ohio, he enlisted for three months. When it was seen that the war was not to be speedily ended he reenlisted on the 17th of September, 1861, at Niles for three years in the same company, joining the army as a private and coming out as a corporal. He and his father were in the same company. He served until October 12, 1864, when he was honorably discharged from Company K, Fifth Regiment of the Veteran Reserve Corps, to which he had been transferred in 1863. He participated in the battle of Rich Mountain in 1861, Shiloh in 1862, Perryville, Kentucky, and Murfreesboro and on the 2d of January, 1863, was wounded in the left leg. He had kept a diary up to that time but when he was captured the book was rifled by the enemy. When his three years' term had expired he returned to Niles in 1864.

The following year Mr. Talbitzer was married and resumed work in the mills. From 1883 until 1888 he was night manager of the Falcom Iron & Nail Works and then withdrew from active connection with industrial interests and made his way to Oconee, Nebraska, purchasing land on what was then section 5, Lost Creek township. At that time the town of Monroe had not been established. He engaged in farming, carefully tilling his fields year after year with good success until 1906, when he retired from active business and is now enjoying a well earned rest.

On the 28th of September, 1915, Mr. Talbitzer celebrated his golden wedding, for on that date fifty years before he had wedded Susan A. Morris, who was born in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, a daughter of William S. and Charlotte (Otter-son) Morris. The former was born in Philadelphia and the latter in the north of

Ireland. When a maiden of ten years Mrs. Morris was brought by her parents to the United States. Mr. Morris was a cigar maker and always lived in Pennsylvania save for a short period which he spent in Niles and Warren, Ohio, during which time he was employed as a nailer in a nail factory. He died at Butler, Pennsylvania, at the age of eighty-four years, while his wife passed away at the age of seventy-five. To Mr. and Mrs. Talbitzer were born nine children. William W., the eldest, is doing expert work in the pumping department of the Union Pacific Railroad Company at Council Bluffs. He is married and has three children. At the time of the Spanish-American war he joined Company K, First Nebraska Infantry, at Columbus and went to the Philippines, where he saw active service for a year. Charles John died in infancy. Sarah is the deceased wife of Charles Potter of Platte county, and was the mother of four children. Alice is the wife of Saxe Percy, of Valley, Nebraska, and has two children. Anna is the wife of Frank Crowshaw, of Washington, and has four children. John, who remains upon the home farm, is the leader of the gymnasium with the Monroe Athletic Association. Susan is the wife of Lester Kelley, postmaster of Monroe, and they have two children. Lydia became the wife of Oliver Ifland, of Columbus, and died leaving two children. Frank H. died when five years old.

Mr. Talbitzer is a prominent representative of Masonry in this county, having been affiliated with the order since 1875. He demitted to Columbus and now belongs to Lebanon Lodge, No. 58, A. F. & A. M.; Orient Chapter, R. A. M.; and Gethsemane Commandery, K. T. He has also been commander of Atlanta Post, No. 275, G. A. R., for several years and is one of the leading members of that organization. In politics he has always been a stalwart republican and was appointed postmaster of Monroe, filling that position for six years and one month. He has always been more or less active in politics and stands fearlessly in defense of his honest convictions. All of his life he has been active in the Presbyterian church and for the past twenty years has been one of its elders. His wife, an equally loyal member, has been an earnest worker in the Sunday school and in the Ladies' Aid Society of that church and both are held in the highest regard wherever known, their circle of friends being coextensive with the circle of their acquaintance.

CHAUNCEY H. SHELDON.

Chauncey H. Sheldon, of Columbus, is an honored veteran of the Civil war who during the past third of a century has been actively identified with farming and stock-raising interests in Platte county. His birth occurred in Jefferson, Ohio, in August, 1841, his parents being John B. and Sarah Ann (Seely) Sheldon, who were natives of Vermont and New York respectively. Their marriage was celebrated in the Empire state and the year 1837 witnessed their removal to Ohio. In 1862 they established their home in Clifton, Illinois, there spending the remainder of their lives.

Chauncey H. Sheldon attended the district schools of his native state until fifteen years of age and worked on the farm in Ohio until April, 1861, when he responded to President Lincoln's first call for troops to defend the Union, enlisting as a private of Company B, Twentieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. With that com-

mand he served until mustered out in August, and in August, 1862, he reenlisted as a member of Company D, Eighty-eighth, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, remaining therewith until honorably discharged in February, 1863, on account of physical disability caused by wounds received at Perryville. In February, 1865, he again enlisted for service in the Union army, joining the One Hundred and Fiftieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry and serving as adjutant of his regiment until February, 1866, when he was mustered out at Springfield, Illinois. He had made a most creditable military record, never faltering in the performance of any duty whether it took him into the thickest of the fight or stationed him upon the lonely picket line. Returning to the home farm in Illinois, he remained thereon until 1882 and then came to Columbus, Nebraska, and purchased three thousand acres of land in Platte county. The highest price paid was ten dollars per acre for land some of which later sold for one hundred and seventy-five dollars an acre. Farming and stock-raising interests have claimed his attention throughout the intervening third of a century and his undertakings in this connection have been attended with success. He acts as vice president of the German National Bank and is the chief executive officer of the Columbus Sewer & Drainage Company.

In 1868, in Oxford, Ohio, Mr. Sheldon was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary McDill, by whom he has two children, namely: Charles C.; and Elizabeth, who is the wife of Reuben M. Campbell, superintendent of schools at Columbus, Nebraska. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and fraternally is known as a Master Mason, while his religious faith is that of the Federated church. Mr. Sheldon is of ideal physical development, being over six feet tall and still as vigorous and alert in body and mind as many men only half his age. His fellow citizens honor and respect him and wherever he is known he has an extensive circle of friends.

JOHN BUNKER.

John Bunker, residing on section 15, Granville township, is the owner of a valuable farm, his landed possessions in this county embracing four hundred acres. His property constitutes the visible evidence of an active and well spent life. He was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, September 6, 1858, and is a son of Andrew and Sarah (Howe) Bunker, who were natives of Pennsylvania. In 1856 they became residents of Iowa, where the father, who was a farmer by occupation, purchased land in Muscatine county and improved a farm, devoting his attention to its further development throughout his remaining days. He died in December, 1896, having for about nine years survived his wife, who passed away in 1887.

John Bunker was reared and educated in Muscatine county, remaining with his parents until he attained his majority, when he started out in life on his own account by renting land. After living upon that place for two years he purchased the property, which he continued to cultivate for two years longer. In 1893, however, he sold out and came to Platte county, where he invested in one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 15, Granville township. He paid thirty dollars per acre for that tract, which is today worth two hundred dollars per acre. He lost no time in beginning the work of cultivation and improvement and soon converted his fields

into a productive section bringing forth good crops annually. The ready sale of his harvests supplied him with a capital that enabled him to add to his possessions and he now owns four hundred acres of land on sections 10 and 21, Granville township, his attention being given to the continued cultivation and improvement of his property. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Humphrey.

In February, 1883, Mr. Bunker was united in marriage to Miss Eva Wunder, a daughter of John and Sybil (Miller) Wunder, both of whom were natives of Germany. They emigrated to the United States in an early day, locating in Scott county, Iowa, where Mr. Wunder followed farming during the remainder of his life. Mrs. Wunder passed away in Boone county, Nebraska, in 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Bunker became the parents of six children, as follows: Laurence J., who operates one of his father's farms; Mery, Ralph B. and Elsie, all at home; Nettie, who gave her hand in marriage to Moses Choat and resides in Boone county, Nebraska; and Walter, at home. The wife and mother was called to her final rest in May, 1910, passing away after a three years' illness, her death being deeply regretted by many friends as well as her immediate family, for she was ever loyal to those to whom she gave her friendship and at the same time was a devoted wife and mother. Mr. Bunker exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day.

HENRY C. BENDER.

The student of history cannot carry his investigations far into the records of Platte county without learning how prominently and actively the Bender family have been connected with agricultural and other business interests. Moreover, the name has long been synonymous with business enterprise and reliability. A representative of this family and one who in his business career fully sustains the family reputation is Henry C. Bender, proprietor of the White Lawn Stock Farm situated on section 30, Granville township.

He was born on a farm near Henry, in Marshall county, Illinois, and is a twin brother of Joseph Bender, born June 7, 1866. Their parents were Peter and Catharine (Mallmann) Bender, natives of Germany. The father was born in Menamebach, October 3, 1825, and the mother's birth occurred in Wenhhausen, February 17, 1832. According to the laws of his native country concerning military service, Peter Bender was for three years connected with the German army and in 1856 he crossed the Atlantic to the new world, settling in Marshall county, Illinois. There he rented land and engaged in general farming for three decades or until the spring of 1886, which year witnessed his arrival in Humphrey, Nebraska. He made extensive investments in land in Humphrey and Granville townships, becoming owner of at least one thousand acres, and to each of his eight children he gave eighty acres of land as they attained their majority. Mr. Bender established his home in the town of Humphrey and with the aid of his sons cultivated his extensive landed interests. Both in Illinois and Nebraska he was known as a prominent farmer and stockman. He possessed excellent business judgment, unfaltering energy and indomitable perseverance and his judicious investments brought

to him substantial success. At the death of his wife, which occurred on the 29th of December, 1906, he put aside active business cares and retired to private life, making his home with his son Joseph to the time of his death, which occurred on the 7th of November, 1910. His business interests placed him among the most substantial citizens of Platte county and his sterling worth was recognized by all who knew him. The most envious could not grudge him his success, so honorably was it won and so worthily used.

He had a family of nine children, namely: Peter, who was born June 12, 1853, and died on the 9th of April, 1915; Phillip, whose birth occurred June 24, 1855, and who passed away November 3, 1912; John William, who was born May 11, 1858, and follows farming in Humphrey township; Mary, whose natal day was July 5, 1859, and who died on the 17th of September, 1863; Catharine, who was born March 23, 1862, and gave her hand in marriage to Edward Leible, of Elgin, Nebraska; Annie, who was born July 11, 1863, and is the wife of Stephen L. German, a farmer of Granville township; Joseph, who was born June 7, 1866, and is a retired agriculturist residing in Humphrey; Henry C., of this review; and Lizzie, who was born February 22, 1876, and is the wife of Fred Van Aekeren, of Cedar Rapids, Nebraska.

Henry C. Bender pursued his education in the public schools of Marshall county, Illinois, and during the periods of vacation worked in the fields, being thoroughly trained in the labors of the farm until he was acquainted with every phase of the business. He remained upon the old home place with his parents until he reached the age of twenty years, after which he rented a farm from his father for a year and at the end of that time was given a tract of eighty acres. He sold that to his brother Peter and bought one hundred and fifty-two acres on section 30, Granville township, taking possession of it in 1888 and making his home thereon to the present time. He has added another tract of one hundred and fifty-two acres to the place and with the aid of his sons now cultivates the entire tract, covering a little more than three hundred acres. He breeds shorthorn cattle and these are thoroughbred and are eligible to registration. He feeds both cattle and hogs and is most successfully and energetically carrying on general farming and stock-raising, having one of the best improved farms in Granville township. His place presents a most neat and thrifty appearance and the farm methods which he follows are thoroughly up-to-date in every particular.

On the 24th of July, 1888, Mr. Bender was united in marriage to Miss Margaret M. Rossbach, a daughter of John Adam and Catharine (Miller) Rossbach, both of whom are natives of Germany. Both emigrated to America and were married in Illinois, while subsequently they took up their abode in Iowa and in 1888 came to Granville township, Platte county, Nebraska. Mr. Rossbach conducted a general mercantile establishment in Cornlea for fifteen years and later went to Madison, where he retired from active business life. Both he and his wife now make their home in Omaha, Nebraska, being eighty-four and sixty-seven years of age respectively. To Mr. and Mrs. Bender have been born eight children. Joseph, whose birth occurred August 13, 1889, wedded Miss Mary C. Dohman and follows farming in Granville township. Catharine, born May 20, 1891, became the wife of Guido Gilsdorf, an agriculturist of Granville township, by whom she has one child, Marie. John A., who was born June 8, 1893, is still at home but is engaged in farming on his own account. George H., whose natal day was December 28, 1895, is also on

the home farm. Frederick J., who was born December 4, 1897, was graduated in 1915 from the commercial department of the Fremont Normal College and now acts as assistant cashier of the Cornlea State Bank. Moxalinda, who was born December 8, 1900, attends the Cornlea parochial school of the Sacred Heart Catholic church. Henry W., whose birth occurred February 9, 1903, is at home and attends the same school. Edwin, whose natal day was October 23, 1908, is also a student in that school.

Henry C. Bender exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the democratic party and is now serving for the eighth year as justice of the peace, in which position he has rendered decisions that are strictly fair and impartial and have won for him golden opinions. He also served for four years as a member of the school board and the cause of education has found in him a stalwart champion. He helped to organize the Cornlea State Bank and for years was one of its stockholders. He and his family are all members of the Sacred Heart Catholic church of Cornlea, which Mr. Bender aided in organizing eight years ago and throughout the entire period he has been one of its trustees. He and his twin brother, Joseph, challenge any twins in Nebraska to beat their combined weight, for Joseph weighs two hundred and forty pounds, while Henry C. Bender tips the scales at three hundred. They are not only big men physically but also mentally and morally—broad-minded, upright and honorable. Their worth is widely recognized by all and their lives bear the test of long acquaintance, for their staunchest friends are those who have known them throughout the entire period of their residence in this county.

GUSTAVUS R. PRIEB.

Gustavus R. Prieb is successfully engaged in business at Columbus as a dealer in paints and wall paper and is also serving for the third term as a member of the city council. His birth occurred in South Bend, Indiana, in 1874, his parents being Louis and Matilda (Henning) Prieb, both of whom were natives of Germany, the former born about 1840. Their marriage was celebrated in South Bend, Indiana. Louis Prieb passed away in 1875 and five years later his widow, together with her three daughters and son (Gustavus) and her parents, came to Columbus, Nebraska, where she had a brother, Fred Henning, who is now a resident of Platte Center. Mrs. Prieb has lived in Columbus during the intervening period of thirty-five years and enjoys an extensive and favorable acquaintance in the city.

Gustavus R. Prieb, who was a little lad of six years when he came to this state with his widowed mother, acquired his education in the country schools of Polk county, just across the river from Columbus. His opportunities in this direction were very limited, however, for he spent only one month each season in school. During one winter he attended a German school in Columbus. When thirteen years of age he put aside his textbooks and started working at the painting and wall paper business, making his home with his mother in Columbus, and he has since engaged in that business. In 1902 he opened a paint and wall paper store in Columbus, which he has conducted to the present time in addition to working at the painter's trade, being now accorded a gratifying and well merited patronage.

On the 29th of November, 1899, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Prieb was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary White, her father being Robert White, a native and resident of Scotland. They now have four children, namely: Lorena, Louis R., Mary and Carroll. Mr. Prieb is a democrat in politics and is now serving for the third term as a member of the city council, having made a most creditable and commendable record in this connection. He is known as a Master Mason and also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Sons of Herman, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Fraternal Order of Eagles, as well as to the Maennerchor and the Orpheus Society. His religious faith is that of the Episcopal church. He is a progressive citizen, an able business man and one whose life has always been in keeping with high standards, so that he deserves the full measure of confidence and respect entertained for him by all who know him.

PATRICK M. McDONALD.

Patrick M. McDonald, who is engaged in general farming on section 15, Granville township, is one of the worthy citizens that New England has furnished to this state. He was born in Vermont in January, 1848, a son of Patrick and Margaret (Haley) McDonald, who were natives of Ireland. In early life the father crossed the Atlantic to the new world and settled in Vermont, where he engaged in railroad work for several years. He afterward went to Indiana and purchased land in Montgomery county which he cultivated throughout his remaining days. He was drafted for service in the Civil war but hired a man to go in his place. He died in 1887, while his wife, surviving for many years, passed away in 1911.

Although born in New England, Patrick M. McDonald largely spent the days of his boyhood and youth in Indiana and remained at home with his parents until September, 1879, when he made his way to Columbus, Nebraska. He then went to work for the Union Pacific Railroad, with which he remained as a track man until 1898, when he took up his abode upon a tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres that he purchased upon his removal to the west. His farm is situated on section 15, Granville township, and when he determined to take up farming in 1898 he resolutely set to work to develop and improve the place and now has one of the best farms in the county. He has given his attention to it for seventeen years and its well kept appearance indicates his practical, progressive methods and far-sighted business judgment. He has two fine orchards upon his land which he set out and there are many modern improvements which indicate his progressive spirit. He makes a specialty of raising Poland China hogs and in his fields produces good crops of grain.

On January 8, 1884, Mr. McDonald was united in marriage to Miss Theresa Mayberger, her father being Carl Mayberger, a native of Germany, who was an agriculturist by occupation and emigrated to the United States in an early day. He purchased a tract of land in Platte county, Nebraska, and cultivated the same during the remainder of his life, passing away in 1906. To Mr. and Mrs. McDonald have been born three children, namely: James P., who is twenty-seven years of age and is a practicing attorney of Seattle, Washington; Katherine, the wife of Benjamin Van Ackeren; and Carl, whose demise occurred in 1895.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church and Mr. McDonald also holds membership with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In politics he is a republican, giving staunch support to the party, but he does not seek nor desire public office, preferring to concentrate his attention upon his farming interests. He has never regretted the fact that he severed his connection with the railroad to take up agricultural life, for therein he has found good opportunities and won success and he now agrees with George Washington, who said that farming is the most useful as well as the most honorable occupation of man.

GEORGE J. HAGEL.

George J. Hagel, who owns two finely equipped billiard and bowling balls in Columbus, was born in Middletown, Wisconsin, May 16, 1869, a son of William and Matilda Hagel, who in 1875 removed with their family to Columbus, Nebraska.

George J. Hagel was educated in the common schools but when eleven years of age began working on a farm, so continuing for nine years. He was then connected with the saloon business for twelve years, after which, on the 6th of May, 1901, he established a bowling alley on Twelfth street, the first in the town of Columbus. He remained at that location for a year and a half and then erected a two story business block on West Thirteenth street, where he had three alleys, to which he subsequently added pool tables and a fountain. He sold out there in December, 1910, but on the 12th of July, 1912, opened a billiard parlor and bowling alley in the basement of the Thurston Hotel, the furniture and fixtures being the finest in the city. He also has a similar place in the basement of the Evans Hotel and derives a good income from his business.

Mr. Hagel was married in May, 1899, to Miss Lucy Kuenzli. He is independent in politics, voting for the man rather than the party, and he is a veteran member of the Columbus fire department. Fraternally he is connected with the Royal Highlanders. He takes the interest of a good citizen in public affairs and is willing to cooperate in movements seeking the business expansion of Columbus.

ERNEST C. BERGMAN.

Ernest C. Bergman has been engaged in the monument business at Columbus since 1907 and has built up an extensive enterprise in this connection. His birth occurred in Sweden on the 2d of March, 1866, his parents being Gustaf J. and Gustava (Ceasar) Bergman, both of whom passed away in that country. The former died January 24, 1892, while the latter was called to her final rest on the 24th of June, 1914.

Ernest C. Bergman acquired his education in the schools of his native country and there spent the first twenty years of his life. In 1886 he crossed the Atlantic to America, making his way to Concordia, Kansas, where he worked for some time at the trade of marble cutting. Subsequently he spent a year on the Pacific coast and then returned to Concordia, Kansas, where he again worked at his trade for



ERNEST C. BERGMAN

two years. On the expiration of that period he removed to Hastings, Adams county, Nebraska, and two years later to Schuyler, Colfax county, this state. At the end of another year he embarked in the marble business on his own account, conducting an enterprise of that character at Schuyler for fifteen years or until 1908, when he came to Columbus. Here he has been engaged in the monument business to the present time and has built up an enterprise of profitable proportions.

On the 24th of June, 1893, in Hastings, Nebraska, Mr. Bergman was united in marriage to Miss Anna H. Peterson, of Chicago, by whom he has two children, namely: Gustaf E., who was born May 10, 1894; and Ethel Florence, whose birth occurred May 9, 1896.

In his political views Mr. Bergman is a staunch republican and for two years has served as a member of the city council in Columbus. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church, while fraternally he is identified with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. His life has been above reproach in all relations and he is widely recognized as one of the substantial, esteemed and representative citizens of Columbus and Platte county.

JAMES E. COSSAIRT.

James E. Cossairt was one of the organizers of the Platte Center Milling Company, which is one of the most extensive and important productive industries of this part of the state. Its ramifying business connections now cover a wide territory and the enterprise and careful management which have always characterized the conduct of the business have resulted in bringing substantial success to the stockholders. Moreover, the undertaking is of a nature that contributes to general prosperity as well as to individual success and every resident of the county is proud of the record that has been made by the Platte Center Milling Company during the five years of its existence.

James E. Cossairt, at the head of the business, was born at Oakdale, Antelope county, Nebraska, February 19, 1872, a son of David A. and Mary A. Cossairt. The father was born in Canada and came of French ancestry, while the mother was born in Danville, Illinois, and was of English descent. They were married in Danville in 1865 and in March, 1869, removed to St. Clair valley, Antelope county, Nebraska, J. E. Cossairt being the first white child born in that valley. His youthful surroundings were indeed those of a pioneer existence, for the district in which the family lived was one in which the work of civilization and improvement had scarcely been begun. Time and man, however, wrought many changes and brought increasing advantages and opportunities. James E. Cossairt, having mastered the elementary branches of learning, continued his education in the high school at Battle Creek, Nebraska, from which he was graduated in June, 1894. He then turned his attention to the milling business and one of the secrets of his success is undoubtedly the fact that he has always continued to direct his energies in the line in which he embarked as a young tradesman. He thoroughly acquainted himself with every phase of the business and prepared to assume responsibilities in that connection. He established a mill on Shell creek a short distance from Platte Center in 1902 and in 1910 he organized the Platte Center Milling Company, in which he

remains one of the large stockholders. This company erected the new mill in Platte Center, which was the first complete ball-bearing roller mill in the United States. From the beginning their product met with popular favor and their trade now covers a large territory, shipment being made to thirty-five points in Nebraska, also to Kansas City, to Chicago and to Colorado. In 1914 they utilized forty-one thousand six hundred bushels of wheat and in that year furnished to the United States government Indian service two hundred and sixty thousand pounds of flour. The business is now an extensive and important industry, ranking as one of the chief enterprises of this part of the state. Aside from his milling interests at Platte Center Mr. Cossairt is connected with other business at Battle Creek, Nebraska.

On the 28th of November, 1898, in Madison, Nebraska, occurred the marriage of Mr. Cossairt and Miss Mary Moore, a daughter of J. A. Moore, of Battle Creek, Madison county, Nebraska. They are highly esteemed in the community where they reside and the hospitality of the best homes is cordially extended them. In his political views Mr. Cossairt is a republican and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day but does not seek nor desire office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs with the result that his close application and indefatigable industry have made him one of the foremost representatives of manufacturing interests in this part of the state.

LOUIS D. DICKE.

Louis D. Dicke is living on section 25, Bismark township, where he owns an excellent farm of one hundred and eighty-five acres well improved. It was in this township that he was born on the 10th of June, 1880, and he comes of German ancestry. His parents, John and Gesine (Plugge) Dicke, were both natives of Germany and, coming to America, settled in Bismark township at an early period in the development of Platte county, the father homesteading land. That this was a frontier district is indicated by the fact that much of the land was still in possession of the government. The father bent his energies to the development and improvement of his place, which he persistently and successfully cultivated until his death, which occurred in 1886, when his son Louis was but six years of age. The mother afterward married again, becoming the wife of C. G. Koch, and she now makes her home in Bismark township.

Louis D. Dicke was reared on the old homestead farm and when twenty years of age started out in life on his own account, earning his first money by working as a farm hand. He was employed in that way by the month and by the year and when he had saved a sum sufficient to enable him to purchase land he began farming independently. He is today the owner of one hundred and eighty-five acres, constituting an excellent property pleasantly situated on section 25, Bismark township. He has added to his farm needed modern improvements and in fact it is lacking in none of the accessories, equipments and conveniences of the model farm of the twentieth century.

In 1911 Mr. Dicke was united in marriage to Miss Helena Oltmann, who was born in Colfax county, Nebraska, a daughter of Herman and Gesine (Schutte) Oltmann, the former now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Dicke have become parents of

a son and a daughter, John and Mabel. They hold membership in the Lutheran church and are guided in all their relations by its teachings. Mr. Dicke is recognized as a man of honorable purpose and stalwart character, and both he and his wife have gained warm friends in the community in which they make their home.

FREDERICK WALTER LÉONARD, D. D. S.

Dentistry is unique among the professions in that it demands three-fold skill. The successful practitioner must not only have a broad knowledge of the scientific principles of the profession, but must possess also marked mechanical ingenuity and skill, combined with that business sense which will enable him to so direct his efforts as to win an adequate financial return. Competent along all these lines, Dr. Frederick Walter Leonard, with offices in the Commercial National Bank building, is now regarded as one of the foremost dentists of Columbus. He was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, September 21, 1892, a son of Charles E. and Margaret R. (Schabert) Leonard.

After attending the parochial schools Dr. Leonard continued his education in the high school of St. James, from which he was graduated with the class of 1911. After that he worked for the Standard Oil Company and subsequently went to Creighton University, where he prepared for dental practice, being graduated with the class of 1915. Immediately afterward he came to Columbus and bought out Dr. Solomon, having now the finest and most completely equipped dental office in the state. Here are to be found all the delicate instruments for doing every kind of dental work and his skill in their manipulation places him among the foremost representatives of his calling in western Nebraska.

Dr. Leonard is a Catholic in religious faith and in his political affiliation is a democrat. He is a wide-awake, progressive young man and his social qualities are winning for him personal popularity, while his ability has gained him professional success.

JAMES BURROWS.

James Burrows, who is now living retired in Platte Center, was for many years actively engaged in general farming in Burrows township. Moreover, he is one of the honored veterans of the Civil war and is now the only old soldier living in Lost Creek township. He was born February 14, 1841, in London, England, and came to the United States with his parents, Joseph and Marie Burrows, when but a year old, the family home being established in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The father had previously learned surveying and there worked as an assistant surveyor for thirteen years, after which he removed westward, establishing his home in Illinois. In October, 1869, he drove through from that state to Platte county, Nebraska, and secured a homestead claim of eighty acres, whereon he engaged in general farming.

James Burrows was a boy when the family went to Illinois and in the public schools of that state pursued his education. At the outbreak of the Civil war his

patriotic spirit was aroused by the attempt of the south to overthrow the Union and he offered his services to the government, enlisting in Company B, One Hundred and Third Illinois Infantry. He was wounded in the shoulder in the battle of Atlanta, but served throughout the remainder of the war without getting a scratch. He participated in various hotly contested engagements and met all the experiences incident to hard campaigning in the south. He is now the only old soldier living in Lost Creek township and he deserves the honor and respect which should ever be accorded to the preservers of the Union. When the war was over he came to Nebraska and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land in Burrows township, Platte county, becoming one of its earliest pioneers. The township was named in his honor and with its development he was closely associated for a long period. He carried on general farming, bringing his land to a high state of cultivation and adding to it many modern equipments and improvements. At length he retired from active life and removed to the little progressive city of Platte Center, in which he now makes his home. For many years he had been closely associated with agricultural interests and his well directed efforts have brought to him the substantial success which now enables him to live retired.

On the 15th of July, 1866, Mr. Burrows was married to Miss Rachel Wolf, a daughter of Jacob and Barbara Wolf, of Illinois, and they have become parents of ten children: Charles, of Ida, South Dakota; May, the wife of Willard Hopkins, of Lincoln, Nebraska; Sarah Jane, the wife of William Gokin, of Neligh, Nebraska; Clara Ellen, the wife of John Burns, of Denver, Colorado; James, at Daisy, Washington; Joseph and Albert, both deceased; Ada Isabelle, the wife of Henry Schidel, of Platte Center; Lulu Marion, the wife of E. J. Mackin, of Platte Center; and George Whitmore, town marshal at Platte Center.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Methodist church, while in political belief Mr. Burrows is a democrat. He has served as justice of the peace and his decisions while in office were strictly fair and impartial. He has also been county commissioner and assessor and for twenty-seven years was a member of the school board, doing everything in his power to advance the interests of education, for he believes in the establishment of good schools and the employment of competent teachers that the young may be well qualified by educational training for the practical and responsible duties of life. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias and with the Grand Army of the Republic, and he proudly wears the little bronze button which indicates that he was once one of the boys in blue. In days of peace he has ever been as true and loyal in matters of citizenship as when he followed the old flag upon the battlefields of the south.

JOSEPH MELCHER.

Joseph Melcher is a farmer and stockman living on section 4, Granville township, where he owns and controls two hundred acres of rich and productive land. He is also conducting a growing business as a dealer in live stock and he is numbered among the pioneer threshers of the county. His birth occurred on the upper peninsula of Michigan, August 19, 1863, his parents being John and Frances (Smeltzer) Melcher. The father, who was a native of Macheden, Germany, born

September 8, 1833, was a farmer in his native land. At the age of sixteen years, however, he came to America and for twenty-four years worked in the mines. In 1872 he arrived in Nebraska and took up his abode in Granville township, a quarter of a mile from the place where his son Joseph now lives. He secured both a homestead and a timber claim and thereon resided for an extended period but later retired from active farm life and removed to St. Bernard, where his wife passed away November 21, 1908. She was a native of Germany and for many years they traveled life's journey happily together. After losing his wife Mr. Melcher came to the home of his son Joseph and there died on the 13th of November, 1913.

Mr. and Mrs. John Melcher became the parents of twelve children, eight of whom survive, as follows: Martin, who was born March 24, 1862, and is a resident of Granville township; Joseph, of this review; Caroline, whose birth occurred August 29, 1865, and who lives in Cedar Rapids, Nebraska; John, who was born May 13, 1867, and is a farmer of Granville township; Frances, who was born July 14, 1870, and lives in Shell Creek, Nebraska; Fred, who was born May 13, 1872, and follows farming in Granville township; Henry, who was born November 25, 1875, and is a farmer living near Lindsay; and Benjamin, who was born October 30, 1882, and follows farming in Granville township.

Joseph Melcher attended school in Madison county, Nebraska, and worked upon the home farm for his father until he reached the age of thirty years, when he was married and took up his abode upon the farm where he now resides. He bought this place from the estate in 1907, previous to which time he had rented it from his father. He today owns and cultivates two hundred acres of well improved land, his fields readily responding to the care and labor which are bestowed upon them. He breeds also a good grade of stock and he feeds both cattle and hogs. For the past five years he has been engaged in breeding Jersey Red hogs, raising from one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty head each year and shipping a car load each spring to Omaha. He also feeds a car load of cattle annually and he is an excellent judge of stock, so that he knows how to make judicious purchases and profitable sales. He also became one of the pioneer threshers of Platte county, carrying on business with Frank Schwartz as a partner for five years, during which they operated an old-time horse power outfit. For sixteen seasons Mr. Melcher threshed over the territory between Humphrey, St. Bernard, Madison, Creston and Lindsay.

On the 18th of April, 1893, Mr. Melcher was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Van Ackeren, daughter of John and Anna (Van Ackeren) Van Ackeren, who, though of the same name, were not related. They were natives of Germany and in 1881 emigrated to the United States, locating in Pierce county, Nebraska, where they remained for one year. Subsequently they removed to West Point and later took up their abode in Granville township, Platte county, where the father purchased land and carried on general agricultural pursuits during the remainder of his life. His widow now makes her home in Humphrey. To Mr. and Mrs. Melcher have been born nine children, as follows: Rudolph John, whose birth occurred February 25, 1894; Ella Francisco, whose natal day was March 21, 1895; Joseph Martin, born August 22, 1896; Anna Carolina, born March 31, 1898; Arthur Paul, whose birth occurred October 6, 1899; Angela Elizabeth, born June 13, 1901; Eleanora Theresa, born April 20, 1903; Loretta Lucile, born July 26, 1906; and a daughter who died in infancy.

Mr. Melcher and his wife and children are members of St. Francis Catholic church of Humphrey and he belongs to St. Joseph's Men's Society of that church. His political indorsement is given to the democratic party but he never seeks or desires office. All of his life he has been connected with farming and stock-raising and, continuing in this business, he is now meeting with substantial and well deserved success. He has worked diligently along a single line of business and the effectiveness of his labors is seen in a substantial bank account and a valuable farm property.

VALTIN GEHR.

Valtin Gehr was well known in the business circles of Humphrey, where for a long period he successfully conducted a meat market. His business worth and other substantial qualities gained for him high regard, so that his death was a matter of deep regret to those who knew him. He was born in the province of Rhipar, Germany, September 12, 1868, a son of Joseph and Justina (Emerling) Gehr, who in 1880 came to America with their family, settling on a farm in Humphrey township, Platte county, Nebraska, where the father purchased land and carried on general agricultural pursuits for four years. He afterward removed to Humphrey, where he opened and conducted a butcher shop, remaining an active factor in business circles of the town until he was called to his final rest. His wife has also passed away.

Valtin Gehr attended school in Germany and continued his education in Humphrey township after coming with his parents to the new world when a youth of twelve years. In his boyhood days he worked upon the home farm and in the butcher shop with his father, his time being thus passed until he attained his majority. He then married and opened a shop of his own, which he conducted until 1894. In that year he removed to a farm on Shell creek in Burrows township and purchased eighty acres of land, to which he devoted his energies for a year. At the end of that time he rented the place and returned to Humphrey, where he again conducted a meat market until 1904. He then entered into partnership with Joe Schmidt and the connection was continued for six years, or until his death, which occurred January 26, 1910.

Mr. Gehr was married on the 28th of April, 1891, to Miss Georgiana Wolf, who was born near Canton, Fulton county, Illinois, February 19, 1870, a daughter of Frederick and Martha (Yerion) Wolf. The father was also born in Fulton county, Illinois, and the mother in Virginia, but both were of German descent. In September, 1870, they came to Platte county, settling on a farm on Shell creek in Burrows township, the father homesteading eighty acres, to which he afterward added forty acres, which he still owns and now rents. He resided upon his farm until 1897 and following the death of his wife, on the 2d of February, of that year, he went to live with Mrs. Gehr. To Mr. and Mrs. Gehr were born three children: Joseph Anton, who was born December 14, 1891, and died in infancy; Louisa May, who was born January 15, 1893, and is the wife of R. J. Hall, a drayman of Humphrey; and Walter E., who was born July 24, 1895, and is a clerk in Humphrey.

Mr. Gehr was a member of St. Francis Catholic church, to which his wife and



VALTIN GEHE

children still belong, and he also held membership in the Catholic Order of Foresters. His name was likewise on the membership roll of the Woodmen of the World at Humphrey and his political allegiance was given to the democratic party. In 1900 he made a visit to his old home in Germany. He was a man well liked and highly respected in the community where he lived. In all of his business relations he was strictly honorable and reliable, and in his social relations he was considerate of the feelings and of the privileges of others. In a word, his qualities were most commendable and measured up to high standards, so that when death called him the community mourned the loss of a representative and valued man.

FRITZ R. LIPS.

Fritz R. Lips, who is engaged in merchandising in Columbus, where he is conducting a successful business as a dealer in paints, wall paper and mouldings and also takes contracts for interior decorating, was born in Canton Basel, Switzerland, October 14, 1889, a son of Rudolf and Adele (Boss) Lips. A common-school education qualified him for life's practical and responsible duties. He also attended the art school at Basel, Switzerland, and served an apprenticeship of three years and then worked at his trade for seven years in his native country. In 1911 he came to America, making his way at once to Columbus, where he was employed at his trade for two years. He then formed a partnership with a brother and opened his present store, carrying a large line of paints, oils, varnishes, wall paper, glass and mouldings. They are prepared to furnish everything of this character and they also do interior decorating, their handiwork being now seen in some of the fine structures of Columbus. Laudable ambition caused Mr. Lips to cross the Atlantic, seeking opportunities for business advancement, and he has made good use of his time and talents in the upbuilding of a business that is now bringing to him substantial profit and at the same time is proving one of the important commercial enterprises of the city.

Mr. Lips is a leader of the Swiss Maennerchor, numbering one hundred and fifty members, including a chorus of twenty-four singers and a children's chorus of fifty voices. He also has a mixed choir at Duncan, this county, which has a membership of twenty. He is also identified with the Swiss Society of the Sons of Herman. In his political views he is a democrat and his religious faith is that of the German Reformed church. He has the goodwill and confidence of colleagues and contemporaries and has already made for himself a creditable place in social and business circles.

EMIL HERMAN NAUMANN, D. D. S.

Dr. Emil Herman Naumann is a prominent representative of the dental fraternity in Columbus, where he has practiced his profession continuously and successfully for almost a quarter of a century. His birth occurred in Saxony, Germany, on the 17th of February, 1863, his parents being Adolf and Henrietta (Herring)

Naumann, who spent their entire lives in Saxony. The former passed away in 1886 and the latter in 1912. The paternal ancestors of our subject, as far back as they have been traced, lived in Saxony.

Emil H. Naumann acquired his education in the schools of Saxony and there spent the first twenty-one years of his life. In 1884 he crossed the Atlantic to the United States, locating at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and six years later was graduated from the College of Dentistry of the State University of Iowa at Iowa City. He followed his profession at Oxford Junction, Iowa, for one year and in May, 1891, came to Columbus, Nebraska, where he has remained continuously to the present time, being accorded a liberal and lucrative practice.

In June, 1894, in Columbus, Nebraska, Dr. Naumann was united in marriage to Miss Clara Martin, her father being Joseph Martin, who was born in Pennsylvania and still resides in that state at the venerable age of ninety-three years. Charles Martin, the great-grandfather of Mrs. Naumann, was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, while her grandfather, William Martin, participated in the War of 1812.

Politically Dr. Naumann is a republican and he has served for nine years as a member of the Columbus school board, the cause of education ever finding in him a staunch champion. He is also a director of the Columbus West End Sewer Company, the Young Men's Christian Association and the Columbus Commercial Club. His religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church, while fraternally he is known as a Master Mason. In all life's relations he conscientiously discharges the duties that devolve upon him and his many sterling traits of character have won for him high regard.

AUGUST CLOETERS.

Germany has furnished a large quota of citizens to Platte county, among which number is August Cloeters, who was born in the fatherland April 1, 1874, his parents being Albert and Mary (Schnitzel) Cloeters, who were also natives of Germany and are mentioned in connection with the sketch of Albert Cloeters on another page of this volume. After pursuing his education in the schools of his native country he worked in a tanning factory there until he reached the age of seventeen years, when he came to America with his brother Albert, they making their way to Platte county, Nebraska.

Here August Cloeters worked as a farm hand for ten years, after which he rented land which he cultivated for two years. He then removed to Boone county, Nebraska, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres upon which he spent four years. He then sold that property and returned to Platte county, settling in Granville township, where he rented a farm for a year. He next bought eighty acres on Section 28, Granville township, and has improved the place to a large extent. He also cultivates three hundred and twenty acres of rented land, so that he is now busily engaged in farming, meeting with good success in his undertakings. He knows the best time and methods of planting and of cultivating the fields and shows equal wisdom in the care and sale of his crops. In addition to this property his wife owns one hundred and sixty acres in Boone county, Nebraska, and

also a house and lot in Cedar Rapids, Nebraska, while Mr. Cloeters is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Cedar Rapids.

Mr. Cloeters was united in marriage to Mrs. Ingaborg Schack, a daughter of Hans and Anna M. Petersen, who were natives of Germany. The father followed farming in that country for many years and never came to the new world, passing away in Germany in September, 1914. He had long survived his wife, who died in 1880. Their daughter Ingaborg was first married to Peter Schack, who died in March, 1907, leaving three children, John, Anna and Mabel, aged respectively nineteen, seventeen and thirteen years. By the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Cloeters two children have been born: Martha, five years of age; and Albert H., now in his first year.

Mr. Cloeters votes with the republican party, being a firm believer in its principles. He holds membership with the Modern Woodmen of America and with the Ancient Order of United Workmen, while his religious faith is that of the German Baptist church. He is possessed of many sterling traits of character and that he has led a busy life is indicated in his present possessions, for all that he has is the reward of his persistent and intelligently directed energy.

SYLVESTER V. SCHURR.

Humphrey proudly claims Sylvester V. Schurr as one of its citizens and his business enterprise has been a contributing factor to the commercial activity and development of the town. Moreover, he is a self-made man and his example should well serve to inspire and encourage others, showing what may be accomplished when laudable ambition points out the way and energy perseveres therein. Mr. Schurr is a native of Page county, Iowa. He was born in October, 1881, of the marriage of John and Carrie Schurr, natives of Germany. The father came to the new world when a young man of eighteen years, settling at Rock Island, Illinois, where he worked as a farm hand, receiving eight dollars per month through the summer seasons, while in the winter he worked for his board. He was ambitious to engage in business on his own account, however, and finally rented land in Illinois which he cultivated for some time. Later he removed to Page county, Iowa, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits, and in 1892 he came to Nebraska, buying land in Platte county. He immediately undertook the task of further developing and cultivating the tract, which he improved and operated until 1912, when he sold out, since which time he has lived retired, now making his home with a son in Knox county, Nebraska. His wife died in 1885.

Sylvester V. Schurr spent his youthful days in Malvern, Iowa, where he attended the public schools. He continued to assist his father in the work of the home farm until he reached the age of twenty-two years and then rented land, carrying on farming on his own account in that way for two years. He next went to Leigh, Nebraska, where he was employed in a general store for three years and in a hardware store for two years, after which he came to Humphrey in July, 1910, and opened a restaurant. He has since been very successful in its conduct, the visible evidence of his prosperity in business being the twelve-thousand-dollar

business block which he has just completed and is now occupying. The structure is thoroughly modern in every respect and is a credit to the city.

On the 5th of October, 1904, Mr. Schurr was united in marriage to Miss Anna Held, a daughter of Jacob and Anna Held, both of whom are natives of Germany. The father, an agriculturist by occupation, emigrated to the United States at an early day, locating in Platte county, Nebraska, before the city of Columbus had sprung into existence. He worked out as a farm hand for some years and subsequently purchased and improved a tract of land in Sherman township, this county, which he successfully cultivated until 1909, since which time he and his wife have lived retired in Columbus.

Mr. Schurr is independent in politics, voting according to the dictates of his judgment and the demands of public welfare. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church. He deserves all the credit and praise implied in the term a self-made man, for he started out empty-handed, realizing that if he enjoyed success he must win it. Accordingly he closely applied himself to every task which he undertook and, working his way steadily upward, at length became the proprietor of the profitable business which he is now conducting. In all his undertakings he has displayed good judgment, careful management and unflinching industry.

HENRY KLUEVER

Among the substantial citizens of Shell Creek township is numbered Henry Kluever, living on section 32. He is still actively engaged in farming, although he has passed the Psalmist's allotted span of three score years and ten. He was born in East Friesland, Germany, February 13, 1844, a son of Herman and Harriet (Johnson) Kluever. His education was acquired in the common schools of his native country and in accordance with its military laws he served for three years in the army. He afterward took up the occupation of farming, which he there followed until 1882, when he bade adieu to friends and fatherland and sailed for America. On reaching the new world he established his home in Macon county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming for four years. In 1888 he arrived in Platte county and sixteen years ago purchased his present farm, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of good land on section 32, Shell Creek township. He has enclosed the farm and divided it into fields of convenient size by well kept fences and has upon it a good residence and substantial barns and outbuildings. He is engaged also in raising stock, which branch of his business is proving remunerative.

On the 18th of May, 1871, Mr. Kluever was united in marriage to Miss Johanna Bargmann, who was born January 11, 1849, in the grand duchy of Oldenburg, Germany. They became the parents of ten children, two of whom passed away ere the mother's death, while eight still survive. Twenty-five years prior to her death Mrs. Kluever joined and was baptized in Rev. Papenhausen's church and remained thereafter one of its faithful members. She was a devoted wife and mother and all who knew her loved her. She took a very active interest in all the affairs of the community and was constantly extending a helping hand to those who needed assistance. Her Christian faith and spirit constantly found exemplification in kind acts and good deeds. A week prior to her demise she went to the



MR. AND MRS. HENRY KUEVER

home of a daughter in Columbus, where she became ill, and in spite of tender care and good nursing she passed on to the home beyond July 12, 1911, her remains being laid to rest on the 14th of July. Her loss was deeply regretted by all who knew her and most of all by her own family.

Mr. Kluever has led a very active and useful life and his success is attributable entirely to his perseverance and industry. Aside from his farming interests he is a stockholder in the Columbus Independent Telephone Company and the Monroe Independent Telephone Company. His political allegiance is given to the republican party but he has never been an office seeker. He belongs to the German Baptist church, guides his life according to its teachings and for the past ten years has served as deacon in the church.

THOMAS KLASSEN.

Thomas Klassen, whose home is located on section 7, Granville township, was born in McHenry county, Illinois, September 16, 1861, a son of John and Catharine (Schmidt) Klassen, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father, who took up the occupation of farming, came to America with his parents during his boyhood days, the family home being established in McHenry county, Illinois, where he was reared and married. The lady of his choice had come to the new world with her parents and also took up their abode in McHenry county. There Mr. Klassen is still living, but his wife passed away eighteen years ago.

Thomas Klassen attended the common schools of Illinois and remained upon the home farm until he attained his majority, after which he earned his living by working out as a farm hand for one year. He then came to Nebraska and took up his abode in St. Bernard township, Platte county, where he was employed for three years. At the end of that time he was married, after which he rented land in St. Bernard township for seven years. Throughout that period he carefully saved his earnings, practicing economy as well as industry until he was able, in 1901, to purchase his present farm comprising one hundred and sixty acres. Upon this place he has since resided, covering a period of fourteen years, and in the interim he has extended its boundaries by the additional purchase of eighty acres. With the assistance of his sons he now cultivates the entire tract of two hundred and forty acres and has made it an excellent farm property equipped with many modern conveniences and accessories. There are good buildings upon the place, well kept fences and the latest improved farm machinery, and in addition to tilling the soil Mr. Klassen breeds and raises good grades of stock, feeding all of his grain to his stock.

On the 19th of October, 1886, Mr. Klassen was united in marriage to Miss Annie Gilsdorf, a daughter of Matthias and Elizabeth (Hassling) Gilsdorf, both of whom were natives of Germany. Following their marriage they emigrated to the United States in 1848 and took up their abode near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where the father worked at the carpenter's trade. In 1884 they came to Nebraska, locating in Granville township, Platte county, where Mr. Gilsdorf purchased land and made his home until called to his final rest on the 29th of March, 1900. His wife died at the home of our subject on the 9th of February, 1911. To Mr. and

Mrs. Klassen have been born four children, as follows: Elizabeth, whose birth occurred July 9, 1890, and who died on the 27th of the same month; Matthias, who was born August 27, 1892, and follows farming in St. Bernard township; John, whose natal day was December 25, 1894, and who assists his father in the operation of the home farm; and Petronilla, who was born December 15, 1897. The family are all communicants of the St. Bernard Catholic church and Mr. Klassen is a member of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Society of that church. His wife is also a member of the Christian Mothers' Society and the sons belong to the young men's society of that church and the daughter to the young ladies' sodality. In politics Mr. Klassen is a democrat but is not ambitious to hold office. He would rather work upon his farm, for he finds this labor profitable, and although his life has been one of unremitting industry, it has also been one in which hard work has brought to him gratifying prosperity.

FRANK THELEN.

Frank Thelen has gained a measure of success in business that places him among the successful merchants of Humphrey. He was born at Shelby, Polk county, Nebraska, January 19, 1882, a son of Gustav and Josephine Thelen, both of whom were natives of Germany, whence they came to the new world in 1870. Journeying across the country, they established their home in Polk county, Nebraska, where the father purchased land and improved a farm, continuing its cultivation for eighteen years or until 1888, when his life's labors were ended in death. His widow and the family afterward removed to Humphrey, where she resided throughout the remainder of her days, her death occurring on the 13th of March, 1915.

Frank Thelen was a little lad of six summers when his mother removed to Humphrey and in consequence he was reared and educated in this town, pursuing his studies in the public and parochial schools. He afterward went to Fremont Normal, of Fremont, Nebraska, where he pursued a commercial course and then returned to Humphrey, where he engaged in the plumbing business, also handling pumps and windmills. He has since continued in this line, covering a period of about nine years, and has gained a patronage of gratifying proportions, being now classed with the leading merchants of the town. He also owns two residence properties in Humphrey, one of which he occupies.

On the 9th of November, 1906, Mr. Thelen was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Gilsdorf, a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Weiland) Gilsdorf, both of whom were born in Wisconsin. They became early settlers of Platte county, Nebraska, locating in St. Bernard township, where Mr. Gilsdorf followed farming for about ten years. On the expiration of that period he disposed of his property and took up his abode in Humphrey, where he was engaged in the saloon business for about twenty years. He is now living retired in Humphrey.

Mr. Thelen votes with the democratic party and is one of the active workers in its local ranks. He was a member of the town board for two years and is now serving for the third year as a member of the school board, of which he is chairman. He has membership in the Catholic church, in the Knights of Columbus council

and in the Modern Woodmen camp. Almost his entire life has been spent in Humphrey, where he has gradually worked his way upward to a creditable and enviable position in commercial circles.

GEORGE RAMBOUR.

George Rambour, a representative and successful business man of Columbus, has served as secretary, treasurer and manager of the Columbus Brewing Company since its organization in 1904. His birth occurred in Würzburg, Germany, on the 2d of October, 1876, his parents being Michael and Magdalena (Fick) Rambour, both of whom passed away in that country, the former in 1905 and the latter in 1904.

George Rambour acquired his education in his native land and there spent the first twenty-two years of his life. In 1898 he crossed the Atlantic to the United States and five years later came to Columbus, Nebraska. In 1904 he was made secretary, treasurer and manager of the newly organized Columbus Brewing Company, which he has since served in those capacities, the concern prospering under his able and intelligent direction.

On the 27th of November, 1902, in Munich, Germany, Mr. Rambour was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Schleifer, by whom he has four children, namely: George, Ludwig, Walter and Erna. In politics he is independent, supporting men and measures rather than party. His religious faith is that of the Catholic church, while fraternally he is identified with the Sons of Herman, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Owls. He is likewise a popular member of the Maennerehor and the Orpheus Society. Mr. Rambour has been characterized as a genial, whole-souled gentleman, in the prime of life, who loves his children, has a host of friends and is a good citizen. The hope that led him to leave the fatherland and seek a home in the new world has been more than realized, for here he found the opportunities which he sought and in their utilization he has won a most gratifying measure of prosperity.

THOMAS F. HAM.

Thomas F. Ham is conducting a produce business under the name of the Humphrey Produce Company, buying and selling butter, eggs, poultry and cream. He is a young man but has already made for himself a place in business circles that many a one of twice his years might well envy. He was born in Somersetshire, England, June 26, 1891, a son of John and Mary (Parker) Ham, who were natives of the same country, in which they resided until 1894, when they bade adieu to friends and native land and sailed with their family for America, making their way to Omaha, Nebraska, where the father secured the position of watchman with Armour & Company. He continued in that position until his death, which occurred in September, 1904, and his widow is still living in Omaha.

Thomas F. Ham was reared and educated in that city, attending the public

schools, for he was but three years of age when brought to the United States. When his textbooks were put aside he, too, entered the employ of Armour & Company, remaining with that corporation at their Omaha plant for some time. He next entered the employ of Marsh & Marsh, wholesale dealers in produce, with whom he continued until June, 1914, when he came to Humphrey and embarked in the produce business on his own account, conducting his interests under the style of the Humphrey Produce Company, although he is the sole proprietor. He buys butter, eggs, poultry and cream, and his business has created a good market for the farmers and has been the means of bringing him substantial success. He pays good prices and his trade is constantly increasing. He also handles the Primrose cream separator and the Queen incubator. His trade is largely of a wholesale character, and he buys from both merchants and farmers.

Religiously Mr. Ham is an Episcopalian and politically a republican. He has no time to seek office, however, for he is busily engaged in an attempt to build up a good business and in the effort is succeeding.

EVAN ROBERT BISSON.

Evan Robert Bisson is a retired farmer living in Columbus and has attained the eightieth milestone on life's journey. It is fitting that he should have this period of rest in the evening of his days, for his life has been an active and useful one and his retirement from business has been well earned. He was born June 7, 1835, in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, a son of Hilliary B. and Rebecca (Jenkins) Bisson. The father, who was also born in Montgomery county, was a farmer by occupation and was of Welsh descent, while his wife was of English lineage.

Spending his youthful days under the parental roof, Evan R. Bisson acquired a common-school education and then in preparation for the practical duties of life learned the carpenter's trade. He followed that pursuit for two years in New Orleans and thence proceeded up the Mississippi river, making settlement at Stillwater, Minnesota, where he resided until September 26, 1861. His spirit of patriotism was aroused by the continued attempt of the south to overthrow the Union and at that date he enrolled as one of the boys in blue of Company D, Forty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he remained for three years, participating in many of the hotly contested engagements of the war, including the battles of Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, the siege of Vicksburg, Baker's Creek and the siege of Atlanta. He reenlisted as a member of Company A, Sixth Regiment of Hancock's Veteran Corps. He was slightly wounded at Vicksburg and contracted chronic inflammation of the liver. He was on detached duty in Washington, D. C., and had charge of Captain Wirtz of Andersonville prison on the day that he was hung. He became familiar with every phase of military life in the long, hard marches, the campaigning through the cold winters and the active duty on battle line, and when the war was over he participated in the grand review in Washington, D. C., where the Union troops marched through the streets of the capital, while over broad Pennsylvania avenue there hung a banner inscribed

with the words, "The only debt which the country owes that she cannot pay is the debt that she owes to her soldiers."

When the war was over Mr. Bisson returned to the north and for eight years was a resident of Tama, Marshall and Hamilton counties of Iowa. In 1872 he arrived in Columbus, Nebraska, and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land in Bismark township, which he still owns. With characteristic energy he began the development and cultivation of the fields, breaking the sod and turning the furrows until good crops rewarded his efforts. Year after year the work was carefully and persistently carried on by Mr. Bisson until 1908, when he retired and established his home in Columbus.

On September 27, 1865, Mr. Bisson was united in marriage to Miss Emily E. Mudget, of Tama county, Iowa, who passed away December 27, 1908. To them were born seven children, as follows: Sylvester S., who is a resident of South Dakota; Levi N., living in Colorado; Chalkley J., who operates the old homestead farm; Jesse H. and Emily S., who live in Columbus; Bertha S., who is the wife of George Camp, a school teacher; and Lenora, who gave her hand in marriage to Otto Schmidt, of Columbus township.

Mr. Bisson has ever been an advocate of the republican party since its formation, being a firm believer in its principles as factors in good government. While living in Bismark township he served as justice of the peace. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic and in his association with his comrades at arms enjoys recounting incidents and experiences of the tented fields. He has ever been most loyal to his country, having true reverence for the stars and stripes. Moreover, he is entitled to mention in this volume as a pioneer settler, having for forty-three years lived in the county, during which time he has witnessed a notable change, bearing his part in transforming this region into a great and prosperous agricultural district.

CHRISTIAN ALEXANDER ALLENBURGER, M. D. F. A. C. S.

Dr. Christian Alexander Allenburger is a prominent surgeon of Columbus, enjoying an enviable reputation as a skilled and successful representative of his profession in Platte County. His birth occurred in Saratov, Russia, his parents being Henry A. and Katharine Marguerite (Webber) Allenburger, likewise natives of that country. Following the father's death, the mother emigrated to the United States with her son Christian in 1883, taking up her abode in Friend, Saline county, Nebraska.

He acquired a high-school education, later graduated in pharmacy and acquired his more advanced education in Lake Forest University at Lake Forest, Illinois, and subsequently entered Rush Medical College at Chicago, Illinois, which institution conferred upon him the degree of M. D. in 1895. After receiving his hospital training, he then began practice in Shelby, Nebraska, and a few years later came to Columbus, where he has remained continuously since, confining his attention to surgery, in which branch of the profession he is recognized and has demonstrated special skill. Dr. Allenburger is on the staff of, and surgeon to, St. Mary's Hospital in Columbus, Nebraska, and is a member of the Platte County Medical Society,

the Nebraska State Medical Association, a fellow of the American Medical Association, and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

On the 6th of June, 1906, in Columbus, Nebraska, he was united in marriage to Miss Emma Wake, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Wake. To them has been born a son, Christian Alexander. The Doctor has attained a high rank in Masonry. He was made a Knight Templar, also a thirty-second degree Mason in the Scottish Rite, and in his life exemplifies the teachings of the craft. He is recognized as a man of well balanced character and abilities, and his talents have gained him preeminence in his chosen profession, while his strongly marked personal characteristics have won for him the warm friendship and kindly regard of those with whom he has been associated.

CHARLES F. JANSEN.

Charles F. Jansen was for a considerable time identified with agricultural interests of Creston township, where he owned an excellent farm and was recognized as one of the valuable citizens of the county. His birth occurred in Germany on the 9th of October, 1850, and in that country his parents passed their entire lives.

Mr. Jansen was reared and educated in his native land but when sixteen years of age emigrated to America and located at Davenport, Iowa, where he worked as a farm hand for several years. He then removed to Douglas county, Nebraska, and engaged in farming on his own account, at length buying eighty acres of land, which he cultivated until 1895, when he came to Platte county. He bought two hundred and eighty acres of land on section 16, Creston township, on which he made many improvements and to the cultivation of which he devoted his time until his health failed. He passed away in December, 1902, after an illness of two years, and his demise was widely and deeply regretted. He was progressive and energetic, and his well directed labors returned to him a good income.

On October 9, 1876, Mr. Jansen married Miss Anna Laschansky, a daughter of August and Katherine (Lenfer) Laschansky, both natives of Germany. Her father farmed in that country and there spent the greater part of his life, but in his old age came to America and made his home with his children until his demise, which occurred in 1874. Mr. Laschansky died when Mrs. Jansen was but five years of age. To Mr. and Mrs. Jansen were born twelve children, namely: Emma, the wife of Luverne Cunningham, of Creston; Maggie, who gave her hand in marriage to John Carstens and lives near Genoa, this state; Minnie and Clara, twins, the former the wife of John Barrett, a farmer of Creston township, and the latter the wife of Vic Palmateer, of Creston; Rose, the wife of Julius Engle, a farmer of Creston township; Dora, now Mrs. Fred Henry, of Creston; Henry, at home, who married Laura Summer, who passed away leaving three children, Charles, Raymond and Norman; Herman, Lillian and Harry, all at home; Anna, who died in infancy; and Mary, who died in 1895, when two and a half years old.

Mr. Jansen was a republican in his political views, a Presbyterian in his religious faith and fraternally was identified with the Sons of Herman and the Modern Woodmen of America. In all relations of life he measured up to high standards of manhood and was not only respected for his ability but honored for his integrity



CHARLES F. JANSEN

and his regard for the rights of others. Mrs. Jansen, who is an excellent business woman, has made further improvements upon the home farm, and she, too, has gained the esteem of all who know her.

GUSTAV WILLIAM VIERGUTZ.

Gustav William Viergutz, the period of whose residence in Columbus covers more than a quarter of a century, has been successfully engaged in the lumber business here since 1908, building up an extensive enterprise of that character. His birth occurred in Germany on the 31st of December, 1868, his parents being August Carl and Wilhelmine (Krueger) Viergutz, who were likewise natives of that country, the former born on the 31st of December, 1838, and the latter in 1836. They emigrated to the United States in 1870, locating first in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and in 1876 took up their abode in Polk county, Nebraska. In 1910 they came to Columbus, where Mr. Viergutz passed away in 1913 and where his widow still makes her home. The paternal grandfather of our subject spent his entire life in Germany.

Gustav W. Viergutz acquired his education in the public schools of Polk county, Nebraska, and in 1888 came to Platte county, this state, continuing his studies in Columbus for one year. Here he learned the carpenter's trade and subsequently followed that occupation as a contractor, etc., until 1898. In that year he entered the employ of G. A. Hoagland, a lumber merchant of Columbus, remaining in his service for nine years. On the expiration of that period, in 1908, he embarked in the lumber business on his own account and has since conducted an enterprise of that character with gratifying and growing success. He is likewise the vice president of the Columbus Land, Loan & Building Association and enjoys a reputation as one of the substantial and representative business men of his adopted city.

On the 26th of February, 1891, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Viergutz was united in marriage to Miss Anna Catharine Huntemann, a daughter of Henry H. Huntemann. To them have been born five children, namely: Walter A., Arthur H., Vera E., Alva E. and Gustav W., Jr. In politics Mr. Viergutz is a republican, while his religious faith is that of the German Lutheran church.

BERT LEROY PARKER.

Bert LeRoy Parker, well known in the business circles of Columbus, was born at Kingman, Kansas, January 1, 1887. His parents are Joseph and Anna (Moore) Parker, the former a native of Kansas, while the latter was born near Millersburg, Ohio. They are now residing in Kansas City, where the father is engaged in business as a building contractor.

Bert L. Parker acquired a fair education while spending his youthful days in his parents' home and entered the workaday world as an employe of the Wells Fargo Express Company in Kansas City, with which corporation he remained for

two years. He then went to Chicago and began work with the United Electric Company, learning the electric construction work thoroughly, becoming quite expert in that line. After three and one-half years spent with that company he returned to Kansas City for a year, was afterward in Hutchinson, Kansas, for two years, then again went to Kansas City and to Omaha and to Pratt, Kansas, remaining four years in the last named place. He was in business in Pratt and in Hutchinson, Kansas, at the same time and in 1910 he came to Columbus, where he established his present business. He does electrical contracting and also has a retail store and has prospered in his undertakings.

On the 10th of October, 1906, Mr. Parker was united in marriage to Miss Ruth F. Soden, a daughter of Charles H. and Bertha May (Warren) Soden, the former being a ranchman of Montana. To this union have been born two children: Elton, whose birth occurred March 27, 1909; and Kenneth, born October 31, 1910.

Politically Mr. Parker is a republican, maintaining a citizen's interest in the questions and issues of the day but without aspiration for office. He belongs to the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is a member of the Methodist church. The course which he has followed throughout his life shows that his principles measure up to high standards, his worth being recognized both as a man and as a citizen. In his business career he has been stimulated by laudable ambition and guided by industry and thus step by step he has advanced until he is now at the head of a substantial enterprise.

FRANK J. GERHARZ.

Frank J. Gerharz is successfully engaged in business in Columbus as proprietor of an up-to-date and well appointed clothing and men's furnishings establishment, being senior member of the Gerharz, Flynn Company. His birth occurred in Lemont, Cook county, Illinois, on the 19th of February, 1865, his parents being Joseph and Helen (Kanney) Gerharz, both of whom were natives of Germany, the former born in 1833. Joseph Gerharz emigrated to the United States in 1851 and in 1858, at Lockport, Illinois, wedded Miss Helen Kanney. His demise occurred in 1912, but his widow is still living and makes her home in Lemont, Illinois.

Frank J. Gerharz attended school in his native town until fourteen years of age and then entered the furniture and undertaking establishment of his father, in whose service he remained until 1887. In that year he came to Nebraska and for two years worked as an electrician at Omaha. In 1889 he secured employment in the clothing store of John Flynn, who is now his partner at Columbus, being thus engaged for thirteen years, on the expiration of which period the Gerharz, Flynn Company was formed and a clothing and men's furnishings store was opened in Columbus. They have since conducted a well appointed and modern establishment and are accorded an extensive and gratifying patronage.

On the 16th of April, 1905, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Gerharz was united in marriage to Miss Julia Strauley, by whom he had four children, namely: Mary, who died in infancy; Leo Henry; Helen K.; and Joseph, who also passed away in infancy. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and in religious faith is a Catholic, while fraternally he is identified with the Knights of Columbus,

the Sons of Herman, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Maccabees. He is likewise a member of the Maennerchor and also belongs to the Orpheus Society. Mr. Gerharz is popular in both business and social circles of his adopted city, having won many friends during the period of his residence in Columbus.

CORNELIUS HEESACKER.

A representative, valued and honored citizen of Platte county was Cornelius Heesacker, who for a considerable period followed farming and in his later years lived retired in Humphrey. He was born in Brown county, Wisconsin, January 24, 1854, a son of Martin and Lomberdina (Theisen) Heesacker, who were natives of Holland. In early life they came to the new world and settled in Wisconsin, where their remaining days were passed, the father devoting his attention to general agricultural pursuits. He died March 27, 1898, having long survived his wife, who passed away in 1857.

The youthful days of Cornelius Heesacker were spent in Wisconsin and his education was acquired in the public schools. He remained at home until he reached the age of twenty-two years, when he was married and came to Nebraska, taking up a homestead in Grand Prairie township, Platte county. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made upon the place, but with characteristic energy he began its development and converted it into productive fields, which he carefully cultivated until 1900, when he retired from active life and removed to Humphrey, there residing until his death, which occurred in October, 1909.

On the 14th of February, 1876, Mr. Heesacker had wedded Miss Johanna Minten, a daughter of Mathias and Minnie (Burgass) Minten, who were natives of Holland. The father was a farmer and came to America in 1868, at which time he made his way to Wisconsin. Eight years passed and in 1876 he came to Nebraska, where he secured a homestead in Grand Prairie township, cultivating that tract for many years. He afterward removed to Sheridan county, Nebraska, where he purchased land and engaged in farming throughout his remaining days, his death occurring in March, 1891. His wife died in Holland in 1861 and it was in that country that Mrs. Heesacker was born in November, 1854. By her marriage she became the mother of four children: Minnie, born November 24, 1876, and now at home with her mother; Lambert, who was born August 12, 1878, and is cultivating the old homestead farm; Mary, who was born April 9, 1880, and is a member of the Franciscan Sisters at Omaha; and Elizabeth, who was born August 4, 1882, and died ten days later.

The family adhere to the Catholic faith, of which Mr. Heesacker was a loyal representative. He belonged to the Catholic Order of Foresters and took a helpful interest in promoting the cause of his church and lodge. In politics he was a democrat and served as county supervisor in Platte county for one term. He also served as postmaster in Grand Prairie township, at St. Mary, and was appointed to the position of postmaster of Humphrey after his removal to that city. He likewise did duty as a member of the school board and was interested in all that pertained to the political, intellectual, social and moral progress of the district with

which he was allied. He displayed many sterling traits of character, not the least of which was his capacity for warm friendships. He was always true to those to whom he gave his confidence and regard and he enjoyed to the full the companionship of his friends. Mrs. Heesacker still makes her home in Humphrey, where she owns a good business block, and she also has farm lands in this county.

FERDINAND MUETING.

Ferdinand Mueing, of Humphrey, is a native of Burrows township. He was born August 15, 1884, of the marriage of John and Frederica (Schutte) Mueing, of whom mention is made in connection with the sketch of Joseph G. Mueing on another page of this work.

Ferdinand Mueing was reared and educated in Platte county and may well be numbered among its self-made men, for at the age of eleven years he started out to earn his living and has since been dependent upon his own resources. When he reached the age of twenty years he and his brother began farming together and later he was engaged in the well and windmill business for three years, during which time he conducted his interests as a member of the firm of Thelen & Mueing. Subsequently he purchased a bus and transfer line, which he conducted for three years.

Mr. Mueing was married January 12, 1910, to Miss Ludwina Heinen, a daughter of John and Phillipina (Osterhoff) Heinen, mentioned elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Mueing have two children: Eddie Marie and Maynard.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church, and Mr. Mueing gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He and his family occupy an attractive home in Humphrey, and his wife also owns a residence there which they rent. They are well known socially, and the best homes of the city are always open for their reception.

WILLIAM H. L. POESCH.

The name of William H. L. Poesch is well known in Columbus and Platte county as a wholesale and retail dealer in confectionery, bakery goods and ice cream. He is now doing business on the principal thoroughfare of the city in a modern three-story brick building, which he erected in recent years, and his is one of the successful enterprises of this section.

Mr. Poesch was born in Postville, Iowa, June 10, 1879. His father, Lorenz, Poesch, was born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1850. and was a youth of fourteen years when he accompanied his parents to the United States, the family home being established in Postville, Iowa. There Lorenz Poesch grew to mature years and was married to Miss Minnie Best, by whom he had two sons, the brother of our subject being Charles, who makes his home in Omaha. The father departed this life in 1895, at the comparatively early age of forty-five years, but the mother survives and makes her home with her son Charles in Omaha.

William H. L. Poesch acquired his education in the schools of Omaha but put aside his textbooks at the age of sixteen to learn the confectioner's trade. He was twenty-four years of age when he located in Columbus and here opened a confectionery and ice cream parlor. He began in a small way but he put forth every endeavor toward developing the business and from year to year it grew until today he occupies a modern brick building, three stories and basement, on a corner of the main thoroughfare. The upper stories are devoted to the manufacture of confections and to the bakery, his products being disposed of to both the wholesale and retail trade. The ground floor is devoted to the display and sale of a full line of candies, bakery goods, cigars, etc., while the rear of the room is most tastefully fitted up for serving dainty luncheons and soft drinks. It is true that Mr. Poesch has had to overcome many difficulties and obstacles in his path and his success has not come as the result of fortunate circumstances, for he has worked most untiringly to reach the desired end, often devoting eighteen hours a day to his business. His plant is worth thirty-five thousand dollars and he also owns two substantial residences worth eight thousand dollars, and all this has been acquired through his own efforts.

In 1897, at Staplehurst, Nebraska, Mr. Poesch was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Scheumann, and their children are Stella Sophia, Lydia, William, Lester and Vernetta. In politics he is a democrat, while in religious faith he is a Lutheran. His fraternal relations connect him with the Sons of Herman. He has never taken an active interest in public affairs, for his business and home interests have claimed his entire attention. He possesses a jovial, social disposition and makes friends by the score. The people of Columbus look upon him as an exemplary man and are proud to number him among their substantial citizens.

STEFFES BROTHERS.

One of the most important business enterprises of Platte county is the large and well appointed store of Steffes Brothers at Humphrey. It is the property of John T., Jacob P., Henry C. and Nicholas J. Steffes. A sketch of the first named appears on another page of this volume. Jacob P. is a native of Michigan, born October 24, 1874, while the other brothers are natives of Madison county, Nebraska, Henry C. having been born March 6, 1879, and Nicholas J. on the 28th of June, 1881. The parents were Jacob and Mary C. (Wagner) Steffes, who are mentioned in connection with the sketch of John T. Steffes.

The son, Jacob P. Steffes, was reared and educated in Humphrey and at the age of fifteen years started out in business life as a clerk in a general store, spending seventeen years in that way, at the end of which time he and his brothers formed a partnership and purchased the stock of merchandise owned by the McKillip-Ewing Company of Humphrey. They have since conducted the store, which they have made one of the best and largest mercantile establishments in the state, enjoying a very extensive patronage. They carry a stock valued at thirty-eight thousand dollars, and their store is splendidly equipped in every particular, lacking none of the accessories and conveniences of a modern mercantile establishment. They are most careful in the personnel of the house, in the character of goods handled

and in the treatment accorded patrons, and their success results therefrom. In addition to their Humphrey establishment they also conduct a large store at Cedar Rapids, Nebraska, of which Henry C. Steffes acts as manager. There they carry a stock worth twenty-five thousand dollars. The brothers, Jacob P. and Nicholas J. Steffes, manage the Humphrey store, and the eldest brother, John T. Steffes, devotes his time mostly to real-estate transactions, all four ranking with the leading and representative business men of this part of the state.

Henry C. Steffes was reared and educated in Humphrey and California. He, too, started in the business world as a clerk in a general store in Humphrey and was thus employed until the brothers embarked in business on their own account. He is married and has one child.

Nicholas J. Steffes was also reared in Humphrey and attended the public schools, while later he completed his education in Fremont, Nebraska. He then returned to Humphrey and worked as a clerk in a general store for a time, after which he turned his attention to the real-estate and insurance business, in which field he remained active until the brothers formed the present firm of Steffes Brothers and opened their store in Humphrey, since which time he has been one of the managers of the business at this place. He was married to Miss Elizabeth Bering, a daughter of Ferdinand R. and Catherine (Biermann) Bering. Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas J. Steffes were married on the 24th of June, 1908, and they now have two children, Edwin and Carola. Nicholas J. Steffes is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

The religious faith of the brothers is that of the Catholic church and all vote with the democratic party. Aside from their mercantile interests they are stockholders in the Farmers Elevator Company of Humphrey. Alert and enterprising, they carry forward to successful completion whatever they undertake. Their business methods measure up to high standards of commercial ethics, and in an incredibly short space of time they have developed an enterprise of extensive proportions, making theirs one of the foremost mercantile establishments in Nebraska. The family has long been one of prominence in Platte county and the name has become a synonym for indefatigable energy and for successful accomplishment.

CHARLES E. POLLOCK.

Charles E. Pollock, a successful business man and representative citizen of Columbus, has here conducted a drug store for nearly three decades, building up an extensive and profitable enterprise. His birth occurred in Forreston, Ogle county, Illinois, on the 11th of March, 1862, his parents being Thomas Caldwell and Elizabeth C. (Carnahan) Pollock, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in 1820. They passed away at Ashton, Lee county, Illinois, where they had taken up their abode in 1867. The father's demise occurred in the year 1884. The Pollocks are of Scotch-Irish descent, and Richard Pollock, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was a native of Scotland.

Charles E. Pollock acquired his early education in the schools of Ashton, Illinois, and subsequently entered the Chicago College of Pharmacy, from which he was graduated in 1883. He worked in a drug store at Ashton for three years

and in 1884 came to Columbus, Nebraska, being here employed in a drug store for two years and three months. On the 1st of April, 1886, he opened a similar establishment of his own and has conducted it continuously since, carrying a complete line of drugs and druggists' sundries and being accorded a most gratifying patronage.

On the 7th of September, 1887, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Pollock was united in marriage to Miss Eva R. Hudson, a daughter of H. J. Hudson, who is deceased. To them was born a son, Elmer Hudson Pollock, who died in infancy.

In politics Mr. Pollock is a staunch republican, while his religious faith is that of the Episcopal church. Fraternally he is a Knights Templar Mason and an Elk, and as a business man he is energetic, competent and trustworthy and has won the respect of the best citizens of his home city.

MAX J. THELEN.

Max J. Thelen, conducting business as a contractor and builder in Humphrey, where he is also interested in a pool and billiard parlor, was born April 12, 1888, in the town in which he still makes his home, his parents being Gustav and Josephine Thelen, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume in connection with the sketch of their son Frank.

The early life of Max J. Thelen was spent in his parents' home, and in the public and parochial schools of Humphrey he acquired his education. He then began learning the carpenter's trade, which he has since followed, increasing his efficiency and expertness with the experience that years have brought him. He is now conducting business as a contractor and employs four men. He is accorded a liberal share of the public patronage and has done some excellent work, evidence of his skill being found in the buildings which he has erected. He also owns a half interest in a pool and billiard parlor of Humphrey and as a member of that firm handles cigars, tobacco, confectionery and ice cream, having a well equipped store which brings to them a liberal and well merited patronage.

Mr. Thelen is interested in all that pertains to the welfare of his town and its best interests, and his cooperation can be counted upon to further public progress. He is now a member of the fire department of Humphrey. Politically he maintains an independent course, while his religious faith is that of the Catholic church.

HERMAN B. MILLER.

Honored and respected by all, no resident of Lindsay occupies a more enviable position in business and financial circles than Herman B. Miller, not alone by reason of the success which he has accomplished, but also owing to the straightforward business policy which he has ever followed. He is now the president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank, in which connection he is maintaining a safe yet progressive policy whereby the interests of depositors are carefully guarded and the success of the bank is substantially promoted.

Mr. Miller is a native son of Nebraska, his birth having occurred in Dodge county, December 20, 1872, his parents being Wazlav and Margaret (Pojar) Miller. On leaving Bohemia, his native land, the father crossed the Atlantic and established his home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1865. Four years later he came to Nebraska, settling upon a farm near the city of Dodge, in Dodge county, where he resided until 1906, devoting his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits. In that year he retired and removed to Dodge, since which time he has enjoyed a rest that he has truly earned and richly deserves.

Herman B. Miller continued upon the home farm until he reached the age of fifteen years, when he accepted the position of clerk in a general store at Dodge, where he was employed for seven years. During that period he carefully saved his earnings until economy and industry had brought him a sufficient sum to enable him to engage in business on his own account. He then established a restaurant, which he conducted for a year, when he purchased a hardware and implement business at Clarkson, conducting his store at that place for five years. After selling out there he went to Cache, Oklahoma, where he engaged in general merchandising for two years, at the end of which time his store was destroyed by fire. He then removed to Lindsay, where he bought out Mr. Hau, who was then president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank. He has since been at the head of the institution as its president and is now actively engaged in the conduct of a successful banking business. His establishment is liberally patronized and is regarded as one of the safe and reliable financial institutions of the county.

On the 7th of May, 1912, Mr. Miller was married to Miss Cora Clayton, a daughter of Alexander Clayton, of Saline county, Illinois, and they have a daughter, Magdalene Grace. The parents adhere to the Catholic church and Mr. Miller is a charter member of the Catholic Order of Foresters of Dodge. He also has membership with the Catholic Workmen of Clarkson and with the Knights of Columbus at Humphrey and for the past four years has been state treasurer for the Catholic Order of Foresters, to which position he was reelected in June, 1915, for a three years' term. In politics he is a democrat but not an active party worker. He never neglects his duties of citizenship, however, and for the past four years has been secretary of the Lindsay Commercial Club, in which connection he is putting forth earnest and effective effort for the advancement of the best interests of his city, doing everything possible to promote its growth and upbuilding.

WILLIAM BARRETT, Sr.

William Barrett, Sr., one of the wealthy farmers of Platte county, resides on section 9, Creston township, and is still actively engaged in agricultural pursuits. A native of Ireland, he was born in Ulster, February 12, 1838, a son of William and Frances A. (Pringle) Barrett, both natives of that country. The farm which our subject owned for some time before emigrating to America was in the family for three generations and both his father and grandfather lived thereon. The father devoted his life to farming and passed away in 1870. The mother died in 1848.

William Barrett, Sr., was reared and educated in Ireland and when his father



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM BARRETT, Sr.

became too old to look after the operation of the farm he took charge of the place, which later came into his possession, and continued to cultivate it until 1880. In that year he came to America and, making his way across the country, settled in Kansas. He only remained there a short time, however, and his next location was Platte county, Nebraska, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres on section 9, Creston township. He has since resided upon that farm and has made many improvements thereon. He is energetic and efficient, and from time to time has invested in more land until he now owns five hundred and sixty acres of excellent land, from which he derives a handsome income. He also has other business interests, as he owns stock in both the Farmers Elevator Company of Creston and the Humphrey Telephone Company.

Mr. Barrett was married in Ireland to Miss Margaret Donaldson, a native of that country, by whom he had six children, namely: Minnie J., now the widow of Daniel B. Gorman, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; William, Jacob and John, all farming in Creston township; Isabella, who is employed in a store in Creston; and Albert, who is operating a farm belonging to his father. The mother of these children died in Ireland in 1878. On the 20th of June, 1879, Mr. Barrett was united in marriage to Miss Rose Anna Megaw, who was born in Ireland on the 8th of April, 1850, and is a daughter of John and Hannah (Porter) Megaw, also natives of the Emerald isle. Her father, who devoted his life to farming, died in Ireland in 1872 and was survived by her mother until 1903. By the second marriage there were the following children: Margaret E., who died in 1880; Cassie R., the wife of Theodore Wagner, a merchant of Creston; Charles and Robert, both of whom died in 1884; James, who is farming one of his father's places; and Sarah A., Francis E. and Leonard W., all at home.

Mr. Barrett is a republican and takes the interest of a good citizen in public affairs. For one year he served as assessor of Creston township. He is identified with the Presbyterian church and his religious faith finds expression in his daily life. He has gained a gratifying measure of success in his chosen occupation and has also won the high regard of his fellowmen.

SAMUEL T. FLEMING.

An active factor in banking circles is Samuel T. Fleming, president of the Citizens State Bank at Creston. He was born in Forest county, Pennsylvania, in August, 1855, a son of John and Ruth (Thompson) Fleming, who were natives of Pennsylvania and New York respectively. The father was a farmer by occupation and engaged in following that pursuit in the Keystone state until his death, which occurred in 1860. His wife survived him until 1868.

Samuel T. Fleming spent the major part of his youth in New York, where he went to live with relatives after his parents' death. After completing his education he went to Iowa, settling in Ringgold county, driving through from New York in 1876. He there purchased land and carried on farming until 1881, when he sold his interests in that state and drove seventy-five head of cattle through to Platte county, Nebraska. Here he invested in two hundred acres of land in Creston township, which he improved and cultivated for four years. At the end of that

time the town of Creston was established and he took up his abode in the village and founded what was known as the Bank of Creston, which was later sold and finally suspended business. In 1903 he established the Citizens State Bank, which is capitalized for thirty-five thousand dollars, has a surplus of five thousand dollars and undivided profits of two thousand dollars. Its deposits amount to two hundred and twenty-eight thousand dollars, and the business from the beginning has been a paying one. The bank was started twelve years ago with a capital of six thousand dollars, and the earnings have brought the capital up to the present amount—thirty-five thousand dollars. The officers of the company are: Samuel T. Fleming, president; E. T. Graham, vice president; and H. W. Luedtke, cashier.

In March, 1882, Mr. Fleming was united in marriage to Miss Lena Zeller, a daughter of Anthony and Monica (Wolf) Zeller, natives of Germany, whence they came to America with their parents in childhood days. The father became a resident of Platte county, Nebraska, in 1886, removing to this state from Jones county, Iowa. For some time he carried on general agricultural pursuits but is now living retired and makes his home in Creston, as does his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Fleming have become the parents of three children: Oliver, who was born December 27, 1894; and Frank and Flora, twins, born in March, 1901.

Mr. Fleming votes with the republican party and has served as township treasurer of Creston for twenty years. For several terms he has been on its town board and has also served on the school board. He stands for progress and improvement in everything connected with civic affairs and has supported many causes and interests which are a matter of civic virtue and civic pride. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias, and the guiding principles of his life are found in his membership in the Methodist church. He has many sterling traits of character and in every relation his life conforms to high standards, for his principles are those which in every land and clime awaken confidence and regard.

JOSEPH KURTENBACH.

Joseph Kurtenbach, who is farming on section 14, St. Bernard township, is a native of Prussia, Germany. He was born March 19, 1852, and is a son of William Kurtenbach, also a native of Germany and a carpenter by trade. On the 8th of January, 1881, the subject of this review arrived in America with his brother, William Kurtenbach, Jr., and they made their way to La Salle county, Illinois, where for several years Joseph Kurtenbach worked on farms. In 1885 he came to Platte county and for about a year was employed at Humphrey and Cornlea. At the end of that time he had accumulated sufficient capital to enable him to rent land and he began farming on his own account. For the first year or so, however, he was in straitened circumstances and as he only had enough money to buy one horse he had to borrow a horse and thus he secured a team with which to carry on the work of the farm. He continued on that farm for five years and then removed to another farm, upon which he remained for three years. He operated rented land until 1893, when he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of his present farm, paying therefor twenty dollars per acre. He operated that place during the years 1894 and 1895 and then removed to a farm near Lindsay, but in 1897 he

returned to his farm in St. Bernard township and has since remained there. He has purchased additional land and his farm now comprises three hundred and sixty acres and is one of the valuable and well improved properties of the township. He has erected a beautiful residence and a good barn and outbuildings, and in his work he uses improved machinery and follows up-to-date methods. As is but natural, he receives a good income from his land and is one of the substantial farmers of his district.

On the 17th of April, 1888, Mr. Kurtenbach was united in marriage to Miss Katie Schacher, a daughter of Henry and Helen Schacher, who were early settlers of Platte county, removing here from Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Kurtenbach have nine children, namely: Helena, the wife of Joseph Dietrich, of Granville township; William, who married Mary Dietrich, of St. Bernard township; and Joseph, Elizabeth, Katherine, Mary, Matilda, Edward and Anthony, all at home.

Mr. Kurtenbach is a democrat and is now serving as school treasurer. His religious faith is that of the Catholic church, to the support of which he contributes. He has thoroughly identified himself with the interests of his adopted county and manifests a commendable public spirit. His many good qualities have gained him the respect of those who have come in contact with him, and his personal friends are many.

OSCAR A. WINDOLPH.

Oscar A. Windolph, senior partner in the Windolph-Hecker Drug Company of Humphrey, was born at Grand Island, Nebraska, in June, 1882, a son of John and Kate (Kellner) Windolph, who were natives of Saxony, Germany. The parents came to the United States in 1870, landing at New York, whence they made their way across the country to Grand Island, Nebraska. The father occupied the position of dye master in a dye works in his native land, but on coming to the new world turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, cultivating a rented farm for five years. During that time he carefully saved his earnings and with the money thus acquired bought a farm in Hall county, to which he devoted his time and attention throughout his remaining days, his death occurring in 1882. His widow still survives.

Oscar A. Windolph spent his youthful days in Grand Island and is indebted to its parochial and public schools for the educational advantages he enjoyed aside from a commercial course. He was less than a year old at the time of his father's demise. When his education was completed he took up the profession of teaching, which he followed for five years, and soon afterward he became editor of a German newspaper in Grand Island, which he conducted for three years. He later on entered the Creighton College of Pharmacy at Omaha and on the completion of his course was graduated with the class of 1912. He immediately sought employment along that line and worked in drug stores in various places for a year or more, after which he came to Humphrey and purchased the drug store which he has since conducted. In May, 1915, he admitted Joseph Hecker to a partnership under the firm style of the Windolph-Hecker Drug Company, and they are now the owners of one of the leading mercantile enterprises of their city.

Their liberal patronage is well deserved, and they have guided their business on the principle that "satisfied customers are the best advertisement."

In May, 1912, Mr. Windolph was married to Miss Agnes Burkhard, a daughter of Frank and Genevieve Burkhard, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Poland. In early life they came to America, settling in New York, where the father engaged in business as a cement contractor. Finally he removed to Grand Island, Nebraska, where he spent his remaining days, his life's labors being ended in death in 1910. His widow still survives.

Mr. and Mrs. Windolph have become the parents of two children: Rita G., born May, 1913; and Norberta, whose birth occurred in August, 1914. They hold membership in the Catholic church and Mr. Windolph is financial secretary of the Knights of Columbus, having been instrumental in organizing the lodge at Humphrey. He also has membership with the Woodmen of the World, and he gives his political indorsement to the democratic party. Ambition and energy have pointed out to him the way to success, and persistency of purpose keeps him in the path that leads to farther prosperity.

WILLIAM ALEXANDER McALLISTER.

William Alexander McAllister, a leading and highly esteemed citizen of Columbus, was here actively engaged in the practice of law for about three decades and has also represented his district in the state senate. His birth occurred in Glasgow, Scotland, on the 7th of June, 1847, his parents being James and Mary (Carson) McAllister, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of northern Ireland. James McAllister, born in 1815, followed the sea in early manhood, crossing the Atlantic from England twenty-one times. In 1849 he brought his family to the United States, locating first in St. Louis, Missouri, and a year later in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he resided for eight years. Subsequently he spent two years in Genoa, Nance county, Nebraska, and then took up his abode on a farm in Platte county, now Colfax county, this state. In 1872 he established his home in Columbus, passing away in this city in 1897, while his wife was called to her final rest in 1895. In this country he had devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits from 1849 until 1872 and in the latter year became proprietor of a grocery store in Columbus which he conducted successfully until 1890, when he retired from business. He held the office of justice of the peace in Platte county for twenty years and made an excellent record in that capacity. His demise, which occurred when he had attained the age of eighty-two years, was the occasion of deep and widespread regret. John McAllister, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was a native of Scotland and emigrated to the United States with his family about 1849, here making his home with a daughter and passing away in Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1854.

William A. McAllister was brought to the United States by his parents when but two years of age and acquired his early education in the schools of Council Bluffs, Iowa. In 1862, when a youth of fifteen years, he enlisted for nine months' service as a private of Company B, Second Nebraska Volunteer Cavalry, and for about ten months was engaged in active duty between Omaha and Fort Kearney

in the warfare against the Indians. In 1872 he entered the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, being graduated from that institution in 1877. He next spent two and one-half years in post-graduate work in Europe and there learned the German language. On returning to Columbus, Nebraska, he took up the study of law and in 1882 was admitted to the bar, practicing his profession until 1911 or for a period of twenty-nine years. He won an enviable reputation as a successful and learned member of the bar and an extensive and gratifying clientage was accorded him.

On the 30th of April, 1885, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. McAllister was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary E. Coalter, a daughter of Thomas and Ann (Cameron) Coalter. The latter, a native of Pennsylvania, was related to the Simon Cameron family of that state. Mr. and Mrs. McAllister have three children, as follows: Donald Cameron, born in 1888, who married Miss Clarice Heintze and has two children, William Cameron and Donald Coalter; Janet Claire, who acts as assistant postmaster in Columbus, Nebraska; and Helen E.

Mr. McAllister has always been a staunch republican in his political views and in 1882 was honored by election to the Nebraska legislature, in which he served during one term of two years. In 1884 he was sent to the state senate and in that body also served for a two-year term and made a most commendable record, ably furthering the interests of his constituents. He was appointed postmaster of Columbus, Nebraska, by President Taft in February, 1911, and held the position until his retirement on the 7th of April, 1915. In addition to his connection with Indian warfare his military record covers service as a member of Company K, First Regiment of the Nebraska National Guard, which on two occasions was called out to quell strike riots in Omaha. Mr. McAllister is past commander of Baker Post, No. 9, G. A. R., of Columbus, and also belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity. His life record is inseparably interwoven with the annals of Platte county and no history of this part of the state would be complete without extended mention of him.

CHARLES ALFRED PETERSON.

Charles Alfred Peterson is one of the excellent citizens that Sweden has given to Platte county. Although for a number of years he was successfully engaged in farming and still owns four hundred acres of land in this county and has a half interest in three hundred and twenty acres more, he is now devoting almost his entire attention to his duties as supervisor and has done unusually effective work in that office. He was born in Oland, Kalmar Lan, Sweden, a son of Jonas and Johanna Peterson, the former of whom died in April, 1911, while the latter is still living and makes her home with the subject of this review. In 1880 the family emigrated to America and in the spring of the following year arrived in Columbus, Nebraska. Not long afterward they settled upon a quarter section of land in Walker township, Platte county, for which they paid one thousand dollars.

Charles Alfred Peterson is the only son of his parents but has a sister, Hilda, who is now Mrs. John Hagland. He assisted with the work of the farm in his boyhood and long before he became of age he had taken charge of the home place and on his marriage, in 1898, he purchased eighty acres, for which he paid eighteen

hundred dollars. In 1907 he purchased another quarter section, paying therefor fifty-five dollars per acre, and this with the home place makes four hundred acres which he owns. He also has a half interest in one hundred and sixty acres on sections 16 and 22, Walker township. For a number of years he operated his farms and in connection with general farming raised full blooded Aberdeen-Angus cattle and Berkshire hogs. In 1912 he retired from the active work of the farm and sold all of his stock. His land is now cultivated by tenants. He is connected with a number of local business concerns, holding stock in the Farmers Elevator Association at Lindsay, the Farmers Union Store at Newman Grove, the Monroe Independent Telephone Company of Monroe, of which he was formerly a director, the Scandia Mutual Fire & Lightning Insurance Company and the Farmers Insurance Company, of which he has been secretary since 1905.

