

substantial men of this locality. For many years he was associated in business with A. D. Davis, under the firm name of Owens & Davis, which firm was dissolved in 1875, after which Mr. Owens continued alone, owning his own substantial and attractive business block, which was a convenient brick structure well adapted to his business, fifty by eighty feet, two stories and a basement, Mr. Owens occupying nearly the entire building with a complete and carefully selected line of dry goods, clothing, carpets and notions, employing six clerks continuously and often in rush seasons many more, doing an annual business of fifty thousand dollars. He was also extensively engaged in various other enterprises and for many years gave employment to more men than any other employer in West Union, or perhaps Fayette county. Soon after locating in West Union he began dealing in livestock, forming a partnership with John R. Cook in 1873; besides livestock, they handled farming machinery and they continued to do a thriving business for many years, their annual sales in livestock amounting to about six hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Owens also engaged extensively for a number of years in furnishing timber and ties to railroad companies, his annual sales sometimes running as high as twenty thousand dollars. During those years he engaged extensively in agricultural pursuits, owning one farm of three hundred and fifty acres, about two and one-half miles southeast of West Union, and three other smaller ones in Fayette county, all aggregating five hundred and eighty acres. Mr. Owens was also one of the incorporators of the Fayette County Savings Bank, of West Union, and for some time was a member of its board of directors. He continued actively in business until 1904, when he exchanged his stock of goods for three hundred and twenty acres of rich farm land in Eden and Auburn townships, this county, known as the Slocum farm, which he still owns and operates through tenants, while he still resides in West Union in a comfortable and cozy home. Mr. Owens has paid all his debts dollar for dollar, this being one of his business principles, and thus honorably closed his long and interesting business career, still owning his excellent farm. Considering the fact that he is a self-made man, starting in life with but little and receiving scarcely any assistance, he forged ahead in the face of all adversity and finally became one of the foremost business men of this part of the state. It is clear that he is the possessor of superior business acumen, is able to see with remarkable accuracy the outcome of present transactions, makes few mistakes in his calculations, has an analytical mind and is a man of fortitude, energy, persistency—in fact, has the qualities that win in the battle of life in whatever field he might choose to operate. Honesty and

straightforward dealing have marked his relations with his fellow men throughout his career, thus inspiring their confidence and esteem.

The domestic life of Mr. Owens began at Elkader, Iowa, on July 31, 1864, when he married Mary Rouen, who was born in county Mayo, Ireland, May 27, 1842, and who came to America with her parents when three years of age. She was a devout member of the Catholic church, in which faith she passed to the unknown on June 18, 1889. Of the eight children born to this union only two survive, Charles E., of Waterloo, Iowa, and John A., of Austin, Minnesota; those deceased are, John Francis, who died July 19, 1869, aged one year and three months; Minnie Ellen died June 16, 1870, aged five years, one month and eighteen days; Margaretta Anna died three days later than her sister Minnie Ellen, both of diphtheria; the age of the latter was one year, two months and eight days; Frances Terressa died October 2, 1878, aged five years, two months and fourteen days; Emilena Loretta died October 12, 1878, aged two years and seven months; William Augustine died January 9, 1893, aged ten years, six months and four days.

The second marriage of Mr. Owens was to Sarah A. Cavanaugh, whom he espoused on June 26, 1893; she is the daughter of Edward and Mary Cavanaugh, of Fayette, where she was born; both parents are deceased, the mother having died in 1890 and the father in 1897. Mr. Owens was educated in the public schools and at the Upper Iowa University, and she taught school in the town of her nativity for ten years, after which she was employed in the public schools of West Union; she is a woman of rare qualifications, culture, refinement and is popular with a wide circle of friends.

Four children, named as follows, were born to Mr. Owens' second marriage: Robert E., born September 20, 1895; Genevieve Eleanor, born December 30, 1897; Mildred Sarah, born October 26, 1899; Gertrude Cecelia, born October 24, 1901.

WILLIAM M. PEEK.

In looking over the list of Fayette county citizens who have won definite success in the various walks of life and at the same time have conferred honor upon the community, one's attention is drawn to the name of William M. Peek, who was born in Clark county, Missouri, January 15, 1857, the son of D. J. and ——— (Beahar) Peek, the father a native of Ohio; the mother was born in Ireland, from which country she came to America when thirteen years of age, accompanied by her parents, Robert and Sarah Bea-

har. They first settled in Michigan City, Indiana, where the father followed teaming, later (1854) moved to Clark county, Missouri, as a pioneer, driving oxen on the overland journey, which was a tedious one. When they reached their destination he purchased a quarter section of land, which he cleared and on which he lived until 1862, when he moved to Lee county, Iowa, and there entered the draying business. In 1866 he came to Fayette county, Iowa, where he farmed until his death. The paternal grandparents of William M. Peek were Jonas and Jane Peek, both born in Scotland. They came to America in 1813 and settled in Ohio and there followed farming, in which state they remained until about 1827, when they moved to Porter county, Indiana, where they were pioneer farmers and where they spent the remainder of their lives. D. J. Peek, father of William M., of this review, was educated in the common schools of Ohio. He began life first as a teamster, later took up farming in Missouri and Iowa. His farming operations were always successful. He and his wife reared a large family, six sons and an equal number of daughters. He was a Republican politically and he was active in the party. He was one of two men in his precinct who voted for Lincoln; he was justice of the peace for many years and also held various other offices. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and a man whom everybody held in great respect.

William M. Peek, of this review, was educated in the common schools and he spent one year at Grinnell College. He then returned to the home farm, where he worked until 1887, when he moved to Marshalltown, Iowa, where he engaged in the restaurant business until 1889, when he came to Fayette county and conducted a hotel business at Oelwein, also engaged in the implement business. In December, 1900, he came to West Union, since which time he has held the office of county recorder, having been elected on the Republican ticket, and he has been a very faithful and conscientious servant of the people. Mr. Peek engaged in school teaching for eighteen terms in connection with farming. He was liked by pupil and patron as teacher and his services were in great demand. He began his political career as township clerk, which position he held for a period of six years while living on a farm in Columbia township, Tama county, Iowa. After moving to Oelwein he was on the school board for six years and he very ably served as mayor for two years and is now serving his fifth term as county recorder. In all his positions as public servant he has given the utmost satisfaction, because he is well qualified and also a man whom the people like personally, being industrious and honest.

Mr. Peek was married in 1878 to Geneva Fowler, the daughter of a

highly respected family. To this union one child, Ida May, was born. She is the wife of H. B. Arnold, living in Oelwein, where Mr. Arnold is engaged in the grocery business. Mrs. Peek died in 1882 and Mr. Peek married, in 1889, Mary Widdans, the daughter of a well established family in Tama county, Iowa, and to this union two children were born, Marion L., who graduated in 1909 at the West Union high school, and W. Paul.

Mr. Peek and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, Mr. Peek being superintendent of the Sunday school, which office he has very faithfully filled for the past eight years. Fraternally, he belongs to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of the Maccabees.

Although Mr. Peek has no war record himself, his family did their full share in the work of saving the honor of the national union, his father having gone out at the first call for troops with two brothers, Samuel E. and Jones, all having enlisted in the Seventh Missouri Cavalry, Samuel E. re-enlisting for the entire war. Jones Peek returned home on account of sickness and died soon afterwards. Samuel E. Peek was wounded three times, but survived the conflict and is now serving as justice of the peace in Marshalltown, Iowa.

WILLIAM CROWE.

It has been well, truly and frequently said that you cannot keep an Irishman down. Of all the peoples who have emigrated to this country the Irish have perhaps distinguished themselves the most. Though not so thrifty as the Germans, and more erratic than the English or Scotch, they possess an intelligence, shrewdness and energy which puts them to the front in whatever line of business or whatever profession they engage. You may see an Irishman just over from the old country wielding a pick and shovel, but you never see his son at the same work. It's in the Irish to be up and doing, and to get there.

John Crowe was born in Ireland, July 11, 1839, the son of Patrick and Hanover Crowe. His father died when he was very young and his mother and eight children came to America in 1853, and located in Canada, where John learned the blacksmith trade. At the age of nineteen he was married to Mary Anna Barragy, who was born at Emlin, Ontario. She is still living, and they have celebrated their golden wedding. In 1866 John moved to McGregor, Iowa, and in 1867 came to Clermont, Iowa, and went into partner-

ship with Mr. Herley in a blacksmith shop and wagonmaking business, continuing with him about ten years, when Mr. Herley went west. Mr. Crowe followed the blacksmith trade until he became postmaster under Harrison, which office he has held ever since, except during Cleveland's administration, and has just received the appointment for four years more. He has fulfilled the duties of this position in such a manner as to receive the commendation of all. His children are Patrick James, who died in 1880; William, subject of this sketch; Mrs. Maria Cahalan, Agnes, and Elizabeth, teachers; and Ann, assistant postmaster under her father. Mr. Crowe is a member of the Catholic church, and a Republican. He has been township trustee, school director, and was one of the first mayors of Clermont. He has also served as justice of the peace. His sociability and strong character have made him very well liked in his town, and no family there is more respected than the Crowe family.

William Crowe was born in Canada, in March, 1863, and at the age of three came with his parents to Clermont, where he has since lived. He received but a limited education in the schools of Clermont, but his success has demonstrated that school education, while valuable, is not essential. As a young man he learned the business of Doctor Lewis, at the same location where he is now in business as a partner of Doctor Berry. For thirty years he has been in business as a druggist in the same location with various partners.

In 1882 Mr. Crowe married Lily M. Dibble, daughter of M. V. Dibble, mentioned in this work. There have been born to them four children: John W., druggist at Grinnell, Iowa; Mae, teacher; Richard B., of Keota, Washington; and Everett L., at home. Mrs. Crowe is an Episcopalian. Mr. Crowe is a Catholic, and a member of the Elks and Modern Woodmen. He is a Democrat, and has been for some time the assessor of Clermont. Mr. Crowe's drug store is in the very forefront of the retail businesses of Clermont, where his capabilities have placed it. In social and family life, as well as in business, his character reaches the same high standard.

LUTHER JIPSON.

Holding worthy prestige among the leading farmers and stock raisers of Fayette county and wielding a wide influence as an enterprising citizen, Luther Jipson, of Jefferson township, has long occupied a prominent place in the esteem of the public and it is a compliment worthily bestowed to class him with the representative men of his day and generation in the county honored by his residence. Mr. Jipson is a native of Fayette county, Iowa, and the younger of two children whose parents were Luther and Helen (Eldridge)

Jipson, both born in Cortland county, New York. On the paternal side he is descended from sterling New England ancestry, and traces his genealogy to an early period in the history of Vermont, of which state his grandfather, Michael Jipson, was a native. In young manhood Michael Jipson went to Cortland county, New York, where in due time he married and engaged in farming, which vocation he followed with success the remainder of his life, dying in his adopted state many years ago.