Mr. Peterson was married on the 11th of September, 1898, to Miss Olive Anderson, by whom he has two children, Enor and Pauline. He is a stalwart republican and has taken an active part in politics since attaining his majority. For six years he served as township assessor, for over fifteen years was treasurer of the township board, from 1908 until 1910 held the office of county supervisor, and in 1914 was again elected to that office for a term of four years. He has devoted the greater part of his time to the work devolving upon him in that capacity and his district, comprising the townships of St. Bernard and Walker, shows the result of his work and oversight in good roads and well kept bridges. Whenever called to public office he has given the same careful thought and strict attention to the conduct of the office that he has to the management of his own personal undertakings. In 1913 he erected a fine modern home and is now enjoying all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life, which he has won by many years of well directed labor. He is widely known throughout the county and is held in the highest esteem and regard by all who have been brought into contact with him.

LOUIS J. ROZMARIN.

Louis J. Rozmarin is an enterprising young business man, watchful of opportunities pointing to success, and by reason of this quality he has worked his way upward to the responsible position of manager at Tarnov for the T. B. Hord Elevator Company. He was born March 19, 1888, in Clarkson, Nebraska, a son of Frank and Fannie (Novotny) Rozmarin, both of whom were natives of Bohemia. The father directed his attention to mercantile lines in early life but afterward became a farmer. Seeking the opportunities of the new world, he crossed the Atlantic and settled at Stanton, Nebraska, where he engaged in the saloon business but subsequently resumed general agricultural pursuits. He bought land which he tilled for a time and then sold. Later he removed to Clarkson, where he opened a general mercantile store which he conducted for several years. He then removed to a farm a mile from Clarkson, upon which he was living at the time of his death, which occurred in 1903, resulting from a runaway accident on the home place. His wife still survives and yet remains on the old homestead.

Louis J. Rozmarin attended the common school at Clarkson and afterward pur-

sued a course of study in the Omaha Commercial College. When twenty years of age he started out to make his own way in the world, entering the employ of the Nye, Schneider & Fowler Company of Clarkson, dealers in grain and lumber, with whom he continued for five years. In 1915 he came to Tarnov as local manager for the T. B. Hord Company and in this connection is engaged in buying and selling grain and also in the sale of coal, lumber, cement and hardware. He controls a good business and is proving capable and faithful in the conduct of the enterprise.

On the 6th of November, 1912, Mr. Rozmarin was joined in wedlock to Miss Marie Brihacek, a daughter of Frank and Barbara (Klima) Brihacek, both of whom were natives of Bohemia. The father, who was for years a successful farmer of Colfax county, Nebraska, is now deceased, but the mother still survives and makes her home in Howell, this state. Our subject and his wife have a son, Marian, who was born on the 10th of August, 1915.

Mr. Rozmarin votes with the republican party and sees in its principles the best elements of good government. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church at Howell. Mr. Rozmarin devotes his entire time to his elevator business and kindred industries and enjoys a big trade in the various lines he handles. He is justly accounted one of the progressive young business men of Tarnov and has gained the goodwill and warm regard of many with whom he has there come in contact.

JOHN WILLIAM RAMAEKERS.

John William Ramaekers is one of the large landowners of Platte county, holding title to eight hundred acres of excellent land. He was born in Limburg, Holland, December 16, 1861, a son of John Gottfried and Kathrine (Schukens) Ramaekers. The father was a carpenter by trade. Our subject is the oldest in a family of ten children and has one sister living in Platte county, Mrs. Jacob Borer. Coming to America, the family located in St. Bernard township, this county in 1879, and the father purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 7, paying therefor six hundred and twenty dollars. As the place had no buildings, it was necessary to erect a residence and the lumber for this purpose was hauled from Columbus. As the father never did much of the farm work, our subject from early boyhood had charge of the operation of the farm. Both parents are now deceased, the father's death occurring in January, 1909, and that of the mother in 1881.

John W. Ramaekers has devoted his entire life to agricultural pursuits and has gained an enviable measure of prosperity. From time to time, as his capital has increased, he has purchased land and now owns eight hundred acres, or five quarter sections, as follows: one on section 7, his home place; one on section 6 and one on section 5, St. Bernard township; and two in Walker township, both of which he rents. The one hundred and sixty acres on section 5, St. Bernard township, is farmed by his son Fred. As before stated, his father paid six hundred and twenty dollars for the quarter section which he purchased and some idea of the rapid rise in land values in this county may be gathered from the fact that our subject paid thirteen hundred dollars for the second quarter section which came into his possession and ninety-two hundred dollars for the third, while for the two tracts in Wal-

ker township he paid forty-two dollars and fifty cents and sixty-five dollars per acre respectively. He specializes in the raising of high grade shorthorn and Hereford cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs and derives a good profit from the sale of his stock. All of his affairs are well managed, and everything which he undertakes is carried forward to successful completion, and as the result of his energy and business sagacity he has gained an unusual measure of success. His farm is excellently improved in every particular, and he takes great pride in his orchard of various kinds of fruit which covers about four acres. In addition to his land he owns stock in the Farmers Elevator Association and the Farmers Union Store, both of Lindsay.

Mr. Ramackers was married in 1885, to Miss Katie Adams, who died two years later, leaving a son, Fred, who married Miss Gertrude Smith and is operating a quarter section of land on section 5, St. Bernard township, belonging to his father. Mr. Ramackers was again married on the 17th of April, 1888, Miss Isabella Cremers becoming his wife. Her father, Chris Cremers, was an early settler of St. Bernard township. To the second marriage of Mr. Ramackers have been born the following children: Gertrude, now Mrs. Frank Hermann, of St. Bernard township; Chris, at home; Katie, who married Henry Schaecher; and Mary, Theodore, Susan, Francis, Bernard, Harry, Hattie, Isabella and Josie, all at home.

Mr. Ramackers is a democrat and for ten years has acceptably served as road supervisor. He takes a keen interest in everything affecting the public welfare and places the general good above personal advancement. He is not only respected because of the ability that has made possible his success but also honored because of the uprightness of his business methods.

DANIEL CHARLES KAVANAUGH.

Daniel Charles Kavanaugh, who is successfully engaged in business in Columbus as a dealer in wall paper and paints, has been a resident of Platte county for the past four decades and has held the office of sheriff for six terms. His birth occurred in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on the 23d of November, 1857, his parents being Edward C. and Catharine (Holland) Kavanaugh, both of whom were natives of Ireland. The father, born in County Tipperary in 1833, emigrated to the United States at the age of eighteen years and located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he was married. In 1868 he took up his abode in Fremont, Dodge county, Nebraska, and two years later came to Columbus, where his demise occurred in 1879. His wife passed away in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in the year 1895. Daniel Kavanaugh, the paternal grandfather of our subject, died in Ireland.

Daniel C. Kavanaugh acquired his education in the public schools of his native city and also attended the Spencerian Business College of Milwaukee, but did not graduate therefrom. In 1875 he came to Columbus, Nebraska, and here worked at the painter's trade until the spring of 1880, when he took up his abode on a farm in this county. In the fall of 1880 he was elected sheriff of Platte county, making such a creditable record in this capacity that he was twice reelected and served for three consecutive terms or from 1884 until 1887. He then served for a year as deputy internal revenue collector under President Cleveland and on retiring from the office embarked in the insurance business. In the fall of 1890 he was



DANIEL C. KAVANAUGH

once more elected sheriff and again served for three consecutive terms or until 1896. He proved a capable and conscientious incumbent, discharging his duties without fear or favor and maintaining peace and order in such a way as to gain the respect and support of all law-abiding citizens. In 1896 Mr. Kavanaugh again became engaged in the insurance business and continued therein until 1902, when he became the proprietor of his present establishment and is now accorded an extensive and gratifying patronage as a dealer in paints and wall paper.

On the 7th of January, 1878, in Grand Prairie, Platte county, Nebraska, Mr. Kavanaugh was united in marriage to Miss Bridget Gentleman, her father being William Gentleman, a native of Ireland. To them have been born the following children: Edith Catharine, who passed away in 1895 when seventeen years of age; Edward C., who was born in 1886; Eileen Patricia, who died in 1914 at the age of twenty-four years; William Gerald, who passed away in 1897 at the age of three years; and Mary Marie Paul, at home.

Mr. Kavanaugh exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the democracy. As above stated, he has held the office of sheriff for six terms and in 1880 acted as assessor of Columbus township, this county. From 1896 until 1898 he served as commissary sergeant of Company K of the First Regiment. He belongs to the Catholic church and has fraternal relations with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Mr. Kavanaugh has ever been an honorable and upright man, and his well spent life has commanded for him the confidence and high regard of all who know him.

JOHN WILLIAM SVOBODA.

John William Svoboda, cashier of the Lindsay State Bank and therefore a well known figure in the business circles of his part of the county, was born in Colfax county, Nebraska, in 1876, his parents being Joseph and Mary Svoboda. The father is now living retired at Howell, Colfax county, and has reached the age of seventy-nine years. He came from Bohemia in the spring of 1874 and made his way direct to Colfax county, Nebraska, where he took up a homestead and for many years engaged in farming, and now in the evening of his days he is enjoying a well earned rest.

John W. Svoboda was the youngest in a family of six children. He acquired a common-school education in the county of his nativity and when not busy with his textbooks worked in the fields upon his father's farm. He was thus engaged until 1904, when he and his brothers organized the Abie State Bank at Abie, Nebraska. At the same time the brothers organized the Abie Milling Company and John W. Svoboda occupied the position of bookkeeper in the bank and also spent considerable time as salesman for the milling company. He was afterward appointed assistant cashier of the bank and in January, 1911, when his brother, Joseph Svoboda, was appointed state bank examiner, Mr. Svoboda of this review was advanced to the position of cashier of the bank, in which connection he continued until May, 1912. At that date he and his brother secured a controlling interest in the Lindsay State Bank, of which Mr. Svoboda has since been the cashier. In the year 1915 they erected a large building of stone and brick, supplied with all modern

conveniences, for the conduct of the banking business. The building would be a credit to a town of much larger size. The bank is in a very prosperous condition and its business is constantly increasing. In May, 1912, its deposits amounted to eighty-two thousand seven hundred and seventy-four dollars and on the 20th of August, 1915, the bank had over two hundred and six thousand eight hundred and ten dollars on deposit. This increase is due to the courteous treatment of patrons, liberal loans to farmers during hard times and a safe but progressive business policy. Mr. Svoboda still owns a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in St. Bernard township and is accounted one of the leading business men of his part of the county.

On the 22d of January, 1901, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Svoboda and Miss Barbara Marik, a daughter of Anton Marik, one of the early settlers of Colfax county, who came from Bohemia and established his home in Nebraska in early life. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Svoboda, Lillian, Adolph, Lumir and Ernest.

In his political views Mr. Svoboda has long been a democrat but is not an active party worker. He belongs to the Holy Name Catholic church and to the Lindsay Commercial Club, cooperating in all the movements of the latter organization to advance the material welfare of the community and extend its business connections. He is a progressive man, wide-awake and enterprising, and all who know him speak of him in terms of high and enduring regard, appreciating his uniform courtesy and his sterling worth.

JAMES L. BROWN.

Among Creston's representative citizens is numbered James L. Brown, who is now living retired. For a long period he was the popular and efficient postmaster of Creston, and his public and private record is above suspicion and reproach. He was born in Leavenworth, Indiana, April 26, 1846, and is a son of Bryant and Delilah (Carnes) Brown, who were also natives of the Hoosier state. The father engaged in farming for a number of years in Indiana and in 1853 removed with his family to Illinois, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits until 1858. He then became a resident of Kansas, where he followed farming for two years, after which he returned to Indiana and after the outbreak of the Civil war enlisted as a member of Company H, Forty-ninth Indiana Infantry, with which he served for two and a half years. In 1865 he went to Marion county, Iowa, where he purchased land, which he owned and cultivated for a decade. On disposing of that property he came to Nebraska but after a year removed to Kansas in 1876 and there engaged in farming until 1880. He then returned to Iowa, where he carried on general farming until 1907, when he retired from active business life and removed to the state of Washington, where he spent his remaining days in the enjoyment of a well earned rest, his death occurring in 1910. For four years he had survived his wife, who died in Colorado in 1906.

James L. Brown largely spent his youthful days in Iowa, remaining with his parents until he reached the age of seventeen years. He then put aside all personal considerations to aid in the defense of his country and, like his father, demon-

strated his loyalty at the front, enlisting in Company D, One Hundred and forty-fourth Indiana Infantry, with which he served for fifteen months. He returned to Indiana, where he was employed as a farm hand for nine months, after which he again went to Iowa, renting land in Marion county. He operated that farm from 1866 until 1876 and then came to Platte county, Nebraska, where he secured one hundred and sixty acres of land in Humphrey township. He at once set about improving the property and bent his energies to its further cultivation and development until 1884, when he sold out and removed to Creston, investing in one hundred and sixty acres adjoining the town of Creston, on section 18, Creston township. He cultivated that place until 1886, when he sold all but forty acres, and later he also disposed of that tract, save the two acres upon which he now resides. He rented some land, however, but abandoned farming in 1905, when he was appointed postmaster at Creston, in which position he capably served for nine years and nine months, when he retired from the office as he had entered it—with the confidence and goodwill of all concerned. He has since engaged in no business and is enjoying a well earned rest.

On Christmas day of 1879 Mr. Brown was married to Miss Martha L. McNeill, a daughter of Orin and Eliza (Darrow) McNeill, natives of Ohio. The father, who carried on farming as a life work, went to Iowa at an early day, arriving there about 1846. The state was then a pioneer district, and he entered land and farmed in Lee county until 1858, when he removed to Marion county, Iowa, where he carried on general farming until his death in 1870. His wife survived until 1879, when she, too, passed to the home beyond.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown became the parents of eleven children: Etta, the wife of Fred Davis, who resides at Creston; Effie, the wife of A. W. Bearss, living in Creston township; Cora, the wife of F. P. Sorrick, a farmer of Creston township; Perry, who was accidentally killed March 4, 1908; Stella, the wife of R. D. Jackson, residing in Madison county, Nebraska; Elmer, living in the state of Washington; Nellie and Edgar, at home; Muriel, a trained nurse living in Omaha; and Newton and Orin, twins, who died in infancy.

Mr. Brown holds membership with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Degree of Honor, and he still maintains pleasant relations with his army comrades as a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. In politics he is a republican, and his religious faith is that of the Methodist church. He stands as a high type of American manhood and chivalry, loyal to the best interests of his community, faithful to his friends, devoted to his family and devout in his church relations.

EMIL POHL.

Emil Pohl was a well known citizen of Platte county, where he took up his abode in 1872, and through the intervening period until his death was closely associated with business interests and the public life of the community, and in every connection displayed sterling traits of character which firmly established him in the high regard of his fellow citizens. He was born in Germany, March 24, 1833, and attended Catholic schools of that country until he reached the age of eighteen years, when he joined the German army as a musician. He acted as band master

with the army during the war with Schleswig-Holstein, and the Austrian war, serving altogether for eight years.

In 1867, when a young man of twenty-four Mr. Pohl came to the United States and established his home in Calumet, Wisconsin, where he worked in a store in order to learn the English language and acquaint himself with American life and customs. He afterward engaged in the implement business at New Holstein, Wisconsin, on his own account and then removed to Platte county, Nebraska, following the same business in Columbus in partnership with Gerhard Schutte. for ten years. In 1882 he became a partner of Gust Schroeder in the ownership of a hardware business on Eleventh street, where they remained for about five years. On the expiration of that period Mr. Pohl turned his attention to the grocery business, conducting a store with success until 1896, when he retired from commercial life, having been elected clerk of the courts of Platte county, in which position he served for two years. He then retired from active life, spending his remaining days in the enjoyment of a rest which he had truly earned and richly deserved, the fruits of his former toil supplying him with all the necessities and comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

In 1872 Mr. Pohl was united in marriage to Miss Anna Hoppe, a native of Germany and a daughter of Henry Hoppe, who served in the German army during the revolution of 1848. He never came to the United States but followed farming throughout his entire life in his native land. To Mr. and Mrs. Pohl were born five children: Otto; Arthur; Emil; Meta, the wife of Frank Wurdeman, mentioned elsewhere in this volume; and Elsie, the wife of W. A. Boettcher, who is also mentioned in this work.

In his political views Mr. Pohl was an earnest republican and took an active interest in politics, doing all in his power to promote the growth of the party and to secure its success, because of his firm belief in its principles. Nature endowed him with marked musical talent and for more than twenty years he led the Maennerchor and did much to advance musical taste and interest in Columbus. He died in California in 1900, at the age of fifty-seven years, and the community mourned the loss of a representative and valued citizen who had become well established as a representative resident of the county and one whose labors had contributed in no small measure to its material, political and cultural progress and upbuilding.

FRED LAUN.

Fred Laun is a member of Reilly, Laun & Company, hardware merchants and plumbers of Platte Center, and he occupies a prominent position in commercial circles because of the spirit of enterprise and reliability which actuates him in all of his trade relations. He was born in Aurora, Indiana, September 17, 1868, a son of Joseph and Katherine (Gatter) Laun. The father came from Germany, and departed this life in Newport, Kentucky. Following his death the mother came to Nebraska, settling in Bismark township, Platte county, while subsequently she removed to Grand Prairie township.

Fred Laun was reared to the occupation of farming and continued to follow that pursuit until 1908, when, thinking to find other business more congenial, he

accepted the position of manager for the telephone company at Platte Center, acting in that capacity for three years. He then formed a partnership with Frank Reilly for the conduct of a plumbing business and in the spring of 1915 they purchased the hardware store and stock of James Keating and are now conducting business under the firm style of Reilly, Laun & Company as plumbers and hardware merchants, both departments of their business having a liberal patronage. They carry a well selected stock and are putting forth every effort to please their patrons, knowing that satisfied customers are the best advertisement. Mr. Laun is also one of the stockholders in the Farmers Independent Telephone Company and is still the owner of eighty acres of good farm land in Grand Prairie township.

In 1900 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Laun and Miss Lena Siems, a daughter of Fred Siems, of Shell Creek township. She died in 1904 and Mr. Laun afterward married Miss Anna Smidt, a daughter of Matthew Smidt, of Grand Prairie township, and a representative of one of the pioneer families of this section of the state. They have one child, Cora.

In his political views Mr. Laun is independent. After studying the questions and issues of the day he does not care to bind himself by party ties but votes according to the dictates of his judgment. He has membership with the Fraternal Order of Eagles at Columbus and with the Highlanders Lodge of Platte Center, and he has attractive social qualities which render him popular in these organizations and in social and business circles as well. He has closely applied himself to his commercial interests since starting out along mercantile lines and his persistency of purpose and unfaltering energy are the strong forces in his growing prosperity.

CHARLES KOPIETZ.

Charles Kopietz, living at Lindsay, where he is engaged in the conduct of a feed, grain and flour business, was born December 27, 1844, at Morelia, Austria. The days of his boyhood and youth were spent in that land and in 1867 he came to the United States, seeking the opportunities offered in the new world. He first made his way to Nemaha county, Kansas, where he was employed as a farm hand by the month and also worked at the butcher's trade. Subsequently he engaged in the grain and feed business and in 1898 he came to Platte county, where he opened a feed, grain and flour house at Lindsay. He has since conducted this business and is now meeting with fair success in his undertaking.

On the 5th of June, 1871, Mr. Kopietz was married to Miss Magdalena Hrnceer and they have become parents of five children: Josie, who is now the wife of Fraz Sarney, of Omaha, Nebraska; Mary, the wife of John Malotey, living in Omaha; Arness, who married Edward Lindsay, also of Omaha; Joseph K., who is a resident of Hay Springs, Nebraska; and Edward, living at Coleridge, this state.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church, to the support of which they generously contribute. In his political views Mr. Kopietz is a democrat, having adhered to that party since securing his naturalization papers. He has filled the office of justice of the peace for fourteen years and bases his decisions upon the law and the equity of the case, his opinions being strictly fair and impar-

tial. He was a young man of twenty-three years when he came to the new world and today he is in his seventy-first year. His life has been one of activity and his energy and determination have brought to him the success which he has won.

JOHN ANDREW KEHOE.

At the time of his death John Andrew Kehoe was engaged in the grain and implement business at Platte Center and worked earnestly and persistently to gain a start in that direction and build up a trade which would enable him to provide liberally for his family. He was born in Kilkenny, Ireland, June 7, 1832. His father died before his birth and when he was two years of age he was brought to the new world by his mother, who settled in Kentucky. He was educated in the Dominican College at Cincinnati, Ohio, and when his textbooks were put aside he turned his attention to the milling business and in 1878 came to Nebraska, taking charge of the Norfolk Mills at Norfolk for two years. He also spent a short time in Omaha before coming to Platte Center in September, 1882. At this place he engaged in the grain business and remained active therein up to the time of his demise, which occurred on the 13th of September, 1896. In the meantime the settlement of the county and the development of the farms were increasing the opportunities along the line of the grain trade and he kept in touch with the onward march of progress.

In politics Mr. Kehoe was a democrat and was one of the leaders of his party in Nebraska. He was a close friend of W. J. Bryan and was the first man to suggest Mr. Bryan's name for the presidency. In 1885 he represented his district in the state legislature. He was a communicant of the Catholic faith. On the 24th of October, 1876, Mr. Kehoe was united in marriage to Miss Kate Coffee, a native of Warsaw, Wyoming county, New York, and a daughter of Dennis and Katherine Coffee.

Following the death of her husband Mrs. Kehoe continued the grain and the implement business and also established a drug business. Her connection with the grain trade was at times spectacular because of the fight into which she was forced with the grain trust. For ten years she waged this contest with the Nebraska grain trust which the New York Herald termed "the most nefarious combination in the west." She won her final victory at the time the Interstate Commerce Commission made its investigation at Omaha and at its close the commission congratulated Mrs. Kehoe upon the remarkable fight which she had made against the big combination. When her husband died, he left to her what is known in grain trade parlance as a "shovel house"—the dealer buying from the farmer, shoveling the grain into a warehouse and afterward into a railroad car instead of handling the business through an elevator. The grain trust saw in her a formidable competitor and made it known that they wished her to quit buying grain from the farmers. She refused and then the trust began its "work" against her. Her customers in the cities were coerced in refusing to buy from her, but she met this attack by obtaining new customers in Memphis, St. Louis, and other cities. Then the trust raised prices on her, until prices at Platte Center were several cents above the selling prices at Omaha and Chicago. Then she closed her business temporarily, but just as soon as prices



MR. AND MRS. JOHN A. KEHOE

were reduced to the normal she started in the grain trade again and her old customers went back to her. That course of raising prices was pursued for some time, and at each time she would drop out of the business temporarily only to enter it again. At length the trust, finding that they could not force her to quit business, invited her to join them, which she indignantly refused to do; and she turned this last effort of the trust to good account by showing the farmers in her vicinity that the trust raised prices only to eliminate competition, after which the price of grain would fall below the regular market. She won the cooperation of the farmers, who continued to sell grain to her at the regular quotations. Then the railroads began shutting off her supply of freight cars, until she was compelled to sit idly by and watch her competitors load car after car, while none were given to her. Even this did not deter her, for she took up the matter directly with President Bert of the Union Pacific Railroad and cars were accordingly allotted her. The next move in the drama was the burning of her shovel house, but within forty-eight hours she had begun the erection of a fine new grain elevator along the railroad track and after a year or two she built another elevator in Tarnov, thus embarking in the grain trade on an extensive scale. The trust kept up its fight against her, but her business methods were so honorable and her affairs were conducted so sagaciously that she continued in spite of the combine and the attacks ceased at the time of the investigation by the Interstate Commerce Commission, leaving her the owner of two elevators, a large grain business and a big implement and seed house. She continued to manage the business until 1909 and she now conducts a drug store at Platte Center.

That well deserved success has come to her is indicated in the fact that she is today the owner of the finest residence in Platte Center, and business men say with a smile and mean it as a compliment that "she is the biggest business man in Platte Center." Her course proves that honesty will eventually win and is after all the best policy. Her intelligence, which is keen and strong, was applied to the solution of difficulties such as few women face and all who know her rejoice that hers is the victory.

JOHN HENRY BROCK.

John Henry Brock is a well known contractor of Columbus, living at Twentieth and Olive streets. He was born in Osage county, Missouri, March 12, 1874, and is a son of J. R. and Louisa (Moesch) Brock, who are mentioned elsewhere in this volume. The family lived upon a farm, and during his early boyhood John H. Brock assisted his father in the work of the fields. He afterward went to St. Louis, where he was employed at different occupations and soon became active in the line of carpentering. In 1890 he removed to Platte county, Nebraska, where he resumed work at the carpenter's trade, and for the past ten years he has conducted business as a general contractor. In this connection he has erected some of the finest buildings of the town, including the Carnegie library, the Masonic Temple and numerous residences which add to the architectural adornment of the city. He thoroughly understands every phase of the business in its practical and technical relations and is thus able to direct the efforts of those whom he employs.

There is an interesting military chapter in the life history of Mr. Brock, who on the 5th of May, 1898, following the outbreak of the Spanish-American war, enlisted at Lincoln, Nebraska, becoming a member of Company K, First Nebraska Volunteers. His regiment was sent direct to the Philippine islands, landing at Camp Dewey. Mr. Brock is credited with active service in twenty-two engagements between Manila and Cavite, and he went through all of the hardships and experiences of campaigning on the islands. He has a fine collection of relics from the Philippines and relates many interesting tales concerning the people and their mode of living as well as their methods of warfare. Mr. Brock joined the army as a private and when discharged in the fall of 1899 had reached the rank of first sergeant.

In August, 1894, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Brock and Miss Emma Smith, a daughter of Henry Smith, one of the old settlers of Colfax county, Nebraska. They now have five children; Julius; George and Ida, twins; Ruth; and Margaret.

In his political views Mr. Brock is a republican and he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day but has never aspired to office. He belongs to Columbus Tent, No. 55, K. O. T. M., and to Columbus Encampment of the Spanish War Veterans. He ranks with the most active and energetic residents of Columbus and is numbered among the most progressive contractors, his work not being confined to the city in which he lives but also extending over the surrounding territory. Opportunity has always been with him the open road to advancement. He has ever readily and carefully utilized the chances which have come to him and by the exercise of his native powers and talents has reached a most creditable position among the business men of his town.

RAY P. BURCH.

Ray P. Burch, a well known representative of newspaper interests, owning and publishing the Creston Statesman under the name of the Burch Printing Company, was born in Anamosa, Jones county, Iowa, September 25, 1888, a son of L. G. and Nell (Patterson) Burch, who were also natives of that county. The father was a farmer, devoting his life to the tilling of the soil in Iowa until 1905, when he went to Cedar county, Nebraska, where he followed farming for a short time. He then retired and now makes his home at Magnet, Nebraska, where he and his wife are pleasantly situated.

Ray P. Burch, spending his youthful days in his native town, acquired his education in the public schools, but at the early age of thirteen years started out in the business world by securing employment in a newspaper office, and he has continued in the same line since, covering a period of fourteen years. In 1913 he went to Magnet, where he published the Magnet Mail, but afterward removed the plant to Creston and has since continued newspaper publication, his paper being known as the Creston Statesman. It is the property of the Burch Printing Company and in connection with the publication of the paper they conduct a general job printing business and make a specialty of bank work. Their work is of the

highest character of the printing art and is highly satisfactory to their patrons, who are constantly growing in number.

On the 8th of July, 1913, Mr. Burch was married to Miss Carrie Clark, a daughter of F. P. and Carrie (Rooth) Clark, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of Canada. The father engaged in farming for a considerable period in Gage county, Nebraska, but is now living at Royal, Nebraska. There has been one child born of this marriage, Gwenneth E., born May 31, 1914.

Mr. Burch has membership with the Modern Woodmen of America and with the Knights of Pythias and is loyal to the teachings and purposes of those organizations. In politics he is a democrat, strong in his advocacy of the party and supporting its measures through the columns of his paper. He stands at all times for progress and improvement, and his labors have been an element in advancing the civic interests of Creston, particularly those things which promote its welfare along material, intellectual, social and moral lines.

FRANK WURDEMAN.

Frank Wurdeman is now living on section 8, Sherman township, and his birth occurred on section 10, the same township, his natal day being February 3, 1873. He represents one of the old pioneer families of the county, established here in 1869. Through the period of his boyhood he was a pupil in district school No. 23, in Sherman township, and he remained at home until he reached the age of fifteen years, when he became a pupil in the high school at Columbus, there continuing his studies for two years. At the end of that time he secured a position in the old Commercial Bank at Columbus, entering the institution as a bookkeeper and filling the position of assistant cashier when, at the end of seven years, he severed his connection with the bank.

Called to public office, Mr. Wurdeman was the efficient city treasurer for two years, capably guarding the public funds. Upon his retirement from that position he joined Bey Martin in the real-estate and insurance business under the firm style of Wurdeman & Martin and when he retired from that connection he resumed his residence in Sherman township, where he is now cultivating three hundred and sixty acres of land, a part of which came to him from his father's estate. His farm comprises eighty acres on section 8, two hundred acres on section 9 and eighty acres on section 16. It is a valuable farm property, well developed and highly improved, and stock-raising is made a special feature of his business. He has recently turned his attention to shorthorn cattle and feeds four or five carloads annually. He raises full blooded stock of the Lavender and Cumberland breeds and sells considerable to people of this part of the state. He also handles Duroc Jersey hogs and makes a specialty of fine poultry, raising Rhode Island Red chickens and Mammoth Bronze turkeys. He has splendid equipment for the care of his stock and has studied out the best methods to produce the desired results. His work is done in a systematic, methodical manner and he understands fully both the practical and scientific phases of stock-raising and farming. In addition to his home interests he is a stockholder in the Columbus Telephone Company and in

the Blau Gas Company of Creston, and he helped to organize the Boheet Local of the Farmers Union of Platte county, of which he is treasurer and secretary.

In 1900 Mr. Wurdeman was married to Miss Meta Pohl, a daughter of Emil and Anna Pohl, who were natives of Breslau, Prussia. The father died in 1899 but the mother is still living in Columbus. They came to the United States in 1867, the father having previously served as a member of the German army in the war of 1866, acting as musical director of the regimental band. On crossing the Atlantic he settled in Wisconsin but afterward removed to Columbus, where he engaged in the implement business in partnership with Gerhard Schutte for several years. He afterward turned his attention to the grocery business and was recognized as one of the foremost merchants of the town. His political allegiance was given to the republican party and upon its ticket he was elected to the office of county clerk. He belonged to the German Reformed church and was active in all affairs relating to the material, intellectual, political and moral welfare of his community, so that his death was the occasion of deep regret in the community where he lived and where he was recognized as a representative citizen.

Mr. and Mrs. Wurdeman have become the parents of a son, Richard, who was born May 21, 1905. The family are members of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church, and Mr. Wurdeman is also identified with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks at Columbus, the Modern Woodmen of America at Creston, the Woodmen of the World at Columbus and the Knights of Pythias and the Sons of Veterans. In both the Woodmen and Pythian lodges he has filled the office of treasurer. He has served as director of his school district and has ever been a cooperant factor in all plans and measures for the public good and has worked along those lines which advance material progress and promote individual and community uplift. He displays many sterling traits of character and is justly accounted one of the foremost residents of Sherman township.

ADOLF JAEGLI.

Adolf Jaeggi was born August 2, 1848, in Canton Bern, Switzerland, and in the year of 1869 emigrated to the United States, homesteading one hundred and sixty acres of land in Platte county, Nebraska, eight miles southwest of Columbus, where he lived for several years, later entering the real estate firm of Sam Schmidt, with whom he was employed for two years. A few years later he entered the Columbus State Bank as the first bookkeeper, which position he held for a number of years.

In 1882 Mr. Jaeggi visited his native land, where he was married to Constance Chiffelle, of Canton Bern, Switzerland, returning a few months later to what is now the city of Columbus. Here he engaged in the lumber and grain business for a number of years, but disposed of the lumber business a little later on, and in 1885 was one of the organizers and builders of what is now known as the Elevator Roller Mills Company, which he operated and managed successfully until his death on the 18th of January, 1910. The period of his residence in this county covered four decades, and in his passing the community lost one of its substantial business men and esteemed citizens.



ADOLF JAEGGI

His widow, who still makes her home in Columbus, also enjoys an extensive and favorable acquaintance in the city. To the above couple were born three sons, Paul A., Walter C. and Ernest L. Jaeggi, all residents of Platte county. They received their education in the public and private schools of Columbus, later on graduating from business colleges.

In January, 1910, Paul A. and Ernest L. Jaeggi succeeded their father in the ownership and management of the Elevator Roller Mills Company, Inc., the former holding the position of president and manager, and the latter as secretary and treasurer. They have conducted the business with splendid executive ability and good judgment, which have been the factors of its continued success.

Walter C. Jaeggi, after completing his common school education, entered the State Agricultural School of Lincoln, Nebraska. After completing his course in agriculture he chose the life of farmer and is now the owner and manager of a well improved one hundred and twenty-acre farm four miles northeast of Columbus.

In 1870 the Jaeggi family were among the organizers and charter members of the German Evangelical Protestant church of Columbus, in which they have held various offices and to which they have ever given their loyal support. Being upright and honorable in all relations of life, they enjoy the confidence and respect of all those who come in contact with them in either church relations or social affairs.

JOHN A. ZAVADIL.

John A. Zavadil is one of the owners and editors of the Democrat, published at Humphrey, and the greater part of his life has been devoted to the printing business. He was born at Yankton, South Dakota, June 21, 1886, a son of I. W. and Blanche (Latimer) Zavadil, who were natives of Bohemia and Pennsylvania respectively. At an early period in the development of Nebraska they came to this state, I. W. Zavadil making the journey with his father during his childhood days. The paternal grandfather was a farmer by occupation and devoted the remainder of his life to general agricultural pursuits in this state. I. W. Zavadil learned the tinner's trade and afterward went to Yankton, South Dakota, where he was employed along that line for several years. He afterward patented and manufactured a music rack, the sale of which brought him a very handsome income. He removed to Portland, Oregon, where he engaged in the hardware business for a year and a half, but was unable to stand the climate there and returned eastward, settling at Wahoo, Nebraska, where he again worked at the tinner's trade for some time. He afterward came to Humphrey and entered into partnership with Judge Ratterman in the hardware business, this connection being maintained until 1893, when Mr. Zavadil traded his interest for a farm in Boone county. He then removed to Hamilton, Missouri, where he worked at his trade for two years, when he went to Washington, Missouri, spending six years at his trade there. On the expiration of that period he once more became a resident of Humphrey, where he passed the remainder of his days. He was accidentally killed by a train at Platte Center on the 24th of July, 1912. His widow survives and yet makes her home in Humphrey.

Because of the various removals of his parents John A. Zavadil pursued his

education in many places and when fourteen years of age began to learn the printer's trade, which he mastered. He was afterward employed in a wholesale dry goods house in Minneapolis for a year and then went to South Dakota, where he again worked at his trade for a time. Later he returned to Humphrey, where he was employed at the printing business until 1910, when he went to Fremont, Nebraska, where he had charge of the Herald office until the fall of 1913. He then purchased the plant of the Post at Lindsay, Nebraska, continuing the publication of that paper until February, 1914, when he again came to Humphrey and took charge of the office of the Democrat, which he had previously purchased in October, 1913. He has since continued the publication of this paper, in which he has as a partner Mrs. Louise Karthaus, their business being conducted under the firm style of Zavadil & Karthaus. The paper has a circulation of one thousand and is an attractive sheet in its mechanical construction and in the character of the news furnished the public. The office is splendidly equipped with all modern improvements known to the printing business and contains a unotype machine.

In January, 1910, Mr. Zavadil was married to Miss Lillie Karthaus, a daughter of Casper and Lillie (Reiss) Karthaus, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Elgin, Illinois. On coming to the new world her father settled at West-point, Nebraska, which was then a frontier town, and in that locality worked as a farm hand for some time, but later removed to Humphrey, where he engaged in the liquor business throughout his remaining days, his death occurring in 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Zavadil have one child, I. Wayne, who was born March 9, 1911. The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church and Mr. Zavadil is a member of the Knights of Columbus. He is prominent in local political circles and is now serving on the democratic central committee in his district. His paper is published in the interests of that party and he does all in his power to secure the adoption of its principles.

JOSEPH A. BELLER.

Joseph A. Beller is accounted one of the most progressive real-estate men in his part of Platte county and is also actively and successfully engaged in the livery business, having purchased a livery barn in 1912. Energy and progressiveness have enabled him to carry forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes and his plans of business are always well defined and promptly executed. Mr. Beller is a native of Iowa, his birth having occurred in Lee county, April 19, 1875. His father, Ignatz Beller, removed with his family to St. Bernard township, Platte county, Nebraska, in 1879 and there purchased eighty acres of land, for which he paid five hundred dollars. Since that date the family have been closely connected with the development and upbuilding of the county.

Joseph A. Beller acquired a common-school education and in his youthful days worked upon the home farm. Later he engaged in farming on his own account for a year, but felt that commercial pursuits would be more congenial and in 1903 took up his abode in Lindsay, where he opened a hardware store in connection with M. J. Weidner, remaining active in that business for four years, at the end of which time he sold out. In 1907 he took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty

acres in South Dakota and there resided for sixteen months, receiving title to that property, which he still owns. Seeing a good opening for activity in the real-estate business, he began dealing in property in South Dakota and afterward transferred his activities to Platte county, where he has since dealt in farm lands. In 1909 he established a record for real-estate transactions, when in a short time he sold nineteen quarter sections of land, a record which has not been equaled since. He still owns considerable land in Colorado and in Texas in addition to his holdings in Nebraska. He is a progressive young man and his industry and progressiveness enable him to overcome many obstacles and difficulties that bar the path to prosperity. He now has an office in the Lindsay State Bank building and is familiar with all phases of the real-estate business. He places a correct valuation upon property and has handled many important realty transfers.

In October, 1913, Mr. Beller was married to Miss Marilda Miller and they have one child, Imogene. In politics he is a democrat, but while he votes with the party he is not an active worker in its ranks. He holds membership in the Catholic church. He finds recreation in baseball, being an enthusiast concerning the national sport, and is now acting as manager of the Lindsay baseball team. He never allows outside interests, however, to interfere with his business affairs and his enterprise and thorough reliability are well known features of his active career.

OSCAR LOUIS BAKER.

Oscar Louis Baker is proprietor of the North Theatre, in which connection he has ever given to the public attractive and high-class entertainments, including moving pictures, vaudeville and the drama. He closely studies the public taste and, catering to public opinion, has made his house very attractive.

Mr. Baker is a native son of Columbus, born March 7, 1892, his parents being Oscar and Laura Belle (Paynter) Baker, the former a native of Columbus, Ohio. O. L. Baker completed his more specifically literary education by two years' study in the local high school and afterward devoted two years to a commercial course in the Columbus Business College. He entered the workaday world as a clerk in a clothing store in Omaha and for two years thereafter was connected with the picture show business in Shenandoah, Iowa, and in Nebraska City.

Mr. Baker then returned to Columbus, where he conducted a moving picture house for a year and through the succeeding year and a half was proprietor of the Oxford Hotel and Cafe. He next leased the North Theatre and also bought out the H. & G. Poster Advertising Company. The theatre is situated at the corner of West Thirteenth and Murray streets and has a stage thirty-seven feet in depth, sixty feet in width and forty-five feet in height. The capacity of the theatre is one thousand and many attractions tax the house to its utmost. In the winter seasons he secures the high-class road shows in addition to attractive vaudeville features and the best pictures that are making the film the best patronized entertainment of the country. He is constantly upon the alert to secure the new and novel as well as the purely entertaining or instructive films and his business management leads to growing success.

On the 16th of June, 1915, Mr. Baker was united in marriage to Miss Fred-

erica Stenger. Mr. Baker is a member of the Orpheus, a local German musical society, and of the Macnnerchor. He is also connected with Columbus Lodge, No. 1195, B. P. O. E., and his religious belief is indicated in his connection with the Congregational church. He votes with the democratic party nor is he neglectful of the duties of citizenship, yet he does not seek nor desire public office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, which are bringing to him growing and well merited prosperity.

JOHN M. HEFLEY.

John M. Hefley is the well known editor of the Post published at Lindsay, Nebraska. He is a western man by birth, by training and by preference and he possesses the spirit of enterprise which has characterized the development of the middle west. He was born at Emmetsburg, Iowa, April 14, 1883, a son of William and Mary Hefley, and his grandfather was one of the first settlers west of the Boone river.

Reared in his native town, John M. Hefley there pursued his education and afterward learned the printer's trade on the Emmetsburg Tribune. He subsequently worked on various papers while traveling over the country and on the 1st of September, 1914, purchased the Lindsay Post, which was an independent sheet and which has a good subscription list and liberal advertising patronage. In addition to publishing this paper, which is a bright, newsy journal, he does a job business, his excellent work and reasonable prices gaining for him good support in that branch of his chosen occupation.

On the 4th of April, 1910, Mr. Hefley was united in marriage to Miss Neva Stemets, a daughter of J. T. and Nettie Stemets, of Emmetsburg, who were also early settlers of Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Hefley have two children: Mary Ellen, born December 7, 1911; and John, born July 8, 1914. The religious faith of the parents is that of the Catholic church. Mr. Hefley stands at all times for improvement in public affairs and personally, as well as through the columns of his paper, champions any movement for the general good.

CLAUS PETERSON.

Claus Peterson, who has won a gratifying success as a farmer and stock-raiser in Walker township, was born in Vesterjorland, Sweden, July 7, 1865. His parents, August and Johanna Peterson, came with their family to the United States in 1867 and first settled in Kane county, Illinois, where the father engaged in agricultural pursuits for eleven years. Removal was then made to Platte county, Nebraska, the family home being established on section 19, Walker township, where the father engaged in farming and in raising cattle and hogs until 1905, when he retired to Genoa.

Claus Peterson received his education in the common schools of Kane county, Illinois, and of this county, and since putting aside his textbooks has devoted his

entire time to farming. He operates the home place and gives considerable attention to stock-raising, selling a large number of cattle annually. He owns a half section of land in Cheyenne county, Nebraska, and also holds title to a good residence in Newman Grove, his prosperity indicating his enterprise and business ability.

On the 31st of October, 1891, Mr. Peterson was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Borg, a daughter of G. A. Borg, an early settler of Platte county. To this union have been born five children: Wallace, a resident of Minnesota; and Edward, Leonard, Reuben and Goldie, all at home.

Mr. Peterson gives his political allegiance to the republican party, and his religious faith is indicated by the fact that he holds membership in the Methodist church. His public spirit is one of his salient qualities, and he has the esteem of all who have been associated with him.

WILLIAM R. NEUMÄRKER, M. D.

Dr. William R. Neumärker is a prominent physician residing in Columbus. Broad study, thorough investigation and experience have brought him prominently to the front in professional connections and his record is one of which he has every reason to be proud, as it has gained for him the high regard and confidence of his professional brethren as well as of the laity.

He was born in the city of Luxemburg, in the principality of Luxemburg, Germany, May 18, 1878, and is a son of Rev. Richard and Elizabeth (Roth) Neumaerker, who were married in Prussia in 1875. They came to the United States in 1884 and settled in Richardson county, Nebraska, where they lived for about fifteen years, removing to Columbus in 1899. Here they still make their home and throughout the period of their residence in this state, Rev. Richard Neumaerker, who is a minister of the Lutheran faith, has done much to further moral progress. He is still active in the pulpit and is recognized as the leading minister of his faith in this city.

Dr. Neumärker was fortunate in that his environment in his youth was that of a cultured home, in which high value was placed upon education as a preparation for the responsible duties of life. He attended the public schools of St. Joseph, Missouri, and afterward became a student in Midland College at Atchison, Kansas. He then determined upon the practice of medicine as a life work and in 1900 was graduated from the Ensworth Central Medical College at St. Joseph, Missouri. Having thus qualified for active practice he opened an office in Edgemont, South Dakota, where he remained for about nine years, or until 1909, when he came to Columbus, where he has since continued. In the intervening period of six years he has gained wide and well merited recognition as an able physician and one who is most conscientious in his practice. He is continually studying and reading in order to keep in touch with the advanced work of the profession and his sound judgment enables him to readily discriminate regarding new ideas advanced. He spent one year abroad, taking a post-graduate course at the University of Berlin.

On the 26th of February, 1908, in Columbus, Dr. Neumärker was united in

marriage to Miss Metta H. Hensley, a daughter of W. N. Hensley, of this city, and they have a son, William Hensley Neumärker.

Dr. Neumärker is a York Rite Mason and member of the Mystic Shrine, and he also belongs to the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. His religious faith is that of the German Reformed church, while his political views accord with the principles of the democratic party. He was county physician of Platte county, which office he filled from 1911 until 1913 inclusive. He concentrates his efforts upon his professional duties, and his standing is established in the success which has attended him and is indicated in the liberal patronage now accorded him.

JONAS WELCH.

High encomiums have been passed upon Jonas Welch, all of which have been well deserved, for his life was ever upright and honorable, actuated by high principles and worthy motives. He had, moreover, the qualities of consideration, kindness and generosity and the nobility of his character endeared him to all with whom he came in contact. Of him his friends might well say:

"This was a man. Take him for all in all
I shall not look upon his like again."

From pioneer times he resided in Nebraska and his contribution to the development of the state was a valuable one. A native of England, he was born in Dorsetshire on the 22d of August, 1840, and was the eldest son in a family of seven children. His father, Moses Welch, who was born in Dorsetshire in 1815, was a blacksmith in moderate circumstances. He wedded Harriet Rawlings, who was born in the same locality in 1818, and both were descended from old English families. The parents came to the new world in 1847, landing at New Orleans after a voyage which consumed eight weeks and three days. From the Crescent City they proceeded northward to St. Louis and two years later became residents of Alton, Illinois, where they resided for four years, when they took up their abode upon a farm near Brighton, Illinois. During that period Jonas Welch was a pupil in the public schools near his father's home. He was a youth of sixteen when in March, 1857, the family came to Nebraska, driving across the country with three yoke of oxen and reaching Florence on the 24th of April. Thence they proceeded to Genoa, in what was then Platte but is now Nance county, reaching their destination on the 19th of May, 1857. They cast in their lot with the pioneer settlers, being among the first white people of the county.

For two years thereafter Jonas Welch was employed by the settlers at breaking prairie and for a year was a farm hand at the Pawnee Indian agency. In 1860 he joined a party that went to Colorado, attracted by the discovery of gold, but the same year he returned and again entered the government service at Genoa, working for four years in the blacksmith shop and for four years as government miller. In 1869 he resigned his position and joined J. P. Becker in building and operating a water mill on Shell creek, in Colfax county, under the firm style of Becker & Welch. This was the pioneer grist mill of central Nebraska and its patrons came



JONAS WELCH



MRS. JONAS WELCH

from many miles around, the business being continued until 1886. At the same time Mr. Welch owned and cultivated a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, whereon he engaged extensively in feeding cattle and hogs. After selling the mill he removed to Columbus, where he was connected with the grain and coal trade for six years, and from 1892 until his demise his attention was confined to banking and to the management of his farm properties. He was one of the first directors of the Commercial National Bank and remained an officer therein until his health failed.

On the 25th of December, 1862, Mr. Welch was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Shackelton, also a native of England. They became the parents of nine children, as follows: Theresa Ellen, who is the wife of William S. Fox, of Council Bluffs, Iowa; William J., a resident of Genoa, Nebraska; Henrietta, who gave her hand in marriage to Harry Newman, of Columbus, Nebraska; Caroline, the wife of George W. Galley, of Columbus, Nebraska; Martha A., the widow of M. H. Watts; Charles A., living in Columbus; Robert M., who is deceased; and two who died in infancy.

The family circle was again broken by the hand of death when on the 17th of September, 1911, Mr. Welch passed away. He was a devoted member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Lebanon Lodge, and when death called him his brethren of that organization laid him to rest with all the honors of the craft. Of his political views one of the local papers said: "In politics Mr. Welch was as devoted to the principles in which he believed as is the mother to the child. He was in a sense an intense partisan, and he regarded his duty to the democratic party as he regarded duty to his church or to his family. He was often honored by his party, holding membership on the county legislative board, serving often as chairman of his county committee, and in 1900 representing his congressional district as delegate to the national democratic convention. However, partisan as he was, he had the courage to hold his duty to his state higher than duty to party, and when his party named for high office a man whom he regarded as unworthy, such a man could not hope to win the vote or influence of Jonas Welch."

The Rev. S. D. Harkness, of the Presbyterian church, in the funeral service said: "The passing of Jonas Welch to that 'undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns' brings to my mind some of his own recitals of important incidents in his career. As a boy he saw and heard the great Lincoln and the mighty Douglas in that series of debates which shook the nation to its foundations. He was there at Freeport on that memorable day when Lincoln set the battle lines in array with that famous declaration: 'A house divided against itself cannot stand; this union cannot endure half slave and half free.' That boy traveled all the distance between Illinois and Nebraska by ox-team, and in order that the young people present may better appreciate the wonderful changes which have taken place in our own Nebraska since those days, I cite the fact that in all the journey from Omaha to Columbus the ox-cart caravan passed but five civilized human habitations. The trail he followed then was marked by the bleaching bones of the 'forty-niners.' Today the great Overland trains thunder over that same trail. He plodded the ox-team way to Denver, and found a straggling mining camp where now rises the gem city of the Rocky mountains. He played well his part with the pioneers in the upbuilding of this young state. He was of a generation which saw states born, and lived to see steam railroads upon the ox-trails, to see habitations

of comfort and luxury reared upon the sites where stood the tepees of the Aborigines. Within the life-span of that boy, whose walk was clean, whose manhood was strong, whose age was honored, and to whose memory we now pay tribute without reserve, were gathered and combined such marks of civilization as the world had not known in all the ages."

Many were the words of friendship and regard spoken of Mr. Welch by those with whom he had been associated. One said of him: "If to me might be given the privilege of living one thousand years, and changing my place of abode each year, I could not hope to find in all the thousand changes a man who would exemplify in his life the full measure of a neighbor and a friend more fully than that measure was met by Jonas Welch during the quarter century in which I was blessed by his presence as a neighbor and a friend." Mr. Welch never allowed personal interest or ambition to dwarf his public spirit or activities and he was ever actively interested in plans and measures for the public good. In his career business ability was well balanced with humanitarianism and he could be said to be a most successful man when judged by this standard: "The measure of our success is not the good that comes to us, but the good that comes to the world through us." Such was his kindly nature that he spread around him much of the sunshine of life, for he was cordial, genial and kindly, had the tender sympathy of a woman and also the spirit of strong justice when occasion demanded.

FREDERIC F. FANGMANN.

Frederic F. Fangmann, who for the past five years has occupied a position on the mail route out of Humphrey, was born in Omaha, Nebraska, July 18, 1870, a son of Anton and Caroline (Becker) Fangmann, natives of Germany, whence they came to America in 1862, settling first at Baltimore, Maryland. The father was a cigar maker and worked at his trade in that city and also conducted a cigar store for four years. He then removed to Omaha, where he again engaged in the cigar business as proprietor of a store and factory for six years. On retiring from that field he removed to Platte county and took up a homestead of eighty acres in Burrows township. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made upon the place but with characteristic energy he began to turn the sod and develop the fields, transforming the wild land into an excellent farm, which he continued to cultivate and improve until 1896, when he retired and removed to Humphrey, where he has since resided, now making his home with his son, Joseph, at the age of eighty-four years. Before leaving his farm he had added to his original purchase from time to time until he was the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of valuable land, which he finally divided among his children after selling some. His wife died September 24, 1913.

Frederic F. Fangmann was but a little lad when brought to Platte county and was reared and educated in Burrows township, dividing his time between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the fields. He continued to assist his father in carrying on the home farm until he attained his majority, at which time his father gave him eighty acres of land. This he at once began to further develop and improve and later he purchased more

land until he now owns three hundred and twenty acres, of which one hundred and sixty acres is in South Dakota. He continued to cultivate his home place until 1901, when he rented that property and removed to Humphrey, being forced to abandon outdoor work because of a sunstroke which he had suffered and which disabled him for further work in the fields. After taking up his abode in Humphrey he engaged in the livery business for six years and then sold out, turning his attention to the implement business, in which he continued for two years, when he again sold. He then conducted a butcher shop for a year, at the end of which time he entered the federal service and for the past five years has carried the mail on a rural route. He is now owner of the garage conducted under the name of the Platte Center Auto Company at Platte Center, Nebraska, and he owns residence property in Lindsay, Nebraska.

On the 20th of June, 1893, Mr. Fangmann was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Enning, a daughter of Herman and Maggie (Weimeskirch) Enning, the former a native of Iowa and the latter of Germany, whence she came to the United States with her parents when three years old, the family locating in Bellevue, Jackson county, Iowa. In that state Mr. Enning was successfully identified with general agricultural pursuits until called to his final rest in 1886. His wife survives at the age of sixty-three years and makes her home with our subject. To Mr. and Mrs. Fangmann were born ten children, of whom Caroline died on the 10th of September, 1909, when thirteen years of age. The others are Leander, who is about twenty-two years old, resides in Norfolk, Nebraska, and is in the employ of the Northwestern Railroad Company; Antoinette, who is eighteen years of age; Leona, a maiden of fifteen; Elsie, Victoria, Linus, Cecelia, Eugene and Deulah M., who are thirteen, eleven, nine, seven, five and two years of age, respectively. The wife and mother passed away January 2, 1914, after an illness of but ten days. She was born in Bellevue, Jackson county, Iowa, January 1, 1873, and had won many warm friends during her residence in Platte county, so that her death was the occasion of deep and widespread regret.

Mr. Fangmann is a communicant of the Catholic church, also belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters and in politics is a democrat. His has been an active life in which have been few leisure hours and his diligence and determination have constituted the foundation upon which he has builded his success.

HENRY J. BRAUN.

Henry J. Braun, a highly respected farmer of Granville township, living on section 25, has always made his home in that part of Platte county. He is a native son of Humphrey township, born December 26, 1881, his parents being Joseph and Eva (Scheidmantel) Braun, who are mentioned in connection with the sketch of Joseph Braun on another page of this work. Henry J. Braun had the usual experiences of the farm bred boy. He worked in the fields in early youth and acquired his education in the public and parochial schools. He remained with his parents until he reached the age of twenty-five years and then started out in business for himself by operating rented land. For the past three years he has operated the Anton Pelle place, comprising three hundred and fifty-five acres on

section 25, Granville township, and its excellent appearance indicates his careful supervision and practical methods. He is very energetic and resolute in what he undertakes and, working along modern lines of farming, is producing excellent results in the cultivation of his fields.

On the 22d of September, 1909, Mr. Braun was married to Miss Margaret E. Carroll, a daughter of Hugh and Mary (Grant) Carroll, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of Ireland. Her father has been a lifelong farmer of Peoria county, Illinois, and has now reached the age of sixty-eight years. His wife died November 16, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Braun have become parents of a son, Joseph Hugh, born December 11, 1911. They are well known in Granville township, where they have many warm friends, who esteem them highly for their good traits of character. They hold membership in the Catholic church and Mr. Braun belongs to the Knights of Columbus. Politically his allegiance is given to the democratic party, for he believes that its principles contain the best elements of good government. He has no time for public office, however, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, which, well directed, are bringing to him substantial and deserved success.

DAVID WILLIAM JENKINSON.

David William Jenkinson, a resident farmer of Monroe township, is one of the self-made men whose life record proves that enterprise, resolute purpose and unflagging energy will lead to success. He started out in life on his own account when a youth of thirteen years and since then has depended entirely upon his own resources. He was born in Auburn, New York, February 7, 1851, a son of John and Mary Ann (Morton) Jenkinson. The father was born in Ireland and the mother in Canada. She is now living in Madison, Nebraska, at the age of more than ninety years, but Mr. Jenkinson passed away in 1893, at the age of seventy-five. He chose farming as a life work and on coming to the new world settled in Canada, where he was married and began his domestic life. About 1849 he removed to New York and continued to reside in the Empire state until 1853, when he removed to Montreal, Canada, where he engaged in farming until 1864. In that year he went to Du Page county, Illinois, where he continued to till the soil, and on leaving that district he removed to Nebraska in 1874, settling in Grand Prairie township, Platte county, when the district was known as Stearns prairie. He homesteaded eighty acres, casting in his lot with the few settlers who had penetrated into the region. Later he removed to the vicinity of Albion, where he continued his residence until called to his final rest. He was a member of the Episcopal church and a man of good qualities although of a retiring disposition.

David W. Jenkinson, the eldest of his eight children, attended school in Canada and for one winter in Du Page county, Illinois, but his school training was somewhat meager and he has had to learn the lessons of business life in the school of experience. At the age of thirteen he began earning his living as a farm hand, his money going to the support of the family until he attained his majority. He then went to Chicago and for four years worked as a teamster in that city. In 1874 he arrived in Platte county, where he began breaking the prairie after securing a homestead claim in



DAVID W. JENKINSON

Grand Prairie township. He began farming with a team of green steers which he broke. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made upon the place when he took possession of it and there was much labor incident to its cultivation and improvement. He lived in Grand Prairie township until 1881, when he sold his farm of two hundred acres there and removed to Monroe township. Later he returned to Chicago for one winter in order to obtain work as conditions here were such that he could not do anything. In 1894 he removed to Jackson county, Texas, where he raised cotton for three years and then took up his residence in Galveston in order that his sons might have better educational advantages. After spending a little over one year in that city he returned to Nebraska, where he has since lived. He occupies a nice home near Monroe, where at one time he owned four hundred and eighty acres of land but has since given two hundred and eighty acres of this to his sons, so that he now owns two hundred acres, which he rents to them. He is now practically living retired, although he still gives personal supervision to the management and further development of his farm. While in Grand Prairie township he raised Durham cattle and after locating in Monroe township he gave more attention to stock-raising than to the cultivation of grain. He helped to organize the Farmers Elevator Company of Monroe and became one of the original stockholders and first directors.

In 1878 Mr. Jenkinson was married to Miss Miriam D. Hollingshead, who was born in Indiana but was reared in Wisconsin. She is a daughter of William and Luzena Jane (Dennis) Hollingshead, who were early settlers of Monroe township. Her mother is living in Monroe at the advanced age of eighty-seven years, but her father is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Jenkinson now have two children: Edward D., mentioned elsewhere in this work; and William J., who follows farming near the home place and is married and has three daughters.

Mr. Jenkinson is well known in fraternal circles. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp at Monroe, in which he has filled various official positions, and he has also passed through all of the chairs in the Odd Fellows lodge at Monroe, having been one of the charter members of Mystic Lodge, No. 321. His wife is active in the Presbyterian church. In politics Mr. Jenkinson is a prominent republican, working earnestly for the success of the party. His has been a well spent life and one which is crowned with a gratifying measure of prosperity. He came to Platte county with a cash capital of only thirty-six dollars and today is numbered among the substantial citizens of the community, his success having been acquired through his own persistent efforts and his unfaltering energy. His entire career is an indication of the fact that success and an honored name may be won simultaneously.

J. W. CURTIS.

J. W. Curtis, connected with the Columbus Fuel & Storage Company and formerly well known as an able, prominent and successful contractor, was born February 25, 1883, in Adams county, Iowa. His father, Jerome B. Curtis, was a native of Ohio, born October 6, 1838. He pursued his education in Knox county, Illinois, where he afterward worked for his father until the beginning of the Civil war, when he enlisted for service with an Illinois regiment. However, he was transferred to Company K, Eighth Missouri Infantry, as a sharpshooter and participated in a

number of the most hotly contested engagements of the war, including the battles of Shiloh and Gettysburg. He was never wounded, but in the engagement at Shiloh his canteen was shot away and at Gettysburg he was knocked unconscious by a cannon ball striking so close to him that the result was as above stated. For six months he was held a prisoner of war in the south and after being exchanged he continued with his command until the stars and stripes were planted in the capital of the southern Confederacy and hostilities ceased. He then returned to Knox county, Illinois, where he purchased a tract of land and carried on general farming for several years. From there he removed to Adams county, Iowa, in 1878 and for ten years cultivated a rented farm, while later he made his home for four years in Atwood, Logan county, Colorado. On the expiration of that period he became a resident of Dawson county, Nebraska, where he operated a transfer line for about a decade, and in 1900 he came to Columbus, Platte county, where he continued in business as a railroad contractor until his death, which occurred on the 28th of April, 1913. He had led a busy and useful life and passed away when in the seventy-fifth year of his age.

J. W. Curtis was educated in Dawson county, Nebraska, and there worked for his father upon the home farm until his parents removed to Platte county, after which he assisted in the contracting business until his father's death. He then became manager of the business and remained active in that line until the spring of 1915. He is now connected with the Columbus Fuel & Storage Company and enjoys a liberal patronage.

Mr. Curtis married Miss Fannie Fay, a daughter of David and Flora (Mowery) Fay. She was born in Columbus, Platte county, on the 14th of May, 1885, and by her marriage has become the mother of a son, Jack Vernon.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Methodist church and Mr. Curtis also holds membership with the Modern Woodmen and with the Fraternal Order of Eagles. His political indorsement is given to the republican party and, while he has never sought nor desired office, he has always been loyal to the principles in which he believes and by his ballot champions the cause of his party. Much of his life has been spent in this state and the spirit of enterprise characteristic of the west finds expression in his business career.

PAUL G. SMEALL.

Paul G. Smeall, manager of the lumberyard of the Nye-Schneider-Fowler Company at Cornlea is an enterprising young business man, alert to the opportunities for the extension of the trade relations of the business which he represents. He has not yet completed his third decade on life's journey, his birth having occurred in Dodge county, Nebraska, October 30, 1887, his parents being Jacob and Anna (Sykorska) Smeall, who were natives of Germany. The father came to America with his parents when a youth of about twelve years, the family home being established in Pennsylvania, where the grandfather, who was a farmer by occupation, secured a tract of land, while Jacob Smeall obtained work in the coal mines, devoting twenty-two years of his life to that pursuit. In 1872 he came to Nebraska, settling in Dodge county, where he took up a homestead which he

cultivated and improved for some time. He then removed to Howard county, Nebraska, where he engaged in farming for a considerable period, after which he returned to Dodge county. Year after year he carefully tilled his fields until 1900, when he put aside the active work of the farm and removed to Dodge, Nebraska, where he resided until April 12, 1914, when he became a resident of Cornlea, that county, where he is now living at the age of seventy-two years. His wife also survives at the age of sixty-eight years.

Paul G. Smeall was reared and educated in Dodge county, Nebraska, the first five years of his life being spent upon the old homestead farm, at the end of which time his father abandoned agricultural pursuits. He learned the carpenter's trade after he had completed his education in the public schools and worked at his trade for twelve years. On the expiration of that period he entered the employ of the Nye-Schneider-Fowler Company in their lumberyard at Dodge, Nebraska, and made so creditable a record that on the 12th of February, 1914, he was promoted to the position of manager of their yard at Cornlea, acting in that capacity to the present time and making an excellent record by the prompt and faithful manner in which he discharges his duties. This company operates the elevator at Cornlea, deals in lumber and coal and also engages in buying and selling hogs. In business Mr. Smeall seems ready to meet any emergency and is persistent, energetic, upright and honorable. In his religious faith he is a Catholic, and he belongs also to the Catholic Order of Foresters. Politically he is independent, voting according to the dictates of his judgment, his political opinions being based upon a thorough understanding of the questions to be settled.

CHARLES WILLIAM BETTERTON.

In the death of Charles William Betterton Columbus lost a valued citizen and all who knew him lost a genial companion and faithful friend. To his family he was a devoted husband and father and in every relation of life he displayed those characteristics which everywhere awaken confidence and regard. He was born at New Albany, Indiana, August 6, 1854, and obtained his education in the schools of that city. Taking up the study of music, he devoted nine years thereto and displayed much talent in that art. When eighteen years of age he accompanied his parents to northern Indiana, the family home being established at Kouts. When twenty-three years of age he took up railroading on the Pennsylvania system and was a trainman on the first train going into Chicago over that road that burned coal.

Later Mr. Betterton became a traveling salesman, going upon the road for the Milwaukee Harvester Company, which he represented for eight years in Indiana territory before he was transferred to the Pacific coast with Everett, Washington, as his headquarters. In 1901 he was transferred to Nebraska territory, remaining with the same company, but in that year he resigned his position with the Harvester Company and took up a similar position with the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, which position he acceptably filled for eight years, or until his death, being regarded as one of the best salesmen connected with that corporation.

Mr. Betterton was united in marriage on the 20th of December, 1877, to Miss

Harriett Brumbaugh, and to them were born four sons: Ben, who is a painter and decorator of Columbus; Jesse Oatman, who is a graduate of the School of Mines and is now a metallurgist; Ira, who is a painter; and George McCullough, who follows the same business.

Mr. Betterton was a member of the Modern Woodmen, the Independent Order of Foresters and the United Commercial Travelers, and when he passed away, his death being occasioned by Bright's disease, on the 11th of April, 1909, the Hall of Columbus Council, No. 329, U. C. T., passed the following resolution: "This council has received official announcement of the death of Brother Charles W. Betterton, who departed this life April 11, 1909, at his home in Columbus. Brother Betterton was a charter member of this council and we believe it may be said of his work and walk among us that he was an exemplar of the best tenets of our organization. He was an exponent of that high type of fraternal spirit which demands from man in behalf of his fellowmen some of sacrifice, much of cheer, all of kindness and charity not measured by human boundaries. In the state he was a subject, not slothful in performance of the duties of citizenship, but active and earnest in promotion of his economic principles. In the home he was an idolized husband and father. In our council he was both brother and friend to every brother here. We feel that in the death of Brother Betterton our council and the order national has suffered a distinct loss.

"Resolved, That the secretary of this council be and is hereby directed to engross the foregoing sentiment for presentation to the household of our departed brother, and that a copy hereof be presented to the local press for publication, and also to The Sample Case, the official paper of our order.

Frank Schram,
W. J. Walter,
M. C. Bloedorn,

Resolutions committee."

Mr. Betterton indeed possessed a genial nature, a social disposition and a kindly spirit and his many good qualities endeared him to all with whom he had business or social relations. He made friends wherever he went and that his life was upright and honorable is indicated in the fact that he was best loved where best known.

CARL MUELLER.

Carl Mueller, of Grand Prairie township, who devotes his time and attention to agricultural pursuits, was born in Montgomery county, Illinois, on the 24th of September, 1868. His parents, Fred and Julia (Stickle) Mueller, were natives of Germany and both were born in 1832, the former on the 13th of August and the latter on the 30th of September. Not long after emigrating to the United States the father joined the Union army at Litchfield, Illinois, and served for three years in the Civil war. He was wounded in the foot but otherwise escaped injury. In 1872 he came to Platte county, Nebraska, and took up land on his soldier's warrant, locating on section 26, Grand Prairie township. He was a successful farmer and his many sterling qualities gained him the confidence and warm regard of those who were



CARL MUELLER AND FAMILY

brought in contact with him. He passed away on the 2d of September, 1890, but was survived for three years by his wife, who died October 18, 1893. They left three children living, Carl, F. H. and Otto.

Carl Mueller was reared upon the home farm and as soon as old enough assumed charge of the operation of a quarter section of land belonging to his uncle, Fred Mulock, and following the death of the latter he remained with his aunt and continued to manage the farm. At her death he inherited the place, which he is still operating, raising both grain and stock.

Mr. Mueller was married April 28, 1892, to Miss Sophia Neemeyer, a native of Germany, and their five children are: Olga, Elsie, Anette, Clara and Victor. Mr. Mueller is independent in politics, and his religious faith is that of the Lutheran church, in the work of which he takes a deep interest. Practically his entire time is taken up by his farm work, and his labors yield him a good financial return.

CARL JOHANN CARLSON.

An important feature in the business activity and commercial enterprise of Lindsay is the general mercantile store of Carlson Brothers, of which Carl Johann Carlson is the senior partner. He has made for himself a creditable place in business circles and investigation into his career shows that his methods are those which measure up to the highest standard of commercial ethics. Moreover, Mr. Carlson comes from Sweden, a country which one of the most noted American travelers has characterized as "the home of the honest man." He was born at Blackstad, Socken, Kalmar Lan, on the 15th of November, 1862, a son of Carl Peter and Christina (Johannson) Carlson, in whose family there were seven children, two of whom have now passed away. Two sisters of the family are still in Sweden and one son is in South Dakota, while the other two sons constitute the firm of Carlson Brothers at Lindsay.

Carl Johann Carlson, who is the eldest of the family, acquired a common-school education and was reared to the occupation of farming. At the age of nineteen years he sought the business opportunities offered in the new world and made his way to Elgin, Illinois, in company with other boys from Sweden. He secured work as a farm hand and was thus employed for four years and later removed to St. Edward, Nebraska, where he was employed on the Brainard ranch for five years. He then went to Newman Grove and secured a situation in a general mercantile store, in which he remained for two years, after which he came to Lindsay and entered the Johnson Implement store, in which he continued for a year. He afterward became a clerk in the general mercantile store of Henry Ehlers, with whom he remained for three years, when he and his brother, P. A. Carlson, and Peter Johnson purchased the business from Mr. Ehlers in 1896. That connection was maintained for three years, at the end of which time Mr. Carlson and his brother bought out the interest of their partner, and they have since been conducting the business under the firm style of Carlson Brothers. They now have a large store, carrying an up-to-date stock of general merchandise, and the business has tripled since they secured control. They follow progressive methods, are most careful in meeting the wants and wishes of their patrons, and their reliable dealing and

courteous treatment are salient features in the growing success. They have ever recognized the fact that satisfied customers are the best advertisement and they have built up their business along substantial lines leading to continued prosperity. In addition to his mercantile interests Carl J. Carlson is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Association of Lindsay.

In 1888 Mr. Carlson was united in marriage to Miss Clara Hedberg, a daughter of Peter Hedberg, who removed to Platte county from Bishop Hill, Illinois, settling at Lookingglass. Mr. and Mrs. Carlson have become the parents of four children, Nettie, Carl, Floyd and Chester.

In his political views Mr. Carlson is an earnest republican but not an office seeker. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp at Lindsay, in which he has held different offices, and he is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge of Newman Grove. He also belongs to the Lindsay Commercial Club and takes an active and helpful interest in all plans and measures to promote the welfare and upbuilding of the town. He recognizes public needs as he does the conditions of his business and seeks ever to further those plans which promote civic virtue, improvement and pride.

R. BRUCE WEBB.

A busy and active life intelligently directed has brought to R. Bruce Webb a substantial measure of success, so that he is numbered among the men of affluence in Creston, where he is engaged in the real-estate and auctioneering business and also has other important financial and business connections. He was born in Tennessee, May 23, 1868, a son of George W. and Margaret (Charlton) Webb, who were also natives of that state. The father was educated for the ministry but before beginning active work in that connection the Civil war broke out and he joined the Confederate army, with which he served for three years. He had his skull cracked during the war and this left him in rather feeble health. In February, 1870, he removed to Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska, where he resided for sixteen years. On the expiration of that period he came to Platte county and resided on a farm near Creston for five years, at the end of which time he removed to Madison county, where he purchased land, there carrying on general farming for several years, after which he retired from active business and removed to Madison, living in that county for seventeen years. He next went to Kearney, Nebraska, and still later to Omaha, where he spent his remaining days, his death occurring in April, 1915, when he had reached the age of seventy-four years. His widow is now living in Omaha, aged seventy-four.

R. Bruce Webb was reared and educated in Papillion and Creston, Nebraska, remaining with his parents until he attained his majority. He afterward engaged in driving a team on grade work for the Northwestern Railroad during the process of building the line. He also worked out as a farm hand for three years, but, desirous that his labors should more directly benefit himself, he rented land which he continued to cultivate for several years. He then removed to Stanton county, Nebraska, where he carried on farming until 1902, at which time he returned to Platte county, where he engaged in farming for a year.

Coming to Creston, Mr. Webb has since made this town his home and has devoted the greater part of his time to the real-estate business and to auctioneering. He also bought land south of the town. He is a stockholder and director in the Citizens State Bank of Creston and a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company. His business affairs have always been carefully and wisely conducted, displaying sound judgment, keen sagacity and unfaltering energy. His services are almost constantly in demand as an auctioneer, and he has cried some of the largest sales in this part of the state. He was also in the government service, selling at auction the Indian lands in Nebraska and Wyoming for two years during the presidency of William Howard Taft.

On the 21st of September, 1891, Mr. Webb was united in marriage to Miss Mabel Westcott, a daughter of Welland and Anna (Lewis) Westcott, who were natives of Illinois. Her father was a farmer by occupation and also a mason by trade. In 1878 he became a resident of Platte county and after living in Columbus for some time took up his abode in Creston township, where he purchased land, which he cultivated for several years. In 1894 he removed to Missouri, where he resided for a few years, after which he went to Omaha and later returned to Creston, where he continued to live until called to his final rest in 1914, when he was sixty-nine years of age. His widow survives and lives in Creston at the age of sixty-seven. Mr. and Mrs. Webb have become the parents of three children: Troy, who was born in July, 1892, and died in September of that year; Vera, born in November, 1894; and Kenneth, in September, 1900.

Mr. Webb is a public-spirited citizen, interested in all that pertains to the welfare and progress of the community and county in which he makes his home. To this end he cooperates in many movements calculated to benefit the district. He is a member of the Platte County Fair Association, has done good work as a member of the school board of Creston and has also served as a member of the town board, to which office he was elected on the republican ticket, having ever been a stalwart supporter of that party. In fact, he has taken an active interest in promoting its growth and insuring its success and has served as chairman of the republican central committee of Platte county. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias, the Degree of Honor and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and is a member of the company which owns the United Workmen building in Creston. He is also president of the Northern Nebraska Auctioneers Association. He owns a fine home in Creston, modern in every respect, and one of its chief charms is the warm-hearted and gracious hospitality which he and his wife extend to their many friends. He is thoroughly alive and alert, energetic, ready to meet any emergency, and at all times loyal to an interest or cause which he espouses. His county numbers him among its representative citizens, his worth being acknowledged by all.

SIMON P. BENDER.

Simon P. Bender, a resident farmer of Humphrey township, living on section 22, has always spent his life in Platte county, and the spirit of western enterprise and progress finds expression in his business career. He was born October 2, 1887, in the township in which he still makes his home, his parents being John W.

and Mary (Wunder) Bender, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. The son was reared under the parental roof and pursued his education in the district schools and parochial school of Humphrey. Through the periods of vacation he assisted in the work of the home farm and continued to live with his parents until he attained his majority. His father and mother then removed to a farm near the town, and Simon P. Bender continued upon the old homestead, which he has since cultivated. His place is known as the Poland China Breeding Farm, which name indicates an important feature of his business, for he is very extensively and successfully engaged in the raising of thoroughbred Poland China hogs, in which connection he has become widely known. He also feeds a carload of cattle each year, and his live-stock interests are a most important and profitable feature of his business. He has a half section of land which is situated on section 22, Humphrey township, and the soil, naturally rich and productive, returns to him a gratifying annual income.

On the 14th of September, 1910, Mr. Bender was united in marriage to Miss Sabina Abler, a daughter of Edwin and Christina (Gehr) Abler, both of whom were natives of Germany but came to America in early life and for a time resided in Missouri. Subsequently they established their home in Platte county, Nebraska, and Mr. Abler is now operating the Joseph Bender farm, adjoining the farm of Simon P. Bender. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Simon P. Bender has been born a daughter, Mildred M., whose natal day was December 7, 1913.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church, and Mr. Bender belongs also to the Catholic Order of Foresters. His political belief is that of the democratic party but he has had neither the time nor the inclination to seek public office, preferring always to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs. His entire life has been spent upon the farm which he now occupies and cultivates and which is one of the valuable properties of Humphrey township. He leads a most busy, active and useful life, and his labors are attended with a measure of well deserved success.

JEROME W. CONNELLY.

Jerome W. Connelly, who is occupying the position of postmaster at Lindsay, was born September 20, 1892, a son of Frank and Mary Connelly, who settled in Platte county in 1872, coming from Lindsay, Canada, the town of Lindsay, Nebraska, being named in honor of their old home town in Canada. Frank Connelly worked upon a farm and afterward established a store, which he conducted successfully for a time. He afterward disposed of the store to Martin Mogan and opened a hardware business, which he conducted in partnership with William Degan for a time. A few years later he disposed of this business and in connection with his nephew, Jesse Connelly, went to Creston, Nebraska, where he engaged in the hardware business, conducting his establishment for two and a half years. On disposing of his interests at that place he returned to Lindsay and retired from active business. He now resides upon land which his father homesteaded on first coming to the state and his former business activity provided him with the capital

that now enables him to enjoy a period of rest. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party, while his religious faith is that of the Catholic church.

Jerome W. Connelly attended school in Lindsay and for three years continued his studies at Quincy, Illinois. He was also in school at York, Nebraska, for about six months, after which he returned to Lindsay, where he engaged in the auto livery business for about two years. Subsequently he was employed at farm labor until the 1st of September, 1914. On the 1st of October, of that year, he took charge of the Lindsay postoffice, which he is now conducting, performing his work in a careful and systematic manner that is highly satisfactory to his patrons and to those who have general supervision over the office.

Mr. Connelly votes with the democratic party and his religious faith is that of the Catholic church. Much of his life has been spent in the locality in which he now lives and he enjoys in large measure the high regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

JOSEPH BRAUN.

Among the well known citizens of Humphrey township is Joseph Braun, who lives on section 30, and, as those who know him entertain for him warm regard, the history of his life cannot fail to prove of interest to his many friends. He was born in Wisconsin, April 1, 1850, a son of John P. and Anna M. (Schrueder) Braun, both of whom were natives of Germany, where they remained until 1848, when they sailed for the new world. They did not tarry on the Atlantic coast but made their way at once into the interior of the country, settling six miles south of Milwaukee, where Mr. Braun purchased twenty acres of land, which he continued to develop and improve until 1861. He then went to Dane county, Wisconsin, and invested his savings in eighty acres of land, which he continued to cultivate until 1879. He then sold that property and came to Platte county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded eighty acres and also secured a timber claim of one hundred and sixty acres near St. Mary's. With characteristic energy he bent his efforts to the immediate development and improvement of the land, which he converted into a fine farm that he cultivated throughout his remaining days. He died in 1893, being survived for five years by his wife, who passed away in 1898.

Joseph Braun was reared and educated in Wisconsin. He remained upon his father's farm until he reached the age of nineteen years, when he entered college in preparation for teaching, which profession he afterward followed in Wisconsin, Iowa and Nebraska for nine years. He then put aside the work of the schoolroom and in 1878 took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres on section 30, Humphrey township. He set about improving his land and has since continued its cultivation with good results, his fields annually bringing forth golden harvests as the result of his early plowing, planting and unflagging care. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Humphrey and one of the stockholders of the First National Bank of Humphrey. In the thirty-seven years which have come and gone since he turned his attention to farming he has won success as the reward of persistent, earnest labor. In addition to his home place he owns a half section of land in Boone county, Nebraska.

On the 25th of February, 1878, Mr. Braun was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Scheidemantel, a daughter of Henry and Cunnigunda (Meyer) Scheidemantel, who were natives of Bavaria. They came to America in early life and settled in Wisconsin, where the father purchased land, upon which he lived for some years. Later he removed with his family to Iowa and became the owner of a farm in Winneshiek county, devoting his remaining days to its development and improvement. He died January 16, 1888, and was long survived by his wife, who passed away in November, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Braun have become parents of ten children: Cunnigunda, the wife of Bernard Lohaus, a resident farmer of Humphrey township; Peter J., who is living in Chicago; Henry J., a resident farmer of Granville township; Mary, the wife of Henry J. Haferland, who follows farming in Humphrey township; Minnie, a trained nurse located in Atlantic, Iowa; Leo J., a farmer of Boone county, Nebraska; Anna, the wife of John Eggers, residing in Humphrey; Josephine, who is studying in Omaha for the profession of nursing; Joseph F. E., at home; and Anna Rosa, who died in August, 1894.

Mr. Brann has been very prominent in community affairs. He is a member of the Catholic church, and his political support is given to the democratic party, on which ticket he has been elected to serve in positions of honor and trust. In 1884 and 1885 he served as county supervisor and for sixteen years he filled the office of justice of the peace. He also served as township treasurer and as clerk, acting in the latter position for ten years. The fact that he has been again and again chosen for public office indicates the confidence reposed in him by his fellow townsmen, who regard him as a capable and faithful official, his loyalty standing as an unquestioned fact in his career.

C. G. LUDTKE.

C. G. Ludtke, who has gained an enviable reputation as a progressive farmer and stock-raiser, is a native son of Platte county, his birth having occurred in Sherman township. His natal year was 1878 and his parents were Herman and Louisa (Meyer) Ludtke, both natives of Germany. They were married, however, in Platte county, Nebraska, where they arrived about 1863. The father homesteaded eighty acres in Sherman township and purchased land from time to time, owning at the time of his death six hundred and forty acres. His first wife died in 1891, and he subsequently married Miss Anna Beitel, who, following his death in 1900, became the wife of Wendolin Brauner. By Mr. Ludtke's first marriage there were born eight children and by his second four.

C. G. Ludtke grew to manhood in this county and through assisting his father gained much valuable knowledge of agricultural work. He received a good common school education and also attended the Agricultural College at Lincoln, thus better fitting himself for successful farming. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of his father's estate, which he purchased from the other heirs, and carries on general farming, specializing, however, to some extent in raising high grade Poland China hogs. The buildings upon the place are substantial and well designed and everything is kept in excellent repair.

Mr. Ludtke was married February 23, 1911, to Miss Anna Dirks, a daughter of

M. H. Dirks, a prominent farmer of Sherman township, and to this union have been born two children, Helen Louise and Lulu Lucile.

Mr. Ludtke gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and for six years served acceptably as township clerk. He is a communicant of the Lutheran church and takes an active interest in the work of that organization. A native of Platte county, he has thoroughly identified himself with its interests and is always willing to do anything within his power to promote its development and progress.

E. J. WEIDNER.

Among the successful farmers of St. Bernard township is E. J. Weidner, who was born in Cook county, Illinois, June 24, 1869, a son of Jacob and Mary Weidner. The parents removed to Platte county, Nebraska, in 1883. E. J. Weidner came to this county with his brother, Adam Weidner, in 1884, a year after his parents had removed here. During the greater part of the time that has since intervened he has resided upon the same farm on section 14, St. Bernard township, and he has proven a very efficient agriculturist. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of land, which is well improved, and derives a good income from his farm. From 1907 until 1912 he resided in Lindsay, where he owned and operated the electric light plant. Subsequently he conducted a garage in Lindsay for two years but in 1914 returned to the farm, where he has since remained.

On the 24th of November, 1891, Mr. Weidner was married to Miss Della Albrecht, a daughter of John Albrecht, and to this union have been born ten children, as follows: Mary, now the wife of Allen Broehle, of this county; and Anna, Henrietta, Herman, Anastasia, Raymond, Anthony, Alice, Luella and Clare, all at home.

The political allegiance of Mr. Weidner is given to the democratic party, and his religious faith is that of the Catholic church. His has been a life of wisely directed energy, and he has won a gratifying measure of financial success. He has also gained the full confidence and goodwill of those with whom he has been brought into contact.

WILLIAM KURT.

William Kurt is well known in business circles of Columbus as a cigar manufacturer, in which connection he has built up a trade of large and gratifying proportions. In public affairs, too, he is actively interested and is now serving as a member of the city council, in which connection he is doing important work for the public welfare.

He was born in Platte county, May 1, 1870, his parents being John and Mary Kurt, the father having come to this state from Switzerland in the year 1869. He established his home upon a farm and it was upon that place that William Kurt was born and reared, working with his father in the fields until he reached the age of fourteen years, when he started out upon an independent business career. He afterward followed different occupations. He engaged for a time in

cattle herding and later turned his attention to the cigar-maker's trade, with which he familiarized himself, becoming an expert workman in that line. In 1900 he embarked in the cigar-manufacturing business on his own account and through his persistent, earnest efforts has built up a large trade, selling to local merchants. He manufactures the Little Duke, a five cent cigar, and the annual output is between two hundred and two hundred and ten thousand cigars. He uses the latest improved processes in manufacture, observes the most sanitary conditions in the care of the plant and by reason of his reliable business methods and unfaltering enterprise has gained a substantial measure of prosperity.

Mr. Kurt is well known in fraternal circles. He belongs to Thusuelda Lodge, No. 12, O. D. H. S.; Platte Aerie, No. 1834, F. O. E., of which he is a charter member and the vice president; Columbus Lodge, No. 1195, B. P. O. E., and Columbus Nest, No. 117, O. O. O. He also has membership with the Columbus Maennerchor and with the Columbus Commercial Club and is interested in all of the plans of the latter organization to promote the business expansion and advance the material development of the city. In politics he is an earnest democrat, recognized as a local leader in party ranks. He is now serving for the fifth year as a member of the city council from the second ward and is chairman of the finance committee and a member of the judiciary, public property, waterworks and claims committees. His reelection to the office proves the confidence reposed in him by his fellow townsmen and the faith of his constituents has never been betrayed in the slightest degree. On the contrary, he is known as a citizen who works earnestly to further the public welfare, and he has made an excellent record for himself in this connection and as a self-made and thoroughly reliable business man.

WILLIAM JAMES WALTER.

During the past decade William James Walter has been a prominent representative of business interests in Columbus as president of the Columbus Brewing Company. His birth occurred in Mendota, Illinois, on the 2d of July, 1859, his parents being Christian and Mary Ann (Kramm) Walter, both of whom were natives of Germany, the latter born in Frankfort-on-the-Main. Their marriage was celebrated in Chicago, Illinois, and Christian Walter passed away in Mendota, that state, in 1871, at the age of forty-eight years, having been born in 1823. The demise of his wife occurred in Aurora, Illinois, in June, 1913.

William J. Walter was reared in Chicago to the age of seven years and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Mendota, Illinois, where he attended school until eleven years old. Subsequently he learned the marble-cutting trade in Mendota and there worked at that occupation until twenty-three years of age, when he went to Amboy, Illinois, where he was employed at his trade for a year. He was there married and next removed to Aurora, Illinois, where he entered the service of a Chicago concern in whose interests he traveled as a salesman for twelve years. On the expiration of that period, in 1894, he began selling brewing supplies for a Pittsburg firm, being connected with its Chicago branch. This experience gave him broad knowledge of the business, so that in 1905 he came to Columbus, Nebraska, and embarked upon an independent venture as president of the



WILLIAM J. WALTER

Columbus Brewing Company, which he has since conducted in a most able and successful manner. He is likewise a director of the Columbus Accident & Health Association of Columbus.

Mr. Walter has been married twice. In 1881, at Amboy, Illinois, he wedded Miss Anna M. Fasoldt, who passed away in Aurora, that state, leaving four sons, namely: Leo G.; Edward W., who died at the age of twenty-one years; Otto F., mentioned on another page of this work, who is now serving as county attorney of Platte county; and Carl A., who is attending school. On the 8th of August, 1905, in Dixon, Illinois, Mr. Walter was again married, his second union being with Miss Mary Elizabeth Odenthal, by whom he has one son and two daughters, namely: Frederick William, Helen Marie and Pauline Catharine.

In politics Mr. Walter is a staunch democrat and he is now a colonel on the staff of Governor Morehead. Fraternally he is identified with the Elks, the Eagles and the Owls and he has been president of the Sons of Herman and president of the Maennerchor. He likewise belongs to the Orpheus Society, while his religious faith is that of the Catholic church. Mr. Walter is public-spirited, patriotic and capable and has fairly won the high place he holds in the estimation of his fellow citizens.

H. ARTHUR PALMATEER.

H. Arthur Palmateer, who since the spring of 1912 has been engaged in the hardware and implement business at Creston as a member of the firm of Leach & Palmateer, is a business man of well defined principles that at all times measure up to the highest standard of commercial ethics. He has ever recognized the fact that success depends upon persistency of purpose, close application and indefatigable energy and these qualities he has employed throughout his entire business career. He was born in New York, September 9, 1871, a son of George and Kimmie (Filkins) Palmateer, both of whom were natives of New York. The father was a farmer by occupation and followed that pursuit in the Empire state until 1878, when he came to Platte county. After renting land for several years, during which he carefully saved his earnings, he finally purchased a farm in Humphrey township and further cultivated and improved that property until his death, which occurred in 1901. For six years he had survived his wife, who died in 1895.

H. Arthur Palmateer is indebted to the public-school system of this county for the educational privileges he enjoyed as he was but seven years of age when the family removed to Nebraska. In his youthful days he was trained to the work of the fields and continued to assist his father until he reached the age of twenty-three years, when he and his brothers took charge of the old homestead, which they operated together until 1897. In that year H. A. Palmateer and his brother Frank bought two hundred and forty acres of land and following their father's death he and his brother purchased the interest of the other heirs in the old homestead property and now own five hundred and sixty acres of rich and arable land, from which they annually derive a gratifying income. The old homestead is on section 11, Humphrey township, and there H. Arthur Palmateer still resides, as does also his brother Frank. They are still farming together and are numbered among the

leading agriculturists of the county. One hundred and sixty acres of their land is on section 2, while the remainder is on section 11, Humphrey township. In addition to carefully tilling the soil they raise high grade stock and that branch of their business nets them a good financial return. In the spring of 1912 H. A. Palmateer purchased an interest of Mr. Leach in a hardware and implement business at Creston, in which he is now a partner. They carry an extensive line of shelf and heavy hardware and also do a large business in the sale of implements. They likewise handle the Ford and Studebaker cars and sell many machines annually. In addition to all of his other interests Mr. Palmateer is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company at Creston and in the Citizens State Bank. His keen interest enables him to recognize the value of a business situation and its opportunities and in the conduct of his affairs he readily discriminates between the essential and the nonessential.

On the 16th of January, 1894, occurred the marriage of Mr. Palmateer and Miss Ora Pruitt, a daughter of Harry and Mary Pruitt, both of whom were natives of Indiana. They came to Platte county at an early period in its development and Mr. Pruitt purchased land in Humphrey township, where he persistently and successfully carried on general farming until 1907. He then retired and removed to Omaha, where he and his wife still reside. Mr. and Mrs. Palmateer have become the parents of four children, namely: Harry, whose birth occurred November 17, 1896; Homer, born July 15, 1898; Russell, born July 28, 1900; and Dessie, born November 20, 1903. The parents are Methodists in religious faith and loyally adhere to the teachings of the church.

Mr. Palmateer exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the democratic party and fraternally is connected with the Highlanders and the Knights of Pythias. His has been an active, well spent and useful life, crowned with a substantial measure of success, which is the merited reward and indication of persistent, earnest labor intelligently directed. He has also taken a helpful interest in matters relating to the public welfare and his efforts have been an element in advancing those interests which are a matter of civic virtue and civic pride.

M. J. WEIDNER.

M. J. Weidner is a well known hardware merchant of Lindsay, where he is carrying a large stock and conducting a good store, of which he has been sole proprietor since 1898. He was born in Lake county, Illinois, September 4, 1866, and in early life learned and followed the carpenter's trade. He dates his residence in Platte county from 1893, in which year he came to Nebraska with his brother. He divided his time between farming and carpentering until 1902, when he took up his abode in Lindsay, and the following year he and his brother-in-law, Joseph Beller, purchased the hardware business of Mr. Steiner and conducted the store until 1908. Mr. Weidner then purchased his partner's interest and has since been alone in business. He now carries a well selected line of shelf and heavy hardware and stoves and is thus ready to meet the demands of his patrons, who

find him a reliable, enterprising merchant, just in his dealings and reasonable in his prices.

Mr. Weidner married Miss Josephine Beller, and they have become parents of four children: Wilferd, Hildegard, Cyrus and Valeria. The family are Catholics in religious faith and Mr. Weidner is identified with the Foresters. His political indorsement is given to the democratic party and he keeps well informed regarding the leading questions and issues of the day but does not seek nor desire office. There has been no spectacular phase in his life history; he works hard, is persistent and energetic, and along well defined lines of labor he is meeting with success.

PETER H. ALBERS.

Peter H. Albers makes his home on section 30, Burrows township, and is the owner of four hundred and fifty-eight acres of rich and arable land. His place constitutes one of the attractive features of the landscape by reason of the carefully cultivated fields and the fine modern improvements which he has put upon his farm. He belongs to that class of substantial citizens that Germany has furnished to Platte county, his birth having occurred in the fatherland, March 19, 1852. His parents, Hans P. and Elizabeth (Peters) Albers, were also natives of Germany, and there the father engaged in farming throughout his entire life, passing away in his native country in 1869. His widow afterward came to the new world with her son Peter, with whom she continued to reside until she, too, was called to her final rest in the year 1886.

Peter H. Albers spent his youthful days in his native country and there acquired a fair education. He early became familiar with farm methods and operated his father's land until he came to America in 1883, making Platte county his destination. Soon after his arrival here he purchased two hundred and twenty acres of land in Shell Creek township and at once began to make improvements thereon and till the fields. He was thus engaged until 1886, when he traded that property for his present place, becoming the owner of two hundred and twenty acres on section 30, Burrows township, to which he afterward added by purchase until his possessions now aggregate four hundred and fifty-eight acres on sections 29, 30 and 33. None of the equipment and improvements of a model farm of the twentieth century are lacking here. In fact, the place presents a most attractive appearance with its large and substantial buildings, its rich pasture land and well cultivated fields. Mr. Albers makes a specialty of raising shorthorn cattle and Belgian mares, and he feeds and ships from one to two carloads of cattle and about one hundred head of hogs annually.

On December 21, 1883, Mr. Albers was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Reese, a daughter of John and Katherine (Muesing) Reese, who were natives of Germany, in which country the father died. The mother afterward married Peter Lutejens and came to the new world in 1883, settling in this county where her husband purchased land in Shell Creek township which he cultivated until his death. He was called to his final rest in 1903, while his wife passed away in 1897. Mr. and Mrs. Albers have become the parents of eleven children: Henry, who is

engaged in carpentering in Columbus; Freda, the wife of Thomas Thomazin, a resident farmer of this county; Bertha, the wife of Ray Baltz, who follows farming near Fremont, Nebraska; Emma, the wife of Ed Erickson, a farmer of Monroe township; and John, Alma, Walter, Martha, Elvin, William and Verna, all at home.

Mr. Albers has ever been interested in educational progress, desiring that his children should have good advantages along that line, and for twelve years he has done effective work as a member of the school board. He votes with the republican party and he guides his life by the teachings of the Baptist church, of which he is an earnest and faithful member. He possesses many admirable and sterling traits of character, his salient qualities being such as command respect and confidence in every land and clime.

GERHARD ROSCHE.

Gerhard Rosche is a representative of farming interests of Sherman township. He devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits on section 20 for a long period but is now practically living retired although he still occupies the farm. He was born in Oldenburg, Germany, October 22, 1848, a son of Bernhard and Katrina (Luejehueshen) Rosche. The father owned a small farm and also conducted a small store in Oldenburg, where he spent his entire life, passing away in 1862 at the age of fifty-four years. His wife died in 1861, when but forty-two years of age.

Gerhard Rosche was the third in order of birth in a family of seven children and was but fourteen years of age when left an orphan. He attended school in his native country and afterward worked at farm labor there, remaining a resident of Germany until he reached the age of nineteen years, when, in 1868, he came alone to the United States, settling at Mayville, Dodge county, Wisconsin, where he lived for two years. From 1872 until 1874 he was a resident of Minnesota and in the latter year arrived in Platte county, Nebraska, but afterward went to North Platte, where he remained for about two years. On the expiration of that period he returned to Platte county, where he began farming. His father-in-law, Gerhard Asche, had taken a homestead but after a year had died and Mr. Rosche then took possession of the property. There was a sod house upon it but practically no other buildings or improvements. Mr. Rosche had a little money and engaged in operating a horse power threshing machine. He owned his own team and upon his farm he built a house twenty-four by fourteen feet. There were practically no improvements in the township and the work of development seemed scarcely begun. The enterprising efforts of Mr. Rosche soon wrought a marked transformation in the appearance of his home place, for as the years went on he set out trees, erected a comfortable and commodious modern residence, built good barns and in fact made all of the improvements upon the farm, keeping in touch at all times with modern progressive farm methods. He began with eighty acres of land and has now three hundred and twenty acres in his home place, in addition to which he has property in Columbus. Year by year he carefully tilled the soil and the crops which he so earnestly cultivated brought to him a growing income which in time made him the possessor of a handsome competence. He also engaged quite extensively in the raising of high grade Hereford cattle, and he called his place the Hereford Stock Farm. He also took

first prize on a pair of Arabian mares and Arabian colts at the Platte County Fair in 1915. In 1912 he retired from active farm life but still lives upon the old homestead although he owns property in Columbus.

On the 15th of March, 1878, Mr. Rosche was married to Miss Sophia Asche, who was born in Oldenburg, Germany, in 1856, a daughter of Gerhard and Katrine (Englebart) Asche, both of whom were natives of Oldenburg. They came to the United States in 1873, but the wife and mother died shortly after her arrival. The father, having settled in Platte county, secured a homestead, built a sod house and began life here in true pioneer style, his daughter Sophia acting as housekeeper for her father. To Mr. and Mrs. Rosche have been born four children. Matilda is the wife of Gus Loseke, by whom she has three children, Olga, Emma and Elmer. Clara married William Cattau, of Sherman township, by whom she has a son, Elmer. Anna is the wife of Herman Cattau, who operates her father's farm, and they have two children, Holger and Hulda. Adela, the youngest of the family, lives with her father.

Mr. Rosche has voted with the republican party since he became a naturalized American citizen but does not seek nor desire office. He belongs to the Lutheran church, of which he has been an active member, helping to build the church near his home and assisting in its work in many ways. His life has ever been guided by high and honorable principles, and he has displayed many sterling traits of character. He is a self-made man, having started out empty-handed, and, realizing that industry is the basis of all honorable success, he has worked diligently and persistently. Today he is numbered among the prosperous residents of his township, and that his life has been well spent is indicated in the high regard entertained for him by those who know him.

WILLIAM HERCHENBACH.

William Herchenbach, who owns a good farm of three hundred and twenty acres on section 13, St. Bernard township, was born in the Rhine province of Prussia, November 7, 1864, a son of Henry and Helen (Wiersberg) Herchenbach. The father was a saddler and harness repairer.

William Herchenbach, who was the eldest in a family of three children, received a common-school education and as a boy assisted his father. When nineteen years of age he, in company with several other youths, emigrated to America and made his way to LaSalle county, Illinois. There he worked as a farm hand for about nine years, after which he rented land for a similar period of time. In 1900 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in St. Bernard township, Platte county, Nebraska, paying therefor thirty-seven dollars and a half per acre, and in January, 1901, he took up his residence upon that place. At that time the farm had no improvements but he at once began its development. In 1906 he bought an additional eighty acres, which he sold in 1914, but in July, 1915, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres, also on section 13, paying one hundred and thirty-eight dollars per acre, which indicates the rapid advance in land values in this county. He has erected a fine residence upon his place and also large barns and sheds and everything is kept in excellent condition. Since 1909 he has raised full blooded Holstein cattle

and also breeds Red Polled cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. He is living retired to a large extent, leaving the actual work of the farm to his sons. In addition to his landed holdings he owns stock in the St. Bernard Telephone Company, the Farmers Elevator Association of Lindsay and the Farmers Union Store of Lindsay.

On the 9th of February, 1892, Mr. Herchenbach was married, in La Salle county, Illinois, to Miss Mary Happ, an early settler of La Salle county, who came to this country from Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Herchenbach have the following children: Carrie, Henry, Peter, Eva, Helen and Edward.

Mr. Herchenbach and family are communicants of the Roman Catholic church at St. Bernard and in politics he is independent. Although he has never been an office seeker he has always taken a commendable interest in public affairs and is willing to aid in movements seeking the community advancement. His agreeable personality and strict integrity have won him many warm friends and he is respected by all who know him.

ROBERT PINSON.

Robert Pinson is a retired farmer and ex-postmaster of Platte Center and is a well known citizen whose genuine personal worth, as well as his business ability and his creditable official record, have gained for him a high position in public regard. Platte county has many citizens of foreign birth and among this number is Mr. Pinson, who was born at Norfolk, England, on the 14th of February, 1842, his parents being James and Mary (Anderson) Pinson, in whose family of five children Robert is the eldest. He has one brother, William, who is still living, a resident of Lost Creek township, this county.

Robert Pinson is indebted to the public-school system of his native country for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. He learned the molder's trade in England, serving an apprenticeship of four and a half years, after which he worked along that line until 1865. He was then married in August, 1865, in England, to Mrs. Susan Everhard and turned his attention from industrial to commercial pursuits, becoming proprietor of a general store, which he conducted for five years. He then sold out and came to the United States, landing at Portland, Maine. He was accompanied by his brother William and it was their intention to visit an uncle living in Toronto, but on reaching that city they could not find him, as they had lost his address. While in the depot at that place they saw a number of people buying tickets for Nebraska and, thinking that there must be something to attract them in large numbers to that state, they followed the example of the others and purchased tickets for their passage from Toronto to Omaha. On reaching the latter city they were informed that homesteads could be secured near Columbus and, making their way to Platte county, both Robert and William Pinson took up eighty acres of land in Lost Creek township. Later Robert Pinson added sixty acres more and continued to engage actively and successfully in farming until 1890, when he accepted the position of postmaster of Platte Center, to which he was appointed by President Harrison. He served for four years and upon the expiration of his term of office again took up the occupation of farming but in 1898 he was once more appointed postmaster by President McKinley and served continuously for



ROBERT PINSON

seventeen years, or until he resigned on the 1st of January, 1915. He had made a most creditable record in that position, caring for the mails in a most prompt and systematic manner and performing every duty of the office in the most conscientious and able way. Immediately after his retirement from the position of postmaster he was appointed justice of the peace. He was also township clerk for seven years and township assessor for four years, and while living on the farm held the office of school director for ten years. He still owns his farm in Lost Creek township and he also owns one hundred and sixty acres in Holt county, Nebraska. His farm property in Platte county is well improved and is a valuable and productive tract of land.

Mr. and Mrs. Pinson became the parents of one son, Tom J. E., who was born in England in 1868 and is now living on the home farm. He married Miss Lena Scheidel and has three children. By her first marriage Mrs. Susan Pinson had one daughter, Jane Mary, now the widow of Willard Chapin and a resident of Walla Walla, Washington. She has a son and two daughters. Mrs. Pinson passed away June 4, 1910, and Mr. Pinson was married again on the 8th of October, 1911, his second union being with Mary C. McCarty, a native of Maryland, who lived for a time in Ohio.

Mr. Pinson is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, having membership with the lodge in Columbus, in which he has passed all the chairs. His long connection with public office made him widely known and he was ever a courteous and obliging official, while his record has at all times been that of a commendable citizen loyal to the best interests intrusted to his care.

CHARLES L. LUND.

Although one of the more recent acquisitions to the industrial circles of Columbus, Charles L. Lund, as proprietor of the Columbus Planing Mill, has become well known in this section and has built up a good business in his particular line. He was born in Sweden, August 16, 1867, a son of Lars Hansson and Louise (Person) Lund, who were there born and reared, and the father is still living in the land of his nativity. The mother, however, is deceased, her death occurring in 1903.

Charles L. Lund was reared in the parental home and acquired a common-school education. At the age of twenty years he had a strong desire to become allied with American interests and accordingly set sail for the new world, landing on American soil in 1887. He spent the first few years in Leigh, Nebraska, but the year 1900 witnessed his arrival in Columbus, where in connection with C. C. Hardy he opened a planing mill, the business being conducted under the name of The Columbus Planing Mill. This partnership existed for only one year, however, at the end of which time Mr. Lund purchased Mr. Hardy's interest in the business, which he has since conducted alone under the original firm style. His plant is equipped with modern machinery, and in the years that have come and gone he has built up a good business, being now classed among the enterprising and successful representatives of industrial interests in this city.

Mr. Lund was married in Brooklyn, New York, in May, 1900, the lady of his choice being Miss Hildeborg Frederika Person, and this union has been blessed

with eight children: Helen Louise, Robert E., William C., Carl V., John H., Theodore R., Ruth E. and Albert O.

His study of the political questions and issues of the day has led Mr. Lund to give his support to the republican party, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Lutheran church. He is identified with the Fraternal Order of Eagles and is a man of strong and forceful character, determined and aggressive. He has kept pace with the city's progress because he has equipped himself for the march and The Columbus Planing Mill is today considered one of the valuable additions to the industrial and business interests of the city which Mr. Lund has chosen for his home.

ROBERT C. MORAN.

Robert C. Moran, conducting a successful business as a live-stock dealer at Creston, was born in Marion county, West Virginia, on the 11th of October, 1856, a son of Robert and Sarah (Pride) Moran, both of whom were natives of West Virginia. The father was a farmer by occupation but put aside personal and business interests at the time of the Civil war and served for a year as a lieutenant in Company M, Second West Virginia Volunteer Infantry. He afterward resumed agricultural pursuits and in 1876 came to Nebraska, settling in Creston township, where he secured a homestead. This he developed and improved, devoting his remaining days to the further cultivation of that farm. He became recognized as a valued and influential citizen of his community and for two terms filled the office of county commissioner. He died December 5, 1902, while his wife survived for a number of years, passing away in January, 1911. Their many good qualities had endeared them to all with whom they came in contact, and they were recognized as people of the highest respectability.

Robert C. Moran is indebted to the public-school system of his native state for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. His youthful days were spent in the home of his parents and when he attained his majority he started out in life independently by renting land, which he cultivated for a few years. During that period he practiced economy as well as industry and thus secured the capital that enabled him to become the owner of a farm, investing in one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 27, Creston township, for in the meantime the family had removed to Platte county. With characteristic energy he began to develop and improve that property, and as his financial resources increased he purchased eighty acres across the road on section 33, Creston township. He continued the work of the farm for about fifteen years, and the place underwent a most attractive and gratifying change owing to the care and labor which he bestowed upon it. In 1910, however, Mr. Moran rented part of his land and removed to Creston, where he has since engaged in the live-stock business. He is an excellent judge of stock, and his careful purchases enable him to make profitable sales, so that his business is now bringing to him a substantial return. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Creston. He has never been afraid of hard work, and unfaltering industry has been the basis of his financial advancement.

In September, 1881, Mr. Moran was married to Miss Fanny A. Jackson, a

daughter of William C. and Hulda (Drake) Jackson, the former a native of England and the latter of Newark, New Jersey. When Platte county was in the period of pioneer development they came to Nebraska and purchased land in Creston township, Mr. Jackson there carrying on general farming until 1909, when he retired from active business life and has since rented his one hundred and ninety acres. Upon his retirement he removed to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he and his wife are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Moran have become the parents of eight children: J. Clyde, born August 10, 1882; Charles, whose birth occurred in September, 1885; Camden, born March 10, 1887; Roy, born in July, 1889; Ralph, born in January, 1891; Robert, April 15, 1894; Hattie, July 25, 1901; and Ernest, February 12, 1906.

Politically Mr. Moran is a democrat, and for two terms he filled the office of treasurer of Creston township, while for seven terms he was school treasurer. He is always mindful of the duties and obligations of citizenship and is willing to aid and co-operate in any measure that tends to advance the general welfare. His life exemplifies the beneficent spirit of the Masonic fraternity, to which he belongs, and his membership relations extend to the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In religious faith he is a Presbyterian. All who know him feel that his life measures up to high standards of manhood and citizenship and that he may well be numbered among the valued and representative residents of Creston. His business affairs have been most carefully conducted. Keen interest has enabled him to recognize the possibilities of a situation, and laudable ambition has prompted his ready utilization of every opportunity that has come to him.

CHARLES G. MICEK.

Prominent among the enterprising, progressive and far-sighted business men of Columbus is Charles G. Micek, a hardware merchant, conducting business at the corner of West Eleventh and North streets. He displays sound judgment in business affairs and his indefatigable energy and earnest desire to please his patrons are the qualities that are bringing him substantial success.

Nebraska numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Polk county, on a farm five miles south of Columbus, on the 21st of April, 1881, his parents being Philip and Mary (Boro) Micek. The father was born in Poland, January 6, 1851, and was therefore a young man of twenty-two years when in 1873 he crossed the Atlantic and made his way to Polk county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres. His first residence was a sod house, and he had the usual experiences of pioneer life, meeting many hardships and privations in early days when he was attempting to break the sod and cultivate the fields. In time, however, his labors were rewarded and his land brought forth good crops. At length he sold that property and bought another tract of one hundred and sixty acres and to his holdings he added from time to time until he became the owner of nine hundred and twenty acres. He has given to each of his children one hundred and sixty acres and retains a similar amount for himself. His political allegiance has always been given to the democratic party, while his religious faith is that of the Catholic church. He was married in 1872 to Miss Mary Boro, who was born in Poland in 1856 and also survives.

Their son, Charles G. Micek, reared on the homestead farm, acquired a public-school education in Polk county, Nebraska, and during his youthful days met the usual experiences of the farm boy. He lived at home until 1904, when he received one hundred and sixty acres of land from his father, after which he engaged in farming on his own account for two years. In 1906 he removed to Columbus, where he established a saloon, continuing in that business for nine years. In 1915 he purchased the hardware store of M. M. Rothleitner, which is one of the old established hardware stores of the city. He carries a large and well selected line of both shelf and heavy hardware, dealing in Monarch and South Bend ranges, Radiant Home base burners, German heating stoves, Perfection oil heaters, Diamond Edge tools, Union cutlery, Voss electric washers and Heath and Milligan paints. His store is tastefully and conveniently arranged and all patrons have at their disposal the best brands of special and general hardware, and courteous treatment is at all times accorded them. Mr. Micek recognizes the fact that satisfied customers are the best advertisement and through that means and through honorable dealing is building up an excellent trade.

Mr. Micek was married on the 27th of January, 1903, to Miss Anna Siemek, who was born in Polk county, Nebraska, May 13, 1890. This union has been blessed with seven children: Clara and Victoria, both attending the parochial school; Thomas and Anna, who are in the public schools; and Carl, Edward and Leonard.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church, and in political belief Mr. Micek is a democrat. He gives earnest support to the party but does not seek nor desire office, preferring always to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, which, carefully directed, are winning for him substantial and well deserved prosperity.

SAMUEL GASS.

Samuel Gass, who is conducting a retail liquor business in Columbus, was born in Switzerland, on the 3d of June, 1854, a son of Christian and Anna (Giesin) Gass, who were also natives of the same county. The father was a general farmer, owning land there. The son attended school in Switzerland and at the age of sixteen years began to learn the cooper's trade, working as an apprentice for two years. He afterward followed his trade in the employ of others in Switzerland until he reached the age of twenty years, when in 1874 he sought the opportunities of the new world, becoming a resident of Columbus, Nebraska.

Here Mr. Gass worked in the furniture business with his brother until 1875, when he went to California, remaining in that state for more than two years, working at his trade in San Francisco and also on a wine ranch, making kegs and casks. He returned to Columbus in 1877 and was engaged in the saloon business on Eleventh street until 1879. The three succeeding years were spent in the employ of his brother Henry in the furniture store and in 1882 he returned on a visit to Switzerland, there visiting the scenes and renewing the acquaintances of his youth. In 1883 he once more came to Columbus, married and established a furniture store which he conducted until 1890 and then sold out, living retired for two years. He was not content, however, without some business interest and in 1892 he again



SAMUEL GASS

opened a saloon, which he has since conducted, devoting all of his time to this business and to the supervision of his real estate. He owns the building which he occupies, together with other city property, and his real-estate holdings are the visible evidence of his business activity and enterprise.

In 1883 Mr. Gass was married to Miss Anna Hofer, a native of Switzerland and a daughter of Henry and Barbara Hofer. The year 1883 witnessed her emigration to the United States. Her mother is still living in Columbus and celebrated the ninety-third anniversary of her birth in June, 1915. While a resident of Switzerland, his native land, Henry Hofer worked for many years in a tannery and after coming to the United States in 1885 lived retired in Columbus until his death. He sent all of his children to the parochial school for a German education and then to the high school, wishing them to have the good start in life which a liberal education would give them.

Mr. and Mrs. Gass have become parents of seven children, as follows: Anna, who is employed as a stenographer in the state banking department at Lincoln, Nebraska; Christian, who is associated in business with his father; Elizabeth, who is employed as bookkeeper by the Columbus Mercantile Company; Martha, who is the wife of Frank Bullington, of New Orleans, Louisiana; Freda, who teaches music, plays the organ in her church and has manifested much natural ability in the musical art; Walter, who will graduate from the Columbus high school in 1916; and Edward, a student in the Columbus schools.

Mr. Gass has never been interested in politics and takes no part in political affairs. He belongs, however, to the German Reformed church, has been one of its active workers and has served as its president. He also has membership with the Sons of Herman, the Columbus Swiss Verein and the Orpheus Society. He aided in organizing and is one of the prominent members of the Swiss Verein, of which for ten years he served as president. He has indeed been very active in affairs of this kind and is prominent and influential among the citizens of his nationality residing in this part of the state.

PETER SCHMIDT.

In a history of Platte county it is imperative that mention be made not only of those who are today active in business life but also of those who have contributed to the development and upbuilding of the county in former years. On the list of honored dead appears the name of Peter Schmidt, whose life of intelligently directed thrift and industry brought him substantial success and gained him place among the leading farmers of the community.

He was born in Germany, September 1, 1863, and is a son of Mathew and Sybilla (Schwamborn) Schmidt, who were natives of Germany, where they remained until 1873 and then came to the new world, settling first at Peru, Illinois, where the father worked in a coal mine for a few years. In 1886, however, he determined to come to Nebraska, after which he made his home with his children in Platte county until called to his final rest in 1889. He had long survived his wife, who died in 1875.

In the schools of Peru, Illinois, Peter Schmidt continued his education, which he had begun in Germany, and on starting out in the business world he found em-

ployment in the coal mines of Illinois, where he worked for four or five years, being afterward employed as a farm hand. Finally he married and then began farming on his own account by renting land, which he continued to cultivate for five years. He next removed to this county, arriving here in 1894, after which he rented land for seven years, during which period he carefully saved his earnings, practicing close economy as well as industry. Thus at length he was enabled to purchase property and became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres on section 28, Burrows township, which he at once began to convert into productive fields, carefully and systematically tilling the soil. He also added substantial improvements to the farm and later bought more land until at one time he owned and cultivated three hundred and twenty acres. Upon that farm he spent his remaining days, continuing active in business until ten days prior to his demise, which occurred May 31, 1911.

On the 27th of November, 1888, Mr. Schmidt was married to Miss Anna Koebbmenn, a daughter of Henry and Marie M. (Lenz) Koebbmenn, who were natives of Germany and on coming to the new world settled in Troy Grove, Illinois. The father was a farmer and there obtained a tract of land, to the further improvement of which he devoted his remaining days. He died February 20, 1903, and his wife's death occurred September 8, 1891. Their daughter, Mrs. Schmidt, was born at Mendota, Illinois, September 19, 1865, and by her marriage became the mother of eight children: Henry F., who is now farming a part of the old home place; William M., who is also farming on the old homestead; Hildegard K., at home; Gertrude S., who died in February, 1904, at the age of seven years; Carl, who passed away August 5, 1900, aged two years; Clara M., who died May 19, 1902; and Otto and Albert M., who are attending school.

In addition to his farming interests Mr. Schmidt was president of the Monroe Independent Telephone Company for a number of years and was recognized as an able, progressive business man, so that he left to his family a substantial property. Mrs. Schmidt still owns the homestead farm, on which there are now three sets of good buildings. In politics Mr. Schmidt was a democrat, while his religious belief made him a communicant of the Catholic church. Although born across the water he was only ten years of age when brought to the United States and was thoroughly loyal to American interests.

SWAN NELSON.

Swan Nelson, who was for a number of years actively engaged in agricultural pursuits in Walker township, was born in Hoemstrom, Sweden, November 11, 1832. He continued to reside in his native country until 1866, when he decided to take advantage of the opportunities offered to a young man of energy and ambition in the United States. He made his way to Michigan and for eleven years worked in lumber camps in the vicinity of Manistee, but in 1878 he came to Platte county, Nebraska, and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he brought to a high state of cultivation. He raised the usual crops and also considerable stock. He planned his work carefully and received a good income from his land.

Mr. Nelson was married in June, 1859, to Miss Johanna Peterson, and they became the parents of nine children: John Alfred, deceased; Josephine, who is

living at Albion, Nebraska; Nellie, the wife of Fritz Quiding, a resident of South Dakota; Charles, deceased; Elmer; Axel, a resident of St. Edward, Nebraska; Anna, the wife of Verne Peterson, of Albion, this state; Alveda, the wife of Theodore Saltstrom, of this county; and Sarah, now Mrs. John E. Bengtson.

Mr. Nelson was a republican in politics, and his religious faith was that of the Lutheran church. His demise, which occurred on the 26th of July, 1897, was deeply regretted as he had many friends in this county. His widow and his daughter, Mrs. Bengtson, still live upon the home farm.

VALDEMAR LAESEN.

One of the well appointed stores of Lindsay is the general mercantile establishment owned and conducted by Valdemar Laesen, who dates his residence in Nebraska from 1901. He was born in Odense, Denmark, on the 5th of May, 1879, his father being engaged in the dry-goods business in that place. The son was afforded good educational opportunities and in 1901, when a young man of twenty-two years, he arrived at St. Edward, Nebraska, where he had an uncle living who was engaged in general merchandising. Entering his uncle's employ, he continued in the store for six years and in 1907, in company with Albert Rasmussen, bought out the general store of Greve Johnson, which they conducted for about two years under the firm style of Laesen & Rasmussen. In 1909, however, Mr. Laesen purchased the interest of the junior partner and has since been conducting the business under his own name.

F. J. SMITH.

Among the attractive mercantile establishments of Lindsay is the furniture store of F. J. Smith, who is an alert, wide-awake and enterprising business man, ready for emergencies and winning his success along the line of industry, determination and honorable effort. Illinois claims him as a native son, his birth having occurred in McHenry county, that state, August 21, 1863, his parents being Jacob F. and Katherine Smith. The father is a native of Coblenz, Germany, and came to the United States in the year 1835 with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Smith, who settled in Illinois, where the grandfather homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres, becoming one of the pioneers in the district in which he established his home. There Jacob F. Smith was reared and carried on general farming. He is now the owner of a good farming property in McHenry county, Illinois, and is accounted one of the leading agriculturists of the community. His wife, however, passed away February 27, 1907.

F. J. Smith was educated in Illinois and assisted his father upon the home farm through the period of his boyhood and youth, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. His time was thus passed until 1885, when, at the age of twenty-two years, he came to Nebraska with Platte county as his destination. He first worked with a construction gang, assisting in

the building of the Northwestern Railroad as far as Lindsay, Nebraska. He then purchased a lot, erected a store building and aided in laying out the town. He is one of the oldest men in continuous business in Lindsay and is an active and progressive merchant. He now has a good furniture store, in which he carries an attractive line of goods, and he also maintains an undertaking department. His store is liberally patronized and the public recognizes in him a reliable and progressive merchant.

On the 26th of October, 1888, Mr. Smith was married to Miss Theresa Fritchen, a daughter of Peter and Elizabeth Fritchen, of Keokuk county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have become the parents of nine children: Edward, who is a Catholic priest now located at Boone, Iowa; Gertrude, the wife of Fred Ramaekers; Susie, one of the Sisters of Mercy in a convent at Omaha; and Clare, Raymond, William, Katherine, Elenora and Mary, all yet at home.

The family are adherents of the Catholic faith and Mr. Smith also has membership with the Foresters. He is a liberal in politics, holding to an independent policy. For thirty years he has been a resident of Platte county and has therefore witnessed much of its growth and development, while his activity has been of a nature that has brought him to the front among its leading business men.

MATHIAS JOHN RAMAEKERS.

Mathias John Ramaekers, engaged in the real-estate and insurance business at Lindsay, is one of the old settlers of Platte county, few of its residents having a more comprehensive or accurate knowledge of pioneer conditions and the events which have framed the history of this part of the state than he. His life record had its beginning at Luttevade, in Limburg, Holland, December 31, 1861, his father being J. W. Ramaekers, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work.

Mathias J. Ramaekers acquired his early education in a graded school and at the age of twelve years he attended the Jesuit College at Sittard and after his graduation pursued a four years' course in a normal school at Maestricht, where he was also graduated, being eighteen years of age at the time he completed his course there. He then accepted a position in a village school at Puth, where he remained for a year, and also spent a similar period at Oosterhout. He was for three years at Raamsdonck, but in the meantime his parents had come to the new world and in July, 1885, he, too, completed arrangements to become a resident of America, joining his father and the family in Platte county, Nebraska, the family home being in St. Bernard township.

Mathias J. Ramaekers afterward engaged in farming with his father for five years and upon his marriage in 1890 began farming on his own account in St. Bernard township, where he lived for eight years. After leaving the farm in 1899 he turned his attention to merchandising at Lindsay and so continued until 1901, when the Farmers & Merchants Bank was organized and he was elected to the position of cashier, remaining in that capacity until January 1, 1915, when he sold his interest in the bank and turned his attention to the real-estate and insurance business, in which he is meeting with good success.

On the 15th of April, 1890, Mr. Ramaekers was united in marriage to Miss

Elizabeth Heiman, a daughter of Joseph Heiman, now residing at St. Bernard. The children born of this marriage are Joseph, Anna, William, Mary, Theresa, Henry, Rose, Josephine, Mattie, Agatha, Raymond and Edward. Joseph, the eldest of the family, married Mary Berger and is engaged in farming in St. Bernard township.

In his political views Mr. Ramackers is an earnest democrat and while living upon the farm served as clerk of St. Bernard township for six years. He has been township treasurer for ten years and is the present incumbent in the office. For six years he filled the position of township assessor, acting at the same time as township treasurer, a course which was possible under the old law, which, however, was changed at a recent date. He has been chairman of the village board of trustees for six years and is the incumbent in that office and is now serving for the third year as school treasurer. He is ever deeply interested in the welfare of the community, its upbuilding and its progress and cooperates in all measures for the general good. Mr. Ramackers and his family hold membership in the Holy Family Catholic church and he is director of the church choir and president of the Sacred Heart Men's Society. He also belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters at Lindsay and to the Knights of Columbus at Humphrey. He is a leading member of the Lindsay Commercial Club and for one year served as its president, taking an active interest in all that pertains to the welfare and upbuilding of the district in which he lives. He is regarded as one of the representative citizens of the community, winning the respect of all who know him and most of all where he is best known. That his life has been an active one is indicated in the success that has crowned his efforts. He is still the owner of three hundred and eighty acres of land in Joliet township, has a half interest in three thousand acres of land in the Panhandle of Texas and is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Association of Lindsay. He owns and occupies an attractive and commodious residence in Lindsay surrounded by fourteen acres of ground, and one of the chief charms of his beautiful home is its warm-hearted hospitality.

PETER GODBERSEN.

Peter Godbersen, who lived a busy, useful and honorable life, was born in Germany, April 13, 1851, and died in Humphrey, Nebraska, October 27, 1896. His parents were Carsten and Johanna Godbersen, also natives of Germany, in which country the father followed farming throughout his entire life, his labors being ended in death in 1911. His wife had passed away in 1909, both reaching an advanced age.

Peter Godbersen spent his youthful days in his native country and is indebted to its public-school system for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. When he finished school he went into the army, serving for three years according to the military rules of that land. In 1884 he came to America and made his way at once to Madison, Nebraska. Soon afterward he secured employment at farm labor, spending three years in that way, after which he came to Platte county and purchased three acres of land and a nice home in the edge of Humphrey. He worked

out for a number of years and afterward rented land, which he continued to cultivate until his death.

In June, 1878, Mr. Godbersen was united in marriage to Miss Catherina Carstensen, a daughter of Carsten and Margaret (Jensen) Carstensen, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father followed farming in that country until he came to the United States with his son-in-law, Peter Godbersen, in 1884, and here secured employment as a farm hand. His end came most suddenly and unexpectedly two months later, for he dropped dead in the field. His widow survived until 1898, when she, too, passed away. To Mr. and Mrs. Godbersen were born ten children, as follows: Carl, an agriculturist living in Canada; Cornelius, who is a carpenter by trade and makes his home in Denison, Iowa; Henry, a barber living in Denison, Iowa; May, who is the wife of Arthur Miller, of Springfield, Illinois; Hannah, who gave her hand in marriage to Noah Smith, of Grand Island, Nebraska; Lena, the wife of Harold Hardin, of Pender, Nebraska; John, who is employed as a stenographer in Grand Island; Dora, who died in infancy; Paul, who also passed away in infancy; and one who died unnamed in infancy. Mr. Godbersen gave his political allegiance to the republican party. His religious belief was that of the Lutheran church and he was loyal to its teachings, being straightforward and honorable in all his relations with his fellowmen. Thus it was that he left to his family an untarnished name.

BERNARD HENRY ASCHE.

Bernard Henry Asche, who passed away on the 12th of May, 1913, was actively and successfully identified with agricultural pursuits in Platte county for a half century and his widow now owns an excellent farm of three hundred and twenty acres on section 14, Sherman township. His birth occurred in Oldenburg, Germany, on the 1st of October, 1841, his parents being Bernard and Mary Asche, who died in that country. When twenty-seven years of age he crossed the Atlantic to the United States and came direct to Platte county, Nebraska, first working at the plasterer's trade in Columbus for three or four years. Subsequently he took up a homestead claim of eighty acres in Sherman township and his first home was a sod structure, twelve by sixteen feet, in which he lived for one year. He then erected another sod dwelling with shingle roof and next built a one-room frame house which is still standing. This has been enlarged and remodeled and is now a comfortable and attractive residence. As time passed he extended the boundaries of his farm by additional purchase and made excellent improvements thereon, so that his widow is now the owner of a valuable property embracing three hundred and twenty acres in Sherman township. This she rents to her son-in-law, Otto Durkop.

On October 15, 1872, Mr. Asche was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Loseke, a sister of Fritz Loseke, who is a successful agriculturist residing on section 18, Bismark township. It was in the year 1868 that she accompanied her parents, John and Catherine Margarethe (Bencke) Loseke, on their emigration to the new world, the family home being established in Bismark township, this county. Mrs. Asche recalls many of the trials and hardships of pioneer existence and relates that rattlesnakes used to crawl through the roof of their sod house into the living room, some



BERNARD H. ASCHE



MRS. BERNARD H. ASCHE

of these having as many as twenty-four rattles. As a girl she worked for James North, the old Indian fighter. To Mr. and Mrs. Asche were born eleven children, as follows: Bertha, who died at the age of two years; Pauline, who gave her hand in marriage to Louis Saalfeld; Adolph, a farmer living in Creston township; William and Julius, who also follow farming in Creston township; Edward, an agriculturist of Shell Creek township; Gustav, who is engaged in farming in Stanton county, Nebraska; Minnie, the wife of Otto Durkop, who operates the farm of his mother-in-law; Ida, who is the wife of Herman Hembel, of Sherman township; Alma, the wife of William Saalfeld; and Emil, at home.

Bernard H. Asche passed away on the 12th of May, 1913, when in the seventy-second year of his age, and the community mourned the loss of one of its substantial agriculturists and esteemed citizens. His widow still resides on the home farm in Sherman township and has won a host of warm friends in the county to which she was brought in pioneer times nearly a half century ago.

JOHN WILLIAM RAMAEKERS, SR.

John William Ramaekers, Sr., now in the seventy-ninth year of his age, is living retired in Lindsay, where he is numbered among the honored and respected citizens. For a long period he was actively identified with business interests in Platte county, agricultural, commercial and financial, and his well directed enterprise and industry not only brought to him success but also contributed to the development of the district in which he lived. He was born in Limburg, Holland, June 17, 1837, a son of John Hendrick and Marie Kathrina (Drummen) Ramaekers, in whose family were five children, two sons and three daughters, who were reared upon their father's farm.

John W. Ramaekers, Sr., acquired a common-school education and early in life started out in the business world by learning and following the harness-maker's trade. Later he embarked in business on his own account and in May, 1879, he sought the opportunities of the new world, crossing the Atlantic and making his way direct to St. Bernard, Platte county. He then purchased eighty acres of land, for which he paid five hundred dollars, a second eighty acre tract, for which he paid thirteen hundred dollars, and subsequently a third tract of similar size, for which he paid twenty-five hundred dollars, thus becoming the owner of an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres, which is still in his possession. For a considerable period he carried on general agricultural pursuits, bringing his land to a high state of cultivation, and in the conduct of his farm met with gratifying success. He eventually, however, put aside the active work of the fields and retired from business life, but is still a stockholder in the Farmers & Merchants Bank and in the Farmers Elevator Association, both of Lindsay. He removed from his farm to Lindsay in 1902 and in the intervening period has enjoyed a well earned rest, his former success supplying him with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

On the 21st of November, 1860, Mr. Ramaekers was married in Holland to Miss Maria Sibyl Eummelen, a daughter of Jan and Maria Kathrina Eummelen. They became the parents of five children: Mathias, mentioned elsewhere in this

work; Elizabeth, the wife of Peter Smith, of St. Bernard township; Maria, the wife of Joseph Borer, a farmer of St. Bernard township; Hubertina, the wife of John Borer, manager for the Farmers Elevator Association of Lindsay; and Hubert, who married Goldie Hassen and is now conducting a store in Lindsay. The wife and mother passed away at Lindsay, August 27, 1915, and her funeral was the largest ever held in the community, a fact which indicates how high she stood in the public regard. She was a lady of many admirable and lovable traits of character, possessing an amiable disposition, while at all times she displayed thoughtfulness toward and consideration for others. Her purpose was ever kindly and her life was fraught with many good deeds, being the expression of Christian faith and belief. Of her it may well be said: "Her children rise up and call her blessed and her good works do follow her."

Mr. Ramaekers holds membership in the Holy Family church. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party but he has never been an office seeker. His military history covers a year's service in the cavalry in Holland. He is regarded throughout the community in which he lives as one of the most worthy, substantial and highly respected citizens, his sterling character worth gaining for him the warm and enduring regard of all with whom business or social relations have brought him in contact.

WILLIAM WENK.

One of the most progressive and highly respected business men of Platte county is William Wenk, of Creston, who is there engaged in general merchandising. Indolence and idleness are utterly foreign to his nature, and the industry and persistency of purpose which he has displayed in managing his interests have led to the attainment of substantial success. Germany claims him as a native son. He was born January 28, 1859, of the marriage of John and Dora (Kaiser) Wenk, who were also natives of the same country. The father followed farming in Germany throughout his entire life, there passing away in September, 1889, while his wife survived until April, 1893.

Reared in the fatherland, William Wenk pursued his education in the public schools of Germany, remaining under the parental roof until he reached the age of seventeen years, when he started out in the business world by learning the mason's and also the butcher's trades. He followed those pursuits in his native country until 1884, when the favorable reports which he heard concerning business conditions in the new world led him to the determination to try his fortune on this side of the Atlantic. His arrangements completed, he crossed the ocean to the United States and, making his way into the interior of the country, settled at West-point, Nebraska, where he rented land which he cultivated for a year. At the end of that time he removed to Antelope county, Nebraska, and purchased a quarter section for thirteen hundred dollars. His time and energies were then devoted to the development and further improvement of that property until 1894, when he sold the place for three thousand dollars and came to Creston. Here he embarked in the butchering business and also handled farm implements, continuing active along those lines until 1897, when he disposed of his butcher shop and opened a

hardware store. Success attended the new enterprise and after two years he extended the scope of his business by adding a stock of furniture. Thus he continued active in trade until 1907, when he sold the entire establishment and for a year lived retired, but he was too energetic a man to remain content without some occupation and he accordingly reentered the commercial field, this time opening a general store which he has since conducted with growing success. He has three separate store-rooms side by side and also a large implement house. He deals in everything from a needle up to a threshing machine and carries an enormous stock, thus being ready to meet any demands of the trade. His business methods are thoroughly reliable, and he has ever held to the highest standards in the personnel of the house, in the kind of goods carried and in the treatment of customers, recognizing the fact that satisfied patrons are the best advertisement. He also handles the Buick automobile and each branch of his business is bringing to him a gratifying return. He owns his own store building, which is a modern brick business block, well adapted to the purposes for which it is used. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company and the Citizens State Bank of Creston.

On the 1st of May, 1881, Mr. Wenk was married to Miss Dora Karstens, whose parents were natives of Germany and never came to America. Mr. and Mrs. Wenk have become the parents of six children. William A., who was born in July, 1882, married Sybilla Hoesley and died in November, 1910, leaving his wife and two children, Thelma and William. Minnie, who was born January 7, 1885, is the wife of Robert Thompson, of Creston. Rudolph was born May 22, 1889. George was born in 1891 and is married. Ada, born in April, 1893, is the wife of H. L. Clarke, a resident farmer of Sherman township. Ray, born March 28, 1895, completes the family.

Politically Mr. Wenk is independent, while in religious faith he is a Lutheran. His name is on the membership rolls of the local organizations of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Highlanders and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In 1910 he returned to Germany, where he has three brothers living, and he had much pleasure in visiting again the scenes of his youth and renewing the friendships of his boyhood. He has never had occasion, however, to regret his determination to come to the new world, for here he found the opportunities which he sought and which, by the way, are always open to ambitious, energetic young men. He brought with him no false ideas concerning the ease with which success might be won but recognized the fact that advancement must depend upon individual effort, close application and determination and, employing these qualities, he has steadily advanced on the high road to fortune. Today he has important business connections and is regarded as one of the foremost residents of Creston.

O. H. ANDERSON.

An excellent farm on section 35, Walker township, bears witness to the energy and efficiency of O. H. Anderson, who was born in Shelby county, Illinois, on the 1st of November, 1871. His father, Lars Anderson, who was a native of Sweden, became a resident of the United States in 1870, taking up his abode in Shelby county, Illinois. After remaining there for about seven years he removed with his

family to Genoa, Nebraska, where he lived for about three years. At the end of that time he became the owner of a good farm on Lookingglass creek in Walker township, and for many years his energies were devoted to the cultivation and improvement of his place. He built the first schoolhouse and also helped to build the first church in Walker township and in many other ways contributed to the development and advancement of his community. Having accumulated a competence, he retired from active life a number of years ago. On the 2d of June, 1915, he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, receiving the congratulations of their many friends on that occasion.

O. H. Anderson has always followed the occupation to which he was reared and is now operating the home place of one hundred and twenty acres on section 35, Walker township. In addition to this he rents one hundred and sixty acres, which he cultivates, and finds that he has small leisure for outside interests. He carries on general farming and derives a good income from the sale of his grain and stock.

Mr. Anderson supports the democratic party at the polls, and his religious faith is that of the Lutheran church. In all relations of life he has been straightforward and upright, and his integrity has gained him the confidence and regard of all who know him.

FRED H. SANDER.

Since 1907 Fred H. Sander has resided in Creston, where he is now engaged in buying cream and in this connection has built up an extensive business. Like many of his fellow citizens in Platte county, he is of German birth, his natal day being October 29, 1866. His parents, Henry and Dora (Hadelr) Sander, were also natives of Germany, where the father followed the occupation of farming, devoting his attention to general agricultural pursuits in that country until 1882, when he came to the United States. He made Platte county, Nebraska, his destination, and on reaching the end of his journey he purchased land in Sherman township, since which time he has systematically and successfully carried on farming there. He has reached the advanced age of eighty-five years, but his wife passed away in 1887.

Fred H. Sander was educated in the schools of Germany, and at the age of fifteen years he began earning his living by working as a farm hand. He came with his parents to America and continued his employment as a farm laborer until he reached the age of twenty-two years, when he rented land, upon which he carried on general farming for two years. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Creston township and developed, cultivated and improved that place for a long period, there carrying on general farming until 1907, when he rented the farm and came to Creston. Here he is engaged in buying cream, and his business furnishes an excellent market for producers. His work is carefully and systematically handled, and energy and industry constitute the basis of his growing success.

In April, 1897, Mr. Sander was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Harnepp, a daughter of Carl and Bertha Harnepp, who came to Platte county at an early day. Her father secured a homestead and continued its cultivation for many years but eventually retired from active business and returned to Germany, where

he now makes his home. To Mr. and Mrs. Sander were born four children, Lydia, Martha, Bertha and Ida. Mr. Sander was married a second time in October, 1914, when he wedded Miss Martha Koch.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Sander has voted with the democratic party and is a stalwart advocate of its principles. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church. His has been a well spent life, and he has gained many friends during the period of his residence in Platte county, now covering a third of a century.

HENRY KNIGHT.

Henry Knight, living on section 24, Humphrey township, dates his residence in this county from 1883, or for a period of nearly a third of a century. He was born in Canada, near Ottawa, on the 15th of February, 1852, and is a son of Charles and Bridget (Doyle) Knight, who were also natives of that country. The father was a farmer by occupation and cultivated land in Canada throughout his entire life, passing away in 1879, while his wife died in 1875.

Henry Knight was reared and educated in Canada, remaining with his parents until he reached the age of eighteen years, when he began to earn his own living by working as a farm hand. He carefully saved his earnings and at length was able to purchase a farm, which he continued to cultivate for three years, when, thinking that he might have better agricultural advantages in the United States, he came to Nebraska, reaching Platte county in 1883. Here he invested in one hundred and sixty acres of land in Creston township and at once began to develop and improve the place, which he owned and cultivated until 1908. He then sold that property and bought one hundred and sixty acres on section 24, Humphrey township, since which time he has bent his energies to its further improvement. It is an excellent property, the fields being carefully tilled, while the buildings upon it indicate his careful supervision and progressive spirit.

On the 25th of December, 1882, Mr. Knight was united in marriage to Miss Malissa Jordan, a daughter of Patrick and Elizabeth (Becker) Jordan, natives of Ireland and Canada respectively. The father was an educator and on coming to the new world in 1848 settled in Canada. He became superintendent of schools at Chesterville, filling the position for five years, and prior to that time he had proved himself an able educator in other schools. He taught altogether in Canada for thirty-three years and then received a teacher's pension. His work was of far-reaching effect and benefit, for he imparted clearly and readily to others the knowledge that he had acquired and was regarded as one of the able educators of the section in which he lived. He held the office of commissioner of the high court of justice and was also a pension agent for a time. His last days were spent in retirement in Canada, where he passed away October 27, 1897. His widow still survives and yet makes her home in Canada at the age of seventy-five years.

Mr. and Mrs. Knight have become the parents of one child, Elizabeth M., who was born May 2, 1884, and is the wife of Wade Pruitt, who is operating her father's farm. He was born September 21, 1877, and they have two children: Malissa M., who was born November 22, 1911; and Minnie L., born December 3, 1914.

Mr. and Mrs. Knight are also rearing an adopted daughter, Ruth Loydon, who is now twelve years of age and is attending school.

Mr. and Mrs. Knight are people of kindly spirit and generous impulses. They hold membership in the Catholic church and Mr. Knight gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. To him and his wife is accorded the hospitality of the best homes of Humphrey township, and they have a large circle of friends within its borders.

ANTON LOEFFLER.

Anton Loeffler, a well known farmer residing on section 8, St. Bernard township, was born in Baden, Germany, January 17, 1852, and remained in his native land until 1870, when, as a young man of eighteen years, he emigrated to the United States and, making his way to the middle west, settled in Mercer county, Illinois, whence he removed to Peru, La Salle county, that state. After remaining there for five years he made his way to Marshall county, Iowa, where he farmed for one year, after which he drove across the country to Madison county, Nebraska, with wagon and team. For about seventeen years he resided in that county and successfully carried on general agricultural pursuits there, but at length he came to Platte county and located on section 8, St. Bernard township, where he owns an excellent farm comprising a quarter section. He raises both grain and stock, and as his labors are intelligently directed, his land yields him a good return.

Mr. Loeffler was married in 1879 to Miss Lena Sent, a daughter of Bernard and Mary Sent, and to this union have been born thirteen children: John and Frank, both of whom are in Cedar Rapids, Nebraska; Henry, a resident of British Columbia; Mary, the wife of John Team, of Humphrey, this state; Anna; Clara, now Mrs. Frank Kenepfalinier, of Greeley county, Nebraska; and William, Maggie, Lena, Fritz, Louis, Raymond and Sarah, all at home.

Mr. Loeffler casts his ballot in support of the democratic party and has served as school director. His religious faith is that of the Catholic church, and he exemplifies its teachings in his daily life. The gratifying measure of success which he has gained is richly deserved, as he is enterprising and energetic and also possesses excellent judgment.

GEORGE MURIE.

George Murie is a retired farmer living in Columbus and for forty years he has been closely associated with the agricultural development and progress of Platte county. He was born in Ardrie, Scotland, on the 14th of December, 1844, and he had a brother, James Murie, now deceased, who became a resident of the new world and served as an Indian scout on the western frontier. The family was founded in America in 1848, when the parents came with their children to the new world and settled near St. Louis, Missouri.

In that locality George Murie pursued his education and continued his residence

until 1857, when he came to Platte county. In 1862 he went to Colorado, where he engaged in prospecting for over five years, returning to Platte county in 1868. This was still a frontier district in which much of the land was as yet unclaimed, and he secured from the government a homestead of eighty acres. With characteristic energy he began to break the sod and develop his fields, and for forty years thereafter he continued active in general farming, his labors bringing about a notable transformation in the appearance of his place, which became a tract of highly cultivated fields, adorned with excellent modern improvements. He continued active in farm work until 1907, when he removed to Columbus and retired from active life.

On the 4th of July, 1873, Mr. Murie was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Green, a daughter of William and Martha Green, of Marshall county, Indiana, and they have become the parents of seven children: George William, who is residing in Montana; Charles Albert, of Billings, that state; Lillie A., the wife of Charles Gilbert, of Seattle, Washington; Hattie, who is now Mrs. Edward Brown, of Billings, Montana; Adabell, the wife of John Nauenberg, of Shell Creek township, Platte county, Nebraska; John Alexander, a resident of Boulder, Colorado; and Maggie May, the wife of George Wilson, of Topeka, Kansas.

The parents belong to the Church of Latter Day Saints, and in his political views Mr. Murie is a republican. He has always stanchly supported the party but has never sought or desired office. He has served, however, as school director and at all times is deeply interested in the welfare and upbuilding of the community in which he makes his home, to which end he has co-operated in many movements for the general good.

PETER SCHAD.

Peter Schad, manager for the Nye-Schneider-Fowler Company at Lindsay, was born May 31, 1876, in Colfax county, Nebraska, a son of Peter and Margaret Schad, who in the year 1870 removed from Wisconsin to Colfax county, where the father homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres, after which he carried on general farming until March, 1893, when he sold that property and removed to Platte county. At Lindsay he established a saloon, which he conducted for a year and a half, and at the end of that time he opened an implement house, which he conducted for two years. He then retired from active business, spending the remainder of his days in the enjoyment of a well earned rest, his death occurring November 16, 1903. His wife survived for less than a year, passing away in October, 1904.

Peter Schad is indebted to the district-school system of Colfax county for the educational privileges that he enjoyed during his boyhood and youth. He assisted his father upon the home farm until the removal was made to Platte county, at which time he took up his abode in Lindsay, where he worked for his father in the saloon until the business was sold. He was afterward employed by Pat Ready until 1895 and then worked along various lines until 1897, when he became proprietor of a saloon, which he conducted for two years. In the spring of 1899 he removed to Dodge county, where he remained for four years, and on the expiration of that period he returned to Lindsay and for about six years followed farming. He next went to Oklahoma but again came to Platte county in 1910 and on the 13th

of October entered the employ of the Nye-Schneider-Fowler Company. He afterward went to Cornlea, Nebraska, where he took charge of their elevator until March 1, 1914, when he returned to Lindsay as manager of the company's business here and has since directed the interests of the business at this place.

On the 29th of April, 1893, Mr. Schad was married to Miss Margaret Connolly, a daughter of Samuel and Alice Connolly, who were among the early settlers of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Schad became the parents of five children, Alice, Edward Joseph, Martha Gertrude, Irene Mary and Monica Frances, all yet at home.

On the 8th of October, 1910, Mrs. Schad died but Mr. Schad has continued to keep his children together. He holds membership in the Catholic church, of which his wife was also a member, and he belongs to the Knights of Columbus and to the Catholic Order of Foresters, being secretary of the local organization. In politics he is a democrat and is now serving as clerk of Lindsay. Practically all of his life has been spent in Nebraska. He has depended upon his own labors for financial advancement and his has been a busy life, while his present position is one of responsibility.

FRED H. MUELLER.

Fred H. Mueller is among those who have contributed to the development of the agricultural resources of the county, from which the greater part of its wealth springs. He was born in Montgomery county, Illinois, on the 12th of November, 1870, a son of Fred and Julia (Stickle) Mueller, both born in Germany in 1832, the former on the 13th of August and the latter on the 30th of September. Not long after they emigrated to the United States the father enlisted in the Union army and served for three years in the Civil war. He took part in many battles and was wounded in the foot. In 1872 he came with his family to Platte county, Nebraska, and took up land on section 26, Grand Prairie township, on his soldier's warrant. He gained a gratifying measure of success and won many friends, and his demise was sincerely regretted when he passed away on the 2d of September, 1890. His wife died on the 18th of October, 1893, and their three children are living: Carl, F. H. and Otto, sketches of all of whom appear elsewhere in this work.

Fred H. Mueller was reared at home and gained his education in the public schools of this county. When twenty-two years of age he went to work for an uncle, Gottlieb Stickle. This uncle, his sister Annie and their father, John Stickle, emigrated to the United States from Germany and settled in Platte county at an early day in its history. The three homesteaded adjoining eighty acre tracts and following their demise Mr. Mueller inherited two hundred and forty acres, which is located on section 24, Grand Prairie township. He keeps everything about the place in excellent condition and the buildings are substantial and well designed, while the fertility of the land is carefully conserved.

On December 20, 1892, Mr. Mueller was married to Miss Sinney Beecher, who died leaving two children: Ernst; and Freda, who married Gerhardt Kopples, of Creston township. Mr. Mueller married the second time December 15, 1898, Miss Martha Hellbusch becoming his wife. She was born in Grand Prairie township, a



FRED H. MUELLER AND FAMILY

daughter of John Henry and Anna Hellbusch, both of whom are deceased. To their union have been born four children: Hilda, Lucy, Albert and Werner.

Mr. Mueller casts an independent ballot, supporting the candidates and measures that he believes will best promote the public welfare, and his interest in public affairs is that of a good citizen. He is one of the substantial men of his locality, and all who know him recognize his good qualities and hold him in high esteem.

MORRIS HOLLORAN.

During the years of an active life Mr. Holloran was well known in the business circles of Platte county and when death called him the community mourned the loss of a representative and valued citizen. He was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on the 13th of October, 1866, a son of Daniel and Mary Holloran, who came with their family to Platte county in 1872 when their son Morris was a little lad of six summers. The father secured a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres four miles west of Lindsay and there carried on general farming and stock-raising. He also engaged in freighting with team and wagon from Omaha to Tarnov and he hauled his grain from Lindsay to Columbus.

In his youthful days Mr. Holloran pursued his education in a little sod school-house which stood upon his father's farm and when not busy with his textbooks assisted his father in cultivating the home property. After reaching his majority he engaged in farming.

On the 23d of February, 1896, Mr. Holloran was united in marriage to Miss Kate Lucid, a daughter of John and Bridget Lucid, who were early settlers of Platte Center. To Mr. and Mrs. Holloran were born a son and daughter, Daniel and Viola, both of whom are at home with their mother. The husband and father passed away June 29, 1905, when in the thirty-ninth year of his age. He belonged to the Catholic church and also had membership with the Modern Woodmen, while his political faith was that of the democratic party. Almost his entire life was passed in Platte county, where he was widely and favorably known, his many good qualities gaining for him the warm friendship of a large circle of acquaintances.

GEORGE MICHAELSEN.

George Michalsen, a progressive and efficient farmer of Sherman township, was born in Shell Creek township, Colfax county, Nebraska, on the 28th of July, 1878. His parents, Ludwig and Catherina (Hollman) Michalsen, were both natives of Germany. The father was born in Oldenburg in 1851 and many years ago emigrated to America, now living at Odessa Station, Washington.

The subject of this review received his education in the district schools and during the period of his boyhood and youth also devoted considerable time to assisting his father with the work of the homestead. He thus gained valuable knowledge which enabled him to succeed when he rented a farm at the age of eighteen years. After cultivating rented land for a few years he purchased one hundred and sixty

acres on section 18, Sherman township, Platte county, which he has since cultivated, and he also operates a farm of one hundred and sixty acres belonging to his wife. He uses the most improved machinery to facilitate his work, and the sale of his grain and stock returns to him a good income.

Mr. Michaelsen was married on the 19th of February, 1901, to Miss Anna Hemmbd, and their children are Julius Ludwig, Emma Louisa, Elsa Alvina, Walter George and Melvin Milton. Mr. Michaelsen is a staunch democrat and is now ably serving as township treasurer. He holds membership in St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church, to the support of which he contributes, and his influence is always on the side of right and justice.

JOSEPH HECKER.

Joseph Hecker, of the Windolph-Hecker Drug Company of Humphrey, was born in Albert Lea, Minnesota, May 28, 1891, a son of Joseph J. and Mary (Kamp) Hecker, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father was a wagon maker in the old country, where he remained until 1875, when he determined to try his fortune in America and crossed the Atlantic, making his way to Minnesota, where he established and conducted a wagon shop at Albert Lea. There he carried on business for several years, and then removed to Boyd county, Nebraska. There he purchased a farm, upon which he has made many improvements, his attention being still given to the development and further cultivation of that property.

Joseph Hecker was reared and educated in Boyd county, Nebraska, being quite young when his parents removed to this state. He supplemented his early school training by study in Creighton College at Omaha, where he pursued the arts and science course for two years. He then took up the study of pharmacy and was graduated with the class of 1915. Later he came to Humphrey, Nebraska, and bought a half interest in a drug store, his partner being Oscar A. Windolph. Their interests are conducted under the firm style of the Windolph-Hecker Drug Company and they carry a large stock and enjoy a liberal patronage. Their store is tastefully arranged and well appointed in every particular and their business methods conform to the highest standard of commercial ethics.

Mr. Hecker is a Catholic in religious faith and belongs to the Knights of Columbus. He votes with the democratic party and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day but does not seek nor desire office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon the further conduct of his business, in which he is meeting with growing and gratifying success.

GUSTAVUS G. BECHER, JR.

Gustavus G. Becher, Jr., is secretary of the Becher, Hockenberger & Chambers Company at Columbus. He was born June 18, 1882, in the city which is still his home, a son of Gustavus G. Becher, Sr., and after attending the public schools until he had mastered the work of various grades he was graduated from the high school

and later pursued a short course in stenography. He then became a stenographer in the employ of the firm of Becher, Hockenberger & Chambers in February, 1901, and from January, 1903, until March, 1904, was in the employ of F. H. Peevey & Company of Minneapolis, Minnesota. In the latter year he returned to Columbus and again entered the employ of Becher, Hockenberger & Chambers, with whom he continued until November, 1912, when he purchased his father's interest in the business and became a member of the firm under the old name. The business has since been incorporated.

On the 16th of November, 1913, Mr. Becher was united in marriage to Miss Dorothy Post, a daughter of Judge A. M. and Ella Post, of Columbus. Her father, who was at one time supreme judge of the state of Nebraska and is one of the prominent attorneys here, is represented on another page of this work. Mr. and Mrs. Becher have one son, Gustavus G., who is the fourth of that name in the family and was born August 10, 1915.

Mr. Becher is a member of Columbus Lodge, No. 1195, B. P. O. E., which he joined on its organization. He also belongs to the Columbus Maennerchor, the Columbus Orpheus Society and Thusnelde Lodge, No. 12, of the Sons of Herman. He attends the Episcopalian church and in politics is a liberal republican. He keeps in touch with the thought and progress of the times and that he stands for upbuilding and improvement in his home city is indicated by his active co-operation in the work of the Commercial Club, of which he is a member. In a word, he is a representative young man of the county and the spirit of enterprise actuates him at all times. His labors, therefore, have contributed not only to the material but also to the social and cultural interests of the community.

JOHN CRAIG.

John Craig, who resides on section 8, Creston township, is one of the wealthy landowners of Platte county and has to some extent retired from active life, renting the greater part of his land, although he gives personal supervision to his fine apple orchard. He was born in Wisconsin in March, 1851, a son of John and Elspeth (Cooper) Craig, both natives of Scotland. Many years ago they emigrated to America and first located in Canada, where the father, who was a wagon maker, followed his trade and also worked at carpentering to some extent. After residing for seven years in the Dominion he removed to Wisconsin, where he purchased land, which he cultivated for some time. He next removed to Minnesota and for fourteen years operated a farm there which he had purchased. At length he took up his residence in Mills county, Iowa, and again bought land, to the cultivation of which he devoted the remainder of his life. He was accidentally killed by the kick of a horse in 1903. His wife survived until 1910.

John Craig was reared and educated in Minnesota and remained with his parents until he became of age. He then rented land in Mills county, Iowa, which he operated for five years, in the meantime carefully saving his money. He next bought one hundred and sixty acres but after farming that place for one year he sold it and bought another farm which he operated for a year. In 1885 he came to Platte county, Nebraska, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of his present place

on section 8, Creston township. He at once began improving his farm and derived a gratifying income from its cultivation. Later he purchased an adjoining eighty acres and has continued to reside upon that place with the exception of three years, which he spent in Lincoln county. He also owns a quarter section of land on section 2, Columbus township. For many years he personally operated his farms and in addition to growing grain raised pure blooded shorthorn cattle. Now, however, as he has accumulated more than a competence, he rents the greater part of his land, although he himself looks after his orchard of one hundred and sixty-five bearing apple trees. His home place is one of the best improved farms in the county and he has always found farm work pleasant as well as profitable.

In January, 1878, Mr. Craig was united in marriage to Miss Emma Parks, a daughter of Alfred and Sarah (Sims) Parks, natives of England, who on emigrating to America located in Wisconsin. Her father was employed on a boat for many years but later purchased land and devoted the remainder of his life to farming. Both he and his wife are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Craig have become the parents of five children: Fred, who is now a resident of Madison county, Nebraska, but was for eight years engaged in banking in Texas; William, who passed away in 1905 at the age of twenty; Everett, who is farming in Madison county, this state; Arthur, who is in the employ of Leach & Palmateer at Creston; and Lela, the wife of J. W. Larson, station agent at Miller, Nebraska.

Mr. Craig is a republican and served acceptably as township assessor, as a member of the township board and as a member of the school board. Fraternally he is identified with the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and his religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is well known and highly esteemed throughout the county, and his personal friends are many.

P. A. CARLSON.

P. A. Carlson is the junior partner of the firm of Carlson Brothers, general merchants of Lindsay, and is a representative citizen, possessing the spirit of enterprise that has characterized the upbuilding and development of the middle west. He was born October 30, 1873, in Sweden, a son of Carl and Christina (Johannson) Carlson, in whose family were seven children. He acquired a common-school education and was a youth of seventeen years when in 1890 he arrived in Nebraska, making his way to Newman Grove, where he was employed in a general store. This gave him initial training and experience along the line of the business in which he is now engaged and qualified him for the successful conduct of his individual interests. Joining his brother, Carl J. Carlson, and Peter Johnson, they purchased the store of Henry Ehlers in 1896 and after three years he and his brother became sole proprietors by purchasing the interest of their partner. They have since conducted the business along well defined lines and their carefully formulated plans are carried forward to successful completion.

Fraternally Mr. Carlson is connected with the Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and appreciation of his public spirit on the part of his fellow townsmen is shown in the fact that for eight years he has served on the village board. He is now serving as a

school director and his active interest in the cause of education is manifest in his earnest efforts to uphold the school standards in Lindsay. The brothers are well known and prominent business men of the town, enjoy an unassailable reputation and also have the warm personal regard of many with whom they have been brought in contact.

ALBERT S. FLINK.

Albert S. Flink owns four hundred and fifteen acres of fine land in Walker township and is now living retired on his farm on section 7. A native of Sweden, his birth occurred in Elfsburg on the 2d of January, 1861. His father, Anders Flink, served in the Swedish army for over thirty-five years and is now living retired in that country. The mother, who bore the maiden name of Anna Marie Johnson, is deceased.

Albert S. Flink, who is the only one of the family residing in the United States, passed the days of his boyhood and youth in his native land, where he attended the public schools, thus acquiring his education. In 1882, when twenty-one years of age, he crossed the Atlantic to America and, making his way westward, settled in De Kalb county, Illinois, where he worked as a farm hand for five years. At the end of that time he went to Kansas and remained in that state for six years, homesteading a quarter section of land there, which he still owns. In the fall of 1893 he came to Walker township, Platte county, and bought one hundred and sixty acres on section 18 for twenty-five dollars per acre. The place had few improvements upon it when it came into his possession but it is now one of the finely developed farms of the locality as he has made many excellent improvements thereon. The farm buildings are substantial and of modern design, and everything about the place is well kept up. He bought one hundred and forty acres more on section 18 and eighty acres on section 7 and still later he purchased thirty-five acres on section 7, for which he paid eighty-five dollars per acre. In 1912 he erected a fine modern residence and barn on his farm on section 7 and is now living there in honorable retirement from active life, having rented all of his land. While engaged in farming he not only produced a large amount of grain annually but he also raised Berkshire hogs and shorthorn cattle, the sale of his stock adding materially to his income.

Mr. Flink was married on the 2d of October, 1894, to Miss Amanda Sophia Aberg, a daughter of Peter J. Aberg, an old settler of Walker township. Mrs. Flink passed away on the 2d of May, 1912, and her demise was not only an irreparable loss to her family but was also deeply regretted in the community as she was loved by all who knew her. Her sympathies included all who were in need or distress, and she also shared the joys of her friends and acquaintances, finding pleasure in their happiness. She was a devout member of the Swedish Lutheran church and took an active part in its work. Although she has passed to her reward the influence of her life remains, and her memory is cherished by all those who came into close contact with her. She was the mother of three children: Anna, at home; and Helen and Frank William, both of whom are attending school at Wahoo.

Mr. Flink is a republican and for seventeen or eighteen consecutive years served as school director, doing much in that time to increase the efficiency of the public

schools. He retired from the office in 1913 but is still interested in educational progress. For eleven years he has been a trustee of the Swedish Lutheran church, and he does all within his power to further its growth and to promote the spread of its influence. He is widely known and there is no more highly respected resident of Walker township than he.

ANTON BELLER.

Anton Beller is meeting with gratifying success in his work as a farmer and stock-raiser and is recognized as a substantial citizen. He was born in New York city on the 25th of September, 1868, a son of Ignatz and Josephine Beller, both natives of Germany, who on emigrating to the United States settled in New York, where they remained for about a year. At the end of that time they came westward and took up their residence in Fort Madison, Lee county, Iowa. After working in a lumberyard there for about two years, the father engaged in farming with a brother for some time but subsequently removed to Madison county, Nebraska, where he passed away on the 13th of December, 1889. The mother is still living and makes her home in Lindsay, Nebraska.

Anton Beller received the greater part of his education in Lee county, Iowa, but attended school for one year after removing to this state. Since beginning his independent business career he has followed agricultural pursuits and now owns one hundred and sixty acres of excellent land in St. Bernard township. His place is well improved, and his residence and farm buildings are commodious and well built. In addition to growing the usual crops he raises cattle and Chester White hogs, and both branches of his work yield him a good return.

Mr. Beller has been twice married. On the 19th of January, 1893, he wedded Miss Louisa Husemann, who passed away on the 1st of May, 1894, leaving a daughter, Elizabeth. On the 17th of February, 1895, Mr. Beller was united in marriage to Miss Theresa Sueper, a daughter of Frank Sueper. She died on the 8th of February, 1914. She was the mother of twelve children, as follows: Louise, Edward, Anton, Clara, Anna, Lawrence, Agnes, Stanislaus, Helena, Antonia, Kasimir and Mary, all at home.

The democratic party has in Mr. Beller a staunch supporter, and he is now serving as school treasurer. Fraternally he is identified with the Foresters, and in religious faith he is a Catholic. His many sterling traits of character gain him the respect of those who have been associated with him, and he has many personal friends.

FERDINAND R. BERING.

Ferdinand R. Bering, deceased, was born in Germany, July 4, 1855, a son of Frederick and Francisca (Soms) Bering. The father was a native of Germany, and he and his wife spent their entire lives in that country, many years having come and gone since they passed away, the mother having died in 1872, while the father's death occurred in 1887.

Ferdinand R. Bering was reared and educated in Germany and became an inspector on a large ranch, having charge of the labors of two hundred men. At length he determined to seek a home beyond the Atlantic, having heard favorable reports concerning business opportunities in the new world. It was in 1883, when he was about twenty-eight years of age, that he made the voyage and came to Nebraska, settling at Westpoint. Later he removed to Humphrey, Platte county, and engaged in the real-estate business for five years, at the end of which time he was appointed postmaster and made Humphrey a third class office. He also continued in the real-estate business and was thoroughly conversant with property values in this district and negotiated many important realty transfers. He never enjoyed robust health and died after an illness of two weeks, in March, 1897.

In 1884 Mr. Bering was married to Miss Catherine Biermann, whom he wedded on the 18th of September. She is a daughter of Christopher and Margaret (Stinner) Biermann, natives of Germany. Her father was inspector of a large timber tract and had charge of planting trees in the forests. He died in his native country in 1881, while his wife passed away in 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Bering became the parents of eight children: Elizabeth, the wife of Nicholas Steffes, one of the prominent merchants of Humphrey, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work; Theresa, at home; Amanda, Joseph and Hugh, all of whom died in infancy; Alma, who is teaching in the Humphrey schools; Frederick, who is a carpenter by trade and is living at home; and Walter, who is clerking in the Steffes Brothers' store.

Mr. Bering belonged to the Catholic church and also held membership with the Catholic Order of Foresters. His political indorsement was given the democratic party and his fellow townsmen, appreciating his worth and public spirit, called him to the office of road supervisor, in which he served for four years. Eighteen years have come and gone since he passed away, and his memory is yet cherished by those who knew him, for at his death he left behind a large circle of warm friends. He was devoted to the welfare of his family and to the best interests of the community, and his sterling worth gained him a firm hold upon the affection and esteem of those with whom he was associated.

CHARLES JACOBS.

Almost thirty years have come and gone since Charles Jacobs arrived in Platte county and with its agricultural development he has since been closely associated. He now makes his home on section 24, Humphrey township, where he owns and cultivates a good farm. He was born in Marshall county, Illinois, October 26, 1858, a son of Frederick and Julia A. (Orgon) Jacobs, the former a native of New York and the latter of Pennsylvania. On leaving the east the father became a resident of Marshall county, Illinois, where he located at an early period in its development, there purchasing land which he improved and cultivated throughout the remainder of his days. He was a miller by trade and was accidentally killed in a mill in Kansas in the '70s. His wife survived him for many years, passing away in 1892.

Charles Jacobs is indebted to the public-school system of his native county for the educational privileges which he enjoyed and to good home training for many

of those principles which have made him an honorable man, worthy of the respect of his fellow citizens. After attaining his majority he began farming on his own account by renting land in Marshall county, Illinois, for two years, and in 1886 he came to Platte county, Nebraska, where for three years he cultivated a rented farm. During this period he carefully saved his earnings and at the end of that time was able to purchase land, becoming the owner of a farm in Creston township, which he operated for two years. He then fell heir to his present farm of eighty acres on section 24, Humphrey township, and for a long period gave his time and attention to its further development and improvement but now rents the land.

On November 28, 1887, Mr. Jacobs was united in marriage to Miss Eva K. Maynard, a daughter of Asabel and Pearl (Collar) Maynard, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York. The father was a farmer and in an early day settled in Washington county, Nebraska, after which he removed to Colfax county and secured a homestead, which he cultivated for several years. He then came to Platte county, where he continued farming until his death in 1888. His wife passed away in September, 1908, having survived him for two decades. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs are the parents of four children: Nettie, who is employed in the Naylor store in Creston, Nebraska; and William F., Asabel and Eugene, all at home.

In his political views Mr. Jacobs is a republican and fraternally is connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen, while his religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church. In these associations are indicated the rules and principles which govern his actions. He enjoys a well earned reputation as an honorable business man and public-spirited citizen, and he has a circle of friends almost co-extensive with the circle of his acquaintance.

NICHOLAS J. HEMMER.

In connection with the farming and stock-raising interests of Platte county the name of Nicholas J. Hemmer has been well known, for through a long period he was actively engaged in general agricultural pursuits. While he has now retired from the farm and makes his home in Cornlea, he still owns two hundred acres of rich and valuable land but is leaving the active work of the farm to others and is living somewhat retired from business, although he is now vice president of the Cornlea State Bank. He was born in Cascade township, Dubuque county, Iowa, October 8, 1855, a son of Nicholas and Mary (Kremmer) Hemmer, both of whom were born on the banks of the river Rhine in Prussia, where the father conducted business as a cloth weaver. He came to America in 1852, settling in Dubuque county, Iowa, where he turned his attention to farming, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land, upon which his remaining days were passed. He lived in Iowa for forty-four years or until called to his final rest in 1896. He had retired from active business and removed to Worthington, where his widow now resides.

Nicholas J. Hemmer was reared in the usual manner of farm lads and remained at home until 1879, when at the age of twenty-four years he removed to Platte county, Nebraska, taking up his abode in Columbus. After working there for a time he went to Madison county, this state, and engaged in farming for six years. On the expiration of that period he returned to Platte county in 1886, establishing



NICHOLAS J. HEMMER

his home in Granville township, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 18, there making his home until 1912, when he retired from active business life and removed to Cornlea, renting his place to his son. He had added to it a tract of forty acres and in 1892 purchased one hundred and sixty acres more. He thus became owner of three hundred and sixty acres but afterward sold a quarter section. While living in Granville township he carried on general farming and stock-raising, bringing his fields under a high state of cultivation and gathering therefrom rich crops as a reward for his care, labor and capable management. After removing to the village he assisted in organizing the Cornlea State Bank, of which he now serves as vice president.

In 1882 Mr. Hemmer was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Gilsdorf, a daughter of Matthias and Elizabeth Gilsdorf, both of whom were natives of Bingen on the Rhine. Emigrating to the United States, the father followed both farming and carpentering in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, until 1883, when he came to Granville township, Platte county, Nebraska, where both he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. To Mr. and Mrs. Hemmer were born ten children, as follows: Matthias, whose birth occurred October 13, 1884, lives in Lindsay, Nebraska, and wedded Miss Catharine Korth; Catharine, who was born December 2, 1886, and gave her hand in marriage to Andrew Hiermier, a clerk in Bender's store of Cornlea; Anna, who was born October 9, 1888, and is the wife of Fred Schultz, a ranchman of Cherry county, Nebraska; Guido, who was born March 27, 1893, wedded Miss Catharine Brandl and lives on his father's farm in Granville township; Clara, who was born March 21, 1896, and is at home; Albert, who was born July 12, 1899, and is also under the parental roof; John, twin brother of Albert, who is at home; Angle, who was born February 10, 1902, and is at home; Henry, who died at the age of fourteen years; and Matthias, who passed away in infancy. The wife and mother passed away March 19, 1906, when they were living upon the farm. For six years thereafter Mr. Hemmer continued to live upon the old homestead but in 1912 turned the place over to his children, who now cultivate it.

In his political views Mr. Hemmer is an earnest democrat and served as road boss of Granville township for several years. He and all of his family are members of the Catholic church of Cornlea and he belongs to the St. Joseph's Men's Society of the Catholic church at St. Bernard, Nebraska. There have been no spectacular phases in his life's history, but his record shows what may be accomplished when determination, perseverance and industry are arrayed against poverty and drawbacks. He worked hard and as the years passed on success rewarded his efforts, so that he is now the possessor of a comfortable competence.

JOSEPH BORER.

Joseph Borer owns a large farm on section 10, St. Bernard township, and is one of the prosperous agriculturists of Platte county. He was born in Carver county, Minnesota, August 9, 1866, a son of Joseph and Helena (Jeurisen) Borer, the former a native of Switzerland, who at an early age became a resident of Minnesota. In 1880 he removed to St. Bernard township, Platte county, Nebraska, with his

family and located on one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 10, for which he paid eighteen hundred dollars. Both he and his wife are deceased. They had five children, of whom Joseph is the third in order of birth.

Joseph Borer was educated in the common schools and early in life gained valuable training through assisting his father. The latter gave all of his sons a good start in life and the subject of this review has been very successful as an agriculturist. He now owns four hundred acres of excellent land on section 10, St. Bernard township, where he engages in general farming and raises high grade Duroc-Jersey hogs. He is practical and progressive and receives a good income from his land. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Lindsay and for many years has owned and operated a threshing outfit and cornsheller, thus adding materially to his income.

On the 30th of April, 1889, Mr. Borer was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ramackers, a daughter of J. W. Ramackers, Sr., a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. To this union fifteen children have been born, as follows: Mary, the wife of William Kirzeder, a farmer of Madison county, this state; Lena, who is in a convent in Chicago; and Joseph A., Hubertina, Clara, Philip, Louis, Louise, Anton, Alphonse, Edward, Bernard, Angela, Lidwina and Leander, all at home.

Mr. Borer is a democrat but has never sought public office. He is a communicant of the St. Bernard Catholic church and contributes to its support and seeks to advance its welfare. For thirty-five years he has resided in this county and during that time has gained many loyal friends, who hold him in high regard because of his sterling worth.

JENS BUHL.

Jens Buhl, who has gained a gratifying measure of success as an agriculturist and owns a well improved farm on section 1, Walker township, was born in Denmark on the 24th of April, 1874. His parents, Christian and Maren (Jensen) Buhl, were also natives of Denmark, where they remained until 1881, when, with their family, they crossed the Atlantic and became residents of the United States. For a year they lived in New Jersey and for a similar length of time made their home in Council Bluffs, Iowa, but in 1883 came to Platte county, Nebraska, and bought one hundred and sixty acres in Walker township. Their first home was a sod house but subsequently a good frame building was erected. The father became the owner of several hundred acres of good land and gave each of his sons a farm. He was one of the organizers of the Danish Lutheran church in Walker township, and when he passed away in Joliet township there was much sincere regret. His wife also died in that township. To them were born eight children, three of whom died in childhood, the others being: Jens; Hans C., who is farming in Joliet township; Anton, a resident of Minnesota; Marinus, a farmer in Joliet township; and Karen, the wife of Peter Petersen, also of that township.

Jens Buhl was reared upon the homestead and during his boyhood and youth assisted his father, thus gaining much practical knowledge of farm work. His education was acquired in the district schools. Following his father's demise he inherited one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he has since operated and which

he has brought to a high state of development. He is energetic and progressive, and his well directed labors return to him a good profit.

On March 18, 1898, Mr. Buhl was married to Miss Mariane Christensen, a native of Denmark and a daughter of Kristen and Pauline (Nelson) Christensen, both of whom are now living in Joliet township. To Mr. and Mrs. Buhl were born six children, all at home, namely: Christian, Valborg, Carl, Helga, Arne and Uffe.

The republican party has a staunch adherent in Mr. Buhl, and he does all in his power to further its success at the polls. His religious faith is that of the Danish Lutheran church and the sincerity of his belief is attested by the integrity of his life. For over three decades he has lived in this county and during that time has not only witnessed but has also been a factor in its remarkable development from a region that retained many of the characteristics of the frontier to an agricultural district in which all of the conveniences and comforts of the older east are common.

JOHN EDWARD DACK.

John Edward Dack is now living retired in Monroe, where he took up his abode in 1894. He had previously been one of the most extensive landowners of the county, his possessions at one time aggregating more than one thousand acres, which he carefully tilled and improved, adding to his success year by year through the careful management which he displayed in carrying on the work of the fields. He was born upon a farm in Stark county, Illinois, November 29, 1810, and is a son of John and Jane (Nicholson) Dack. His father's birth occurred in Dublin, Ireland, about 1810 and his life record covered the intervening years to the 16th of June, 1872, when he was called to his final rest. His wife, who was a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, born about 1819, passed away in 1900, at the advanced age of eighty-one years. They became pioneer residents of Henry county, Illinois, and were numbered among the representative farming people of that district.

John E. Dack was reared in his native state and had but limited educational privileges, for his aid was early needed in the work of the home farm. He was continuously employed at farm labor until 1864, but carefully saved his earnings after he attained his majority until his industry and economy had brought him sufficient capital to enable him to purchase land in Stark county, Illinois. There he carried on farming for two years, after which he sold that property and bought land in Henry county, Illinois, on which he lived for two years. He afterward rented this farm for four dollars per acre and for one year lived in the town, after which he spent two years in work as a farm hand. In 1872 he arrived in Monroe township, Platte county, Nebraska, where he secured a homestead claim of eighty acres and bought one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land. He afterward added eighty acres through homesteading and he at once began to break the sod. In the course of time the fields were plowed and planted and brought forth good harvests, and as his financial resources increased he added to his holdings, purchasing two other eighty-acre tracts and a third tract of one hundred and sixty acres. His various purchases made him the owner of more than one thousand acres of land and later he generously divided with his three children, giving to each of them two hundred acres. Carefully and persistently he carried on the work of the farm

until 1894, when he retired and came to Monroe, where he is now enjoying a well earned rest.

On the 24th of December, 1862, Mr. Dack was married to Miss Jane Wiley, of Henry county, Illinois, who was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 27, 1842, a daughter of Robert and Sarah (Wiley) Wiley, both of whom were natives of County Antrim, Ireland. Her father was a wagon maker of Illinois, but spent his last days in Platte county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Dack have become the parents of two daughters and a son: Sarah Jane, now the wife of Sam C. Terry; Matilda Nora, the wife of Curt Hollingshead; and Edward Robert, living on a farm in Monroe township.

Mr. Dack votes with the democratic party and has filled the office of township treasurer in Monroe township. He has long been interested in the cause of education and for twenty-one years has served on the school board, doing all in his power to advance the standards of educational training in his district. He has displayed many substantial qualities of manhood and of citizenship and the high regard uniformly tendered him is but the legitimate result of a well spent life.

JACOB TSCHUDIN.

The attractive home of Jacob Tschudin, situated on section 14, Loup township, is surrounded by fine trees and well kept flower beds, indicating that the attention of the owner is not fixed entirely upon the attainment of wealth, but that the inmates of the home have appreciation of beauty and the ennobling influence which it brings. Mr. Tschudin is a native of Switzerland, having been born on a farm in Canton Basel, July 7, 1840, a son of Martin and Farina Tschudin. The father served for the required time in the Swiss army and for a considerable period was a government employe. He also devoted some time to farming.

His son, Jacob Tschudin, acquired a good education in the public schools of his native country and for four years in early manhood served in the army, being a member of the band. He was twenty-nine years of age when he bade adieu to friends and native country and in 1869 came to the new world, making his way to Illinois. For two years he was a resident of Aurora, King county, and in 1871 he came to Nebraska. He settled in Loup township, Platte county, which at that period was a frontier district largely undeveloped and unimproved as is indicated by the fact that much of the land was still in the possession of the government. He entered one hundred and sixty acres and began improving the farm, to which he has added as opportunity was offered and his financial resources have increased until he now has seven hundred and fifty acres in his home place. He also has six hundred and forty acres of cattle land with four hundred and ten acres on the Platte river. He is one of the extensive cattle raisers of this part of the state and is a most prominent and progressive farmer, holding to high standards in all departments of his work and utilizing modern scientific methods in the care and cultivation of his crops and also in his stock-raising.

In 1871 occurred one of the most important events in the life of Mr. Tschudin—his marriage to Miss Rosa Blaser, who was born in Canton Bern, Switzerland, in 1848. She spent her girlhood there and then took up the profession of teaching,

which she followed with success for two years in the land of the Alps. In 1866 she accompanied her parents to the United States, the family home being established six miles from Aurora, Illinois, where she attended school for a time. She had a sincere love for teaching and for seven years after her marriage she taught in the schools of Platte county, Nebraska, her labors resulting most beneficially among the people of foreign birth living in the district in which she was employed. She had the ability to impart clearly and readily to others the knowledge that she had acquired and to inspire her pupils with deep interest in their studies. To Mr. and Mrs. Tschudin were born seven children, of whom three are yet living: Mary, who was born April 16, 1875, and is the wife of Fred Nyffeller, of Duncan; Gertrude, who was born April 26, 1877, and is the wife of Frank Bass; and Walter, who was born October 16, 1879. Four of the children have passed away and the family circle was again broken by the hand of death when, on the 26th of April, 1915, the wife and mother was called to her final rest. She had always been a valued helpmate to her husband, who consulted her concerning many of his business transactions. She surrounded her home with flower beds filled with many kinds of beautiful flowering plants, and in every possible way made her home the most attractive place on earth to her husband and children. She was a devoted wife and mother, a kind neighbor and a faithful friend, and her many good qualities of heart and mind endeared her to all with whom she came in contact. Many speak of her in terms of highest praise and her memory will be cherished for years to come by all who knew her. Her influence was like the odor of the violet, delicate but permeating, and it ever constituted a force for good among those who knew her.

Mr. Tschudin is a republican in his political views, but not a strongly biased partisan. He filled the office of justice of the peace for eight years and for many years was county supervisor, in which connection he made a capable official, looking ever to the interests and welfare of the county and exercising his official prerogatives for the public good. He holds membership in the German Reformed church, in which he has always been very active, and his influence is ever on the side of right, progress, reform and truth.

JOHN ADOLPH HAUSER.

Along well defined lines of labor, actuated by a spirit of enterprise and laudable ambition, John Adolph Hauser has reached a creditable place in business circles of Platte Center, where he is known as the popular cashier of the Farmers State Bank. He was born in Fremont, Nebraska, November 18, 1887, a son of John and Margaret (Launer) Hauser, whose family numbered six children, of whom he was the second in order of birth. The father was born in Germany and there spent the first fourteen years of his life, after which he came to the new world, making settlement in La Salle county, Illinois. Later he removed westward to Nebraska, taking up his abode in Fremont, where he has since resided and where he is now engaged in the book and stationery business. He is one of the oldest and most interesting merchants of Fremont and is the owner of considerable real estate there.

John A. Hauser acquired a high-school education and afterward spent a year in further study in the Fremont Normal School. He made his initial step in connec-

tion with banking when a youth of sixteen, securing a position in the Farmers & Merchants National Bank of Fremont, in which his father and brother were stockholders, and the latter is now a director. Two years later, or in 1905, when the First National Bank of Fremont secured control of the bank at Nickerson, Nebraska, Mr. Hauser was sent to that place to become cashier, in which capacity he continued for two years. That institution had been organized for three years and had never paid any dividends. Through Mr. Hauser's efforts, however, it was placed upon a paying basis and made one of the profitable financial concerns of the district. In 1907 Mr. Hauser returned to Fremont as manager of the collection and the remittances departments at the First National Bank and remained there until 1910, when he became cashier of the Farmers State Bank of Platte Center, which had been organized at that time for only six months. He is now one of the large stockholders of the bank and is very active in its control, directing its policy and bending his energies to the wise administration of its affairs. In addition to his bank stock he also owns some real estate in Platte Center. The stockholders of the Farmers State Bank are worth more than one million dollars and own over five thousand acres of Platte county land. During the five years in which the bank has been organized they have paid over eight dividends and placed over three thousand dollars in the surplus fund. They recently installed a six hundred and twenty-five dollar posting machine and the equipment of the bank is thoroughly modern in every respect.

On the 25th of October, 1911, in Omaha, Nebraska, Mr. Hauser was married to Miss Emma Carstensen, a daughter of John and Alvina Carstensen, who are now living in South Dakota. The father was formerly a resident of Fremont. Mrs. Hauser is now acting as vice president of the domestic science department of the Farmers Institute. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hauser are well liked and highly respected in the city in which they reside and in fact, throughout the county. They are now erecting a thoroughly modern bungalow which will be one of the finest residences of Platte Center. In his political views Mr. Hauser is an earnest republican and for the past three years has been filling the office of village treasurer, being now the incumbent in that position. He is also serving for the fourth year as township clerk. He belongs to St. Joseph's Catholic church of Platte Center and fraternally is identified with the Modern Woodmen Camp of Platte Center and the Fraternal Order of Eagles at Columbus. He likewise has membership in the Platte Center Gun Club, in which he is serving as the treasurer. His business and political affairs have brought him prominently before the public and the sterling traits of his character, as manifest in his business, social and public connections, recommend him to the goodwill, confidence and friendly regard of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

JOHN R. BROCK.

John R. Brock is a well known resident of Columbus. He wears the little bronze button that proclaims him a Civil war veteran and he is active now in government service as a rural mail carrier, displaying the same spirit of loyalty to duty which characterized him in more strenuous times when it was necessary to protect the life of the country at the point of arms. He was born in Switzerland,



JOHN R. BROCK

January 20, 1841, his parents being John and Katherine (Tuple) Brock, in whose family were eight children, of whom John R. Brock is the eldest. The father served as a soldier in the Swiss army and the grandfather was with Napoleon on the march into Russia. In 1849 the family came to America, settling first at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the father, who was a landscape gardener, entering the employ of James Buchanan, later president of the United States. Both he and his wife continued residents of Pennsylvania until called to their final rest.

In early life John R. Brock learned the butcher's trade, at which he worked until 1866, when he removed with his family to Osage county, Missouri, and there settled upon a farm which he owned, remaining upon that property for twenty-six years. He then came to Columbus, Nebraska, in 1892, and for the past ten years has served as rural mail carrier on route No. 5.

Before removing to the west Mr. Brock had served as a soldier in the Civil war. Hardly had the smoke from Fort Sumter's guns cleared away than he responded to the president's first call for troops, enlisting at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on the 16th of April, 1861, as a member of Company E, Tenth Pennsylvania Infantry. He was mustered in at Harrisburg and with his regiment was sent into the Shenandoah valley. He served as orderly on the staff of his colonel and while engaged in active duty at the battle of Chancellorsville had his horse shot from under him while he was carrying dispatches. He took part in the second battle of Bull Run and in the engagements at Fredericksburg, Winchester and Charleston. It was in the battle of Chancellorsville that General Whipple was killed while directing the elevation of a battery, on the 4th of May, 1862. His remains were conveyed to Washington, being taken down the Potomac on the Ironclad Mohawk, and Mr. Brock was appointed to act as bodyguard. It was on that trip that he lost his diary, which he had kept from the beginning of his service. After acting as bodyguard to the remains of General Whipple he was on duty for a time in Washington and during that period met Lincoln personally. Subsequently he was transferred to Company D, One Hundred and Ninety-fifth Pennsylvania Infantry, assigned to the Third Army Corps, and saw active service on Emmetsburg road during the battle of Gettysburg, which was being fought two miles distant. After the engagement at that place the Union troops followed Lee's army southward, participating in the battles of Petersburg, Spottsylvania and other engagements. Mr. Brock was at Staunton, Virginia, when General Lee surrendered, and he afterward participated in the Grand Review in Washington, where the victorious Union troops marched through the streets of the capital, cheered by the thousands who lined the highways. From the time of Lee's surrender until the following September his company went to different towns and cities, reestablishing home governments. They were also on guard duty at the war department and at the treasury building in Washington from September, 1865, until January, 1866, and on the latter date Mr. Brock was honorably discharged, having been with the army from the outbreak of the war until some months after the close of hostilities, his record being a most creditable one.