Alden and Saline Eldridge, parents of Mrs. Helen Jipson, were natives of Cortland county, New York, and among the early pioneers of Fayette county, Iowa, moving to this state in 1854 and locating on the present site of Oelwein, where Mr. Eldridge procured eighty acres of land, on which he lived until his removal, a few years later, to Buchanan county. Purchasing land near Hazleton, he made a good farm and comfortable home where he spent the remainder of his days as an industrious and prosperous tiller of the soil.

Luther Jipson, senior, father of the subject, became a resident of Fayette county in 1854 and two years later purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land northeast of where Oelwein now stands, being, with the Eldridges, among the earliest settlers of that locality. He was a man of sound practical intelligence, a successful speculator, especially in lands, and became widely and favorably known as an enterprising farmer and public spirited citizen. He traveled quite extensively over Fayette and other counties in his land deals and made a number of judicious purchases which, had he lived, would have resulted greatly to his advantage. Two years after coming to this state he and one Niner Kise started one day in the month of January on a tour of inspection, intending to walk from Ft. Dodge to Twin Lake, the better to observe the country between those two points. While making their way leisurely they were overtaken by a severe storm and, being far from any home or place of shelter, both were frozen to death. Mr. Jipson's body was discovered sometime the following April, but the remains of his companion were never found, their disappearance being to this day an unsolved mystery.

For some time after her husband's death Mrs. Jipson made her home with her parents, but later she became the wife of Hiram Hanson, with whom she lived in Jefferson township until her death in the year 1860, Mr. Hanson departing this life in 1904, some years following his third marriage.

Luther and Helen Jipson, as already stated, were the parents of two children, Minnie, the oldest, now Mrs. Preston Fisher, living near Luddington, Michigan; Luther, the subject of this review, being the second in order of birth. By her marriage with Mr. Hanson the mother also had two children, Ira, a farmer living on the old family homestead, and Agnes, who married

William Slaughterbeck and resides in the city of Seattle, Washington. By his second marriage, with Ann Hickard, Mr. Hanson had a family of four children, namely: Tillie, Nettie, Nellie, now Mrs. Perry Harmon, and Martha, who married Charles Williams and resides in Oelwein.

Luther Jipson was born June 13, 1856, in Fayette county, Iowa, and spent his childhood at the Hiram Hanson farm in Jefferson township. His education included the branches taught in the public schools and after the death of his mother he went to live with his grandfather Jipson in Cortland county, New York, where he remained from 1863 until 1872, working on the farm and attending school the meanwhile. Returning to Iowa the latter year, he resumed agriculture, which he has since followed and, as already indicated, he is now one of the leading farmers and stock raisers of Fayette county, and as a citizen interested in all that tends to promote the material progress of the community and the welfare of the people his position and influence are second to those of none of his contemporaries.

On October 16, 1877, Mr. Jipson was married to Mary Beare, Fayette county, Iowa, and for one year thereafter he lived a short distance northeast of Oelwein, moving at the expiration of that time to Center township, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land which he made his home during the nine years ensuing. After selling that farm in 1886 he bought another place southeast of Oelwein, consisting of one hundred and fifty acres, on which he resided for four and a half years, when he sold the farm and moved to Spirit Lake, in the county of Dickinson, where he purchased two hundred and forty acres of fine land which in due time were brought to a high state of cultivation and otherwise improved. Disposing of the latter place after a residence of two and a half years, he returned to Fayette county and bought his present beautiful and attractive home farm in Jefferson and Oran townships, owning at this time four hundred and sixty acres in one of the best agricultural districts of the county and, as stated in a preceding paragraph, becoming one of the leading men of his vocation in this part of the state.

Mr. Jipson cultivates the soil upon quite an extensive scale and by the most approved methods. He is progressive in all the term implies, has always stood for improvements and uses his influence to further these ends. In connection with agriculture, he devotes a great deal of attention to the breeding and raising of fine stock, making a specialty of Norman horses, shorthorn cattle, and Chester-White hogs, realizing from the sale of his domestic animals no small share of his liberal income. He also conducts a large and successful dairy business which he has made quite profitable, milking at the present time fifty cows, all carefully selected and of the best breeds obtainable.

Mr. and Mrs. Jipson began their married life in quite a modest way and

the success to which they have attained and the prominent position they occupy in the community are the legitimate result of their combined efforts, directed and controlled by able and judicious management. Both are highly esteemed by their neighbors and friends and socially no couple in the township are better known and more widely respected. In his political views Mr. Jipson is a Republican, but aside from serving several terms as school director and town trustee he has held no office nor has he any aspirations for public place or leadership.

Mr. and Mrs. Jipson have a family of twelve children, whose names are as follows: Alice, wife of Albert Kaune, of Oran township; Effie, who married Fred Smith, of Marion, this state; Bertha, now Mrs. Arthur McClaury, of Jefferson township; Cordelia, wife of Charles Hilsenbeck, who also resides in Jefferson; Ira, who lives at home and assists his father in the management of the farm; Blanche, Leora, Amy, Inez, Ellen, Raymond L. and Mary, all of whom are still under the parental roof and with the father and mother constitute a very happy and contented household. Mr. Jipson has taken great interest in his children, providing them with the best educational advantages the county afforded and otherwise looking after their welfare. The two daughters, Effie and Bertha, taught for a number of years and were considered among the most competent and popular teachers of the county.

Mrs. Jipson is a daughter of Israel and Susan (Younkins) Beare, natives of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and early settlers of Fayette county, Iowa, migrating to that state in 1857 and locating in the county of Linn, where they resided for two years and then removed to a farm one mile east of Oelwein. Mr. Beare died in 1895, his widow, who is still living on the home place, being one of the oldest and most highly esteemed survivors of the early times. They reared a family of ten children, namely: Mrs. Mary Jipson, wife of the subject; Daniel, deceased; Cordelia, who married Stephen Heilman; William, deceased; Everett, Jay, Ray, Ida, John, the last four deceased, and Nettie, wife of William McCormich, of Scott township, Fayette county.

HENRY JOSEPH LUTHMER.

Prominent among the leading business men of Oelwein is Henry Joseph Luthmer, proprietor of one of the largest grocery stores in the town and a man of high repute in commercial circles and as a citizen. Mr. Luthmer was born in 1861 in Dubuque county, Iowa, being a son of Ferdinand and Elizabeth (Varwald) Luthmer, the father a native of Mecklenburg, Germany, the

mother of Cincinnati, Ohio. Ferdinand Luthmer was brought to America by his parents when eight years old and spent his early life in Dubuque county, Iowa, being left an orphan by the death of both father and mother two years after they came to this country. He grew to maturity in Dubuque county, of which his father was an early pioneer, and from the age of ten was obliged to make his own way in the world. The Varwalds were also among the early settlers of the above county, the subject's mother being about five or six years old when her parents moved west. Ferdinand Luthmer and Elizabeth Varwald were married in the county of Dubuque and there spent the remainder of their lives.

Henry Joseph Luthmer grew up in his native county, received a fair education in the public schools of the same and on laying aside his studies engaged to carry the mail between the towns of Dyersburg and Colesburg, in which capacity he continued for a period of five years. Resigning his position at the expiration of that time, he accepted a clerkship in a general store at Earlville, and when the proprietor died one year later he entered the employ of the Riddell Brothers, of Manchester, who purchased the stock, and was with that firm continuously during the fifteen years ensuing. Severing his connection with the firm at the expiration of the period indicated, Mr. Luthmer engaged in business for himself, at Sumner, where he conducted a grocery store for four years and then purchased a similar establishment at Oelwein, which he managed in connection with the former two years longer. Disposing of the establishment at Sumner at the end of that time, he gave all his attention to the business at Oelwein and it was not long until he forged to the front among the leading merchants of the town, and his store is now one of the largest and best patronized of the kind in the county of Fayette.

Mr. Luthmer began business at Oelwein in March, 1904, since which time his career has been remarkably successful and, as already indicated, he now commands a large and lucrative trade and occupies a conspicuous place in the commercial circles of his town. He carries a full line of groceries and his business is such that seven clerks are required to attend to the wants of his numerous customers, his patronage being by no means confined to the town, but including an extensive country trade as well. Mr. Luthmer is a fine business man and his advancement from a very modest beginning to his present enviable position as the head of one of the largest and most successful mercantile enterprises of the kind in his part of the state demonstrates the possession of sound intelligence, clear foresight and other abilities of a high order.

Mr. Luthmer was married June 20, 1882, to Ann M. Rubly, of Delaware county, Iowa, daughter of Francis Rubly, the union being blessed with

three children, Arthur J., Henrietta and Marguerite. Arthur J. married Clara Richie, of Westgate, and is associated with his father in business; the two daughters are still with their parents. Mr. Luthmer and family are highly esteemed and move in the best social circles of the community. They are Catholics in religion and devoted to the good work of the church.

THANKMAR VON ROLF.

The United States can boast of no better or more law-abiding class of citizens than the great number of Germans who have found homes within her borders, and whom this country is always ready to welcome to its shores. There have come to this country from the fatherland and other alien lands men of limited financial resources, but imbued with a sturdy independence and a laudable ambition to succeed, and who have taken advantage of the wonderful possibilities afforded here. Gradually, step by step, they have risen to places of prominence in various lines of activity. Of these there can be none mentioned who deserves more favorable attention than the gentleman whose name opens this biographical sketch and who for many years was an honored and industrious resident of West Union, Fayette county, and although he has recently taken up his residence in Omaha, Nebraska, he is still deeply interested in local affairs and is eminently deserving of a place in our history.

Thankmar (usually known as "Theodore") Von Rolf, well known as an insurance man throughout the Middle West, as already intimated, is an American by adoption only, having been born in Germany on January 1, 1863, and he is the son of Thankmar and Frederika Louise Von Rolf, both natives of Germany.

The subject grew to maturity and was educated in his native land, but concluding that greater opportunities for one of his temperament were to be found in the New World, he set sail for our shores in 1891, soon afterward making his way to the state of Iowa, landing at Eldorado, Fayette county, on December 22d of that year. He began life here by working as a farm hand, which he continued for some months. On September 1, 1892, he came to West Union and worked for E. A. Whitney, being employed to look after his telephone and varied interests until the spring of 1893, when he was made local manager for the Iowa & Minnesota Telephone Company, in which he gave very acceptable service and remained in this responsible position until

March 1, 1898, having been promoted step by step, until he was superintendent for the northern half of Iowa.

Mr. Von Rolf was next employed as local agent for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, becoming district manager of the same in 1900, and from September 13, 1903, until early in 1910 he was general agent for northwestern Iowa. He rendered this company such service as to greatly augment the prestige of the same in this locality and gave them the most satisfactory and commendable service possible, being popular both with the head officials and their numerous patrons here. He is at present stationed at Omaha, Nebraska, where he is faithfully performing the duties of general agent for this company.

The domestic life of Mr. Van Rolf began on August 25, 1896, when he was united in marriage with Alice Ruth Niles, a lady of culture and refinement, the daughter of R. G. and Ruth (King) Niles, an excellent family of Hawkeye, this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Von Rolf the following children have been born: Phillip, born November 18, 1898, and Harold, born October 21, 1900.