On the 3d of August, 1862, occurred the marriage of Mr. Brock and Miss Louisa Moesch, a daughter of Conrad Moesch, one of the early settlers of Pennsylvania, living in the vicinity of Lancaster. Mrs. Brock passed away in 1914, leaving two daughters and a son: Katherine, the wife of John Wuethrich, who since 1880 has been a resident of Platte county and is now living in Columbus; Rebecca, the wife

of Christian Wuehrich, who follows farming four miles southwest of Columbus; and John, who married Emma Smith and is mentioned elsewhere in this work.

Mr. Brock holds membership in the Methodist church, while his political belief is that of the republican party, and for two terms he served as sheriff of Osage county, Missouri. Fraternally he is connected with Baker Post, No. 9, G. A. R., of Columbus and thus maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades. In days of peace he is as true and loyal to the interests of his country and of good government as when he followed the nation's starry banner on the battlefields of the south.

DAVID T. WILLIAMS.

David T. Williams has now reached the eightieth milestone on life's journey and his has been an active and well spent life, rewarded by the fruits of earnest, persistent labor. He is still successfully engaged in farming on section 36, Joliet township, where he has an excellent property that in its well kept appearance indicates his careful supervision and practical methods. He early recognized the fact that industry wins and he made industry the guiding principle of his business career. He became one of the early settlers of Platte county, arriving here in 1879, and through the intervening years has been closely associated with its agricultural interests, his labors contributing to its progress along that line.

Mr. Williams was born in Newcastle, Wales, on the 6th of November, 1835, a son of John and Margaret (Evans) Williams, who in 1852 emigrated to the United States and settled in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, where both passed away. The subject of this review spent the greater part of his boyhood and youth in Wales but attained his majority in Wisconsin. In 1864 he entered the employ of the federal government, driving a hospital ambulance at Nashville, Tennessee. He remained in that city for three years but following his marriage in 1869 began farming the homestead in Wisconsin. He was so occupied for ten years and remained in the Badger state until 1879, when he removed to Platte county, Nebraska, and purchased railroad land near Platte Center, which he cultivated for two years. At the end of that time he bought his present farm, comprising two hundred and forty acres in Joliet township, and in the intervening years has transformed a tract of wild prairie into a well improved and highly cultivated farm. He raises both grain and stock and receives a good annual income from his land. His business affairs are carefully conducted. He has studied the conditions of the soil, recognizes what is needed for various crops and plants and cultivates his fields accordingly, practicing the rotation of crops in order to keep the soil in good condition.

In 1869 Mr. Williams was united in marriage to Miss Achsa Rees, a daughter of Rees Rees. She was born in Wales and came to the United States in 1867. To Mr. and Mrs. Williams have been born nine children: John, who is married and resides in South Dakota; Elizabeth, the wife of Owen Parry; Rees, who is farming in Joliet township; Mary, the wife of W. W. Parry, of the state of Washington; David, a resident of Monroe, Nebraska; Annie, the wife of William Williams, of Joliet township; Margaret the wife of William Owens, of Waukesha county, Wis-

consin; Helen, the wife of William Griffith, a Methodist Episcopal minister stationed at Dodgeville, Wisconsin; and Walter, at home.

In politics Mr. Williams has always been a staunch republican but has never been an office seeker. In religious faith he leans towards the Society of Friends. While his mother was a Methodist, his father was a Quaker, the family having been connected with the Society of Friends for many generations. His ancestors came to the new world in the seventeenth century with other Quakers that settled in South Carolina and other parts of the south.

Mr. Williams has come to an honored old age, for his has been a well spent life. For thirty-six years he has been numbered among the residents of Platte county and is classed with the representative and valued citizens. He has worked persistently and energetically in carrying on and developing his farm and has thus contributed to agricultural progress in the county. After coming to the new world he early became imbued with the spirit of enterprise which has been the dominant factor in the upbuilding of the middle west and throughout the intervening years that spirit has characterized his business affairs. He has lived to see many changes in Platte county during the period of his residence in this state, where for more than a third of a century he has now made his home. At the time of his arrival here there were still large tracts of land that were undeveloped and uncultivated and there were many sod houses and other primitive dwellings, showing that the county had not passed beyond the pioneer period. All this has now changed. Upon the great majority of the farms are commodious and substantial residences with ample barns and outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock. Towns and villages have sprung up and the work of improvement and civilization has been carried forward. Mr. Williams has at all times been an interested witness of the changes which have occurred and has done his part toward bringing about general development and improvement, being especially active as an agriculturist.

ROBERT EDWARD WILEY.

For a long time Robert Edward Wiley was actively engaged in farming in this county, where he settled in pioneer times when the land was still in possession of the government. He secured timber and homestead claims and in the course of years became one of the extensive landowners of the county but is now living retired, enjoying in well earned rest at Monroe the fruits of his former toil. He was born in Kewanee, Henry county, Illinois, February 5, 1850, a son of Robert and Sarah (Wiley) Wiley.

Robert E. Wiley acquired a good common-school education, supplemented by four years' study in the Kewanee Academy, and was thereby well equipped for life's practical and responsible duties. In early manhood he engaged in railroading and afterward was employed in the Henry County Nursery, but in the spring of 1873 left his native state for Nebraska, making his way to Monroe township, Platte county, where he homesteaded eighty acres. He also secured a timber claim of eighty acres and later an additional homestead of eighty acres and as the years passed he prospered in his undertakings, becoming the owner of one thousand acres of rich and valuable land, his property yielding to him a most gratifying annual

income. Year after year he carefully tilled his fields and cared for his crops, but at length retired and took up his abode in Monroe. However, he still owns six hundred and forty acres of his land, having sold three hundred and sixty acres. He is also connected with financial interests in the county as vice president of the Monroe Bank. He is likewise a director of the Farmers Elevator at Monroe and is president of the Monroe Coal Company, his investments having been judiciously made.

In January, 1881, Mr. Wiley was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Jane Brown, who formerly lived in the vicinity of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They are well known socially and have an extensive circle of warm friends. Mr. Wiley is an independent democrat in his political views, usually voting with the party yet not considering himself bound by party ties. For two terms he served as county supervisor and made an excellent record in office, but the greater part of his attention has been given to his business affairs, which, wisely directed, have brought to him very gratifying success. Moreover, in all of his business dealings he has sustained an unassailable reputation for integrity.

HON. HENRY CLAYBURN.

Hon. Henry Clayburn, identified with farming interests in Lost Creek township, has made his home on section 28 for a period of forty-one years. His place is known as Shady Nook Farm and is one of the desirable properties of the township. In community affairs Mr. Clayburn has also been active and has represented his district in the state legislature, to which office he was called by the vote of his fellow townsmen, who have recognized his public spirit and his devotion to the general good. He was born in Yorkshire, England, February 27, 1855, a son of John and Ann (Hampshew) Clayburn, who were also natives of that country. The father worked as a laborer on farms there and never came to the United States.

Henry Clayburn attended school in Yorkshire but his educational opportunities were limited, for he started to make his own living at a very early age. He left home when but thirteen and was never home for more than two weeks at a time afterwards. He was employed on farms in his native land until 1869, when he crossed the Atlantic to the United States, arriving at New York on the 11th of February. He did not tarry long in the east, however, but made his way at once to Du Page county, Illinois, where he remained until April 1, 1870, when he went to Missouri Valley, Iowa, and soon afterward secured employment as a farm hand in that vicinity. On the 11th of August, 1870, he arrived in Platte county and secured a homestead claim on section 28, Lost Creek township. All was wild prairie covered with the native grasses, which often grew to a great height. There were no schoolhouses and the work of development seemed scarcely begun. Mr. Clayburn helped to build the first schoolhouse in his neighborhood and with characteristic energy started in to make a home, living in a dugout. At that time Columbus was the nearest postoffice and he had to go there for his supplies and to market his produce.

On Thanksgiving Day of 1873 Mr. Clayburn was married and on the 11th of



HON. HENRY CLAYBURN

March, 1874, he and his bride began keeping house on the farm which has since been their home. He has set out all of the trees upon the place, which is now appropriately named Shady Nook Farm. He has made all of the other improvements upon his two hundred and forty acres of land, bringing his fields to a high state of cultivation, erecting good barns and outbuildings and dividing his farm by well kept fences so that his fields of convenient size are thus easily cultivated. He also owns one hundred and twenty acres west of the home place. In connection with farming he has raised Duroc-Jersey hogs and in the early days he engaged in the dairy business, keeping Holstein cows. He won success in that undertaking. At a later period, however, he handled shorthorn cattle. He now largely leaves the cultivation, operation and management of his farm to his sons, which enables him to enjoy more leisure and take part in those things which are a matter of interest and recreation to him.

Mr. Clayburn was married, as previously stated, on Thanksgiving Day of 1873, the lady of his choice being Miss Anna Jane Wright, who was born in New Jersey, a daughter of Ansel J. and Mary S. (Hill) Wright. The mother, also a native of New Jersey, died September 18, 1880. The father, who was a school teacher, was married in the east and then removed to Illinois, living in Stark county, becoming one of the pioneer farmers of that district. He was also a Baptist minister and he took an active and helpful part not only in promoting the moral progress of his community but in establishing standards of civic virtue and promoting the growth and development of the district in which he lived. From Stark county he removed to Henry county, Illinois, where he engaged in both preaching and farming. He enlisted in 1861 at Toulon, Stark county, for one hundred days' service in the Civil war. In 1871 he came to Nebraska and secured a homestead in Lost Creek township, Platte county, where again he took active and helpful part in promoting the welfare of the community along material and moral lines. He preached the first sermon ever delivered in his neighborhood. There were only a few houses in the district and all of the families joined in the service. He was also the organizer of the first church of the neighborhood and his teachings were influences for good. His political support was given to the republican party, which found in him an earnest advocate. At the time of his death he was a resident of Davis county, Nebraska, and in his passing the state lost a citizen of sterling worth, whose memory is still enshrined in the hearts of all who knew him.

To Mr. and Mrs. Clayburn were born twelve children, ten of whom are yet living: John William, who was born September 11, 1874, and is a thresher and farmer living on the old home place; Carrie Belle, the wife of Ai E. Glines, a railroad man of Grand Island, Nebraska, by whom she has three sons; George H., who was born March 1, 1877, and died at the age of ten years; Robert E., who was born December 3, 1878, and was educated in the Boyles Business College at Omaha, and is now conducting a branch tailoring establishment at South Omaha; Lelia L., who is the wife of Ed Hill, a farmer of Monroe township, and has four children, two sons and two daughters; Luther M., who was born January 6, 1882, a farmer of Lost Creek township, who is married and has two sons; Clarence W., who was born January 21, 1884, and is deceased; Birt A., who was born May 17, 1887, and is upon the home farm; Leroy H., who was born December 25, 1889, and attended the Columbus Business College, while at the present time he is a salesman for the Union Switch Signal Company of San Francisco, California; Myrtle E., the

wife of August Olson, of Monroe township, by whom she has two sons; Ansel Bennett, who was born March 11, 1891, and was graduated from the Kearney State Normal School in 1915, being now a teacher at Bridgeport, Nebraska; and Pearl May, who is a graduate of the high school at Grand Island, where she is now clerking in a store.

Mr. Clayburn has reared a large family, for whom he has made liberal provision along educational and other lines and they are now a credit to his name. In his business career he has won success by earnest effort and well directed energy and aside from his farming interests he is a stockholder in the Monroe Farmers Elevator Association and in the Independent Telephone Company of Monroe.

Fraternally Mr. Clayburn is connected with Mystic Lodge, I. O. O. F., of Monroe, which society he joined more than thirty years ago, at Platte Center, and of which he has been an active representative. He also belongs to the local organization of the Ancient Order of United Workmen at Monroe. Both he and his wife are consistent and faithful members of the Baptist church, doing all in their power to promote its growth and extend its influence. In politics he is a democrat and has filled various township offices, while in 1914 he was chosen to represent his district in the state legislature, having the unusual distinction of securing the nomination on both the democratic and republican tickets. He served for the term of 1915, and fathered bill No. 185, known as the weed bill, which provided that the road overseer can cut the weeds along the highway and charge to the land—its owner or its tenant. He is interested in all that pertains to the welfare of the county, seeks its benefit along many lines and is widely recognized as a public-spirited citizen whose efforts have been far-reaching and beneficial.

EDWARD D. JENKINSON.

Edward D. Jenkinson, engaged in general farming in Lost Creek township, his home being on section 31, was born in Grand Prairie township, June 22, 1879, a son of D. W. Jenkinson, who is mentioned at length on another page of this work. His education was acquired in the schools of Monroe and in a business college at Galveston, Texas. His youthful days were spent in the usual manner of farm lads and he early became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He remained at home until he attained his majority and then started out in business life on his own account as a farmer on section 31, Lost Creek township, where he has since resided. He now has one hundred and twenty acres of land which he has carefully and systematically cultivated, his labors rendering the soil very productive. He annually harvests good crops, raising the various cereals best adapted to soil and climate, and he also devotes considerable attention to the raising of Percheron horses, this branch of his business constituting an important source of revenue. He is this year beginning to feed cattle and if he finds it profitable will continue it along with his other activities.

On the 5th of September, 1907, Mr. Jenkinson was united in marriage to Miss Belle Harris, who was born at St. Edward, Nebraska, a daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Wiley) Harris. Her father is a well known agriculturist of this state, having large land holdings in Boone county. Mr. and Mrs. Jenkinson have become the

parents of two children, Edward David and Lloyd Thomas. The parents have a wide acquaintance in their part of the county and enjoy the warm regard and friendship of all with whom they have been brought in contact.

Mr. Jenkinson votes with the republican party but has no political aspirations, never seeking office as a reward for party fealty. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and also holds membership in the Presbyterian church and in these associations are found the rules which govern his life. He ever holds to high principles and is recognized as a man of sterling personal worth throughout the community in which he lives.

JAMES GREIG.

James Greig, living in St. Edward, is a retired farmer and stockman of Platte county and is also well known as a prominent figure in political circles, having previously represented his district in the state legislature. He was born in Ontario, Canada, March 29, 1846, and is a son of James and Catherine (Pim) Greig. The father was born in Banffshire, Scotland, while the mother's birth occurred in Ontario, Canada. James Greig, Sr., obtained a common-school education and when fifteen years of age left the land of hills and heather, coming with his parents to the new world. He engaged in business for a time as a nurseryman. In 1869 he went to Houston, Texas, where he conducted a nursery, and he was also active in public affairs of the community. He belonged to the Presbyterian church and his life was guided according to its teachings.

James Greig, whose name introduces this review, acquired a common-school education and remained a resident of Canada until 1869, when at the age of twenty-three years he crossed the border into the United States, living on farms in Iowa and Illinois until 1871, when he came to Nebraska and homesteaded in Seward county. He had made the journey overland and lived in true pioneer style in the early days, doing his farm work with oxen and occupying a dugout. Only here and there had settlement been made to show that the work of civilization had been begun and much of the land was still in its primitive condition. Mr. Greig had to perform the arduous task of breaking the sod and preparing the wild prairie for planting. In 1880 he took a timber claim and a preemption in Holt county and carried on general farming and stock-raising, becoming owner of three hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land which he brought to a high state of cultivation. In 1892 he purchased property on section 4, Woodville township, Platte county, and now has four hundred and twenty acres of valuable land. He has always engaged extensively in raising stock, handling full blooded Red Polled cattle, which he sells all over Platte and also in adjoining counties. He likewise raises thoroughbred Duroc-Jersey hogs and his live-stock interests have ever constituted an important feature of his business.

In 1874 Mr. Greig was united in marriage to Miss Stella White, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of William and Alice (Smith) White, who passed away at the ages of eighty-two and fifty years respectively. The father came to Nebraska by ox-team in 1871 and took up a homestead claim in York county. In 1891 he took up his abode in Valley county, this state, where the remainder of his life was

spent. He devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career and was a gentleman of retiring disposition whose worth, however, was widely recognized. Mr. and Mrs. Greig have become the parents of ten children, as follows: Paul, who operates the home farm, is married and has three children; Bertha, the wife of Frank Nelson, of Valley county, by whom she has four children; Roy, an agriculturist residing in St. Edward; Mary, the wife of Allen Bennett, who follows farming in Woodville township and by whom she has two children; Ruth, who gave her hand in marriage to Albin Pearson, of Woodville township, and is now the mother of two children; Grace, who is a graduate of the Agricultural College and is now teaching school in Valley county; and Jennie, Robert, Evelyn and Edgar, all at home.

Mr. Greig belongs to the Farmers Union and has been prominent and active in public affairs. His political allegiance is given the democratic party, which recognizes him as one of its local leaders. While in Holt county he served for six years as county supervisor, making a most creditable record in that office. In 1907 he was elected to represent Platte county, which is the twenty-fourth district, in the state legislature, where he was actively connected with much important work done during the session. In fact it has been said that no general assembly ever passed so many beneficial legislative measures. They put through the anti-pass and railroad legislation, the guaranty bank bill and the pure food laws, all of which Mr. Greig strongly favored. He gave careful consideration to each question which came up for settlement and his support of a measure was an indication of his honest conviction concerning its worth. He has always maintained a progressive attitude in citizenship as well as in business affairs and his value as a public official is widely acknowledged.

WILLIAM THOMAZIN.

William Thomazin, busily engaged in general farming, his efforts resulting in the winning of substantial success, makes his home on section 4, Joliet township, where he owns and cultivates one hundred and sixty acres of land known as the Fairview Stock Farm. He was born near Joliet, in Will county, Illinois, June 22, 1869, and is a son of Thomas and Mary A. (Roberts) Thomazin, both of whom were natives of Lincolnshire, England. The father was a wagon maker and followed his trade in his native country until 1863, when he sailed for the new world, thinking that he might better his financial condition by utilizing the business opportunities offered on this side the Atlantic. He made his way to Will county, Illinois, where he became the owner of a farm of forty acres, thereon residing for a decade, or until 1873, when he came to Platte county and secured a homestead on section 4 in what is now Joliet township, which he aided in organizing. In early days he did his farming with oxen and his first home was a sod and frame house. He afterward erected the first frame house in the township. He found pioneer conditions here, at the time of his arrival, for Platte county was then upon the western frontier and gave little evidence of the changes that were soon to occur and make it a prosperous and populous district. All around was wild prairie and undeveloped land and in early days the grasshoppers greatly devastated the crops which the settlers

raised. In addition to farming his land Mr. Thomazin aided in building many of the early homes of the district. He was a very progressive and enterprising man and his well directed business affairs brought him a measure of success that made him in time the owner of six hundred acres of land in Joliet township. He was also active and prominent in its public affairs, serving as its first assessor and aiding in organizing school district No. 64. In politics he was an earnest democrat, giving unfaltering allegiance to the party and doing all in his power to advance its interests and secure its success. In the later years of his life he lived retired upon the home farm, enjoying a period of well earned rest. He had planted many trees upon his place and converted the raw prairie into a beautiful farm property, upon which he continued his residence until death called him in 1893, when he was sixty-seven years of age. His wife survived him for two decades and passed away March 3, 1913, at the advanced age of eighty-four years.

William Thomazin, whose name introduces this record, is the fifth in order of birth in a family of seven children and was the first born in the United States. He attended the district school which his father assisted in organizing and spent his boyhood days upon the farm in the usual manner of farm lads, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. In 1893 he began farming on his own account on the old home place. He has lived continuously on section 4, Joliet township, since 1873, or for a period of forty-two years, and there owns and cultivates one hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land. He also owns land in Banner county, Nebraska. His home place is known as Fairview Stock Farm and there he raises shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, for which he finds a ready market in the neighborhood in which he lives. He is well known as a good stockman, being an excellent judge of stock and believing in raising high-grade animals. In addition to his farming interests he aided in organizing the Farmers Elevator Company of Lindsay, of which he was one of the first directors and the second president.

In 1896 Mr. Thomazin was married to Miss Matilda Born, whose birth occurred in Schoenwalde, Pomerania, Germany, a daughter of Gottlieb and Charlotte (Loyck) Born, who were likewise natives of Germany. The father was a tailor by trade and engaged in that business in the fatherland but in 1878 he emigrated to the new world and took up a homestead in St. Bernard township, Platte county, which constitutes the present site of the town of St. Bernard. He is active in all public affairs and has become a well-to-do citizen, his land holdings aggregating two hundred acres. In religious faith he is a Lutheran and assisted in organizing the church of that denomination in St. Bernard township. To Mr. and Mrs. Thomazin have been born six children: Laverna, who is engaged in teaching in the district schools of Platte county; Odetta, a high-school student in Lindsay; and Edgar, Charlotte, Earl and John Robert, all at home.

Fraternally Mr. Thomazin is connected with the Modern Woodmen camp of Lindsay and has filled all of its offices. In his political views he is a democrat and is recognized as a local party leader. In 1901 he was appointed to the office of county supervisor for district No. 3 and filled that position for two years. He has served as a member of the democratic central committee in his locality and does everything in his power to insure the growth and success of his party. He has also been a member of the school board and he is interested in various movements for advancing the welfare and upbuilding of the district in which he lives. He has

many substantial traits of character and his dominant qualities are those which have won for him warm regard among all with whom business or social relations have brought him in contact.

JOHN ALLEN ABART, D. O. M.

Dr. John Allen Abart, engaged in the practice of veterinary surgery in Columbus, was born February 5, 1887, near Schuyler, Nebraska, a son of Henry and Pauline Abart, who were farming people, living a few miles southeast of Schuyler. The father died in the year 1888. In the public schools of Schuyler the son pursued his education, passing through the consecutive grades to the high school and then, deciding to make the practice of veterinary surgery a life work, he entered the Chicago Veterinary College, from which he was graduated with the degree of D. O. M. in 1912. As soon as he was old enough to begin work in the fields he aided his mother upon the home farm until he went to college. Following his graduation he bought out the practice and hospital of Dr. L. P. Carstenson, of Columbus, the hospital being located at Nos. 201 to 205 West Eleventh street. There he enjoys a liberal patronage which comes to him from the surrounding country. He is a conscientious worker in his profession and keeps in touch with the advancement that is being made in veterinary practice and the discoveries which scientific investigation are bringing to light.

After leaving college Dr. Abart was united in marriage to Miss Rosa Leavy, a daughter of L. H. Leavy, a druggist of Columbus. Mrs. Abart is a registered pharmacist, working with her father in the drug store. She is well informed along general as well as professional lines and is very successful in her chosen life work. Both Dr. and Mrs. Abart have a wide acquaintance in the city where they reside and goodwill is entertained for them by all who know them.

REV. RICHARD NEUMAERKER, D. D.

The Rev. Richard Neumaerker, whose full name is John Richard William Neumaerker, is pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran church at Columbus and is one of the prominent divines of that faith in the state. He was born November 6, 1814, at Sprottan, Saxe-Weimar, Germany, a son of Pastor William and Otilie (Carl) Neumaerker, of Blankenhain, Saxe-Weimar. His education was acquired in the schools of Blankenhain and also under private instruction from his father. He afterward became a student in the gymnasium at Weimar, where he pursued his studies from 1860 until 1865, being graduated at Easter time with highest honors. He studied theology at the Universities of Jena and Halle from the spring of 1865 until the fall of 1868 and passed his examination as a candidate in theology at the latter date. From that time until the summer of 1870 he was assistant professor at the gymnasium at Meiningen, in the duchy of Saxe-Meiningen, and was the tutor of Prince Karl, of Hesse-Phillippsthal. During the German-French war he was field deacon in the service of the Red Cross on the battlefields at Metz, Sedan and



REV. RICHARD W. NEUMAERKER

Strassburg, and in October, 1870, was called back and ordained as vicar of the court church at Weimar and assistant professor at the gymnasium. In 1872 he was called as pastor of the Evangelical congregation of the grand duchy of Luxemburg and from 1882 until 1885 was pastor of the church at Mibla, in Saxe-Weimar.

In the spring of the latter year the Rev. Neumaerker was called to America as pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran St. Peter's congregation at Barada, Richardson county, Nebraska. From 1894 until 1899 he was pastor of St. John's Evangelical church in St. Joseph, Missouri, and in the latter year was called to Columbus, Nebraska, as pastor of the German Evangelical Protestant church there. He is a member of the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Nebraska, which is a district synod of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. For eight years he acted as president of the synod and recognition of his splendid work in behalf of his church came to him when Midland College of Atchison, Kansas, conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

The Rev. Neumaerker was married in 1875, at Lissa, Posen, to Miss Elizabeth Roth, a daughter of Pastor Carl August Roth, of Sonnenburg, in the province of Brandenburg, Germany. Their children are: William, who is now a practicing physician of Columbus, Nebraska; John, who is a teacher in the Stuyvesant high school at New York; and Emmy, the wife of A. C. Platow, of Fontanelle, Nebraska. Liberal education as well as a clearly defined purpose qualify the Rev. Neumaerker for the holy calling to which he has devoted his life and in which he has made steady progress, his consecration, his zeal and the effectiveness of his service winning him a place among the foremost representatives of the ministry in his part of the state.

ANDERS ANDERSON.

Anders Anderson has been engaged in merchandising at Rosenberg in Walker township for several years. He is a native of Jylland, Denmark, born November 11, 1867, and is a son of Lauritz and Hannah (Terkelson) Anderson. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, served with the infantry troops in the war of 1861 and never came to the new world, spending his entire life in Denmark.

Anders Anderson pursued his education in the schools of his native country and worked upon the home farm until he reached the age of sixteen years, after which he learned the painting trade. He served for nine months in the army while still a resident of Denmark and in 1890 when a young man of twenty-three years made the long voyage to the new world with Platte county as his destination. Following his arrival in Nebraska he worked as a farm hand, after which he began farming on his own account on rented land. He then bought eighty acres in Joliet township, which he cultivated for five years and then sold, buying twenty acres in Rosenberg. He has divided that tract into lots, which he is selling to people who wished to live near the church and store. In 1909 Mr. Anderson and Mr. Buhl purchased the Rosenberg store of Eske Petersen, conducting it under the style of Petersen & Buhl. Mr. Anderson, however, became sole proprietor and carried on the business successfully for about six years. Although he is still in charge he has made arrangements to sell his store and expects to turn his attention to other pursuits in the spring of 1916.

Mr. Anderson was married to Miss Anna Christensen, daughter of Jens and Jensine (Michaelson) Christensen, and they have become the parents of five children: Laurina, Alma Ethel, Sophia Amelia, Otto Valdmarr and Agnes Elizabeth. The family are Danish Lutherans in religious faith and are loyal to the teachings of the church and its purposes. Mr. Anderson gives his political allegiance to the republican party and for the past three years has served as road overseer. There is nothing spectacular in his career. He has lived a quiet life but has manifested those substantial qualities of manhood and citizenship which constitute the bulwark of American life. He is diligent, energetic and upright in all his dealings and connections.

HENRY LATTIMER SMITH.

More than a century ago George Washington said: "Agriculture is the most useful as well as the most honorable occupation of man," and the truth of this statement has found verification in all of the ages. Until his death, which occurred October 19, 1915, after a few hours' illness, Henry Lattimer Smith was actively identified with farming in Oconee township, his home being on section 36, where he owned and cultivated an excellent tract of land. He had altogether one hundred and sixty-five acres—a five acre tract on which he resides and a quarter section elsewhere.

Mr. Smith was born in Syracuse, New York, April 25, 1856, a son of James R. and Martha (Jones) Smith, both of whom were natives of Ireland, the former born in County Fermanagh and the latter in County Cavan. Their last days, however, were spent in Platte county, Nebraska. In early life the father engaged in farming in Ireland but in the early '50s came to the United States and settled in New York. In the '60s he removed westward to Illinois, where he spent a few years, living during that period in Mercer and Rock Island counties. In 1880, however, he left Illinois and came to Nebraska, establishing his home in Platte county. He purchased land in Lost Creek township, where he met pioneer conditions. The town of Monroe had not been laid out and a branch of the railroad was just being built through the district. He began farming on his land and with characteristic energy carried on the work of the fields, adding to his place many substantial modern improvements and accessories. In time he became the owner of considerable land and he engaged in the raising of a good grade of Hereford cattle. He was a member of the Monroe Farmers Association. He continued to occupy the old homestead to the time of his death and in his passing the community lost one of its representative citizens. He was very active in church work and was ever willing to help any denomination and thus further the moral development of the community. He helped to build and always held office in the Episcopal church in Monroe, and he was also somewhat active in politics as a supporter of the republican party. High manly qualities won him enduring regard and his memory is yet cherished by all with whom he came in contact.

Henry L. Smith was the fifth in order of birth in a family of eight children, three of whom are yet living in Platte county. He acquired his education in the public schools of Mercer and of Rock Island counties, Illinois, and he was trained to farm labor, all of the sons working together with their father on the old home-

stead. After attaining his majority he began farming on his own account in Lost Creek township, where he lived until 1910, when he removed to the five acre tract near Monroe, where he was living at the time of his death. However, he still farmed his one hundred and sixty acres in the old home place, carrying on general agricultural pursuits. Ever greatly interested in the cause of education, he removed to the vicinity of the town in order that his children might have better school opportunities. In addition to his other business affairs he was a stockholder in the Monroe Farmers Association and in the Farmers Coal Company.

Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Irene Sloss, who was born in Dodge county, Nebraska, and is a daughter of John and Susan (Kelley) Sloss, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Ohio. Mr. Sloss became one of the pioneers of Dodge county, Nebraska, and was active there in early day affairs. He also owned land and became one of the representative farmers of the district. To Mr. and Mrs. Smith were born three children: Susan, a graduate of the Normal School at Peru, Nebraska, and now a teacher in the public schools of McCook, this state; Anna K., who attended the Normal School at Kearney, Nebraska, and is now teaching in Monroe; and Lois, a pupil in the high school of Monroe.

For many years Mr. Smith belonged to the Modern Woodmen of America and was active in the work of the local camp. He also affiliated with the Tribe of Ben Hur and was one of its active representatives. He never had political aspirations, yet held some minor offices. The cause of education, however, found in him a stalwart champion and he continuously served on the school board of his district until 1914. He belonged to the Episcopal church, was one of its earnest workers and generous contributors and was very active in soliciting funds for the erection of the house of worship. He was a man of high principles whose life was guided by honorable motives which found expression in his straightforward business dealings, in his devotion to the general welfare and in his fair treatment of his fellowmen. He was laid to rest in the Friends cemetery at Monroe.

LAURITZ JOHNSON.

Lauritz Johnson, who ranks among the capable and progressive farmers of Woodville township, was born in Denmark on the 6th of December, 1861. His parents, Jurgen and Gertrude (Jurgensen) Larsen, both passed their entire lives in that country.

The subject of this review received his education in his native land and there grew to manhood, but when twenty-seven years of age he emigrated to the United States, desiring to take advantage of the opportunities which he had heard awaited the energetic young man here. He came to Platte county, Nebraska, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 22, Woodville township, where he still resides. At that time fifty acres of the place were broken but there were no buildings upon it. He at once began to put the remainder of the farm under cultivation and to make the necessary improvements. His residence is commodious and comfortable, and the barns and other buildings are well adapted to their purposes. Everything about the place is well kept up, and it is one of the valuable properties of his locality. He does general farming, employing up-to-date methods and improved

machinery, and his labors have been rewarded with a gratifying measure of prosperity.

In 1897 Mr. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Christina Hendricksen, who was born in North Schleswig, Germany, a daughter of Mads Hendricksen, a farmer, who is now living retired in Woodville township. To this union have been born three children, Max, Arthur and Alma, all at home.

Mr. Johnson is a staunch adherent of the democratic party and takes a commendable interest in everything relating to the public welfare but has never sought office as his farm work makes heavy demands upon his time and energy. His religious faith is indicated by the fact that he holds membership in the Danish Lutheran church, and no movement seeking the moral advancement of his community lacks his hearty cooperation and support. During the many years that he has resided here he has not only gained recognition as a capable farmer but also as a good citizen and as a man of sterling integrity.

CARSTEN PETERSEN, Sr.

Carsten Petersen, Sr., engaged in general agricultural pursuits on section 9, Lost Creek township, is the owner of an excellent farm of four hundred and thirty-eight acres. He was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, near Bredstedt, September 19, 1849, a son of Carsten and Anna K. (Jacobson) Petersen, in whose family were five children, of whom the subject of this review is the third in order of birth. The father followed farming and thus provided a comfortable living for his family.

Carsten Petersen left Germany to avoid military duty, coming to America in the fall of 1869, when about twenty years of age. He made his way to Racine county, Wisconsin, there spending the winter, and in the spring of 1870 arrived in Platte county, after which he began work as a farm hand near Columbus, spending four years in that way. In the fall of 1870, however, he took up a homestead on section 8, Lost Creek township, securing eighty acres of land. He continued to work at farm labor, however, in order to acquire some ready capital, and at the end of four years became the occupant of his farm, to which he has since added from time to time until he is now the owner of a large and valuable property of four hundred and thirty-eight acres. In the early days he engaged extensively in raising cattle, but now devotes his energies entirely to general agricultural pursuits. However, he is practically living retired, having largely turned the management and operation of the farm over to his sons, while he is enjoying a rest that he has truly earned and richly deserves. In addition to his farming interests Mr. Petersen is a stockholder and director in the Platte County Bank of Platte Center and in the Monroe Independent Telephone Company.

Mr. Petersen has been married twice. In the fall of 1874 he wedded Margaret Holman, a daughter of Diedrick Holman, but she passed away thirty years ago, leaving five children as follows: Anna, the wife of Henry Hagelmann, a farmer living in Grand Prairie township; Tilda, the wife of Edward Arndt, a farmer of Lost Creek township; Emma, who became the wife of Otto Mueller, of Grand Prairie township, and died in 1913; Carsten, who married Alvina Hoeffelman and is a resi-

dent farmer of Lost Creek township; and Mary, the wife of William Brunken, who follows farming in Oklahoma. On the 30th of March, 1887, Mr. Petersen was again married, his second union being with Ida L. Martinson, a daughter of B. P. Martinson. She, too, has passed to the home beyond, her death having occurred May 24, 1913. To this union were born the following: Minnie, the wife of Charles F. Grossnicklaus, a farmer of Shell Creek township; Lucy, who married William Griepentrog, who is farming in Lost Creek township; Celia, the wife of Frank Weber, also a farmer of Lost Creek township; and Chris and Freida, both at home.

In his political views Mr. Petersen is an earnest republican, ever loyal to the party because of his firm belief in its principles. For four years he filled the office of road supervisor and for forty-two years he was school treasurer, acting in that capacity for a longer consecutive period than any other known incumbent. He belongs to the German Lutheran church, of which he served as an officer for six years, and at all times he has been a generous contributor to its support and an active worker in its behalf. He is also accounted one of the most intelligent and progressive farmers of his community, ranking high in public regard, and that his life has been well spent and his labors carefully directed is indicated in the success which has crowned his labors and which finds visible evidence in his large, modern residence and improved farm buildings standing in the midst of highly cultivated and productive fields.

ESKE PETERSEN.

Eske Petersen is now living practically retired, although for many years he figured as a representative farmer and business man of Platte county. He makes his home on section 10, Walker township, where he is comfortably situated, having there a good farm which returns him a substantial annual income. He is among the worthy citizens that Denmark has furnished to the new world, his birth having occurred in that country September 19, 1852, his parents being Peter Eskeson and Mary Clausen. The father served his country in the war of 1848. He was a farmer by occupation, living an active, useful life, and his course was ever guided by the teachings of the Lutheran church, of which he was a consistent member.

Eske Petersen attended school in Denmark to the age of sixteen years, when he began work as a farm hand. When eighteen years of age he entered the Danish army, with which he was connected for one year. Some time afterward he determined to try his fortune in the new world and in 1881 made the voyage to America, after which he crossed the country to Platte county, Nebraska. Here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 10, Walker township, for which he paid five hundred and ten dollars. The improvements upon the place were a sod house and straw barn. He paid thirty dollars down upon his property, and his friends and neighbors indorsed his note for the remainder. He was then entirely without capital but he possessed a resolute spirit and determination and upon those qualities built his success. It required ready money to begin the development of a farm and as he had none he went to Louisville, Nebraska, where he worked in the stone quarries until he had made and saved enough to enable him to buy a team and plows. He then began farming on section 10, where he has since lived and his

labors are evidenced in the carefully tilled fields and many improvements which he has added to his property. From 1901 to 1909 he conducted a store on his farm, and he also worked to secure the establishment of a postoffice, which he named Rosenberg after his old home place in Denmark. As time passed on success rewarded his efforts, and he not only became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Platte county but also three hundred and sixty acres of land in Greeley county, Nebraska. He has since given land to all of his children, but still retains eighty acres of his original purchase, where he resides on section 10, Walker township.

Mr. Petersen was united in marriage to Miss Marguerite Sorensen, who was born in Denmark in 1861. Her parents, Michael and Mettie Sorensen, arrived in Platte county in 1878 and the father purchased raw prairie land in Walker township. He took an active part in early day affairs and did everything possible to further the welfare and interests of the community, including the organization of a church. In 1907 he removed to Minnesota, where he now makes his home. To Mr. and Mrs. Petersen have been born seven children: Anna, a resident of Greeley county; Mattie, the wife of Christ Petersen; Michael, farming in Greeley county; Ellen M. and Peter A., twins; John; and Soren.

Mr. Petersen has always been most helpful to the people of his nationality who have come to Platte county, assisting them in getting settled and starting in business. He has no political aspirations but has always been willing and ready to aid in any movement or measure for advancing the public good. He helped organize the Danish Lutheran church at Rosenberg, and his entire life has been in consistent harmony with his professions as a representative of that denomination. He has many sterling traits of character, has ever been found reliable in business, progressive in citizenship and devoted to the welfare of his family and friends.

EDWARD F. LUSIENSKI.

Edward F. Lusienksi is proprietor of the Clothier Hotel at Platte Center and is proving a popular host by his earnest efforts to please his patrons and by his progressive methods. He was born in Columbus, Nebraska, December 24, 1884, his parents being Constance and Katherine Lusienksi, of Galicia, Poland, whence they came to the United States, making their way to Columbus, where the father followed the shoemaker's trade, which he had previously learned in his native land. He entered the employ of Greisen Brothers of Columbus and with them remained until his removal to Platte Center, where he continued to work as a shoemaker until his death on the 2d of November, 1903. His widow survives and is still living in Platte Center.

Edward F. Lusienksi acquired his education in the Catholic schools, spending a year and a half as a student in Omaha. After laying aside his textbooks he began clerking and was connected with general merchandising for five years, after which he took up the plumbing trade. On the 1st of November, 1914, he purchased the Clothier Hotel, of which he is now the proprietor. He studies the needs and wishes of the traveling public and is ready to meet every demand. An excellent

cuisine, well furnished rooms and honorable business methods are the attractions which bring travelers to his hostelry, so that his business has become a paying one.

On the 4th of November, 1914, Mr. Lusinski was united in marriage to Miss Nellie Regan, a daughter of John and Mary Regan, of Platte Center. In politics he is a liberal republican and for two terms filled the office of township clerk. He belongs to the Fraternal Order of Eagles and adheres to the faith of the Catholic church, in which he was reared. He is still a young man but has already gained a creditable position in business circles and is now well known as one of the representative residents of Platte Center.

CHRISTIAN PETERSEN.

In the history of Platte county's pioneer development it is imperative that mention be made of Christian Petersen, who came here at an early day and whose work was of the greatest worth in the reclamation of wild lands and in the development of the county to its present stage of progress and prosperity. Mr. Petersen is a native of Denmark, born on the island of Langeland, December 4, 1834, so that he has now passed the eightieth milestone on life's journey. He pursued a common-school education and for one year was connected with the Danish army, being a servant to the general. His business activity in his native country was along industrial lines, being for twelve years employed at carpenter work.

The opportunities of the new world, however, attracted Mr. Petersen and in 1873 he crossed the Atlantic, making his way to Vermont, where for a year he was employed in the marble quarries. He afterward spent three years in the iron mines of New York and in May, 1877, came to the west, making his way to Platte county, where he homesteaded eighty acres on section 14, Walker township. Since that time he has been identified with the agricultural interests of the district. His first home was a sod house and he lived in true pioneer style. All around were rolling prairies stretching far and wide with little token of the plow, with no barrier fences for miles, spangled in June with a million wild flowers and in December covered with one unbroken sheet of dazzling snow. There were many hardships and trials to be borne in those early days before the comforts of civilization could be secured. Mr. Petersen broke the prairie sod with ox teams and hauled his lumber from Columbus with a yoke of oxen a distance of thirty-five miles, but he persevered in his work and in time his labors brought substantial results. After a year he bought forty acres of land on section 23 and six years later made purchase of eighty acres on section 15, Walker township, which is now owned by his son, P. J. Petersen. Year by year he carefully tilled the soil and continued his farm work until he brought his land to a high state of cultivation, making it a productive and valuable farm.

On the 4th of September, 1857, Mr. Petersen was united in marriage to Miss Henrietta Christianson, who was born in Denmark in 1836, a daughter of Christian and Karen (Hanson) Christianson, and passed away in the year 1914. She took a very active and helpful part in church work and was a woman of many admirable traits of character. To Mr. and Mrs. Petersen were born six children, as follows: Hans J., who is a resident of Albion, Nebraska; Mary, who is the wife of Ludwig

Swanson, of St. Joseph, Missouri; Caroline, now Mrs. Louis Knudsen and a resident of Texas; Nels C., living at St. Edward, Nebraska; Peter J., a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work; and Carl Christian, who makes his home at Clear Lake, Wisconsin.

Mr. Petersen holds membership in the Danish Lutheran church, which he aided in organizing in 1879 and of which he has been a very active and helpful member, doing all in his power to promote its growth and extend its influence, while his life has ever been guided by its teachings. In his political views he has long been a republican, earnest in support of the party but not an active party worker. He has always given his attention to his business affairs, and has long been numbered with the leading and energetic farmers of the community. His residence in the county now covers thirty-eight years, during which time he has witnessed many changes. No longer is the sod house to be seen, for such primitive homes have given place to commodious and substantial farm residences and in place of the wild prairie grasses are to be found highly cultivated fields, bringing forth rich crops of corn and other cereals. Mr. Petersen can relate many interesting incidents of the early days and is justly numbered among the honored pioneers of the county.

JOHN BLASER.

John Blaser is a resident farmer of Loup township, living on section 22. His entire life has been passed in this county, his birth having occurred in Columbus on the 8th of November, 1869, his parents being Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Blaser. At the usual age he became a public-school pupil and is indebted to the common-school system of the county for the educational privileges which he enjoyed and which fitted him for the later duties of life. In 1870 his parents left Columbus and took up their abode upon the farm upon which John Blaser now resides, so that he was reared in the usual manner of farm lads, taking his place in the fields as soon as his age and strength qualified him for such tasks. He thus became familiar with every phase of agricultural life and, starting out for himself, he resolved to continue in the same line of labor. He began farming on his own account in 1893 by renting land from his father. In addition to tilling the soil he began raising stock and makes a specialty of handling Hereford cattle and Poland China hogs. He is an excellent judge of stock, so that he makes judicious purchases, while his sales return to him a gratifying annual income. He has made all of the improvements upon his farm, which is an excellent property, equipped with good buildings and machinery and all of the accessories and conveniences of the model farm property of the twentieth century. In addition to his other business interests he is a stockholder in the Duncan Independent Telephone Company.

In June, 1893, Mr. Blaser was married to Miss Mary Lemp, a daughter of Gottlieb Lemp, who came from Switzerland to the new world and in the year 1871 established his home in Loup township. Three children, Ella, Lilly and Quenten, have been born of this marriage.

In his political views Mr. Blaser is a democrat but has never sought nor desired public office. However, he has served as school director for two terms and is a stalwart champion of the cause of education. He belongs to the German Reformed



JOHN BLASER AND FAMILY

church and guides his life according to its teachings, being an upright, honorable man, highly esteemed by all with whom business or social relations have brought him in contact.

EMIL G. AND ERNEST W. LOSEKE.

Emil G. and Ernest W. Loseke are the owners of Pleasant View Farm, a valuable, attractive and very desirable property situated on section 30, Bismark township. They are sons of Gerhard Loseke, and therefore representatives of one of the old pioneer families of the county, which has now had representatives of four generations of this family within its borders. The elder, Emil Gottfried Loseke, was born on the old family homestead in Bismark township, January 21, 1891, while Ernest Walter Loseke was born at the same place on the 19th of March, 1893. No important event occurred to vary for them the routine of farm life during the days of their boyhood and youth. The parents, realizing the value of education, gave them good opportunities in that direction and when their textbooks were put aside they were thoroughly trained to farm work that they might be thus well qualified to take up business responsibilities and duties in later life. From their father they received as a gift the one hundred and sixty acres of land which they now own and cultivate. This is an excellently improved farm, presenting a neat and thrifty appearance which indicates their careful supervision, their practical labors and their progressive methods.

Both brothers are married and pleasantly situated in homes of their own. On the 11th of June, 1913, Emil G. Loseke was joined in wedlock to Miss Anna M. Mueller, a daughter of R. C. Mueller, a resident farmer of Bismark township, and to them has been born a daughter, Evelyn. The younger brother, Ernest W., was married October 14, 1914, to Miss Martha M. Arnold, a native of Page county, Nebraska. They are well known young people of Bismark township and enjoy the friendship and high regard of many with whom they have been associated from early life. Pleasant View Farm is well named and the hospitality of the two homes found thereon is well known in the community. A fact equally evident is that the owners of this farm are enterprising, progressive young business men who are rapidly winning their way to a foremost place among the representative agriculturists of the county.

OWEN PARRY.

Owen Parry, who is residing on section 25, Joliet township, is numbered among the successful farmers of his locality and is a representative of that class of citizens whom we term self-made men. Starting out in life empty-handed, he thoughtfully considered the possibilities and resolved that he would win success if it could be obtained by honorable methods and indefatigable energy. Throughout his life he has worked persistently and diligently and when one avenue of opportunity has seemed closed he has marked out another path which has brought him to the desired goal.

Mr. Parry was born on the 18th of April, 1854, in North Wales, near Pwllheli, a son of Robert and Mary (Roberts) Parry. The father followed agricultural pursuits throughout his entire active life. In 1884 Owen Parry came to America and first settled in Gage county, Nebraska, where he remained for six and one-half years. In 1891 he removed to his present farm in Joliet township, Platte county, which then consisted of two hundred and forty acres but to which he has since added one hundred and sixty acres on section 26, so that the farm now comprises four hundred acres. The fields are enclosed by strong, durable fences, and he has made a number of improvements upon the place. He raises stock in addition to growing the usual crops and his labors yield him a good profit.

On September 28, 1892, Mr. Parry was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Williams, a daughter of David T. and Achsa (Rees) Williams, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Parry have become the parents of eleven children, one of whom is deceased, the others being Robert O., Achsa, Mary, David R., Owen W., Watkin H., Eleanor, Rees F., Margaret and Sarah Jane Vivian, all at home.

Mr. Parry does not consider himself bound by the dictates of party leaders but on occasion votes independently, although he believes in the wisdom of the policies of the republican party. His life has been one of well directed and useful activity and the success that he has gained is well deserved. His standards of conduct are high and his genuine worth has gained him the warm friendship of many. His life record should serve to encourage and stimulate others who must start out as he did, for his career shows what can be accomplished when energy and ambition point out the way. His valuable farm property is the visible evidence of well directed energy and thrift. Coming to this county, he resolutely set to work to make his farm a productive and valuable property and the result of his labors is seen in well cultivated fields which annually produce good crops. In all of his business dealings he has been thoroughly reliable and he enjoys in unusual degree the confidence and goodwill of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

GUSTAV BENNING.

Gustav Benning, who owns and operates a well improved farm on section 34, Bismark township, was born in Pomerania, Germany, December 24, 1867. His father, Joachim Benning, was born on Christmas Day, 1826, and the birth of his mother, who bore the maiden name of Christina Jones, occurred on the 3d of July, 1834. In 1868 they left their native land and crossed the Atlantic to the United States, as they had heard much of the unusual opportunities which this country afforded. For two years they lived at Chatsworth, Illinois, but in 1870 they came to Platte county, Nebraska, and the father homesteaded eighty acres of land in Bismark township. He met with gratifying success in his farming operations and from time to time purchased more land, becoming the owner of three quarter sections. He passed away on the 31st of October, 1898, but is survived by his widow, who is still living in Bismark township. The family are Lutherans in religious faith. Six of the ten children are living, namely: Augusta, the wife of Carl Labens, of Bis-

mark township; Fredericka, the wife of William Schreiber, of Columbus township; Carolina, who married F. G. Stenger, of Columbus township; Gustav; William, who is residing on the old homestead; and Lizzie, now Mrs. Carl Reinke, of Bismark township.

Gustav Benning was reared under the parental roof and under the guidance of his father early became acquainted with modern methods of agriculture. His education was that afforded by the public schools of the county and since putting aside his textbooks he has devoted his entire time to farm work. His father gave him one hundred and sixty acres of land in Bismark township, on which he engages in general farming. The place is well improved and as he uses up-to-date methods in his work he derives a good return from his labor.

Mr. Benning was married November 15, 1894, to Miss Agnes Runge, who was born in Bismark township on the 13th of April, 1874, a daughter of August Runge, a resident of Columbus. She passed away on the 22d of March, 1915, leaving four children: Lillie, William, Gustav and Freada.

Mr. Benning gives his political allegiance to the democratic party, and his religious faith is that of the Lutheran church. Practically his entire life has been spent in this county and the fact that those who have known him intimately since boyhood are his warmest friends is indicative of his worth as a man.

FREDRICK HENRY GERRARD.

Fredrick Henry Gerrard, a prominent and well known representative of commercial interests in Monroe, where as a partner of his brother, E. A. Gerrard, he is engaged in general merchandising, was born on the 7th of May, 1848, in Rock Island, Illinois, and attended school in that city. He afterward studied law with a brother at Columbus, Nebraska, and in 1872 was admitted to the bar, following which he entered upon the practice of the profession at Fairmont, this state. In 1875 he removed to York, Nebraska, where he continued in practice for two years, and while there he also published the York Republican, a weekly newspaper. Later he went to Madison, Nebraska, in 1877 and in addition to practicing law edited the Madison Review, also a weekly republican paper, but in 1879 he returned to Columbus, living there until 1880. In the latter year he established a store in Oconee, Nebraska, which was then a village of considerable importance, and in 1890 he removed to Monroe, where he organized the first Farmers Grain Association in the county and one of the first in the state. His grain office was the first building moved into the present town of Monroe. For a time he was the owner of land in Loup county and there engaged in farming, but in 1915 he once more entered mercantile circles in Monroe, where he is now engaged in general merchandising under the firm style of Gerrards. The brothers carry a complete line of general merchandise, their store being tastefully and attractively arranged, and by the courteous treatment of their patrons and the earnest desire to please they have gained a large trade. Fredrick H. Gerrard also owns a section of land in Brown county and two and a quarter sections of land in Rock and Loup counties, this state. He devotes all of his attention, however, to his mercantile interests save for the general supervision which he gives to his investments.

In 1875 occurred the marriage of Fredrick H. Gerrard and Miss Adaline Walamwood, a native of Michigan and a daughter of Christ Walamwood, who lived in that state prior to the Civil war. In 1861 his patriotic spirit prompted his response to the country's call for troops and he enlisted in Company F, Eleventh Michigan Infantry, with which he served for four years. Following the war he removed westward to Fillmore county, Nebraska, where he entered land and carried on general farming. He was a resident of Kearney at the time of his death, which occurred when he was about sixty years of age. His daughter, Mrs. Gerrard, passed away in 1886. By her marriage she had become the mother of two sons and two daughters. Charles, now a printer of Canada, is married and has a daughter. Stella is the wife of Loren Barnum, a farmer of Greeley county, Nebraska, and they have three children. Emma is the widow of George Barnum, of Platte county, Nebraska, and they had one son. Lee is the owner and manager of the Lee Gerrard Comedy Company, a traveling theatrical organization. He, too, is married. Having lost his first wife, Mr. Gerrard wedded Mrs. Mary Crookham, a native of Ohio, and to them has been born a son, Fred Joseph, now a farmer of Loup county, Nebraska, who is married and has one child.

In his political views Mr. Gerrard is a democrat and has always been an ardent worker in the local ranks of the party, seeking to secure the adoption of its principles, yet never desiring office for himself. His religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church and he has guided his life by its teachings. Those who know him, and he has a wide acquaintance, speak of him in terms of high regard and are glad to call him friend, for he has many sterling traits of character in addition to the social qualities which render him popular in the community in which he lives.

ELBERT TAYLOR.

Elbert Taylor, who owns and operates two hundred and twenty acres of good land in Joliet township, was born February 14, 1853. His parents, Lewis and Sarah (Edwards) Taylor, were natives respectively of Virginia and North Carolina. The father, who was born in 1811, was prevented by his age from serving in the Civil war. In 1855 he removed to Missouri; whence in 1867 he went to Iowa, where he passed away in 1886. His entire life was devoted to agricultural pursuits, in which he gained a gratifying measure of success.

Elbert Taylor received his education in Iowa and in his boyhood also learned practical methods of farming through assisting his father. In 1887 he came to Platte county, Nebraska, and cultivated rented land in Humphrey township for eleven years. For the next five years he operated rented land in Joliet township but in 1904 he purchased two hundred and twenty acres on section 32, that township. He has since cultivated his place, which is well improved, and in addition to growing grain he raises stock, from the sale of which he receives a substantial addition to his income.

In 1873 Mr. Taylor was married to Miss Anna McClung, a daughter of Edward and Melvina (Young) McClung. Eight children have been born of this union, namely: William, who died at the age of twelve years; Charles, a resident of Monroe township, who married Nellie Davis and has three daughters; Edward, living near

Redfield, South Dakota, who married Lydia Stenzel and has two sons and one daughter; Henry, a resident of St. Bernard township, this county, who married Kate Connelly and has two sons and one daughter; Samuel, at home; Lee, who died at the age of ten years; Oscar, a resident of Monroe township, who married Minnie Peterson and has one son; and Lilly, who is now attending high school in Monroe.

Mr. Taylor supports the candidates and measures of the democratic party at the polls and takes the interest of a good citizen in public affairs although he has never been an office seeker. He holds membership in the Baptist church, and in his daily life exemplifies the teachings of that organization.

JOHN POTTER.

John Potter is a retired farmer living in Monroe. For many years, however, he was actively identified with agricultural interests and it has been along the line of persistent, earnest and intelligently directed effort that he has won his success. He is of English birth, his natal day being December 10, 1840, and the place of his nativity Stafford county, England. He is the eldest of the family of five children whose parents were John and Dorothy (Clarke) Potter, the former a farmer of England. In the common schools of that country John Potter pursued his education, and his early training under parental care was such as brought to him a realization of the value of industry and honesty as factors in the attainment of success. He was a young man of twenty-five years when, in 1865, he became a resident of Kane county, Illinois, where he began farming and, meeting with success in his undertaking, he later acquired considerable real estate in Elgin, Illinois. In 1878, however, he disposed of his interests there and, coming to Platte county, established his home on section 28, Lost Creek township, where he took up a homestead of eighty acres, to which he afterward added by the purchase of forty acres of railroad land. Thereon he resided for twenty-nine years, carefully, systematically and successfully developing and improving his farm, and at the end of that time he removed to his present location just outside the city limits of Monroe, where he has seventeen acres of land. Indolence and idleness are utterly foreign to his nature and, realizing that he could not be content without some occupation, he has planted his land to ever-bearing strawberries and to various vegetables. He is very enthusiastic on the subject of horticulture and takes great pride in his garden. He is also a stockholder in the Bank of Monroe, owns considerable land in Lincoln county, Nebraska, and in the past seven years has owned and sold eight different farms.

In April, 1864, Mr. Potter was married in the parish of Hagly Worcestershire, England, to Miss Mary Whitehouse, a native of that locality, and they have become the parents of eleven children who are yet living: Alfred, a resident of Albion, Nebraska; Ellen, who married Thomas Dress, of Woodville; William, who is farming in Lincoln county; Charles, a resident farmer of Lost Creek township; Edward, who follows agricultural pursuits in Merriek county; Walter, also a farmer of Lincoln county; Frank, who is cultivating a farm in Oconee township; Dorothy, the wife of Len Reilly, of Lincoln county; Mattie, at home; Lucy, the wife of Harry Hill, living in Hersey, Nebraska; and Anna, at home. Mr. Potter gave to each of

his sons material assistance to enable them to begin farming and they now all own their own farms and are doing well, proving themselves enterprising, progressive business men.

Since becoming a naturalized American citizen Mr. Potter has given his political allegiance to the republican party and he has been equally loyal in his adherence to the Episcopal church. He is now nearing the seventy-fifth milestone on life's journey but is still active and energetic and in spirit and interests seems yet in his prime. He is most enthusiastic concerning fruit raising and well he may be, for his intelligently directed efforts are producing excellent results in his gardens, constituting an example that others may well follow.

JOHN SORENSEN.

John Sorensen, a farmer living on section 23, Woodville township, has resided upon his present place for thirty-one years and is entitled to honor as one of the pioneers of Platte county. There were many difficulties to be surmounted before the wild prairie could be converted into cultivated fields, but he persevered and as the result of his industry and good management has gained a gratifying measure of success as an agriculturist.

Mr. Sorensen was born in Denmark on the 3d of June, 1858, a son of Michael and Mattie M. (Jensen) Sorensen, also natives of that country, where they remained until 1879. In that year they came with their family to the United States and made their way westward to Nebraska, where they arrived May 12, 1879. They located in Walker township, Platte county, and their first home in this new country was a dugout, which later gave place to a sod house. Subsequently a comfortable frame residence was erected and in time the farm was brought to a high state of development. Six years before his death the father removed to Minnesota, where he passed away in 1909 at the advanced age of eighty-one years. His wife is still living in that state. She belongs to the Danish Lutheran church, as did her husband, who was one of the organizers of the local congregation of that denomination. To their union were born ten children: John; Soren, who is deceased but whose widow still owns a good farm in Walker township, this county; Marguerite, the wife of Eske Petersen, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Elsie, now Mrs. Nels C. Petersen, of Boone county, Nebraska; Mattie C., the wife of Peter Johnson, a farmer of Walker township, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Jappe, who is living in Minnesota; Jensine, who died in young womanhood; Hans C., who died in Minnesota; Karen, who is living in Lindsay; and Christ, a resident of Minnesota.

John Sorensen received a common-school education in Denmark and lived there until he was twenty years old, when he accompanied his parents to the United States. He assisted his father in the work of the home farm in this county and among other things helped to build the sod house. Later he worked as a farm hand by the month in different parts of eastern Nebraska and was also for a time employed in a stone quarry at Plattsmouth. On returning to Platte county he purchased eighty acres of land, to the cultivation of which he devoted his energies, and subsequently bought forty acres from his father. He has since increased his holdings, which now total two hundred and eighty acres, and has made all the improvements upon his place.

The buildings are substantial and well designed and in his farm work he uses up-to-date methods and improved machinery. He has worked hard and has given much thought to the management of his business affairs and, as is but natural, he has accumulated a competence. When he came to this country he was a poor boy but he took advantage of the opportunities offered and is now one of the substantial men of his township.

On January 18, 1885, Mr. Sorensen was married to Miss Josephine Svenson, a native of Sweden, whose parents, Sven and Fredrica (Haktor) Sanerson, passed their entire lives in that country. To this union were born seven children: Carl, a resident of Minnesota, who is married and has two children; Anton, a farmer of Walker township, who is married and has one child; Albert, who is cultivating land belonging to his father and who is married and has one child; Herman, at home; Victoria, the wife of Nels P. Pctersen, of Walker township, by whom she has one child; and Harold and Mattie, at home. Mrs. Sorensen passed away December 4, 1910.

The republican party has a staunch adherent in Mr. Sorensen, but he has never had time to take an active part in politics. He holds membership in the Danish Lutheran church, the teachings of which have guided his life. When he first came to this county it was still a frontier region and he made trips to Columbus when there were no section roads, and he followed the ridge across the prairie in order not to lose his way. The trip required two days and twenty-five cents was considered a large amount to spend for expenses. He worked on farms for a wage of ten dollars per month. These reminiscences give some idea of conditions that prevailed only about three decades ago in the county and indicate the rapidity of its development. Mr. Sorensen takes justifiable pride in the fact that he has had a part in the transformation of the wild prairie into a region of highly developed farms and thriving towns and villages.

JOHN CHERRY.

John Cherry, a large landowner, who is devoting his time and attention to farming and stock-raising in Joliet township, was born in what is now a part of Toronto, Canada, August 10, 1852. His parents, Frank and Catherine (Keffer) Cherry, were also natives of the Dominion, the former born in April, 1827, and the latter on the 10th of August, 1833. When the subject of this review was but twelve years of age the family removed to the United States and located in Michigan, whence they went to Indiana. On the day that President Garfield was shot they were on their way to Nebraska, which they reached in due time. They lived successively in Dodge, Saunders and Holt counties, and there the father carried on agricultural work. He passed away on the 17th of August, 1904, when seventy-five years of age, while on a visit in Missouri. His wife died on the 6th of September, 1905. They were the parents of seven children: John; William, who died in Michigan when nineteen years old; Harper, who died in Canada; Jennie, the wife of William D. Burkholder, a resident of this county; Frank, who lives in Linn county, Missouri; Albert, who died in Michigan; and Amanda, who became the wife of James Burkholder and passed away in Denver, Colorado, three years ago.

John Cherry was reared on the home farm and during his boyhood and youth assisted his father with the work. On leaving the parental roof he went to Kansas, where he took up a homestead, but never proved up upon that property, although he remained there one year and then returned to Wisconsin. Following his marriage he cultivated the home farm for a year and then removed to Madison county, Nebraska, where he lived for about four years. On leaving there he came to Platte county and located near Lindsay, where he spent a similar period. In 1897 he settled on his present farm, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres on section 32, Joliet township, twenty acres of which were broken. He soon had all of his farm under cultivation and as the years passed his resources increased and he purchased additional land. He now owns five hundred and sixty acres in Joliet township, one hundred and sixty acres in Merrick county and three hundred and sixty acres in Brown county. He grows the usual crops and also feeds cattle, and he and his sons are ranked among the most successful farmers of the county. They are hard workers and are at once practical and progressive, adopting new methods when their usefulness has been proved.

In 1888 Mr. Cherry married Miss Ellen Loftquist, a native of Sweden, who came to the United States when fifteen years of age with her parents and settled in Polk county, Nebraska. She passed away on the 6th of January, 1905, her demise occasioning sincere regret, for she was held in high esteem by all who knew her. To this union were born eight children: Charles H., Albert, Sadie, Verna, John, Annie May, Lillie, all at home; and one who died in infancy.

Mr. Cherry supports the republican party at the polls but has never desired to hold office. He is a member of the Baptist church and in its teachings are found the guiding principles of his life, and his strict integrity has gained him the sincere respect of his fellowmen.

REV. JOHN CALVIN EVANS.

Rev. John Calvin Evans, who passed away in Columbus on the 21st of April, 1914, brought a colony to that city in the fall of 1879 and was long a factor in the moral development and growth of the community. His birth occurred in Connoquenessing township, Butler county, Pennsylvania, on the 22d of October, 1838, his parents being William Valentine and Rachel (Hammel) Evans, who were married at Faulkstown, Ohio, October 2, 1834. This branch of the Evans family are direct descendants of Evan Evans, who came from Montgomeryshire, Wales, in 1722 and on November 17th of that year settled on a farm on White Clay creek, Chester county, Pennsylvania. The place is still in the possession of members of the family. A complete record of those of the name will be found in the book entitled "History of the Evans Family," which was finished by Rev. John C. Evans a few months before his death in 1914.

John C. Evans acquired his education in the public schools of Butler county and those of Tarentum in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania. Subsequently he entered Franklin College, now the University of Ohio, at Athens, Ohio, being graduated from that institution in 1861. The same year he volunteered for service in the Union army but was rejected on account of physical disability. He was drawn



REV. JOHN C. EVANS

in the first draft in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, and was again rejected because of physical disability occasioned by organic heart disease. Preparing for the ministry, he was graduated from the Allegheny Theological Seminary of the United Presbyterian church in 1867 and during the next twelve years acted as pastor of churches in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, presiding over Four Mile church and the Remington and Oakland congregations. In 1879 Rev. Evans brought a party of over sixty persons from the neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Columbus, Nebraska, the colony arriving here on the 17th of October. With this party came William Cornelius and family, the Dodds family, James Boggs and family and the McKims, and the following year many others were added from the same locality, including Dr. C. D. Evans. Many of these are still residents of Platte county and are numbered among its most substantial citizens. From 1879 until 1883 Rev. Evans was engaged in home mission work for the United Presbyterian church in Nebraska and during the remainder of his life was a clergyman of the Congregational church. About 1883 he removed with his family to Buffalo county, Nebraska, where he resided until 1910 and then went to southern California on account of failing health. In the spring of 1914 he returned to Columbus and here passed away on April 21st, being buried in the Columbus cemetery beside his wife, Mrs. Nancy A. Evans, whose demise occurred in 1903.

On the 23d of December, 1862, in Tarentum, Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, Rev. Evans was united in marriage to Miss Nancy A. Gilliford, a daughter of Robert and Nancy Gilliford. She was educated in the common schools of Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, and the Ladies' Seminary of Juniata county, Pennsylvania, at Academia, and taught school in Tarentum, Pennsylvania. Her family were early pioneers of the Keystone state and her ancestors served in the Continental army during the Revolutionary war. To Rev. Evans and his wife were born the following children: William S., Robert G., Charles V., Edgar G., Henry C., Nancy K. and Rachel H. In his political views Rev. Evans was a republican, exercising his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of that party. His life was devoted to the service of the Master and his zealous, consecrated labors were not denied the full harvest nor the aftermath.

SIMON EDWARD PEARSON.

Simon Edward Pearson is the present well known and popular cashier of the Bank of Monroe, to which position he was appointed on the 1st of September, 1915. He had previously had banking experience, however, and was well trained for the onerous duties of his present responsible position. He was born on a farm in Monroe township, Platte county, August 27, 1882, a son of Andrew and Sara (Nelson) Pearson. His father's birth occurred in the central part of Sweden in the year 1834, and in that county the paternal grandmother is still living at the remarkable old age of ninety-nine years. The entire life of Andrew Pearson was devoted to the two occupations of farming and carpentering. It was in April, 1882, that he left his native land and made his way to the new world, remaining for a time near Des Moines, Iowa, while subsequently he removed to Monroe township, this county, and invested in one hundred and forty-four acres of land, for which he paid

five dollars per acre for eighty acres and twelve dollars and a half for the remainder. This property has greatly increased in value, owing to the settlement of the county and also to the many excellent improvements which Mr. Pearson placed upon his farm. His wife was also born in the central part of Sweden, her natal year being 1840, and both parents are now living in Genoa, Nebraska. Their children are Peter, Nels, Andrew Olaf, Bettie (Elizabeth) and Simon Edward.

Simon E. Pearson is indebted to the district schools for the early educational opportunities which he enjoyed. Later he attended a business college in Lincoln, Nebraska, but in the meantime worked upon the home farm and became familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He also became a student in the Highland Park College at Des Moines, Iowa, and in this manner qualified for the work to which he has since devoted his energies. His connection with banking began in the fall of 1908, when he accepted the position of bookkeeper for the First National Bank of Genoa, spending two and a half years in that institution. He was then promoted to the position of assistant cashier, and in 1915 he came to Monroe to accept the position of cashier of the Bank of Monroe, entering upon the duties of that office on the 1st of September. His previous experience and training well qualified him for the work that now devolves upon him, and he is already making good in his present connection. He is a courteous and obliging official, doing everything possible to accommodate the bank's patrons and at the same time carefully safeguarding the interests of the institution.

On the 22d of December, 1909, Mr. Pearson was married to Miss Augusta Peterson, of Lincoln, Nebraska, who was born near Karlskrona, Sweden, on the 25th of October, 1883. They now have two interesting little sons, Harold Edward and Carl Bernard. Mr. and Mrs. Pearson are well known in Monroe and this part of the county, where they have a large circle of warm friends. They hold membership in the Swedish Methodist church, and Mr. Pearson gives his political allegiance to the democratic party, finding, as he believes, the elements of good government in its platform. He is always loyal to his honest convictions and his position on any vital question is never an equivocal one.

PETER JORGENSEN.

The wealth of Platte county comes mainly from the fertility of its soil and the labors of its farmers, and those who have aided in its agricultural development are deserving of honor. Peter Jorgensen, better known as Peter Johnson through an official error in recording the name after his arrival in this country, is farming on section 10, Walker township. He has been identified with agricultural pursuits in this county for many years and has gained a gratifying measure of success. He was born in Denmark on the 22d of November, 1859, a son of Jurgen and Gertrude (Jurgensen) Larsen, both of whom died in their native land.

Peter Jorgensen was educated in Denmark and there grew to manhood, but when twenty-two years of age came to the United States, seeking the opportunities which this country offers. After residing for two years in Omaha he and his brother Hans came to Platte county and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 10, Walker township. They operated that place in partnership for about

ten years, during which time their sister, Martine, kept house for them. At the end of that period Hans Jorgensen returned to Denmark and the sister became the wife of Peter Damgard. Our subject has continued to operate the farm which he and his brother homesteaded and also owns and operates one hundred and sixty acres on section 16. He carries on general farming and as he uses improved methods and up-to-date machinery his labors are rewarded by excellent crops, from the sale of which he receives a good profit. He also raises high grade stock and finds that branch of his business likewise profitable.

Mr. Jorgensen was married November 28, 1890, to Miss Christine Sorensen, a sister of John Sorensen, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. They have become the parents of six children, Sine, Godfred, Herluf, Harold, Gertrude, and one who died in infancy.

Mr. Jorgensen is a staunch republican but has never been an office seeker, as the operation of his farm has demanded his entire time and attention. He was one of the organizers of the Danish Lutheran church and can always be depended upon to further its interests in any way possible. His integrity and upright life have gained him the sincere respect of all who have been associated with him, and his financial prosperity ranks him among the substantial men of his community.

MARTIN DUNN.

Martin Dunn, living on section 4, Shell Creek township, was born in Queens county, Ireland, May 25, 1854. His father, James Dunn, also a native of that country, came to the United States in the '60s and settled in New Jersey, where he owned and cultivated a farm. In 1885, however, he left the east and removed to La Salle county, Illinois, where he became the owner of a small tract of land. In later years he retired from farming and removed to Chicago, where he continued until his death. He voted with the democratic party and was ever a loyal adherent of the Catholic church. He died in 1886, at the age of seventy years, and his wife was also seventy years of age when she passed away in 1892. She bore the maiden name of Bridget Dowling and, like her husband, was a native of the Emerald isle.

In a family of eight children Martin Dunn was the second in order of birth and was a young lad when he accompanied his parents to the new world. For two terms after reaching La Salle county he continued his education in the public schools, but he left home at the age of fourteen years to make his own way in the world and on attaining his majority he began farming on rented land in La Salle county. In 1883 he secured a homestead on section 4, Shell Creek township, Platte county, a tract of raw prairie, on which he has set out trees, while much of the wild land he has converted into productive fields. For thirty-two years he has resided continuously upon this place and devotes all of his time to farm work, having one hundred and sixty acres of good land. He raises high grade stock, making a specialty of hogs, and is quite successful in that work.

In 1879 in Gilman, Illinois, Mr. Dunn was united in marriage to Miss Catharine Coleman, who was born in County Cork, Ireland, a daughter of Jeremiah and Joanna (O'Neill) Coleman, who were also natives of County Cork. On coming to the United States with his family in 1872 Mr. Coleman settled in Iroquois

county, Illinois, and there carried on general farming, owning a good tract of land, from which he annually derived a substantial income, for his work was systematically and carefully managed. He, too, voted with the democratic party, while his religious belief was that of the Catholic church. Mrs. Dunn was the fifth in a family of ten children and a sister, Ella Coleman, taught in Platte county schools for about twenty years. Mr. and Mrs. Dunn are the parents of six children: Elizabeth, a teacher in a country school near St. Edward, Nebraska; Ella, the wife of Ben Betterton, a teacher of Columbus; Mary, the wife of James Sullivan, a farmer living near Platte Center, by whom she has two children; Florence, a teacher, living at home; James, at home; and Frances, in school at Platte Center. All of the children attended the district and afterward the parochial and public schools of Platte Center. The family are members of the Catholic church in Platte Center.

Mr. Dunn is well known in this locality, where he has long resided, and he enjoys the goodwill and high regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact. He has lived in the new world since his early teens and for almost a third of a century has occupied the farm upon which he now resides and which in its well cultivated condition is an expression of his industry and thrift.

EZRA FELLERS.

Ezra Fellers is the owner of Locust Grove Farm, situated on section 10, Monroe township, but is now living retired, for he has advanced far on life's journey, reaching a period when nature seems to have intended that man should enjoy a season of rest. He was born in Columbia county, New York, March 24, 1831, a son of John N. and Maria (Coleman) Fellers, both of whom were natives of New York. The father devoted his entire life to farming and continued a resident of the Empire state until 1858, when he went to the middle west, establishing his home in Walworth county, Wisconsin, whence after two years he removed to Rock county, that state. There he engaged in farming until 1877, at which time he removed to Minnesota, where he lived with a son. He was always an active man in affairs of his community, giving his influence on the side of progress and improvement, and held membership in the Congregational church.

After pursuing his early education in the common schools Ezra Fellers attended an academy at Sodus, New York. He continued a resident of Wisconsin until 1877, when he removed westward to Nebraska and the following year secured a homestead on section 10, Monroe township, Platte county, at which period there were few settlers in the entire township and the work of development seemed scarcely begun. All land was very cheap, selling from four to eight dollars per acre, and the most farsighted could scarcely have predicted the changes which would rapidly occur and bring about a marked transformation in the county and its appearance. Mr. Fellers built a sod house and began farming and in the years which have since come and gone he has developed an excellent farm property. He has a comfortable residence upon his land with a small orchard together with berries and other fruits. The place is called the Locust Grove Farm and comprises one hundred and sixty acres of rich land.

In 1865 Mr. Fellers was married to Miss Flora Dow, who was born in 1835, in Vermont, a daughter of Joseph B. and Lucy Dow, also natives of the Green Mountain state. On leaving New England in 1840 they removed westward to Wisconsin, where they met pioneer conditions, but bravely faced the dangers and hardships of frontier life. Mr. Dow was both a cooper and farmer and continued his residence in Wisconsin until called to his final rest. His daughter, Mrs. Fellers, passed away in 1903. She was very active in church work and was a most earnest, consistent Christian woman whose good qualities of heart and mind endeared her to all.

To Mr. and Mrs. Fellers were born the following named sons and daughters: Benjamin, who operates the home farm; Lucy, who is the wife of James O. Gillan, a farmer living in Monroe township, and has three sons; Gertrude, at home; Eugene, who is engaged in the real-estate business at St. Edward, Nebraska; and Arthur, who is a real-estate dealer of Fullerton, Nebraska, and is married and has a daughter.

In his political views Mr. Fellers has long been an earnest democrat and has filled various local offices, the duties of which he has discharged with promptness and fidelity. For several years he was justice of the peace and he has ever been active in community affairs and has aided in promoting various plans and movements for the general good. His religious faith is that of the Congregational church, of which he has long been a faithful member, and in 1881 he helped haul the lumber for the house of worship on section 10. Mr. Fellers still occupies the old home farm, on which he has lived for thirty-eight consecutive years, and he is respected by the entire community, for his many good traits of character have endeared him to all with whom he has come in contact. He has been loyal and progressive in citizenship, reliable in business, faithful in friendship and devoted to the welfare of his family and these are the traits which make honorable manhood.

HARTVIG ANDREASEN.

Hartvig Andreassen is a representative farmer living on section 26, Woodville township, and one whose life work has not only resulted beneficially to his own interests but has also been an element in bringing about benefits for the community, for he stands loyally in support of all plans and measures for the general good. He was born in Denmark on the 3d of January, 1868, and is a son of Andreas and Maren (Christensen) Williamson. The father died in Denmark, after which the mother followed her children to the new world, making her home in Iowa, where her remaining days were passed.

It was in 1884 that Hartvig Andreassen crossed the Atlantic, being then a youth of sixteen years. He had attended school in Denmark until he reached the age of fourteen when he came to the new world, went to Shelby county, Iowa, where an older brother, Jens, had previously located and where Hartvig Andreassen lived for ten years. During that period he was engaged in farming on his own account for three years and in 1894 he removed to Nebraska, taking up his abode on his present location on section 26, Woodville township, Platte county. He first purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land and afterward added another tract of one hundred

and sixty acres to the south and also bought eighty acres on section 35, so that he now has four hundred acres of valuable farm property. On his home place he has four acres planted to orchard and his trees are now in bearing. There are also good buildings upon the place, providing ample shelter for grain and stock. His home is a commodious residence, comfortable and attractive, and water has been piped into the house, while other conveniences have been added. In addition to tilling the soil he is engaged in raising shorthorn cattle, Duroc-Jersey hogs and Belgian horses and his business interests are carefully and systematically conducted, bringing him a substantial measure of success.

In February, 1891, Mr. Andreasen was united in marriage to Miss Meta Catharine Nielsen, a native of Schleswig, Germany. To them have been born twelve children, as follows: Andrew, Mary, Christian, Carl, William, Arthur, Alfred, Ida, Francis, Emma, Greger and Frieda. Mr. Andreasen is a believer in education and works earnestly for better schools, realizing that intellectual training is the basis of all advancement. His children speak fluently both the Danish and the English tongues. Mr. Andreasen has always been a great reader and is a well informed man, keeping in touch with the trend of public thought. He belongs to St. Ansgar's Danish Lutheran church, in which both he and his wife are active and earnest workers, doing much to further its interests. In his political views he is a republican yet is somewhat independent, voting at times without regard to party ties if he feels that the best interests of the public will be conserved thereby. He has served as school trustee and as treasurer of the school board for twelve years and at all times stands for progress and improvement. His life has been fraught with good results for the benefit of the community and for the furtherance of his individual interests. He possesses many sterling traits of character, is held in high esteem wherever known and is most respected where he is best known.

WALTER A. GREEN.

Walter A. Green, proprietor of Green's Transfer Line of Columbus, was born in Hopkinton, Delaware county, Iowa, April 25, 1872, a son of John A. and Hannah M. Green. The father was born in Indiana, September 6, 1839, and with his parents removed to Delaware county, Iowa, where he erected the first frame house in Hopkinton, the other dwellings being log or sod. He became a teamster but he put aside all business considerations during the Civil war when, aroused by a spirit of patriotism, he enlisted for service in the Union army, joining the boys in blue of Company K, Twenty-first Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He sustained wounds in his leg and shoulder and it seemed that on various other occasions he could hardly escape injury, for he was often in the thickest of the fight amid a rain of leaden hail from the enemy's guns. However, he lived to return home at the close of the war and in 1875 he removed to Cedar Rapids, Nebraska, where he homesteaded land and improved a farm, carrying on general agricultural pursuits for a number of years. He is now living retired at Lincoln and well merits the rest which has come to him. His religious belief is that of the Methodist church and his political faith that of the republican party, on which ticket he was elected constable at



WALTER A. GREEN AND FAMILY

Cedar Rapids. His has been an active life, fraught with many good works in behalf of his family and of his country.

Walter A. Green attended school in Cedar Rapids, Nebraska, and at thirteen years of age began work in the sugar beet fields near Norfolk. Subsequently he went to Sioux City, Iowa, and was engaged in herding cattle near there through the summer seasons, while in the winter months he attended school. Later he began a teaming business in Sioux City, where he continued for five years, after which he removed to Pierce and later to Norfolk and to Edgemont, South Dakota, being employed at various kinds of work. He also spent a year as an employe in the Evans Hotel at Hot Springs, South Dakota, and for twelve years he was with the Homestake Mining Company at Deadwood. He then returned to Nebraska, settling at Columbus, where he has since been engaged in the transfer business. He is accorded a liberal patronage and the reliability of his business methods, combined with his promptness in executing orders, is one of the features of his growing success.

In 1904 Mr. Green was united in marriage to Miss Marie Uren, who passed away on the 14th of July, 1915, leaving three children, namely: Walter, born January 27, 1906; Allen, whose birth occurred November 12, 1909; and Milton, born June 18, 1911.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Green has voted with the republican party. In fraternal circles he is well known, belonging to the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Brotherhood of American Yeomen, the Owls and the Sons of Veterans. His father set him an example of patriotism and public-spirited devotion to duty which he has ever followed, and Columbus numbers him among its valued and representative citizens.

HENRY BUSS.

Henry Buss makes his home on section 8, Bismark township, not far from Columbus, and is the owner of a valuable farm property of three hundred and sixty acres equipped with all the accessories, conveniences and improvements of the model farm. He was born in 1869, in the township in which he still makes his home. His father, Engleke Buss, was a native of Hanover, Germany, and was married in that country to Miss Helena Suessens, who was also born there. They continued their residence in the fatherland until 1869, when they made the voyage across the briny deep to the new world. They did not tarry on the Atlantic coast but continued at once into the interior of the country, Platte county being their destination. At that time this district was upon the Nebraska frontier and the work of development was just being begun, a few hardy settlers having penetrated into the county to claim its rich lands and convert them into productive fields. Much of the land was still in the possession of the government, so that Engleke Buss had opportunity to secure a homestead claim on section 8, Bismark township, which constituted the nucleus of later extensive possessions, for he added to his holdings from time to time as his financial resources permitted and as opportunity offered until he was the owner of one thousand acres of rich and valuable land, thus becoming one of the leading farmers of the county. His life record showed what may be accomplished

when energy and determination lead the way. Both Mr. and Mrs. Buss continued to reside upon the homestead farm until called to their final rest. They were the parents of five children, of whom four are living: Henry; Fritz and Kate, both of whom reside on the old home farm; Meta, who is the wife of Edward Bakenhus, of Platte county; and Helena, the deceased wife of John Bakenhus.

Henry Buss, whose name introduces this review, was reared on the old homestead farm and no event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for him in his boyhood days. He worked with his father, early learning the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. His educational advantages were those offered by the public schools and after his textbooks were laid aside he concentrated his efforts upon farm work, remaining on the old homestead until he reached the age of thirty-four years. He was then married and, having inherited land from his father, he began farming independently, having now an excellent property of three hundred and sixty acres on section 8, Bismark township. The land is well developed and has been brought to a high state of cultivation, while the improvements found thereon are thoroughly modern and attractive. He carries on general farming, giving his attention to the crops best adapted to soil and climatic conditions, and annually his harvests are gratifying. In connection with his brother he also owns two hundred and forty acres of land in Joliet township.

As a companion and helpmate on the journey of life Mr. Buss chose Miss Lizzie Bakenhus, sister of John Bakenhus, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work. To them have been born five children, namely: Henry, Edward, Louise, Alma and Walter. Mr. Buss and his wife hold membership in the Lutheran church and he is interested in the moral as well as the material progress of the community, giving his support also to many measures which have to do with the civic development of this part of the state.

JOHN MARTIN KELLEY.

Nature seems to have intended that man should enjoy a period of rest in the evening of life. In early manhood he is possessed of energy, courage, ambition and determination and as the years go on these qualities are directed by mature judgment and perseverance is added thereto. A man therefore may attain success if he but follows correct methods and in the evening of life he may have a competence that will enable him to put aside the more arduous cares of business. Such has been the course of life of John M. Kelley, who is now living retired in Monroe. He was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, January 31, 1832, and is a son of John and Charter (Beeson) Kelley. The father was a native of Columbiana county, born in 1804, and after living there for a long period he removed to Hancock county, whence in 1857 he came to Nebraska, settling in Omaha. He afterward took up his abode in Monroe township, Platte county, where he preempted one hundred and sixty acres of land and after proving up on it he sold that property and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in Oconee township. He had the usual experiences of the pioneer settler, who is forced to endure hardships and privations in order to establish a home upon the frontier. In addition to tilling the soil he raised cattle and thus continued actively in business until his death, which occurred in 1869. He

was known as a stalwart advocate of democratic principles and for two terms filled the office of county supervisor. His widow long survived, passing away at the advanced age of eighty-six years.

John M. Kelley obtained his education in the public schools of Ohio and in 1857 accompanied his parents on their removal to Omaha, although at that time there was only a tiny village on the site of the present city. He preempted one hundred and sixty acres there, where the business district of the village of Irvington now stands, and he lived upon that tract until 1867. He then went to Kansas, where he resided for three years, and on the expiration of that period came to Platte county and bought eighty acres of land in Monroe township. Throughout the years up to the time of his retirement in 1906 his attention was then given to general agricultural pursuits and his farm work brought to him a substantial reward for his labors.

On the 8th of February, 1859, Mr. Kelley was married to Miss Henrietta Beeks, who was born in Brookville, Indiana, December 26, 1842, and passed away February 15, 1876. They were the parents of six children: Amelia, now deceased; Edward, living in South Dakota; Charles, a resident of Monroe; Carrie, living in North Platte, Nebraska, the wife of William Potter; Frank, of Monroe; and Minnie, the wife of Ole Stumbaugh, of Council Bluffs. On the 2d of November, 1879, Mr. Kelley was again married, his second union being with Anna Cox, who was born in Lincoln, England, and passed away March 23, 1910, leaving a son, Lester, who is now postmaster of Monroe.

In his political views Mr. Kelley has always been an earnest democrat and for one term he served as county commissioner of Douglas county, while for a number of years he was justice of the peace in Platte county, his decisions being strictly fair and impartial. He belongs to Lebanon Lodge, No. 58, A. F. & A. M., and he is a consistent and earnest member of the Presbyterian church, in which he is serving as an elder. His has been an upright, honorable life and now at the age of eighty-three years he can look back over the past without regret and to the future without fear, while his example may well serve as a source of encouragement and inspiration to others.

CHARLES S. JAWORSKI.

Charles S. Jaworski, filling the office of deputy sheriff of Platte county, under Mark Burke and making his home in Columbus, was born in Tarnov, this county, on the 2d of April, 1881, his parents being Thomas S. and Josephine (Peconka) Jaworski. The father was a native of East Prussia, born in November, 1855, and in 1872 came to America, establishing his home in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he resided for four years. In 1876, attracted by the opportunities of the growing west, he came to Platte county and took up his abode in Burrows township, where he homesteaded eighty acres, upon which he lived for five years. The place was entirely destitute of improvements when it came into his possession and not a furrow had been turned, but with characteristic energy he began to till the fields and develop the property. After five years he removed to Columbus and engaged in drilling wells and in handling farm implements and machinery, becoming one of the sub-

stantial merchants and business men of the city. His political support was given the democratic party and he took an active part in advancing its interests and securing its successes. For four years he filled the office of deputy sheriff. His wife was born in Austria in 1860 and they were married in the fall of 1879. Mrs. Jaworski passed away in 1883, while Mr. Jaworski survived for thirty years, his death occurring on the 14th of September, 1913. Both were consistent members of the Catholic church.

Their son, Charles S. Jaworski, was educated in the parochial schools of Columbus and on starting out in life on his own account was employed at farm labor for three years. He then turned his attention to the well and implement business, in which he remained for three years, when he entered the employ of the Union Pacific Railway Company as a car repairer, spending six months in that connection. He was then made inspector, which position he filled for four years in Columbus and for four years in South Omaha. He then returned to this city and was engaged in the well business for six and a half years but sold out in 1915, after being appointed to the office of deputy sheriff—a position which his father had previously acceptably filled and in which he is making an equally creditable record.

Mr. Jaworski was married January 10, 1906, to Miss Mary Gurek, who was born in Austria in 1887, and who by her marriage has become the mother of three children: Thomas, who was born October 30, 1906, and Barbara, born December 5, 1909, both attending parochial school; and Helen, whose birth occurred July 11, 1914.

The family adhere to the Catholic faith and contribute generously to the support of the church. Mr. Jaworski belongs to the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Knights of Columbus and he gives his political allegiance to the democratic party, which he has supported since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He is well known in the county where the greater part of his life has been passed and where substantial qualities have won for him the friendship and regard of many with whom he has become acquainted.

CHRISTIAN M. GRUENTHER.

Christian M. Gruenther has the distinction of having been elected for the fourth time as clerk of the district court of Platte county, and is recognized as one of the prominent leaders of the democratic party in his section of the state. In fact, his opinions carry weight in party councils throughout Nebraska and his efforts have been manifest in tangible results for advancement and improvement. He was born in Springfield, Wisconsin, October 6, 1871, a son of Henry and Agnes (Greisen) Gruenther, both of whom were natives of the Rhenish province of Germany, where they were reared and married. The father was born in 1838 and in 1869 he brought his family to America, settling in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he remained for three years. He came to Platte county in 1872, taking up his abode in Columbus, where he remained until 1880 and then removed with his family to St. Bernard township, Platte county. There his wife died the following year and in 1890 he removed to Oregon, passing away at Mount Angel, that state, in 1894.

Christian M. Gruenther had only six months' schooling up to the time that he attained the age of twenty-two years. He was only in his first year when brought to this state and he worked on farms in Platte county until he reached the age of fifteen, when he went to Minnesota, where he was employed in connection with what is now the Great Northern Railroad system, aiding in the work of ballasting and clearing the roadway into Winnipeg. After a summer spent in that way he returned to Platte county, where he again worked on a farm for a year. He next went to the Black Hills, but finding no employment there, he made his way to Wyoming, where he spent a summer in railroad grading. In the fall of that year, in connection with three others, he took a contract to get out rock to be used in building culverts for the railroad. He next went to Colorado and worked for six weeks in the Cripple Creek district prospecting. He found nothing, however, to reward his search and accepted employment on a dairy ranch near Denver, where he remained for nineteen months. All the money which he earned during that period he placed in a savings bank in Denver, but the bank failed and he lost every cent. He then returned to Platte county, Nebraska, where he accepted the position of manager of the Greisen farm, which he conducted for three years in a most capable manner, accepting that responsibility when but nineteen years of age. He then went to Lincoln, Nebraska, and entered the Western Normal College, for he realized the value of education and desired to supplement his early limited training and the lessons which he had learned in the school of experience, by a more advanced scholastic course. That he applied himself most diligently to the task is indicated in the fact that he completed the three years' teachers' course in nineteen months.

Mr. Gruenther then returned to Platte county and established his home at Platte Center, where he entered the fire insurance business, being thus engaged for eight months. At the end of that time he purchased the Platte Center Signal, a weekly democratic paper, and withdrew from the insurance field to devote his time to newspaper publication. In 1898 he was given charge of a defunct bank, the Farmers & Merchants at Platte Center, and from it he organized the Platte County Bank, of which he was made cashier, so continuing for two years. On leaving the bank he was elected to the office of clerk of the district court in 1899 and has been reelected three times, a fact indicative of his capability and the faithfulness and promptness with which he discharges the duties of this position. He is a member and treasurer of the Becker, Hockenberger & Chambers Company and an officer and stockholder of the Guaranty Loan & Trust Company of Columbus. He has been frequently appointed in Platte and adjoining counties as referee and trustee to handle and sell the real estate belonging to estates and in that capacity has done more work than any man in Nebraska.

On the 18th of July, 1898, in Platte Center, Mr. Gruenther was united in marriage to Miss Mary Shea, a daughter of Thomas Shea, and their living children are: Alfred M., Homer H., Leona, Louis and Verona. The third child, Lester, died May 17, 1914, at the age of eleven years.

The parents are Catholics in religious faith and Mr. Gruenther also holds membership with the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Sons of Herman and the Knights of Columbus.

In 1908 he organized the Bryan Volunteers and later served as secretary of the state committee and president of the Nebraska State Democratic Club. He is one of the most farsighted and discriminating democratic leaders in the state

and largely to his efforts is credited the election of the Bryan electors in 1908 and Shallenberger for governor and Hitchcock to the United States senate in 1910. He is recognized as a dynamic force in connection with any activity in which he becomes interested. Persistently he pushes his way forward to success and what he accomplishes represents the fit and wise utilization of time and opportunity.

WILLIAM TAGGERT STROTHER.

William Taggert Strother is an honored veteran of the Civil war and a retired farmer of Platte county, now living in Monroe. He was also well known as a newspaper publisher and the success which he achieved in these different connections now enables him to rest from further labors. He has passed the seventy-sixth milestone on life's journey, his birth having occurred in Licking county, Ohio, July 13, 1839, his parents being John J. and Margaret (Moody) Strother. The father, who devoted his life to general agricultural pursuits, died in 1864 at the age of sixty-four years, while his wife passed away in 1847, when but forty-five years of age.

William T. Strother acquired a good education in the public schools of his native state and during vacation periods worked upon his father's farm in Hancock county, Ohio, assisting in its cultivation until he reached the age of seventeen years, when he started out upon an independent business career by clerking in a store in Van Buren, Ohio. After spending two years in that way he began learning the printer's trade at Paulding, Ohio, being thus occupied until the outbreak of the Civil war, when, his patriotic spirit aroused by the attempt to overthrow the Union, he offered his services to the government and joined the "boys in blue" of Company G, Fourteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for ninety days' service, enlisting April 22, 1861. He was discharged on the 13th of August following, after having participated in the battles of Philippi, Laurel Hill and Carrick's Ford. A year passed and he reenlisted on the 26th of August, 1861, joining Company D, Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry. With his command he participated in thirty-nine engagements, including the battles of Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Buzzards Roost, Resaca, Kingston, Pickett's Mills, Vining Station, Peach Tree Creek, the Atlanta campaign, and was also with Sherman on the march to the sea. When the war was over he took part in the grand review at Washington, D. C., the most celebrated military pageant ever seen on the western hemisphere, and on the 26th of August, 1865, he was honorably discharged, returning home with a most creditable military record.

Not long afterward Mr. Strother left Ohio and came west to Nebraska City, Nebraska. He walked from there to Omaha and on to Monroe, arriving at the latter place on the 7th of December, 1865. He then devoted his energies to farming and also issued *The Bulletin* at Fairmont for five or six years. He carefully and wisely directed his agricultural interests until he acquired a substantial measure of success and since 1904 has lived retired in Monroe.

On the 27th of November, 1867, Mr. Strother was united in marriage to Miss Adeline E. Gerrard, who was born May 11, 1831, and passed away July 4, 1912, at the advanced age of eighty-one years. They became the parents of three chil-

dren: Robert G., now living in Monroe; Mabel, the wife of A. E. Matson, a farmer; and Frank K., of Omaha.

In politics Mr. Strother is a republican but votes according to the dictates of his judgment and his conscience. In religious belief he is a Presbyterian and has long been a loyal adherent of the church. He also has membership in the Grand Army of the Republic and is as true to his country in days of peace as when he followed the stars and stripes upon the battlefields of the south and aided in the preservation of the Union.

FRED KEELER.

Fred Keeler, devoting his time and energies to general farming on section 18, Lost Creek township, where he has one hundred and sixty acres of land, was born February 17, 1880, in the township where he still makes his home. His parents were John and Mary E. (Bacon) Keeler, who in the year 1871 came to Nebraska from Orleans county, New York, where the father was reared. He secured land in this state with a military grant which was given him in recognition of his service in the Civil war. He belonged to the Twenty-eighth New York Infantry and went to the front, where he participated in a number of hotly contested battles until he was wounded, after which he was honorably discharged. He belonged to the Grand Army of the Republic at Monroe and he passed away in this county June 17, 1914. His wife survived him almost a year, her demise occurring February 17, 1915. To them were born four children: Edith, the wife of E. M. Johnson, a resident farmer of Lost Creek township; Ethel, the wife of T. D. Selmeyer, also farming in Lost Creek township; Hattie, the wife of Ben Nelson, of the same township; and Fred, of this review.

The last named, the only son in the family, acquired a common-school education and spent his youthful days upon the home farm, early beginning work in the fields. When twenty-one years of age he started for himself on the home farm and has since carried on general agricultural pursuits with the result that he has brought the fields to a high state of cultivation and annually gathers good crops. His methods are at once practical and progressive and his labors are attended with a measure of success that is very gratifying. He makes stock-raising a feature of his business, handling Chester White hogs and Red Polled cattle. He likewise has important financial interests, for he is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company and the Farmers Coal Company, both of Monroe, and in the Monroe Independent Telephone Company.

On the 24th of May, 1905, Mr. Keeler was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Rudman, a daughter of Olaf and Lena (Johnson) Rudman and a native of Polk county, Nebraska. Their children are Helen, Gladys, Milo Robert, Lena Anna, Mary Cecelia and Harold Kenneth.

In his political views Mr. Keeler is a republican, voting for the candidates of the party where national issues are involved, but at local elections, where there is no question save of the capability of the candidate to take care of the business of town or county, he casts an independent ballot. Interested in the cause of education, he is now serving for a second term as school director. His fellow townsmen regard

him as an enterprising young farmer and his business ability is winning him advancement. He is energetic and persistent in all that he does and is well known for the thorough reliability of his business methods.

CHARLES WEBSTER HILL.

Charles Webster Hill is a representative young business man of Monroe, where he is conducting a drug store. He was born in Monroe township, Platte county, on the 8th of March, 1892, and is a son of Thomas and Elizabeth Hill, his father being one of the well known, prominent and successful farmers of Lost Creek township. Reared under the parental roof, Charles Webster Hill pursued a public-school education until graduated from the high school in Monroe and later he benefited by a course in the Columbus Commercial College. In his youthful days he worked upon the home farm and early became familiar with all the duties and labors incident to the development and improvement of a farm property. After leaving home he spent four months in Colorado, but returned to Platte county and on the 6th of April, 1915, purchased his drug store in Monroe. He is now successfully carrying on the business, having a well appointed store, in which he carries a good line of drugs and druggists' sundries. Already he has gained a liberal patronage and he is conducting his business according to the principle that satisfied customers are the best advertisement.

In politics Mr. Hill is independent. He belongs to the Presbyterian church and he has many substantial qualities which are not only winning him success in business but have also gained him popularity in social circles.

JOSEPH ALFRED BORG.

Joseph Alfred Borg, a successful farmer residing on section 2, Walker township, was born in that township on the 31st of August, 1886, a son of Gustave A. and Caroline (Johnson) Borg. The father, who was born in Östergötland, Sweden, in 1812, remained in his native land until 1869, when he came to America and located near Peoria, Illinois. In 1884, however, he continued his way westward and settled in Walker township, Platte county, Nebraska, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres, to which he later added eighty acres. He carried on general farming and received a gratifying income from his land. He helped to organize the Swedish Methodist church, of which he was one of the trustees, and was at all times willing to aid in its work in any way possible. His political allegiance was given to the republican party. He passed away in 1907. His wife, who was born in Smaland, Sweden, in 1847, is still living and resides in Newman Grove. To them were born seven children, of whom six are living. One daughter, Jennie, is now the wife of Frank Lawrence and they are missionaries in China.

Joseph A. Borg was reared on the home farm and in the acquirement of his education attended the public schools. In 1906 he took charge of the operation of the home place and has proved a progressive and efficient agriculturist. In addi-

tion to growing the usual crops he raises a good grade of stock and derives a gratifying income from both branches of his business. He plans his work well and while he is practical in the methods used he is also willing to adopt any innovation when its value has been proved.

On the 14th of December, 1910, Mr. Borg was united in marriage to Miss Eunice Paulson, a daughter of Samuel and Anna (Johnson) Paulson, who still live in Nance county, this state. Mr. and Mrs. Borg have a son, Myron.

Mr. Borg is a democrat and has served as township treasurer and as township clerk, proving an efficient and conscientious official. He takes an active part in the work of the Swedish Methodist church, of which he is now serving as a trustee, and his life is guided by high ethical standards. He is one of the highly esteemed young farmers of the county and his continued success seems assured.

MARTIN CHRISTENSEN.

Martin Christensen has been a factor in the agricultural development of the county as his present well improved farm in Joliet township was a tract of wild prairie land when it came into his possession. He was born in Denmark on the 23d of November, 1863, of the marriage of Jens and Sine (Michaelson) Christensen, both of whom were born in that county in 1833. They were married in their native land and continued to reside there until 1879, when they came to the United States. Making their way to the middle west, they settled in Joliet township, Platte county, Nebraska, where the father purchased eighty acres of land, only ten acres of which were broken. He built a sod house, which was the usual dwelling of the pioneers in this state, and this remained the family residence for seven years. He met with success as a farmer and is now living retired in Walker township.

Martin Christensen was early trained to farm work and after the removal of the family to this county he worked by the month as a farm hand and gave his parents the greater part of his wages, thus assisting them to get a start in the new world. In 1882 he purchased a quarter section of land, which he broke with oxen in 1884. At that time Columbus was the nearest trading point and it required two days to make the trip there and back with oxen. As the years have passed he has made many improvements upon his place, and his land is all in a high state of cultivation. He carries on general farming, which he finds more profitable than specializing in either grain or stock-raising, and he has won a competence.

Mr. Christensen was married July 12, 1885, to Miss Annie M. Jensen, likewise a native of Denmark, who came to the United States in 1882. Her parents, Rasmus and Matte (Hansen) Jensen, were lifelong residents of that country. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Christensen are twelve in number, namely: Martha, the wife of Peter Petersen, a resident of Minnesota; Richard, who is married and lives in Joliet township; Anton, also a farmer of Joliet township; Sarah, the wife of John Rood of the same township; Sine; Alfred; John; Otto; Elmer; Oscar; Sigurd; and Annie.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Danish Lutheran church. In politics Mr. Christensen has always been a republican and has taken an active interest in public affairs. He served on the school board of his district for several years,

first as a director and later as treasurer. He is now filling the office of town clerk for a third term. He has thoroughly identified his interests with those of Platte county and can be depended upon to further the general advancement in any way possible. He is widely known throughout the county and those who have been the most intimately associated with him are his staunchest friends, which is proof of his genuine worth.

FRANK AERNI.

Frank Aerni owns and occupies a farm that comprises the east one-half of section 11, Columbus township, and in his chosen life work employs the most progressive methods of modern farming, his labors being attended with excellent results. He has lived in Platte county continuously since 1884, although he is a native of Switzerland. His birth occurred in Canton Solothurn on the 6th of January, 1846, his parents being Alois and Elizabeth (Stempfly) Aerni. The father followed farming on a small scale in Switzerland and, according to the laws of the land, rendered military service to his country. Both he and his wife, who were members of the Catholic church, have now passed away.

Frank Aerni acquired a common-school education while spending his youthful days in his parents' home and later learned the business of cheese making, becoming an adept in that work for which his country is famous. He also served his time in the army and continued a resident of Switzerland until he reached the age of thirty-eight years, when he determined to try his fortune in America, crossing the Atlantic in 1884. He made his way direct to Platte county, Nebraska, where he was employed as a farm hand for three years, during which period he carefully saved his earnings until he felt justified in engaging in farm work on his own account. He then rented one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he farmed for six years, and during that time his diligence and economy brought him sufficient capital to enable him to invest in property. He became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres, which he carefully tilled for eighteen years, and then sold the entire half section. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 11, Columbus township, and also about five acres of timber. He has since resided upon this place, which is largely devoted to the cultivation of winter wheat—a crop which he raises with great success. He also raises some stock and the various branches of his farm work are carefully managed and directed. He has erected a modern residence and good outbuildings and his farm presents a neat and thrifty appearance. The place is divided into fields of convenient size by well kept fences and the latest improved machinery facilitates his work.

In 1870 Mr. Aerni was united in marriage to Miss Magdalena Christian, who died in 1879, leaving six children: Mary, now the wife of Jack London, of Columbus; Elizabeth, also living in Columbus; Frank, whose home is in Columbus township; Albert, who resides in Columbus township; Lydia, the wife of Ed Eissenwain, of Creston, Nebraska; and Freda, living in Columbus. Mr. Aerni was again married, his second union being with Rosina Eckert, who died June 23, 1912, leaving four children: Emma, the wife of Charles Gotel, of Columbus; Jacob, whose home is in Bismark township; Clara A., a chiropractor, following her profession in Columbus;



FRANK AERNI

and Arthur, who is in Bismarck, Nebraska. On the 19th of September, 1913, Mr. Aerni wedded Marie Eckley, who was born in Canton Bern, Switzerland, May 20, 1870.

Mr. Aerni is a democrat, yet is very liberal in his views concerning politics and many other questions. He belongs to the German Lutheran church and his has been an upright, honorable life that conforms to its teachings and that has won for him the merited respect and high regard of his fellow townsmen.

JAMES A. BAKER.

When the tocsin of war sounded and men from all ranks of life flocked to the standard of the nation, going from the fields, the countinghouses, the banks and the offices, James A. Baker was among the number and merits the gratitude which the country owes to her soldiers, who preserved the Union intact. He is now a valued member of the Grand Army post at Monroe, having made his home in that town since he retired from active connection with farm work, to which he devoted many years. He was born in Washington county, Ohio, November 28, 1841, a son of Benjamin and Polly Baker, also natives of that state. The father, who was a cripple, devoted his life to tailoring. In 1848 he removed to Illinois, settling at Weatherfield, Henry county, where he was a pioneer tailor, continuing in business there until his later years and also becoming the owner of lands in that county. He died when past the age of eighty.

In his boyhood days James A. Baker pursued his education in a little log school-house provided with slab seats and he met many of the experiences incident to life on the frontier. He remained at home until February 28, 1862, when he enlisted for service in the Civil war as a member of Company D, Sixty-fifth Illinois Infantry, at Chicago. Thus in the prime of young manhood he went to the front to face danger and death for his country. The regiment proceeded to Tennessee and joined the brigade of the Third Division, Twenty-third Army Corps, under General Schofield, of the Army of the Tennessee. Mr. Baker with his regiment participated in the battles of Nashville and Lookout Mountain, the siege of Atlanta and started with Sherman on his march to the sea, but his command was turned back to guard Nashville. He was assigned to duty at driving a tool wagon, driving six mules on a jerk line. He was slightly wounded at Strawberry Plains, Tennessee, and for three years was active in service, being mustered out at Chicago, May 2, 1865.

Mr. Baker then returned to Weatherfield and was employed as a farm hand in that locality until May, 1873, when he came to this county and secured a homestead claim on section 14, Monroe township. He broke a part of his prairie land with ox teams and immediately after his arrival built a little frame house fourteen by sixteen feet. He started in to make a good home, but it was a difficult task in the early days, requiring patience, perseverance and close economy, but his labors wrought a change as the years went on and he kept adding to his lands until he had three hundred and sixty acres, of which he still owns two hundred acres. He carried on general farming and developed a valuable farm, in which the fields were carefully tilled, while good improvements were added, enhancing the attractive appearance of

his place. He was an active and progressive man in all that he did, furthering the public welfare as well as advancing his individual interests.

Mr. Baker assisted in building the schoolhouse near his home in the early days and has ever been the champion of the cause of education. In his political views he was a republican for many years, "voting the way he shot," but later he has been identified with the progressive movement. He has also been interested in the moral development of the community and assisted in building the Congregational church near his home. In faith, however, he is a Methodist and was active in advancing the interests of that denomination when church services were held in the schoolhouse. From that time to the present he has done all in his power to promote the moral interests of the community and his influence has always been on the side of right and progress.

On the 1st of January, 1867, Mr. Baker was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Wiley, who was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They have become the parents of five children: Stella, the wife of Joe Hollingshead, a real-estate agent and general merchant of Arcadia, Nebraska, by whom she has eight children; Eva, the wife of Joseph Sallach, living near Albion, Nebraska, by whom she has five children; Olive, the wife of James R. Smith, a farmer of Monroe township, by whom she has three children; Benjamin J., a farmer of Monroe township, who is married and has two children; and Blanche, the wife of F. Mohler, a farmer residing near Spaulding, by whom she has three children.

Mr. Baker continued to reside upon the old homestead farm with his family until 1911, when, their children all having married and left home, he and his wife removed to Monroe, where they now occupy a pleasant home. He has retired from active business and is enjoying a well earned rest. They have both displayed sterling traits of character and their many good qualities are appreciated by friends and neighbors, who entertain for them warm and enduring regard. Mr. Baker has never believed that patriotism means merely applauding the flag, but gave demonstration of his loyalty upon the battlefields of the south and has always manifested his public spirit in unfaltering devotion to those interests which tend to uplift of the individual and of the community.

MATHIAS WILSON.

For thirty years Mathias Wilson, who is now living retired in Woodville township, has resided in this county and for much of that time he has actively engaged in agricultural pursuits. He is a native of Denmark, though born in what is now North Schleswig, Germany, on the 24th of May, 1854, and is a son of Willis S. and Anna Matilda Christina (Marquison) Wilson, also natives of that country, who in 1881 came to the United States. They resided in Ogle county, Illinois, until 1888, but in that year they removed to Platte county, Nebraska, where they passed their remaining years. The father died at the age of seventy-one and a half years and the mother reached the advanced age of eighty-four years and nine months.

Mathias Wilson was reared under the parental roof and received his education in his native country, where he remained until he was twenty-six years of age. He

then accompanied his parents to the United States and in 1888 came with them to Platte county. He devoted his time and energies to farming and was very successful in that occupation. Three years before he became a resident of this county he purchased eighty acres of land in section 27, Woodville township, and he has since added forty acres, his holdings now comprising one hundred and twenty acres. He has good buildings, including two substantial and commodious residences, and his farm is one of the best developed in the township. As the years passed his resources increased and, feeling that he has accumulated a competence, he is now living retired, renting his farm to his son-in-law.

On the 7th of March, 1882, occurred the marriage of Mr. Wilson and Miss Adele Christina Senoxsen, also a native of Denmark, who came to the United States with her parents, Carl and Anna Christina (Troustes) Senoxsen, at the same time as Mr. Wilson. They had known each other well in Denmark and were married the year following their emigration to this country. They have two children: Anna Christina, the wife of Andrew C. Johnson, who is operating his father-in-law's farm and by whom she has a daughter, Adele; and William S., a farmer of Woodville township, who married Miss Ruth Wingren, by whom he has two children, Viola Adele and Leland.

Mr. Wilson casts his ballot in support of the candidates whom he believes best fitted for office without regard to party ties, and has not taken an active part in politics. He is a consistent member of the Danish Lutheran church, to the support of which he contributes, and his life has always been guided by high ethical principles. He is recognized as a valued citizen and there are many who hold him in the warmest personal esteem.

E. A. GERRARD.

E. A. Gerrard, publisher of the *Monroe Looking Glass*, is a pioneer resident of Platte county, his memory forming a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present. The past, with its Indian disturbances and the intervening times of turmoil and prosperity, is all an open book to him. That he fosters every move that tends to promote the welfare of Platte county is admitted by all. He was born in Manchester, England. His father, Joseph Gerrard, was also a native of England but became a naturalized citizen of the United States and took up his abode in New York. His mother was of the historical Allen family, born in New Bedford, Massachusetts. E. A. Gerrard was reared in Rock Island, Illinois. When eighteen years of age, in 1853, he went across the plains to California. The trip was quite long with ox team, taking five months and five days from the crossing of the Mississippi to the crossing of the Sacramento. Rock Island had but recently secured a telegraph line and had no railroad. Gerrard saw his first one after years and at Sacramento. There were only the usual incidents on the trip. The Platte river had overflowed its banks and no buffaloes were seen except a few while hunting in the hills. The Indians were usually friendly, only once making trouble by shooting arrows into cattle and taking one rifle shot which passed over Gerrard's head, he being quite short.

He spent six years on this first trip away from home and traveled over much

of the northern part of California, in the mountains and amid all the wild life of that region. He saw much of life in the mines and of the Indians, Chinese, etc. He hunted grizzly bear and followed hostile Indians and saw the changes that came to the state under the vigilance committee in 1856 and 1857. He returned home in 1859 by way of Panama, taking his first ride on a railroad across the isthmus and arriving at Monroe (old town) in July. He saw the returning warriors after the absurdities of the so called Pawnee war, the bloodshed being one Pawnee pony killed, the white warriors making it good by giving them the pony of Moreland. Mr. Gerrard was present when the Pawnee tribe moved to Genoa from south of the Platte. He was a regular active participant in all the frontier life of the locality and was present at a battle between the Sioux and Pawnees. He hunted deer and elk on the Elkhorn and Cedar with Arnold and Frank North, being out thirty-two days in midwinter on one trip.

In 1862 Mr. Gerrard enlisted in the United States army, becoming a member of the Second Nebraska Cavalry. He made a trip to Pike's Peak, Colorado, in 1864 and was on the plains when the Sioux war broke out, the first hostile act being the killing of a settler near Denver. Two men were killed and Mrs. Pat Murray was wounded on the same day near Monroe.

Mr. Gerrard was elected county clerk of Monroe county at the first election after coming to Nebraska. He was a participant in the taking over of Monroe county as a part of Platte county. He was elected county commissioner of Platte while away from home. He was out after the Sioux when they stole settlers' horses several times, followed them when they took the Gerrard horses and exchanged shots with them near Monroe. In 1868 he moved to Columbus, handling cattle and horses. He was engaged by government contractors to guide cattle herds from the Loup near Genoa to Fort Randall on the Missouri river in 1869, making the first trail across the then unknown country. The first herd was ambushed on the Niobrara, but Gerrard surprised the Indians and thwarted their efforts.

He was appointed postmaster of Columbus, under Hayes, without being consulted. After three months, being continually solicited, he accepted and served for five years. Gerrard says this is the only case he knows of where a good office chased a man so long to secure acceptance. During the St. John campaign he became a political prohibitionist and has supported and voted the ticket ever since.

Mr. Gerrard was united in marriage to Thirza B. Smith, who has been an active worker in church and temperance lines, having been the active agent in the organization of the Baptist church of Columbus and the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Monroe, of which she was the presiding officer for twenty-five years and until her death in October, 1915.

In 1889 Mr. Gerrard laid out the present town of Monroe, putting a clause in the deed to all lots making the agreement not to allow the alcoholic liquor traffic in any form on the property a part of the purchase price and starting the Looking Glass in the first building on the site of the town. As a result of the opposition to the booze business Mr. Gerrard waked up the enmity of the business, who vented their spleen upon him by throwing the material for publication of "Looking Glass" into the irrigation ditch and wrecking the presses and office. In the course of years he has won the friendship of the better class of people.

He united with the Presbyterian church in Columbus in 1871 and has been an elder in the Columbus church and later in Monroe since that time. He was at one

time nominated for governor by the prohibition party and has taken an active part in the life of the community. He was active in planning and organizing the Monroe Farmers Association, whose plan of cooperation has become the standard in the state and the model for the cooperative law in the Nebraska statutes. He still in 1915 is a progressive advocate of the general welfare in every department, being earnest for government ownership of public utilities, including railroads and banks, which he has advocated for years.

JOHN BAKENHUS.

An excellent farm property of two hundred and eighty acres pays tribute to the care and labor of John Bakenhus, whose home is situated on section 5, Bismark township. The place bears little resemblance to the farm which came into his possession, for he has made many modern improvements which have naturally changed the appearance of the farm. Platte county numbers him among its native sons, his birth having occurred in Shell Creek township, October 13, 1872. His father, Henry Bakenhus, was born in Oldenburg, Germany, and when a young man came to the United States, settling in 1869 in this county, which was then a frontier district, the work of development and of civilization having scarcely been begun here. He married Annie Wilke, who was also a native of Oldenburg, Germany, and they took up their abode upon a farm in Shell Creek township, their first home being a sod house, in which all of their children were born. The father secured land by homesteading and, while not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made upon the place, he at once began its cultivation and soon the sod was broken and the once wild prairie was bringing forth good crops. Mr. and Mrs. Bakenhus became the parents of nine children, of whom seven are living. The mother passed away in 1880 but the father long survived, his death occurring in 1910.

John Bakenhus had the usual experiences of the farm lad. When about six years of age he began his education by attending the public schools and therein mastered the common branches of learning, continuing his studies through the winter seasons. In the summer months he worked in the fields and he continued to aid in the cultivation of the home farm until he reached the age of twenty-seven years, when he married and began life on his own account. When he purchased his present home property, now comprising two hundred and eighty acres of rich and productive land on section 5, Bismark township, there was only a shanty upon it, but before his mind there were pictures of a future that would be different. He determined that energy and diligence would bring him success and he has worked hard year after year until he is now one of the substantial farmers of the community, owning an excellent property, upon which stands an attractive modern residence, good barns and outbuildings and, in fact, all of the modern improvements, equipments and accessories of a model farm.

Mr. Bakenhus was united in marriage to Miss Helena Buss, of Platte county, but after traveling life's journey together for a number of years they were separated by the death of the wife on the 28th of February, 1910. They were the parents of four children: Anna Kathrina Magdalena; John Paul, who died at the age of one month; Martha Helena; and Johannes Helena. Mr. Bakenhus maintains

an independent attitude upon political questions, voting according to the dictates of his judgment and the demands of the time. He is a member of the German Lutheran church and his salient qualities are such as command respect and confidence in every land and clime.

HERMAN AHRENS.

The home farm of Herman Ahrens is situated on section 33, Bismark township, and comprises one hundred and sixty acres of land on which he has lived since 1905. He represents a family that has had much to do with the upbuilding and substantial development of the county and the work which was instituted by his father has been carried on by himself and brothers, who rank with the leading agriculturists of the community. The old homestead farm of his parents, Edwin and Anna (Loseke) Ahrens, on section 23, Bismark township, was the birthplace of Herman Ahrens, whose natal day was August 25, 1872. His experiences were those of the other members of the family. He was reared to farm life in the usual manner of the boys who spent their youth upon the Nebraska frontier. His education was such as the district schools afforded and in the school of experience he has learned many valuable lessons that have been of marked worth to him as the years have gone on. He continued to assist his father and remained upon the old homestead until 1905. In that year he removed to his present place of residence, having now a quarter section in Bismark township. It is a good farm property, well improved with substantial buildings. There is a comfortable home, in the rear of which stand commodious barns and outbuildings and these in turn are surrounded by well tilled fields from which he annually gathers substantial harvests. He raises the cereals best adapted to soil and climatic conditions and that his methods are practical is shown in the excellent results which he achieves. Weather might cause a crop failure with him, but such would never occur as the result of his indolence or carelessness. He is ever watchful of the best interests of his farm and his labors are bringing well deserved prosperity.

On the 21st of June, 1905, Mr. Ahrens was united in marriage to Miss Emma Labens, a daughter of Carl Labens, who was born in West Prussia, Germany, on the 15th of May, 1845. He was a son of Andrew and Caroline (Reinke) Labens, who came to the United States in 1869 and secured a homestead claim in Bismark township, Platte county, Nebraska, where their remaining days were passed. Carl Labens was a young man of twenty-four years at the time of the emigration to the new world and on reaching Platte county homesteaded eighty acres. He met all of the hardships, privations and conditions of pioneer life and lived for three years in a sod house before he had a chance to build a more modern home. Success, however, has attended his efforts and he is now the owner of two hundred acres of land in Bismark township, whereon he resides, and one hundred and sixty acres in Colfax county. He is engaged in general farming, having a nice place improved with good buildings. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party and his life is guided by his religious faith, which is expressed in his membership in the German Lutheran church. On the 18th of December, 1875, Carl Labens was married to Miss Augusta Benning, whose birth occurred in Pomerania, Germany,

in December, 1848. Her parents became early settlers of Bismark township, this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Carl Labens have been born nine children, as follows: Mary, who is the wife of Ernst Greiner and resides in Arizona; Minnie, the wife of William Meyer, of Polk county, Nebraska; Emma, who became the wife of Herman Ahrens; Carl and William, who follow farming in Colfax county; Albert, Augusta and Lizzie, all at home; and Anna, who died when eighteen years of age.

As stated, Emma Labens became the wife of Herman Ahrens and to them have been born three children, namely: Walter and Elmer, who are attending school; and Roy. The Ahrens family all adhere to the Protestant faith and, like the others of his father's household, Herman Ahrens is identified with the German Evangelical Lutheran church. He is a democrat, having voted for the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, but he has no time nor inclination to seek public office, as he always feels that farm work awaits him and he prefers to concentrate his energies upon the capable management and further development of his home place.

JOHN JAMES.

John James, who is farming on section 21, Joliet township, is at once practical and progressive and has gained a gratifying financial success. He was born in south Wales, December 22, 1861, of the marriage of John and Ann (Davis) James, both of whom passed their entire lives in that country.

John James received a fair education and grew to manhood in his native land. In the spring of 1885 he emigrated to the United States and settled in Waukesha, Wisconsin, where he remained on a farm for six months. At the end of that time he came to Joliet township, Platte county, Nebraska, and for a year and eight months worked as a farm hand here, while for two years he was similarly employed in Nance county. At the end of that time he had accumulated sufficient capital to enable him to buy eighty acres of land in Joliet township, this county, which he rented to others for a year and a quarter. During that time he worked as a farm hand in Nance county but on the expiration of that period he returned to Joliet township and operated rented land for two years, after which he purchased an additional eighty acres, making his holdings a quarter section. He has since purchased another eighty acre tract and a ten acre tract, and the cultivation of his land and his stock-raising interests now demand his entire time and attention. He raises registered Polled Durham cattle and a good grade of hogs, the sale of his stock yielding him a good income.

On the 2d of November, 1891, Mr. James was married to Miss Maggie Davis, who was born in Glamorganshire, South Wales, November 16, 1867, a daughter of David H. and Elizabeth Ann (Thomas) Davis, who came to America in 1873 and settled on section 27, Joliet township, this county. They were among the early pioneers and experienced the hardships and privations that those who began the development of the county had to endure. As time passed, however, prosperity came to them, and the conveniences and comforts of the older east were introduced in this county. They were very public spirited and contributed to the general advancement in many ways, among others helping to build the house of worship

for the Baptist church, which they attended and supported but to which they did not belong. Both died in this county. Mr. and Mrs. James have become the parents of four children: Gwendolyn, who taught school for three years in district No. 31 and for one year in district No. 51, and is organist in the Baptist church and Sunday school; Ruth; Edward; and Harold, who is attending school.

Mr. James is an independent republican and for seven years has served as township clerk and for fourteen years as a member of the school board, proving efficient and conscientious in the discharge of his duties. He holds membership in the Baptist church, of which he is a trustee and of which he has been deacon for eight years. His religious faith is the guiding principle of his life, and he strives to advance the cause of right and justice in every way possible. He holds in reverence the memory of his parents, whose teachings inculcated in him a love of righteousness, and he gives much credit for what he has accomplished to his wife, who has been a true helpmate. Both are widely known, and their circle of friends is almost coextensive with the circle of their acquaintance.

JOHN PETER SOKOL.

In a history of the business development of Duncan it is imperative that mention be made of John Peter Sokol because of his activity along those lines which contributed to the material development of the city. He is now connected with both banking and commercial interests—with the former as a stockholder of the Duncan State Bank and with the latter as president of the Duncan Mercantile Company. He is a native son of Platte county, his birth having occurred in Butler township, September 21, 1878, his parents being Joseph and Victoria (Kudron) Sokol. The father, a farmer living four and one-half miles northeast of Duncan, owns four hundred and forty acres of land. Both parents emigrated to the United States from Poland in 1876 and came direct to Platte county, where they bought land. To them have been born eleven children, seven boys and four girls, but one of the boys died in infancy.

John Peter Sokol attended the parochial schools of Duncan to the age of fourteen years and afterward concentrated his energies upon the work of his father's farm until he reached the age of twenty-three. He then began farming on his own account and followed that occupation for two years, after which he opened a saloon in Duncan. Six years ago he erected his present building and in the intervening period he has built up a good business, controlling an important interest as president of the Duncan Mercantile Company. This company has one of the largest and best equipped mercantile establishments of the town, carrying an extensive and carefully selected line of goods, while the trade policy of the house commends it to the patronage of the public.

On the 29th of October, 1901, Mr. Sokol was united in marriage to Miss Ursula Borowiak, of Duncan, by whom he had eight children, two of whom died in infancy. The surviving children are as follows: Leona, Bernard, Monicka and Dennis, all of whom are attending school; Raymond; and Irene.

Mr. Sokol exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the democratic party and is one of its active workers in this part of the state. He



JOHN P. SOKOL

is township treasurer, is also the local counsel for the Lincoln Highway and is interested in various plans and measures which have to do with the welfare and improvement of the state as well as of the locality. He belongs to the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America and is identified with the St. Stanislaus Society, of which he was the first president and is now treasurer. He is likewise connected with the Fraternal Order of Eagles at Columbus. His entire life has been spent in this county and he enjoys the favorable regard not only of the acquaintances of later years but of those who have known him from his boyhood, many of whom are his warm friends.

HUDSON INGERSOLL MURDOCK.

The building interests of Columbus find a well known and worthy representative in Hudson Ingersoll Murdock, whose handiwork is seen in every section of the city. He enjoys an enviable reputation as an excellent workman who lives fully up to the terms of his contracts and at all times conforms his business to high standards of honor as well as activity. A native of New York, he was born in Warren county, May 31, 1855, a son of J. S. and Charlotte (Hudson) Murdock. The father engaged in the contracting business in New York, but at the time of the Civil war put aside all personal interests and considerations, responding to the country's call for aid as a member of Company L, Fifteenth New York Cavalry, with which he served at the front for three years, participating in a number of hotly contested engagements. At the close of the war he returned to New York, but in 1877 removed to Rockford, Illinois, where he remained for a year and a half. There were two children in the family, Hudson Ingersoll and William, the latter now a resident of San Diego, California. When the family left Rockford they came to Columbus, Nebraska, where the father embarked in business as a merchant and contractor in connection with his son Hudson under the firm style of Murdock & Son, the father taking charge of the mercantile interests, while the son assumed the management of the contracting business. The death of J. S. Murdock occurred in 1900 and in his passing the community lost one of its valued and representative citizens. His widow survived him for several years, passing away in 1907.

Hudson I. Murdock spent the days of his boyhood and youth in his native state and is indebted to the public-school system for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. He then accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois and later to Nebraska and became his father's partner in Columbus with the division of labor indicated above. In 1901, following his father's death, he disposed of the store and has since devoted his entire attention to the work of contracting and building. He has erected many of the beautiful homes of Columbus, including the residence of A. M. Post, M. Brugger and Dr. Martyn, Sr., as well as many attractive homes in the surrounding territory. He thoroughly understands the builder's art and has the power of combining utility, convenience and beauty in a most attractive and satisfactory way.

On the 10th of June, 1876, Mr. Murdock was married, in Warren county, New York, to Miss Sarah A. Hilkins, whose father, Samuel Hilkins, was one of the pioneers of that county. Their home is a large modern residence, built in 1909.

and stands in the midst of attractive grounds, rendering it one of the most beautiful places in Columbus.

In his political views Mr. Murdock is a republican and keeps in touch with the questions and issues of the day but has never had a desire for public office. Fraternally he is connected with Columbus Camp, No. 299, M. W. A. He makes other interests subservient to his business affairs, and yet he is too well balanced to allow even his industrial activities to monopolize his time and attention. His success is attributable to close application, for early in his career he recognized the eternal principle that industry wins and he has made industry the beacon light of his life.

PETER J. PETERSEN.

Peter J. Petersen is one of the well known and enterprising agriculturists of Walker township, his home being on section 15. He has spent the greater part of his life in this county, whither he was brought in his early boyhood. He is a native of Denmark, born August 15, 1866. At the age of seven years he was brought by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Petersen, to the new world and during the periods in which the family lived in Vermont and New York he pursued his education in the public schools. He afterward continued his studies in Nebraska, but the necessity for assisting in the work of the home farm caused him to put aside his textbooks. He herded cattle on the river bottoms when but fourteen years of age and has always led a life of industry, his labors being attended with a gratifying measure of success. In addition to tilling the soil in the cultivation of the crops best adapted to climatic conditions here, he is engaged in raising Belgian horses, keeping a fine stallion.

In 1888 Mr. Petersen was united in marriage to Miss Ernette Jensen, daughter of Nels and Ellna Jensen, of Boone county, by whom he has six children, namely: Clara, Edgar, George, Lloyd, Teckla and Oscar. The home of the family is an attractive residence and all of the buildings upon the farm are exceptionally good, making this one of the highly improved properties of Walker township. The farm is fenced and cross-fenced, thus being divided into fields of convenient size, and everything about the place presents a neat and thrifty appearance. Progress characterizes Mr. Petersen in all that he does and his work may well be accepted as a standard for agricultural activity. Moreover, he occupies a high position in the regard of his fellowmen, many of whom count him a warm friend.

CHARLES STONE.

Charles Stone, who was one of the early settlers of Platte county and has contributed to the agricultural development of Walker township, was born in Sweden, August 12, 1848, a son of John and Christine Stone. Following the father's death, which occurred in Sweden, the mother became the wife of John Anderson and they came to the United States when the subject of this review was about twenty years of age. The family home was maintained in Wisconsin until about 1870, when they

removed to this county, and Mr. Anderson homesteaded land in what is now Walker township. He and his wife both passed away here.

Charles Stone, who in early manhood became a resident of this county, homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land and has now resided upon his farm for forty-two years. His first house was a dugout twelve by twelve feet, and in order to build it it was necessary to walk to Shell Creek to get poles and also to secure the grass for the roof. There was no grass growing upon his land as it had all been destroyed by prairie fires. He at once set to work to improve his farm and at length had his land all under cultivation. His industry and good management have enabled him to accumulate a competence and he is now living practically retired.

In 1875 Mr. Stone was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Jensen, a native of Denmark and a daughter of Henry and Mattie Jensen. Her father died in that country, but her mother subsequently married Carl S. Steiner and they came to the new world, taking up their abode in Platte county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Stone have nine children: Henry, who is married and lives in Alberta, Canada; Alfred, who is married and resides on an eighty acre farm in Walker township; Edward, who is married and lives in York, Nebraska; Arthur, who is also married and is farming eighty acres in Walker township; Annie, the wife of Nels C. Nelson, of Valley, Nebraska; and Daniel, Marquis, Cora and Frederick, all at home.

Mr. Stone supports the republican party at the polls and has always manifested a commendable interest in the general welfare. Since his arrival in the county there have been many remarkable changes as the conditions of the frontier have given place to those of a thickly settled and prosperous farming region. When he came here the nearest neighbors of the family were a number of miles distant and there were the usual hardships of pioneer life to be met. He and the other settlers, however, were not discouraged and at length their determination and industry conquered, the present high state of development of the county being due to their efforts.

ERWIN NICHOLSON.

Erwin Nicholson, whose agricultural interests place him among the leading farmers of Lost Creek township, where he owns and cultivates one hundred and twenty acres, was born in Stark county, Illinois, January 4, 1859, his parents being Robert and Lucy (Brown) Nicholson. The father was born in New York and the mother in Canada and the former passed away at the age of sixty-four years. He was a farmer by occupation and on removing westward became one of the pioneer settlers of Illinois, finding that all conditions of frontier life existed at the time of his arrival in that state. Later he removed to Chicago and worked on the first railroad built out of that city. In 1860 he took up his abode in Henry county, Illinois, where he purchased land, owning and cultivating his farm there until 1870, when he came to Nebraska and took a homestead on section 17, Lost Creek township. There were only a few families in Lost Creek township at that period and his nearest neighbor was three miles distant, while Columbus was his trading point. He made the journey to Platte county by driving across the country and as soon as he had chosen a tract of land he began breaking prairie, setting out

trees and otherwise developing and improving his place, which comprised two hundred and forty acres. There he carried on general farming with growing success, for the labors of one year made the duties of the succeeding year easier. He continued to own and occupy the old homestead to the time of his death in 1888 and was regarded as one of the valued and representative farmers of his community. He and his wife were the parents of two children: Erwin; and Effie Ann, who became the wife of George Alexander but died in 1894.

Erwin Nicholson, the elder of the two children and the only survivor of his father's family, was a youth of eleven years when, in October, 1870, he came with his parents to Platte county, and his youth was spent amid pioneer surroundings and he shared with the family in the usual hardships, trials and privations of frontier life. He lived three miles from the nearest school in his township and he had few of the advantages which the young people of the present day so easily secure. He remained at home until twenty-five years of age, when he started out in life on his own account, beginning farming for himself on section 17, Lost Creek township. Here he has since made his home and all of the improvements upon his farm are monuments to his enterprising and progressive spirit. He has one hundred and twenty acres of good land, which he devotes to general agricultural pursuits, raising the various cereals best adapted to soil and climate. He devotes all of his time to farm work and is meeting with creditable and well merited success in his undertakings. He is now one of the stockholders of the Monroe Bank.

In 1887 Mr. Nicholson was united in marriage to Miss Eva Morgan, a native of Indiana and a daughter of William and Louise (Horsley) Morgan, who, removing to Illinois, became residents of Chillicothe, that state, whence they afterward went to Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson have three children: Erma, a sixth grade teacher in the schools of Norfolk, Nebraska; Mabel, who is employed in the drug store of Mrs. Kehoe, of Platte Center; and Harry, who is upon the home farm.

Mr. Nicholson has never had political aspirations, nor has he sought to figure prominently in public life, but has concentrated his energies upon his farm work, and whatever success he has achieved and enjoyed is attributable entirely to his own labors. He represents one of the old families of the county, having for forty-five years made his home within its borders, during which time he has witnessed many notable and radical changes.

PETER PEARSON.

Peter Pearson, a prosperous farmer living on section 31, Joliet township, was born in Jemtland, Sweden, January 22, 1860, a son of Andrew and Sarah (Nelson) Pearson. He came to America and to Platte county, Nebraska, with his parents in 1882, and on beginning his independent career worked as a hired hand in this county for three years. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 31, Joliet township, which he has since cultivated, and later bought an additional three hundred and twenty acres, one hundred and sixty acres of which, however, he has sold to his son. His present farm comprises a half section of land and to its cultivation he devotes his time and energy. He has met with gratifying

success as a stock-raiser and specializes in Red Polled cattle, Duroc Jersey hogs and Belgian horses. He also raises grain and derives a good income from his land.

On the 3d of October, 1885, occurred the marriage of Mr. Pearson and Miss Hannah Nelson, a native of Sweden, who was brought to Platte county, Nebraska, by her parents, Nels and Elsie Nelson. Mr. and Mrs. Pearson have become the parents of ten children, of whom Clarence is now engaged in farming for himself. He married Anna F. Thomazin and has one daughter. The others, Elsie, Victor, Wesley, Ferdinand, Anna, Allen, Floyd, Dwight and Donald, are all at home. Mr. Pearson believes thoroughly in the value of a liberal education and has given all of his children good advantages along that line, one having graduated from the State University at Lincoln and another being now a student there.

Mr. Pearson is an independent democrat in politics and refuses to follow blindly the dictates of party leaders. He is a member of the Swedish Methodist church, in the work of which he takes a very active part, and in his daily life he exemplifies the teachings of that organization. His excellent qualities have gained him not only the respect but also the warm regard of those with whom he has come in contact, and he is recognized as a valued citizen of his township.

PETER SWANSON.

Great credit is due to the early settlers of Platte county, who came here when this district was but raw prairie and who persevered in spite of many discouragements and privations in the effort to bring the wild land under cultivation and to build up a prosperous community. Although at times the difficulties in the way seemed insurmountable their determination and energy achieved the task to which they had set themselves. Many of the pioneers have passed away but some are still living, among the number being Mr. and Mrs. Peter Swanson, who are enjoying a period of rest and leisure in St. Edward.

Mr. Swanson was born near Mattmar, Sweden, on the 25th of March, 1844, and received his education in his native land, remaining there until he reached the age of twenty-five years. He then came to the United States and, making his way to the middle west, located in Illinois, where he remained until 1872, when he came to this county and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land in Walker township. He at once began the development of his farm and as the years passed added improvements while carefully conserving the fertility of the soil. He was a practical and progressive agriculturist and received a good financial return from his land. He added to his holdings and now owns two hundred and forty acres in Walker township and one hundred and fifteen acres in Boone county, which yield him a gratifying annual income. He is now living retired in St. Edward.

In 1874 Mr. Swanson married Miss Nellie Anderson, who was born in Sweden on the 29th of September, 1847, a daughter of Anders and Betsy Matson. When nineteen years of age she left her native land and crossed the Atlantic to America, continuing her journey westward to Henry county, Illinois, where she lived until 1871. In that year she came to Platte county with a brother. To Mr. and Mrs. Swanson have been born seven children: Albert, who is living in California; Melvin,

a resident of Oregon City, Oregon; Harry T., a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Alma, the wife of E. P. Hedberg, of Genoa, Nebraska; Joseph and Walter, both living in St. Edward; and Mary, at home.

Mr. Swanson casts his ballot in support of the republican party but has never been an aspirant for public office. His religious faith is that of the Swedish Methodist church, and he and his wife were among the organizers of the local congregation, the work of which they have always favored in every way possible. At the time when they came to this county there were but poor means of communication with other parts of the country, the houses were a number of miles apart and as the result of these conditions the settlers were compelled to rely upon themselves for whatever they needed. Like so many of the pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. Swanson lived for a considerable period in a sod house and there were none of the conveniences which are today taken as a matter of course.

Not only were there the usual discouragements of frontier life to be met with but there was uncertainty as to whether a crop could be gathered even if weather conditions were favorable, for a number of times the state was devastated by grasshoppers. Mrs. Swanson tells an interesting experience at the time of a visit from these pests. One day on looking out of the window she noticed that some seed corn which she had planted looked black and on going out and hitting a stalk she found that it was covered with grasshoppers. She thought that she would save some of it for the horses and at once gather an armful as there was no time to be lost, for she could see it getting shorter, so rapidly were the grasshoppers eating it. She took that armful in to the stable and returned to get some more, but when she reached the stable with her second armful she found that the first was covered with grasshoppers and the whole stable was full of them. Seeing that there was no hope of saving any of the corn, she left the remainder of it standing in the field. As they seemed so very hungry she tossed a loaf of bread into the yard and it was immediately covered by the grasshoppers, who rolled it over and over until it disappeared. The grasshoppers traveled with the wind and as soon as it ceased to blow they alighted and ate everything in sight, for a number of years completely destroying the crops. The farmers built fires around their gardens in order to save the vegetables, on which they depended for food, from the ravages of the pests, and the smoke usually proved an efficient barrier. When the wind again sprang up the grasshoppers passed on.

EDWARD CONNELLY.

Edward Connelly, who owns an excellent farm on section 8, Joliet township, has resided thereon for thirty-one years and has witnessed a great change in the county, as when he came here it still bore many of the marks of a frontier region. He was born in Canada April 29, 1854, and is a son of William and Sarah (McMaster) Connelly, natives respectively of Ireland and Scotland. They went to Canada in 1854 and resided there until 1871, when they came to Platte county, Nebraska, and settled in what is now St. Bernard township, homesteading one hundred and sixty acres. Later, when the Northwestern Railroad was built through the county, the company purchased Mr. Connelly's quarter section for a town site,

and at his suggestion the new town was named Lindsay, after the town in which he had lived in Canada. Both he and his wife passed away in Lindsay, Nebraska. To them were born nine children: William, who is residing in this state; Samuel, who is living in St. Bernard township; Edward; James, a resident of this state; Frank, who is living in Lindsay; Catherine, the deceased wife of John Gogan; Sarah, the widow of Ed Rathram; Mary Ann, the widow of Martin Mogan; and John, who died when sixteen years old.

Edward Connelly was reared under the parental roof and early became familiar with farm work and on starting out in life for himself decided to devote his attention to agricultural pursuits. He owns three hundred and sixty acres in Joliet township, four miles south of Lindsay, and has resided continuously upon that place for thirty-one years. He also holds title to eighty acres in St. Bernard township, eighty acres in Walker township and a half section in Colorado. His enterprise and progressiveness rank him among the most efficient farmers of his locality, and he receives a good financial return from the sale of his grain and stock.

Mr. Connelly was married October 7, 1884, to Miss Margaret Haney, a native of this county and a daughter of John and Mary (Quinn) Haney. Her parents were early settlers of the county and resided south of Columbus. To Mr. and Mrs. Connelly have been born nine children, three of whom are deceased, those living being: Mary, the wife of John Muck, of Lindsay; Sadie, who is teaching in the Lindsay schools; Edward, at home; Ethel, who is teaching in Joliet township; Florence, who is attending school in Fremont; and James, at home.

Mr. Connelly is a communicant of the Catholic church, whose interests he favors in every way possible, and his political allegiance is given to the democratic party. During the many years of his residence in Platte county he has gained a wide acquaintance, and all who have come in contact with him esteem and respect him because of his ability and his sterling qualities of character.

HUGH HILL.

Forty-two years have been added to the cycle of the centuries since Hugh Hill became a resident of Platte county and as one of its early settlers he has witnessed the greater part of its growth and development, his memory forming a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present. For many years he was actively and successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising, but is now living retired, having made his home in Monroe since 1904. He was born in County Antrim, Ireland, June 14, 1840, and has therefore passed the seventy-fifth milestone on life's journey. His parents, Samuel and Jane Hill, were also natives of the same county, where the father was a landowner. He was an active man in his locality and both he and his wife held to the religious faith of the United Presbyterian church.

Hugh Hill acquired a common-school education in Ireland and remained upon his father's farm until he reached the age of twenty-five years, when he crossed the Atlantic to Canada. After spending about a month there he continued his journey to Illinois and was employed on a farm in Cook county. Later he removed to Henry county, where he worked as a farm hand near Kewanee until 1873, when

he came to Platte county, where he has since made his home. Land at that time was very cheap and it was this that induced him to come to Nebraska, for he was very anxious to have a farm of his own. He had carefully saved his earnings and invested in property, after which he began farming on the frontier, using ox teams to break the sod and till the fields. He found conditions indeed of a very crude character and met all of the experiences and hardships of pioneer life. He started in with an eighty acre tree claim, but kept adding to this from time to time by purchase until he is now the owner of seven hundred and sixty acres of valuable land. His home place comprises two hundred and forty acres, upon which he made substantial improvements, rendering it a most comfortable home. He carried on general farming and stock-raising, both branches of his business winning him success up to the time when he retired from active life and removed to Monroe. He is now a stockholder in the Monroe State Bank and is also interested in the Monroe Farmers Association.

In Henry county, Illinois, in 1870, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Hill and Miss Addie Leggett, a native of Philadelphia, who died in 1902, her demise being deeply regretted by many friends as well as her immediate family. To Mr. and Mrs. Hill were born eight children: Sarah, the wife of Oscar Crawford, of Deseret, Utah, by whom she has one child; Edward, a farmer of Platte county, who is married and has four children; Thomas, who is married and is engaged in the grocery business at Loveland, Colorado; Harry, a farmer of Hershey, Nebraska, who is married; Fred, of this county, who is married and has one child; Louis, a farmer of this county, who is married and has three children; Maude, the wife of Ed Kelley, who is in the meat market at Monroe, and by whom she has a daughter, Gwendolyn; and Ida, the wife of Harlan Morrow, a farmer of this county, by whom she has a son, Harlan, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Hill are Presbyterians in religious faith and in the work of the church have taken an active and helpful interest. He assisted in building the church edifice near his farm and has always been a generous contributor to the support of the cause. In politics he is a democrat, but not an active worker in party ranks. His has been a well spent life, for he has ever been industrious and honest in business, reliable and progressive in citizenship and both he and his wife are held in high regard wherever they are known.

PATRICK MURRAY.

Patrick Murray, who resided on a farm on section 14, Columbus township, was born in Ireland in July, 1835, and had reached the age of eighty years when death called him. He was one of the pioneer settlers of Platte county, taking active part in its early agricultural development and progress and, moreover, his life record proved what can be accomplished by persistent, earnest effort in the way of attaining success. Coming to America, he arrived in this county in 1855 when a young man of about twenty years and he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres upon which not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made. With characteristic energy he began the development of his farm, performing the arduous task of breaking the sod and preparing the land for cultivation. In time, however, his labors were rewarded



PATRICK MURRAY

by good crops and when there was created a market for his products he found no trouble in disposing of that which he raised. He secured in that way a good income, which he wisely invested in land and to his widow and children he left about eighteen hundred acres.

Mr. Murray was twice married, his second union being with Miss Frederica Schultz, a daughter of John and Frederica Schultz, whom he wedded on the 3d of July, 1891. His children are: Mary, the wife of John Podraza, of this county; Anna, deceased; Magdalene, the wife of Joseph Kula; John Joseph; Frederica, who is in a convent at Spalding, Nebraska; Michael; Patrick; and Anthony.

The family are all members of the Catholic church, of which Mr. Murray was a communicant, guiding his life according to its teachings. In his political views he was a democrat, supporting the party from the time he became a naturalized American citizen. For many years he lived in Platte county, witnessed its growth and contributed to its development. He lived to see it change from a wild district upon the western frontier to a populous and prosperous region with all the evidences of an advanced civilization. His own life was one of untiring industry and thrift and perseverance and energy enabled him to overcome all difficulties and obstacles in his path and work his way steadily upward to success. His family is well known in this part of the county and Mrs. Murray, like her husband, has many warm friends.

THOMAS W. SHAFFER.

Thomas W. Shaffer, a farmer of Lost Creek township, living on section 34, was born at Apple River, Wisconsin, March 7, 1868, a son of George W. and Helen E. (Willard) Shaffer, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. The father went to Wisconsin when a young man and there lived for nine years, after which he removed to Missouri. In March, 1871, he became a resident of Lost Creek township, Platte county, removing thither in order to buy land at a low price. He became the owner of eighty acres of raw prairie and began his farming with oxen. There were no improvements upon the place, not a single furrow having been turned when he took possession, but with resolute purpose he began to break the sod and till the fields and his labors were soon manifest in good crops as well as in the substantial improvements which he put upon his land. To his original holdings he added until he became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres, which he devoted to general farming purposes. He was an active man in connection with public affairs and was a recognized leader in the ranks of the republican party, which frequently elected him to office. The spirit of advancement and improvement actuated him in all that he did and his efforts were directly beneficial to the community along various lines. He died at the age of sixty years, while his widow, at the age of seventy-five years, is now living in Platte Center.

Thomas W. Shaffer acquired his education in the district schools and in the Platte Center high school, while through experience he has also learned many valuable lessons. He taught school for three years but his early training was that of the farmer and he remained at home until he reached the age of twenty-seven years, when he married and started out in life on his own account. His first purchase made him the owner of seventy acres of land and since then the boundaries of his farm

have been extended from time to time until he now owns three hundred acres, constituting a valuable property on section 34, Lost Creek township. His place is what is known as the old Henry Kelly homestead and the lumber for the main part of the house was hauled by wagon from Omaha. A windmill forty-five years old still pumps the well water. His land is good and he has excellent improvements upon it and he also raises a good grade of stock. He is likewise interested in the Farmers Lumber Company of Platte Center as one of the stockholders and directors, but the greater part of his attention has been concentrated upon the development and improvement of his farm, which is today a valuable property and returns to him a gratifying annual income.

In 1895 Mr. Shaffer was married to Miss Maude Campbell, a native of New Jersey and a daughter of Alfred E. and Add (Lambert) Campbell, the former born in New Jersey and the latter in Scott county, Iowa. They became residents of Davenport, Iowa, where the father was a street car driver on one of the first cars in the old days of horse cars. He had also been a driver on one of the first horse cars in Philadelphia. They removed to Platte county and purchased a farm in Lost Creek township, where they still reside. Mr. and Mrs. Shaffer have become the parents of a son, Clifford, whose birth occurred in 1906.

Mr. Shaffer holds membership with the Modern Woodmen of America at Monroe and is an elder in the Presbyterian church at Oconee. He takes an interest in education and has been school treasurer for ten years. Aside from his farm his interests center in those channels through which flows the greatest good to the greatest number. He is interested in everything pertaining to the welfare of his community and indorses all measures and movements which work for the material, intellectual and moral advancement of the district.

ADOLPH FRESE.

Adolph Frese, living on section 11, Bismark township, was born at Westpoint, Cuming county, Nebraska, on the 12th of September, 1875, a son of Adolph William and Barbara Frese. The father was born in Bremen, Germany, January 10, 1841, and the mother's birth occurred in Bavaria, Germany, on the 30th of December, 1848. On coming to the United States they settled at Westpoint, Nebraska, in 1880 moved to Missouri and in 1894 returned to Nebraska.

Adolph Frese pursued his education in the country schools of Missouri and in the spring of 1894 went to Lynn, Kansas, where he remained until 1896, when he came to Platte county. The following year, desirous to improve his education by a commercial course, he entered the Fremont Normal Business College. On completing his study there he removed to Columbus, where for two years he was employed in a planing mill, but resigned that position preparatory to removing to Medford, Taylor county, Wisconsin, where he entered the employ of the United States Leather Company. He was with that house until he returned to Platte county and settled upon the farm on which he now resides, comprising one hundred and forty acres of land on section 11, Bismark township. He carries on general farming and also engages in raising cattle and hogs. His business affairs are care-

fully managed and his work is conducted in a systematic manner, bringing to him substantial and gratifying success.

On the 26th of December, 1898, Mr. Frese was united in marriage to Miss E. Josephine Loseke, a daughter of Gerhard Loseke, one of the oldtime and honored residents of the county. Their children are six in number, namely: Paul Gerhard, Dora, Alice, Bernice, LeRoy Adolph and Lloyd Herbert. Politically Mr. Frese casts an independent ballot, voting as his judgment dictates and the occasion demands. His religious faith is that of the German Lutheran church and he is interested in its work and generous in its support. He has led an active life and has constantly progressed, while each forward step in his career has brought him a broader outlook and wider opportunities.

FRED SCHWANTJE.

Fred Schwantje is a resident farmer living on section 16, Columbus township, where he owns sixty acres of land which is devoted to the cultivation of crops and the raising of stock. The family name indicates his German nativity. He was born in Oldenburg, Germany, October 17, 1858, and his parents, Johann Henry and Katrina (Seeger) Schwantje, were also natives of that place. The father owned a farm and engaged in sheep raising and became comfortably situated in life. He bought his release from service in the German army and bent his energies to the conduct of his business affairs. In religious faith he was a Baptist and was active in the work of the church. He died at the age of sixty-four years, while his wife passed away at the age of seventy-five.

Fred Schwantje attended the common schools of Germany and after his father's death came with his stepfather and mother to the United States. They made their way to Nebraska and settled in Colfax county, where the stepfather began farming. He purchased railroad land and after his death Fred Schwantje acquired possession of this by purchase. The farm was situated in Shell Creek township, Colfax county, and thereon was laid out the village of Bissell, which Mr. Schwantje named. The stepfather began to make improvements and this work was continued by Mr. Schwantje, who erected a new residence, set out a second grove and otherwise developed the place. He has two hundred acres in that farm and thereon he engaged quite extensively in stock-raising. Into other fields he also extended his efforts, assisting in the building of the chicory factory and the creamery at Schuyler. He continued upon his Colfax county farm until March, 1910, when he removed to section 16, Columbus township, Platte county, where he owns sixty acres, thereon devoting his attention to general agricultural pursuits.

In 1894 Mr. Schwantje was united in marriage to Miss Emma Saalfeld, a native of Oldenburg, Germany, and a daughter of Henry and Katrina (Krumland) Saalfeld, who were also born in Oldenburg. The father, a carpenter by trade, worked at that occupation throughout his active business career and still owns a small farm. He is a Lutheran in religious faith and has attained the venerable age of eighty years. His wife, born in 1834, passed away in 1907, at the age of seventy-two years. Mrs. Schwantje emigrated to the United States alone in 1893, but came to Columbus, Nebraska, with her uncle, John Saalfeld. By her marriage she has become the

mother of twelve children, four of whom died in infancy. The surviving children are as follows: F. Wilhelm, who was born August 27, 1895, and still remains on the home farm with his father; Rose Marie, who was born December 7, 1896, and is a student in the Columbus high school; Herbert P., whose birth occurred June 29, 1900; Albert E., born July 31, 1902; Emma K., whose natal day was March 2, 1904; Alice H., born May 12, 1906; Hilda A., born July 12, 1909; and Irena Minnie, born November 10, 1911.

The family residence is not far from Columbus, so that Mr. Schwantje is able to send his children to the city schools. His political allegiance has always been given the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and while living in Colfax county he served for nine years as school director in Shell Creek township. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church and his Christian belief guides him in all of his relations with his fellowmen. He has led a busy life in which industry and determination have been his chief characteristics. Gradually he has worked his way upward and the worth of his business methods is indicated in his growing success, for he is now one of the substantial farmers of Platte county.

EDWARD E. AND ROBERT A. NEWMAN.

Edward E. and Robert A. Newman, twin brothers and enterprising farmers of Columbus township, living on section 26, are representatives of one of the old pioneer families of Platte county. They were born January 12, 1896, on the farm where they still reside, being sons of William J. and Clara (Merritt) Newman, natives of Pennsylvania and Iowa respectively. In early life William J. Newman began earning his living as a farm hand. His father was killed in the Civil war and this naturally threw him upon his own resources. After his marriage he removed westward to Nebraska in the year 1868. He purchased land and began farming amid the conditions which always exist upon the frontier. There were many hardships and privations to be met and it was a difficult task to convert the wild prairie land into productive fields, but as the years passed on the results of his labor were seen in fine crops and in splendid improvements which he placed upon his land. In 1890 he removed to section 26, Columbus township, and thereon planted shade trees and orchards. He added other accessories of the model farm and lived the life of an active, progressive, enterprising farmer. As his financial resources increased he extended the boundaries of his farm until it comprised three hundred and twenty acres, and in addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate engaged extensively in raising stock. His business affairs were carefully, systematically and energetically conducted and he therefore won a substantial measure of prosperity. He was a republican in his political views and served for many years as supervisor, making a most creditable record in office. He never failed to cooperate in any measure for the public good and the cause of education found in him a stalwart champion, his work as a member of the school board being most effective. He died in the year 1911, at the age of sixty-one years, and is still survived by his wife.

Their sons, Edward E. and Robert A. Newman, were reared on the old home farm and attended school in the neighborhood, dividing their time between the

acquirement of their education and work in the fields. Following their father's death they began cultivating the home farm of one hundred and sixty acres. Their place is known as the Maple Grove Stock Farm, for thereon they raise considerable stock. Their business training under their father well qualified them to take up the work which he laid down. They are yet young men of but nineteen years but they have made a creditable record, displaying excellent business ability and unfaltering enterprise.

AUGUST G. RUNGE.

August G. Runge, one of the prosperous farmers of Platte county, owning three hundred and eighty-five acres of land, was born in Posen, Germany, February 24, 1866, a son of August Runge, who is now living retired in Columbus and an account of whose life appears elsewhere in this work. Our subject was reared upon the homestead in Bismark township and early became familiar with all phases of farm work. He purchased his father's farm two years ago and as the result of his well directed labor he has gained financial independence. He owns three hundred and sixty acres of good land on section 27, Bismark township, and twenty-five acres in Colfax county, and received a good income from the sale of his grain and stock.

In 1900 occurred the marriage of Mr. Runge and Miss Katie Hafner, a native of this county and a daughter of Nicholas Hafner, who is living retired in Columbus. To this union have been born four children, Arthur, Sophie, August and Katherine.

Although he has never been an office seeker, Mr. Runge takes much interest in public affairs and is a stalwart adherent of the democratic party. He is a communicant of the Lutheran church, in whose teachings are found the guiding principles of his life, and his influence is always on the side of right and justice.

WILLIAM H. HOEFELMANN.

William H. Hoefelmann is a resident farmer of Grand Prairie township, living on section 14. He is leading a life of well directed industry and his success is manifest in the fine appearance of his farm and its many excellent improvements. He was born in Oldenburg, Germany, March 29, 1845, and is a son of Henry and Katrina Hoefelmann. His father was a blacksmith in Germany, following his trade there until 1867, when he came to the new world, settling at Mayville, Wisconsin. He afterward removed to Minnesota and lived retired in that state, making his home with a daughter. He was a member of the Lutheran church.

William H. Hoefelmann acquired his education in the schools of Germany and in his youthful days learned the blacksmith's trade, at which he worked for some time. He was also employed at farm labor and his time was thus passed in the service of others until he began farming on his own account. Thinking to find better opportunities in the new world, he crossed the Atlantic in 1866, when twenty-one years of age and established his home at Mayville, Dodge county, Wisconsin, there

remaining until January, 1869, when he came to Platte county, where he worked at his trade, engaging in blacksmithing in Columbus until 1873. In that year he again turned his attention to general agricultural pursuits, homesteading eighty acres on section 14, Grand Prairie township. His first home was a sod house and there were no improvements upon the place. He had little money and began his farm work with ox teams. He worked persistently and energetically to till the soil, converting the wild prairie into richly cultivated fields and as he gathered good crops, which brought him substantial financial return, he kept adding to his place until he is now the owner of six hundred and forty acres of valuable land. He has always followed stock-raising in addition to general farming and both branches of his business have proven profitable. He has many good improvements upon his place, which now presents a most attractive appearance, constituting one of the pleasing features in the landscape.

In 1871 Mr. Hoefelmann was married to Miss Sophia Kunnemann, a daughter of Henry and Katie (Ehlers) Kunnemann, who were natives of Oldenburg, and who are mentioned at length in connection with the sketch of H. L. Kunnemann on another page of this work. To Mr. and Mrs. Hoefelmann have been born nine children: William, who is married and who is engaged in farming; Amelia, the wife of E. F. Hellbush; Emma, the wife of Otto Loseke; Edward and Adolph, both at home; Ida, the wife of Otto Osten; Ernst, at home; Arvena, the wife of Carsten Peterson, Jr.; and Clara, with her parents.

In religious faith Mr. Hoefelmann is connected with the German Lutheran church, assisting in organizing St. John's church on section 13, Grand Prairie township. In connection therewith is conducted a parochial school and the work of the church is in excellent condition. He has filled all of the church offices and has put forth earnest effort to advance the cause of religion in this locality. His has been an active and well spent life and at present he is largely leaving the work of the farm to his sons, who, following in his footsteps, are energetic, progressive agriculturists. This enables Mr. Hoefelmann to enjoy rest and indulge in those things which are most interesting to him. He belongs to that class of citizens who, leaving the fatherland, have improved the opportunities offered in the new world and in winning success have also contributed to the progress and improvement of the districts in which they live.

WILHELM LOSEKE.

Wilhelm Loseke has passed the seventy-first milestone on life's journey and is now living retired in Platte Center. In boyhood he herded sheep and worked on farms in Germany, thus starting upon his business career and his gradual advancement has brought him to a place among the substantial citizens of his adopted country. The attainment of success with him has meant years of hard work, but his persistency, indefatigable industry and determination have carried him steadily forward. He was born in Germany, March 16, 1844, a son of George and Mary (Hiller) Loseke, who were also natives of that country. The father owned a farm there and never came to the new world.

Wilhelm Loseke was the fifth in order of birth in a family of six sons and ac-



WILHELM LOSEKE



MRS. WILHELM LOSEKE

quired his education in the common schools of his native country. There he began herding sheep and also worked at farm labor until he came to the United States in 1866, when a young man of twenty-two years. He made his way to Dodge county, Wisconsin, where he remained for two years. He then settled on section 4, Lost Creek township, Platte county, Nebraska, and obtained a homestead claim on Shell Creek. There were few families in the district and conditions of pioneer life existed. There were no schoolhouses and no churches, no roads had been laid out and the streams were not bridged. School was held in a little sod house and the home of Mr. Loseke was a dugout, with logs above the ground and with a shingle roof. He began farming, using oxen with which to break the sod and till the fields. He made the journey to Nebraska from Wisconsin, driving across the country in a wagon with his brother. He saw hard times when the country was new and went through many privations and difficult experiences. There were heavy snow storms in the winter with no trees to break the wind, which swept over the prairies, carrying the snow in great drifts. Columbus was at that time only a village and the town of Platte Center had not been laid out. Year after year Mr. Loseke carefully developed his fields and put forth a most earnest effort to improve his farm. He always tried to keep good stock and as conditions improved and his financial resources became greater, he began raising Durham cattle, becoming one of the well known stock dealers of the county. To his original tract of eighty acres he also added from time to time until he is now the owner of twelve hundred and sixty acres in Platte county and three hundred and twenty acres in Wheeler county, Nebraska. He developed his herds until he became one of the extensive cattle raisers of this part of the state. He would take his cattle to Wheeler county, where he found abundant pasturage. To the man of resolute spirit and honorable purpose difficulties give way as snow melts before the summer sun and thus it was that after a time Mr. Loseke found himself on the highroad to success, along which he has steadily advanced until he is now one of the prosperous citizens of his part of the state.

On the 11th of March, 1873, Mr. Loseke was united in marriage to Miss Mary Hagleman, who was born in Oldenburg, Germany, on the 27th of September, 1848, a daughter of Bernhard and Maria (Zeemer) Hagleman, who were farming people of Germany, in which country they spent their entire lives. Mr. and Mrs. Loseke have become the parents of six children. Louis C., the eldest, born in 1874, died in 1910. He was a representative farmer, who owned land and also cultivated land belonging to his father. He was very prominent and popular in the community in which he made his home, was an active, progressive citizen and served as township trustee. For ten years he filled the office of school director and he exercised an influence for good upon the public life of the community. He married Helena Hurley, of Platte Center, and they became the parents of four children, Elza, Ernest, Walter and Louis, the last named being born after his father's death. The second son of the Loseke family is Otto Henry, who lives on his father's farm in Lost Creek township. He is married and has three children, Esther, Elmer and Pearl. William H., a farmer residing in Burrows township, is married and has three children, Leona, Verna and Siegfried. Alma is the wife of Christ Martens, of Platte Center, and they have two children, Goldie and Louis. George F. is at home. Anna Louisa is the wife of Herbert Buttner, a farmer of Madison county.

Politically Mr. Loseke has always followed a somewhat independent course and has never had a desire for public office. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church and he aided in organizing the schools and churches near his home when upon the farm. For the past three years he has lived retired in Platte Center and has become a stockholder of the Farmers State Bank there. His influence has ever been on the side of advancement and improvement and his labors have wrought substantial results for the benefit of the community. He has long been accounted one of the valued citizens of this part of the state and is one of the honored pioneers of Platte county, having for almost a half century resided within its borders. He has therefore witnessed practically its entire growth and development and his memory forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present. He remembers the days when there were great stretches of open prairie on which could be seen no trace of the work of man. He rejoices in the changes which have been wrought, introducing into this district an advanced civilization, and none the less remarkable than the growth of the county is the change in his own fortunes, wrought by his own labor and business ability.

JOHN SCHOLZ.

John Scholz, who devotes his time and energies to general farming and is also known as one of the leading stockraisers of Loup township, makes his home on section 24, where he has an excellent farm property of one hundred and six acres. He has lived in this county since October 28, 1875, arriving here when a youth of about twelve years. He was born in Moravia, Austria, September 12, 1863, a son of John and Anna (Olbrich) Scholz. The father, who was born in Hukowitz, Austria, on the 18th of April, 1841, passed away on the 28th of August, 1898, at the age of fifty-seven years. He arrived in America on the 28th of October, 1875, and reached Columbus, Nebraska, later in that year, at which time he purchased one hundred and six acres of land, after which he carried on general agricultural pursuits until his life's labors were ended in death. His political allegiance was given to the democratic party after he took out his naturalization papers, and his religious faith was that of the Catholic church. In 1861 he had wedded Miss Anna Olbrich, who was born January 20, 1843, and passed away in Loup township on the 15th of August, 1885.

John Scholz pursued his education in the public schools of Austria until at the age of twelve years he accompanied his parents to the new world. He was early trained to farm labor and has always worked upon his father's farm save for two years when he was employed as a farm hand in the neighborhood. Since his father's death he has purchased the interest of the other heirs in the old home property and is now the owner of one hundred and six acres of land that is rich and arable, responding readily to the care and labor which he bestows upon it. His farm work is carefully conducted along progressive lines and excellent success rewards his efforts. He is now engaged in the raising of Chester White hogs, shipping quite a number each year, and he also raises Red Polled cattle.

On the 12th of December, 1899, Mr. Scholz was united in marriage to Miss Emma Liebgut, whose birth occurred in Canton Bern, Switzerland, May 20, 1878,

her parents being John and Elizabeth (Nyffenacher) Liebengut. To this union have been born five children, namely: Frank, Walter, Anton, Helen and Esther.

Mr. Scholz is a member of the Catholic church, while his wife belongs to the German Reformed church. In politics he is an independent democrat, holding to the right to form his own opinions and plan his own political course regardless of party dictation. He has served as school director and has filled the office of justice of the peace, in which connection he rendered decisions which were strictly fair and impartial, making an excellent record in office. His life has been an active and useful one, crowned with the measure of success that rewards earnest, persistent labor.

FRITZ LOSEKE.

Fritz Loseke, making his home on section 18, Bismark township, has been a resident of Platte county for forty-seven years and has long been actively and successfully identified with agricultural pursuits, now owning three hundred and sixty acres of valuable land in Bismark township and a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in Columbus township. His birth occurred in Oldenburg, Germany, on the 19th of October, 1861, his parents being Johann or, in English, John and Margreta (Beneke) Loseke, also natives of Oldenburg. In the year 1868 they crossed the Atlantic to the United States and made their way direct to Platte county, Nebraska, the father taking up a homestead claim of eighty acres in Bismark township, where our subject now resides. The pioneer home of the family was a sod house of one room, with dimensions of ten by twelve feet. It was a wet season and one night the little structure collapsed. Fritz Loseke, a lad of seven, was sleeping on a trunk or wooden box, while his mother and father lay in bed. The wall fell on the bed bearing down the mother, who was nearly smothered before rescued by the father. John Loseke next erected a one-room frame house, fourteen by sixteen feet, in which the family lived until 1884, which year witnessed the construction of the present commodious frame residence. The one-room frame building also still stands and is now used as a granary. John Loseke continued to reside on this farm until called to his final rest at the age of seventy-eight years, while his wife lived to be eighty-six years old. Both were devoted members of the Lutheran church and their demise was the occasion of deep and widespread regret, for they had won many friends during the long period of their residence in the community. To them were born five children, one son and four daughters, as follows: Fritz, of this review; Annie, who passed away in 1914 and was the wife of John Groteluschen; Catherine, the widow of Bernard H. Asche, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work; Mary, who was the wife of August Boettcher and passed away in 1885; and Elizabeth, the wife of Paul Briese, of Albion, Nebraska.

Fritz Loseke was reared to manhood on the home farm in Bismark township and eventually came into possession of the old homestead property, which comprised two eighty-acre tracts and one of fifty acres. Farming has claimed his attention throughout his entire business career and that success has attended his labors is indicated in the fact that he now owns three hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land in Bismark township and a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in Columbus

township. He has planted his fields in the grains most suitable to the soil and climate and rich harvests reward his systematic efforts.

On November 18, 1885, Mr. Loseke was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Ahrens, a native of Platte county and a daughter of Edwin and Anna (Loseke) Ahrens. Mr. and Mrs. Loseke have become the parents of eight children, as follows: Alvina, who is now the wife of Henry Barjenbruch, of Leigh, Nebraska; Louise, who gave her hand in marriage to Carl Reins of Shell Creek township; Walter, who follows farming in Columbus township and married Edna Schmitt; and Ida, Edwin, Lawrence, Leona and Selma, all at home.

Mr. Loseke exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the democracy, believing firmly in its principles. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church. His life has been in all its phases upright, straightforward and honorable and by intelligent and scientific cultivation of his excellent farm he has gained a comfortable fortune for himself and added to the resources of his section a model agricultural enterprise, the operation of which in all its departments is thoroughly modern, adequate and practical.

REV. KNUTE LOBINSKI.

Rev. Knute Lobinski, pastor of St. Michael's Catholic church at Tarnov, was born in West Prussia, Germany, February 12, 1879, a son of Robert and Ottilia (Brunke) Lobinski, both of whom are natives of West Prussia, where the father learned and followed the wagon making trade. In the year 1881 he brought his family to the new world, making his way to Chicago, where he and his wife now reside. He has put aside active business cares and is living retired.

The Rev. Knute Lobinski attended St. Augustine's school in Chicago and St. Joseph's College at Teutopolis, Illinois. He afterward returned to Chicago, where for a year he studied in the Franciscan Fathers College. Later he went to Indianapolis, where for two years he was a student at the Franciscan College, after which he entered the St. Louis Franciscan Seminary and on the completion of his course of study there was ordained to the priesthood in 1908.

Having thus taken holy orders, Rev. Lobinski was assigned to duty at Radom, Illinois, where for over a year he had charge of two stations. He was then sent to Washington, Missouri, where he served as pastor for a year. He next removed to Cleveland, Ohio, and for eighteen months was assistant in the large St. Stanislas church, after which he was transferred to Chicago as chaplain of the Cook County Infirmary. There he remained for six months and in July, 1913, he arrived in Platte county, Nebraska, having been made pastor of St. Michael's church at Tarnov, where he is still stationed. He also has supervision over the schools of Tarnov, with an attendance of one hundred and sixty pupils, and the church is represented by one hundred and forty-five families. In 1880 a small church building was erected and in 1884 this was remodeled and enlarged. A parochial school was first built in 1886 and in 1890 the Sisters took charge. In 1892 St. Michael's church was again remodeled and enlarged and was incorporated in 1893. The present church edifice, which is a fine one, was erected in 1902 at a cost of eighteen thousand dollars, and in October of that year was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Richard

Seannell. The new school was built in 1911 and 1912 and with the new home for the priest was dedicated on the 15th of October of the latter year. The church property now includes one of the finest church edifices and schools to be found in Platte county. Four Sisters are now acting as teachers in the school under the charge of Sister Cassiana as superintendent, and under the guidance of Rev. Lobinski the work of the church is growing in all of its various departments.

CARL SIVERS.

Carl Sivers, who is successfully engaged in farming and stock-raising in Walker township, was born in York county, Nebraska, January 15, 1885, a son of Alfred Sivers. He was educated in the country schools and in early life became familiar with farm work. He has continued to follow the occupation to which he was reared and now owns and operates the homestead on section 15, Walker township. He carries on general farming and pays especial attention to the raising of cattle and hogs which he finds very profitable. He watches the market carefully and as his stock is in good condition he seldom fails to sell at a good price.

On the 9th of October, 1912, Mr. Sivers was married to Miss Fanny Lymath, a daughter of George and Sarah Lymath, who removed to this county from England many years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Sivers have a daughter, Sophia, who was born November 13, 1913.

Mr. Sivers is a progressive in his political views, believing that in politics, as in other phases of life, continuous advancement should be made. He is a communicant of the Lutheran church and in all relations of life has conformed his conduct to high ethical standards. Although yet a young man, he has gained a gratifying measure of success and his energy and excellent judgment insure him continued prosperity.

DANIEL MURDOCK.

In the death of Daniel Murdock, Oconee lost a citizen who had long figured as one of its representative residents and honored business men. He had many sterling traits of character which endeared him to all. His life was as the day with its morning of hope and promise, its noontide of activity, its evening of successful and completed effort, ending in the grateful rest and quiet of the night. He had attained the age of almost seventy-four years when called to his final rest on the 27th of June, 1913, his birth having occurred in Cambridge, Massachusetts, August 1, 1839. He came from Kentucky to Platte county and settled in Lost Creek township in 1884, where the village of Oconee now stands. There he purchased land and to his holdings added from time to time until he became the possessor of eleven hundred acres and was one of the extensive landowners and farmers of the district. He carried on general farming with good success, also built a grain elevator and conducted a lumber business from 1889 until 1907 or for a period of eighteen years. He then sold his elevators to the T. B. Hord Grain Company of Central City, Ne-

braska, and throughout his remaining days lived retired from active business, enjoying a well earned rest.

On the 27th of September, 1865, Mr. Murdock was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary E. Wetherbee, of Boston, Massachusetts, by whom he had two children, namely: Julia, who is the wife of John Dawson, a landowner of Oconee, Nebraska; and Fannie, at home. In religious belief Mr. Murdock was a Unitarian, while his political faith was that of the republican party. He took an active interest in promoting the success of the party and was called to public office, serving as justice of the peace for two terms and also as postmaster, in both of which connections he made an excellent record. He was always loyal to duty and whether in office or out of it was a public-spirited citizen who contributed to the upbuilding of the district in which he lived by supporting all measures and movements which he deemed of public value.

EMIL HELD.

Emil Held, a successful farmer living on section 25, Bismark township, is a native son of that township, his birth having occurred a half mile north of his present farm on section 24, on the 9th of March, 1868. His parents were John and Margaret (Schneller) Held. The father, a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, was born January 13, 1824, and was therefore forty-nine years of age when he passed away in December, 1873. He acquired a good education in his native country and for five years was a soldier, serving as a sub-lieutenant. He emigrated to America in 1854 and became one of the early settlers of Platte county and one of the founders of the town of Columbus. He took up a homestead on Shell creek in Bismark township, and afterward purchased additional land from time to time until he was the owner of four hundred and forty acres at the time of his death. In pioneer times he became an Indian scout and fighter, becoming familiar with all of the wily methods of the red men, conversant with every phase of Indian warfare. He displayed great courage and loyalty in this connection and lived to see the day when there was little danger of Indian attack on the western frontier. He endured all of the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life. He had faith in the possibilities of the county, however, and persevered in spite of obstacles and discouragements, doing his part well in the work of developing a prosperous agricultural region from the wild prairie. He not only aided in the material development of his locality but also did his part in promoting the other interests of life, serving acceptably as school director and aiding in the work of the German Lutheran church, to which he belonged. His political allegiance was given to the democratic party. He passed away in December, 1873, and his demise was deeply regretted by many. On the 13th of March, 1861, Mr. Held had wedded Margaret Schneller, who was born in Hessen, Germany, January 1, 1840, and came alone to the new world in 1855. To them were born the following children: Jacob and Gesene, both of whom died in childhood; Louis and John, both residents of Columbus; Emil, of this review; Mary, the wife of Albert Klug, of Columbus; Julius, a resident of California; and Richard, a farmer of Bismark township, this county. After the death of her first husband, Mrs. Held became the wife of Henry Schwartz, who was born in West

Prussia, Germany, July 14, 1843, and died January 15, 1901. By that marriage there were two children: Otto, a farmer of Merrick county; and Frank, living in Shelby. Mrs. Schwartz is now living in Columbus.

Emil Held attended the common schools in the acquirement of his early education and subsequently was for one term a student in the Columbus high school. After reaching mature years he operated the home farm until 1893. Two years later he purchased one hundred and fifty-five acres on section 25, Bismark township, where he has since lived and which he has fenced and otherwise improved. He carries on general farming and specializes in the raising of shorthorn cattle and graded Poland China hogs. His work is well managed and yields him a good financial return.

On the 26th of October, 1893, occurred the marriage of Mr. Held and Miss Rachel Schmid, a daughter of Adam and Barbara (Baumgartner) Schmid. She was born in Colfax county, this state, July 19, 1875, and died June 8, 1911, leaving six children: Lottie; Elsie; Lily, who is in high school; and Margaret, Louis and Gertrude, all attending the common schools.

Mr. Held gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and has taken considerable interest in local public affairs. He has been a member of the township board and is now serving his fourth term as school director, his retention in that office being the best proof of his faithful and efficient discharge of the duties devolving upon him. He is an influential member of the German Lutheran church, of which he is serving as secretary, and in his religious faith is found the guiding force of his life. He is also a trustee and secretary of the Calvary Cemetery Association. Like his father, he has always been willing to do anything in his power to promote the public good and is recognized as one of the valuable citizens of his township.

HENRY SISSELE.

Henry Sissle, devoting his attention to general agricultural pursuits with excellent results, owns and cultivates three hundred and twenty acres of land on sections 14 and 15, Columbus township. His birth occurred near Canton, Stark county, Ohio, on the 15th of January, 1873, his parents being John W. and Susan (Derr) Sissle, the former born in Wurtemberg, Germany, December 30, 1830, and the latter in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, May 2, 1834. John W. Sissle crossed the Atlantic to the United States in young manhood, locating in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, where he learned the blacksmith's trade. Subsequently he removed to Stark county, Ohio, and there worked at his trade until the outbreak of the Civil war. Scarcity of money obliged him to abandon blacksmithing and he purchased a small farm near Canton which he operated until 1883, when he came to Platte county, Nebraska, arriving here on the 28th day of March. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 14, Columbus township, which had been originally taken up by James Warner and was the third place entered in that part of the county. There he carried on agricultural pursuits continuously and successfully until called to his final rest in 1911, when he had attained the age of eighty years. The period of his residence in this county covered twenty-eight years and in his passing the community lost one of its substantial agriculturists and esteemed citizens. It was in the year 1860, in Ohio, that he wedded Miss Susan Derr, who passed away in Columbus,

Nebraska, March 27, 1914, when eighty years of age. Both were consistent and faithful members of the Church of God. They became the parents of seven children, three of whom survive, namely: Henry, of this review; Emma, who is a resident of Columbus; and Mrs. Anna Moore, living in Genoa, Nebraska.

Henry Sissle was a youth of ten years when brought to this county by his parents and has always remained on the old home farm in Columbus township. After his mother's death he purchased the property and has since bought an additional tract of one hundred and sixty acres, so that his holdings now embrace three hundred and twenty acres of valuable land. He carries on general farming and is a hard-working, industrious man who well merits the success which has come to him.

As a companion and helpmate on the journey of life Mr. Sissle chose Miss Greta Lawrence, a native of Adams county, Iowa, by whom he has four children, namely: Harry, Edith, Martha and Mabel. The parents are members of the Church of God. Henry Sissle has lived in Platte county for more than three decades and enjoys an enviable reputation as one of its representative agriculturists and respected citizens.

D. H. HARRINGTON.

Business enterprise in Duncan finds a worthy representative in D. H. Harrington, the vice president of the Duncan State Bank and also a prominent figure in connection with the grain, lumber and coal trade. His judgment is sound, his sagacity keen and the energy which he displays in carrying on his business affairs has also been one of the salient forces in his success. He was born in Niagara county, New York, July 24, 1860, a son of Daniel and Mary Harrington, both of whom were natives of Sligo, Ireland. In early life the father came to the United States and settled near Lockport, New York, where he engaged in farming. His wife died in the year 1863.

D. H. Harrington acquired his education in the common schools but his course was often interrupted owing to the necessity of providing for his own support. He left home when but ten years of age and worked as a farm hand, being employed in that way near Newton, Jasper county, Iowa. Later he removed to Lancaster county, Nebraska, in 1875 and there engaged in farm work and also attended school. He afterward returned to Iowa, settling in Mills county, where he began farming on his own account on a tract of land which he rented. He lived there from 1878 until 1884, when he went to Cheyenne, Wyoming, and was with the Warren Stock Company on a ranch, where he punched cattle and did general ranch work. On the 15th of July, 1887, he came to Duncan and started a feeding ranch for the Warren Live Stock Company of Cheyenne. He had charge of the feeding at this place until 1898 and fed thousands of cattle, sheep and horses. In that year, however, ambitious to engage in business on his own account, he embarked in the grain trade and so continued until 1901, when he became manager for the T. B. Hord Grain Company. He is now the manager of a large grain, lumber and coal business, which he capably and successfully controls. He also aided in promoting and organizing the Duncan State Bank, of which he was chosen as vice president, in which position he still continues, his ability and energy constituting an impetus that has brought success to the institution. His fellow officers are George P. Bissell, president,

and A. J. Lindley, cashier. The bank is capitalized for ten thousand dollars and has a surplus of thirty-five hundred dollars. It was chartered on the 27th of September, 1909, its stockholders being: George P. Bissell, of Central City; A. J. Lindley and D. H. Harrington, of Duncan; C. H. Gray, of Central City; Herman Ernst and John P. Sokal, of Duncan; and Hannah L. S. Lonsey, of Clarks. The bank opened its doors for business January 2, 1910, and its official statement issued April 21, 1915, showed the business to be in an excellent condition. It now has over thirty-one thousand dollars on deposit and over sixty-nine thousand dollars in loans and discounts. The total business of the bank in all of its different connections and interests figures up to ninety-three thousand, two hundred and twenty-eight dollars.

On the 24th of December, 1892, Mr. Harrington was united in marriage to Miss Letitia Jones, a native of Jasper county, Iowa, and a daughter of Lewis Jones, who was one of the early farmers of that county. In 1884 he came to Platte county, Nebraska, and began farming in Butler township, carrying on general agricultural pursuits to the present time upon the homestead which he secured on first coming to the county.

Mr. Harrington is a member of the Masonic lodge at Silver Creek, having joined the order on attaining his majority. He also belongs to Columbus Lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In politics he is a republican and for many years has been one of the active party workers, his influence carrying weight in its local councils. He has been a member of the central committee and he has also served as a member of the city council of Duncan, which town he aided in incorporating. He has made his own way in life, but he does not bear the scars and the marks of battle. Although he has had many difficulties with which to contend he has maintained a kindly spirit, a generous disposition and an upright purpose and is one of the most popular men in the county. His success has not aroused envy because it has been honorably won and because it has constituted an element in the upbuilding and progress of the community.

THOMAS HILL.

Thomas Hill is the owner of Longview Farm, situated on section 25, Monroe township, and is a well known citizen of that locality. He was born in County Antrim, Ireland, February 6, 1848, and after acquiring a common-school education began work as a farm hand in Ireland. Later he became a resident of Canada and in 1868 went to California, where he lived somewhat of a roving life for some time. On leaving the Pacific coast he made his way to Australia and to New Zealand, working at odd jobs. His extensive travels, however, brought him a broad knowledge of the world, its country and its people, and he draws upon his experiences for many interesting reminiscences and tales. In 1870 he returned to San Francisco and lived in California intermittently until 1882. He has also taken three trips back to Ireland. In the year mentioned, however, he settled upon a more stable course, removing to Platte county, where he purchased raw prairie and railroad lands, becoming the owner of one hundred and twenty acres on section 25, Monroe township, at which time he began to farm. A third of a century has since come and gone and he still lives upon that place, which he has converted into a valuable farm property.

He has added to his possessions from time to time until he is now the owner of four hundred and fifty-five acres, having two hundred and forty acres in the home farm, which is nicely improved. He there raises Duroc-Jersey hogs and shorthorn cattle and also feeds considerable stock, becoming recognized as one of the representative dealers in live stock in this community. The active work of the farm he has now largely put aside, his sons relieving him of that labor. In addition to his other interests he is a stockholder in the Monroe State Bank.

In the year in which he became a permanent resident of Nebraska Thomas Hill was married in Boston, Massachusetts to Miss Elizabeth Wilhelmina Blanckenberg, who was born in Cape Town, South Africa, a daughter of James and Hester (Schultz) Blanckenberg. Mr. Blanckenberg was in the civil service and was for many years recorder of deeds in the registrar's office. He was a well educated, widely traveled man, very progressive, and his enterprise contributed in large measure to the development and improvement of Cape Town, where he lived until his death. He was an active member of the Episcopal church. To Mr. and Mrs. Hill have been born five children: William, Hester and Gordon, all at home; Charles, a druggist of Monroe; and Roland, at home. All of the children have been given good educational privileges.