Politically, Mr Von Rolf is an independent Republican, and, fraternally, he is a worthy member of the Masonic order. Since coming to America he has been very successful and, in view of the many obstacles he has had to overcome, is deserving of a great deal of credit for the large success he has attained, but he belongs to that type of men who would succeed under any environment.

CHARLES H. WRIGHT.

The subject of this sketch, a leading farmer and representative citizen of Oran township, is one of the brave men who in the days when treason was rife and the enemies of the Federal Union threatened its disruption, responded to the call of the government and gave his services to its defense. He not only experienced the dread realities of warfare in camp, on the march and in the awful ordeal of battle, but shed his blood and endured manifold suffering that the cause which he had so much at heart should triumph and the honor of the flag remain unsullied.

Charles H. Wright was born January 7, 1841, in Oneida county, New York, being the fifth of eight children whose parents were William and Ann (Clark) Wright, both natives of Yorkshire, England. In 1814 William Wright, then a youth of fourteen, in company with his grandfather,

Joseph Clark, and Thomas Ripley, an uncle, came to the United States and grew to maturity in Oneida county, New York, where said relatives located. He was reared a farmer and followed that vocation in the above county until 1844, when he went to Chicago, Illinois, where he spent the summer of that year and then located five miles north of Elgin. After spending the ensuing ten years in that part of the state, he decided to move farther west, accordingly, in May, 1854, he started on the journey to Iowa, traveling by the way of Rockford and Freeport, crossing the Mississippi river at Galena and proceeding onward until arriving at Fairbank, in the state of his destination, where he decided to locate. The town of Fairbank at that time was a mere frontier hamlet of four families, the county of Buchanan in the main being but sparsely settled. Mr. Wright purchased sixty acres of land and took up a homestead of eighty near by, on which he erected a log building, sixteen by twenty feet in size, which answered the purposes of a dwelling until replaced by a larger and much more comfortable edifice some years later. He improved his land and in due time had an excellent farm on which he and his good wife spent the remainder of their lives, both being buried in the cemetery at Fairbank, where other settlers are also sleeping the sleep that knows no waking.

The following are the names of the children born to William and Ann Wright: William C., who was accidentally killed by a horse; Mary Ann, widow of the late F. B. Nute, of Oelwein; Joseph James, a farmer of Poplar Grove, California, who died in 1907; Sarah Jane, wife of Moses Robinson, of Waverly, Iowa; Charles H., of this review; Nettie, who married John Kelsey, and died some years ago in California, her husband having been a member of Company C, Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry, in the late Civil war, dying at Montgomery, Alabama, while in the service; Robert T., who also served in the above company and later farmed the old homestead, is deceased, and Martha, the youngest of the family, is living in the city of San Jose, California.

Charles H. Wright, like the majority of country lads, spent his childhood and youth in close touch with nature and while still quite young became familiar with the rugged duties of farm life. Growing up in a comparatively new country, he enjoyed limited advantages in the way of obtaining an education, his total schooling being confined to two winter terms of three months each. Later, however, he made up for this deficiency in a great measure by much reading and intelligent observation; his military experience also contributed to the development of his mental faculties, while the mingling with his fellow men in various business capacities has given him

a valuable practical knowledge and made him one of the well informed men of his community.

Young Wright remained at home, assisting with the cultivation of the farm, until August, 1862, when he exchanged the implements of husbandry for the death-dealing weapons of warfare. Enlisting on the 15th of that month in Company C, Twenty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry, he spent some time at Dubuque drilling, thence accompanied his regiment to Fort Snelling, Minnesota, and later went via Prairie du Chien, Madison, Wisconsin, and Chicago, to Cairo, Illinois, where the command embarked for Memphis, Tennessee. Shortly after arriving at that city the Twenty-seventh joined Grant's army and the first duty that fell to the regiment was the guarding of the railroad bridge at Tallahassee, Georgia, subsequently being sent to Jackson, Tennessee, to guard the Jackson & Memphis railroad. In the summer of 1863 Mr. Wright's regiment was ordered to Helena, Arkansas, where it joined the forces under General Steel, which soon afterwards captured Little Rock. Returning to Memphis, the subject spent three months doing picket duty, which time extended into the winter of 1864, the coldest on record. During the months of December, January and February of that year the weather became so intensely severe that many soldiers had their hands and feet frozen while on duty, not a few being permanently disabled. In the spring of 1864 the Twenty-seventh Iowa was ordered to Vicksburg, where it joined the army under General Sherman and from there marched to Meridian, Mississippi, where many miles of railroad were destroyed and thirteen locomotives captured. Returning to Vicksburg, the regiment was detached from Sherman's command to form part of the force under General Banks for the Red river campaign. In the latter expedition Mr. Wright's regiment was in A. J. Smith's division and saw much active service, participating in a number of battles and skirmishes and experiencing its full share of the suffering and disaster which mark the history of that movement. Later the Twenty-seventh took part in the battle of Tupelo, Mississippi, after which it was ordered to join General Sherman at Atlanta, but the order being countermanded, the regiment with others went to St. Louis to head off the Confederate force under General Price, marching seven hundred and twenty miles without change of clothing and without much time to rest. The object being accomplished, the command went to Nashville to operate against General Hood, who was moving against that city, and in the bloody battle which occurred there and the similar engagement at Franklin the Twenty-seventh bore a conspicuous and gallant part. Without narrating in detail Mr. Wright's further military service, which the nature of this sketch

forbids, suffice it to state that he accompanied his command through all of its experiences and vicissitudes at New Orleans, Dauphin Island, Spanish Fort, Fort Blakely and many other places, marching in all thirteen thousand miles and under all circumstances acquitting himself as became a brave and gallant defender of the Union. While on the ill-starred Red river campaign, he was shot through the right thigh, a painful and dangerous wound, but he recovered in due season and from that time until the close of the war was always ready to go where duty called.

Mr. Wright was honorably discharged at Clinton, Iowa, August 8, 1865, after three years of faithful service, after which he returned home and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near the family homestead, which he improved and on which he lived and prospered during the twenty-three years ensuing. At the expiration of that time he moved to Bremer county, where he bought land and farmed for a period of eleven years, disposing of his holdings in that part of the state in 1900 and purchasing the beautiful place in Oran township, Fayette county, on which he has since resided.

Mr. Wright's present farm consists of one hundred acres of highly improved and very valuable land and his home is pronounced one of the most beautiful and desirable in the township of Oran. As a tiller of the soil he is enterprising and up to date, being familiar with the various phases of agricultural science, and he seldom fails to realize abundant returns from the time and labor expended on his farm.

In November, 1867, Mr. Wright was happily married to Hattie Potts, of Elgin, Illinois, daughter of Jacob H. and Katherina (Hansman) Potts, the father born in Knox county, Ohio, in 1813, the mother in Richland county, that state, on September 25th of the same year. Mr. and Mrs. Potts were the parents of eight children, namely: John, born April 3, 1835; Abigail, born August 29, 1837, married J. West and lives at Fairbank; Sophronia, born February 2, 1840, is the wife of Robert M. White, of Oregon; Elizabeth, born July 16, 1842, died September 11, 1845; Benjamin, of Bay City, Texas, was born January 7, 1845; Hattie, wife of the subject, was born August 7, 1847, and Isabelle, now Mrs. Isaac Skillings, of Oregon, whose birth occurred on February 23, 1856.

Jacob H. Potts, the father, settled in Illinois in an early day and in 1855 moved from that state to Iowa, locating in Black Hawk county, three miles southwest of Fairbank. Later he migrated to Brown county, Nebraska, where his death occurred, his widow subsequently returning to Fairbank, where she spent the remainder of her days.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright have had six children: Ida Ann, who died September 1, 1892; Vinnie Sherman, who was killed by a mule February 9, 1886; Charles F., who died April 25, 1898; Myrtle Belle, who departed this life in July, 1900; Laura M., who died December 28, 1883, and William Arthur, the only surviving member of the family, who was born October 18, 1884, and is still with his parents.

Mr. Wright takes an active interest in military matters and is well posted on the history of the United States, being especially familiar with facts connected with the late Civil war, in which he bore such an honorable part. He organized Fairbank Post No. 367. Grand Army of the Republic, served as its commander for eight years, besides filling all the other offices, and is still one of the most conspicuous and influential members. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge at the above place, his wife being a member of the Pythian Sisters and an active worker in the same. Both are highly esteemed and have many warm friends in the community where they reside.

HENRY W. GROSS.

The gentleman whose name appears above is one of the many thousands of German-born people who cast their lot with Iowa and have done so much to make her the proudest of all the agricultural commonwealths. Though, as a general thing, Germans seem to prefer the pursuits of cities, they also show a fine adaptation to the country when their lot is cast in that direction. There are no better farmers, as they possess the very qualities necessary to succeed in the exacting work of farming. They are economical and doggedly persistent in carrying out their objects. They also have excellent judgment of stock and farm values, knowing exactly what things are worth and how to get them. Iowa has no better farmers than the population that came to her from Germany, and her obligations to these people as state-builders are very great.

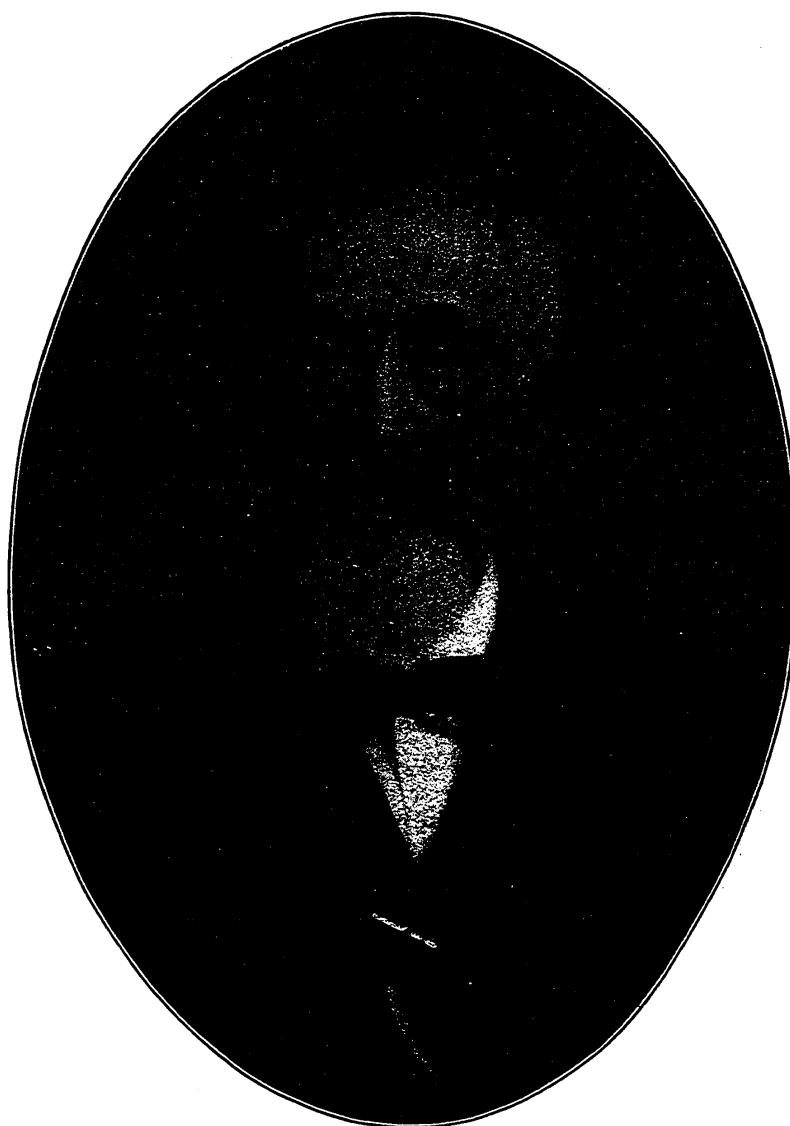
Henry W. Gross was born in Germany May 9, 1873, his father being named Henry. He had the benefit of a good education before leaving his native land, being a pupil in the excellent schools of that country for nine years. When his father decided to emigrate to America he brought his son along, locating near Eldorado in Fayette county. Henry attended school at this place for about three months, his teacher being Rev. G. Blessin. He went to work for his father on the latter's farm and kept this up for three years.

Next he worked out for ten years, going through all the hardships and drudgery incident to such a life. The training, however, was valuable, as he learned all the details and endless routine of farm work, preparatory to the time when he should have a farm of his own. This opportunity came to him after his marriage, when he found himself in charge of one hundred and sixty acres of land east of Eldorado. He has been engaged in the business for ten years and has something to show for his work. He has made many improvements, including buildings of various kinds, such as he needed in the operations. The whole farm has been touched up, the fencing is kept in good order, the soil in proper shape for cultivating and all other things are done that bespeak the progressive farmer. Mr. Gross is fond of stock and keeps a good grade on his place. He does not attempt fancy farming; nor does he handle the expensive thoroughbreds, but he farms in a general all around way which, after years of experience, has been found safest.

In 1900 Mr. Gross married Sabina, daughter of Fred Vagts, whose sketch will be found elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Gross have three children, Arthur, Richard and Lottie. The family are members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Gross is independent in politics.

WILLIAM P. SHAFFER.

This sketch deals with one of Fayette county's well-to-do farmers and a man of exemplary habits, who is looked upon as one of the substantial men of the county. William P. Shaffer, of Auburn township, is Hoosier-born, having first seen the light of day in Grant county, Indiana, June 14, 1853, but for more than fifty years he has claimed this county as his home. He was educated in the public schools here and did himself honor in the class of chi-rography, being a prize winner. He has ever shown an interest in educational matters, for a number of years holding the office of school director. Mr. Shaffer grew to manhood on his father's farm and assisted with the work about the place until he was twenty-two years old. His father being a carpenter by trade, he formed a liking for the work and became an apprentice, and later, for a period of four years, he assisted Nate Shank, a carpenter of West Union. For twenty-four years the subject followed this industry, making his home in West Union, where he was considered the leading contractor and builder. Some of the best homes in the city are now monuments to his excellent skill. So much in demand was he that it was no unusual thing



DAVID SHAFFER.



MRS. JANE SHAFFER.

for him to have as many as seven to ten contracts at one time, ranging anywhere from two thousand dollars to seven thousand dollars each. In the country adjacent to West Union may be seen many fine barns and commodious residences which he built. Having a desire to again take up the tilling of the soil, he abandoned his trade in 1901 and for three years lived on a rented farm near West Union. In 1904 he moved to his present location, a farm of three hundred and seventy-five acres located in Auburn township, sections 31 and 32, the property of Mrs. Charles Woodard, of West Union. He also rents eighty acres at Donnan, Iowa, in connection with the farm he lives on. Mr. Shaffer may be termed a progressive farmer. He has made a specialty of raising Poland China hogs for several years, usually raising one hundred head or more a year.

In 1857, when modes of travel were vastly less numerous than in this generation, David and Jane (Pemberton) Shaffer, the subject's parents, left Grant county, Indiana, and wended their way westward, by the overland route, in a couple of covered wagons, each drawn by two teams. They stopped in Fayette county and Mr. Shaffer being acquainted with the carpenter trade, he soon secured employment by assisting in the erection of the old Seminary building, which was then under the course of construction. Those were the days when dwellings were scarce in this locality and it was not long until Mr. Shaffer took up contracting and built many of the best homes in and around the town of Fayette. In 1873 he retired from carpenter work. Having, by his industry and economy, accumulated a sufficient amount of means, he purchased a farm three miles north of Fayette, where he lived until 1891, when he rented it and moved to Fayette and for the past ten years has made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Minnie Cullins. He sold his farm about 1895. He was born in Knitney, Pennsylvania, January 1, 1830. He was the son of German parents and was reared on a farm in the Keystone state. He went to Grant county, Indiana, when a young man and served an apprenticeship at the carpenter trade there. In 1852 he married Jane Pemberton, born in 1830 in the state of Ohio, and the daughter of Quaker parents. Mr. and Mrs. Shaffer were the parents of seven children. The third in order of birth died in infancy. Those living are: William P., the subject; Willis F., born December, 1854, resides on a farm in Jewell county, Kansas; Robert B. is a contractor and builder in Albion, Iowa; Mrs. Tacie J., wife of Charles Ash, of Fayette, Iowa; Minnie, wife of Martin Cullins, of Fayette, where Mr. Shaffer makes his home; Lincoln D. lives on a farm east of Fayette. Mrs. Shaffer died in July, 1890. Mr. Shaffer is a Republican. During his wife's lifetime they were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he still accepts this

doctrine. He has been an advocate of education and was long a member of the school board.

On December 24, 1884, William P. Shaffer married Agnes Todd. She was born in Chemung, McHenry county, Illinois, October 19, 1861, and is the daughter of Rev. Daniel and Agnes M. (Cameron) Todd, both natives of Scotland. Her father was born in Glasgow in 1827, her mother in Edinburgh in 1831. They came to Toronto, Canada, in 1858, with Mrs. Todd's mother and were married there in 1859. Soon after their marriage they moved to McHenry, Illinois. Mr. Todd was a minister of the Presbyterian faith and for five years held the pastorate of that church in Chemung. In 1865 the family moved to Clayton county, Iowa, and located on an eighty-acre farm near Volga City. He preached in the Presbyterian churches in Volga and Highland, Iowa, until he retired from the ministry about 1884. About 1886 the family moved to West Union, where they remained until Rev. Todd's death. In 1902 Mrs. Todd went to Portland, Oregon, to live with her son. They were the parents of nine children, namely: Dr. Anna Todd, who lives at Lewiston, Idaho; Mrs. Shaffer; Rev. William M. Todd, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church in Hastings, Michigan; Esther C., wife of Frank Becht, of Spokane, Washington; Euphemia H. Todd died at the age of seventeen years; Frances, wife of Ira J. Merritt, resides at Portland, Oregon; Henry C. Todd, of Portland, Oregon; John C. Todd died aged twenty-seven years; James A. Todd, of Lewiston, Idaho. Rev. David Todd was a graduate of a college at Glasgow, Scotland. He died on October 31, 1900, and was interred at West Union.

Mr. Shaffer and wife have reared eight children, as follows: Bessie A., who was born April 24, 1886, was united in marriage with Homer C. Carmichael in February, 1905, and passed away June 6, 1909; Ethel E., born October 19, 1887, was married to Maxwell Saltsgiver on February 2, 1910, and they reside in Union township; Edith A., born February 19, 1889, and Anna F., born May 11, 1893, both at home; Clarence D. Shaffer, born June 26, 1895; William H., born October 24, 1898; Grace M., born July 23, 1902; Leslie E., born December 4, 1904. In politics, Mr. Shaffer is a Republican. He is an honor to his party, his county and his home.

FRANK ALBERT ROBINSON.

A skilled engineer and loyal citizen of Oelwein, Iowa, is Frank Albert Robinson, who was born in Bremer county, this state, in November, 1858, the son of Alfred and Lucy Ann (Wilson) Robinson, both born near Toronto,

Canada, the former being the son of Sala Robinson and wife and the latter the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Huston Wilson, her father being a native of Vermont. The parents of Frank A. Robinson, of this review, were married at St. Charles, Kane county, Illinois, and from there they moved to Seaton, in the north part of Fayette county, Iowa, in 1855. The following year they moved to Franklin township, Bremer county, this state, and it was while living there that their son, Frank Albert, was born. He grew to maturity on his father's farm and assisted with the general work on the same; however, when only fifteen years of age, he went to De Kalb county, Illinois, where he worked at farming for a period of two years, then went to Lancaster county, Nebraska, and continued farming. Two years later he returned to his old home in Bremer county and took a position at the state asylum at Independence and his services were continued there for four years. Then the old desire for travel seized him again and for the next four or five years he visited many different places, residing in Kankakee, Illinois; Mendota, Wisconsin; Lincoln, Nebraska, and Clarinda, Iowa, remaining one year at the last named place. While there he began learning steam engineering and has followed that occupation ever since, having mastered all the details of the same and become an expert in this line, so that his services have always been in great demand. He was engineer at the state asylum at Hastings, Nebraska, for a period of five years. From Hastings he went to Elgin, Illinois, where he was second engineer for four years at the state asylum of Illinois. He has been employed in the engine room of seven different state asylums, two in Nebraska, one in Wisconsin, two in Illinois and two in Iowa. He was at Elgin, Illinois, twice, and twice at Mendota, Wisconsin. About 1896 he came to Oelwein, Iowa, and took a position at the electric light plant. About two years later he began working at the power house of the Chicago Great Western shops, where he remained a little over a year. In 1902 he was placed in full control of the Oelwein water works pumping station, where he has done a most excellent work, a work, perhaps, that few people realize the importance of, relating to the maintenance of pure water to drink by the people of this city and for fire protection, etc. The city water works were established in 1896 and since Mr. Robertson took charge of the station the capacity has been increased from seven hundred and fifty thousand gallons daily to one million, seven hundred and fifty thousand gallons daily.

Mr. Robertson was married February 16, 1904, to Ida May Galloway, daughter of William and Ida (Harris) Galloway. Mrs. Robertson and her parents came from Henry county, Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Robertson

three children have been born, namely: Alfred Edgar, Edna May and Frank Orville. The first named died when fourteen months old.

Mr. Robertson belongs to the Modern Woodmen, the Modern National Reserve and the Knights of Pythias. Politically, he is a Republican. He has always been a great student of general text-books, especially anything that relates to his vocation. He belongs to engineering societies when possible and always seeks to improve in his work and he stands high in engineering circles. He is a man of exemplary habits, industrious, painstaking and careful. He is in many respects like his father, who was a man of sterling traits, one of the progressive farmers of Bremen county, Iowa, where he bought land soon after his removal there. He was in Company G, Fourteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was a gallant soldier for the Union. He was wounded in the battle of Pleasant Hill, Missouri, and on account of his injuries received an honorable discharge. These injuries finally resulted in his death in 1870.