The parents are consistent and faithful members of the Episcopal church and Mr. Hill gave the lot on which to build the church in Monroe. He has been a generous contributor of time and money to the advancement of the cause and both he and his wife have been most active in furthering its interests, while in various church offices he has been a worthy incumbent. Both are held in high esteem and the hospitality of the best homes of this locality is freely extended them, while the good cheer of Longview Farm makes it a favorite resort for their many friends.

HERMAN G. LUESCHEN.

Herman G. Lueschen, proprietor of a general stock farm on section 8, Sherman township, was born in Oldenburg, Germany, January 22, 1838, a son of Henry and Kate Margaret (Kuhlman) Groteluschen. After spending his youthful days in the fatherland, Herman G. Lueschen of this review came to the new world in 1858, settling at Mayville, Wisconsin, where he was employed at farm labor. He emigrated to America in order to become an American citizen and his interest in his adopted country was such that when the safety of the Union was menaced he joined the army almost immediately after the outbreak of the war, enlisting in April, 1861, as a member of Company E, Third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. With his command he went to the south and in the operations of his regiment in the Shenandoah valley in Virginia was captured. For four months he was imprisoned at Lynchburg, Virginia, and at Bell Island, after which he was exchanged. He took part in a number of hotly contested engagements and at the battle of Chancellorsville was wounded in the left leg, which incapacitated him for field service for three months. He was afterward called to New York to aid in the suppression of riots attendant upon the enforcement of the draft. Later he was on duty in Virginia, and under Sherman he participated in the siege of Atlanta. The entire regiment reenlisted, continuing at the front until the close



MR. AND MRS. HERMAN G. LUESCHEN

of the war, at which time Mr. Lueschen and his comrades participated in the grand review in Washington, where thousands of victorious soldiers marched through the streets of the city—streets that were lined by a cheering multitude, while over broad Pennsylvania avenue there hung a banner bearing the words "The only debt which the country owes that she cannot pay is the debt which she owes to her soldiers."

Mr. Lueschen returned to Wisconsin but in 1869 removed to Nebraska and entered one hundred and sixty acres of his present farm on section 8, Sherman township. He has since extended the boundaries of his place until it now comprises two hundred and thirty acres, much of which he has brought under a high state of cultivation, producing good crops annually. He also engages in general stock-raising and makes large shipments to the markets. His business has been carefully and persistently conducted, and sound judgment has directed his efforts at all times, so that he has won substantial success.

Mr. Lueschen was married December 3, 1865, to Miss Bertha Spanhake, who was born October 28, 1847, and who by her marriage became the mother of nine children. Her death occurred May 12, 1910.

In politics Mr. Lueschen is independent but is not remiss in the duties of citizenship, aiding in various plans and measures for the general good. For a long period he served as postmaster at Boheet and for over twenty years was school director. He belongs to St. Paul's Evangelical church and has ever guided his life according to its teachings. He has now passed the age of seventy-seven years, and his has been a creditable and honorable record, marked not only by loyalty to his country in times of war but also in times of peace and by equal loyalty to every cause that he has espoused.

JOHN AHRENS.

A student of history cannot carry his investigations far into the annals of Platte county without learning that the Ahrens family have taken active and prominent part in advancing the agricultural development of this part of the state and thereby contributing to the material wealth and prosperity of Platte county. A worthy representative of this family is John Ahrens, a most enterprising and successful general farmer, stock-raiser, feeder and shipper. Sound judgment characterizes him in the management of all of his business interests, which are bringing to him gratifying and well earned success.

The old Ahrens homestead was one of the early settled farms of the county and it was upon that place that John Ahrens was born January 20, 1863, his parents being Edwin and Auna (Loseke) Ahrens, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work in connection with the sketch of their son, Edwin Ahrens, Jr. At the usual age John Ahrens entered the district schools and to that system is indebted for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. He worked upon the home farm, continuing to assist his father until he reached the age of twenty-five years, when he started out in business on his own account. He has since carried on general agricultural pursuits. At first he operated one hundred and sixty acres of the home farm, to which he devoted his attention for a few years, and then he made

his first investment in property, to which he has added from time to time until he is now the owner of four hundred and forty acres in Bismark township and forty acres in Columbus township, his home being situated on section 6 of the latter township. Upon his farm he has one of the best barns to be found in the county. All of the outbuildings are equally good, furnishing ample shelter to grain, stock and farm machinery. His home is attractive, the building being thoroughly modern in every respect. He raises the various cereals best adapted to soil and climate and he feeds hogs for the market, making a specialty of Duroc-Jerseys. He also does a good dairy business, milking a number of cows, and he likewise feeds cattle. In a word, his business is carefully systematized, well managed and ably conducted, so that substantial results accrue.

On the 18th of October, 1888, Mr. Ahrens was united in marriage to Miss Louisa Wurdeman, by whom he has six children, namely: Edward H. and E. Arthur, who follow farming in Bismark township; and Emil H., Anna A., Bertha W. and E. Melton, all of whom are attending school.

Mr. Ahrens is an independent democrat, usually voting with the party yet not hesitating to follow an independent course if his judgment so dictates. He has served as township treasurer of Bismark township and yet is not an office seeker in the usually accepted sense of the term. However, he is not neglectful of the duties of citizenship and does not hesitate to give his time and energies for the benefit of the public. He and his family belong to the German Evangelical Lutheran church and his interest in the moral development of the district is shown in his generous support of the church and his cooperation with its lines of work.

HECTOR BLASER.

An excellent farm of three hundred and five acres situated on section 22, Loup township, is the property of Hector Blaser, who for forty-six years has lived in this county, an interested witness of its growth and development and an active factor in its agricultural progress. He was born in Switzerland on the 3d of February, 1862, and came to the United States with his parents, John and Rosa Blaser, in 1867 when a little lad of five summers, the family home being established in Kane county, Illinois, where they remained for two years. In 1869 they arrived in Nebraska and the father homesteaded eighty acres in Platte county. He carried on general farming, converting a tract of wild land into richly cultivated fields, in which he annually gathered good harvests. He died October 28, 1886, while his wife passed away November 11, 1888.

Hector Blaser was a lad of but seven years when the family came to this county and throughout the intervening period he has here remained, having the usual experiences of the farm-bred boy who worked in the fields through vacation periods and attended school in the winter seasons. He early acquired habits of industry and thrift and learned many practical lessons in the school of experience. He has never sought to change his occupation but has always continued active along agricultural lines and is now successfully engaged in general farming and to some extent in stock-raising. He has three hundred and five acres of rich and productive land, the greater part of which is planted to the crops best adapted to soil and climate, and he

annually gathers rich harvests. He also has good improvements upon his place, which is one of the desirable farm properties of the county.

In November, 1888, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Blaser and Miss Ida Martin, a daughter of J. G. Martin, and they have become parents of six children: Clara, the wife of Charles Schmid, living in Platte county; and John, Hector, Samuel, Otto and Edward, all at home. In his political views Mr. Blaser is a democrat, always voting for the men and measures of the party. His fraternal relations are with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Tribe of Ben Hur, and he is a member of the German Reformed church, a fact which indicates the principles that govern his life and control him in all of his relations with his fellowmen.

FRED G. STENGER.

For an extended period Fred G. Stenger was one of the most prominent and extensive farmers and stock-raisers of Platte county, carefully conducting his business affairs along well defined lines of labor, his efforts being most intelligently directed. He is now living practically retired save for the supervision which he gives to his interests. He still resides in Columbus township, occupying one of the beautiful homes of the county. He was born in Alsace-Lorraine, June 15, 1857, and in his native country pursued his education save for one term, during which he attended school after coming to the new world. He accompanied his parents to the United States and lived for a brief time in Cleveland, Ohio, after which they made their way to Columbus, Nebraska, where they arrived on the 4th of March, 1873.

Fred G. Stenger continued at home until he reached the age of twenty-nine years and during that period had ample training in all the work of the farm, so that he became thoroughly familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. When he started out in life independently he began farming on section 10, Columbus township, having three hundred and twenty acres of land, which constituted the nucleus of his present extensive possessions now aggregating fifteen hundred acres. This he purchased at prices ranging from eight and a half to sixteen dollars per acre. He has always been one of the extensive stock-raisers of the county and in earlier years was accounted the largest stock feeder in his locality. He has displayed excellent judgment in buying and selling stock and has thus added materially to his financial resources. He also bought lands when all was raw prairie and when there were few substantial improvements made in the entire community. He performed the arduous task of converting these wild tracts into productive fields and highly improved farms, his labors being attended with excellent results which added immeasurably to the attractive appearance of the county and contributed much to its wealth. In 1900 he retired from the active work of the farm and removed to Columbus, where he owns a nice home, the purpose of his removal being to educate his children in the Columbus high school. In 1915 he returned to the farm where agricultural interests are extensively conducted, with the raising of shorthorn cattle as the feature of his place.

In 1886 Mr. Stenger was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Benning, and they have become the parents of seven children: Matilda; Fredericka, the wife of O. L.

Baker, of Columbus; Martin, in the Columbus State Bank; Ernest, who is a graduate of the Nebraska Agricultural College; and Fritz, Edward and Margaret, all high-school students in Columbus.

Fraternally Mr. Stenger is connected with the Modern Woodmen, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, all of Columbus. He has no political aspirations but has always been interested and active in affairs for the benefit of the community. He belongs to the Congregational church and is in hearty sympathy with every movement that relates to the moral as well as the material progress of the district in which he lives. In all his business affairs he has been thoroughly reliable as well as enterprising and he maintains an unassailable reputation among those with whom he has had dealings in any way.

ALFRED SIVERS.

Alfred Sivers, who is living retired in Newman Grove, Madison county, this state, was formerly engaged in farming and stock-raising in Walker township, this county. His birth occurred in Sweden, and he remained in that country until June, 1881, when he emigrated to the United States. He first settled in Dodge county, Nebraska, where he rented land until 1891, in which year he went to Platte county and took up his residence upon a farm on section 4, Walker township, where he carried on general farming for two years. At the end of that time he removed to section 15, that township, purchasing two hundred and forty acres of excellent land which he cultivated until 1906. In addition to growing the usual crops he raised considerable stock and both branches of his business have proved profitable. In 1906 he retired and removed to Newman Grove, where he is now living.

Mr. Sivers was married to Geraldine Johnson, who passed away in 1899. His political views are independent and he has always taken the interest of a good citizen in public affairs. The period of rest and leisure which he is now enjoying is richly deserved, as for many years he labored diligently.

EDMOND HIGGINS.

Edmond Higgins, who follows general farming on section 23, Lost Creek township, was born in County Cork, Ireland, on the 27th of October, 1849, a son of John and Elizabeth (Upton) Higgins, who were also natives of County Cork, where the father followed the occupation of farming. The son, Edmond Higgins, the only one of the family that ever came to America, worked upon the home farm until April, 1871, and at the age of twenty-one years left Ireland for the new world, making settlement in Middletown, Connecticut, where he engaged to drive a team for a contractor. After a brief period, however, he went to Portland, Connecticut, spending two months in the quarries, and later he made his way to New Haven, Connecticut, where he drove a team for a brewery. He also worked in a tin shop for a time. He next went to Pittsburgh, where he was employed in the steel mills

for seven months, on the expiration of which period he made his way westward to Chicago, being sent by the firm to work in the steel mills of that city. But the widespread financial panic of 1873 caused a delay in the work of the company and Mr. Higgins proceeded to Seneca, Illinois, and worked on the Rock Island Railroad that winter. In 1874 he secured a position in a general store in Seneca and in 1876 he was there married, after which he removed to Oskaloosa, Iowa, and worked for the Rock Island Railroad Company as foreman of a fencing gang. In 1877 he tried to get work at fifty cents per day but could not get any even at that. Finally he obtained employment in the car repair department and later he determined to try his fortune in Nebraska. On the 22d of June, 1877, he reached this state, having only five dollars left after paying for his ticket. He gave half of that amount to his wife and with the other met his expenses.

From Columbus he made his way out to the home of an uncle, Michael Upton, who lived in a house that was partly of sod. It was this uncle who owned the one hundred and sixty acres which the Union Pacific Railroad Company bought for the Platte Center townsite, and after working for him for a short time Mr. Higgins began work as a farm hand. Later he took up farming on his own account. He found that the neighbors were good to him, being ever ready to extend a helping hand. He bought eighty acres of railroad land without money, agreeing to make payments on the installment plan, becoming the owner of the property in March, 1878, the transfer being made by James E. North, of Columbus, who was agent for the former owner. He acknowledges his indebtedness to his kind neighbors, who assisted him to raise a small amount of money to make his first payment on his land. There was nothing on the eighty acre tract but weeds and prairie grasses, but with characteristic energy he began to develop the place. He built a small house, hewing the sidings and rafters himself, and he performed the most arduous labor in order to make his start as a farmer. At times hard luck seemed to follow him, but he kept on and his perseverance, industry and energy at length overcame all difficulties and obstacles that confronted him. After making his first payment of forty-eight dollars three years passed before he felt able to make another payment. He farmed with oxen in the early days, turning the first furrows in the fields, harrowing the land and getting the soil in condition for planting. The closest economy was practiced and his work was of the hardest kind, but he utilized every possible moment to the best advantage and prosperity has at length rewarded his efforts. He now has two hundred and forty acres of rich and valuable land on section 23, Lost Creek township, one hundred and sixty acres east of the home place, twenty acres of valuable hay land west of Platte Center, and also one hundred and twenty acres of pasture near the river. Today his farm is splendidly improved and the value of his land has constantly increased. His fields now put forth rich crops and he also has high grade stock upon his place. He is likewise president of the mill at Platte Center and is accounted one of the substantial citizens of his community.

Mr. Higgins was united in marriage in Illinois in 1875 to Miss Kate Conley, who was born in New York, of the marriage of John and Katherine (Kelly) Conley. Mr. and Mrs. Higgins have become the parents of eight children: Bessie, the wife of John Thomas Gleason, a resident farmer of Monroe township, by whom she has two children; Abbie, who was educated in the St. Francis Academy and is at home; Edward, living on the home farm; Fannie, at home; William P., who is a graduate of the Creighton College of Omaha and is now practicing dentistry at Atchison,

Nebraska; John; Grace, who is a graduate of the schools of Hastings; and Loretta, who is a graduate of St. Mary's Academy at O'Neill, Nebraska. All of the children have been given good educational advantages, for Mr. Higgins realizes how valuable is mental training as a preparation for life's practical and responsible duties.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church, their membership being at Platte Center, and Mr. Higgins is also a member of the Knights of Columbus. In politics he is a democrat, recognized as one of the active party workers in his locality, yet, without aspiration for office. He has served, however, as assessor and has been a member of the school board. He is interested in all that pertains to public progress and improvement in his locality and cooperates in many movements that have been beneficial. His life should well serve to inspire and encourage others, showing what may be accomplished through energy and determination in spite of obstacles and difficulties. Arriving in this county with a cash capital of but two dollars and a half, he has steadily worked his way upward until he is now the possessor of a handsome competence as the reward of his persistent, earnest efforts.

NORIS S. FIFIELD.

One of the most progressive farmers of Platte county is Noris S. Fifield, owner of The Maples, a highly improved farm that is the expression of modern progress along agricultural lines. The place embraces one hundred and fourteen acres of rich and productive land which he purchased in 1912 and its excellent buildings, its highly cultivated fields, its rich pasture lands and all of the equipments upon the place indicate his practical and progressive methods—methods that are bringing substantial and gratifying results. This place is situated on section 1, Oconee township. Mr. Fifield has always lived in Nebraska, his birth having occurred upon a farm in Merrick county, June 27, 1880, his parents being Richard W. and Mary R. (Beadle) Fifield. The father was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1846 and died March 13, 1912. He came to Nebraska in 1880 and before the advent of railroads was a stage driver for sixteen years. He afterward engaged in threshing through the summer months and in work in the woods in the winter. His wife was of Irish lineage and they were married at the age of eighteen years. She, too, has passed away.

Noris S. Fifield acquired a common-school education, completing the work of the eighth grade in Monroe. His practical training was in the line of farm work and the school of experience brought to him many valuable lessons. As soon as old enough he began work in the fields and as the years passed constantly gained a broader knowledge of farm duties. He found the work congenial and at the age of twenty-one years rented a farm west of Monroe, upon which he lived for a year and a half. Later he occupied a rented farm north of Monroe, on which he lived for a year, and subsequently cultivated a farm east of Monroe for two years, during which period he also ran the school wagon. At the end of that time he took up his abode in the town, living there for four months, when he turned his attention to the real-estate business as agent of a company, with which he was connected for about a year, and during that period he sold over sixteen hundred acres of land in six months. He then removed to the George S. Truman farm west of Monroe, on which

he lived for three years and for three years previous to engaging in the real estate business he had lived on the Sutton farm north of Monroe. In 1912 he became the owner of his present property known as The Maples. It is a tract of land of one hundred and fourteen acres on section 1, Oconee township, all of which is improved. It is devoted to general agricultural pursuits, including the production of crops and the raising of grain. He also makes a specialty of growing asparagus and has large, fine beds, his annual sale bringing to him a gratifying return each spring. He is a believer in the use of cement and employs it liberally in improving his farm. In fact, he is progressive in all of his methods, which is evidenced in the appearance of his place. He has erected upon his farm a new barn, a large silo and a cement hog house, and has one hundred and twenty-five head of high grade hogs. He also specializes in raising chickens and ducks—the Rhode Island Reds and the Indian Runner ducks. The various features of his farm are winning for him well deserved prosperity, for he is very industrious, energetic and resolute and carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

On the 20th of March, 1900, Mr. Fifield was married to Miss Lulu Belle Nunnally, who was born in Missouri in December, 1875. The three children of this marriage are: Lulu, who is attending high school; and Raymond and Charles, who are pupils in the schools of Monroe.

Mr. Fifield is independent in politics, voting according to the dictates of his desire and judgment. He was reared in the Quaker faith, of which he is still an adherent, paying dues to the church, although there is no congregation in his locality. He therefore attends the Methodist Episcopal church and is a teacher in its Sunday school, while his wife is secretary of the Bible class. They are governed by high principles and exemplify in their lives true nobility of character, being kindly, considerate, honorable and in all things thoroughly reliable.

JOHN KRZYCKI.

John Krzycki, who resides on section 35, Columbus township, was born in Posen, Poland, near the village of Usaz, January 20, 1847, a son of Antone and Mary (Stopierzynski) Krzycki. The father owned a farm of considerable proportions and always made his home in Poland. His son John was the fourth in order of birth in a family of ten children and in the schools of his native country pursued his education, eventually becoming a teacher in the public schools at Chodziej, Poland, but the reports which he heard concerning the opportunities and advantages of the new world led him to bid adieu to his native country and sail for the United States in 1870. He first settled in Indiana, where he remained for one year engaged in farming with a brother. In 1871 he arrived in Columbus, Nebraska, and secured work on the railroad. He afterward obtained a homestead in Polk county, Nebraska, becoming owner of eighty acres of raw prairie, on which he built a house, set out trees and otherwise improved the property. He carefully and systematically developed his fields and, adding to his farm, became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres in Polk county, where he lived for about twelve years. In 1885 he removed to section 35, Columbus township, Platte county, where he has since made his home, and all of the improvements upon this place are his work and indicate his

progressive spirit. His farm comprises two hundred and forty acres of land, which he carefully tills, and he likewise has one hundred and sixty acres in Sherman county. In addition to developing his fields he raises a large amount of stock and feeds many cattle annually. His business affairs are carefully and wisely conducted and success in gratifying measure attends his efforts.

On August 1, 1871, Mr. Krzycki was married to Miss Barbara Borowiak, a native of Wyszyn, Posen, Poland, and a daughter of Martin and Anna (Wleczych) Borowiak. Her father was a farmer of Poland, where he had extensive landed interests, and he was quite active in public affairs of his village, where he filled the office of mayor. He was a very popular and well known man, energetic and persistent in all that he did, and thus he carried his plans forward to successful completion. In 1872 he came to the United States and settled in Polk county, where he became the owner of valuable farm property, but eventually he disposed of his agricultural interests and became proprietor of a general store in Dunean, Nebraska. At length he retired from active life and removed to Columbus, where he passed away in 1895. He was a devout adherent of the Catholic faith.

Mr. and Mrs. Krzycki have become parents of thirteen children: Frank, a farmer living near Elba, Nebraska, who is married and has six children; Salome, the wife of John Lassek, a farmer living near Elba, Nebraska, by whom she has three children; Alex, who followed farming near Farwell, Nebraska, and died in June, 1914, leaving a wife and four children; John, who is a member of the Franciscan Fathers, now known as Father Vincent, and has charge of a parish in Cleveland, Ohio; Dumecella, now Sister Loretta, filling the position of Sister Superior in the Catholic church at Hammond, Indiana, where she teaches music; Barbara, now Sister Scraphia, teacher of music in a school at Tarnov, Nebraska; Laudislaus, who died leaving a wife but no children; Anton, deputy county treasurer of Platte county, who is married and has two children; Viucia, who died in infancy; Anna, the wife of Loni Jaw, a policeman of Columbus, by whom she has two children; Elizabeth, at home; Theodora, the wife of Theodore Stoliuski, of Omaha, by whom she has two children; and Phillip, who is upon the home farm.

As has been indicated, the family are adherents of the Catholic church and Mr. Krzycki gives his political support to the democratic party. He has served as road supervisor for four years and has been active in township affairs, taking a helpful interest in promoting the welfare and advancing the upbuilding of the community.

GEORGE H. MORRIS, M. D.

A thorough collegiate training and independent study have well qualified Dr. George H. Morris for the onerous and responsible duties that devolve upon the physician and surgeon and his work in Creston has been of such a nature that he is accorded a liberal practice. Throughout the entire period of his professional career he has remained in Creston. A native of Wisconsin, he was born in Wyoming Valley, June 6, 1878, a son of John T. and Mary (Joiner) Morris, who were also natives of the Badger state. The father, a civil engineer, was connected in his professional capacity with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad for some time. For many years he resided in Wisconsin and afterward

removed to southwestern Nebraska, where he remained until 1888, when he came to Platte county, where for three years he conducted a store. He then purchased land in Creston township and carried on farming until 1902, when he removed to California, purchasing a fruit ranch in the southern part of that state. He is still conducting business there and is meeting with most creditable success.

Dr. Morris was reared in Creston, pursuing his early education in the public schools here and afterward attending the Fremont Normal College and the Lincoln Normal, thus establishing a broad foundation upon which to rear the superstructure of his professional knowledge. Going to Chicago, he entered the Illinois Medical College, in which he spent one year, after which he returned to Omaha and pursued a three years' course in the University of Nebraska, from which he was graduated with the class of 1905. He then returned to Creston, where he has since practiced. He is the only physician of the town and enjoys a very liberal patronage from his fellow townsmen and from people of the surrounding country. He at all times makes his professional duty his first interest and he keeps in touch with modern scientific research and investigation through wide reading of medical works.

In September, 1905, Dr. Morris was joined in wedlock to Miss Maren C. Smith, a daughter of Peter and Sena Smith, both of whom were natives of Denmark. The father emigrated to the United States in an early day, locating in Omaha, Nebraska, where he was for a time engaged in the liquor business and subsequently became a brick manufacturer. He is now living in southern California but lost his wife in 1911. To Dr. and Mrs. Morris have been born four children, namely: Jean D., whose birth occurred July 31, 1906; Robert B., born December 18, 1908; George W., whose natal day was October 18, 1911; and John S., born November 2, 1914.

Dr. Morris is a public-spirited citizen interested in the welfare of the community and is now serving as president of the Commercial Club of Creston. His political faith is that of the republican party, his religious belief that of the Methodist church, while fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias, Ancient Order of United Workmen, Modern Woodmen of America and the Highlanders. Along strictly professional lines his connection is with the Platte County Medical Society, the Elkhorn Valley Medical Association, of both of which he is the vice president, the Nebraska State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He is actuated in his professional duties not only by the laudable desire to gain financial success but also by a deep interest in the scientific phases of his calling and by broad humanitarian principles.

AUGUST OSTEN.

August Osten, a large landowner and successful farmer of Grand Prairie township, is one of the excellent citizens whom Germany has given to Nebraska. He was born in Pomerania, October 26, 1839, and remained in his native land until 1868, when he emigrated to the United States. Six years later he came to Platte county, Nebraska, and homesteaded eighty acres of land in Sherman township. At that time conditions were those of the frontier and there were many inconveniences and even privations to be endured. His first home was a dugout and his second a sod house

ten by ten feet, in which the family lived for two years. He added to his farm in Sherman township until it comprised two hundred acres and continued to live there until 1894, in which year he took up his residence upon his present home place on section 14, Grand Prairie township. Altogether he holds title to several hundred acres of land and has also helped his sons to purchase farms.

Mr. Osten was married in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1872, to Miss Anna Hagelmann, who was born in Oldenburg, Germany, on the 26th of May, 1841. She came to the United States the same year as her husband, arriving in this country in June within a week of his arrival here. To their union have been born six children: Augusta, now Mrs. William Brockmann of Sherman township; Herman, who also resides in that township; Louis; Mary, the wife of Henry Brandt, of Lost Creek township; Otto, of Sherman township; and Johann, who is at home. All of the children are married and there are thirteen grandchildren.

Mr. Osten casts his ballot in support of the democratic party and his religious faith is that of the Lutheran church. The success which he has gained is the direct result of his industry, his knowledge of farming and his wise management of his affairs, and in gaining his individual prosperity he has also contributed to the agricultural development of the county.

FRED A. READ.

Fred A. Read is the proprietor of a general mercantile establishment at Monroe and is also one of the extensive landowners of western Nebraska. In all of his business affairs he displays sound judgment and unfaltering enterprise and his activities are bringing to him well deserved success. He was born in Winterset, Iowa, March 15, 1878, a son of Z. S. and Hester (Bishop) Read. The father, a native of England, is now deceased, while the mother is still living in Winterset, Iowa. Z. S. Read came to the United States during his boyhood days and became identified with agricultural interests. At the time of the Civil war he responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting in the First Iowa Cavalry at Creston. After the war he returned to Madison county, that state, and there engaged in farming for a considerable period and was living in Winterset at the time of his demise.

It was there that Fred A. Read attended the public schools and between the ages of fifteen and nineteen years he worked as a farm hand in his native county. He then went to Adair county, where he worked on a ranch, and from 1897 until 1899 he was foreman of the Southwick Brothers' ranch in Guthrie county, Iowa. In the latter year he began farming on his own account near Pleasant Hill, Missouri, but in 1901 removed to Grand Junction, Colorado, where he owned and cultivated a fruit ranch for four years. In 1905 he arrived in Monroe, Nebraska, and, joining his brother, organized the firm of Read Brothers, dealers in implements, hardware and furniture and also engaged in the undertaking business. In 1912, however, he broadened the scope of his activities along commercial lines by becoming a general merchant of the town and is now conducting a well appointed store of that character, having a large stock and enjoying a liberal patronage owing to his progressive methods, his reasonable prices and his fair dealing. He also owns an interest in eight hundred and forty acres of land in Keyapaha county, Nebraska, and

in the management of his business affairs displays sound judgment and unremitting industry.

Mr. Read was united in marriage to Miss Gertrude M. Burrus, who was born in Madison county, Iowa, a daughter of Nathaniel Burrus, a native of Indiana, who in his boyhood days went to Illinois. Physical disability prevented him from going to the front in the Civil war and he began farming for himself in Madison county, Iowa, becoming one of the early residents of that part of the state. He was an active, progressive farmer and while living in that locality he took a prominent part in politics as a supporter of the democratic party and he had charge of the Maple Grove postoffice for several years. In 1900 he removed to Pleasant Hill, Missouri, where he now lives retired, but is still the owner of considerable land. To Mr. and Mrs. Read have been born four children, Gertrude Leone, Alice, Marion Jeanette and Lois Geraldine. The eldest daughter stands very high in her classes at school and is an active member of the Young People's Christian Endeavor society of the Presbyterian church.

In his political views Mr. Read is an earnest republican and has been chairman of the central committee of his township. He stands at all times for progress and improvement, has served as township treasurer and has been a member of the village board. There is no one who takes a more helpful interest in advancing the public welfare and he is found in the front ranks of every movement which he believes to be for the good of the community regardless of what others think. He never places partisanship above the general good and in local elections casts an independent ballot, yet his position is never an equivocal one, as he stands firmly in support of whatever he believes to be right. He is a valued member of Mystic Lodge, No. 321, I. O. O. F., in which he has filled all of the chairs. He was the first man taken into the order after this lodge was organized and he has several times been a delegate to the grand lodge. His worth is widely acknowledged by all who know him and his example in matters of progressive citizenship is frequently a matter of inspiration to his associates.

FRED NYFFELER.

Fred Nyffeler, devoting his time and energy to general farming on section 11, Butler township, was born July 4, 1869, in Canton Bern, Switzerland, a son of John and Elsie Nyffeler. The father was a farmer by occupation and also operated a threshing outfit. He likewise had another business pursuit, that of coloring yarns, and thus his life was passed in activity in order to provide for his family. Both he and his wife are now deceased.

Fred Nyffeler spent the first fifteen years of his life in his native country and during that period attended its public schools. He then came to the United States, making his way to Columbus, Nebraska. He had made the voyage in order to enter the employ of Jacob Tschudin on his farm in Loup township and with him remained for four years. He afterward entered the employ of William Ernst, of Columbus township, with whom he also spent four years. On the expiration of that period he journeyed to the northwest and was engaged in herding sheep for four years in Washington and in Oregon. He then started out in business independently and spent

four years in carrying on pursuits in his own interest, after which he returned to Switzerland on a visit, spending five months in his native land. He made the voyage on the French steamer, *La Bourgoyne*, which was wrecked sixty miles off Sable islands in a collision with another steamer on the 4th of July, 1898, and Mr. Nyffeler was one of the one hundred and fifty out of the eight hundred passengers who were saved. After visiting relatives and friends and renewing the acquaintances of his boyhood and looking again upon the scenes in which his early youth was passed he returned to the United States and for two years was employed as a farm laborer, after which he rented land of his father-in-law, on section 11, Butler township, where he now resides.

On the 11th of June, 1901, Mr. Nyffeler was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Mary Tschudin. They have become parents of three children: Rosa, who was born April 19, 1902; Teddy, born October 16, 1905; and Mary, March 7, 1908. All three are now in school.

In his political views Mr. Nyffeler has been a republican since becoming a naturalized American citizen and, while he does not seek nor desire office, he is ever willing to cooperate in movements for the benefit and improvement of the community in which he lives. He belongs to the German Reformed church and guides his life according to Christian teachings, being an honorable, upright man, who enjoys and merits the respect and good-will of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

WILLIAM MASON POLLARD.

William Mason Pollard, an agriculturist residing on section 17, Monroe township, has lived in Platte county for nearly three decades and is now the owner of six hundred acres of valuable and productive land. His birth occurred in Indiana on the 21st of November, 1861, his parents being George Washington and Eliza Jane (Hord) Pollard. The father passed away in Arkansas about 1884 and the mother, a native of the Hoosier state, died when our subject was but twelve years old. At that early age William M. Pollard was thrown upon his own resources. He was married on attaining his majority and carried on farming in Coles county, Illinois, until 1886, when he came to Platte county, Nebraska. Here he purchased a quarter section of unimproved land in Monroe township and rented an improved tract for one year. On the expiration of that period he erected the necessary buildings on his own property and as the years passed augmented his holdings by additional purchase until he now owns six hundred acres of rich and arable land. The place is now attractive and valuable and all of the improvements thereon stand as monuments to his thrift and industry. In connection with the cultivation of the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he feeds three car loads of cattle annually, this branch of his business materially augmenting his income. His is the honorable record of a self-made man who has worked his way steadily upward unaided to a position among the substantial and representative citizens of his community.

On January 25, 1883, Mr. Pollard was united in marriage to Miss Nora Owens, who was born in Bartholomew county, Indiana, July 23, 1866, her parents being William and Julia (Tuley) Owens, natives of Ohio. The father passed away in

Indiana and the mother in Douglas county, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Pollard have become the parents of six children, as follows: Maud, who is the wife of Benjamin Baker, a farmer of Monroe township, and has two children; Edward and Andrew, both at home; Anna, who gave her hand in marriage to Louis Stenzel, a farmer of Woodville township; and Albert and May, at home.

Mr. Pollard is a democrat in politics and for seven years has done able service as a member of the county board of supervisors, while for many years he has been a school director. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Baptist church, to which his wife also belongs. His strong and salient characteristics are such as endear him to all who come within the close circle of his friendship, while wherever he is known he is respected and honored.

JOSEPH VAN ACKEREN.

Germany has furnished a large percentage of substantial citizens to Platte county—men who have become most loyal to their adopted land and whose efforts in promoting the general welfare indicate a public-spirited citizenship. Among this number is Joseph Van Ackeren, who is one of the most prominent farmers of Platte county, owning on section 11, Granville township, what is probably the best improved farm in the entire county.

He was born in Germany in May, 1848, a son of John and Mary (Berns) Van Ackeren, who were also natives of that country. The father followed farming in Germany, where he spent his entire life, his labors being terminated in death in 1876. His wife survived for four years, passing away in 1880. Their son Joseph was reared and educated in Germany and remained with his parents to the age of twenty-four years, when he began farming on his own account, following that pursuit in his native land from 1872 until 1881. He then crossed the Atlantic to the new world and, continuing his journey westward, at length reached Westpoint, Nebraska, where he was employed for a few months. He then went to Pierce county, Nebraska, where he cultivated rented land for three years, after which he returned to Westpoint, where he lived for a year. Removing to South Dakota, he secured a homestead and timber claim, which he improved, spending seven years in the development and cultivation of that property. He then disposed of his South Dakota land and came to Platte county, where for eight years he engaged in the cultivation of a rented tract of two hundred acres. He next went to Cedar Rapids, Nebraska, where he engaged in farming for six years, after which he traded two sections of land for one hundred and sixty acres in Platte county and three hundred and twenty acres near Cedar Rapids. In 1911 he purchased his present place of one hundred and sixty acres on section 11, Granville township, and since that time has wrought a marked transformation in the appearance of the place. No finer improvements can be found upon any farm in the county. There is a large and commodious residence, substantial outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock, well kept fences and the latest improved farm machinery. He is most careful in cultivating his fields and practical experience has brought him a knowledge of scientific farming, for he has learned to know the needs of the crops, the conditions of the soil and other things

which are now taught in the agricultural schools. He is extensively engaged in stock-raising, feeding about two carloads of sheep or two carloads of cattle annually.

In October, 1872, Mr. Van Ackeren was united in marriage to Miss Lena Oenting, a daughter of John and Catherina (Mertens) Oenting, who were natives of Germany, where the father followed the occupation of farming until his death, which occurred in 1887. He had long survived his wife, who passed away in 1854. Mr. and Mrs. Van Ackeren have become the parents of six children: John, a resident farmer of Humphrey township; Edward, who follows farming near Cedar Rapids, Nebraska; William, who is also engaged in farming in Humphrey township; Ben, at home; Louise, the wife of Jim Gordon, a farmer residing near Cedar Rapids; and Cecelia, at home.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church and Mr. Van Ackeren gives his political allegiance to the democratic party, but has no desire for office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, which have ever been capably directed, and his industry, close application and sound judgment have made him one of the prosperous agriculturists of Platte county.

PETER LUCHSINGER.

Peter Luchsinger is a representative farmer of Columbus township, his home being on section 9, and the diligence and determination with which he carries on his farm work are manifest in his growing success. A native of Switzerland, he was born in Canton Glarus on the 23d of November, 1868, and is a son of Franz Luchsinger, who resides at No. 105 East Eighth street, Columbus. He was born in the same locality of Switzerland, his parents being Peter and Susan (Hefte) Luchsinger. Peter Luchsinger was employed in cotton mills in Switzerland and he also rendered to his country the full military service. He died in 1869, having for thirteen years survived his wife, who passed away in 1856.

Franz Luchsinger attended the common schools for five years, which was the extent of his opportunities along educational lines, yet in the school of experience he learned many valuable lessons. He entered the workaday world as a factory employe, in which connection he spent two years. He afterward learned the baker's trade, which he followed for twelve years, and during the last five years of that period he was proprietor of a bakery establishment. He, too, rendered military aid to his country, serving as an adjutant in the Seventy-third Battalion of Switzerland. The year 1873 witnessed his arrival in the United States, at which time he made his way to Schuyler, Colfax county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded eighty acres which he developed and improved, living thereon for six years. He next bought three hundred and twenty acres of school land in Bismark township, Platte county, and also one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land. Taking up his abode upon that farm, he continued its cultivation until 1910, when he retired and removed to Columbus, where he now has a very comfortable home and is enjoying the fruits of his early labor. His many good traits of character have won him high and enduring regard. He is a member of the Switzer Verein and in politics is an independent democrat, while his religious faith is that of the Lutheran church.

On the 15th of April, 1867, Franz Luchsinger was united in marriage to Miss

Katerina Luchsinger, who was born on the 25th of December, 1845. To them were born seven children, as follows: Peter; Susan, who is the wife of Henry Heits, of Pleasant Hill, Missouri; Katie, who gave her hand in marriage to Mathew Schmidt, of Columbus township; Henry, of Bismark township; Mary, who is the wife of Charles Welch, of Colfax county, Nebraska; Magdalena, the wife of John Klug, of Colfax county, Nebraska; and Frank, living in Bismark township.

Of this family, Peter Luchsinger had but limited educational opportunities. His entire life has been devoted to farming and he now owns and cultivates one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 9, Columbus township. There he raises shorthorn cattle, having a fine bull at the head of his herd. He makes stock-raising a special feature of his place and it returns to him a gratifying annual income. In addition to his home property in Columbus township he has one hundred and sixty acres of pasture land in Merrick county, eighty acres of land in Columbus township, Platte county, one hundred and ninety acres in Nance county, of which twelve acres is slough pasture, and a half interest in one hundred and sixty acres in Greeley county. His wife is also owner of four hundred acres in Antelope county and their holdings are increasing in value with the settlement of the western part of the state.

On the 5th of February, 1895, Mr. Luchsinger was joined in wedlock to Miss Emma Ernst, by whom he has seven children, namely: Frank, Ernst, Samuel, Eliza, Ida, Paul and Anna, all of whom are attending school. Mr. and Mrs. Luchsinger hold membership in the German Lutheran church and thus manifest an interest in the moral progress of the community. In politics he is independent, voting for men and measures rather than party. His interest in citizenship is that of a man who desires the best for the community and therefore cooperates heartily in plans and measures for the general good. With little opportunity at the outset of his career, he has worked steadily as the years have gone on and he is today one of the substantial citizens of his county, deserving all that he has achieved and won.

FRANK S. GERMAN.

Frank S. German, a well known farmer and stockman of Grand Prairie township, was born in Buffalo, New York, February 12, 1849, a son of Bacillius and Gertrude (Sager) German, both of whom were natives of Baden. The father was a cloth weaver by trade and in 1847 crossed the Atlantic to the new world, settling in Buffalo, New York, where he conducted a six-loom shop, devoting some time to the weaving of cloth. Later he purchased ten acres of land near Niagara Falls and carried on farming until 1852, when he left the Empire state and removed to Peoria county, Illinois, where he again engaged in farming. He first purchased sixty acres, to which he afterwards added a twenty-acre tract and still later bought eighty acres more, so that his farm comprised one hundred and sixty acres. The property is still in possession of the family. Both he and his wife passed away at Princeville, Illinois, to which place they removed when Mr. German retired from active farm life.

Frank S. German attended school in Stark county, Illinois, and remained upon the home farm until he reached the age of twenty-two years, when he began farming on his own account in Peoria county, Illinois. The first land that he ever owned

was a tract of eighty acres which he cultivated from 1871 until 1885. He then sold out and removed to Platte county, Nebraska, on the 28th of November, 1885, establishing his home in Burrows township, where he purchased two hundred acres. He lived upon that farm on section 2 for eighteen years and carefully developed and improved the place, which in 1903 he traded for two hundred and forty acres of land on section 4, Grand Prairie township. He removed to that farm and is living there today. He cultivates it all with hired help, carrying on general agricultural pursuits and also making stock-raising a feature of his business. He feeds both cattle and hogs and also breeds a good grade of stock. In 1905 he erected a new residence and he has a farm equipped with many excellent improvements and modern accessories. Aside from his farming interests he is a shareholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company of Humphrey.

On the 16th of November, 1869, Mr. German was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Messing, a daughter of Matthew and Elizabeth Messing, both of whom were natives of Germany. Emigrating to the United States, they took up their abode near Peoria, Illinois, and there purchased a farm on which they spent the remainder of their lives. To Mr. and Mrs. German have been born the following children: Gertrude, who is deceased; Katie, who is the wife of George Fehringer, a farmer of Grand Prairie township; Mary, the wife of Joseph Fehringer, who is engaged in the livery business at Rockville, Minnesota; Bacilius, who wedded Miss Annie Wemhoff and follows farming in Grand Prairie township; Margaret, who gave her hand in marriage to William Bender, an agriculturist of Granville township; Christina, who is the wife of Frank Ternus, a farmer of Humphrey township; Barbara, who is the wife of William Braun, a merchant of Humphrey; Matthias, who wedded Miss Annie Braun and is an agriculturist of North Dakota; Leo, who married Miss Annie Hamling and follows farming in Humphrey township; Eddie, who is at home with his parents; and a daughter who died in infancy. Mr. German has fifty living grandchildren and three are deceased.

Politically Mr. German is a democrat and has served as road supervisor of Burrows township for eighteen years, a fact which is certainly indisputable proof that he has been a capable and efficient officer. He belongs to St. Mary's Catholic church of Grand Prairie township, of which he has served as a trustee, and he is a member of St. Joseph's Men's Society of that church. For thirty years he has lived in Platte county and throughout the entire period has been identified with its farming interests. He has never been afraid of hard work and his close application and persistency of purpose have been salient features in winning for him the success which is today his.

HENRY LUERS.

Henry Luers, conducting business at Columbus as a cement manufacturer, dates his residence in this state from 1874 and in Columbus from 1875. An ably managed and successful business enterprise is always a valuable asset to any community and as a representative business man Mr. Luers is classed with the worthy citizens of the county. He was born in Oldenburg, Germany, December 8, 1848, a son of Dirk and W. Margaret (Elken) Luers, who were also natives of Germany,



HENRY LUERS

where the father owned and cultivated a small farm, never coming to the United States. He served in the German army and was a member of the Lutheran church.

After attending school in Germany, Henry Luers began learning the wagon maker's trade at the age of sixteen years and followed that business in his native land until 1872, when he made the voyage across the Atlantic to the United States, settling in Quincy, Illinois. After working at the carpenter's trade there for a time he removed to Missouri and for eight months was a resident of Shelbyna, where he was employed in a furniture store. In 1873 he went to Denver, where he worked at the wagon maker's trade and in 1874 he became a resident of Schuyler, Nebraska, where he continued at his trade, conducting a shop of his own. In 1875 he arrived in Columbus and started a wagon and blacksmith shop, becoming a member of the firm of Elliott & Luers, dealers in farm implements. After three months he purchased his partner's interest and conducted the business alone, handling implements, pumps and windmills. After a year he was joined by his brother-in-law, William Hoeffelman, in a partnership that was continued for two years. He was afterward again alone in business for six years on Eleventh street and at the same time he owned and conducted a farm in Bismark township. His family always lived in the town but for fifteen years he carried on general agricultural pursuits carefully and systematically, cultivating his farm with good results. In 1913 he turned his attention to the cement business and is now one of the firm of Meyers & Luers, which is engaged in the manufacture of curbing, gutters, cement blocks and also does cement ornamental work. They take contracts for sidewalks and have also taken contracts for cement work outside of Columbus. They thoroughly understand cement construction and have built up a good business in that line.

In 1876 Mr. Luers was united in marriage to Miss Gesiene Kunnemann, a native of Oldenburg, Germany, and a daughter of Henry Kunnemann. The latter, an agriculturist by occupation, emigrated to the United States in 1869 and settled in Shell Creek township, Platte county, Nebraska, where he took up a homestead claim. He was a Lutheran in religious faith and took an active part in the work of his church. Mr. and Mrs. Luers have five children, as follows: Adolph, a resident of Columbus, who is identified with the Building & Loan Association and is connected with the Becher, Hockenberger & Chambers Company; Elwina, who is a graduate of the University of Chicago, Drake University and the Nebraska State Normal School at Peru and is now a teacher in the kindergarten department of the Nebraska Normal College at Wayne; Emma, who is a graduate of the Nebraska State Normal School at Peru and is now the wife of Edward Loseke, an agriculturist, by whom she has three children; Walter, who pursued a course in the Columbus high school and the Columbus Commercial College and is now a bank cashier residing in Glenville, Nebraska; and Elsa, who is a graduate of the Nebraska Normal College at Wayne and now follows the profession of teaching in Osceola, Nebraska. All of the children are graduates of the Columbus high school, it having been Mr. Luers' aim in life to give his children good educational opportunities and thus fit them for practical and responsible duties.

In his political views he has always been a democrat and for seven years filled the office of street commissioner, making an excellent record in that connection by his able public service. He belongs to the Lutheran church and has guided his life according to its teachings. Diligence and determination have ever been numbered

among his salient characteristics and his has been a creditable career, for from early youth he has been dependent upon his own resources and has employed straightforward methods to win success, his course at all times bearing close investigation and scrutiny.

CLEMENS WEMHOFF.

Clemens Wemhoff, who owns a well improved farm of two hundred and thirty-four acres in Grand Prairie township, was born in Westphalia, Germany, on the 21st of September, 1856. When nineteen years of age he emigrated to the United States and after spending two years in Winneshiek county, Iowa, he removed to Platte county, Nebraska, where he has since remained. Following his marriage he purchased forty acres of land from his father-in-law and subsequently bought a quarter section from him. The land at that time was raw prairie and not only every fence and building but also every tree that stands on it at the present time have been placed there by Mr. Wemhoff. He now owns two hundred and thirty-four acres of land which he has brought to a high state of cultivation, and he derives a good profit from the operation of his place.

Mr. Wemhoff was married in February, 1882, to Miss Victoria Wieser, a native of Austria and a daughter of August and Marie Wieser, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. Thirteen of the children born to this union survive: John, who is married and lives in Idaho; Mary, the wife of Stephen Foltz, of Grand Prairie township; Alois, who is married and resides in Idaho; Josephine, the wife of Anton Hanna, of Humphrey township; Victoria, who married Christ Greisen; and William, Clara, Theresa, Susie, Matilda, Albert, George and Clemens, all at home.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Roman Catholic church and Mr. Wemhoff gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. His enterprise, public spirit and integrity have gained him the respect of his fellow citizens.

REV. ERNST C. G. HOLM.

The Rev. Ernst C. G. Holm, pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran church, has ministered to his present charge in Grand Prairie township since the fall of 1888 and during those years the church has grown steadily in numbers and in strength. A native of Prussia, Germany, his birth occurred on the 11th of December, 1861. His parents, Anton and Wilhelmina Holm, were likewise natives of Germany, the former of whom died in St. Louis in 1872 and the latter in 1866 of cholera. Three brothers of our subject also died of the dread disease, all passing away within a week.

Rev. Holm was brought to the United States in 1868 and attended the public schools of St. Louis for five years, after which he was a student in Concordia College at Fort Wayne, Indiana, for six years. Subsequently he pursued his theological study in the Concordia Seminary at St. Louis, where he graduated in 1885 after completing a three years' course. His first charge was at Scotia, Greeley county,

Nebraska, and he remained there three years, becoming pastor of the Evangelical church in Grand Prairie township, this county, in 1888. At that time there were twenty-five voting members in the congregation, but there are now seventy-two. The growth in numbers has been paralleled by the growth of the congregation in influence, and Rev. Holm has proved an efficient leader in the moral advancement of the community. For fifteen years he taught the parochial school for four days a week, and for many years he also filled pulpits in Creston and Humphrey, his many duties leaving him no time for leisure. He is devoted to his work and has always thought rather of the good that he could do than of his personal comfort or convenience.

Rev. Holm was married in July, 1889, to Miss Clara Estel, who was born in St. Louis, March 14, 1867. They have become the parents of eleven children: Eunice, the wife of H. Rabeler, of Leigh; Irene; Elsie; Hilda; Bruno, who is attending St. Paul's College at Concordia, Missouri; Ruth; Herbert; Esther; Alexander; Clara, and Ernst, Jr.

Rev. Holm is a democrat and takes a keen interest in public affairs as he believes it to be the duty of every good citizen to do his share in making the government efficient and righteous. During the many years that he has been at his present charge he has won the entire confidence and loyalty of his people and also the esteem and respect of those of other religious denominations.

MARTIN KARGES, Jr.

One of the attractive farm properties of Butler township is that owned by Martin Karges, Jr., on section 19. He well deserves the proud American title of a self-made man, for he started out empty handed, having neither wealth nor influential friends to aid him at the outset of his career, but depending entirely upon his own labor and resources. Today he is one of the extensive land holders of the county, his possessions aggregating fourteen hundred acres. Such a record may well serve as an example to young men who desire to win success along honorable lines.

Mr. Karges is a native of Baden, Germany, born November 12, 1865, and he came to the United States with his mother and her parents in the year 1867, the family home being established in Wisconsin, where they remained for two years. In 1869 they arrived in Platte county, Nebraska, and through the intervening period to the present time, or for a period of forty-six years, Mr. Karges has remained a resident of this county. He began earning his living when but ten years of age, herding cattle for a wage of four dollars per month, thus working for seven years. His educational privileges were extremely limited. He attended school in a little sod building which had no windows, and in the winter a fire was built in the center of the floor. Blocks of wood served for stools and desks and the methods of instruction were almost as primitive as the building, but later he had the opportunity of spending a winter in school in Columbus. His training at farm labor, however, was not meager and his youth was a period of earnest, unremitting toil. He early realized that only industry would bring him success and he began to save his earnings, living frugally and economically until he was able to purchase a farm. When twenty-four years of age he first invested in property, becoming the owner of forty acres, and later he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in the sand hills. To his original

purchases he kept adding from time to time as his financial resources increased and favorable opportunity presented. As each tract was added he kept on the work of improvement, converting it into well tilled fields or using it for other farming purposes. In time he became the owner of fourteen hundred acres and today he has a very valuable property, on which is seen a beautiful farm residence, substantial barns and outbuildings, well kept fences and the latest improved farm machinery.

Mr. Karges has been married twice, his first wife being Amelia, daughter of John and Anna Schulz, whom he wedded January 27, 1891, and who passed away on the 20th of January, 1896, after a brief but happy married life of about five years. There were two children of that marriage: Anna, who died in infancy; and Eva, who is a telephone operator at Duncan. In July, 1898, Mr. Karges was again married, his second union being with Celia Weleciek, and they have become parents of seven children: Francis, Adam, Lucy, Celia, Martha, Martin and Mary. All are yet under the parental roof, as is Frank, a stepson of Mr. Karges.

In religious belief Mr. Karges is a Catholic and he holds membership with the Knights of Columbus and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. For nineteen years he has served as school director in his district and he drew the plans for the No. 8 schoolhouse, which is a beautiful cement block structure. He advocates good educational opportunities whereby children may be fitted for life's practical and responsible duties, and he stands for progress and improvement along many lines. That this spirit actuates him is evident in the highly improved appearance of his farm with its well tilled fields, its good pasture lands, its splendid modern buildings and its high grade stock. His business record is indeed creditable and shows what may be accomplished when there is a will to dare and to do.

ADOLPH LIEBIG.

Adolph Liebig, who carries on general farming on section 25, Lost Creek township, where he has two hundred acres of good farm land, is one of the native sons of Platte county, his birth having occurred in Shell Creek township on the 3d of March, 1878. He is the fourth in order of birth in a family of eight children, whose parents were Joseph and Mary (Wagner) Liebig. The mother has passed away, but the father is now living near Platte Center.

The common-school system of the county afforded Adolph Liebig his educational privileges, which he improved in his youthful days by attending school through the winter seasons, while the summer months were devoted to farm work. He continued to assist his father in the cultivation and improvement of the home farm until he reached the age of twenty-five years, and for the past twelve years he has been farming on his own account, concentrating his efforts upon the development and improvement of his place of two hundred acres on section 25, Lost Creek township. He carefully tills his fields and in addition to grain production he is winning success as a stock-raiser, handling shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. He is likewise a stockholder in the Monroe Independent Telephone Company. In 1913 he built a large modern residence upon his place, it being one of the attractive homes of his part of the county. In fact, all of the equipment of his farm is thoroughly modern

and up-to-date and is indicative of his progressive spirit and his efforts to keep in touch with modern advancement.

On the 19th of May, 1903, Mr. Liebig was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Schumacher, also a native of Platte county and a daughter of Henry and Margaret (Klien) Schumacher, old-time residents of Burrows township. Mr. and Mrs. Liebig are now parents of six children: Linda, Evelyn, Elizabeth, Adolph, Ferdinand and Carroll. The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church and Mr. Liebig is also identified with the Catholic Order of Foresters. His political faith is that of the democratic party, but he does not seek nor desire office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, in which he is meeting with well merited and substantial success.

CHARLES E. CHAPIN.

Charles E. Chapin is the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and forty acres near Oconee and leads a busy life in the further development and improvement of that property, giving his attention to general farming and to the raising of hogs. Iowa claims him as a native son, his birth having occurred at Council Bluffs on the 12th of January, 1858. He was brought to Nebraska in 1860 by his parents, Adolph and Laura Chapin, and for four years thereafter the family lived upon a rented farm which the father carefully cultivated. In 1864 he started to drive across the country to California, journeying as far as Utah, when he gave up the trip. He then returned to Platte county and secured a homestead claim of eighty acres, after which he carried on general agricultural pursuits until his death on the 24th of August, 1880.

Charles E. Chapin acquired his education in the schools of Columbus and when his textbooks were put aside secured employment in the Clothier Hotel. In 1874 he was employed by the government to assist in preparing quarters for the Pawnee Indians and acted as a courier for four years. In 1879 he went to western Nebraska for Major North and there worked on a cattle ranch for about a year. In 1880 he engaged in buying mules, which he shipped to Colorado, and assisted in constructing the Colorado Central Railroad from Julesburg, Colorado, to South Platte. When that task was completed he returned to this county and purchased eighty acres of land, since which time he has extended the boundaries of his farm to include one hundred and forty acres of rich and arable land, upon which he carries on general farming and also makes a specialty of raising fine hogs, his labors bringing him a substantial financial return annually.

On the 2d of February, 1882, Mr. Chapin was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Jane Wood, who was born in Wisconsin, September 15, 1860, her parents being James A. and Betsy Wood. Mr. and Mrs. Chapin have two children, namely: Bertha, the wife of H. L. Stires, of Baltimore, Maryland, by whom she has a son, Carroll Chapin, who was born October 13, 1913; and Mildred, who is a resident of Omaha.

Mr. Chapin votes with the republican party and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He has served as township clerk and as road supervisor and at all times is ready to respond to any call of citizenship that is made

upon him. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp and his life is guided by the teachings of the Presbyterian church, of which he is a faithful member. He has worked earnestly and persistently since starting out in life on his own account and whatever success he has achieved is the reward of his own labors. He is familiar with every phase of pioneer life in Nebraska from the days of early Indian occupancy and can relate many interesting incidents concerning Platte county when it was upon the frontier. As the years have passed he has borne his share in the work of development and is accounted one of the worthy and substantial citizens of his community.

ANTHONY EISENMENGER.

Anthony Eisenmenger, a well known stockman and farmer of Burrows township, owner of the Locust Grove Stock Farm, employs most progressive methods in carrying on his business affairs and energy and industry are bringing him to success. He was born in Peoria county, Illinois, March 29, 1861, a son of Peter and Theresa (Reinhart) Eisenmenger, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Alsace-Lorraine, Germany. Throughout his entire life Peter Eisenmenger followed farming, while his father, who bore the same name, was a saloon keeper and hotel proprietor in the old country. On coming to the United States, however, he took up farming in Pennsylvania. He had five children, namely: Peter, who became the father of our subject; Joseph, a retired farmer residing in Anthon, Iowa; Mrs. Elizabeth Hesendentz, who is deceased; Mrs. Margaret Best, a resident of Kickapoo, Peoria county, Illinois; and Mrs. Mary Reinhart, who has passed away.

In the Keystone state Peter Eisenmenger, Jr., attended the public schools and afterward worked upon his father's place until he reached the age of seventeen years, when he made his way westward to Peoria county, Illinois, where he rented land and engaged in farming. Later he removed to Champaign county, Illinois, where he purchased land and carried on general agricultural pursuits until death ended his labors on the 12th of July, 1913. He had become the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of rich and arable land in Illinois and also had a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Minnesota. His wife died in the former state in 1868. To them were born six children, as follows: Anthony, of this review; Frank, an agriculturist of Sherburn, Minnesota; Joseph, also a farmer of that place; Peter, who is engaged in farming in Granville township, Platte county; Mary, who died at the age of two years; and Wendell, who passed away when six weeks old. Having lost his first wife, the father married again, his second union being with Miss Mary Meister, a daughter of John Meister, of Woodford county, Illinois, whom he wedded in the spring of 1869 and who yet survives her husband, living on the old home place in Pesotum township, Champaign county, Illinois. They became the parents of eleven children, as follows: John, who is a resident of Sherburn, Minnesota; George, living in Humphrey; Mrs. Kate Laley, of Douglas county, Illinois; Michael, deceased; Otto, who died at the age of thirty-four years; Mrs. Anna Kelly, who makes her home in Mattoon, Illinois; Mrs. Abbie Riemke, of Pesotum, Illinois; William, a resident of Pesotum, Illinois; Charles, of



ANTHONY EISENMENGER AND FAMILY

Champaign county, Illinois; Leo, also a resident of Champaign county, Illinois; and Frederick, who died at the age of three months.

Anthony Eisenmenger is indebted to the public-school system of Champaign county, Illinois, for the educational opportunities which he enjoyed. His youthful days were spent under the parental roof and when he attained his majority he began farming on his own account, renting eighty acres of land which he thus continued to cultivate for five years, at the end of which time he purchased the property, having carefully saved his earnings until his capital was sufficient to enable him to make the investment. The year 1891 witnessed his arrival in Platte county, at which time he took up his abode on the farm where he now resides on section 1, Burrows township, becoming owner of two hundred and forty acres which he today cultivates. In 1910 he erected a fine residence in attractive style of architecture and modern in every way. He has engaged in breeding full blooded shorthorn cattle since 1903 and feeds both cattle and hogs. His live-stock interests constitute an important branch of his business, bringing to him substantial financial return. He devotes his entire time to farming and stock-raising but is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Humphrey, which he aided in organizing.

On February 16, 1886, Mr. Eisenmenger was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie Schelkopf, a daughter of John and Walburga (Heiermeier) Schelkopf, both of whom were natives of Bavaria. They passed away in Peoria county, Illinois, where the father had been successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits. Mr. and Mrs. Eisenmenger are the parents of nine children, namely: Rose, the wife of Joseph M. Brockhaus, a farmer of Granville township, by whom she has a son, Gerald; Cecelia Mary, who is employed as a clerk in the Braun & Brockhaus store of Humphrey; Bertha, who is a teacher in the Tarnov public school; Theresa, who attends school in Kearney, Nebraska; and Rita, Regina, Mark, Esther and Romana, all at home.

All of the family are members of St. Francis Catholic church of Humphrey, and Mr. Eisenmenger belongs to the Knights of Columbus and to the Catholic Order of Foresters at Humphrey. He is also a member of St. Joseph's Men's Society of his church. In politics he is independent and the only office that he has ever filled has been that of justice of the peace in Burrows township for one term. He has always preferred to devote his entire time to farming and stock-raising and in that connection has so directed his efforts that he has met with substantial and growing success, being now one of the leading farmers of Burrows township.

AUGUST F. SWANSON.

August F. Swanson is the proprietor of Fairview Farm, a very desirable property situated on section 26, Monroe township. The place comprises one hundred and sixty acres of land naturally rich and arable and its productiveness has been enhanced through the capable efforts of the owner, who is a farsighted and enterprising business man. Mr. Swanson was born in Helsingborg, Sweden, January 2, 1856, and is now the only surviving member of his father's family. His parents were Carl and Nellie (Anderson) Swanson and both passed away in 1868. Of

their children, Carl and Anna came to the new world before their brother August and established their home in Nebraska City, where both passed away.

August F. Swanson obtained a common-school education. He was only twelve years of age when his father died and the following year he began providing for his own support. He went to sea as a sailor and served on fourteen different ships, visiting China, East India and the west coast of South America, being an able seaman. That life brought him valuable experience and wide knowledge concerning different countries, their peoples and modes of life.

It was in the year 1878 that August F. Swanson arrived in the new world, leaving his vessel at Wilmington, North Carolina, whence he proceeded to New York and from that point made his way direct to Nebraska City, his brother and sister having already become residents of that place. For a year he worked as a farm hand for an uncle near Dunbar, but was anxious to engage in business for himself and bought eighty acres of land in Otoe county, near Dunbar. He did not locate thereon, however, until 1882, spending the preceding years at work as a section hand and as a farm hand, his time being divided between the two kinds of labor. After taking up his abode upon his farm in 1882 he remained there for thirteen years and wrought a marked transformation in its appearance by his methods of cultivating the fields and by the improvements which he put upon the place. He then removed to Platte county and settled on section 26, Monroe township, where he now has one hundred and sixty acres of land which he calls Fairview Farm—a place well named, for he has an excellent view of the surrounding country and looks out over his own well tilled fields and excellent farm improvements, which make his place one of the desirable farm properties of the township. He raises mule-foot hogs and keeps on hand good grades of other stock. He has a large orchard and in a word his farm is one of the valuable and attractive properties in that part of the county. Aside from his agricultural interests, Mr. Swanson is a stockholder in the Monroe Independent Telephone Company and the Farmers Elevator Company of Monroe.

On the 17th of March, 1884, Mr. Swanson was united in marriage to Miss Christina Johnson, of Nebraska City, Nebraska. Her parents were John and Christina Johnson, neither of whom ever came to America. To this union have been born ten children, five of whom survive, namely: Fred, Lilly, Alice, Mabel and August.

Mr. Swanson is independent in politics and has never been an office seeker. He belongs to the Lutheran church and is interested in the moral progress of the community. In a word, he stands for all that is best for the individual and for the commonwealth and his influence is always on the side of right and order. In business he has displayed a most progressive spirit and at all times has followed a course which has made him most highly respected.

FRANK WILLIAM SCHOLZ.

Working along well defined lines of labor and placing his dependence upon the safe, substantial qualities of industry and determination, Frank William Scholz has gained a place among the representative business men of Platte county, being now engaged in the general hardware trade at Duncan. He has always lived in this

county, his birth having occurred in Loup township on the 20th of September, 1879, his parents being John and Anna (Olbrich) Scholz. His early education was acquired in District No. 16, Butler township, and later he continued his course in the parochial schools of Duncan. When his textbooks were put aside he began learning the carpenter's trade, which he followed for about fifteen years, displaying excellent workmanship and becoming recognized as one of the foremost builders of the district. In the spring of 1904 he went to Pierce, this state, but in 1913 he returned to Duncan and purchased the hardware store of W. H. Thomas, and he now conducts a general hardware business, dealing also in paints and oils. His trade has grown rapidly and he has won a well earned reputation for enterprise and thorough reliability.

On the 9th of May, 1905, Mr. Scholz was united in marriage to Miss Emma Ida Engle, who was born in Duncan, October 9, 1880. They have two children, namely: Milton Frank, whose birth occurred in June, 1906; and Clarence, whose natal day was October 22, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Scholz hold membership in the Methodist church and guide their lives according to its teachings. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, while in politics he is an earnest republican, believing firmly in the principles of the party. At all times it has been a recognized fact that his cooperation and aid could be counted upon to further measures and movements for the public good. He has served as school director in District No. 7 and when the town was incorporated in May, 1913, he was elected its first mayor. In April, 1915, he was reelected to the office, so that he is the present incumbent in the position. He is likewise president of the Duncan volunteer fire department and in managing public affairs he displays the same interest and fidelity and the same spirit of enterprise and progress which characterize the conduct of his individual interests. He is making a most excellent record in office and well merits the high regard which is so uniformly tendered him.

JACOB MADURA.

Jacob Madura, whose home is pleasantly situated on section 26, Loup township, where he is engaged in general farming and stock-raising, was born in Austria in 1857. His father, John Madura, was a farmer of that country. Jacob Madura worked for his father until he reached the age of twenty-seven years, when, attracted by the opportunities of the new world, he decided to try his fortune on this side of the Atlantic. Bidding adieu to friends and native country, he sailed for America and made his way to Columbus, Nebraska, where for five years he was in the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad Company. At the end of that time he secured employment at farm labor by the month, but after a time left Platte county for Omaha, where he continued for three years, employed in a packing house. He then returned to this county and with the money which he had saved from his earnings purchased two hundred and eighty acres of land. He has since bent his energies to the development and improvement of the place, which, in its neat and thrifty appearance, indicates his careful supervision and practical and progressive methods. He carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes and his diligence and energy have constituted the basis of his growing success.

On September 25, 1889, occurred the marriage of Mr. Madura and Miss Sophia Kusrak, a daughter of George Kusrak, and to them have been born the following children: Julia, now deceased; Balinda, living in Omaha; John, who has also passed away; and Mary, Alvin, Elenora, Felemona, Joseph, Alfán, Julia and Michael, all yet at home.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church, of which Mr. Madura has been a lifelong communicant. He votes with the democratic party, for his study of the political issues and situation has led him to the belief that the best interests of the country would be promoted by the adoption of its principles. He has never taken an active part in politics, however, but has concentrated his energies upon his business affairs and thus has gained a fair measure of success in the conduct of his farm.

E. T. GRAHAM.

E. T. Graham, residing on section 12, Humphrey township, is perhaps the wealthiest man in this part of the country, now owning and cultivating ten hundred and forty acres of valuable land in Humphrey and Creston townships. The period of his residence in Platte county covers forty-four years, for it was in 1871 that he took up a homestead claim in Humphrey township. His birth occurred in Prince Edward Island on the 20th of February, 1845, his parents being John and Ann (Bernard) Graham, likewise natives of Prince Edward Island. The father, an agriculturist by occupation, removed to Wisconsin at an early day and in that state purchased land which he cultivated during the remainder of his life.

E. T. Graham was reared and educated in the Badger state and remained under the parental roof until twenty-five years of age. During the period of the Civil war he had served for one year as a member of the Forty-second Wisconsin Infantry. In 1867 he bought a tract of land, which he cultivated for a few years or until 1871, when he came to Platte county, Nebraska, taking up a homestead claim in Humphrey township. This he improved and as time passed on and his financial resources increased, owing to his well directed industry and capable management, he augmented his holdings by purchase until they now embrace ten hundred and forty acres, although he has sold some of his land. His property lies in sections 12 and 13, Humphrey township, and section 7, Creston township, and his agricultural interests are conducted in a manner that brings him a most gratifying income annually. In connection with the production of cereals he feeds about thirty car loads of cattle and seven hundred hogs each year. He is likewise the vice president of the Citizens State Bank of Creston and has long been numbered among the influential and leading citizens of the county.

On the 22d of December, 1869, Mr. Graham was united in marriage to Miss Laura B. Morris, a daughter of Thomas and Mary A. (Todd) Morris, who were natives of Virginia and Kentucky respectively. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, removed to Wisconsin at an early day and there successfully carried on agricultural pursuits during the remainder of his life, passing away in 1879, when seventy years of age. His widow long survived, her demise occurring in June, 1914, when she had attained the remarkable age of ninety-five years. Mr.

and Mrs. Graham are the parents of seven children, as follows: James, who is a resident of Wyoming; Lola B., who is the wife of E. H. Farnsley and lives in Kansas; Elmer T., at home; Marshall, living in Wyoming; Anna, the wife of H. W. Luedtke, who is a banker of Creston; Leila, the wife of S. E. Ewing, who is engaged in the drug business at Creston; and Mary, who gave her hand in marriage to C. L. Galbraith, of Beemer, Nebraska.

Politically Mr. Graham is a staunch republican, exercising his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of that party. His religious faith is that of the Methodist church, the teachings of which he exemplifies in his daily conduct. Throughout his life he has manifested qualities which have won for him high regard, which have gained for him success in business and which have established him as one of the prominent and respected citizens of Platte county.

J. H. DRINNIN.

J. H. Drinnin is a resident farmer of Columbus township, his home being on section 3, where he now has two hundred and forty acres of rich and productive land. He bought one hundred and sixty acres of this place in 1882, paying ten dollars per acre and having ten years in which to make the payments. Today the property is worth many times that sum owing to the settlement of the county, which has created a demand for land, and also owing to the excellent improvements which he has placed upon it.

Mr. Drinnin was born in a log cabin in Stark county, Illinois, August 5, 1844, and from the experiences of his boyhood as well as of later years he has become thoroughly familiar with the different phases of pioneer life. His parents, John and Christine (Acker) Drinnin, were both of foreign birth. The father, a native of Queens county, Ireland, was born in 1812, while the mother was born on the Rhine, in Germany, in 1814. John Drinnin had no educational opportunities, but that he possessed the ambition to improve his condition is indicated by the fact that he came to the United States, having heard favorable reports concerning business opportunities in the new world. He worked with several yoke of oxen on the grading and construction of the Erie Railroad and in 1843 went from Buffalo to Chicago by boat and thence drove with two yoke of oxen and a wagon to Stark county, Illinois, which was then a pioneer district. He had to travel an entire day to find a dozen families and the work of development and improvement seemed scarcely begun there. He had purchased one hundred and sixty acres of timber land on Spoon river, which he traded for eighty acres of prairie and then turned the first furrows upon that tract, broke the sod and planted the seed. He built a house of white oak and while there residing was greatly annoyed by the Indians in the early days. He was truly a pioneer settler and took an active and helpful part in all affairs pertaining to the upbuilding and settlement of the district. In politics he was an active democrat and in religious faith a devout Catholic, holding membership in the church at Wyoming. He died in 1881, while his widow survived until 1903.

J. H. Drinnin was the third of their children and he pursued his education while sitting on a slab bench in one of the old-time log schoolhouses. He lived upon the home farm in Stark county to the age of twenty-four, assisting his father in the work

of the fields, and then turned his attention to the trades of plastering and bricklaying, which he followed for some thirteen years, both as an employe and as a contractor. He was also active in the affairs of the county and entered most earnestly in Sunday-school work, teaching in three Sunday schools which were held in schoolhouses.

Hoping to benefit by a removal to the west, he arrived in Columbus on the 28th of February, 1883, having purchased his present farm on the 12th of June, 1882. All was open prairie between his place and Columbus and only about six families lived in the vicinity. The purchase price was ten dollars, but he was allowed ten years in which to make payment. After he had paid car fare and the other expenses of the journey west he had two hundred and sixty-five dollars remaining. He broke the prairie and began the development of the home farm, making progress, although he had to overcome many difficulties and obstacles. On the 13th of July, 1883, his crops were entirely destroyed by hail and this and other conditions brought on very hard times. After the hail he began working on the second ward school in Columbus and was thus employed until the 15th of December, 1883. He also did the mason work on the homes of J. P. Biehers and Charles Speice and by such labor he eked out his income and was thus able to tide over the difficult days before his farm became productive. He is now the owner of two hundred and forty acres of rich and valuable land in Platte county and is also interested in land in Holt county, Nebraska, and in Illinois. He has a fine large orchard upon his place and specializes in the production of Wolfe River apples, Baldwins and Jonathans. His place is known as the Home Farm and is now one of the attractive properties of Columbus township, equipped with all modern accessories and improvements. He is still directing the work of the fields and keeps abreast of the times in every particular. He brought Knoxville corn from Illinois and crossed that with Leaming, the result being Read's Yellow Dent corn. This he crossed with Gold Dust, which makes an unusually nice clean early yellow corn. He is now largely producing this corn, having an extensive sale in his home locality, while in California he is represented by agents who ship to neighboring states. Mr. Drinnin personally gives his supervision to the sale and shipment of his seed corn and this branch of his business is a profitable one.

On the 2d of September, 1868, Mr. Drinnin was joined in wedlock to Miss Harriett L. Pomeroy, who was born in Vermont in 1846 and died March 2, 1901. She possessed many admirable traits of heart and mind, was very active in neighborhood Sunday-school work and her beautiful Christian character endeared her to all who knew her. She was a daughter of Elijah and Catherine Pomeroy, natives of Vermont, where the father followed carpentering until he removed westward to Stark county, Illinois, and there engaged in farming from 1870 until his death. He was a very active and earnest member of the Methodist church, in which he served as deacon, and he took a helpful interest in all the progressive and beneficial affairs of his community. To Mr. and Mrs. Drinnin were born five children: Samuel P., who is engaged in agricultural pursuits near Home Farm, is married and has four children whom he has brought up himself and who are a great credit to him. Eliza is the wife of Burt Stevenson, who has a farm of eighty acres in Colfax county, and their children are six in number. George and Evelyn remain upon the Home Farm. Plessie is the wife of Henry Yonkie, a farmer of Colfax county, by whom she has two sons.

Mr. Drinnin has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows since 1878. He gives his political allegiance to the democratic party, of which he is an

active supporter. He has served as town clerk, as township treasurer and as justice of the peace and, in fact, is active in all affairs relating to the upbuilding and progress of his community. He attends the Congregational church and his influence is ever on the side of right, truth, reform and progress. He keeps well informed on current events and is abreast of the times in every particular, being a most energetic and progressive citizen, alive to every interest that affects the community. He deserves much credit for what he has accomplished as he started out empty handed, depending entirely upon his own resources for his advancement and his success.

NELS PEARSON.

Nels Pearson, of Monroe township, who has won gratifying success as a farmer and stock-raiser, was born in the northern part of Jemtland, Sweden, December 8, 1861, a son of Andrew and Sarah (Nelson) Pearson, the former of whom was born in central Sweden in 1821. In April, 1882, he left his native land and emigrated to the United States, making his way to the middle west and remaining for a time near Des Moines, Iowa. Subsequently he removed to Monroe township, Platte county, Nebraska, and bought one hundred and forty-four acres of land, for which he paid five dollars per acre for eighty acres and twelve dollars and a half per acre for the remainder. In addition to farming he devoted some time to carpentering during his active life and his well directed labor enabled him to gain financial independence. He passed away about 1890. His wife was born in central Sweden in 1840 and is now living in Genoa, Nebraska. She still owns the old homestead, which is well improved and in a high state of cultivation.

Nels Pearson attended the common schools of Sweden for about five years and subsequently worked as a farm hand. In 1882 he accompanied his parents to the United States and for the first year thereafter assisted his father in the development of the home farm. He then worked on the farms of others for three years, after which he was again on the homestead for a year. In 1887 he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 21, Monroe township, and later he bought an additional eighty acres, all of which he still owns. He raises graded Red Polled cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs, and the sale of his stock nets him a good profit annually. He also grows the usual crops and employs improved methods and machinery in his work.

On the 7th of May, 1887, Mr. Pearson was married to Miss Christina Peterson, who was born in Kewanee, Illinois, September 18, 1867, a daughter of Louis and Katherine (Person) Peterson. Her parents emigrated from northern Sweden to America in 1867 and first located in Kewanee, Illinois, where they remained until 1869. In that year they came to Platte county, Nebraska, and homesteaded eighty acres of land on section 3, Oconee township, which the father farmed for about thirteen years. He then sold that place and purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Monroe township. He went to Columbus to buy lumber with which to make contemplated improvements on his farm and coming back fell from the wagon and broke his neck. He was but forty-seven years of age when his life was thus tragically ended, and he was survived by his wife for many years, her demise occurring in 1912 when she was seventy-seven years old. Mr. and Mrs. Pearson have

two sons: Lawrence, born October 13, 1903, and Edmund, born July 8, 1906, both of whom are attending school.

Mr. Pearson is a democrat but has never taken a very active part in politics. He is an influential member of the Swedish Methodist church and is at present serving as an exhorter, as a Sunday school teacher and as steward. He furthers in every way possible the influence of the church and contributes generously to its support. His upright life and regard for the rights of others has gained him the high esteem of all who have come in contact with him.

PETER KOZLOWSKI.

With various features of business and public life in Platte county Peter Kozlowski has been identified but is now living retired in Duncan. He was born in West Prussia, September 11, 1847, a son of Joseph and Anna (Deia) Kozlowski, who were also natives of Prussia. Throughout his entire life the father followed the occupation of farming and his place was considered one of the large farms of the neighborhood. Upon it he raised good stock and he carefully conducted his business affairs to the time of his death, which occurred when he was forty-two years of age. He was prominent in the community and served as justice of the peace in his native village. He belonged to the Rosary Society of the Catholic church and his wife was a communicant of the same church. She passed away at the age of thirty-eight years.

Peter Kozlowski was the second in a family of six children. His youngest brother came to the United States but Peter could not locate him. After attending the common schools of his native country Peter Kozlowski continued his education in an academy at Palpleen. He afterward began teaching in the Royal Teachers School at Graudenz and followed that profession for fifteen years. At length he determined to try his fortune in the new world and, crossing the Atlantic to the United States, made his way to Omaha, where he arrived July 27, 1885. On the 9th of June, 1886, he reached Duncan, after having been employed for about a year as collector for an Omaha brewery. In September, 1886, he established the first parochial school in Butler township, Platte county, where he continued teaching for about two years. In 1888 he engaged in merchandising, in which business he continued for twenty-six years. He also conducted an insurance and real-estate agency and sold all the lots in Duncan for the railroad company. As a merchant he occupied an enviable position among the leading representatives of business activity in his part of the state.

Mr. Kozlowski has also been prominent in other connections. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party, of which he is an earnest supporter, and for twelve years he filled the office of postmaster of Duncan. He was also township treasurer for six years, was township clerk for several years and for the past six years has filled the office of justice of the peace, in which he is the present incumbent. Because of his education he has been called upon to assist all the early Polish settlers in the conduct of their business enterprises. He is a man of sound judgment and his cooperation has been a helpful element in promoting individual prosperity and in advancing the general welfare of the community.

In 1877 Mr. Kozlowski was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Klatt, a native of

West Prussia and a daughter of Rudolph and Anna Klatt. The father acted as overseer and inspector of a large country estate and served in the army. In later life he became a real-estate agent and notary public in Liebsau, Prussia, and was an active man of affairs. His religious faith was that of the Lutheran church. Mr. and Mrs. Kozlowski have nine living children. Sister Concordia is a sister in St. Anthony's school of Columbus, Nebraska. Clara gave her hand in marriage to Leo Broviak, a traveling salesman residing in Norfolk, Nebraska, by whom she has three daughters. Monica is the wife of Edward Melkus, of Norfolk, Nebraska, who is the freight agent of the Union Pacific Railway and by whom she has one son. Alexander, who holds the position of pay clerk on the United States ship South Dakota, has been in the service of the navy for fourteen years, beginning as a yeoman and winning steady promotion. He is married and has two daughters. Valeria is the wife of Winfred Hartford, a carpenter living in Silver Creek, Nebraska, by whom she has two children. Elizabeth became the wife of Frank Zybach, of Duncan, by whom she has one child. Theofield is employed as a weigher in the Union stock yards of Omaha. Joseph is with the Duncan Mercantile Company. Helen, who is still at home, will graduate from the Silver Creek high school in the spring of 1916.

In his religious faith Mr. Kozlowski is a Catholic. He owns and occupies a nice home in Duncan and is able to enjoy all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life because of his intense and well directed activity in business affairs in former years. His worth is widely acknowledged and he enjoys in large measure the respect and goodwill of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

REV. FRIEDRICH SPIEGEL.

The Rev. Friedrich Spiegel, pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran church in Grand Prairie township, has exerted a strong influence for righteousness. He was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, June 27, 1849, a son of Lenhardt and Magdalena Spiegel, both of whom passed their entire lives in the fatherland.

Friedrich Spiegel was educated in the Seminary of St. Chrischone at Basel, Switzerland, from which he was graduated in 1876. Subsequently he labored in the home mission field in Wurtemberg for three years, but in 1879 he came to America. During the first winter he had charge of several missions in the vicinity of Scribner, Nebraska, and in 1880 he organized a church at Plattsmouth, Cass county, and another near Berlin, Otoe county, of which he continued to serve as pastor for thirty-three years. At the time of the organization of the church there were but a few members but when he left for other fields the congregation was a strong one and the church was recognized as a powerful factor for good in the life of the community. His own zeal and sincere belief in the truths which he taught, combined with his effective presentation of the teachings of the church, enabled him to gain many new members, and his efficiency as an organizer and administrator insured the wise management of the affairs of the church. In 1888 a house of worship was erected and the church prospered under his pastorate both in spiritual and temporal matters. In 1913 he came to his present church in Grand Prairie township, Platte county, and his ability and sincerity have been plainly manifested. He is held in high esteem by all who know him and is recognized as a leader in religious circles.

Rev. Spriegel was married in October, 1879, to Miss Magdalena Brendle, who was born in 1858 in Germany and passed away in 1892. She was the mother of three children: Marie, at home; Martha, the wife of H. Young, of Avoca; and Helen, at home. In 1893 Rev. Spriegel was again married, Miss Wilhelmina Link becoming his wife. She was born in Wurtemberg in 1863 and died in 1910. To Rev. Spriegel's second union were born four children: Fred, deceased; Magdalena, the wife of Rev. M. Mortenson, of Liberty, Illinois; Agnes, who is attending Midland College in Atchison, Kansas; and Ernest, at home.

Rev. Spriegel is a republican in his political belief. He labors untiringly for the advancement of the church and has in full measure the confidence and cooperation of his congregation and also the respect of the community at large.

GERHARD G. LUESCHEN.

Gerhard G. Lueschen, who is successfully carrying on farming on section 17, Sherman township, was born November 24, 1840, in Oldenburg, Germany, a son of Henry Groteluschen and Kate Margaret (Kuhlmann) Lueschen, both now deceased. In 1859, when about nineteen years of age, he emigrated to America and, making his way to the middle west, settled at Mayville, Wisconsin, where he remained for twenty years. At the end of that time he came to Platte county, Nebraska, and bought a quarter section of railway land in Sherman township. He still resides upon that place, which he has farmed since it came into his possession, and in addition to raising the usual crops he devotes considerable attention to stock-raising. He has gained financial independence and owned at one time about seven hundred acres of land but since has disposed of all of his holdings, save his home farm of forty acres.

In November, 1866, Mr. Lueschen married Miss Margaret Kuehlmann, a native of Saxony, Germany, by whom he has five children: Edward, a farmer of Sherman township; William; Dr. A. G., of Columbus; Adolph, at home; and Annie, who died at the age of three years.

Mr. Lueschen votes the republican ticket and in religious faith is a German Lutheran. He is well known and highly esteemed in Platte county and throughout life has adhered to high standards of conduct.

HENRY G. LUESCHEN.

Henry G. Lueschen, who has for many years been identified with agricultural interests in Bismark township, is entitled to honor as a veteran of the Civil war, having proved his loyalty to his adopted land by enlisting for service in the Union army. He was born in Oldenburg, Germany, on the 7th of February, 1835, of the marriage of Henry and Kate Margaret (Kuhlman) Groteluschen, both now deceased. Owing to an error made by the army officials at the time of his enlistment, the name became officially Lueschen and it is by this name he and his brothers are now known. He remained in his native land until he was twenty-five years of



GERHARD G. LUESCHEN

HENRY G. LUESCHEN

HERMAN G. LUESCHEN

age and then, in 1860, emigrated to America, making his way to Mayville, Wisconsin. His sympathies were entirely with the north and accordingly at the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted in Company E, Third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He made an excellent record as a soldier, never faltering in the performance of his duty, and he is justly proud of the fact that he offered his life if need be to preserve the Union. During his military service he had many narrow escapes from death and can relate a great many interesting stories of army life.

In 1869 Mr. Lueschen came to Platte county, Nebraska, and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he at once began to improve and cultivate. He has since added eighty acres and his place, which is known as the Oldenburg Valley Stock Farm, is one of the valuable farm properties of Bismark township. His work has been well planned and his labors have returned to him a gratifying annual income so that he is now living largely retired.

In 1867 Mr. Lueschen was married to Miss Mary Brandes, who died in 1903 at the age of sixty-eight years. They were the parents of nine children, of whom five survive. Mr. Lueschen is a republican with independent tendencies, voting according to the dictates of his judgment when he believes that the public welfare will be best served by so doing. In times of peace he manifests the same devotion to the general good that in the '60s led to his enlisting in the Union army. He is a man of wide knowledge, as he has always read a great deal, and he also has the power of thinking independently, arriving at his own conclusions rather than blindly accepting the opinions of others. His religious faith is that of the German Lutheran church, and his life has always measured up to high standards of manhood.

VINCENT WIESER.

At the age of twenty-one years Vincent Wieser began farming for himself on section 17, Grand Prairie township, where he still makes his home. With the passing years he has won success and at one time was the owner of eight hundred acres of rich and valuable land in this county but has since divided with his children. He is a native of Austria, his birth having there occurred on the 14th of December, 1865, his parents being August and Mary (Kohler) Wieser. The father owned a farm in Austria and continued to make his home in that land until 1870, when, attracted by the favorable reports which he heard concerning business conditions and opportunities in the new world, he made his way to the United States, arriving in Madison, Wisconsin. He there bought eighty acres of land which he cultivated for about three years but in 1873 he made his way to Nebraska and established his home in what is now Grand Prairie township, Platte county. His farm was on section 8 and was an undeveloped and unimproved tract of land when it came into his possession. His first home was a sod house—one of the early primitive dwellings of the locality. Few improvements had been made in the entire township and there were many hardships and difficulties to be borne that are incident to pioneer life. He resolutely set to work to develop his land and after a time removed from section 8, where he had first taken up his abode, to section 17 of the same township, making that place

his home farm. To his holdings he added from time to time until he was the owner of six hundred and forty acres of valuable land which he brought to a high state of cultivation. He also built one of the first frame houses of the township and took the initial step along many lines in the way of making modern improvements. He was actuated at all times by the spirit of progress and upbuilding and deserved much credit for what he accomplished. He helped to organize the school district near his home and was also one of the charter members of St. Mary's Catholic church on section 5, Grand Prairie township and donated the land on which the church edifice was erected. He continued his residence upon the old home farm until death called him in 1905, when he was eighty-two years of age. His wife, who was born in 1824, passed away in 1897, and thus the community lost two of its worthy pioneer people.

Vincent Wieser was but five years of age when his parents brought their family to the new world and was a little lad of eight summers at the time of the removal to Nebraska. He attended school which was held in the home of John Brown on section 6, Grand Prairie township, afterward was a pupil in district school No. 30 and also for three months attended a sisters' school in Omaha. When twenty-one years of age he began farming on section 17, Grand Prairie township, where he still resides. He inherited two hundred acres of land from his father but he added to his holdings from time to time until he became the owner of eight hundred acres of valuable land, of which four hundred acres is situated on section 17. He has since divided with his children, giving farms to his boys, but still owns a valuable property from which he derives a gratifying annual income. His fields are carefully tilled and he has placed good improvements upon his land. He has ever manifested the spirit of modern progress and advancement that has characterized farm work and revolutionized methods of agricultural development. His farm presents a neat and well kept appearance and everything about his place is indicative of careful supervision. He is a director and vice president of the Farmers State Bank of Humphrey and one of the directors of the Farmers Elevator Company there. In addition to tilling the soil upon the home farm he raises stock and this constitutes an important and remunerative branch of his business.

On June 21, 1887, Mr. Wieser was united in marriage to Miss Mary Brockhaus, who was born near Green Bay, Wisconsin, a daughter of Gerhard and Gertrude Brockhaus, the former born in Hanover and the latter in Westphalia, Germany. Gerhard Brockhaus came to the United States when a youth of eighteen years and worked for a time as a laborer at Boston, Massachusetts. He afterward married and made his way to Wisconsin, where he carried on farming until 1875. He then came to Platte county, Nebraska, establishing his home on Grand Prairie, where he became the owner of a good farm. Later he removed to Humphrey township, where the remainder of his life was passed. He was an active and influential resident of his township, not only along agricultural lines but also in relation to public affairs. He served as assessor and tax collector for many years and was always loyal to his public duties and responsibilities. His religious belief was that of the Catholic church. Prospering in his undertakings he became the owner of seven hundred acres of land.

Mr. and Mrs. Wieser have become the parents of nine children, who are yet living: Mary, the wife of T. Wemhoff, a farmer of Grand Prairie township, by whom she has three children; Frank, who is farming one hundred and sixty acres of land, is married and has two children; John M., who is also engaged in the operation of one

hundred and sixty acres; and Henry, Agnes, Clara, Joseph, Barbara and Frances, who complete the family.

Mr. Wieser exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the democratic party but does not seek nor desire office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, in which he has won substantial and well merited success. He is, however, a very active member of St. Mary's Catholic church, doing all in his power to further its work and promote its growth. Almost his entire life has been passed in Platte county, where he has now lived for a period of forty-two years—a period that covers the greater part of the growth and development of this section, so that he is familiar with its history from pioneer times down to the present.

GEORGE WHITTAKER GALLEY.

George Whittaker Galley, a farmer residing on section 27, Columbus township, was born at the place where he now resides, September 6, 1863, and has therefore for more than a half century been a witness of the growth and development of this part of the state, which he has seen converted from a western pioneer district into a populous and prosperous region. His parents were George W. and Mary (Pyatt) Galley, both of whom were natives of Macclesfield, England, the former born in 1830 and the latter in 1828. In his native land the father worked as a weaver and afterward served a five years' apprenticeship to the trade of plumber and glazier. On the 10th of January, 1851, his twenty-first birthday, he sailed from Liverpool for the new world and after landing on American shores made his way to St. Louis, Missouri, where he later joined an emigrant train and went to Salt Lake City, Utah, being a Josephite Mormon. The trip was an exciting one, fraught with many interesting incidents, while at the same time the Indians were a constant menace. For several years he lived in Salt Lake City and then, retracing his steps eastward, took up his abode in Platte county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded on section 27, Columbus township. When the homestead law was repealed, he preempted one hundred and sixty acres and upon the tract built a log cabin. He began farming under the usual pioneer conditions, meeting all the hardships and privations incident to the establishment of a home on the western frontier, where the work of development and progress seemed scarcely begun. He was a very active and progressive man, these qualities being manifest not only in his business affairs but in his public relations. He carried on general farming and raised a large amount of stock for the size of his farm. He was also one of the founders of the Commercial National Bank of Columbus and was serving as a director at the time of his death. Ten years prior to his demise he retired from active business life, spending that decade in well earned ease. In his political views he was a republican and his religious faith was indicated in the active interest which he took in the work of the Mormon chapel during its existence in Columbus. He was instrumental in organizing school district No. 9 and served as one of its directors for many years. His entire life was actuated by a spirit of progress and advancement and his public service was a benefit to the community in which he lived. He died in Columbus in 1907, having long survived his wife, who passed away upon the farm in 1866.

George Whittaker Galley was the youngest of their children. He began his education at a school which was held in the home of his uncle, J. H. Galley, and afterward attended district school No. 9, in Columbus township. In the school of experience, too, he has learned many valuable lessons, becoming a well informed and most capable business man. He started out in life independently as a renter when twenty-three years of age and from his father he afterward inherited a farm, having now two hundred and twenty acres of land in Columbus township. He owns land in both Monroe and Oconee townships. He has made a specialty of feeding and shipping cattle and hogs and that branch of his business has become an important factor in his growing success. He is also a director of the Commercial National Bank of Columbus and is interested in many other business enterprises of the community, including farmers' elevators and the Fair Association. He became financially interested in farmers' elevators in order to assist in their successful establishment, and at all times his interest in the welfare of the community has been manifest in many tangible ways. As a stock-raiser he has made a specialty of handling Hereford cattle and has done not a little to improve the grade of stock raised in this part of the state.