JOHN H. BIDDINGER & SON.

The firm of John H. Biddinger & Son, of Oelwein, Iowa, is one of the best known harness establishments in this part of the state and by judicious management it has gradually extended its prestige until an excellent patronage is enjoyed, which reaches far beyond the borders of Fayette county. The senior member of the firm and one of the city's leading business men is John Henry Biddinger, who was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, September 25, 1845. He is the son of Andrew and Sarah (Harr) Biddinger, each representing old families of the Keystone state. Their son, John H., of this review, moved with his parents to Auburn, Fayette county, Iowa, when seven or eight years old. His father was a tailor and very successful in his line. During the Civil war, young John H. began learning the harnessmaker's trade, which he became very skilled in, and in 1872 he started a harness shop at Auburn and was building up a good trade when, in 1880, he moved to Oelwein; thus for nearly half a century he has been known as a harnessmaker and leather dealer in this locality and abundant success has crowned his long years of persistent and careful endeavor.

Mr. Biddinger was married in 1869 to Almeda Lewis, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Lewis, natives of Dane county, Wisconsin, and this union resulted in the birth of two children, Ernest Elmo, born in 1872, married May Knapp, daughter of Edward and Emma (Cleveland) Knapp, of

McGregor, Iowa, and they are the parents of two children, Homer and Ralph. Ada Biddinger was born in 1877, married Will Tout, son of William and Minnie (Moore) Tout, of Toronto, Canada, and they are the parents of three children, Kenneth, Florence and another daughter. Mr. Tout is a foreman in the shops of the Chicago Great Western railway.

Fraternally the subject is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, both encampment and subordinate.

John H. Biddinger continued in the harness business in Oelwein until 1892, when his son Ernest bought a half interest in the business. In 1902 he bought the other half from his father, the latter retiring, but after some time spent in recreation and in an effort to regain his health, the elder Biddinger returned to the shop, where he still takes an active part in the work, not caring to be idle, for he has always been a very industrious man. When he first came to Oelwein he bought the John Wilson harness shop, which was located in a small frame building at the northwest corner of East Charles street and First avenue. In 1897 he built a substantial and convenient brick building at No. 21 West Charles street. It is a two-story business block in which both store and shop are located, the upper part being residence flats. The store is well arranged and an up-to-date line of harness is always carried and the shop is equipped with the latest pattern machinery, so that high grade work is always done. Other harness shops have been started in Oelwein at various times, but, as a rule, they did not remain long, but because of superior workmanship, better knowledge of the trade and an honest system in dealing with customers, the Biddinger shop has continued, now being the only one in Oelwein.

ROBERT H. P. RATHBUN.

The subject of this sketch, who is one of the well known and respected citizens of Oelwein, Fayette county, has achieved definite success in life in the face of discouraging and apparently insurmountable circumstances, and today no man in his community enjoys to a greater degree the confidence of those who knew him. Industry and perseverance have been the keynotes to his success, and in the highest qualities of manhood he is the peer of any of his fellows.

Mr. Rathbun was born in Dewitt county, Illinois, on December 12, 1840, and is the son of Parr and Ruth (White) Rathbun. His father and paternal grandfather came from New Hampshire to Pennsylvania, and later moved

from there to Licking county, Ohio, and subsequently to Illinois. When the subject of this sketch was about eleven years old the family moved to Lodi, Columbia county, Wisconsin, where they followed farming. His education was received in a select subscription school. The lad was of an independent turn of mind and was ambitious, and having determined to pay his own way through school he worked at whatever he could find to do, such as mowing hay and similar work. After completing his education he remained on the home place until he was about thirty-five years old. In the meantime he married and in 1874 he moved to Smithfield township, Fayette county, Iowa, where he followed farming. About four years later he bought a farm in Scott township, this county, to which he moved. He remained there until the spring of 1880, when he rented his farm and went to Adair county, where he engaged in running a stock farm for a brother-in-law, with whom he was in partnership. Some time later he returned to the Scott township farm, built a neat and comfortable residence and in other ways made permanent and substantial improvements on the place. He remained there until the fall of 1902, when he moved to Oelwein, where he now resides, practically retired from active labor, enjoying the rest which he had so richly earned. He is still the owner of the one-hundred-and-sixty-acre farm in Scott township and also owns residence properties in Oelwein.

Mr. Rathbun had two brothers, James and John. The former was in the army during the Civil war and during that time the subject remained at home and cared for his parents. At the close of the war the parents decided to sell the farm and divide the proceeds among their children. The subject and his brother James bought out the interests of the other heirs and ran the farm in partnership. They bought the land at twenty-five dollars per acre, and it soon rose to a value of fifty dollars, at which price they sold it, intending to come to Iowa. They had four thousand dollars, which they loaned, and subsequently the borrowers, including banks, went into bankruptcy, leaving the brothers in bad shape financially. About all they received at the time were numerous expressions of sympathy from neighbors, and an old aunt said, "O, well, you're young and can build up again." The subject derived considerable encouragement from this remark and it often recurred to him in his later days of trial. After he came to Iowa, about 1876, prices of farm products were discouragingly low, butter selling for five cents per pound, eggs for three cents a dozen, and hogs at two dollars a hundred pounds. Despite this fact, he was not discouraged, but persevered in his efforts and managed to save money, eventually overcoming the obstacles which confronted him and attaining a position of comparative independence. Hard work,

sound judgment and persistence earned their reward and today he enjoys the respect of those who have become familiar with his record, which in every respect has been an honorable one.

In 1862 Mr. Rathbun was married to Marriett Ashley, a daughter of Stephen and Nancy (Waterbury) Ashley, of Columbia county, Wisconsin, who were originally from Theresa, Jefferson county, New York. To the subject and wife have been born four children, Etta, Frank Chester, Louis and Lulu, the last two named being twins. Etta became the wife of Elmer Stebbins, of Oelwein; Frank is a mail carrier in Oelwein; Louis, who is an expert jeweler and engraver and graduate optician, lives in Oelwein; Lulu remains with her parents.

Fraternally, Mr. Rathbun is a member of the Knights of Pythias, in which he has taken all the degrees including that of the Uniform Rank. He is a man of many splendid personal qualifications and enjoys a large acquaintance, among whom he numbers many warm and loyal friends.

ALFRED E. WHITNEY.

Among the citizens of Fayette, Iowa, none is more highly esteemed than the subject of this sketch, who has ably and satisfactorily filled several important positions. He is a man of positive character and integrity of purpose and in every position in which he has been placed he has evinced those qualities which go to the making of well-rounded manhood. A man of strong social instincts, he has readily made acquaintances, among whom he numbers many warm and loyal friends.

Alfred E. Whitney was born in the town of Scotland, county of Brant, province of Ontario, Canada, on the 13th day of September, 1856, and is a son of William A. and Emily (Malcolm) Whitney, the former having been the son of Louis Whitney. When the subject was about five years old, the family moved to West Union, this county, where he was reared to manhood. He received his education in the public schools and in the S. S. Ainsworth private school at West Union.

On completing his education, Mr. Whitney received an appointment as guard at the Fort Madison prison, being then about twenty-three years old. He gave seven years efficient service in this position, and was then appointed deputy warden of the state prison at Anamosa, where he remained seven months. He then resigned this position to accept a similar one at the prison

at Fort Madison. Altogether Mr. Whitney's service at the several institutions embraced a period of fourteen years and nine months, during which time he assisted in the management of thirty-four hundred prisoners and was considered a valuable man in the position.

In July, 1902, Mr. Whitney was appointed oil inspector for the fifth district of Iowa, and held this position until the 1st of August, 1906. At the latter date the law became operative which gave to old soldiers the preference in state appointments, and Mr. Whitney returned to private life and his home at Fayette, where he has since remained. He satisfactorily and ably filled every position to which he was appointed and at all times enjoyed the absolute confidence and high regard of his superiors. He is a man of splendid personal qualities which commend him to the esteem of all who know him and he numbers the best people of the community among his friends.

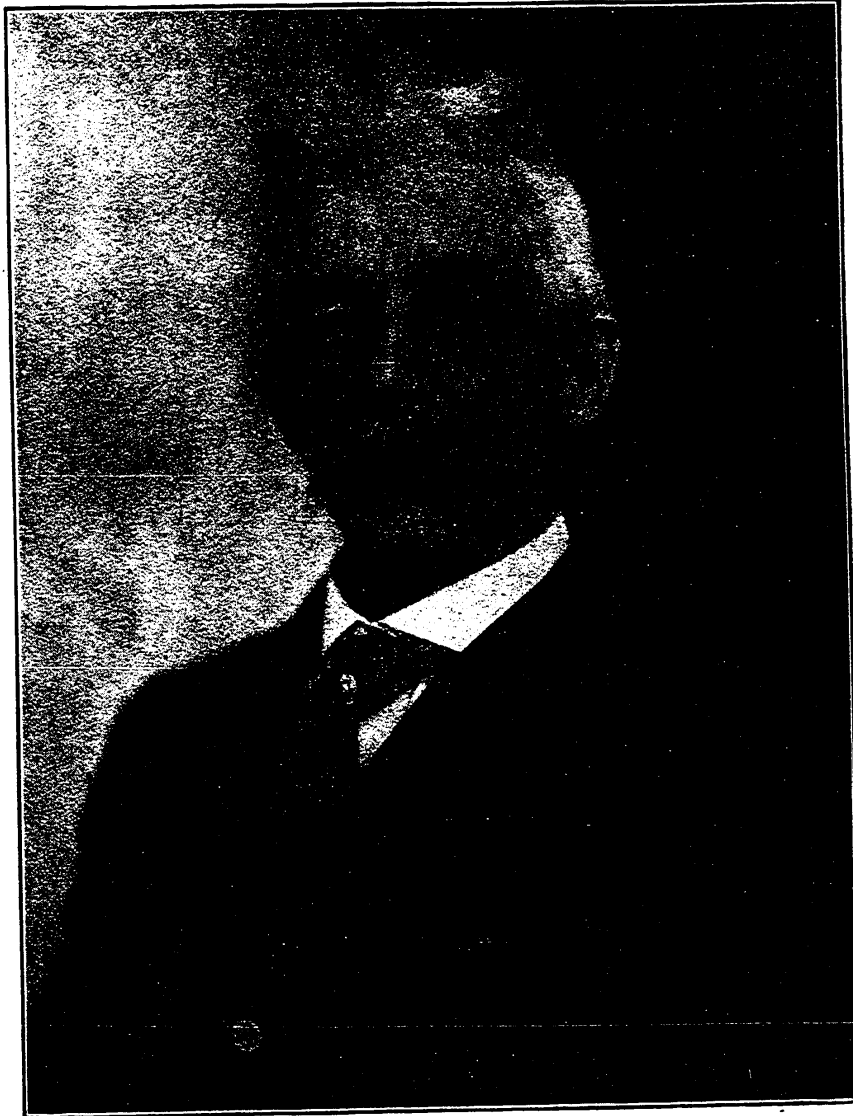
In August, 1897, Mr. Whitney was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Carrie B. Carpenter. In politics he is a Republican and has at all times taken a keen and active interest in the success of the party, being an influential worker in the ranks. His public service demonstrated his ability in various ways and he is considered one of the leading citizens of Fayette.

MARTIN VAN BUREN DIBBLE.

A man well known throughout Fayette county and in many other sections of the Middle West as an agriculturist and brick manufacturer is M. V. Dibble, now located near Clermont, Iowa, where he is regarded as one of the vicinity's most influential and substantial citizens. He was born in Ashtabula county, Ohio, in 1840, the son of E. H. and Harriet (Finkham) Dibble, and there he remained until 1849, when the family emigrated to Wisconsin, where they remained until 1852, at which time they moved to Clermont, Fayette county, Iowa. Here the father, who had for some time engaged in brick making prior to his coming to Iowa, again launched out in this business—in fact he followed that occupation at various places nearly all his life. His first work here in that line was to manufacture the brick for the old Clermont mill, which still stands. He made brick in the old primitive way, having had no mechanical devices of any kind. He made a very comfortable living and laid by a competency for his old age in this line of endeavor, and as he grew older he gradually entrusted the business to Martin V., of this review, and another son.



MRS. M. V. DIBBLE.



MARTIN V. DIBBLE.

M. V. Dibble received a common school education, and when merely a boy went to work in his father's brick yard and thus early in life became familiar with the peculiar methods employed in this work. He has devoted the major portion of his life to this business, he and his brother having maintained a large yard on their father's farm near Clermont, there employing as high as thirty men. They furnished the brick for nearly all the buildings of this material in West Union and they shipped to many points at a greater distance. M. V. Dibble finally purchased this place of one hundred and twenty acres, and he owns in all two hundred and forty-seven acres, all valuable land and well improved, and for the past few years he has given his attention to farming and dairying, operating what is perhaps the largest and best equipped dairy in the county, having milked as high as forty cows, and, owing to the excellent quality of his products, he finds a ready market for the same. He is a master of details and has made a great success of all these lines of endeavor, especially in the manufacture of brick. With the exception of a short time as foreman of a brick yard for Mr. Hinkley at Laverne, Minnesota, he has been a resident continuously of this part of Fayette county, Iowa, being one of the township's representative men.

Mr. Dibble was married in 1866, at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, to Sarah A. Dixon, who was born in London, England. This union has resulted in the birth of the following children: Lily, Jessie, Grace, Ezra, Arthur, Rosa, Kittie, Gussie, and one who died at the age of ten years.

Mr. Dibble's father was a Whig in politics and later a supporter of the Republican party and his son, M. V., has followed his example by being a loyal advocate of Republican principles. Though he has never found time to mingle much in politics, yet he has very faithfully performed the duties of assessor of his township and has also been a member of the school board, being willing to give of his valuable time to the work of advancing the interests of his township and county. He is a man of upright principles and has the esteem of a host of friends.

ALMON H. AMES.

The subject of this sketch, a retired farmer and for many years an honored citizen of Fayette county, is a native of St. Lawrence county, New York, where his birth occurred on December 26, 1850. His grandfather, Elijah Ames, a descendant of an old Vermont family, lived near Pottsdam,

New York, and served with a creditable record in the war of 1812. Thurman Ames, son of Elijah and father of the subject, was born in St. Lawrence county, near Pottsdam, and when a young man married Clarinda Carver, whose parents, Oliver and Lois (Burnett) Carver, were natives of New York and Vermont respectively.

In October, 1858, Thurman Ames moved to Kane county, Illinois, where he lived until 1869, when he migrated to Kansas. He served in the Fifty-second Illinois Infantry during the late Rebellion, and his son also took part in the war, having been a member of the Seventeenth Illinois Cavalry, both earning honorable records as brave and gallant soldiers.

Almon H. Ames was eight years old when his parents moved to Illinois and he spent his youthful life in Kane county, that state, growing to maturity in close touch with the soil and receiving his educational discipline in the public schools. He remained in Illinois until 1876, when he came to Fayette county, Iowa, and located in Scott township, where he engaged in the pursuit of agriculture, which honorable vocation he carried on with success and profit until his retirement from active life in the year 1907. On removing to the above township he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 19, which he at once began to improve and which under his effective labors and judicious management soon became one of the best and most valuable farms in the county of Fayette. He erected good buildings and made many other improvements and as a tiller of the soil ranked among the most energetic and enterprising of his compeers, adopting modern methods in all of his work and achieving success such as few attain. He lived on the farm for a period of thirty-one years, during which time he accumulated a sufficiency of this world's goods to make him independent and enable him to spend the remainder of his life in the enjoyment of the fruits of his many years of toil; accordingly, he bought a beautiful home in Oelwein where he and his wife are now living in honorable retirement.

Mr. Ames was married January 29, 1873, to Hannah Wadley, daughter of Calvin and Mary (Vincent) Wadley, of Michigan, but later of Kane county, Illinois, where Mrs. Ames grew to womanhood and exchanged her family name for the one she has since worthily borne. Three children have blessed the union of this estimable couple, viz: Elva, Wesley and Earl. Elva married Henry Ernst, who died in December, 1896, leaving besides his widow one son, Loren Ernst; subsequently Mrs. Ernst became the wife of Otis Whiteside, of Clarion, Iowa, where she and her husband now reside. Wesley Ames is a traveling engineer for the Stillwater Threshing Machine Company, of Minnesota, and has had in charge a large area of territory in that

and other states. He married Grace Ford and is the father of one son, who answers to the name of Almon. Earl, the youngest of the subject's offspring, lives on the family homestead and manages the same, being one of the progressive young farmers of Scott township. He too is married and the father of one son, Jack F. Ames, the wife and mother having formerly been Blanch Hough, of Fayette county.

Since taking up his residence in Oelwein Mr. Ames has identified himself with the varied interests of the city and keeps abreast of the times on all matters of local and general moment. He belongs to the order of Yeomen, and, with his wife, is a regular attendant of the Christian church and a liberal contributor to its material support, Mrs. Ames being a devoted member and active in all the utilities under the auspices of the congregation. Mrs. Ames's parents are living at Sycamore, Illinois, both having reached the ripe old age of seventy-nine years and retaining to a marked degree their physical and mental powers.

HENRY R. MARTIN.

The subject of this sketch, who is in a prominent way identified with varied business interests in the thriving city of Oelwein, Fayette county, is a lifelong resident of the county and enjoys a wide and favorable acquaintance. He is known as a man of marked business and executive ability and also possesses personal qualities which commend him to the favor of all who know him. He has been closely identified with the progress and upbuilding of Oelwein and is rightfully numbered among her representative business men.

Mr. Martin was born in Jefferson township, this county, in 1867, and is a son of Charles M. and Amanda (O'Neel) Martin. The father was a native of the state of Tennessee and came to Iowa in about 1856, locating first in Bremer county. He was a Baptist minister and enjoyed to a great degree the respect and esteem of all who knew him. In 1865 he came to Fayette county and located on a tract of land which is now embraced in the northwest part of Oelwein. He bought two hundred acres, one hundred and fifty-five of which was embraced in that section bordered on the east by Charles street and on the south by Frederick street, the remainder of the land lying south of the latter street. His death occurred in 1876. The subject's mother was the daughter of Ruel and Mary (Rairdon) O'Neel.

Henry R. Martin was reared under the parental roof and was early inured to farm life. He received a fair education in the public schools, and

after the completion of his education he remained for a time on the home farm. He then engaged in the real estate business in Oelwein, in which he met with very gratifying success and was soon recognized as a hustling and successful man of marked business acumen and sound judgment. During Grover Cleveland's second presidential administration Mr. Martin served as postmaster at Oelwein, giving a very satisfactory administration. Upon the organization of the Aetna State Bank he became a stockholder and member of the board of directors, and in 1898 he accepted the position of cashier of the bank, in which position he is still serving. In this position he has necessarily much to do with the conduct of the bank's affairs and his continuous retention in the office is evidence of the absolute confidence which the directors have in his integrity and ability. The bank is numbered among the strong and reliable financial institutions of Fayette county and has been an important factor in the business development of the community. Mr. Martin is also a member of the firm of Kent & Martin, lumber dealers. This firm purchased the two yards formerly owned by George W. Jamison and the Citizens' Lumber Company and they now enjoy the largest business in their line in the county, it being recognized as one of the most important industries of the city.

In 1889 Mr. Martin was united in marriage to Etta B. Shaw, who was born near West Union, this county, the daughter of Abram and Matilda (Long) Shaw. Religiously, Mr. Martin is a member of the Presbyterian church at Oelwein, to which he gives an earnest and liberal support. In every avenue of activity in which he has engaged he has performed well his part and has at all times enjoyed the unbounded confidence of all who have been associated with him. Of frank and earnest manner in his dealings with others, he at once inspires confidence,—a confidence which is never violated on his part, and he has many warm and loyal friends.

CHARLES M. HALL.

Far from the rugged Pine Tree state comes Charles M. Hall, a well known citizen of Oelwein, who is a scion of sterling New England ancestry and where he himself was nurtured, receiving those lessons of fortitude and persistency that never fail to win whatever vocation is followed or wherever the individual's lot may be cast. He was born in Kennebec county, Maine, October 12, 1849, and he is the son of Isaac B. and Elizabeth (Hutchison)

Hall, the former being the son of Benjamin Hall, who came to America from Ireland when a young man and located in Maine, where he married a native girl. Elizabeth (Hutchison) Hall is of Scotch and English parentage, her mother being from England and her grandfather from Scotland.

Charles M. Hall grew to maturity on the home farm in Maine, which he worked during the summers and received a somewhat limited education in the district schools, remaining under his parental roof-tree until he was seventeen years of age, when he gratified his ambition to grow up in the West, believing that greater opportunities existed here for a man of his tastes, and he accordingly located in Delaware county, Iowa, where he secured employment on a farm. He saved his money and three years later rented a farm and began life for himself, and, being a hard worker and having learned how to manage a farm from his father, he gradually gained a competency.

On March 29, 1871, Mr. Hall married Ruth King, daughter of William and Rhoda (Durson) King, the daughter of a well-established family. Twelve children have been born to this union, namely: Hattie married John Steil, living on a farm one mile east of Westgate, and they are the parents of two children, Merle A. and Roy C.; Isaac C. is living near Seattle, Washington; Lizzie May married Will Karsten and lives a mile east of Sumner, on the edge of Fayette county, Iowa; William F. married Lizzie Wahner and lives two miles south of Maynard, Iowa, on a farm, and they are the parents of two children, Harry and Mabel; Lottie Pearl married Charles Kaune, living two miles northwest of Oelwein; Maude Mary is living at home with the family in Oelwein; Archa M. and Isaac, in the state of Washington, running on a steamboat; Ruth Amelia married Frank Winkler and they live in Westgate, Iowa, and are the parents of one child, Ruth; Mabel Estella is a teacher in the public schools of Banks township; Wyatt Lee is employed at Scott Center, Scott township, this county; Emma is married, living west of Oelwein; Augusta, who attended high school in Oelwein, is a teacher now in the public schools. One child died in infancy; the others are all enjoying good health and are fairly well started in life's material affairs. On July 15, 1908, Mrs. Hall died and was buried in Oaklawn cemetery at Oelwein. On May 24, 1910, Mr. Hall married Eva M. Glew, daughter of Ernest L. and Irene (Warren) Glew, of near Alexandra, South Dakota. In 1908 they came to Fayette county and Mr. Glew is engaged as janitor of the city hall at Oelwein.