On December 15, 1892, Mr. Galley was united in marriage to Miss Caroline E. Welch, also a native of this county and a daughter of Jonas Welch, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work, and to this union four children have been born, Clyde A., Edith C., Milton G. and Roy E.

Mr. Galley belongs to the Modern Woodman camp at Columbus. He has long been interested in educational progress in his community and has served as director of school district No. 9, Columbus township, for fifteen years. He stands at all times for progress and improvement but has never sought public office. His undivided attention has been given to his business affairs and his careful direction of his interests has led to his growing prosperity and at the same time he has cooperated in the development of business concerns which have aided materially in the prosperity of the community.

A. ED MATSON.

A. Ed Matson, residing on section 2, Oconee township, was for some years identified with commercial interests, but is now giving his attention to general agricultural pursuits, in which he displays good judgment and unflinching energy. He has lived in Platte county since 1871 but is a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred near Oneida, Henry county, that state, on the 1st of January, 1870, his parents being William and Martha (Wickblom) Matson. The father, a native of Sweden, died on the 28th of August, 1909. The mother, who was also born in the same country, has passed away.

Reared under the parental roof, A. Ed Matson acquired a common-school education and worked upon the home farm to the age of twenty-one years, when he started out in life on his own account. Through the intervening period he has largely been connected with commercial and agricultural pursuits in Platte county, although for a brief period he lived elsewhere. He opened the first hardware and implement store in Monroe in connection with A. N. Hollingshead, but after a year sold out, although

he continued to work for a year for his successor. At the end of that time he and his brother, Frank Matson, purchased the business, of which they remained proprietors for several years, conducting a well appointed hardware store and enjoying a liberal patronage. At the end of that time A. E. Matson returned to farm life, to which he devoted the ensuing seven years. He then established his home in Columbus, Nebraska, where he remained for a year, and on the expiration of that period removed to Pawnee City, Nebraska, where he was connected with the general mercantile house of Bogle Brothers for three and a half years. He afterward returned to the farm and is now living on section 2, Oconee township, where he carries on general agricultural pursuits in a capable, progressive manner, his fields annually returning to him substantial harvests.

On the 1st of October, 1892, Mr. Matson was married to Miss Mable Strother, and they have one child, Audrey. In politics Mr. Matson may be termed an independent republican, for, while he usually votes with the party, he does not feel himself bound by party ties and casts an independent ballot if he so desires. He has filled several local offices, including that of road supervisor. He has also been a member of the school board and treasurer of the cemetery association. Fraternally he is well known as a member of Interior Lodge, No. 9, I. O. O. F., of which he was treasurer for a number of years, and he also belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church and his has been a well spent life, in harmony with his professions. He has attractive social qualities which render him popular wherever he goes and he has gained many friends in this county.

ALBERT AERNI.

Albert Aerni is a representative of a prominent, old and well known family of Platte county. He makes his home on section 9, Columbus township, where he is engaged in general farming and stock-raising, his place being appropriately named the Valley View Farm. He was born in Canton Solothurn, Switzerland, September 16, 1875, his parents being Frank and Magdalena Aerni. The father is still living and is the owner of an excellent farm of three hundred and twenty acres on section 11, Columbus township. The history of his life is given at length on another page of this work.

Albert Aerni began his education in the public schools of his native country, where he remained until he reached the age of nine years and then accompanied his parents on their emigration to the new world. The journey was continued from the Atlantic coast across the country to Platte county, and here Albert Aerni became a public-school pupil. He started out to earn his own living by working as a farm hand by the month and was thus employed for five years. He afterward engaged in the cultivation of the home farm until 1904, when he began operating land on his own account and in 1912 purchased his present farm, which comprises one hundred and eighty-two acres worth one hundred and fifty dollars per acre. The Valley View Farm is one of the valuable properties of Columbus township, conveniently located, well improved and highly cultivated. In addition to raising the cereals best adapted to soil and climate Mr. Aerni is also extensively engaged in raising cattle and hogs for the market.

On the 16th of June, 1904, Mr. Aerni was united in marriage to Miss Louisa Mueller, a daughter of Fred and Magdalena (Karlin) Mueller. They now have two sons, Albert, Jr., and Frederick. The religious faith of the family is that of the German Evangelical Lutheran church, while in his political belief Mr. Aerni is a democrat. He does not seek nor desire office, however, for he feels that his business affairs make ample demand upon his time and energies. He was early trained to habits of industry and his diligence enables him to overcome all obstacles and difficulties in his path and work his way steadily upward to success. He is regarded as one of the representative agriculturists of his community and his sterling traits of character have gained him warm personal regard.

GEORGE J. LOUIS.

George J. Louis follows farming in Columbus township, which is the place of his nativity, his birth having occurred on the 3d of August, 1870. While spending his youthful days in the home of his father, Jacob Louis, he attended school in Columbus and when his textbooks were put aside he continued to devote his time and energies to the work of developing and improving the home farm, upon which he remained until he reached the age of thirty-two years. He then removed to section 24, Columbus township, and began farming on his own account, his father's estate being at that time divided and bringing to him two hundred and forty acres of rich and arable land. The tract was, however, but slightly improved and the work of development and cultivation has been practically carried forward by George J. Louis, who has wrought a marked transformation in the appearance of the place. He has erected thereon a fine farm residence and has a splendidly improved property which embraces two hundred and sixty-five acres. His farm is an expression of his own personality. It represents the spirit of industry, determination and progressiveness which he manifests in everything that he undertakes. It is now well improved according to the most modern methods and the most modern ideas and as time goes on he further develops the property and also raises stock of higher and higher grade. It was in 1902 that he took up his abode upon his present place and his efforts in the intervening years have resulted in the development of one of the fine farms of the county.

In 1901 Mr. Louis was united in marriage to Miss Isis Tripp, a native of Kansas and a daughter of O. L. and Rachael (Lee) Tripp, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Iowa. Both survive and they now make their home in Nebraska. Her father was one of the pioneer settlers of Kansas, living near Council Grove for a time, after which he established his home near Fremont, Nebraska, where he remained for a year and then returned to Kansas. Still later he again came to Nebraska and engaged in farming and buying horses in Platte county. He became a resident of Columbus in 1897 and is now living in Fremont. He has never had political aspirations but is a devoted member of the Baptist church and his wife is a very faithful and consistent member of the same church, being highly regarded as an earnest, Christian woman. To Mr. and Mrs. Louis have been born the following children: Ruth; George, who was born December 24, 1904; Katherine, born in 1905; Edward H., who was born September 8, 1908; Charles J.; Helen; and Lucile.

The family attend the church over which the Rev. Neumaerker presides. They are well known residents of Columbus township, where they have an extensive circle of warm friends, who esteem them highly because of their many excellent traits of character and their principles, which find expression in upright living and in consideration for others.

SAMUEL CARVEL TERRY.

Samuel Carvel Terry, who is now living in Monroe, is the owner of valuable land, having extensive holdings in Platte and Merrick counties. He was born upon a farm in Cecil county, Maryland, September 13, 1853, a son of Thomas and Margaret (Cone) Terry. The father's birth occurred in the same county in 1809 and there he passed away in 1878. Through the years of his active business career he was engaged in farming and in woolen manufacturing. His wife, who was born in 1817, survived him for more than a quarter of a century, passing away in 1906.

Samuel C. Terry had such educational advantages as the district schools of his home locality afforded at that period. He remained upon his father's farm until seventeen years of age and then began working in his father's woolen factory, devoting two years to the tasks of a cloth finisher. Later he returned to the farm, upon which he continued to reside for a year and a half, and at the end of that period he spent three months as an employe in a sheet iron rolling mill. The succeeding two years were passed in the further cultivation of his father's farm and in 1877 he made his way to the middle west, locating in Harrison county, Iowa, where he remained for three months. He afterward spent a brief period in Platte county, Nebraska, and in March, 1878, he took up his abode on section 4, township 18, range 3, where he homesteaded eighty acres of land and also secured eighty acres as a tree claim and eighty acres of railroad land. In 1891 he purchased one hundred and ninety-two acres adjoining Monroe and still owns one hundred and twenty-five acres of that tract, while he later purchased one hundred and twenty-five acres additional. He likewise has four hundred and forty acres in Merrick county and is thus one of the extensive landowners of his locality, deriving from his property a very gratifying annual income. For a long period he successfully carried on farming, but at length, having acquired a competence, he put aside business cares and took up his abode in Monroe.

On the 22d of February, 1879, Mr. Terry wedded Miss Mary Wiley, who died April 6, 1890, leaving three children: Charles T. and Clarence R., who are graduates of the Monroe high school and of the Fremont Business College and are now engaged in farming; and Albinus, deceased. On the 16th of July, 1891, Mr. Terry was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Sarah J. (Dack) Hall. They have become the parents of five children: John Edward and Raymond Carroll, who are graduates of the agricultural department of the State University; and Viola Margaret, Ellen Jane and Morris Edward, all attending the local school.

Mr. Terry belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp of Monroe, of which he is a trustee. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party and he is now president of the Monroe school board, of which he has been a member for twenty-one years. During his long residence in the county he has gained a wide acquaintance

and is well and favorably known in Monroe and throughout the surrounding country. He is a progressive, enterprising farmer and the integrity as well as the enterprise of his business methods commend him to the confidence and goodwill of all.

GUSTAVUS G. BECHER.

Gustavus G. Becher, living retired at Columbus, is well known in the city because of his previous activity in the real-estate field and in political and military circles. He has made his life an asset in the development of Platte county and is one of its oldest and most honored residents. His birth occurred at Pilsen, Bohemia, August 11, 1844, his parents being Gustav and Josephine Becher. The father was born in Carlsbad, Germany, and came to the United States in 1844. After becoming convinced that he would have opportunity to provide for his family in the new world he sent for them and in 1847 was joined by his wife, with their four daughters and two sons, at St. Louis. While residing in that city the mother passed away and in 1856 the father came to Nebraska, establishing his home in Platte county.

Two years later Gustavus G. Becher of this review joined his father in Platte county and attended school to a limited extent, but his textbooks were put aside when he reached the age of fourteen years and from that time forward he depended upon his own resources. He had an older brother in Columbus who owned a general store and Gustavus G. Becher was employed in that establishment for several years. He afterward spent eight years in a hardware store in Omaha, where he began working at a salary of ten dollars per month. That he was industrious, capable and loyal and that his employers appreciated his ability is indicated in the fact that when he left the company he was receiving a salary of one hundred and fifty dollars per month.

Upon his return to Columbus Mr. Becher entered the government service, becoming a lieutenant in the Pawnee Scouts, with which he served for four seasons through the summer and fall months. He was captain of his company for one year. He has done important service in public connections. In 1870 he took the census of Platte and Madison counties for the United States government, and ten years later, or in 1880, he took the United States census for Columbus township. He has filled the office of assessor of Platte county and for two terms, or four years, was county treasurer. He also served for one term in the state legislature, and in that position as in the others that he had filled he proved most loyal to the best interests of the community, putting forth effective effort toward advancing the general good. In his business career he also became well known. In 1870 he entered the real-estate and insurance field and for twenty-six years was treasurer of the Columbus Land, Loan & Building Association, from which position he retired in 1912, turning over his private business to Gus G. Becher, Jr. He was accounted throughout the entire period as one of the foremost real-estate men of this section, and activity and enterprise characterized him in all of his dealings, while his thorough reliability won for him the confidence and goodwill of all.

On the 29th of November, 1869, in Bon Homme, South Dakota, Gustavus G. Becher was married to Miss LeAnna Bradford, who died February 21, 1913, and



GUSTAVUS G. BECHER

was buried at Columbus. They lost their first born, Maud, at the age of eleven months, and a daughter, Blanch B., who died in 1880 at the age of six years. Their other children are: Jesse B., now a resident of Duluth, Minnesota; Lora Ann, the wife of Clarendon E. Adams, Jr., of Los Angeles, California; and Gustavus G. Jr. The religious faith of the family is that of the Episcopal church, to which they faithfully adhere.

Mr. Becher was formerly identified with the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias but has demitted from both. He still holds membership with the Masonic fraternity, however, having taken the degrees of the Knights Templar and of the Mystic Shrine. His political allegiance has always been given to the republican party, and he is a firm believer in its principles. His life has been directed by a high and honorable purpose, and he has endeavored to bring into practical force the ideals which he has cherished.

IRA E. GATES.

Ira E. Gates, an energetic and prosperous farmer residing on section 21, Columbus township, is specializing in the raising of high grade shorthorn cattle. He was born in Hartford, New York, in 1865, a son of Isaac D. and Luna B. Gates, both natives of the Empire state. In 1881 the family migrated westward and located in Colfax county, Nebraska, where the father carried on general farming until his demise. The mother is also deceased.

Ira E. Gates remained with his parents as long as they lived and was of great assistance to his father in the cultivation of the home place. He has continued to follow agricultural pursuits and since 1891 has resided upon his present farm in Columbus township, which comprises two hundred acres of fertile land. He also owns four hundred acres in Colfax county and gives a great deal of attention to raising graded shorthorn cattle, deriving a good income from the sale of his stock.

Mr. Gates was married to Miss Delilah Davis, a native of Columbus, and they have five children, Clarence, Henry, Helen, Charles and Roy. Mr. Gates votes for the candidates and measures of the republican party but has confined his political activity to the exercise of his right of franchise. He is a successful farmer and stockraiser, a public-spirited citizen and a man of unquestioned integrity, and his sterling worth has gained him the warm regard of all who have come into contact with him.

JACOB LOUIS.

On the list of Platte county's honored dead appears the name of Jacob Louis, who was one of the pioneer settlers of this part of the state and contributed in large measure to the early development and later progress of the county. His life record spanned the years between 1832 and 1909. He was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, and when a young man came to the United States, making his way to Ohio. He

worked as a farm hand in the vicinity of Cincinnati for a time and afterward journeyed by rail to Des Moines, Iowa, from which point he made his way on foot to Columbus, Nebraska. At the time of his arrival the government survey had not been made, although the town had been laid out. However, it was a most tiny hamlet and there was little indication of what the future would bring to Platte county in the way of development, progress and prosperity. There were no homestead laws in effect at that time and all around was the wild, undeveloped prairie offering good inducements to the hardy frontier settlers, and yet there were involved many difficulties and obstacles in the way of development. The land was covered with the native grasses through the summer seasons and was hidden by a dazzling and unbroken sheet of snow in the winter months.

Jacob Louis purchased government land on sections 20 and 29, Columbus township, at a dollar and a quarter per acre, securing one hundred and sixty acres. He built thereon a log cabin and began farming, breaking the sod and cultivating his fields with ox teams. It was a difficult task to turn the first furrow and get the land in condition for cultivation, but Mr. Louis persevered in his work and soon wrought a marked change in the appearance of his place. After five years he returned to Ohio, spending a short time there, but again came to Columbus and continued to reside in Platte county until his death. His attention was given to general farming and he became the owner of over five hundred acres of good land, which he brought to a high state of cultivation, his fields becoming very productive and yielding golden harvests annually.

Mr. Louis was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Engle, who was born in Hessen, Germany, in 1842. They long traveled life's journey together, being separated by the hand of death when, in 1909, Mr. Louis passed away, his wife surviving him for five years, dying in 1914. In their death the county lost two of its well known pioneer settlers who had lived in the county before there were churches or schools or roads and who had seen much of the later development, bringing the county to its present prosperous condition.

AUSTIN MORRICE BENNETT.

Austin Morrice Bennett is manager of a lumberyard at Monroe, in which connection he is directing the interests of a good business, which under his management is steadily increasing. He is yet a young man but has already made for himself a creditable place in business circles. His birth occurred in Benton county, Arkansas, October 2, 1881, his parents being Jonathan and Mary A. (Pierce) Bennett, who now reside upon a farm in Caldwell county, Missouri. Austin M. Bennett acquired a good common-school education and then spent three and a half years as a student in the Kidder Institute at Kidder, Missouri, pursuing a business and teacher's course, which he completed in 1902. He then went to Genoa, Nebraska, and entered into business relations with the Fox & Flaherty Horse Company, which he represented for a year. He afterward spent three and a half years with the Monroe Horse Company and then returned to the former firm, with which he continued for a year and a half. On the expiration of that period he became a representative of the Walworth & Sherwood Lumber Company and since 1915 has been manager of a

lumberyard at Monroe, in which connection he has control of a growing business. He is always courteous and obliging to the patrons of the company and has at all times through his business integrity, energy and honesty enjoyed the confidence and goodwill of those with whom he has come in contact.

Mr. Bennett was united in marriage to Miss Theresa L. Branson, of Genoa, Nebraska, and they have one child, Francis M. Fraternally Mr. Bennett is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, with the Modern Woodmen of America and with Genoa Lodge, No. 333, F. & A. M. He is loyal to the teachings of the craft and in his life exemplifies the beneficent spirit of these orders, which are based upon mutual helpfulness and brotherly kindness. In his political views he is a republican with independent tendencies. He does not feel bound to follow party ties, but votes according to the dictates of his judgment, which is formed after a thorough consideration of every phase of a question. Mr. Bennett is a western man by birth, training and preference and he possesses the spirit of enterprise which has ever been the dominant quality in the upbuilding of this section of the country.

EDWARD ARNDT.

Edward Arndt, who is engaged in general farming on section 24, Lost Creek township, is the owner of an excellent tract of land of two hundred and twenty-five acres which he has brought to a high state of cultivation and to the further development and improvement of which he is directing all of his energy. He was born October 10, 1875, in the township where he still resides, a son of Frederick William and Henrietta (Rosenbeldt) Arndt, in whose family were four children: William, now a resident of Columbus; Ernest, a farmer of Grand Prairie township; Edward; and Mrs. Ferdinand Wachter, whose husband is farming in Madison county, Nebraska. The father came direct to Columbus in 1870, after leaving his old home in Brandenburg, Germany, and after reaching Platte county purchased a homestead claim of eighty acres, for which he paid four hundred dollars or five dollars per acre. Later he added another eighty-acre tract for which he paid nineteen dollars per acre, and from time to time he kept on making purchases until his landed possessions in Lost Creek, Shell Creek and Columbus townships comprised seven hundred acres. The highest price which he paid for any of this was seventy-three dollars per acre. His business affairs were carefully managed and industry and energy carried him far toward the goal of success. In addition to his agricultural interests he engaged extensively in raising Poland China hogs and he was also a director of the Platte County Bank of Platte Center. He held membership in the German Lutheran church, of which he was a trustee, and he never neglected his public duties as a citizen and in every possible way contributed to the material, intellectual and moral progress of the community. He died in April, 1904, while his wife passed away in February, 1895, the county losing two of its valued citizens when they were called to their final rest.

Edward Arndt was born and reared on the old homestead farm and there remained until the death of his father in 1904, when the estate was equally divided among the four children, he receiving as his share the homestead property. His

attention has since been given to its further cultivation and improvement and the results of his labors are seen in highly cultivated fields which annually produce excellent crops. He has from twenty to forty acres planted to wheat each year, about forty acres in corn and forty acres in oats. He also makes a specialty of raising shorthorn cattle and at the death of his father took his place as a director of the Platte County Bank. He is likewise financially interested in the Monroe Independent Telephone Company.

On the 15th of March, 1904, Mr. Arndt was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Petersen, a daughter of Carsten Petersen, Sr., a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work. To them have been born six children, namely: Herbert; Raymond and Edmund, twins; Walter; Leona; and Reuben.

Mr. Arndt is independent in politics, considering the capability of a candidate rather than his party affiliations. He belongs to the Lutheran church and at all times seeks the welfare and upbuilding of the community in which he lives, cooperating heartily in many plans and projects for the public good. At the same time he is recognized as a business man of marked ability, for this has been proven in his capable control of his farming and stock-raising interests. As the years have gone by he has studied the question of productiveness on his farm and employs modern methods to enhance the fertility of the soil and make his business one paying larger dividends. At the same time he is thoroughly reliable in all his dealings and enjoys to the full extent the confidence and high regard of those with whom he has been associated.

JOHN HELLEBERG.

Although one of the more recent acquisitions to the professional circles of Columbus, John Helleberg has already gained recognition as an architect and in this connection is doing a good business. He is an enterprising young man of foreign birth, the place of his nativity being Thisted, Denmark, and his natal day November 28, 1890. His parents were Neils and Lena (Christensen) Helleberg. The former passed away in 1903, having spent his entire life in Denmark, and the mother, who survives, has also always remained in that country. The Helleberg family is an old one in Denmark, the family records having been kept for four hundred years.

John Helleberg pursued his literary education in the public schools of Thisted and later took a course in architecture at The Technique in that place. When a youth of only eighteen years, realizing the larger possibilities offered in America as compared with the chances in the old world, Mr. Helleberg set sail for the United States, arriving here in May, 1909. He at once made his way to Grand Island, Nebraska, where he had friends living, and there in 1911 he pursued a special course in a college. Subsequently he came to Columbus and later formed a partnership with George Grabe, an architect, the business now being conducted under the name of Grabe & Helleberg. Many of the substantial buildings of this city stand as monuments to their ability and enterprise, their more recent accomplishment being the handsome Masonic Temple, which was completed in the spring of 1915; school buildings at Cairo, Cody and Schuyler, and the Odd Fellows building at Polk, Nebraska.

Mr. Helleberg gives his political support to the democratic party, while in religious faith he is identified with the English Lutheran church. He is yet a young man but has readily adapted himself to circumstances and has taken advantage of opportunities that have been presented. If his present success is any criterion of what the future holds in store for him, no doubt he will become a prominent man in building circles.

HENRY HOBSENSIEFKEN.

Germany has furnished to Platte county a large percentage of its substantial citizens, men who have brought the Teutonic civilization into the west and have utilized the natural resources of the country for the benefit of their own fortunes and of humanity at large. Among those who have had their nativity in the fatherland is Henry Hobbensiefken, who was born in Oldenburg on the 20th of March, 1865, and is now a substantial farmer and stockman, living on section 26, Lost Creek township. His parents were Frederick and Sophia (Buss) Hobbensiefken, who were natives of Oldenburg and of Friesland respectively. The father owned land in Germany, having a large farm on which he carried on general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising. He also served in the German army, thus meeting the conditions imposed by the military laws of the country. At length he determined to try his fortune in America and in 1884 came to the United States, settling in Sherman township, Platte county, where he purchased land. He began to improve his property of one hundred and sixty acres and his labors soon wrought a marked transformation in the appearance of the place. He was of a rather retiring disposition but was a citizen of sterling worth, recognized as a consistent member of the German Baptist church, in the work of which he took an active and helpful interest. He died in February, 1910, at the age of seventy-nine years, while his wife passed away in 1904, at the age of seventy-five.

Henry Hobbensiefken, their only child, attended school in Germany and at the age of seventeen years came to America, after which he attended the district schools to some extent in the winter seasons. He settled in Platte county and worked as a farm hand for two years and later was employed at home. Following his marriage he operated his father's farm for about two years, after which he bought eighty acres of land and in 1896 he purchased an additional one hundred and twenty acres. However his property was scattered and in 1903 he sold out and bought land in Lost Creek township. Step by step he has worked his way upward until he is today one of the prosperous and representative farmers of his township, owning nine hundred and sixty acres of land. He has lived on his present home farm, known as the Meadow Land Farm, for twelve years and here he has highly cultivated fields and valuable stock-raising interests, making a specialty of registered Percheron horses, registered shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. He has shipped much stock outside of the state and has won many prizes at the Platte county fairs. He has ever been a most progressive and enterprising business man and has carried forward to successful completion many important undertakings that have proved of value to the community as well as a source of individual benefit. He is the president of the Farmers Elevator Company of Platte Center and vice president of the Farmers

Lumber Company of that place, but he spends the greater part of his time in directing the work of the home farm, which comprises five hundred and eighty acres of rich and arable land. In the midst of this place he has a fine modern residence and everything about the farm is indicative of his progressive spirit. There are splendid equipments and all modern farm accessories and the place constitutes one of the pleasing features of the landscape.

On the 5th of March, 1891, Mr. Hobbensiefken was married to Miss Lena Behlen, who was born in Platte county, Nebraska, a daughter of Fred and Elizabeth Behlen, both of whom are still living at the age of sixty-eight years, their home being in Shell Creek township. After coming to the United States they resided for a time at Freeport, Illinois, and in 1869 removed to Platte county. Mr. Behlen secured a homestead in Bismark township, broke the prairie with ox teams, turning the first furrows in his fields, and performed all the arduous labor incident to the development and improvement of a new farm in a pioneer district. Subsequently he removed from his original place to Shell Creek township, where he has since lived. For some years he continued actively in general farming but now lives retired on the old homestead, where he has six hundred acres of productive land. His religious faith is that of the German Baptist church and in its work he has been most active and helpful.

Mr. and Mrs. Hobbensiefken have become the parents of ten children: Fred and Edward, who are pursuing an agricultural course at Lincoln; and Louise, Henry, Emil, Walter, Elsie, William, Alvin and Edith, all at home. Mr. Hobbensiefken has always been a stalwart supporter of the public-school system. He attended public school in Sherman township and when he was twenty-one years of age was made a director for school No. 77, thus serving until he removed to Lost Creek township, where he was soon appointed a director for district No. 11, to fill a vacancy. Since that time he has continuously served and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion whose labors have been far-reaching, effective and beneficial. He is guided in all of his dealings and activities by the highest sense of honor and at all times recognizes and meets his duties in relation to public affairs. He belongs to the German Baptist church at Platte Center and takes a very active interest in both church and Sunday-school work, serving at the present time as Sunday-school superintendent. His integrity is never called into question and his many admirable traits of heart and mind have endeared him to all who know him. He measures up to high standards of manhood and citizenship and all with whom he has come in contact speak of him in terms of the highest regard.

OTTO MUELLER.

Otto Mueller, who owns and operates three hundred and sixty acres of excellent land on section 26, Grand Prairie township, was born on his present farm on the 5th of May, 1875. His parents, Fred and Julia (Stickle) Mueller, were both natives of Germany, the former born on the 13th of August, 1832, and the latter on the 30th of September, of that year. Not long after his arrival in the United States the father enlisted in the Union army for service in the Civil war and served for three years. He was in many important engagements and received a wound in the

foot. He was married in Illinois and in 1872 came to Platte county, taking up land in Grand Prairie township on his soldier's warrant. He was an excellent farmer and his personal qualities were such that he gained many friends. He died on the 2d of September, 1890, but was survived by his wife until the 18th of October, 1893. Their three children are living: Carl and F. H., further mention of whom appears elsewhere in this work; and Otto.

The last named grew to manhood upon the homestead and learned much concerning agricultural work under the instruction of his father. His education was obtained in the common schools. Since reaching mature years he has continued to farm and now owns the homestead. The place, which comprises three hundred and sixty acres, is well improved and yields good crops annually. He also raises stock, which he finds profitable.

On May 20, 1896, Mr. Mueller married Miss Emma Peterson, who died on the 12th of August, 1913, leaving five children, Martha, Walter, Adele, Hugo and Emil. Mr. Mueller subsequently remarried, Miss Dorothea Bahlbury becoming his wife. She was born in Germany, a daughter of Peter and Elizabeth Bahlbury, who lived in Sherman township but are now deceased.

Mr. Mueller is affiliated with the Lutheran church and upholds all efforts to promote the moral life of the community. In politics he is independent and has never desired to hold office. A native son of Platte county, he has realized that as good opportunities for advancement are found here as elsewhere, and his well directed labor has enabled him to gain a gratifying measure of prosperity.

LAWRENCE P. CARSTENSON, D. V. S.

Dr. Lawrence P. Carstenson, engaged in the practice of veterinary surgery, his home being on section 23, Columbus township, was born near Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, on the 2d of January, 1880, a son of Anders and Marie Carstenson, both of whom were natives of Denmark. After coming to the new world and residing for a time in Wisconsin they removed to Nebraska, and the mother is still living in Genoa, although the father passed away in 1885.

It was in the fall of 1880 that the family home was established in the northern part of Platte county, and while spending his youthful days under the parental roof Lawrence P. Carstenson pursued his education in the district schools and also worked upon the home farm. He supplemented his early educational advantages by a course in the Fremont Business College and then, determining upon the practice of veterinary surgery as a life work, he entered the Kansas City Veterinary College, from which he was graduated with the class of 1907. He afterward located for practice in Fremont, where he remained for six months and then went to Columbus where he remained until 1913, in which year he took up his abode on section 23, Columbus township, just west of the city of Columbus, where he is well equipped to take care of a large veterinary practice. His ability has won him wide recognition and his business is steadily growing.

On the 17th of June, 1908, Dr. Carstenson was united in marriage to Miss Grace Freligh, by whom he has the following children, namely: Loraine, Irwin and Nadene. Dr. Carstenson was less than a year old when brought to Platte county, so that he

has been practically a lifelong resident here, and that his record has ever been a creditable and honorable one is indicated in the fact that many of his staunchest friends are those who have known him from his boyhood days to the present. In his professional career he is working his way steadily upward, discharging his duties with conscientious fidelity, while his increasing success is indicative of the growing confidence of the public in his skill.

GEORGE C. ANDERSON.

Among the capable and prosperous farmers and stock-raisers of Woodville township is George C. Anderson, who is residing on section 24. A native son of that township, he was born on the 11th of October, 1876, and is the eldest of a family of five children, whose parents were John M. and Permelia (Johnson) Anderson, both of whom were born in Sweden. The father died January 1, 1909, at the age of seventy years but the mother is still living in St. Edward, this state. John M. Anderson was a laborer in Sweden but following his removal to this country in the early '50s carried on agricultural pursuits near Kewanee, Illinois. In 1861 he gave incontestable proof of his loyalty to his adopted country by enlisting in Company B, Thirty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He held the rank of corporal and was at the front for four years, or until after Lee's surrender. He was at all times a brave and loyal soldier, never flinching in the performance of duty, no matter how dangerous it might be. Following the cessation of hostilities he returned to Kewanee, Illinois, and farmed there until October, 1872, when he came to Platte county, Nebraska, the journey requiring twenty-six days. He homesteaded land on section 24, Woodville township, and for some time the family lived in a sod house, but at length he erected a frame building which was the second in the township. He was very successful in his farming operations and became the owner of six hundred and forty acres of good land. He not only gained financial independence himself but also aided many of his neighbors in getting a start. He was active in public affairs, manifesting in times of peace the same spirit of patriotism that led him to offer his life if need be in the defense of the Union. He was highly esteemed, and his demise was deeply and widely regretted.

George C. Anderson received his education in district school No. 62 and in the St. Edward high school, thus preparing himself for the duties and responsibilities of later life. On beginning his independent career he farmed rented land near St. Edward and subsequently rented the homestead from his father. He now owns one hundred and sixty acres of the home farm and his place is one of the best developed and most finely improved farms of his locality. He raises some grain but gives especial attention to raising and feeding hogs and cattle, which he finds unusually profitable. He understands his business thoroughly and as he manages his affairs well he has gained a gratifying measure of prosperity.

On June 5, 1907, Mr. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss Maude Simpson, a native of Omaha and a daughter of Peter and Lillian (Bessey) Simpson. Her father was born in Norway but has lived in the United States for many years and now makes his home with our subject at the age of sixty-three years. The mother passed away March 3, 1912. For a considerable time Mr. Simpson con-



GEORGE C. ANDERSON



JOHN M. ANDERSON

ducted a brickyard in Omaha and later engaged in the same business at St. Edward. He has always taken an active interest in public affairs and is widely known and highly respected. He takes a great deal of pleasure in all forms of outdoor sport and now has leisure to indulge his taste in that direction. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have five children: Merle, Nina, George, Jr., Margaret and Mary.

Mr. Anderson gives his allegiance to the republican party and is recognized as a leader in local politics. For four years he served as township clerk; was a director of school district No. 62, from 1910 to 1915; and in 1910 was elected county supervisor from district No. 4. He has at all times proved faithful to public trust and has discharged his duties with efficiency. He is recognized as a good citizen and as a man of unquestioned integrity, and his personal friends are many.

AUGUST HELLBUSH.

August Hellbush, who follows farming on section 13, Grand Prairie township, belongs to that large class of representative and progressive citizens that Oldenburg, Germany, has furnished to Platte county. He was there born August 12, 1855, his parents being John and Anna Hellbush. The father, also a native of Oldenburg, was born on the 14th of November, 1824, and his death occurred August 12, 1901, when he had reached the age of seventy-seven years. On coming to the United States, where he believed that he might find more favorable business conditions, he made his way at once to Platte county, arriving in the year 1869. This was then a western frontier district and much of the land was still in the possession of the government. He secured a homestead in what is now Grand Prairie township and his first dwelling was a sod house. He passed through the hard times of the early days when grasshoppers devastated the crops and when it was difficult to find a market for anything raised because of the remoteness of the district from any cities. Mr. Hellbush was forced to endure many hardships and privations but in course of time these were done away with by energy and perseverance and he was able to add to his possessions until he had acquired seven eighty-acre tracts of land and also two timber claims. He not only concentrated his attention upon his farm work but also helped to organize St. John's German Lutheran church on section 13, Grand Prairie township, and took an especial and helpful interest in the moral welfare of the community.

August Hellbush attended school in Germany and was a youth of fourteen years when his parents left the fatherland and came to the United States. He then became actively identified with farming interests in Grand Prairie township, within the borders of which he has lived for forty-five years, occupying his present farm for twenty-eight years. He now has one hundred and twenty acres of land and is bending his energies to the further development and improvement of the property, on which he annually raises good crops.

Mr. Hellbush was married to Miss Anna Maisenbroch, a native of Germany, and a daughter of Bernhard and Katrina Maisenbroch. The family emigrated to the United States in 1885, at which time their home was established in Platte county. Here the father is engaged in farming. His religious faith is indicated by his

membership in the Lutheran church. Mr. and Mrs. Hellbush have a son and daughter: Henry, born in 1907; and Louise, whose birth occurred in 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. Hellbush are members of the German Lutheran church and are loyal to its teachings. They are worthy German citizens of the community in which they make their home and enjoy the warm friendship and regard of many people of their nationality.

HENRY HUNTEMANN.

Henry Huntemann, who has gained gratifying prosperity as a farmer, is one of the well known and highly esteemed residents of Sherman township. A native of Germany, his birth occurred on the 9th of January, 1856. His father, Henry Huntemann, having passed away in Germany, the mother became the wife of Henry Robert, an account of whom appears in the sketch of Louis Robert elsewhere in this work. Our subject attended school in his native land, but when a boy of seventeen accompanied his mother and stepfather on their removal to the new world. He remained under the parental roof until his marriage and then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved land on section 2, Sherman township. He has not only developed that place and brought the land to a high state of cultivation, but he also owns eighty acres additional in this county and one hundred and sixty acres in Colfax county. His buildings are commodious and substantial and his farm is well equipped. He raises both grain and stock and as the years have passed his resources have constantly increased.

Mr. Huntemann married Miss Sophia Luschi, who was born in Bismark township on the 22d of May, 1860, a daughter of Henry Luschi, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Huntemann have five children: Emil, who is living on his father's farm in Colfax county and who married Miss Mary Oldegs; Minnie, the wife of Adolph Sanders; Alma, who married Gerhard Loseke; and Elizabeth and Henry, at home. Mr. Huntemann is interested in public affairs, but has never desired to hold office. His religious faith is indicated by the fact that he is a communicant of the Lutheran church and in all relations of life he has proven honorable and considerate of the rights of others.

REV. ANDREW RASMUSSEN.

Rev. Andrew Rasmussen has contributed largely to the moral progress of the community during the years of his connection with the Lutheran church in this state. He is now living on section 13, Walker township, and is one of the most highly respected and worthy residents of the county. He was born in Denmark, May 20, 1858, a son of Lars and Annie Rasmussen. He is indebted to the common-school system of his native country for the early educational privileges which he enjoyed and in his youthful days learned the blacksmith's trade. In 1875 he arrived in the new world, being then a youth of seventeen years. He made his way first to Sheffield, Illinois, where he worked for two years at farm labor and in a blacksmith shop. He

then went to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he attended school from the 1st of January, 1878, until Christmas of 1882, pursuing a course of study in the Augsburg Seminary in preparation for the work of the ministry, to which he had determined to devote his life.

After leaving school he was ordained as a minister of the Lutheran church and accepted his first pastorate in Howard county, Nebraska, where he remained from the 1st of January, 1883, until the 1st of October, 1884. At the latter date he went to Hastings, Nebraska, where he engaged in preaching until the 1st of April, 1886. The succeeding four years were spent as a minister at Council Bluffs and on the 1st of May, 1890, he went to Olga, Nebraska, where he remained until the 1st of October, 1891. At that date he accepted a call from the church at Racine, Wisconsin, where he continued until July 1, 1895, and returning to enter again upon the work of the ministry in Nebraska, he took charge of the church at Blair, where he continued until October 1, 1901. He spent ten months at Latimer, Iowa, and on the 1st of August, 1902, went to McNabb, Illinois, where he engaged in preaching for more than eight years or until December, 1910. At that date he returned to Nebraska and has since been a resident of Platte county, making his home on section 13, Walker township. His life work has been fraught with excellent results. He has carefully studied the best methods of reaching the people of his congregations and his earnest, thoughtful and convincing utterances have borne rich fruit in the lives of those with whom he has come in contact.

On the 20th of December, 1882, the Rev. Rasmussen was united in marriage to Amalia Rasmussen, by whom he has six children, namely: Theodora, a resident of Latimer, Iowa; Victor, who makes his home in Blair, Nebraska; Christian; Emanuel, living in Walker township; Esther; and Naomi.

In his political views Mr. Rasmussen is an independent republican. He keeps well informed on the questions of the day, believing that it is the duty of every citizen so to do. He has never allowed anything, however, to interfere with his church work and in his labors he has not been denied the full harvest nor the aftermath, his teaching and his influence proving an effective force in uplifting many who have sat under his preaching.

HERMANN L. KUNNEMANN.

Hermann L. Kunnemann, a prosperous agriculturist residing on section 12, Shell Creek township, has lived in this county for forty-six years, devoting his attention to general agricultural pursuits throughout his entire business career. He now owns three hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land in Shell Creek township and another farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Grand Prairie township.

His birth occurred in Oldenburg, Germany, on the 21st of July, 1859, his parents being Henry and Katie (Ehlers) Kunnemann, also natives of that country. In 1869 they determined to come to the new world, leaving the fatherland on the 25th of July of that year. At the end of eighteen days on the ocean they landed at Baltimore, Maryland, and thence came by rail to Columbus, reaching that city after a five days' journey by train, or on the 25th of August. Henry Kunnemann took up a home-

stead claim of eighty acres in Shell Creek township and erected thereon a sod house, eight by twelve, in which the family lived for four years. On the expiration of that period he built a log house of the dimensions of twelve by fourteen feet, which was the home of the family for eighteen years. Mr. Kunnemann died on this farm at the age of seventy-seven years, ten months and eight days, while his wife passed away at the age of sixty-seven years, nine months and twenty-seven days. They were consistent and faithful members of the Lutheran church and were well known and highly esteemed for their many good qualities. To them were born six children, five daughters and a son, three of whom survive, namely: Sophia, the wife of William Hoefelmann, living in Grand Prairie township; Gesine, the wife of Henry Luers, a resident of Columbus; and Hermann L., of this review.

The last named was a youth of ten years when he accompanied his parents on their emigration to the United States and well remembers the details of the voyage. He has always remained on the home farm in this county and early became familiar with the work of the fields, for he was the only son in his father's family and his assistance was needed in the operation of the homestead. He helped his father accumulate two hundred acres of valuable land and eventually came into possession of the old homestead farm. His landed holdings now embrace three hundred and sixty acres in Shell Creek township and a quarter section in Grand Prairie township. The property is highly cultivated and equipped with all modern conveniences and accessories, including the latest machinery to facilitate the work in all departments. Bountiful harvests are annually gathered and these find a ready sale on the market.

On October 25, 1880, Mr. Kunnemann was united in marriage to Miss Anna Gesine Weichmann, who was born in Germany, on the 2d of April, 1858, her parents being Henry and Katie (Schutte) Weichmann. Our subject and his wife now have four daughters and three sons, namely: Gustav H.; Walter H., who was married in 1914 to Annie Haka and is now farming in Grand Prairie township; Hermann G.; Gesine A., the wife of John F. Meyer, a farmer of Bismark township; Adelia E.; Olga M.; and Annie P.

Mr. Kunnemann formerly gave his political allegiance to the democracy, but has recently become an advocate of republican principles, not being in sympathy with the course of the present administration. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Lutheran church, to which his wife and children also belong. He is a shrewd, well informed man, possesses a remarkably retentive memory and is a fluent and pleasing conversationalist. Many of his warmest friends are those who have known him from his boyhood to the present time—a fact which indicates that his life has been well spent and that his strongest qualities are those which win him respect and confidence.

ALVIN GERHARD LUESCHEN, M. D.

Dr. Alvin Gerhard Lueschen is a well known and successful young representative of the medical profession in Columbus. His birth occurred on a farm in this county on the 12th of October, 1880, his parents being Gerhard G. and Margaret (Kuhlmann) Lueschen, who were married in Wisconsin. The father, born in

Germany in 1840, emigrated to the United States in 1859, locating first in Wisconsin, while several years later he came to Platte county, Nebraska, and has since carried on general agricultural pursuits here. His wife also still survives and both are well known and highly esteemed in their home community.

Alvin G. Lueschen acquired his early education in the rural schools of this county and subsequently attended the State Normal School at Nebraska City, while later he took up the study of medicine in the Creighton Medical College of Omaha and was graduated from that institution in 1904. He then located in Columbus for general practice and in 1908 went to Bakersfield, California, where he remained until 1914. In that year he returned to Columbus and is here engaged in general practice to some extent but specializes in the treatment of diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. He now enjoys a large and lucrative practice which is steadily growing as he demonstrates his skill and ability in the field of his chosen calling.

On the 24th of November, 1908, in Columbus, Nebraska, Dr. Lueschen was united in marriage to Miss Gertrude Elias, a daughter of Charles F. Elias. To them have been born two children, Alvin Gerald and Willamette Marguerite.

The Doctor is a republican in politics and is now ably serving in the capacity of city physician. Fraternally he is known as a York and Scottish Rite Mason and also belongs to the Mystic Shrine, while his religious faith is that of the Lutheran church. He is popular in both professional and social circles, for his salient characteristics are such as command regard and esteem.

JOHN PETER ANDERSON.

John Peter Anderson, whose well improved farm in Walker township is known as Fairview Farm, also has a number of other business interests and is one of the substantial men of his township. He was born at Kronoberg, Sweden, January 11, 1861, of the marriage of Andrew and Anna (Peterson) Anderson. He was the second child and the only son in a family of four children and all of the children and the father emigrated to America and located in De Kalb county, Illinois, following the demise of the mother, which occurred in Sweden. The father passed away in 1879.

J. P. Anderson attended the common schools in his native land and following his arrival in De Kalb county worked on farms for six years and later was employed in De Kalb City for two years. At the end of that time, or in 1887, upon the suggestion of his employer, who took a sincere interest in his welfare, he bought one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land in Walker township, Platte county, Nebraska, paying twelve dollars and fifty cents per acre. In the spring of that year he removed to his farm, which is on section 19, and has since lived there continuously. In 1910 he bought a quarter section on section 20, opposite his home place, and he is now cultivating the entire three hundred and twenty acres. When he bought his first quarter section there were only a few acres broken on the place and there were no improvements at all. He now has a commodious and substantial residence, good barns and outbuildings, and the place is always well kept. The success which he has gained has been acquired by hard work and careful management and he deserves recognition as an efficient and progressive farmer. He formerly raised Poland China

hogs but for a number of years past has raised Duroc-Jerseys. He also breeds Aberdeen Angus cattle and Buff Orpington chickens and finds those interests profitable. He owns stock in the Farmers Union store of Newman Grove, the Monroe Independent Telephone Company and the Scandia Mutual Insurance Company, of which he served as director for eight years.

Mr. Anderson was married on the 28th of April, 1888, to Miss Emily J. Olson, a daughter of John Olson, who was an old settler of Walker township. Five children have been born to this union. Elmer L., who does much of the actual work of operating his father's farm and will assume entire charge of it when the latter retires, is an enterprising and progressive young farmer, keeping in touch with the latest developments in scientific agriculture. Bertha has taught district school No. 61 for the past three years and is meeting with gratifying success in her chosen profession. Earl Albert died in 1914, at the age of eighteen years. Della Mae is attending school, and one died in infancy.

Mr. Anderson is a republican and has been active in local politics since his arrival in Walker township. For seven years he served as road supervisor and he is now filling the office of township clerk, which he has held altogether for twelve years, although his terms have not all been consecutive. He has been school director of district No. 61, for twelve years, while for nine years he served as moderator. He holds membership in the Salem Lutheran church, of which he has served as trustee for the past twelve years. No project for the moral advancement of his community lacks his cooperation and he is also heartily in sympathy with efforts to advance the material interests of his township and county. He has a wide acquaintance and his salient characteristics are such that all who have been brought into contact with him respect him highly.

JOHN H. PARKER.

John H. Parker, a well known contractor of Columbus, was born at Keyingham, England, February 3, 1862, a son of Samuel and Mary (Finch) Parker. The father was born at Gressenhall, in Norfolk, England, famous as the place at which worsted was first manufactured in that country. The mother was born at Brisley, a village a few miles to the north of Gressenhall. She was connected with the aristocracy, while Mr. Parker is of the family to which belonged Admiral Parker, who prudently ignored the signal for the English troops to retire given him by Nelson and thus saved the day. Samuel Parker was the eldest of four children and was but six years of age at the time of his father's death. This was before the days of the compulsory school law, and at an age when most boys would be giving their attention to study, he was earning his own living and also contributing to the support of the family. In 1854 he removed to Sunk Island, where he worked and met with a fair measure of prosperity until February 2, 1858, when he returned to his native county and was married at Brisley Church to Miss Mary Ann Finch. They began their domestic life at Roos and afterward removed to Keyingham, while later they lived for ten months at Hull. Mr. Parker purchased a plot of ground at Halsham village and erected thereon a comfortable home, after which he continued in business as a contractor and builder. He has been a mem-



JOHN H. PARKER

her of the Foresters' Friendly Society for about sixty-five years. A most important event in his life was the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of his marriage, which was made the occasion of rejoicing throughout the village of Halsham. He is still living but his wife, who was born in 1830, passed away in 1911. In their family were eight children, seventeen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

John H. Parker, who returned to his native country to aid in celebrating the golden wedding of his parents, attended school in his native town to the age of nine years, after which he began working with his father and learned the brick mason's trade. As the clock was striking twelve on Christmas morning of 1882 he landed at Halifax, after which he made his way to Detroit, Michigan, working at his trade there and in the upper peninsula of Michigan until 1884, when he returned to England. He only remained for a short time, however, after which he again came to the United States and was employed in Cincinnati, Ohio, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and at other points until June, 1886. He then made his way westward to Omaha, where he worked at his trade and also engaged in contracting until 1894. In 1892 he was president of the Bricklayers' Union and was instrumental in arbitrating a strike. In 1888 he built a schoolhouse at Albion, Nebraska, and on the 1st of August, 1894, he removed to that town, where he afterward built three schoolhouses, including the high-school building, which was erected at a cost of fifty-five thousand dollars. He also served as city engineer of Albion in 1897. He remained in active business with his brother at Albion until 1910 and then removed to Columbus.

Before taking up his abode in this city, however, he had been engaged on the construction of some of the best buildings of the town. He took the contract for the brick and stone work on the Young Men's Christian Association building, the German National Bank, the Evans Hotel, the Galley Dry Goods Company's building, the building of the Fonteen Piano Company and the Reece Shoe Company. He also erected the addition to the Meridian Hotel and the residences of Charles Carrig, Dr. Evans and A. C. Anderson. He took the contract for the erection of the W. L. Poesch building, the Henry Gass building and the additions to St. Francis Academy and to the hospital. He has been a resident of Columbus since August, 1910, and on all sides are seen the evidences of his handiwork, manifesting the high degree of skill which he has attained. In Albion he erected a church for sixty-five thousand dollars and also one of the fine bank buildings of the place, and he built the Church of the Visitation at Greeley, Nebraska.

In February, 1889, Mr. Parker was united in marriage to Miss Clara J. Giles, a native of England, who passed away in the following April. For his second wife he chose Miss Mary J. Roberts, a native of Manchester, England, and a daughter of James W. and Anna (Hargreave) Roberts. The father, engaged in business as a general contractor, conducted a lumberyard and brick mill in Lancaster until the time of his emigration to the United States in 1880, when he made his way direct to Albion, Nebraska. He became the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of land near the town and erected a number of business buildings and residences in Albion, where his demise occurred in 1892. Mr. and Mrs. Parker are the parents of three children, as follows: Clara R., who is a nurse in the West Suburban Hospital of Chicago; Rose Amy; and Evelyn, who has manifested pronounced ability in music and drawing.

Mr. Parker is an Episcopalian and took a very active part in the work of the

church in Albion as he has done in Columbus, contributing generously to its support and doing all in his power to further its growth and extend its influence. He is a democrat in politics but has no political aspiration. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America but prefers outside of business to concentrate his energies on those plans and movements which seek the moral progress of the community and he is therefore active in the Young Men's Christian Association, of which he is now a director. He may truly be called a self-made man, for since the age of nine years he has been dependent upon his own resources and, working his way upward, has wisely used his time, talents and opportunities, proving that honorable and intelligently directed industry will always win success.

FREDERICK BEHLEN.

The term agricultural activity finds expression in the life record of Frederick Behlen, who lives on section 1, Shell Creek township. A native of Germany, he was born in Oldenburg, March 4, 1848, and is a son of John and Anna (From) Behlen, who were also natives of Oldenburg. The father carried on farming on a small scale and guided his life according to the teachings of the Lutheran church, in which faith he died in 1858, at the age of thirty-nine years. His wife passed away in Platte county at the very advanced age of eighty-four years.

Frederick Behlen attended school in Germany to the age of fourteen years, when he started out to earn his living as a farm hand. In 1867 he came with his mother and brother to the new world, settling in Ogle county, Illinois, where he remained upon a farm for two years. In March, 1869, he arrived in Platte county and homesteaded eighty acres in Bismark township, at which period there were few settlers within the borders of the township and pioneer conditions everywhere existed. Arduous work confronted him, for the land was entirely destitute of improvements, not a furrow having been turned upon it. He lived in a dugout and began his farm work with oxen. The days passed in hard and unrelenting labor, but the faithful performance of each day's task gave him strength and courage for the labors of the succeeding day. After two years he sold his original farm and bought land in Shell Creek township. It was difficult to find the section lines for there were no landmarks to indicate them. There were no houses, all was open prairie and it seemed hardly possible that, within the lifetime of one man, this district would become a populous and prosperous region. Mr. Behlen purchased railroad land at five dollars per acre, set out trees upon the farm, made other substantial improvements and as the years have passed has added to his property until he is now the owner of six hundred acres. He was busily engaged in the development and further work of the farm until a recent date, when he retired from the active work of the fields. He still occupies the old homestead, however, on which he has erected a comfortable little cottage, and he is now looking after his fruit. He has a nice orchard and top grafts his trees, planting French and Japan pear trees. He also has a large apple orchard, in which the trees are in excellent condition, and the care and sale of his crops occupy all of the time which he wishes to give to business affairs.

On the 18th of April, 1870, Mr. Behlen was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Schneider, who was born in Oldenburg, Germany, a daughter of E. Fred and Eliza-

beth Schneider, who were always farming people of the fatherland. Mr. Schneider died before the birth of his daughter Elizabeth, who by her marriage has become the mother of ten children: Lena, the wife of Henry Hobbensiefken, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work; Anna, who is the wife of George Meinke, of Texas, and has six children; Ida, the wife of Rev. Fred Mindrup, a minister of the German Baptist church at McClusky, North Dakota, by whom she has two children; William, a farmer of Shell Creek township, who is married and has three children; Emma, the wife of William Reese, living near Platte Center, by whom she has four children; John, who occupies the old home farm and is married and has two children; Minnie, the wife of William Lange, of Shell Creek township, by whom she has three children; Gustave, a farmer living on part of his father's land, who is also married and has one child; Freda, at home; and Lydia, who married Gustave Mohrmann, and has two children and who lives near the old homestead.

In politics Mr. Behlen is independent, but in church work he and his family are very active as members of the German Baptist church. His brother, D. Behlen, gave the land on which the church of the neighborhood is built and Frederick Behlen and his family have been very helpful in promoting the work of the church and have contributed most generously to its support. Mrs. Behlen is the only one left in the community that aided in organizing the German Baptist church of Shell Creek. She is a true Christian mother, is active in the Ladies' Aid Society, of which she is the treasurer, and is loved by all who know her for her many good qualities. Their son John is now secretary of the Sunday school, William is also active in the work of the church and Freda is one of the teachers in the Sunday school. The children are indeed a credit to their parents, their records being an expression of the Christian training of the home. Mr. Behlen deserves commendation for his business career, for he started out empty-handed at the age of fourteen years and has since depended upon his own resources, but while putting forth earnest and strenuous effort to gain a living and secure a comfortable competence for his family he has never neglected the higher, holier duties of life and is recognized throughout the community as an earnest Christian gentleman.

WILLIAM SCHELP.

William Schelp, of Grand Prairie township, has contributed to the agricultural development of Platte county and has also been a factor in the political life of the state, as he has served in the state legislature, proving an able and farsighted lawmaker. A native of Germany, his birth occurred in Westphalia on the 17th of March, 1818. His parents, Phillip and Fredericka Schelp, who were also natives of that country, came to the United States with their family in 1854 and for two and a half years thereafter resided in St. Louis. They then removed to Morgan county, Illinois, and for six years lived on the Jacob Strawn farm near Jacksonville, whence they removed to Sangamon county, Illinois, where both passed away.

William Schelp was about six years of age when he accompanied his parents to this country and received his education in the public schools of Illinois. When but sixteen years of age, however, he put aside his textbooks and began work upon the farm by the month, so continuing until he turned his attention to learning wagon

making. He became an excellent workman and conducted a shop at Berlin, Sangamon county, for eighteen years, gaining and holding a gratifying patronage. In 1885 he came to Platte county, Nebraska, and purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Grand Prairie township. At that time but thirty acres were broken and there were no buildings upon the place. As soon as possible he placed all of his land under cultivation and in the intervening years he has made his farm one of the well developed tracts of his locality. He has erected good substantial buildings and keeps everything in excellent repair, while he uses the latest machinery in the work of the farm. He grows grain and raises stock, and both branches of his business have proved profitable.

Mr. Schelp was married August 6, 1871, in Berlin, Illinois, to Miss Wilhelmina Blecher, who was born in St. Louis, Missouri, a daughter of William and Gertrude Blecher, both natives of Prussia, Germany. They were early settlers of Berlin, Illinois, where the father engaged in merchandising for years, becoming one of the successful business men of that town. Both he and his wife are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Schelp have become the parents of four children, of whom two survive: Elizabeth, the wife of William Arndt; and W. P., who is cashier in a bank at Platte Center.

Mr. Schelp is a democrat where national issues are at stake but otherwise votes independently. For a number of years, when the populist movement was at its height, he supported that party. In 1891 and again in 1893 he was elected to the state legislature and during the two terms that he was a member of that body he supported many measures which have since proven of benefit to the state as a whole. Both he and his wife hold membership in the German Lutheran church and strive to exemplify the teachings of that organization in their daily lives. Mr. Schelp has always been energetic and industrious, and these qualities, combined with his business insight and good management, have enabled him to win financial independence. He holds not only the respect of all who have been associated with him but also the warm regard and personal friendship of many.

FRED WILLE.

Fred Wille is a very prominent farmer and stockman of Shell Creek township, his home being on section 36. His property is known as the Wayside Farm and he is one of the leading breeders and raisers of Poland China hogs in the state, having been in that line since 1900. He was born in Cook county, Illinois, February 26, 1873, a son of August and Maria (Sieckmann) Wille. The father was born in Prussia, February 26, 1813, and his life record covered the intervening years to the 23d of July, 1914, when he passed away. His wife, who was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1845, is still living. August Wille was but four years of age when brought to the United States by his parents, who settled in Illinois. On attaining his majority he began farming in Cook county, that state, and occupied the first farm which he purchased until 1912, when he retired and went to live with a daughter at Blue Island, Illinois, where he passed away. Success attended his efforts in a business way and he became the owner of over four hundred acres of good land on which he had a fine herd of dairy cattle. In religious faith he was a



FRED WILLE

German Lutheran and was very active, earnest and zealous in the work of the church.

Fred Wille was the eldest in a family of seven children. He attended the parochial and public schools in the acquirement of his education and continued his residence in Illinois until 1898, when, at the age of twenty-five years, he came to Platte county, Nebraska, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 36, Shell Creek township. Upon this property he has made substantial improvements and the place is now one of the attractive farms of the county. He has erected good buildings, including a comfortable residence and substantial barns and outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock. He uses the latest improved machinery and has divided his farm into fields of convenient size by well kept fences. In all that he undertakes he displays a most progressive spirit and his life work constitutes an example that may well be followed by other agriculturists and stockraisers. He raises a high grade of Guernsey cattle, which he ships to adjoining states, and he also makes a specialty of the raising of Poland China hogs, winning many prizes. He won first prize on a boar over two years old; first prize on a boar of eighteen months; first prize on a boar under six months; first prize on a sow, eighteen months; first prize on a sow under six months; first prize, breeder's ring; first prize, four animals, get of one boar; and grand championship of show, any age or breed. He was superintendent of the hog exhibit at the Platte County Agricultural Society Fair in 1915 and has been treasurer of the society. He ships hogs all over the United States and has one of the best bred herds in Nebraska.

In 1898 Mr. Wille was united in marriage to Miss Louise Behle, a daughter of Henry and Emilie (Bebler) Behle, of Shell Creek township. Mr. and Mrs. Wille have become the parents of seven children, namely, Irene, Ethel, Alice, Olive, Edgar, Lorna and Clara. In politics Mr. Wille is a democrat and manifests a citizen's interest in the leading questions and issues of the day. He has filled the offices of clerk and constable in his township and has also been justice of the peace, in which connection his decisions have been strictly fair and impartial. He has likewise served as school director and believes in the employment of good teachers that adequate educational opportunities may be given to the young. In a word, he is a progressive man, the spirit of advancement being manifest in all that he does and he well deserves the reputation which he has won as a foremost stock-raiser and breeder of this section of the state. The name of the Wayside Farm has become well known not only in adjoining states but in other sections of the country and its owner is a most enterprising man, meeting with well deserved success in his undertakings. Mr. Wille belongs to the German Lutheran church and aided in organizing the parochial school conducted in connection with that church.

JAMES P. NUNNALLY.

James P. Nunnally, who was a cavalryman during the Civil war and who for many years carried on general agricultural pursuits in this county, is now living in Monroc. He has always made his home west of the Mississippi river, his birth having occurred in Danville, Montgomery county, Missouri, September 30, 1844,

his parents being John T. and Elizabeth Nunnally. They were farming people and died during the boyhood of their son James.

He acquired a fair education for that time and in his youthful days worked as a farm hand. After the outbreak of the Civil war he joined the military forces, enlisting as a member of Company A, Third Missouri Cavalry, under Colonel Tracy. He saw very hard service during the first of the war and remained with that command for four months. He afterward reenlisted as a member of Company C, Third Regiment of Missouri Cavalry, under Colonel Coffee, and remained at the front throughout the entire period of hostilities, surrendering at Shreveport, Louisiana, in 1865.

Mr. Nunnally then returned home and engaged in railroad work until 1868, when he removed to Cass county, Nebraska, where he turned his attention to farming, following that occupation for fifteen years. In 1900 he removed to North Dakota and later in that year came to Platte county, settling near Monroe, where he continued to carry on general farming. His labors in the cultivation of the fields were attended with good harvests and the sale of his crops brought him a substantial annual income, so that he was able to save something year by year and is now the possessor of a good competence.

In Cooper county, Missouri, in 1870, Mr. Nunnally was united in marriage to Miss Artemesia Rickman and they became the parents of eight children, of whom five are yet living: Lee, a resident of Tacoma, Washington; Hezekiah, also living in Tacoma; Fairfield, who follows farming a mile west of Monroe; Jack, living in Sutherland, Nebraska; and Charles, who is clerk of the council at Monroe.

Mr. Nunnally has always supported the democratic party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, but has never been an aspirant for public office. He holds membership in the Baptist church and has lived an upright, honorable life, ever being loyal to his honest convictions and true to his professions.

GEORGE GRABE.

George Grabe, a well known and successful architect of Columbus, is now engaged in business as a member of the firm of Grabe & Helleberg. His birth occurred in Germany on the 28th of February, 1883, his parents being Frederick and Eliza (Ohlwein) Grabe, who were born, reared and married in that country. The father, whose natal year was 1858, brought his family to the United States in 1883, locating first in Gladbrook, Iowa, where he remained for three years. Subsequently he spent a period of thirteen years at Kilgore, Cherry county, Nebraska, and then took up his abode on a farm near Blair, Washington county, this state, where he has since resided. The paternal grandfather of our subject was William Grabe.

George Grabe acquired his education in the public schools of Kilgore, Nebraska, and in Omaha. He studied architecture and in 1905 began the practice of his profession, while the year 1910 witnessed his arrival in Columbus, where he was a member of the firm of Wurdeman & Grabe, architects, for four years. They prepared the plans for the high school at Humphrey, this county, for the third ward school at Columbus, and for the St. Francis Hospital at Grand Island, Nebraska, which cost ninety-six thousand dollars. In 1914 Mr. Grabe formed his present

partnership with John Helleberg, under the style of Grabe & Helleberg, and among the many structures which stand as monuments to their skill are the Ragatz building in Columbus, the new forty-five thousand dollar high school at Schuyler, Nebraska; the Independent Order of Odd Fellows building at Polk, Nebraska, and school buildings at Cairo and Cody, Nebraska.

In 1906, in Lincoln, Nebraska, Mr. Grabe was united in marriage to Miss Mabel Clare Peak, a daughter of Julius and Viola (Thompson) Peak. Their children are three in number, namely: Hazel, Pearl and Ruby Clare. In his political views Mr. Grabe is a republican, while his religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. He enjoys an enviable reputation as an enterprising and capable young business man of Columbus and his continued success is assured.

CLAUD J. FENNEL.

Merit and ability have placed Claud J. Fennel in the front rank among the photographers of Nebraska. He has the artistic sense, the mechanical ingenuity and the unflinching enterprise which are indispensable in this field of art. He now has a splendidly equipped studio in Columbus, where he has been in business since 1912. He was born in Grundy county, Illinois, January 8, 1880, a son of William and Mary (Convis) Fennel, natives of Vermont and New York respectively. The father was a carpenter and wagon maker of the Green Mountain state and after the war removed westward to Illinois, settling in Grundy county, where he continued to follow his trade. In 1886 he came to Nebraska, establishing his home in Thayer county, where he lived until 1902, when he went to Schuyler and afterward became a resident of eastern Colorado, where he owned and cultivated land. From that state he returned to Columbus, where he is now living retired. In early life he was identified with the Baptist church, while later he became a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Claud J. Fennel completed his education in the high school of Hebron, Nebraska, and then began the study of photography with William Griffin of that place. In 1900 he removed to Schuyler, where he established a studio, continuing active in business there for twelve years, or until 1912, when he came to Columbus. Here he opened a photographic studio and the artistic character of his work has brought to him a liberal and growing patronage. In fact his ability has gained for him wide and well merited prominence in his chosen field. He is a member of the Tri-State Photographers Association, which includes Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri; has been secretary, vice president and president of the State Association of Photographers; is a member of the National Photographers Association and has been twice a delegate to the national congress of photography. He keeps in touch with the most advanced thought, methods and scientific processes of his art and has won first prizes in both Class B and Class A at the state conventions. In addition to conducting business in Columbus he has branch studios at Silver Creek and at Spalding and is accorded a most liberal and well deserved patronage.

On September 26, 1906, Mr. Fennel was united in marriage to Miss Lou E. Williams, who was born near Rockville, Missouri, a daughter of John and Mary (Biler) Williams. The mother, who was born in Cooper county, Missouri, is now

living in Columbus. The father, who was born in Tennessee and died in 1889, was a minister of the Baptist church in Missouri and Illinois. He was also prominent in political circles and was chosen to represent Bates county in the Missouri legislature. In his business affairs he prospered and became the owner of farm lands. At the time of his death, which occurred in 1889, he was a resident of Rockville, Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Fennel have two children, Catheryn and Marjorie.

Mr. Fennel belongs to the Masonic fraternity, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Tribe of Ben Hur. He has always been very active in the Methodist Episcopal church, especially in Sunday-school work, and is now Sunday-school superintendent. In 1915 he was elected lay delegate, from Nebraska, to the Methodist Episcopal General World Conference convening during the full month of May, 1916, at Saratoga Springs, New York. His religious belief has ever been the guiding force in his life and thus his career has measured up to the highest standards, winning for him the confidence and respect of all.

OWEN JONES.

Owen Jones is a retired farmer living on section 16, Joliet township. For a long period he was closely associated with agricultural interests and won the success that now enables him to leave the work of his farm largely to others. His example may well serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others, showing what may be accomplished when ambition points out the way and energy and determination continue therein. Mr. Jones was born in Talbont, Conway, Wales, in February, 1851, a son of John and Mary (Owen) Jones, both of whom passed away in the year 1890, the father at the age of eighty-two and a half and the mother when eighty-one years of age. Mr. Jones carried on general farming and stock-raising, having a small tract of land. He lived a quiet life, was unassuming in manner but his entire course was directed by honorable principle in keeping with his professions as a member of the Methodist church.

Owen Jones was the fourth in a family of seven children. His educational privileges were extremely limited, for he had the opportunity of attending school for only two weeks and his lessons of life had to be learned in the school of experience, in which, however, he has picked up much valuable knowledge. He was only eleven years of age when he began to earn his living as a farm hand and when old enough he began work in the slate mines of his native country. In July, 1881, he became a resident of Iowa, settling in Montgomery county, renting a farm not far from Red Oak. There he lived for about five years and in 1886 arrived in Platte county, after which he continued the cultivation of a rented farm in Joliet township for three years. In the meantime he carefully saved his earnings and his diligence and economy enabled him in 1889 to purchase one hundred and twenty acres of land, constituting the nucleus of his present farm. To this he has added from time to time until he now has four hundred acres of land all well improved. Upon his place he has a good home and other substantial improvements. When he made his first purchase, only thirty acres of the land was broken and there were no buildings upon the tract, but with characteristic energy he set to work to break the sod, turning the furrows and developing the fields. He has added good improvements

from time to time and is today the owner of a valuable farm property. At the present time he is largely living retired, leaving the actual work of the fields to his sons. In addition to his farm in Platte county he is the owner of land in Pierce county, Nebraska.

Mr. Jones was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Jones, who was born in Wales, June 30, 1851, a daughter of Richard and Elizabeth (Jones) Jones, and the second in order of birth in a family of five children. The father, who was born April 5, 1826, worked in the quarries in Wales and there spent his entire life, passing away in 1896. The mother's birth occurred March 25, 1826. By her marriage Mrs. Jones has become the mother of ten children: Mary, the wife of D. Jenkins, a farmer of Wayne, Nebraska, by whom she has five children; Richard, who is a street car conductor in Los Angeles, California; John, who is a farmer of Pierce county, Nebraska, and is married and has five children; William E. and Robert, who are on the home farm; Elizabeth, the wife of W. G. Jones of Joliet township; Dorothy, the wife of Arthur Nelson, who is farming in Joliet township, and by whom she has two children; Evan; Jane, the wife of H. Schmill, a farmer of Whitney, Nebraska, by whom she has one child; and Gladys, at home.

Mr. Jones has adhered to the religious faith of his fathers and is an earnest Methodist. His political views are those of the republican party but he has never aspired to office, preferring to leave office holding to others. He has ever concentrated his attention upon his business affairs, working earnestly and persistently to achieve success. Starting out a poor boy at the age of eleven years, he has advanced steadily and is now numbered among the substantial farmers of Joliet township.

F. E. BELKNAP.

F. E. Belknap, who is successfully engaged in farming on section 8, Creston township, was born in Bureau county, Illinois, November 23, 1864. His parents, Willard and Sarah (Martin) Belknap, were both natives of Ohio, but when eighteen years of age the father accompanied his parents to Bureau county, Illinois. In 1865 he removed to Iowa and purchased land in Marion county, which he cultivated until 1874, when he sold out and came to Platte county, Nebraska. He took up a homestead in Creston township, which he improved and operated until 1888. In that year he retired from active life and removed to Creston, where he lived until 1910, when he became a resident of Ogallala, Nebraska, where he is still living. His wife, however, passed away in May, 1902.

F. E. Belknap grew to manhood and received his education in Creston township, this county, and remained with his parents upon the homestead until he reached the age of twenty-two years. He then began his independent career by renting land, which he farmed until 1897, and then purchased two hundred and forty acres of land on section 8, Creston township. He has made many improvements upon the place and as it is always well kept up it is one of the most attractive farms of the county. In addition to growing grain he raises full blooded Hereford cattle, and both branches of his business yield him a good profit.

On the 23d of February, 1887, Mr. Belknap was united in marriage to Miss Carrie V. Keigwin, who died in 1892, leaving three children, Jessie B., John Oscar

and Florence. Mr. Belknap was again married February 25, 1897, his second union being with Miss Isabella Langmuir, a daughter of James and Agnes (Angus) Langmuir, who were natives of Scotland but came to America in childhood and were married in this country. They located in Minnesota, where Mr. Langmuir engaged in farming for some time, but subsequently took up their abode in Mills county, Iowa. There he purchased land, to the cultivation of which he devoted the remainder of his life. He passed away in 1889 but his wife still survives and resides on the homestead in Mills county, Iowa. By his second marriage Mr. Belknap has four children, namely: Mabel E., Lacy L., Ethel A. and Donald L.

Mr. Belknap supports the republican party at the polls and is much interested in all matters of public concern. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Degree of Honor. A life of well directed activity and of strict adherence to high standards of conduct has brought him financial independence and the respect of all who are associated with him.

EDWARD ZYBACH.

An excellent farm of four hundred and sixty acres in Loup township pays tribute to the care and cultivation of Edward Zybach, who is working diligently along well defined lines of labor to attain success. He was born August 23, 1870, in the township where he still resides, his parents being Peter and Barbara Zybach. The father, a native of Switzerland, was a watchmaker in his native country and came to America from the land of the Alps in 1868, and, making his way to Nebraska, cast in his lot with the pioneer settlers of Platte county, where he endured all of the hardships and privations incident to frontier life. He took up a homestead of eighty acres, which now constitutes a part of his son's farm, and with characteristic energy began to develop and improve the place, being one of those to take the initial step in converting the county into a prosperous agricultural district. In the family were but two children: Edward; and Mrs. Lena Hecker, now of Polk county, Nebraska. The father died in 1902 and the mother, surviving for seven years, passed away in 1909.

The son acquired a common-school education and from early youth assisted his father upon the home farm, early becoming familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He was a young man of nineteen years when he left home and made his way to the northwest, spending some years in Yamhill county, Oregon. He engaged in farming during that period and then returned to Platte county, since which time he has continued to make his home in Loup township, where he has a farm of four hundred and sixty acres situated on sections 24 and 25. In addition to tilling the soil he also devotes considerable time and attention to the raising of registered Poland China hogs, for which he finds a ready sale on the market, commanding good prices because of the high grade of his stock. He carries on all of his farm work according to modern scientific ideas and his is a valuable and splendidly improved property, equipped with all modern accessories and conveniences found upon the model farm of the twentieth century. His buildings are large, adequate, comfortable and attractive and his farm presents a most pleasing feature in the landscape. He has a large



EDWARD ZYBACH AND FAMILY

tractor which he uses in plowing and all of his farm machinery is thoroughly modern.

On the 24th of September, 1900, Mr. Zybach was united in marriage to Miss Lena Liebengood, a daughter of John Liebengood, one of the pioneer residents of Platte county. They have become parents of four children: Elvina, Frank, Edward and John. The family are well known in this county and Mr. and Mrs. Zybach have many warm friends. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party and for two terms he filled the office of deputy assessor. He has also been a school director for four years and he is interested in everything that pertains to the welfare and upbuilding of the community. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, belonging to the camp at Columbus, and his name is also on the membership roll of the Tribe of Ben Hur. He is justly accounted one of the representative citizens of his community, standing at all times for progress and improvement along material, intellectual and social lines.

ALBERT HANKE.

Albert Hanke, residing on section 10, Joliet township, is a self-made man, who deserves much credit for the success he has attained as the years have gone by—a success that has come as the reward of earnest, persistent effort, and which finds tangible expression in the excellent appearance of his farm of three hundred and twenty acres. He devotes his attention mainly to the raising of high grade shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs and is accounted one of the leading farmers and stock-raisers of his locality. He was born in Chickasaw county, Iowa, April 28, 1870, a son of August and Minnie (Kohn) Hanke, who were natives of Prussia and are now residents of Phillips county, Kansas, the father having attained the age of seventy-nine years, while the mother has reached the age of seventy-three. He was a farmer in Germany and continued a resident of Prussia until 1865, when he severed his connections that bound him to his native country and sailed for the new world. Making his way into the interior, he settled in Chickasaw county, Iowa, where he was engaged in the cultivation of a rented farm until 1879. He then removed to Phillips county, Kansas, where he lived for a considerable period. In 1890, however, he homesteaded in Platte county, securing a tract of land in St. Bernard township, which he owned and cultivated until 1902. He then returned to Kansas and has become the owner of nine hundred and sixty acres in that state. In his political faith he is a democrat and his religious belief is that of the Lutheran church. He has always been very active in church work and though he had little educational opportunity and no advantages at the outset of his career, he has learned many valuable lessons in the school of experience, has become a successful business man and has made his life of worth and benefit not only to himself, but to others.

Although born in Iowa, Albert Hanke spent much of his boyhood and youth upon the old homestead farm in St. Bernard township, Platte county, meeting with the usual experiences of the farm lad who divides his time between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the fields. In 1900 he began farming on his own account, renting land on section 10, Joliet township, and his industry and economy brought him the measure of success that enabled him

to purchase the property in the spring of 1903. He has added to his original holdings until he is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres. All this he has made through his own efforts, having no outside help or assistance, but he possesses industry, determination, persistency of purpose and honesty and these qualities always win results. He started out with three horses, a wagon, plow and a few household goods and he now has a nice farm, which is known as Shell Creek Valley Stock Farm, on which he raises good grades of shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. His life has been an active one and success crowns his efforts in substantial measure.

In 1900 Mr. Hanke was united in marriage to Miss Frances Melcher, who was born in Granville township, a daughter of John and Frances (Smeltzer) Melcher, natives of Germany. The father emigrated to the new world in 1870 and took up a homestead claim in Granville township, Platte county. That he has prospered in his undertakings is indicated in the fact that his possessions now aggregate twelve hundred and eighty acres of land. He is active in public affairs and assisted in the organization of the Catholic church in St. Bernard and gave a third of his profits from what he raised one year toward the erection of the house of worship. To Mr. and Mrs. Hanke have been born four children, Edward, Emma, Clarence and Roy.

In his political views Mr. Hanke is a democrat, but has never been ambitious to hold office. He has served, however, as treasurer of school district No. 42 and is a member of St. John's Catholic church in Joliet township. He is interested in its work, contributes generously to its support and at all times manifests a public-spirited devotion to the general good. He has concentrated his efforts, however, upon his farm work and has allowed no obstacle nor difficulty to bar his path if it could be overcome by persistent, earnest effort.

REV. JENS J. LERAGER.

Rev. Jens J. Lerager is the pastor of St. Ansgars Danish Lutheran church and makes his home on section 11, Walker township. He is well known in the county, and among the people of his denomination and in the community in which he lives he is held in highest esteem and regard. He was born May 31, 1883, in S. Aldum, Denmark, and is a son of Jens C. and Maren (Hansen) Lerager. His educational advantages of early boyhood were such as the Danish lad ordinarily receives. He was a young man of twenty years when, in May, 1903, he bade adieu to friends and native land and sailed for the new world, making his way to Flynn, near Plankinton, South Dakota, where a brother was engaged in merchandising. Our subject took up his abode upon a farm in that locality, but, being ambitious to direct his labors into a field of still broader usefulness, he later went to Des Moines and entered the Grand View Theological College, in which he took the regular course. Subsequently he pursued the study of theology in that institution, from which he was graduated in 1911. During his eight years in college he worked during the summer months, being employed at farming and tiling and during the latter years at teaching, and through his earnest, persistent efforts won the means that enabled him to pursue his college course. He was then assigned to duty at Elba, Howard county, Nebraska,

where he remained from the 1st of July, 1911, until the 1st of April, 1913, when he came to his present charge, accepting the pastorate of St. Ansgars Danish Lutheran church.

In December, 1912, Rev. Lerager was united in marriage to Miss Anna Petersen, a daughter of M. Peter and Anna Peterseu, of Cordova, Seward county, Nebraska, and they have one son, Carl. Rev. and Mrs. Lerager have become well known in Platte county during the period of their residence here and their attractive home is noted for its warm-hearted and generous hospitality. They do much to aid in the intellectual as well as moral progress of the community and Rev. Lerager is a most earnest worker in behalf of his church, consecrating almost his every effort and thought upon its upbuilding and the promotion of the cause for which he stands.

GEORGE WALTER PHILLIPS.

In many public offices George Walter Phillips has demonstrated his loyalty to the best interests of Platte county, his efforts ever being a potent force in promoting public progress. In business circles, too, he has figured prominently and, moreover, there is no one in this section of the state more conversant with the history of the county, for his residence in this part of Nebraska covers a period of more than a half century. His birth occurred in Lake county, Illinois, October 24, 1856, his parents being George Dinsmore and Julia Ann (Jackson) Phillips. His great-grandfather in the paternal line was Nicodemus Phillips, who removed from the state of New York to Illinois in 1840, settling in Chicago. John Jackson, great-grandfather on the maternal side, was born near London, England, and came to America in 1839. George Dinsmore Phillips was a native of Onondaga county, New York, and was a miller by trade. After living for some years in Illinois he came to Nebraska in 1864, settling in Elk City, Douglas county, where he resided until 1896, when he came to Columbus and made his home with his son, G. W. Phillips, until his death. His widow still resides with their son.

G. W. Phillips lived in Algonquin, Illinois, until seven years of age, when in 1864 the father came to the west with his family, including the mother, the son, G. W. Phillips, and two daughters. They landed from a Missouri river steamboat at Omaha and the son was sent to school at Elk City until he reached the age of thirteen years. On the 26th of November, 1871, he arrived in Columbus and began learning the cutter's and fitter's trade with M. T. Kenny, working along that line for his board, clothing and twenty-five dollars per year, together with the privilege of three months' schooling annually. He spent three years in that manner, after which he engaged in the shoe business, both selling and manufacturing shoes until 1883. In the autumn of that year he became an employe in the county clerk's office under John Stauffer and after eighteen months was appointed deputy county clerk, which position he filled until the fall of 1889, when he was elected county clerk on the democratic ticket and entered upon the discharge of the duties of that position, which he filled through reelection for six years. In 1896-7 he was postmaster of Columbus and in the fall of the latter year was again elected county clerk, serving for six years more. He next organized the German National Bank, erected a building and opened the doors of the bank for business in September, 1906, since which time he has

served as president of the institution. In 1909 he was associated with others in organizing the Home Savings Bank, of which he has served continually as cashier, thus being closely identified with the financial interests of the county. He is likewise interested in the Columbus Gas Company, of which he is now the secretary, and is connected with the Platte County Independent Telephone Company and the Evans Hotel Company, being a director of the latter.

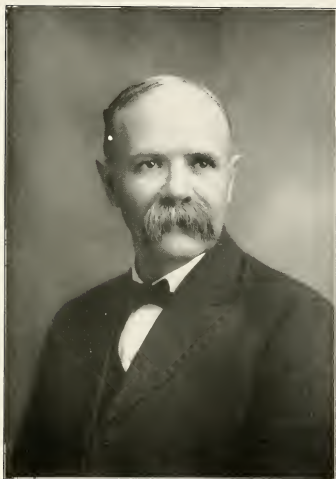
On the 26th of June, 1883, in Columbus, Mr. Phillips was united in marriage to Miss Louisa E. Hudson, daughter of Henry J. Hudson, of Columbus. To them were born three children, as follows: Myrtle, who died at the age of five; Milton H., born October 4, 1890, who is employed as bookkeeper by the Leesburg Mining Company of Salmon, Idaho, and who wedded Miss Frances Schroeder of Columbus, by whom he has two children, Milton, Jr., and Louisa; and Albert J., born August 22, 1896, who graduated from the Columbus high school in 1915 and is now employed as bookkeeper by the Columbus Gas Company. The wife and mother was called to her final rest on the 7th day of April, 1897.

Mr. Phillips attends the Methodist Episcopal church and fraternally is connected with the Masons, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America, Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He likewise belongs to the Commercial Club of Columbus and during the eight years of its existence has served as its treasurer. In politics he is a democrat and for four different terms has been mayor of Columbus, his reelection being proof of his businesslike and public-spirited administration of municipal affairs. He has also served as councilman for three terms and in 1903 was secretary of the democratic state central committee. His influence and activities have thus extended beyond his immediate locality to the benefit of the general public, while in the city and county of his residence his labors and interests have been most effective in advancing the general welfare.

SIEGFRIED C. B. NISSEN.

Platte Center lost a representative business man and worthy citizen when Siegfried C. B. Nissen was called to his final rest in 1911. He was the proprietor of the Fairmont Creamery and as such was conducting a substantial business. He was of Danish nativity, his birth having occurred in Odense, Denmark, on the 23d of January, 1847, a son of Siegfried and Antonia Nissen, who were born respectively in Bogense and in Copenhagen, Denmark. After completing his education in the schools of his native land he engaged in the mercantile business at Bogense, where he remained for a number of years. On selling out he came to the United States about 1886 and settled in Merrick county, Nebraska, where he purchased a tract of land and turned his attention to farming. Later, however, he removed to Chapman, Nebraska, and again engaged in commercial pursuits, owning and conducting a store and also a cream station for ten years.

On selling his business at Chapman, Mr. Nissen removed to Platte Center on the 6th of April, 1908, and here began dealing in cream and eggs, opening what was known as the Fairmont Creamery. From that time until his demise he continued to actively engage in business and controlled a large and gratifying trade. His



W Phillips

business was of value to the community, as it furnished a market for the farmers and supplied the town with thoroughly fresh and desirable products.

On the 31st of October, 1877, Mr. Nissen was united in marriage to Miss Anna Marie Allfrieda, a daughter of Jorgen and Dorothea Knudsen, also natives of Denmark. Her father was an officer in the Danish army. To Mr. and Mrs. Nissen were born three children, namely: Sarah, Antonia and Hugo. The first two are natives of Odense, Denmark. Sarah is now the wife of John Horstman, of St. Libory, Nebraska, where they own a farm, and they have five children. Antonia is the wife of Gregor Brunt, a farmer living near Columbus, and they have three children. Hugo, who was born in Merrick county, Nebraska, married Frieda Berehtold and is now engaged in farming near Columbus. Mr. and Mrs. Nissen also reared an adopted daughter, Christina.

The family circle was broken by the hand of death when on the 29th of July, 1911, Mr. Nissen passed away. He was an Odd Fellow in his fraternal relations and a Lutheran in his religious faith and both organizations now miss a valued member. He was ever loyal to any cause he espoused, was devoted to his family and faithful in friendship, and all who knew him spoke of him in terms of the warmest friendship and highest regard.

HENRY ALPERS.

Henry Alpers is conducting a growing and profitable business as a painter and decorator at Columbus, the excellence of his work insuring him a liberal patronage. Laudable ambition has prompted him to put forth earnest and persistent effort, while a courageous spirit has enabled him to overcome all difficulties and obstacles in his path.

Mr. Alpers is a native of Hanover, Germany. He was born February 3, 1878, and is the fourth in order of birth in a family of five children, whose parents were Henry and Rebecca (Pape) Alpers. Ere leaving his native country he learned the cabinetmaker's trade and in 1901, attracted by the business opportunities of the new world, he came to the United States, making his way at once to Nebraska, where he worked as a carpenter near Columbus. He was then about twenty-three years of age. Subsequently he was employed as a carpenter on a hospital at Columbus, while for nine months he worked in the Columbus Planing Mill. He afterward spent five and a half years in a furniture store as salesman and repair man and on the expiration of that period turned his attention to the painting and decorating business, in which he has since been engaged. At first his patronage came largely from the surrounding country but as the years have gone by he has developed a large city business which has been steadily increasing and is now one of very gratifying and desirable proportions. Most of his previous experience constituted the preparation for his work in these lines and that the results of his labors are highly satisfactory to his patrons is shown in his constantly increasing trade.

In 1901 Mr. Alpers was married in Germany to Miss Emma Albers, a daughter of Henry Albers, and they have become parents of three children, Hugo, Werner and Arthur. The religious faith of the family is that of the German Lutheran church, while in political belief Mr. Alpers is independent, voting according to the dictates

of his judgment, based upon the demand of the time. The family occupy a large and attractive modern residence and in addition Mr. Alpers owns a well equipped shop. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for here he has found the opportunities which he sought. He brought with him no false idea that success was to be had for the asking, but he recognized the fact that in this country industry and diligence are not hampered by caste or class and that the road to advancement is open to all. Accordingly, he put forth earnest, persistent effort and has won for himself a creditable position in business circles of Columbus.

CURTIS W. HOLLINGSHEAD.

An excellent farm of two hundred and seventy acres situated in Oconee township is the property of Curtis W. Hollingshead and pays substantial annual tribute to him for the care and labor which he bestows upon it. He also has other important business connections and at all times is regarded as one of the progressive citizens of his part of the county. He was born in Sauk county, Wisconsin, March 19, 1858, a son of William and Lauzna J. (Dennis) Hollingshead. The father was born near Greensborough, in Knox county, Tennessee, and with his parents removed north to Indiana, where he lived for several years. In 1884 he married Lauzna J. Dennis, who was born in Delaware, North Carolina. With ox teams they removed westward to Clarke county, Iowa, where they remained until 1851, when they became residents of Sauk county, Wisconsin, casting in their lot with its pioneer settlers, for it was then a new and undeveloped country. At the time of the Civil war Mr. Hollingshead joined the army as a private of Company I, Third Wisconsin Infantry, and saw active duty at the front. He was with Sherman on his march to the sea. Following the close of hostilities he continued his residence in Wisconsin until 1876, when he removed to Platte county and engaged in farming near the present site of Monroe for a number of years. For five or six years prior to his death he conducted a general mercantile store in Monroe, where he passed away in 1910, at the advanced age of eighty years. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and was accounted one of the valued and worthy citizens of this county. His widow survives and is now living in Monroe at the age of eighty-six years.

Curtis W. Hollingshead began his education sitting on a slab bench in a little log schoolhouse in Wisconsin, for his boyhood days were there passed amid pioneer conditions. He accompanied his parents to Nebraska, remaining at home until he reached the age of twenty-two years, when he began farming on his own account in Monroe township, devoting his energies to general agricultural pursuits until 1891, when he engaged in the grain business in Monroe. He became associated in the undertaking with C. H. Sheldon under the firm style of Sheldon & Hollingshead, a partnership that was continued for fifteen years, or until 1906, when Mr. Hollingshead again took up farming, to which he is now devoting his energies, being busily employed in the cultivation of his two hundred and seventy acres of rich and arable land. He also raises Percheron horses, having full blooded stock. He makes his home in Monroe, from which point he directs his farming interests, driving back and forth to his place. He has ever been greatly interested in the development

of the entire county and is a stockholder and director of the Platte County Fair Association, while his wife is a member of the Monroe Farmers Association. She, too, has valuable property holdings in the county, their combined possessions aggregating four hundred and seventy acres of excellent land.

It was on the 20th of November, 1883, that Mr. Hollingshead wedded Miss Matilda N. Dack, and they have become the parents of four children. Neal, the eldest, now operating the home farm, is married and has one child, Corinne. He attended the Lincoln Business College for two years and spent one year as a student in the Wesleyan University. Arthur, born January 23, 1894, was graduated from the Wesleyan University at University Place and is now principal of the high school at Monroe. He served as president of the Young Men's Christian Association of his college and also became a member of Phi Kappa Phi. Corrie H., who was born January 13, 1897, was graduated from the Monroe high school in June, 1915. Delbert J., born October 11, 1899, is attending school.

Mr. Hollingshead has always been very active in the affairs of his town and, in fact, aided in its organization. Several times he has been a member of the city council and he has served in township and school offices. His political allegiance has always been given to the democratic party. He has been quite active in support of religious work and aided in organizing the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he and his wife are active and earnest members. Mr. Hollingshead has served as trustee and steward of the church, while his wife has also been most prominent in church work, in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and in the social life of the community. They occupy a beautiful residence in Monroe, justly celebrated for its warm-hearted hospitality, and the best homes of the city and surrounding country are readily opened for their welcome.

HARRY T. SWANSON.

The attractiveness of Platte county as a place of residence and the excellence of the opportunities which it offers to a man of energy and ambition are indicated by the fact that many of its native sons have elected to remain residents of it after reaching manhood's estate. Among this number is Harry T. Swanson, who is successfully farming on section 15, Walker township. He was born upon that farm on the 8th of February, 1878, of the marriage of Peter and Nellie (Anderson) Swanson, both natives of Sweden, the former born in 1844 and the latter in 1847. On removing to this country they resided in Illinois, but in the early '70s came to Platte county, being numbered among its first settlers. Both are still living and make their home in St. Edward, enjoying a period of rest and leisure which is well deserved. A sketch of their lives appears elsewhere in this work.

Harry T. Swanson was reared upon the farm where he still lives and through assisting his father gained valuable knowledge of agricultural methods. During his boyhood and youth he also devoted considerable time to attending the public schools, thus gaining a common-school education. He now owns one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land and devotes his attention almost entirely to its cultivation and improvement. He does general farming and as he plans his work well and uses up-to-date methods, his labor yields him a good income.

Mr. Swanson was united in marriage to Miss Anna Jensen, a native of Sweden and a daughter of Nels Jensen. The wife and mother died in 1911, leaving a daughter, Edna.

Mr. Swanson is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, the work of which he furthers in every way possible and the teachings of which guide his life. In carefully managing his private interests and in continuing the development of his farm he is not only gaining individual success, but is contributing to the agricultural development of his county. He is widely known and the genuine worth of his character is indicated by the fact that those who have been most intimately associated with him are his staunchest friends.

JOHN GIBBON.

John Gibbon is mayor of Monroe, serving for the fourth year in that office of honor and responsibility. He is also well known as a capable business man, having had charge of the business of the Hord Grain Company since 1901. He is a native of Pembrokeshire, Wales, born February 12, 1856, and is a son of Benjamin and Mary (Evans) Gibbon. The father was born in Wales about 1828 and, leaving that little rock-ribbed country in 1837, sailed for the new world, making his way to Iowa county, Wisconsin, where he entered two hundred and forty acres of land from the government. He there engaged in farming throughout the remainder of his days, his death occurring in 1906, while his wife survived until 1909. They were consistent Christian people, holding membership in the Congregational church, and Mr. Gibbon served as deacon in the local church organization with which he was connected. In politics he was an ardent republican, giving stalwart support to the party and its principles. In fact, he displayed many sterling traits of character which made him valuable as a man and a citizen.