After his marriage Charles M. Hall continued farming in Delaware county for two years, then moved three miles north of Oelwein on the J. C. Bennett farm, and there he remained until 1877, when he bought a farm of eighty acres, seven and one-half miles northwest of Oelwein. Prospering

all the while, he purchased, about seven years later, another eighty acres, and about 1889 he bought one hundred and eighty acres more, making three hundred and forty acres in all, of as fine land as the county can boast. He continued farming there successfully until February, 1902, when he bought a splendidly located, attractive and commodious residence at No. 417 North Frederick street, in Oelwein, where he has since resided, practically retired from active life. Fraternally, he is a member of the Masonic order. He is a plain, substantial, hospitable and congenial man whom everybody likes and his family is highly respected wherever its several members have lived.

BENJAMIN SHIPPY.

Although the fate that comes to all in the course of human events has summoned Benjamin Shippy to his reward, time cannot readily relegate to oblivion the forces for good he set in motion and the remembrance of the many useful acts and kind deeds for which he was esteemed, for his life was one of long, consecutive endeavor in an effort to benefit himself, his family and his fellow men, and the career of such as he should be set up for an example before the youth whose destinies are yet matters for the future to determine. He was the representative of a sterling old Canadian family, he himself being a native of the far north, born in Rondeau, Middlesex, Ontario, Canada, March 8, 1818. His father was Thomas Shippy, who married Frances McLish. He grew to manhood at Rondeau and was educated there. On June 8, 1853, he was married to Annis Henry, daughter of Ira and Molly (Burss) Henry, of Elgin county, Ontario, Canada, and in December, 1853, they moved to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and there followed farming in a very successful manner for about a year and a half, when he moved to Oran township, Fayette county, Iowa, in the spring of 1855. He took up eighty acres of government land and began farming there, developing a good farm and establishing an excellent home. Three years later he sold the first farm and bought another a mile away. When he first came to Iowa it was in covered wagons, drawn by ox teams, and they were compelled to live in wagons until they could build a log cabin, and they had to go to Independence, quite a distance, for their mail and to do their trading. Eight children were born to them, named as follows: Victoria married Webster McQueen and lives in Oelwein, and they are the parents of six children; Leroy was drowned when twenty years of age; Benjamin married Emma Smith, of Waverly, Iowa, and he is employed in

the shops of the Chicago Great Western railway; he and his wife are the parents of three children, Charles, Leslie and Norma; John McQueen was the third child in order of birth; the next was Ima, who married Earl Gay and lives in Rockford, Illinois, where he is proprietor of a "pantatorium"; Vesta and Bernice McQueen are the youngest of the family; Webster McQueen is in charge of the interlocking switches of the Chicago Great Western railway at Oelwein. Alvrettia Shippy died when twelve years of age. Kate M. Shippy married Samuel Speer and lived in Palo Alto county, Iowa, until her death, on January 20, 1900; they lived on a farm and four children were born to them, Raymond, Cassie, Vera Rosamond and Clifford. Cassie Speer married Ray Miller, assistant chief clerk in the offices of the Oregon Short Line railroad at Pocatello, Idaho. Locy Shippy married Elsie Miller, of Black Hawk county, Iowa, and three children have been born to them, Glennie, who died December 31, 1908, Lloyd and Jacob. Locy Shippy is farming in Oran township, Fayette county, Iowa. Ira Shippy is working on a farm in Buchanan county, Iowa. Charles Shippy married Ella Murray and lives at Hope, Steele county, North Dakota, where he is practicing law; he was county attorney there for eight years and he is the owner of eight hundred acres of farm land. Chiles Shippy married Catherine Kile, of Dubuque county, Iowa, and they are living in Oelwein, where he has been city clerk since May, 1907; eight children have been born to them, Leo C., Chester A., Harold E., Russell F., Claire W., Charles S., Ira M. and Marie M. Osceola Shippy died when five years of age.

When the Shippy family first moved to Oran township, Fayette county, wolves and rattlesnakes were very numerous, and they had to contend with the ordinary conditions obtaining in a new country, but they in due course of time established a good home here. Benjamin Shippy was an ardent Republican and took an interest in everything that tended to promote the general good. He was school director many years, constable for two terms, road supervisor and he held other local offices, always to the entire satisfaction of his constituents, for he was scrupulously honest, courteous and gave close attention to whatever he had entrusted to him. The death of this excellent citizen occurred in January, 1899. In 1903, Mrs. Shippy sold the farm and moved to Oelwein, where he still resides. She is, with one exception, the oldest settler in Oran township now living in Fayette county. She is a woman of beautiful Christian character and she is a blessing to all who come into her genial presence, and it is interesting to hear her recall reminiscences of the early days. In every way she proved to be a fit companion for her sterling husband, and no stronger character has ever lived in the southern part of the county than he.

WALTER B. STONE.

It is always a pleasure to the biographer to record the lives of men such as those mentioned in this sketch. Walter B. Stone was born in Warrensburg, Warren county, New York, July 2, 1846, the son of William B. and Mary (Fuller) Stone. They moved to Washington county, New York, in 1854, and in 1867 the family came to Eden township, Fayette county, Iowa. Walter had worked at home in the sawmills and had become a sawyer. In December, 1863, he enlisted in Company A, Second New York Veteran Cavalry, most of the members of which regiment were veterans in the service. He joined the regiment at Camp Stanton, Virginia. In February they were transferred to the Department of the Gulf and sent to Morganza Bend, on the Mississippi, Col. Morgan H. Chisler having been sent by ocean vessel to New Orleans. The regiment got new horses at New Orleans. Their service consisted in keeping the eastern and western armies in touch, scouting and other such duties. In the last campaign they were transferred to the coast of Florida, marched to Fort Blakely and were there at the time of Lee's surrender. Mr. Stone continued to serve with his command and was discharged at the end of his term in November, 1865. The regiment had headquarters at Talladye, Alabama, during the last few months. There was a great deal of factional feeling and troops were necessary to maintain peace. After his discharge Mr. Stone went back to New York, but was in bad health on account of his service. He attended school and worked in a store until 1866. Oliver Stone, a cousin of William B., was already in Iowa and so they moved there. They first rented land near Eden, then bought a farm near Hawkeye, then came back to Eden township, until in 1878 his father moved to Nebraska, where he died in 1883. His wife spent her remaining life with her son, W. B., a daughter in Nebraska, and a daughter in New Hampshire, in which latter place she died in 1897. James W., a brother of Walter B., who had served in the Twenty-second Regiment New York Infantry and in the Second New York Veteran Cavalry for four years and a half, had come to Iowa with the family, but in 1868 he and Walter went to Chicago and there they learned the upholsterer's trade. James died in Chicago in 1902. Walter spent fourteen years at the upholstering trade, being the foreman of a large shop with twenty-five men under him at the time he left the trade. He was in Chicago at the time of the fire and saw the most of it, especially in the heaviest business districts. In 1882 he returned to Iowa and took charge of his wife's homestead. On this farm, on September 3, 1872, he had been married to Eva A.



Engr. by E. G. Williams & Bro. 1877

G. W. Goodrich



Walter B. Stone

Goodrich, the daughter of the Rev. G. W. and Catherine (Fellers) Goodrich. G. W. Goodrich was born in Franklin, Delaware county, New York, February 16, 1811, and came to Iowa in 1866. He had begun to preach in the Methodist church, was a circuit rider for four or five years, and finally united with the Free Will Baptists. He had lost his health and came west on that account. He had owned land here before, but bought the present farm, which had been settled thirty years before by William Murray, after his coming, and began to farm, but was soon called upon to preach. His church had a congregation at Eden, but no building. He preached all over this country, and continued to serve until age prevented. He was a man with hosts of friends, popular and well liked. In the number of marriages which he solemnized and funerals he preached he was far in advance of most preachers, for his services were much in demand on such occasions. His strong Unionism was perhaps one of the reasons why during the war he was chosen to preach the funerals of so many soldiers who had been sent home for burial. At one time he married six couples at one ceremony, mostly soldiers just starting to war. One couple in Iowa, Fayette Schenck and wife, were married standing in a wagon. He was liberal in his views. Mrs. Goodrich died in 1878, falling into a well in the night while visiting a neighbor, and dying instantly. Mr. Goodrich died at the old home December 29, 1906, aged ninety-four years, ten months and thirteen days. He had been married on March 21, 1839. His parents were Morris and Ruth Goodrich. Mrs. Walter B. Stone was born in Schoharie county, New York, came to Iowa at the age of fourteen and has lived on the farm ever since with the exception of ten years in Chicago. Her twin sister, Adeline, married S. C. Main, and died in Bethel township at the age of forty-five years.

From 1882 Mr. Stone carried on general farming very successfully until his death, which occurred on June 10, 1910, the place comprising one hundred and thirty acres of well improved land. In 1884 he built the present home. Two of his children died in childhood, and the five living are: George G., carpenter and blacksmith, of Alpha; Lestena, who married R. D. Davis, of Alpha; Walter B., Jr., operating the farm and living with his parents; Ina M., a teacher, graduate of the Waucoma high school; Arthur M., now a student in the same high school. Mr. Stone was in former years a Republican, but later became a Prohibitionist. He was a member of Sutherland Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Waucoma. Always faithful as a soldier, at his trade, and on the farm, he lived to see the results of that faithfulness in the prosperity and happiness of himself and his family. Mr. Stone was for twenty years a member of and an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal church in which he held official position as steward and trustee.

JOSEPH HOBSON NEFF.

Among the enterprising business men of West Union whose labors and influence have tended greatly to the city's advancement and prosperity the name of Joseph Hobson Neff, of the firm of Neff Brothers, proprietors of the Electric Light and Power Plant, occupies a deservedly conspicuous place. A native of Fayette county and for many years identified with its interests, he has contributed materially to the building up of an enterprise of great value to the community and, as a man and citizen, recognized his obligations to the public and in a manner creditable to himself discharged the same to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Joseph Hobson Neff was born in Fayette county, Iowa, May 22, 1861, and spent his childhood and youth in his native town of Auburn where, at the proper age, he entered the public schools and in due time acquired a fair education. While still young he took up his study of telegraphy, at which he soon became quite proficient and in 1882 accepted a position as agent with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, which he held during the ten years following. While thus engaged he had charge of offices at Scotch Grove, Delhi and Waucoma and on severing his connection with the above line spent the ensuing ten years with the Chicago Great Western road, during which time he was stationed at Sumner, Iowa. On the death of his brother, H. M. Neff, the subject abandoned the railway service and returned to West Union, became a partner of his older brother, Charles G. Neff, in the City Electric Light and Power Plant, with which enterprise he has been connected since January, 1902. Since becoming a member of the firm of Neff Brothers he has labored diligently to familiarize himself with electric lighting and it is needless to state that the plant under the able and judicious management of the present proprietors has kept pace with the growth of the city and fully met the requirements of the public. (See sketch of C. G. Neff.)