John Gibbon acquired a good English education in the public schools of Wisconsin and in his youth began working on the home farm, so that he early became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. Taking up the profession of teaching, he devoted twenty-two years to that work in Wisconsin and in Platte county, Nebraska, proving an able educator by reason of his ability to impart clearly and readily to others the knowledge that he had acquired. In 1901 he took charge of the business of the Hord Grain Company. This has changed hands three times in the intervening period of fourteen years, but through all of the changes Mr. Gibbon has remained with the company, carefully directing the interests of the business at this place, his labors being attended with a substantial measure of success. He closely studies the market, knows the conditions of the trade and is therefore able to so direct his efforts as to make the business at Monroe a profitable one.

On the 15th of February, 1888, Mr. Gibbon was united in marriage to Miss Ella Miller, of Monroe, Wisconsin, and they have become the parents of eight children: Raymond, who resides in South Dakota; Mary, a graduate of the State Normal School and now a teacher at Creston, Nebraska; Leslie, at home; Gladys, who is also a graduate of the State Normal School and resides with her parents; Audrey, a graduate of the local high school; and Laura, Hazel and Margie, all at home.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN GIBBON

Faternally Mr. Gibbon is connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and politically is a democrat. He has served as central committeeman for Oconee township and has been clerk of the township board. He is now serving as mayor of Monroe and for three years previously filled the office. His record discloses a public-spirited administration characterized by needed reforms and improvements. He has also been the secretary of the Monroe school board for the past eleven years and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. His entire life has been characterized by a spirit of progress and improvement, and strong purpose, commendable determination and laudable ambition have carried him into important business relations.

JOSEPH M. BROCKHAUS.

Joseph M. Brockhaus, a partner in the firm of Braun & Brockhaus, general merchants of Humphrey, was born in the town where he still makes his home and where he has won for himself a creditable position in commercial circles. His natal day was August 2, 1884, his parents being Frank and Johanna (Fuchs) Brockhaus. The mother was born in Austria, but was only two years of age when brought by her parents to the new world. The father, who was a native of Wisconsin, became a carpenter, learning his trade in the Badger state, after which he worked at carpentering there until eighteen years of age. In 1876 he came to Nebraska with his parents, who took up a homestead in Platte county, but Frank Brockhaus continued to follow carpentering until 1893, when his father gave him two hundred and forty acres of land, one hundred and sixty acres in Granville township and eighty acres in Grand Prairie township. He then began to develop and improve the property, which he converted into fine farms. He erected the buildings upon his place in Granville township and he has continuously operated his land, proving as capable in the occupation of agriculture as he was in building. He has purchased more land and is now the owner of an entire section. To him and his wife were born ten children: Joseph M.; Henry; two daughters who were named Mary and are now deceased; Rose; Bernard; Mathew; Anna; John; and Cecelia.

Joseph M. Brockhaus was reared under the parental roof and acquired his education in the district schools and a parochial school at Humphrey. During the periods of vacation he became familiar with the work of the farm and remained with his parents until he reached the age of twenty-five years, when he went to Oklahoma and purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land, which he operated for a year. He then rented that property and returned to Humphrey, where he secured a clerkship in the store of Diers Brothers, remaining with the house for two years. On the expiration of that period he joined William P. Brann in organizing the firm of Braun & Brockhaus for the conduct of a general mercantile business. They now carry a large stock and enjoy a very gratifying patronage. They put forth earnest efforts to please their customers and their reasonable prices and honorable dealings also constitute features of their growing success. The firm now operates a cream station in Humphrey, buying and selling cream, butter and eggs.

On the 26th of June, 1913, Mr. Brockhaus was married to Miss Rose Eisenmenger, a daughter of Anton and Elizabeth (Schelkopf) Eisenmenger, natives of

Illinois, in which state the father carried on farming until 1894, when he removed with his family to Platte county and purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in Burrows township. His attention has since been given to its further cultivation and the result of his labor is seen in well tilled fields, which annually bring forth golden harvests. Mr. and Mrs. Brockhaus have become the parents of a son, Gerard, who was born April 22, 1914.

In religious faith the parents are Catholics and Mr. Brockhaus belongs also to the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Order of Foresters. He votes with the democratic party and is loyal in support of its principles. Official preferment has no attraction for him as he desires rather to concentrate his energies upon the management of a growing business, and already he has attained a reputation as one of the leading merchants of his town.

ALBERT KURTH.

Albert Kurth is one of the representative young business men of Duncan, where he is connected with commercial pursuits as a member of the Duncan Mercantile Company. He was born March 18, 1883, in Duncan, a son of Adolph and Mary Kurth, natives of Switzerland. The father was a tinner by trade and after crossing the Atlantic to America made his way to Nebraska in 1876. He found only a few settlers in Butler township, Platte county, and became identified with the pioneer development of the district. He assisted in building the branch railroad which was extended to this county and took part in promoting other pioneer projects. He settled first on the Loup, where he secured a homestead claim and began farming, but the drouth and the grasshoppers took all of his crops in the early years. The first winter all that the family had to eat was corn and they used roasted wheat as a substitute for coffee. The father followed his trade in Duncan for a time in order to provide funds to meet the wants of his family. In his later years he was in ill health and he passed away in Duncan in 1890, when but forty-five years of age. He was a member of the German Reformed church and his life measured up to high standards. His widow survives and is living in Duncan at the age of sixty-five years.

Albert Kurth acquired his education in the public schools of Platte county. At ten years of age he began herding cattle for Lewis Jones, of Butler township, for which he received one dollar per week. The next year he acted as cook for his brothers, going to Scribner, Nebraska, and for two years he worked as a farm hand at six dollars per month. He then returned to Duncan and for four years was in the employ of Herman Ernst. In the meantime his mother had removed to Columbus, where he joined her, and in that city secured employment in a brick yard. He also drove a dairy wagon in Portland, Oregon, for six months, but after a brief period spent in the northwest returned to Nebraska, where he became connected with farming interests. He also worked in a livery barn at Columbus for three years, was employed to drive a delivery wagon and also worked in stores at Columbus for five years. In the meantime he had carefully saved his earnings until his industry and economy brought him sufficient capital to enable him to engage in business on his own account. He then removed to Duncan and organized the Duncan Mercantile Company in April, 1910. He now has a very complete stock of general merchandise

and is at the head of a growing business, which was originally conducted as a partnership under the style of Schram & Kurth, but after a year he purchased his partner's interest and the business is now incorporated under the name of the Duncan Mercantile Company with Mr. Kurth as general manager, secretary and treasurer. He has built up a large trade and his success is well merited, for in his business career he has ever been industrious, energetic and honest.

On the 1st of June, 1910, Mr. Kurth was united in marriage to Miss Estella Welch, a daughter of Henry Welch, and they have two children, Mary and Leonard. Mr. Kurth holds membership with the Modern Woodmen of America at Columbus, with the Sons of Herman and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. While in Columbus he served for seven years as a member of the fire department and was foreman of Hose Company No. 2. He was active in organizing the town of Duncan and has served as a member of its council. He is always interested in everything pertaining to the general welfare and as a member of the German Reformed church contributes to the moral progress of the community. In fact, he cooperates in all measures relative to the public good and his influence is always on the side of right and progress. At a time when most boys were having the privilege of attending school he was earning his own living and his entire life has been one of unfaltering industry, his persistent, earnest labor bringing the success which is now his.

A. O. PEARSON.

Farming interests of Oconee township find a worthy representative in A. O. Pearson, who is devoting his time and energies to the further development and improvement of his farm of two hundred and eleven acres situated on section 17. He is a representative of that substantial class of citizens that Sweden has furnished to this county, for he was born in the northern part of Sweden, July 29, 1867, and in that country remained until he reached his fifteenth year, coming with his parents to the United States in 1882. He had acquired a common-school education in his native land and experience has since brought to him broad knowledge, particularly along the line which he has chosen as a life work. For some time after coming to America he aided his father in farming, but, desirous of starting in business for himself, he purchased his present place and has since bent his energies to its cultivation and improvement. The farm presents an attractive appearance, for upon it is a nice residence and large and substantial barns and outbuildings. He has prospered in his undertakings, for his work is carefully managed and directed and unfaltering industry actuates him in all of his business pursuits. He raises fine Hereford cattle in addition to general farming and his fields bring forth rich crops because of the care and cultivation which he bestows upon them. His work is conducted according to modern scientific methods and his place is thoroughly pleasing and attractive in appearance.

On the 24th of December, 1903, Mr. Pearson was married to Miss Florence Mitchell, a daughter of Lee Mitchell, of North Carolina, and to them have been born the following named: Edward, Anton, Sarah, Ura, Lee, George, Homer, Leonard and Oakley, all of whom are at home.

Mr. Pearson exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the democratic party and has filled the office of road supervisor. He has also been a school director and the cause of education finds in him an earnest champion. In fact, he stands for advancement and improvement along all lines relating to the general welfare and his cooperation can be counted upon to further any plan or measure for the public good.

LYTTON FRANKLIN.

Lytton Franklin is the proprietor of a general mercantile store at Monroe, and his long experience makes it possible for him to know the wishes and desires of the public. His business measures up to high standards of commercial ethics, and his success is the merited reward of close application and honorable dealing. Iowa claims Mr. Franklin as a native son, his birth having occurred in Adams county, September 30, 1876, his parents being Levi W. and Elizabeth Franklin. The father, a native of Ohio, was born in Ashtabula county in 1834. His father, Harry Franklin, being a shoemaker, he learned and followed this trade, working at it most of the time. When a young man he went with his parents to Crawford county, Indiana, and was married to Elizabeth Hardin in 1858. He enlisted in the army August 14, 1862, with Company G, Sixty-sixth Indiana Regiment. He was taken prisoner at Lexington, Kentucky. He participated in battles at Columbus, South Carolina, at Corinth, at Rome, Georgia, and marched with Sherman to the sea. He was discharged from service June 3, 1865, at Washington, D. C. In 1873 he and his wife removed to Carbon, Iowa, traveling in wagons drawn by ox teams, and there began farming. He also worked in the coal mines at that place. Mrs. Franklin was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Meridith Hardin, natives of Virginia and Tennessee, who came to Indiana and were engaged in farming. She was born in Crawford county, Indiana, September 12, 1813, and was one of a family of five. Mr. and Mrs. Franklin were the parents of three sons and two daughters, Alonzo, Clinton, Lytton, Alice and Zella. Death called Mr. Franklin in 1912, when he had reached the venerable age of almost eighty years. He belonged to the Grand Army of the Republic and was a very active champion of the republican party but had no political aspirations. He lived a Christian life, was a total abstainer, never used an oath, and because of his many sterling traits of heart and mind enjoyed in full measure the respect of his friends and neighbors. His widow survives and is now living in Carbon.

Lytton Franklin, the fourth in order of birth, attended the Carbon schools, also the Corning Academy, and in 1898 graduated from the Western Normal College at Shenandoah, Iowa. He made a start in the workaday world by securing employment in a store in Carbon, at ten dollars per month. It was by means of his labors that he was enabled to make his way through the advanced schools which he attended. After his graduation he again worked in a general store, and after a few years bought a small establishment, consisting of groceries and meats, in the town where he was raised, and received the appointment as postmaster there. Later he went to Corning, Iowa, and was employed as shoe salesman in A. B. Turner's store. The year 1906 witnessed his arrival in Monroe, Nebraska, where he became one of the

successors to the business of J. E. Dack & Company, under the firm name of Coulter & Franklin. A year later they dissolved partnership and he conducted the business under the style of L. Franklin. He has a good clean stock of general merchandise, and the appointments of his store are attractive. He makes it his purpose to please his patrons in every possible way and in his dealing never deviates from high standards of business integrity.

In 1906 Mr. Franklin was united in marriage to Miss Jessie Stokes, of Corning, Iowa, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Stokes. Mr. Stokes was born in Putnam county, Indiana, in 1832, and came to Iowa in 1880. In 1881 he was united in marriage to Miss Luella V. Morris, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Morris, of Brooks, Iowa, who were among the early settlers of Adams county. Before her marriage she was engaged in teaching school. Mr. and Mrs. Stokes owned land and were engaged in farming in Adams county until 1906, when they moved to Corning to secure better school advantages. After moving to Corning he worked at the carpenter trade until 1909, since which time he has been employed as rural mail carrier. He is still active in public affairs and is now one of the well known and highly respected residents of Corning. He has been identified with the Masonic lodge since 1874. He also belongs to the Methodist church, which indicates the high principles that govern him in his relations of life. Mrs. Franklin, the first child, was born in 1883, near Brooks, Iowa. She attended the country school and at the age of seventeen began teaching. She later attended the Corning Academy. Mr. and Mrs. Franklin have become the parents of two children, Elizabeth Lovella and Thomas Lytton.

In his fraternal relations Mr. Franklin is an Odd Fellow, holding membership with Mystic Lodge, No. 321, and also with the canton and the Rebekah degrees. He aided in organizing Mystic Lodge, No. 321, of which he became a charter member, was the first secretary, and has held all of the other offices. He also belongs to the Masonic lodge of Corning. In politics he is a standpat republican, believing firmly in the principles and policy of the party, from which he has never deviated. For eight years he filled the office of village clerk, and at all times he has been regarded as one of the progressive and valuable residents of Monroe. Of the Methodist church Mr. and Mrs. Franklin are active members, and he is one of its trustees. While he has made steady advancement in business, he has never allowed material things to so monopolize his time that it would be impossible for him to participate in public affairs or in church work. In a word, he has recognized his duties and obligations in every relation and has done much to advance the best interests of his community.

DENIS REGAN.

Denis Regan, a well known and highly respected farmer of Shell Creek township, living on section 4, was born in County Kerry, Ireland, on the 8th of September, 1836. He has therefore passed the seventy-ninth milestone on life's journey, being one of the venerable residents of his district. His parents, Richard and Nora (Conland) Regan, were farming people of Ireland and there Denis Regan was reared, acquiring a good education in the public schools. The school session continued

through the summer as well as the winter months, with a half-day holiday on Saturday. Mr. Regan continued his residence in his native country until he reached the age of twenty years, when in 1856, attracted by the business opportunities which he heard existed in the new world, he came to the United States and made his way to Bureau county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming for fourteen years. In 1871 he arrived in Nebraska and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres on section 4, Shell Creek township, which he still owns, the place being called the Bushmount Farm. He has devoted his attention to the further development and improvement of the property as the years have gone by and has raised stock for the market, thereby adding materially to his annual income. He has fenced and cross fenced his place, thus dividing it into fields of convenient size, and there are good buildings upon his land. In fact, all the equipments and accessories of the model farm are there to be found and the owner has ever been regarded as a man of energy and enterprise.

Mr. Regan married Miss Margaret Halland, whose birth occurred in County Cork, Ireland, March 3, 1839, and who passed away on the 3d of March, 1911. To them were born nine children, eight of whom survive, as follows: Richard, who has represented his county in the state legislature during three terms; Daniel, at home; Thomas, living in Joliet township; John, who is a resident of Adel, Iowa; Mary, who makes her home in St. Edward, Nebraska; Margaret; Patrick; and Jessie, at home.

In his political views Mr. Regan has always been a democrat since becoming a naturalized American citizen, but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking. However, he was one of the first directors in his school district and filled that position for twenty-four years. In religious faith he is a Catholic, holding membership in the church at Platte Center. His life has been one of industry and perseverance and his diligence and determination have enabled him to work his way steadily upward, bringing to him a substantial competence that supplies him with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

RICHARD S. DICKINSON.

Richard S. Dickinson, who has been a resident of Platte county for nearly a third of a century, is widely recognized as one of its leading and influential citizens and has twice served as mayor of Columbus. He is the vice president of the Journal Company, but now devotes his attention merely to the supervision of his investments. His birth occurred in St. Louis, Missouri, on the 2d of June, 1859, his parents being Ebenezer D. and Helen (Heffernan) Dickinson, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of Ireland. Their marriage was celebrated in St. Louis, Missouri. Ebenezer D. Dickinson passed away in Chicago in 1867, while the demise of his wife occurred in Kankakee, Illinois, in 1880. Richard S. Dickinson, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was a native of Massachusetts.

Richard S. Dickinson was graduated from the Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst in 1879 and four years later came to Platte county, Nebraska, here successfully carrying on farming for fifteen years. On the expiration of that period he took up his abode in Columbus, where he has remained continuously to the present time. He is no longer actively identified with business interests, however, giving his

attention only to the supervision of his investments, which include farm property and other holdings.

On the 25th of February, 1885, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Dickinson was united in marriage to Miss Leona M. Holden, her father being Oscar Holden, a native of Vermont. Their children are three in number, namely: Oscar Dwight, Robert Smith and Elton Gilbert.

Mr. Dickinson is a republican in politics and has twice served as mayor of Columbus, giving to the city most beneficial, businesslike and progressive administrations. He likewise served as president of the Columbus Commercial Club for one term and in that capacity promoted the material interests of the city in marked degree. His religious faith is that of the Congregational church and he is a worthy exemplar of the Masonic fraternity. His public-spirited devotion to the general good is manifest in many ways, including a loyal support of all the projects and measures which are undertaken for the upbuilding and welfare of his city and county.

CHARLES POTTER.

Charles Potter has spent practically his entire life in Platte county, although a native of Illinois, his birth having there occurred—in Kane county—on the 4th of July, 1870. He is a son of John Potter, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work, and he was only eight years of age when the family left Illinois and came to Nebraska, taking up their abode on section 29, Lost Creek township, Platte county. As his age and strength increased Charles Potter aided more and more largely in the work of the fields upon the home place and through the winter seasons he attended the public schools, thus acquiring a fair education. He continued to assist his father upon the home farm until 1892, when at the age of twenty-two years he started out in business on his own account, but made no change in his occupation, for he found farming congenial and hoped to make it a profitable pursuit for himself. He began on sections 32 and 33, Lost Creek township, where he has four hundred and eighty acres of rich and valuable land, his home being on section 33. He is today one of the most extensive agriculturists of his township and also one of the most progressive. In his farm work he uses all modern implements and machinery, including a tractor engine, and he employs the most advanced methods that science advocates in the care and cultivation of his land. He has erected new buildings upon his farm and everything is kept in excellent condition. There is no indication of slack methods in his work. Everything is done at the proper time and in the proper way and energy and determination have carried him far on the road to prosperity.

Mr. Potter is now local agent for the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Lincoln and since accepting the position has largely increased the business of that concern. He is a man of marked ability, forceful and resourceful, and his efforts have won success along all the various lines to which he has turned his attention. He is now a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company of Monroe, of which he is serving as a director, is the vice president of the Monroe Coal Company and is also financially interested in the Monroe Independent Telephone Company.

In 1893 Mr. Potter was united in marriage to Miss Lena Talbitzer, her father being Charles W. Talbitzer, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this

work. She passed away in October, 1909, leaving four children, namely: Ralph, Paul, Edna and Harold. Several years later Mr. Potter wedded Margaret Dirsch, of Madison county, Nebraska.

In his political views Mr. Potter is a democrat, but has never been an aspirant for office nor sought other reward for party fealty. He has, however, served as school director for four years and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. Fraternally he is connected with the local organizations of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America at Monroe. He keeps thoroughly in touch with the topics of the times, is ever ready to support his position by intelligent argument and is always willing to forward movements for the interests of Platte county and especially to advance better farming conditions and qualifications. On his banner is emblazoned the word onward, and realizing that industry is the basis of all honorable success, he has made industry the beacon light of his life.

GEORGE BERNEY.

One is apt to consider the pioneer period of Platte county as covering the decade between 1870 and 1880. Long years before that time, however, George Berney arrived in this county and through the intervening period until his death was closely associated with business affairs and public interests which have left their impress upon the material and political upbuilding of the county and its development in many ways. He arrived in Columbus in 1857, when the site of the now populous and prosperous city was marked by only a log cabin or two. His life was in many respects eventful and covered a wide range of experiences—experiences from which he learned many valuable life lessons. A native of the land of the Alps, he was born in Volz, Canton Grisons, Switzerland, January 30, 1832, his parents being Anton and Ursula (Furger) Berney, and was but six years of age when his mother died. Three years later his father married again, and on that account he left home to provide for his own support, and for two years he was employed at herding cattle in Lindau, Germany. He then went to Milan, Italy, where he made his home with an uncle, who was proprietor of a hotel, assisting there in work connected with the hotel. He became actively interested in the revolution of 1848, was made a prisoner by the Austrians and nearly lost his life in the blowing up of an armory. Finally he escaped and eventually made his way to his old home in Switzerland, where he arrived in 1853.

Mr. Berney had studied European conditions, and with his love of liberty, resolved to seek "the land of the free and the home of the brave." It was in the fall of 1854 that he consummated his plans for coming to the new world and in the spring of 1855, then twenty-three years of age, he was at work in the lumber woods of northern Wisconsin, meeting the hardships incident to cutting timber in that region. He afterward went to New Orleans, where he secured employment on a steamer plying between that city and Mobile. In 1856, at St. Louis, he learned that sixty men were wanted to drive cattle and teams to California from western Kansas and made inquiries concerning this, paying one dollar of his hard-earned money for the information. On reaching western Kansas he found that his informant had merely



ROSA HENGELLER BERNEY



GEORGE BERNEY

swindled him out of his money and in May, 1856, he made his way northward to Omaha, from which date he was numbered among Nebraska's substantial residents.

From his boyhood Mr. Berney had known nothing but hard work and his characteristic spirit of industry at once caused him to seek employment in Omaha, which he found with John H. Green, a stonemason. In the fall of that year his employer sent him, in company with Fred Gottschalk and Fred Becker, to Columbus with two yoke of oxen to cut logs for a new sawmill which had just been started, but when within three miles of Fremont the oxen became stuck in the snow. Mr. Berney volunteered to remain with the teams while the other two men should proceed to Fremont, then a hamlet of three log huts, and secure aid. The storm became a blinding blizzard and Mr. Berney nearly perished before rescue reached him. The next day the little party had to return to Omaha, unable to continue on their westward way through the snow.

In March, 1857, Mr. Berney traveled on foot from Omaha to Columbus, carrying all of his provisions in his camp kit. When he reached Shell creek he suffered from snow blindness but continued along, walking waist-deep in snow, attempting to reach the cabins of his friends, Charles Reinke and Henry Lusche, who had preempted claims along the creek a few months before. Because of the condition of his eyes he passed their shanties and would have been lost had not Reinke seen him and gone after him. Mr. Berney secured a squatter's claim about two miles from the home of his friend and eight miles northeast of Columbus and walked back and forth to Bellevue for supplies. His life continued to be one of indefatigable and unflinching industry and during the pioneer period he suffered great hardships, at times amounting to extreme privations. In the early days he took a contract to dig a deep ditch two miles long to serve in lieu of a fence for the cattle. He was busy at the work for a year and during that period lived almost entirely upon crude cornmeal and water. In 1860 he sold his claim for one hundred and fifty dollars, bought an ox team and started for Colorado. About thirty-five miles from Denver on the Platte river he engaged in raising hay, which he hauled to Denver, selling it to the government for the cavalry horses at the post, receiving as high as two hundred dollars per ton. He thus gained a good profit, but hauling hay at that time was a most difficult undertaking, for he had to ford streams, sleep under the wagon in the snow and eat frozen bread. Again disaster overtook him, for a flood swept down the Platte valley, burying his hay lands in two feet of sand and thus terminating the business which had been yielding him a good financial reward.

Mr. Berney then turned to freighting between Omaha and Denver, engaging in that business for a year. On one of his trips from Omaha, reaching Fort Kearney he was stopped by the soldiers on account of the Indians, as they had destroyed and killed everything for about two hundred miles west of them. He was obliged to stay there about seven days; by this time about five hundred teams had gathered. They then made their way through in trains, camping at night about fifty teams together. When reaching Denver he got twenty dollars a sack for his flour, which cost him three dollars and fifty cents in Omaha—a very handsome profit, but freighting on the frontier among bands of hostile Indians is certainly an experience that the young man of today would think he could not endure. Pioneers were born not made.

After this he again came to Nebraska, traveling by stage in the spring of 1865. Making his way to Columbus, he married and then took up his abode on a homestead five miles southwest of Columbus, turning his attention to the raising of cattle and hogs, which business he conducted on an extensive scale. He was the first man in

Platte county to ship corn-fed cattle to the Chicago market. Some time afterward he sold his original farm and purchased a larger tract of land near the Platte, residing thereon until 1892, when he removed to Columbus to spend his declining days.

Mr. Berney spoke four languages, German, English, French and Italian. In 1881 he made a trip to his native country, visiting France, Switzerland, Italy and the principal towns in those countries. In 1889 he again made a trip to those countries seeing the World's Fair at Paris, in company with Robert Kummer and John Gisin. In 1908 he made the third trip to Switzerland, remaining one year.

Mr. Berney was married February 27, 1865, to Miss Rosa Hengeller who was born October 13, 1847, in Unter-Egeri, Canton Zug, Switzerland. She was brought to America by her parents, Franz and Magdalena Hengeller, in 1854, and in 1858 the family came to Platte county and settled nine miles northeast of Columbus, where seven years later she became the wife of George Berney. Her children, with the exception of Joseph Berney, now county assessor of Platte county, preceded her to the great beyond. In 1881 Mrs. Berney was married to Leo Merz in the state of Washington, who died about twenty years ago, after which Mrs. Merz returned to Nebraska and passed away at her home in David City, February 10, 1913, and was laid to rest in the Berney family lot in the Catholic cemetery of Columbus.

The death of George Berney occurred February 13, 1915, at which time he was the oldest pioneer of Columbus. He was a member of the Catholic church and was laid to rest in the parish cemetery. His was indeed an active and useful life and as an agriculturist he contributed largely to the development and progress of Platte county, where he had a circle of friends who esteemed him highly for his many sterling traits of character and his genuine worth. No history of the county would be complete without extended reference to him and it is with pleasure that we present his history to the readers of this volume.

JOSEPH F. BERNEY.

There is no gainsaying that Joseph F. Berney is one of the most popular, respected and honored citizens of Platte county, for this fact was evidenced in his election to the office of county assessor, on which occasion he was nominated by the democrats and indorsed by the progressives and the republicans. This feeling of uniform regard entertained for him is the result of a well spent life in which the principal features have been enterprise and integrity in business, loyalty in citizenship and consideration for the rights and privileges of others at all times.

Mr. Berney was born June 7, 1867, on a farm five miles southwest of Columbus, his parents being George and Rosa Berney, who were among the oldest of the pioneer settlers of Platte county and of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. He attended St. Francis Academy in the years 1879 and 1880 and in the fall of the latter year, when a youth of thirteen, he went to the state of Washington, where he was employed for six months on a hop farm six miles from Tacoma. He later spent a year working on a pack-train, packing provisions on mules and horses into the coal prospect camps in the Cascade mountains from Newcastle, Washington. Subsequently he spent a year in working in sawmills and logging camps and later he spent four years as a coal miner in the Black Diamond, Franklin and Newcastle

mines of Washington. It will thus be seen that from early boyhood his life has been one of untiring industry and he early learned the value of persistent, earnest and honorable work. On leaving Washington he removed to California and spent four months in the gold mines at Forest Hill. After about five months on a farm near Antioch, California, during which period he attained his majority, he returned to Nebraska to see his father.

His educational privileges up to this time had been very limited, owing to the fact that he started out so early to earn his living, and upon his return to this state his father sent him to the Omaha Business College in 1889. After a year's attendance he was graduated and secured a position in the First National Bank of Columbus in 1890. He resigned as assistant cashier of that institution in 1901. In 1894, while in the service of the bank, he was elected city treasurer, in which connection he made so creditable a record that he was reelected and continued for two terms, retiring from the position as he had entered it—with the confidence and good will of all concerned. In 1901 he bought out the agricultural implement business of C. S. Easton on Eleventh street and continued actively in trade there for four and one-half years, at the end of which time he sold out. He afterward went upon the road as traveling salesman for the Acme Harvester Company, spending one year as representative of that corporation in the south half of the state. His next business move was in the lumber trade at Columbus in partnership with G. W. Viergutz. After a year, however, he disposed of his half interest in that undertaking and bought out the agricultural implement business of Mrs. K. A. Kehoe at Platte Center, Nebraska, conducting the store for two years, at the end of which time he sold out.

On the 6th of September, 1892, Mr. Berney was united in marriage to Miss Eva Schilz, whose birth occurred in Columbus, Nebraska, October 28, 1874, her parents being William and Elizabeth Schilz, of Columbus, who are natives of Germany. She is a graduate of St. Francis Academy of Columbus, Nebraska, and by her marriage has become the mother of six children, namely: Etheline Margaret, who was born April 3, 1894, and passed away on the 24th of November, 1896; Lillian Catherine, who was born January 22, 1896, was educated in St. Francis Academy of Columbus and is a school teacher by profession; Joseph George, whose birth occurred September 8, 1898, and who is now attending the Catholic College for Boys at Spalding, Nebraska; Paul William, who was born May 3, 1901, and is a student in the Columbus high school; George Anthony, who was born January 3, 1904, and is attending St. Francis Academy; and Edmond Godfrey, who was born November 18, 1906, and is now attending the Nebraska School for the Deaf at Omaha, Nebraska.

Mr. Berney has always been a stalwart supporter of the democratic party and his fitness for office is widely recognized, for he regards a public office as a public trust and moreover has ability to discharge the duties connected therewith. In 1912 he was nominated by the democrats for county assessor, and as the nomination was indorsed by both the republican and progressive parties, he was elected without opposition to the office, which he is now acceptably filling. In business he has been generally successful and as an employe was never discharged. He is now in comfortable circumstances, having a good income which enables him to enjoy not only the necessities, but some of the luxuries of life. In the summer of 1915, in company with his wife, their daughter Lillian and son Edmond, he visited the San Francisco

and San Diego expositions and other points of interest on the Pacific coast. He has a wide acquaintance in Platte county, where the greater part of his life has been passed, and that he is most popular and highly esteemed is indicated in his election without opposition to the office which he is now so creditably and acceptably filling.

THOMAS H. JOHNSON.

Thomas H. Johnson was a well known representative of agricultural interests in Platte county, where he lived for over thirty years, winning the respect, confidence and good will of all with whom he was associated. His entire life was passed in the middle west, his birth having occurred in Bureau county, Illinois, on the 19th of May, 1858, his parents being Hugh and Mary (McNannie) Johnson. In attending the public schools he obtained a fair education and through vacation periods and after his school days were over worked upon the home farm, early becoming familiar with all the labor incident to the development of the fields. He remained a resident of his native state until he reached the age of twenty-four years, when in 1882 he came to Nebraska, making Platte county his destination. He settled in Columbus township, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land on which he engaged in farming. He bent his energies to the cultivation of the fields and the rich soil readily responded to the care and labor which he bestowed upon it. As the years passed he gained a fair measure of success and was thus able to purchase eighty acres more, owning his original farm until 1898, when he sold that property and removed to Columbus township, where he purchased two hundred acres of land, which he cultivated until his death. He worked hard and his industry, indefatigable determination and unflinching perseverance won him success.

On the 31st of January, 1883, Mr. Johnson was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary B. Fleming, a native of Lyndon, Whiteside county, Illinois. To them were born thirteen children, namely: John, Arthur, Nellie, Hugh, Michael, Phillip, Edward, Joseph, Agnes, Lillian, Grace, Frank and one who died in infancy.

Mr. Johnson was a Catholic in religious faith and a democrat in his political belief. He died September 21, 1913, and his death was the occasion of deep regret to many friends as well as to his immediate family. He was faithful in his friendships and in his own household was a devoted husband and father, putting forth earnest effort in order to provide a good living for his wife and children.

JULIUS S. NICHOLS.

Julius S. Nichols is actively and prominently identified with industrial interests as the owner of the Columbus Brick Works, which he established in February, 1903, and has since successfully conducted. He was born in Livingston county, Michigan, April 22, 1872, a son of H. W. and Ellen Delight (Boyden) Nichols. The father was born at Ann Arbor, Michigan, January 22, 1838, and was a representative of one of the early families of that state. At the outbreak of the Civil war his patriotic spirit was aroused and he enlisted for service with the Union army, becoming a

lieutenant of Company A. Tenth Michigan Infantry, which was assigned to the Second Division of the Fourteenth Army Corps. His valor and loyalty won him promotion to the rank of captain. After the war he returned to his native state, where he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land, on which he still resides, having throughout the entire period given his attention to general agricultural pursuits.

Throughout the period of his boyhood Julius S. Nichols worked upon his father's farm, alternating his labors in the fields with attendance at the district schools. He remained at home until twenty-five years of age and then came to the west, settling in Omaha, Nebraska, where he filled various positions. After five years he removed to Platte county, establishing his home in Columbus in February, 1913. Soon afterward he began business as a brick manufacturer, building a plant, which he has since successfully operated. He manufactures a fine grade of brick and the output finds a ready sale on the market, the business having now grown to gratifying proportions. Mr. Nichols has recently purchased a half interest in a section of land in Keith county, Nebraska, for which he paid fifteen dollars per acre. This is partially improved and it is his intention to use it as a stock farm, raising high grade cattle there.

On the 26th of April, 1905, Mr. Nichols was united in marriage to Lottie Metz, a daughter of H. F. Hoekenberger, of Columbus, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Nichols have become the parents of a daughter, Ellen Delight. In politics Mr. Nichols is a republican and has served as a member of the city council of Columbus. He belongs to Columbus Lodge, No. 58, F. & A. M., and to the Elks lodge, No. 1195, of which he is a past exalted ruler. Sterling qualities have gained him high regard. He is enterprising and reliable in business, progressive in citizenship and loyal to all the duties that devolve upon him in every connection.

THEODORE E. SALESTROM.

Theodore E. Salestrom, who carries on general farming on section 17, Walker township, his place being known as Sunny Slope Farm, was born in Sweden on the 26th of June, 1878, a son of Andrew and Anna (Anderson) Salestrom. The father is still living at the age of seventy-five years, but the mother, who was born in 1836, passed away in 1911. He had followed the occupation of farming in Sweden, where he remained until 1881, when he crossed the Atlantic and made his way to Chicago, where he worked as a laborer. In 1883 he came to Platte county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land on section 17, Walker township, for which he paid six dollars per acre. Pioneer conditions confronted him here. His farm was largely undeveloped and unimproved and he set himself resolutely to the task of converting the wild prairie into highly cultivated fields. He there made a good home for his family and in addition to farming he has served for the past twenty years as janitor of the Swedish Lutheran church.

Theodore E. Salestrom acquired his early education in school district No. 65 and his boyhood days were spent upon the home farm. His father retiring from the active work of the fields, Theodore E. Salestrom took up the work of the home place when twenty-two years of age and has since been busily engaged in farming and stock-raising. He has purchased one hundred and sixty acres, which he cultivates in addition to the home farm, and he is a very active, energetic young man,

losing no opportunity to advance his interests along legitimate lines and winning his success by indefatigable effort and perseverance. He both raises and feeds cattle and that branch of his business is proving a source of gratifying profit.

On the 25th of October, 1899, Mr. Salestrom was united in marriage to Miss Alvida Nelson, a native of Manistee, Michigan, and a daughter of Swan P. and Marion Nelson, both of whom were born in Sweden. Emigrating to the United States, the father lived in the city of Manistee, Michigan, where he worked in the sawmill until 1889, when he came to Platte county, Nebraska, and took up his abode on section 17, Walker township, where he acquired one hundred and sixty acres of land which he eventually brought to a high state of cultivation and improvement. Mr. and Mrs. Salestrom are the parents of four children, namely: Marie, Rudolph, Theodore, Jr., and Arline.

Mr. Salestrom is a member of the Modern Woodmen camp at St. Edward and he belongs to the Swedish Lutheran church—associations which indicate much of the nature of his interests and the rules which govern his conduct. He now has a nice home in Walker township and Sunny Slope Farm is one of the valuable and desirable properties of that part of the county, its neat and thrifty appearance indicating the careful supervision which characterizes his efforts.

JOHN N. UMLAND.

John N. Umland is the owner of a well equipped machine shop and garage at Columbus and is meeting with gratifying financial success. He was born in Germany, February 18, 1866, a son of Peter and Elizabeth (Schroeder) Umland, who were likewise natives of the same country, whence they came to America in 1869, making their way to Wheatland, Clinton county, Iowa. There the father resided until 1879, when he removed with his family to Grundy Center, Iowa, where he remained for two years. On the expiration of that period he went to Tama county, Iowa, and in 1896 removed to Fort Dodge, that state, where he passed away in the year 1915, being still survived by his widow. In the family were fourteen children, of whom ten are yet living, five sons and five daughters.

John N. Umland was brought by his parents to the United States and spent his youthful days under the parental roof in the various districts in Iowa in which the family lived. In the fall of 1901 he removed to Columbus and here entered the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad Company as a machinist, continuing in that position until April, 1909, when he embarked in business for himself in the conduct of a well equipped machine shop and garage. He is both a machinist and blacksmith by trade and does general machine and repair work and also general blacksmithing. He possesses expert skill along these lines and will employ none but able workmen, with the result that every piece of work done in his shop is well done. He has just erected a fireproof garage, one of the best in the city, and in addition to doing repair work on automobiles he handles tires, gas, oil and, in fact, accessories and supplies of all kinds.

On the 14th of December, 1887, Mr. Umland was married to Miss Anna Welken, a daughter of Chris and Christina Welken, both natives of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, in which country they spent their entire lives, the father having followed

the occupation of farming there. Mr. and Mrs. Umland have become the parents of two children: Clarence, who was born September 14, 1891, and is now associated with his father in business; and Welken J., who was born June 30, 1902, and is attending the public schools.

The parents and children attend the Baptist church and in his fraternal relations Mr. Umland is connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and with the Masonic lodge of Columbus, while both he and his wife hold membership in the local chapter of the Eastern Star. Their elder son is likewise identified with the Masonic fraternity. In politics Mr. Umland is independent, voting according to the dictates of his judgment and never seeking office, for he prefers to give his undivided attention to his business interests, which are of growing importance. He is recognized as a worthy representative of industrial activity in Columbus and through his enterprise and sound judgment has accumulated a competence, while his recognized business integrity has gained him the respect and confidence of all who have had dealings with him.

ERNEST PARSONS DUSSELL.

For the past twenty-three years Ernest Parsons Dussell has been engaged in the plumbing and heating business at Columbus, in partnership with his father, under the firm style of A. Dussell & Son. His birth occurred on a farm in Cedar county, Iowa, on the 9th of February, 1872, his parents being Andrew and Anna (Parsons) Dussell. The father, born in Switzerland in 1848, was brought to the United States by his parents in 1851, the family home being established in Davenport, Iowa, where the grandparents of our subject both died during the cholera epidemic. Their two children, Andrew and his sister, were thus left orphans and were adopted by different families. Andrew Dussell was reared in Iowa and in that state wedded Miss Anna Parsons, a native of Pennsylvania. In 1883 they came to Platte county, Nebraska, locating in Columbus, where Mr. Dussell still resides as one of the representative and substantial business men of the city. During the period of the Civil war he loyally defended the interests of the Union as a member of the Ninth Iowa Cavalry. To him and his wife were born three sons and three daughters, of whom one son and one daughter died in infancy. The surviving members of the family are as follows: Ernest P., of this review; Birdie, the wife of John B. Tschudy, of Columbus, Nebraska; Harley LeRoy, who wedded Miss Olivia Amanda Nelson; and Jessie Carrie, who is the wife of John Dow, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Ernest P. Dussell, who was a lad of eleven when he came to this county with his parents, attended high school in Columbus until seventeen or eighteen years of age and subsequently learned the plumber's trade, working first with his father in Columbus and later in Lincoln, this state, for two years. On the expiration of that period he returned to Columbus and in 1892 went into partnership with his father as a member of the firm of A. Dussell & Son, which has since conducted an extensive and profitable enterprise, doing all kinds of plumbing and heating. Both are capable and energetic business men and the success which has attended the undertaking is well merited.

On the 23d of August, 1893, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Dussell was united in marriage to Miss Maude Mae McCray, a daughter of Robert McCray. They have one son, Francis Carrol, who was born March 26, 1895. Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Dussell has supported the men and measures of the republican party and for one term he served as a member of the Columbus council. Fraternally he is identified with the Knights Templar Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He is a public-spirited and progressive citizen and his worth is widely acknowledged.

CONRAD FUCHS.

Farming interests of Humphrey township find a worthy representative in Conrad Fuchs, who is living on section 28 and is the owner of four hundred acres of arable and productive land, from which he annually gathers good crops. He was born in Austria, November 25, 1859, and is a son of Matthew and Rosalia (Steinbeck) Fuchs, who are mentioned in connection with the sketch of Ferdinand Fuchs on another page of this work. He spent his youthful days in his native country to the age of seven years, when he accompanied his parents on the voyage across the Atlantic to the new world in 1866, the family home being established in Wisconsin. It was in 1873 that they came to Platte county, Nebraska.

Conrad Fuchs remained with his parents until he reached the age of twenty-four years, when he left home and began learning the carpenter's trade, at which he worked at intervals for three years. His father then gave him one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 28, Humphrey township, this county, and he resolutely set to work to develop and improve the property, which he has converted into one of the fine farms of the county. His success, however, has not been continuous. He suffered a heavy loss when he had a large barn, thirty-two by eighty feet, destroyed by fire, but he is now rebuilding. He has purchased more land from time to time until he is now the owner of four hundred acres, including two hundred and forty acres of the old home place on section 28, and one hundred and sixty acres on section 33, Humphrey township. He has operated this farm continuously for forty-two years with good results, and his place indicates his careful supervision. He keeps in touch with the improvements that are being continuously made in farm methods, practices rotation of crops and studies the nature of the soil in order to know what sections of his farm will produce certain kinds of grain to the best advantage. He likewise raises high grade stock and derives from that branch of his business a gratifying income. He is also a stockholder in the First National Bank and in the Farmers Elevator Company of Humphrey.

On the 24th of June, 1881, Mr. Fuchs was united in marriage to Miss Cecelia Froemel, a daughter of Joseph and Cecelia (Schiebel) Froemel, both of whom were natives of Austria. They came to America in 1879, making their way to Platte county, and the father, who had previously followed farming in his native country, here purchased land, which he developed and improved until 1900, when he put aside the active work of the fields, but he still continued to make his home upon the farm until 1914, when he removed to Humphrey, where he has since resided. His wife also survives. Mr. and Mrs. Fuchs have become parents of

eleven children: Cecelia, who was born June 29, 1885, and is the wife of L. J. Veik, a farmer living in Grand Prairie township; Joseph M., who was born March 31, 1887, and died November 12, 1902; Mary, who was born March 7, 1889; Clara, who was born August 11, 1891, and is now a Sister in a convent at Lafayette, Indiana; John, born July 23, 1893; Emil, born September 15, 1895; Magdalena, born May 26, 1898; Veronica, July 10, 1900; Matthew, who was born November 17, 1902, and died February 23, 1906; Regina, born May 16, 1905; and one child who died in infancy.

The family adhere to the faith of the Catholic church, and Mr. Fuchs gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He has served as township clerk of Humphrey township and also as justice of the peace, and in the latter office his decisions were strictly fair and impartial, his course winning him the commendation of all those citizens who hold themselves amenable to law. Through the greater part of his life he has lived in this county and has long been connected with its farming interests, being now known as a representative agriculturist. His business affairs have always been wisely conducted, and in his dealings he is straightforward and reliable.

FRANK BROCKHAUS.

Frank Brockhaus is one of the extensive landowners of Platte county, having six hundred and forty acres of rich and valuable land returning to him a gratifying annual income. His home is on section 36, Granville township, and the property is well improved, all the accessories and conveniences of a model farm being there found. Mr. Brockhaus is a native of Wisconsin, born March 15, 1858, and is a son of G. H. and Anna (Summers) Brockhaus, who were natives of Germany. The father came to America in 1848, making his way to Baltimore, after which he drifted around the country for seven years, finally becoming a resident of Wisconsin, where he purchased and improved land. There he carried on farming for twenty years and on the expiration of that period came to Platte county, purchasing land in Grand Prairie and Humphrey townships. His remaining days were devoted to the further development and improvement of the property until three years prior to his demise, when he put aside the active work of the fields. However, he continued to live on his farm in Humphrey township and at the time of his death was the owner of a section of land, which he divided among his children. He passed away January 16, 1913, having long survived his wife, who died in 1879.

Frank Brockhaus was reared and educated in Wisconsin, no event of special importance occurring to vary the routine of farm life for him in his boyhood days. He remained with his parents until he reached the age of twenty-five years and then, thinking to find another pursuit more congenial, he began work at the carpenter's trade, which he learned in Wisconsin, following that business for ten years. He next became a hardware merchant of Humphrey, conducting his store for two years as a member of the firm of Brockhaus & Gilsdorf. Finally, however, he sold out and removed onto a farm of one hundred and sixty acres given him by his father, his land constituting a quarter of section 36, Granville township. He then energetically began the work of improving the place and, being a carpenter by trade,

he has erected all of the buildings himself. He now has a well improved property on which is found a comfortable residence, substantial barns, well kept fences and carefully cultivated fields. He has also purchased more land until he now owns an entire section, of which four hundred acres is in Granville township, one hundred and sixty acres in Humphrey township and eighty acres in Grand Prairie township. He now farms three hundred and twenty acres and rents the remainder. He is also a stockholder and director of the Farmers Elevator Company.

On the 26th of June, 1883, Mr. Brockhaus was united in marriage to Miss Johanna Fuchs, a daughter of Matthew and Rosalia (Steinbeck) Fuchs, both of whom were natives of Austria. They emigrated to the United States in 1867, locating in Wisconsin, where Mr. Fuchs worked as a farm hand until May, 1873, when he came to Platte county, Nebraska. He took up a homestead and timber claim in Humphrey township and began clearing and improving the property, operating the same successfully until 1884, when he put aside the active work of the fields and took up his abode in the town of Humphrey. The remainder of his life was there spent in honorable retirement, his demise occurring on the 16th of January, 1898, when he had attained the age of eighty-five years, five months and two days. His widow is now eighty-seven years of age and makes her home with Mr. Brockhaus. To our subject and his wife have been born ten children, as follows: Joseph M., who was formerly a merchant of Humphrey and now follows farming in Granville township; Henry, Roselia, Bernard, Mathew, Anna, John and Cecelia, all at home; Mary, who died in 1891; and Mary, who passed away in 1901.

On election days Mr. Brockhaus is found at the polls depositing a ballot for the candidates of the democratic party, and on Sundays he is found among the attendants at the services of the Catholic church. His interests outside of business are thus indicated and he is found as a worthy citizen and reliable man who adheres to a most commendable course in life. His extensive possessions are the merited reward of his labor, for his time has been well spent and in all of his dealings he has been found just and trustworthy.

CHRIST WUNDERLICH.

Christ Wunderlich has been a resident of Columbus since 1908 and is proprietor of the Park Buffet. He is also active in fraternal circles, being now president of the Sons of Herman. A native of Bavaria, Germany, he was born September 2, 1879, and is a son of William and Lissette (Thirm) Wunderlich, who are still residents of Germany, as is the grandmother in the maternal line.

Christ Wunderlich acquired a fair education in the schools of his native country and there learned the trades of a brewer and cooper. He also served for two years in the German army as a Sharpshooter before coming to the new world. Crossing the Atlantic in 1902, when twenty-three years of age, he made his way to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he worked at his trade for four months and was afterward employed in similar manner in Chicago for a year and a half. On the expiration of that period he removed to Westpoint, Nebraska, where he was engaged in the saloon business for four years, and in 1908 he came to Columbus,



CHRIST WUNDERLICH

where he purchased the Park Buffet which he has since conducted. A liberal patronage is bringing him substantial success.

On the 16th of May, 1904, Mr. Wunderlich was united in marriage to Miss Rosa Long, of Chicago, by whom he has four children, namely: William, Rosa, Louisa and Christopher, Jr. In politics Mr. Wunderlich is independent. His religious belief is that of the German Lutheran church, in which he holds membership, and his name is also on the membership rolls of Columbus Lodge, No. 1119, B. P. O. E., the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Sons of Herman. Of the last named he is now serving as president and is proving a popular and capable official. He has wide and favorable acquaintance among the German-American residents of Columbus and has gained many friends during the seven years in which he has made this city his home.

STEPHEN L. GERMAN.

Stephen L. German is a representative farmer and stockraiser of Granville township, living on section 22, and the excellent and well kept appearance of his place indicates his careful supervision and practical, progressive methods. He was born in Stark county, Illinois, December 14, 1860, and is a son of Vasilus and Gertrude (Sager) German, both of whom were natives of Baden, Germany, where the father followed the occupation of farming. In the year 1848 he left his native country and came to the United States, settling at Buffalo, New York, where he lived for a short time. He then continued his journey westward, settling in Stark county, Illinois, upon the farm of one hundred and sixty acres that is still in possession of his children. He also had an eighty-acre tract in Peoria county but made his home upon his Stark county property, where he followed farming until he retired about twenty years ago, removing to Princeville, Illinois, where both he and his wife passed away. In their family were eleven children, eight of whom still survive, namely: Frank, who is a resident of Saint Mary, Nebraska; Riekey, living in Kickapoo, Illinois; Joe, who makes his home in Princeville, Illinois; Maggie, also living in Princeville; Stephen L., of this review; Gertie, who gave her hand in marriage to Henry Foltz, of Granville township; Tina, who is the wife of Nick Fehringer, of Humphrey township; and Mox, a farmer living in Humphrey township.

The youthful days of Stephen L. German were spent in the usual manner of farm lads of that age and locality. He attended the public schools of Illinois and remained at home until he reached the age of twenty-five years. When not occupied with his lessons he was learning the practical work of the farm and in the school of experience gained much valuable knowledge. In 1886 he came to Nebraska, settling first in Burrows township, Platte county, where he cultivated rented land for four years, but during that time he carefully saved his earnings, being anxious to purchase property. He made his first investment in one hundred and sixty acres on section 22, Granville township, where he now resides, but he has since extended the boundaries of his place by the additional purchase of three hundred and twenty acres, so that he now owns four hundred and eighty acres of valuable land. All of this he has placed under cultivation and he has put all of

the improvements upon his farm, having erected a large barn in 1901, while in 1908 he erected a commodious residence. He has also built other buildings for the shelter of grain and stock and he has an excellent farm property. He cultivates the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and then feeds what he raises to his stock. He keeps on hand only high grades of cattle, horses and hogs and he ships a large number of hogs annually. In addition to his other interests he has become a stockholder in the Farmers State Bank of Humphrey, and he bought and owns the old home in Humphrey where Peter Bender and his wife lived.

On the 6th of November, 1888, Mr. German was united in marriage to Miss Annie Bender, whose birth occurred in Marshall county, Illinois, July 11, 1863, her parents being Peter and Catharine (Mallmann) Bender, of whom more extended mention is made on another page of this work in connection with the sketch of Joseph Bender, a brother of Mrs. German. To our subject and his wife have been born eleven children, nine of whom still survive, as follows: Ida, who is the wife of Nick Van Dyke; Nellie, who was born November 8, 1890, and died on the 21st of January, 1893; Katie, the wife of Albert Boesch, living near St. Bernard; John, who is at home; Charles, who was born February 16, 1895, and died on the 6th of March following; Rosie, who attends St. Francis school; Cecilia, who is also a student in St. Francis school; Eddie, who is at home; Albert, Victor and Jerome, who are also attending St. Francis school.

The family are members of St. Francis Catholic church of Humphrey, and Mr. German belongs to St. Joseph's Society. His political indorsement is given the democratic party and for four years he served as road boss in Granville township. His has been a busy and active life and success has rewarded his resolute, persistent efforts, so that he is now one of the prosperous farmers of his community.

C. VAUGHN CAMPBELL, D. D. S.

Dentistry may be said to be almost unique among other 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 art, must be expert with the many tools and appliances incidental to the practice of modern dentistry and must possess business qualifications adequate to dealing with the financial side of the profession. In all of these particulars, Dr. C. Vaughn Campbell is well qualified and therefore has attained prestige among the able representatives of dentistry in Columbus. His birth occurred at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, on the 22d of July, 1875, his parents being Philip F. and Mary M. (Montgomery) Campbell, both of whom are natives of Perry county, Ohio, and who were married at Mount Pleasant, Iowa. The father was born in 1817 and married in the year 1873. He is now living retired with his wife at Ashland, Saunders county, Nebraska. Daniel Campbell, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was also a native of Ohio.

C. Vaughn Campbell acquired his more advanced education in a four years' course of study at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and received his professional training in the Omaha Dental College, from which he was graduated in 1895.

In that year he opened an office in Columbus and has here since remained, enjoying an extensive and gratifying practice that has come in recognition of his skill and ability.

On the 9th of June, 1909, in Columbus, Nebraska, Dr. Campbell was united in marriage to Miss Lillian M. Saffran, a daughter of Frederick Saffran, who was born in Berlin, Germany, but emigrated to the United States. The Doctor's military record covers five years' service as a member of Company F, Second Regiment Nebraska National Guard, while fraternally he is known as a Master Mason, being now junior warden of Lodge No. 58, A. F. & A. M., and also belonging to the royal arch chapter. His religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church, and he has a host of friends who have been attracted to him on account of his manly qualities.

FRED C. HILL.

The attractiveness of Platte county as a place of residence is indicated by the fact that many of her native sons have remained within her borders, not trying to seek homes elsewhere, feeling sure that the opportunities here offered are equal to those to be found in other sections of the country. Among this number is Fred C. Hill, who was born on section 24, Monroe township, May 11, 1881, and still makes his home there. He is a son of Hugh Hill, mentioned elsewhere in this volume. His boyhood days were passed in the usual manner of farm lads and his education was acquired in district school No. 39. During the periods of vacation he was trained in the work of the fields and when he had attained the age of twenty-one years began farming the homestead, his father retiring from the active management of the place. He now cultivates two hundred and forty acres of rich and productive land and is one of the leading and progressive farmers of the community. He is also widely known as a prominent horseman and has bought and sold many fine horses, always handling good stock. He took the first prize and sweepstakes on a Percheron horse at the Platte County Fair in 1915 and he is an excellent judge of horses.

In 1905 Mr. Hill was united in marriage to Miss Ella Gates, a lady of superior accomplishments, especially in the art of music. They have one daughter, Carol Edna. In religious faith Mrs. Hill is a Presbyterian. Fraternally Mr. Hill is an Odd Fellow and his political allegiance is given to the democratic party. He is interested in all that pertains to the welfare of the community and cooperates in many movements that have been factors in general progress and improvement. In a word he is an alert, energetic business man and a public-spirited citizen, whose efforts have been effective forces in promoting individual success and public progress.

FRED A. WEBER.

Fred A. Weber, conducting a profitable business at Monroe under the name of the Monroe Mercantile Company, of which he has been sole proprietor since July, 1915, belongs to that class of representative business men who readily recognize opportunities and use every legitimate chance for advancement, while at the same

time their labors are an element in promoting public prosperity. Mr. Weber is a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred at Frankfort on the 21st of December, 1878, his parents being Peter and Mary Weber, who are now residents of Columbus. They came to Platte county during the boyhood days of their son Fred, who pursued his education in the public schools of Columbus until he reached the age of fifteen years, when his textbooks were put aside and he started out in the business world on his own account. He earned his first money by selling newspapers and afterward engaged in clerking for several years. In 1912 he came to Monroe to take charge of the business of the Monroe Mercantile Company, in which he owned a half interest. His careful management resulted in the growth of the trade and on the 19th of July, 1915, he purchased the interest of his partner and is now sole proprietor. He has a well appointed store, splendidly equipped, carries a large and attractive line of goods and makes it his first object at all times to please his patrons, knowing that satisfied customers are the best advertisement.

On the 12th of September, 1906, Mr. Weber was united in marriage to Miss Anna Boyd, of Columbus, and they have become the parents of a daughter and a son, Lucille and Russell, both now in school. In his political views Mr. Weber is independent, supporting men and measures rather than party, but he is not remiss in the duties of citizenship and at all times gives active support and cooperation to plans and measures for the public good. At the present writing he is serving as village treasurer. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he is a past grand, his life being guided by its teachings. He ever endeavors to follow the golden rule, doing unto others as he would have them do unto him, and his many sterling traits of character have established him firmly in the regard of those with whom he has come in contact. Moreover, he is accounted one of the representative business men of the community and is contributing to the commercial development of his town.

DAVID HEFTI.

David Hefti, who owns and operates one hundred and sixty acres of good land on section 6, Joliet township, is a native son of the county. His birth occurred June 13, 1874, and his parents were Henry and Barbara (Hefti) Hefti. The father, who was born in Switzerland, April 21, 1844, was left an orphan when but two years of age and was reared by his maternal grandmother. In 1866 he emigrated to the United States and made his way to St. Louis, Missouri, where he remained until 1869, when he came to Columbus, Nebraska. He homesteaded eighty acres of land near Duncan but ten years later removed to Colfax county, where he owned three quarter sections. In 1873 he was married to Miss Barbara Hefti, who was born in Switzerland, March 18, 1854, but, although of the same name, was not a relative. She emigrated to the United States in the year of her marriage. She is still living at Clarkson, Colfax county, but Mr. Hefti is deceased. To them were born seven children: David; Kate, the wife of William Kramer, of Boone county, Nebraska; Barbara, now Mrs. N. B. Balzer, of Stanton county; Sarah, a twin of Barbara, who died in infancy; Henry, who is living on the old home farm in Colfax

county; Fred, also a farmer in Colfax county; and Anna, now Mrs. Charles Schmadeka, of Boone county.

David Hefti was five years of age when the family removed to Colfax county and there he grew to manhood. He received his education in the common schools and through assisting his father he gained a valuable knowledge of farming. On beginning his independent career he rented land from his father but it was his ambition to own land and he saved his money carefully to that end. In 1902 he purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Colfax county, which he cultivated until 1910, when he purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 6, Joliet township, Platte county, where he has since resided. He is practical and progressive and finds farming profitable as well as congenial.

Mr. Hefti was married February 7, 1907, to Miss Anna Koch, a native of Germany and a daughter of Richard and Lena (Gross) Koch. Her father died in that country but her mother is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Hefti have two children, David, Jr., and Alfred.

The religious faith of Mr. Hefti is that of the Lutheran church, to the support of which he contributes. He takes the interest of a good citizen in public affairs and is respected by all who know him.

CHARLES G. MOORE.

Charles G. Moore is a retired farmer living at No. 122 West Seventeenth street, Columbus. He came to this county in 1880 and for a long period, covering more than a quarter of a century, was actively identified with agricultural interests, winning thereby the success which now enables him to rest from further labor and yet enjoy all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life. He was born in Leamington, England, March 6, 1833, and is a son of William and Ann (Black) Moore, who were also natives of that country, where they spent their entire lives.

Charles G. Moore was a youth of fourteen years when in company with a brother he came to the United States. He soon returned to England, however, but after three years and when seventeen years of age he again crossed the Atlantic. Again, however, he became homesick and in a few months joined his family in England. But the lure of the west was upon him and a little later, accompanied by his parents, he once more came to America, the family home being established in Utica, New York. Mr. Moore has crossed the ocean five different times and tells most interesting incidents of these voyages. After living in the east for a time his parents removed to Illinois and passed away when residents of Ottawa, La Salle county.

The year 1880 witnessed the arrival of Charles G. Moore in Nebraska. On the 8th of May he reached Columbus, where the family lived for a month, at the end of which time he purchased forty acres of land four miles north of the city and there began the manufacture of brick, in which business he continued for a year. At the end of that time he sold out and invested in eighty acres of land on section 31, Bismark township, after which he engaged in farming. Year after year he carefully tilled the soil and success attended his efforts, so that he added to his holdings until within the boundaries of his farm were comprised two hun-

dred and forty acres of land. The value of his farm methods was seen in the productiveness of his fields, which returned to him gratifying harvests annually. In 1908, being possessed of a comfortable competence, he retired, removing to Columbus, where he now occupies a pleasant home at No. 122 West Seventeenth street.

In Ottawa, Illinois, Mr. Moore was united in marriage to Sarah E. Dickinson, whose birth occurred in New York on the 14th of June, 1843, her parents being Charles and Mary (Baker) Dickinson, who spent their entire lives in the Empire state. When a maiden of eleven years Mrs. Moore went to live with a sister in Scott county, Iowa. She first gave her hand in marriage to Isom Dickinson, who, though of the same name, was not a relative, and to them was born a daughter, Roseltha, now the wife of Edward Stickley, of Cushing, Nebraska. To Mr. and Mrs. Moore have been born the following children: William, living at Genoa, Nebraska, who wedded Miss Anna Sissle, by whom he has four children; James, who died when twenty years of age; Etta, who gave her hand in marriage to John Lotz, of Kansas City; Maud, who is the wife of Charles Rounds, of Norfolk, Nebraska, by whom she has one child, Lucile; Jessie, the wife of Otis Clark, of Columbus, Nebraska; and Charles C., who is married and lives on his father's farm in Bismark township.

The history of Mr. Moore is that of one of the pioneer settlers of the county and he contributed in no small measure to its development along agricultural lines. There were no fences on the farm when he took possession of the place and the fence which he built was the first for miles around. An Indian trail crossed the land, showing that not long before the red men had lived in this part of the country. In many ways the work of development and improvement had advanced but little in the county, but the opportunities and possibilities were there and time and man have wrought many changes, for the spirit of progress now reigns supreme here and each year chronicles an advance in the work of civilization in Platte county.

PETER SCHMITT.

Peter Schmitt, the proprietor of the Shell Creek Valley Roller Mills, is one of the leading citizens of his part of the county. A native of Germany, he was born in Bavaria, April 19, 1858, a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Tiehl) Schmitt. The father was a landowner and miller and was the heaviest taxpayer in his province. Both he and his wife died in Germany.

Peter Schmitt was educated in his native land and served in the German army for two years, from 1878 to 1881, being called out again in 1882 for maneuvers. He became the owner of his father's milling business after the latter's death and conducted it for some time. In 1884 he emigrated to the United States and made his way to Columbus, Nebraska. Although he came to this country with considerable capital, he at length found himself without money and obtained work in the flouring mills in Lincoln, receiving a dollar and a half per day for his services, out of which he had to board himself. He knew the milling business thoroughly, as from his boyhood he had worked in his father's mill. He was subsequently employed in large mills at different places throughout Nebraska and Kansas and eventually became



MR. AND MRS. PETER SCHMITT

head miller at a mill in Winfield, Kansas. In that capacity he had fifty-six men under him and his salary was one hundred and fifty dollars per month.

In 1891 Mr. Schmitt returned to Platte county and purchased what is known as the Shell Creek Valley Roller Mills, which were erected by Joseph Bucher in 1878 and were in badly run-down condition when they came into the possession of Mr. Schmitt. He has since made many improvements in the property, which is now in excellent condition, and has built four dams on Shell Creek, constructing the last in 1914 at a cost of over five thousand dollars. The mill is run by water power and is equipped with two McCormick wheels, one of forty-four horse power and the other of thirty-two horse power. A full roller plain sifter system is used and the capacity of the mills is from fifty to seventy-five barrels of flour per day. He also manufactures corn meal, Graham flour and grinds considerable feed for stock. Mr. Schmitt owns forty acres of land where his mill is located and is engaged in farming to some extent. He has his own irrigating plant, which is run by water power, the pumps forcing twenty-two hundred gallons of water per minute through six and four-inch pipes on his land. His residence and farm buildings are commodious and well designed and were erected by him. He also owns four hundred and eighty acres of land in Kansas and is now one of the substantial citizens of Platte county.

On the 7th of September, 1886, Mr. Schmitt was married in Lincoln, Nebraska, to Miss Carrie Meyer, a native of Germany and a daughter of Henry and Louise (Hiemaeer) Meyer, of Phillipsburg, Kansas. To this union have been born seven children, namely: Arnold; Hilda, now the wife of George Saalfeld; Edwin; Edna, the wife of Walter Loseke; Herman; Elsie; and Arthur.

Mr. Schmitt has been president of the Soldiers Society of Columbus, a German organization, for seven years. His prosperity is due to his intimate knowledge of milling, to his foresight and sound judgment, to his energy and aggressiveness—qualities which go far toward securing success in any line of business.

JOHN C. DAWSON.

John C. Dawson, who follows farming on section 10, Oconee township, was born in Jones county, Iowa, near Monticello, on the 30th of March, 1860, his parents being Francis and Jane (Boyd) Dawson, the father a native of England, and the mother a native of Pennsylvania, born of Scotch parentage. In early life the father was employed as power loom boss in a factory and he also purchased furs for the American Fur Company of St. Louis, traveling all over the northwest for this purpose. He went up to the head of the Missouri river and sent the furs back to the St. Louis house by boat. He thus gained intimate knowledge of the country in the period of its pioneer settlement and development and in 1842 removed to Jones county, Iowa, which was a frontier region, the work of progress having scarcely been begun. The homes of the settlers were log cabins and there were long distances to be traversed to mill and to market. The Indians had not yet left that region and Mr. Dawson had his horse stolen by the red men soon after taking up his abode in Jones county. The pioneer condition of the district is shown by the fact that, while Dubuque had been laid out, it contained only two houses. Mr. Dawson assisted in organizing the first court in Jones county and was a true

pioneer, taking active and helpful interest in all of the early events which went to shape the policy and mold the annals of that district. He took a homestead by entering land from the government and in the course of years added to his property until he was the owner of about four hundred acres. So unsettled and undeveloped was the region that he had to go to Bellevue, Illinois, to get his wheat ground. He handled Polled Angus cattle which were shipped from England to Kansas and thence to him. He became the owner of very fine stock and was prominent as a cattle raiser of his locality, his efforts doing much to improve the grade of stock handled in Jones county. His political allegiance was given to the republican party and he was a most active and earnest worker in its ranks, doing all in his power to promote its growth and extend its influence. Both he and his wife were earnest, Christian people, and he was not only highly respected, but was honored wherever he was known because of his sterling worth and his upright character.

John C. Dawson is the youngest son and the seventh in order of birth in a family of eight children. Reared upon the frontier in Jones county, Iowa, he there pursued his education in one of the old-time log schoolhouses until he reached the age of twelve years, when he was sent to St. Louis, where he attended school for three years, pursuing both a high-school and business course. He then returned home in 1875 and after working on the old homestead for several years began following the carpenter's trade. Later he removed to Colorado and for three years clerked in a hardware store at Colorado Springs. Later he engaged in the express business at Manitou, Colorado, for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad and afterward was sent to various points on the system as relief agent. He left the Denver & Rio Grande to enter the employ of the Wells Fargo Express Company, with which he remained until April 5, 1890, when he came to Platte county, Nebraska, and purchased land in Columbus township. He began farming, living upon that place for three years, and in 1893 removed to section 10, township 17, range 2, west, where he now has two hundred and fifty-six acres of good land that readily responds to the care and cultivation which he bestows upon it. He raises a good grade of Duroc-Jersey hogs and Hereford cattle and of the latter has a large herd. Practically his entire time is devoted to his farm work and he has added many improvements to his place, including the introduction of electric lights into his home. The house is surrounded by flower beds filled with many kinds of blossoming plants and ornamental shrubs and the place is in every respect a home. He is a great reader and there are many books, papers and magazines which indicate his taste along that line.

In 1893 Mr. Dawson was married to Miss Julia Murdock, a daughter of Daniel and Mary E. Murdock. Mr. Dawson is one of the best known men of Columbus township and has been active along many lines that contribute to public progress, to the uplift of the individual and to the advancement of community interests. He is a very enthusiastic Mason and was formerly active in lodge work. He has membership in Mount Nebo Lodge, No. 125, of Genoa, and he is also identified with the Eastern Star Chapter there. The cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion and he has put forth earnest effort in its behalf while serving as school director for six years. He has been very active in the ranks of the progressive party, is opposed to war and stands for advancement and improvement along all lines leading to the material, intellectual, political, social and moral

progress of the community. The consensus of public opinion places him among the representative residents of his township and the rewards of his life have come in substantial success on the farm and in the goodwill and confidence of his fellow-men.

EDWIN HULL CHAMBERS.

Edwin Hull Chambers, who has been successfully identified with the business interests of Columbus for more than a quarter of a century, is now a member of the Becher, Hockenberger & Chambers Company, a real-estate, loan and insurance firm. His birth occurred in Dakota City, Dakota county, Nebraska, on the 11th of January, 1863, his parents being Benjamin F. and Sarah A. (Hull) Chambers, who were born, reared and married in Pennsylvania. In 1856 the father made his way to Dakota City, Nebraska, and in 1879 took up his abode in Niobrara, Knox county, this state, where he spent the remainder of his life. His widow still makes her home in Niobrara. During the period of the Civil war Benjamin F. Chambers served as a member of a Nebraska cavalry regiment.

Edwin H. Chambers acquired his education in the schools of Dakota and Niobrara, Nebraska, and when about seventeen years of age entered the office of his father in Niobrara, the latter having been appointed register of the United States land office by President Grant. He was thus employed until 1884 and during the following four years he and his father practiced before the land office, which was then under a new head. In 1888 Edwin H. Chambers went to the state of Washington, spending one summer at Spokane in practice before the land office. In the fall of 1888 he came to Columbus, Nebraska, and he became one of the real-estate, loan and insurance firm of Becher, Hockenberger & Chambers, which in 1913 was incorporated as the Becher, Hockenberger & Chambers Company. The concern conducts a large and profitable business and its success is promoted in no inconsiderable degree by the sound judgment and able direction of the gentleman whose name introduces this review. He also acts as treasurer of the Columbus Land, Loan & Building Association.

On the 4th of January, 1888, in Columbus, Nebraska, Mr. Chambers was united in marriage to Miss Stella Gertrude North, only daughter of Major Frank J. North, who is deceased.

Frank North was born in Tompkins county, New York, on the 10th day of March, 1840, and while yet in his infancy his parents moved to Richland county, Ohio, where the family lived until 1856, when they removed to the then far distant city, looming like a star of unusual magnitude in the west—Omaha. All the educational advantages he had were in the Ohio public schools, and the intelligence which a bright, grasping mind obtains from contact with the world.

In the spring of 1855, his father was frozen to death and he—with his brother James—was left to support their mother, two sisters and a younger brother. A year later he came to Columbus and took a preemption five miles west of the town and farmed for two years. In 1860 he abandoned the preemption and went to work for the agent at the Pawnee reservation. In a year's time he was so well posted in the Pawnee language that he was employed by the post trader as clerk and interpreter, in whose employ he remained until he went into the United States

service, the major part of which time he managed the entire business of the post trader, who remained at his home in the east. In 1864, his military career commenced and he was chosen first lieutenant of the famous Pawnee Scouts under the command of Major General Samuel Curtis. After the summer campaign was over, he was authorized to reorganize the Pawnee Scouts and on October 24th, he was commissioned captain of Company A by Governor Saunders and placed in command.

In 1865 he went on the Powder river campaign with General Conner and in November of the same year, returned to the Pawnee reservation and took command of the post, remaining there until the following spring. In the fall of 1866 he was appointed post trader by President Johnson. The following spring he organized a battalion of four companies of Pawnee Scouts and continued in the service until 1871, and it was at this time that he and Cody (Buffalo Bill) had their many wondrous adventures. During 1871 and the succeeding four years, he was acting as guide and scout for troops in the north and west, but in 1876, he reorganized the Pawnee Scouts and went with General Crook on his perilous winter campaign in the Yellowstone mountains and when he returned the following spring, and the scouts were mustered out of service, appreciation of his valuable services was shown in the following letter:

"Headq'ters, Dep't of Platte.

"In the field.

"Camp Robinson, Neb.,

"April 19th, 1877.

"Capt. Frank North,

"Com. Pawnee Scouts,

"Sidney, Neb.

"Dear Sir: The muster out of the Pawnee Scouts was ordered by Lieut. Gen. Sheridan.

"There is no longer any necessity for the employment of scouts nor is there any appropriation on hand from which to pay them, for which reason I regret I shall not be able to retain you in service.

"I think it is just and appropriate to thank you for your excellent behavior during the time of your stay in the military service under my command, and to say that the soldierlike conduct and discipline of the Pawnee Scouts is the most eloquent testimony that could be adduced to prove your fitness for the position you have held as Commanding Officer.

"I remain very respectfully

"Your Obedient Servant,

"GEORGE CROOK,

"Brigadier General."

The legislature of the state was also proud of Frank North's achievements and record, and in a joint resolution, passed and approved February 23d, 1870, is the following:

"RESOLVED, That the thanks of this body and of the people of the State of Nebraska are hereby tendered to Maj. Frank J. North, and the officers and soldiers under his command, of the Service Scouts for the heroic manner in which they have assisted in driving hostile Indians from our frontier settlement."

After Major North was mustered out of service, he engaged in the cattle business with Cody (Buffalo Bill) under the firm name of Cody & North and from

that time until his death in 1885, he was closely associated with Mr. Cody, having assisted him in the organization of "The Wild West," traveling with said organization in charge of the Indians and their affairs.

In 1882 the people of Platte county elected Major North to the Nebraska legislature. He died at Columbus, March 14, 1885, aged forty-five years, leaving a daughter—his wife having died two years earlier. All the people of Nebraska mourned his loss, for he was not only a brave soldier, but kind and just and true in all his life.

CARL O. HART.

Carl O. Hart is the manager of the Monroe Farmers Association, which position he has occupied since 1909, and he is also one of the stockholders and secretary of the company. He was born in Fremont county, Iowa, February 17, 1880, and is a son of Charles and Louise (Gustavson) Hart, who were natives of Sweden. The father, a farmer by occupation, came to the United States in the early '70s, settling in Fremont county, Iowa, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits for a number of years. Removing to Nebraska in March, 1880, he settled in Nance county, where he purchased land, there living for six years, or until 1886, when he came with his family to Platte county, establishing his home in Monroe township, where he owned one hundred and sixty acres. He devoted the greater part of his attention to stock-raising and in the later years of his life lived retired, making his home in Genoa at the time of his death, which occurred in 1907, when he was sixty-five years of age. He was very active in township affairs and was a worthy and respected citizen of his community. His wife passed away in 1902, at the age of fifty-two years.

Carl O. Hart was only a month old when his parents came to Nebraska, so that he was here reared and is indebted to the public-school system for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. When twenty-two years of age he took charge of the home farm and there resided for five years. He afterward purchased land in Oconee township, near the town of Monroe, and is now part owner of a tract of seventy-one acres. On the home farm he engaged in raising Poland China hogs, keeping a large number. In 1907 he gave up farming and after spending a year in California and Washington, came back to Monroe, Nebraska, and in July, 1909, became manager of the Monroe Farmers' Association, of which he is one of the stockholders and secretary. He is now devoting his energies largely to this business, in which connection he carefully directs the interests of the farmers, making the business one of profit for them.

Mr. Hart was united in marriage to Miss Dora McWilliams, a native of Dunbar, Nebraska, and a daughter of W. A. and Mary (Moran) McWilliams. The father was a farmer and real-estate dealer who in 1895 became a resident of Platte county, settling near Monroe, where he followed general agricultural pursuits. Later he removed to the town, where he engaged in the hardware business and in real-estate dealing, making his home there to the time of his death. He was an active, progressive business man and citizen and was a faithful member of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. and Mrs. Hart are loyal members of the Presbyterian church, in which he is serving as a trustee. Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has filled all of the chairs. He has ever been found worthy of the trust that has been reposed in him in every connection and is recognized as a man who can be depended upon on all occasions and in any emergency.

CHARLEY LEWIS DICKEY.

Charley Lewis Dickey, who is a well known real-estate and insurance agent of Columbus, was born in South Whitley, Indiana, July 11, 1869. His father, William B. Dickey, was a son of William Dickey, who fought in the Indian wars under General W. H. Harrison. He in turn was a son of John Dickey, who took part in the Revolutionary war as a member of the Eighth Battalion, Cumberland (Md.) Militia, and who was with Washington's army during the terrible winter at Valley Forge. William B. Dickey was born in Ohio, and during the Civil war served as captain of the Home Guards near Steubenville, that state. He married Miss Frances Ann Stone, who was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, in 1829. The history of the Stone family has been traced back to Thomas A. Stone, who was the fifth son of Lord Dunlane, of Sussex, England. His second son, William Stone, became colonial governor of Maryland and his third son was David Stone, father of Thomas A. Stone, who was born in 1743 and was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The great-grandfather of Mrs. Dickey was Rev. Benjamin Stone, who served in a Virginia regiment commanded by Colonel Buford and who endured the hardships of the winter at Valley Forge. He also served for two years as a private in Colonel Roebuck's Second South Carolina Regiment and was for some time a sergeant in the regiment commanded by Colonel Francis Marion. William B. Dickey died in Oklahoma and his wife has also passed away.

Charley L. Dickey received his education in the public schools of South Whitley, Indiana, but when thirteen years of age put aside his textbooks and went to western Kansas, where he remained for a year and a half, being employed as clerk in a grocery store. At the end of that time he returned home and learned blacksmithing, after which he was operator for the Wabash at Montpelier, Ohio, and later at Detroit, Michigan. He then returned to Kansas and worked as a telegraph operator in that state for several years, after which he was stationed at Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he remained for two years as operator in the transfer office of the Union Pacific Railroad. At the end of that time he was given a place as operator in the train dispatcher's office at Grand Island, Nebraska, where he remained for two and a half years. Being threatened with pulmonary trouble, he was sent to Lexington, Nebraska, in 1895 and remained there for about three years. In June, 1899, he was stationed at Wood River, Nebraska, and after leaving there was agent for the Union Pacific at Valley, Nebraska. In 1904 he came to Columbus and for four years after arriving here filled the position of traveling freight agent for the Chicago Great Western Railroad. At the end of that time he resigned to become district manager for a Canadian land company, with which he was connected until 1911. In that year he went into the real-estate and insurance business for himself and has so continued until the present time. He is well informed as to realty values in this

section of the country and has handled much valuable property and negotiated many important transfers of real estate. In the insurance field he represents a number of reliable companies and is an enterprising and efficient agent, having written many policies since entering the insurance business.

On the 27th of December, 1893, Mr. Dickey was married, in Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Miss Charlotte E. Pile, a daughter of the late David Pile. Her father, who was born in Tennessee in 1832, served for four years during the Civil war in the Confederate army. To this union have been born the following children: Frank Paul, Charley Lewis, Davida Elizabeth, Frances, Thomas Pile and Virginia.

Mr. Dickey is a republican but has never been able to spare the time from his business interests to take an active part in politics. Fraternally he belongs to the Masonic order, having passed through the various degrees of the York Rite and being a member of the Mystic Shrine. He is also affiliated with the Elks and is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. He is identified with the Methodist Episcopal church and no worthy cause seeks his aid in vain. He has at all times done his share toward promoting the commercial expansion of the city, and in April, 1915, was made secretary of the Columbus Commercial Club. He is a man of determination and resolution and has carried to successful completion every project which he has undertaken. Since removing to Columbus he has gained recognition as a man of unswerving integrity and as a citizen of marked public spirit.

PAUL GERTSCH.

Paul Gertsch is the owner of the Willow Grove Farm, a tract of six hundred acres, situated on section 1, Monroe township, and he has other important business connections, being, in fact, regarded as one of the most progressive and enterprising business men of his part of the county. He was born at Glarus, Switzerland, October 12, 1852, his parents being Christ and Pauline (Meunig) Gertsch. The father, a native of Bern, was a farmer of that country, where he owned and cultivated land. On coming to the United States he made his way into the interior of the country, settling in Bismark township, Platte county, in 1873, securing a farm on Shell creek. The settlements were few and far between and pioneer conditions everywhere existed. Mr. Gertsch occupied his original homestead until 1879, when death ended his labors at the age of seventy-nine years. His place comprised one hundred and sixty acres of land, on which he made many improvements. He belonged to the Reformed church and guided his life according to its teachings, ever endeavoring to follow the golden rule.

Paul Gertsch was the eldest of the four sons of the family and acquired a common-school education. He dates his residence in Platte county from 1871, at which time he began working as a farm hand for Jacob Louis, being employed in a similar manner by other early settlers of the county. He was ambitious, however, to own a farm and in 1877 bought land in Monroe township, investing the money which had come to him through persistent industry and close economy. That constituted a nucleus of his present possessions, for as opportunity has offered he has added to his holdings until he is now the owner of a fine farm of six hundred acres. The summer brings forth fields of waving grain, which in the autumn

yield large harvests, and in addition to the cultivation of the cereals best adapted to the soil and climate Mr. Gertsch is engaged in the raising of a good grade of stock. He bought his land on time and has dug what he has out of the ground. In other words, his life has been one of earnest, persistent labor and, depending entirely upon his own resources, he has worked his way upward to his present success. In addition to his agricultural interests he is a director of the Monroe State Bank and is a stockholder in the Monroe Farmers Association and the Monroe Coal Company.

In January, 1878, Mr. Gertsch was married to Miss Elizabeth Von Bergen, who was born in Bern, Switzerland, and died February 15, 1913, at the age of fifty-five years. She was a daughter of Ulrich and Katherine (Naegly) Von Bergen. Her father was a cooper in Switzerland and in 1873 became a resident of Grand Prairie township, Platte county, where he secured a homestead claim and began life in true pioneer style. Mrs. Gertsch was thus a representative of one of the old families of the county and was very popular in the community in which she made her home because of her attractive social qualities and her gracious hospitality. To Mr. and Mrs. Gertsch were born eleven children: Lydia, the wife of H. Fennimore; Alma; Carl, who was born September 13, 1882, and is a farmer of Joliet; Ottylia, the wife of J. Brandt; Walter, who was born March 6, 1886; Martha, the wife of H. Weber; Paul, who was born November 1, 1890; Elinor; Verna; Helmuth, who was born November 6, 1897, and is in a bank at Monroe; and Esther.

In his political views Mr. Gertsch is a republican, active in the work of the party, his labors contributing to its success. He has served as township trustee and has filled various other local offices, the duties of which he has discharged with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. He assisted in organizing the church in Lost Creek township, and takes a great interest in its work. He places a correct value upon the important things of life and he has wisely used his time, talents and opportunities not only for the attainment of individual success, but also for the benefit of the community in which he makes his home.

CHARLES FREDERICK ELIAS.

Since 1879 Charles Frederick Elias has made his home in Platte county and is now an esteemed and worthy citizen of Columbus, where he has a wide acquaintance and many friends. He was born in Dresden, Saxony, on the 15th of March, 1845, a son of Wilhelm and Wilhelmina (Silverman) Elias. The father, who was born in the year 1811, passed away in 1874 at the age of sixty-three years, while the mother died in 1854 at the age of forty-one years. For seventeen years Wilhelm Elias was a soldier of the German army, being drafted in 1831 and serving with the artillery. He acted as first duty sergeant and had charge of the battery. In 1845 he was accorded a medal for saving a civilian from drowning during the high water of that year. He also received a medal for valiant and meritorious service displayed during the charges of the barricades of revolutionists in the rebellion of 1848 and still another for his length of service, this being given him just prior to his death. He passed the required examination and was in the revenue service as a government



CHARLES F. ELIAS AND FAMILY

employe from 1847 until 1874, holding different positions. This made his service in behalf of his government cover a period of forty-three years. He never came to the United States but always remained a resident of his native land and in the district in which he lived enjoyed the high regard, confidence and good will of all with whom he had been associated as well as the trust of his superior officers. He was an active member of the German Lutheran church.

Charles Frederick Elias is the youngest in a family of nine children and is the only one now living. His mother died in 1854 when he was but nine years of age, after which he was placed in a government military academy, in which he remained until he reached the age of fifteen years. At that time he began to learn the butcher's trade and in 1869, when a young man of twenty-four years, he came to the United States, settling first in Delaware county, New York, where he worked for a brief period as a farm hand. He then went to Indianapolis, Indiana, and enlisted in the Twenty-second United States Infantry, serving for five years. He was with that regiment when it acted as guard for the surveyors and builders of the Northern Pacific Railroad between Bismarck, North Dakota and Boise, Idaho. In December, 1874, he returned to Dresden, Saxony, on a visit. He again came to the United States and once more joined the army as a butcher with the First United States Infantry. While acting in that capacity and also as clerk in the commissary department he also had to do soldiers duty and participated with his command in many skirmishes with the Indians. In 1879 he was honorably discharged from the United States army and now draws a pension from the government.

After leaving the army Mr. Elias made his way to Columbus, Nebraska, which was then a town of about two thousand inhabitants. All of the town lay south of the Union Pacific Railroad. With the interests of the little city he became identified, building a packing house, since which time he has engaged in packing smoked and cured meats, doing a considerable business for farmers of the surrounding country.

On the 8th of April, 1875, Mr. Elias was married to Miss Paulina Hansch, who was born at Gross Schoenau, Germany, and was married at Sioux City, Iowa. She is a daughter of John Gottlieb and Johanna Maria (Strobach) Hansch. Her father was a cabinet maker and a very fine workman. He was, however, retiring in disposition and modest and unassuming in manner. He belonged to the German Lutheran church. Mr. and Mrs. Elias have become the parents of eleven children, seven of whom are still living: Alice, the widow of Bond Speice, of Columbus, and the mother of three children; Max, who is acting as baggagemaster for the Union Pacific Railroad Company at Columbus, and who is married and has two children; Hedewig, the wife of William Moran, who is stationary engineer, making his home in Omaha, and by whom she has one daughter; Pearl, the wife of August Wagner, an attorney of Columbus, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work; Fred, who is in the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad Company at Omaha; Gertrude, the wife of Dr. A. G. Lueschen, of Columbus, who is also mentioned elsewhere in this volume; and Paulina, the wife of W. Clayborn, a lawyer of San Francisco, California.

In his fraternal relations Mr. Elias is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Woodmen of the World and has held offices in both local lodges. In politics he is independent. He has served as a member of the council since 1908 and is still the incumbent in office, in which he exercises his official prerogatives in support of many progressive projects for the benefit of the city. He stands

at all times for those interests which are a matter of civic virtue and civic pride and is regarded as one of the valued residents of Platte county. He is widely known as a man of sterling worth, active in all affairs of the community. The same loyalty which characterized his military service is manifest in his devotion to the interests of civic life, and there is no more loyal adherent of American interests in Columbus than C. F. Elias.

JOHN ADOLF GROTELUSCHEN.

John Adolf Groteluschen is one of the most prominent farmers and stock-raisers in Sherman township, his home being on section 34. His place is notable in many respects and is the visible evidence of a life of well directed thrift, enterprise, determination and business sagacity. He represents one of the old pioneer families of the county and was born December 29, 1871, in Bismark township, on the old homestead farm of his parents, John and Anna (Loseke) Groteluschen. The father was a native of Oldenburg, Germany, and became one of the early residents of Platte county, arriving a year later than the Loseke family, who were among the first to penetrate into this region and plant the seeds of civilization on Platte county's soil. His experiences covered all that is implied in the term pioneer life. Around him stretched broad, unbroken prairies. Few roads had been laid out and the work of development seemed scarcely begun. He entered one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government and on his land, like other tracts, there had been no furrow turned nor an improvement made. He broke the sod, harrowed the fields, planted the seed and in due time gathered substantial harvests, and as his financial resources increased he added to his holdings until at his death he was the owner of an excellent farm of six hundred and forty acres in Colfax county. He had long been a resident of Nebraska when in 1907 he passed away.

John Adolf Groteluschen was educated in German Lutheran schools, spending his youthful days upon the home farm of his father, where he was instructed not only in the work of the fields but in life values, being taught industry, honesty and those things which are most worth while. That his lessons have borne fruit in the years which have since come and gone is manifest in the high regard which is entertained for him and the success which he has achieved. He is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of rich land on section 34, Sherman township, the half section being a valuable tract, fertile and productive. One of the notable features of his place is a flowing well sunk to a depth of eighty feet. The water gushes forth in an eight-inch stream. It has mineral properties that make it of value medicinally and there is a seemingly inexhaustible supply of the water. Mr. Groteluschen maintains important stock-raising interests, handling shorthorn cattle, Percheron horses and Poland China hogs, and this branch of his business is proving very profitable. On his home place he has eighty acres of timber and ten acres are covered by the creek.

In 1891 Mr. Groteluschen was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Wilkie, who passed away on the 11th of April, 1909, leaving five children, namely: Arthur, a youth of seventeen years; Ernst, who is fifteen years old; and Paul, Clara and

Elmer, who are thirteen, eleven and nine years of age respectively. In 1911 Mr. Groteluschen was again married, his second union being with Katrina Finke, by whom he has a son, Harold, who is three years old.

Mr. Groteluschen is a democrat in his political views, having supported the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He has filled the offices of township clerk and justice of the peace and has made an excellent record as a public official, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity. In matters of citizenship he manifests the same progressive spirit and labors for the advancement and welfare of the community just as earnestly and just as effectively as he does for his individual success. His worth is widely acknowledged wherever he is known and he has a very wide acquaintance in the county.

JOHN DAYTON STIRES.

For twenty-five years John Dayton Stires has been a representative of the bar at Columbus, and his ability has gained him distinction in his chosen field. He does not fear that laborious preparation which must always precede the strong presentation of a case in the courts and his clear reasoning, his logic and his correct citation of principle and precedent are salient features in his success.

Mr. Stires is a native of Hunterdon county, New Jersey, which was also the birthplace of his parents, John Taylor and Eleanora (Krymer) Stires. The father became a farmer and followed that occupation throughout his entire active life. He was a son of Jacob Stires, who was of Scotch-Irish descent. John Taylor Stires continued to engage in general farming for many years and passed away in his native county in 1912, after having survived his wife for four years, her death occurring in 1908.

Upon the old homestead farm in Hunterdon county, New Jersey, John Dayton Stires spent his boyhood and youth and the country schools afforded him his educational privileges. After a year spent at Pennington Seminary near Trenton he attended a preparatory school for Princeton University. On the expiration of that period he went to Iowa City, Iowa, and was there graduated on the completion of a law course in the State University with the class of 1882. Following his graduation he went to Red Oak, Iowa, where he opened an office and engaged in practice for two years. He next removed to Cedar Rapids, Nebraska, where he practiced law and organized the Cedar Rapids Bank, a private banking institution, of which he was the president. He continued at that place until 1890, when he disposed of his interests and came to Columbus, Nebraska, where he has since followed his profession. Along with those qualities indispensable to the lawyer—a keen, rapid, logical 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, including eloquence of language and a strong personality, marked strength of character, a thorough grasp of the law and the ability to accurately apply its principles, all of which are factors in his effectiveness as an advocate.

On the 10th of March, 1880, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mr. Stires was married to Miss Helen H. Lamb, a daughter of Charles Carswell Lamb. To Mr. and Mrs. Stires have been born two sons. The elder, Ferdinand Taylor, was born

in Red Oak, Iowa, in 1882. He is a graduate of the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania and is now engaged in practice in Philadelphia that state. The younger son, Harrison LeRoy, was born in Philadelphia, in 1885. He is now chief clerk in the claim department of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company at Baltimore, Maryland. He wedded Miss Bertha Chapin, a daughter of Charles Chapin, of Platte county, Nebraska, and they have one son, Charles Chapin.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Episcopal church and in his political belief Mr. Stires is a republican, but while he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day he does not seek nor desire public office. He is prominent in Masonry, having taken the degrees of the York Rite and of the Mystic Shrine and his life measures up to the standards of the church and of the fraternity. In a word his salient characteristics are such as command respect and confidence everywhere and during the period of his residence in Columbus he has won the high regard and friendship of the majority of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

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