Mr. Neff, on February 24, 1881, was happily married to Katie M. Davis, daughter of Daniel Davis, late banker and prominent business man of Fayette county. Mrs. Neff was born in Wisconsin, received her education at a ladies' seminary in the state of Vermont, and has presented her husband with five children, Mabel, Frank A., Anna L., Joseph D. and Ruth N., all living and at home, Frank and Anna being twins.

For a number of years Mr. Neff has been prominent in Odd Fellowship, and at this time is one of the leading members of the order in the state. He has been very active in the lodge at West Union, besides holding various

positions in the general work of the order, serving for five years as a member of the board of instruction, one year as chairman of the committee on mileage and per diem and one year as chairman of the committee on transportation, all being grand lodge appointments. He has passed all the chairs in the subordinate lodge, encampment and Patriarchs Militant, has been active and influential in the Daughters of Rebekah lodge and was the first past grand to serve on the board of instruction, higher official attainments having been required for the position previous to his appointment. During the year 1899 he was a special officer, appointed by the grand master to institute new lodges and while thus engaged was instrumental in arousing a deep and widespread interest in Odd Fellowship throughout the state and reviving the work in a number of places where it had formerly flourished, but afterwards gradually subsided and at several points ceased altogether. He has long been a leading spirit in the grand lodge, where his abilities are recognized and appreciated, and in the deliberations of that exalted body his voice and influence have had much to do in formulating policies and directing the general work of the order. He was district deputy grand master two terms and in that capacity traveled quite extensively visiting lodges and promoting an interest in the fraternity in various other ways.

Mr. Neff votes the Republican ticket, but can hardly be called a politician as he has never been an aspirant for office nor has he entertained any ambition for leadership. In all that concerns the material welfare of the community or the general good of the populace he has manifested a deep and abiding interest and, as an intelligent, broad-minded, progressive American of the present day, he is easily the peer of any of his fellow citizens. Mrs. Neff is a Presbyterian in her religious faith and an active member of the church at West Union, being president of the Ladies' Aid Society and otherwise interested in religious and philanthropic work.

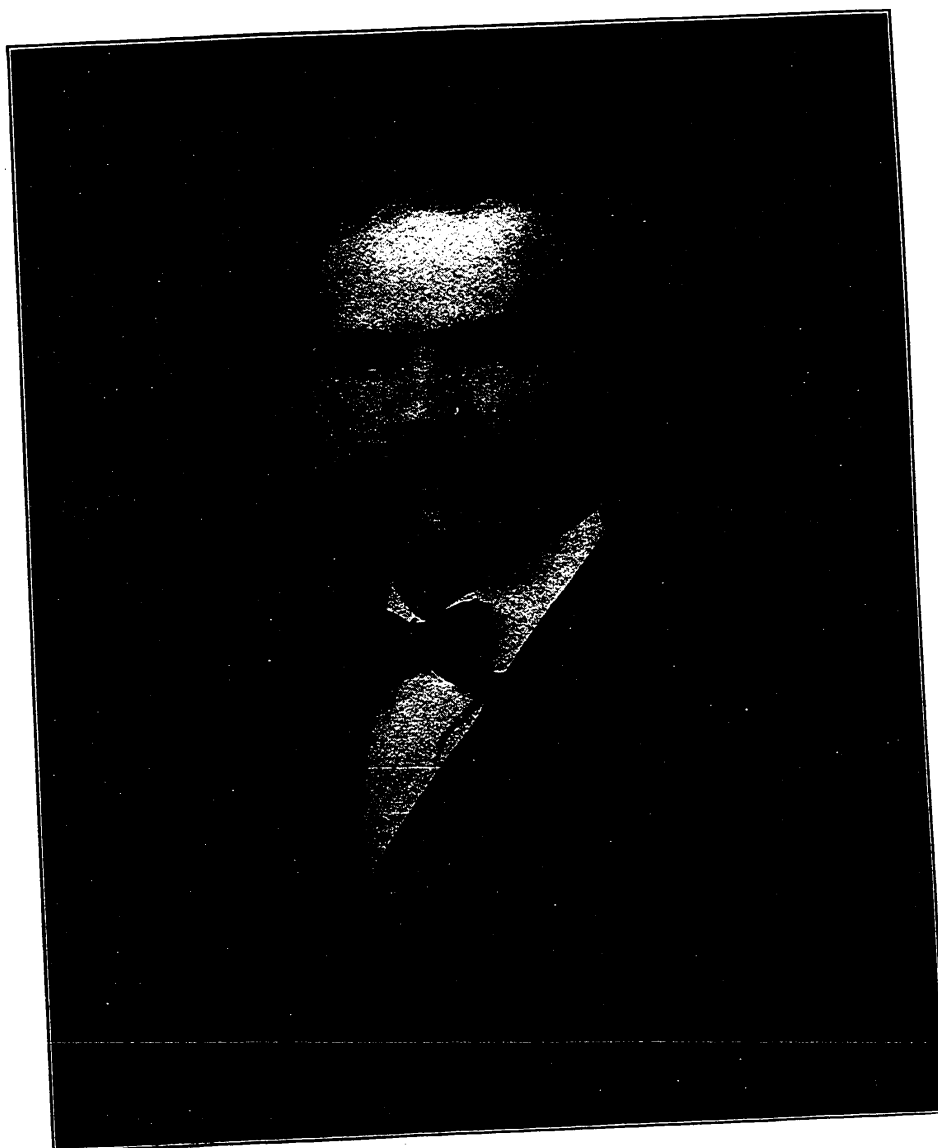
ALBERT E. JONES.

The subject of this brief sketch, who occupies a responsible position with the Chicago Great Western railroad at Oelwein, is numbered among the best residents of this prosperous city and enjoys the confidence of all who know him, because of his sterling qualities and upright life. Mr. Jones is a native of the great city of Chicago, Illinois, where his birth occurred on the 5th day

of July, 1873. He is a son of Smith E. Jones, Jr., a native of rock-ribbed Wales, who came to the United States with his parents when a small boy, some time prior to 1840. The subject's paternal grandparents were Smith Ebbert and Mary M. Jones. On the family's arrival in the New World they located in Pennsylvania, but subsequently moved to Battle Creek, Michigan, where they remained until after the close of the Civil war, when they moved to Chicago. In that city the subject of this sketch was reared and secured his education in the public schools. At the early age of fourteen years he started out in life on his own account, apprenticing himself to learn the machinist's trade in the shop of Walter K. Manning, where he completed his apprenticeship and then worked three years longer or a total service under Mr. Manning of seven years. He then entered the employ of the Illinois Central railroad as a machinist, and was sent to the shops at New Orleans, Louisiana. A year later he entered the service of the Southern Pacific railroad at Houston, Texas, with whom he remained as a machinist about nine months. He then returned to his native city and became a machinist for Arthur J. O'Leary. Mr. Jones has held a number of other positions, in all of which he has gained valuable experience in various branches of his trade, having been employed on both marine and railroad work and in the general line in many different shops. He was employed by Fairbanks, Morse & Company at Beloit, Wisconsin, for six years, at the end of which time he went to Waterloo, Iowa, as a machinist in the employ of the Davis Engine Works. In August, 1902, Mr. Jones entered the employ of the Chicago Great Western road at Oelwein, Fayette county, entering the shops as machinist. He has since been promoted to the position of machinist foreman, assisting the general foreman at the round-house. He has demonstrated his fitness for any position to which he may be assigned and not only enjoys the good will of his superiors, but is also popular with his fellow employees and those under him.

Fraternally Mr. Jones is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in which he has taken all the degrees up to and including those of Knight Templar. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Modern Woodmen of America.

On March 9, 1898, Mr. Jones took unto himself a helpmeet in the person of Maude M. Lane, of Beloit, Wisconsin, a union which has been most happy and congenial. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are popular in the social circles in which they move and their home is a favorite meeting place for their friends, who appreciate the spirit of hospitality which is ever in evidence there.



T. J. CAPPER.

T. J. CAPPER.

The department store of the cities had its precursor, and still has its lesser prototype, in the general store of the country community, where in former days anything from a tack to a coffin could be bought, and which today exposes for sale a range of articles almost equal to that of the department store. In older times the store was the center of social life. In the daytime in the busy seasons of the year the customers were mostly women and children, but in the winter and in the evenings the farmers came in for the mail and brought their marketing and usually had more or less time to discuss the weather, crops and politics. This phase of the general store is changing with changing conditions of life, but it still has its useful place to fill, and has incidentally lifted many a man far up the path of prosperity.

T. J. Capper was born in Pleasant Valley township, Fayette county, Iowa, in February, 1857, the son of John and Dorinda (Brooks) Capper, who were born in Carroll county, Ohio. His paternal grandfather was also John Capper, the son of John Capper of Virginia, and Susannah (Morrison) Capper, born in Ireland. The second John Capper was a miller and was killed before the birth of his son John, father of the subject of this sketch. His maternal grandfather was John Brooks, born in Ireland, who married a Miss Fawcett there, came to America in 1818 and located as a pioneer farmer in Carroll county, Ohio. John Capper, the third, was educated in Carroll county, and farmed as a young man, he and his mother owning a farm and carrying on general farming. In 1854 he came to section 17, Pleasant Valley township, bought one hundred sixty acres and improved it, living there until 1890, when he retired, lived for a while in West Union and Elgin, then moved to Benton county, Iowa, in 1908. He was a Republican until Greenback times in 1878, and after that a Democrat, always active in politics and held several township offices. He reared eight children, six of whom are still living, one daughter having died in 1872 and another in 1875. The latter, Susan M., wife of Ezra Patterson, was killed by a runaway team near Elgin on July 31, 1875.

T. J. Capper was educated in the common schools of this township. As a young man he farmed in the summer and taught school in the winter, later remained on the old place and added to the original farm, following general farming. In 1896 he sold out and bought A. Benson's general store at Elgin and has since carried on that business very successfully. In 1882 he was married to Emeline L. Shaffer (sister to J. D. Shaffer mentioned in this work). Their children are: Frank L., clerk in a general store at Dike, Iowa, who married Nellie Pfeifer; Susie, Boies, Flossie M. and Charles L. Mrs. Capper is

a member of the United Brethren church. Mr. Capper is a Mason and an Odd Fellow. He is a Democrat, has been on the school board of Elgin ever since coming here, and served as councilman for several years. He has the reputation of being progressive and up to date in every particular, being always ready to assist in undertaking any thing for the general benefit. He has prospered as a merchant from the start, thanks to his fitness for the calling.

RAY S. SACKVILLE.

The subject of this sketch, one of the younger residents of Jefferson township and a leading farmer of the community in which he lives, is a native of Fayette county, Iowa, and a son of John O. and Alice Sackville, the former born in 1847 in Canada, the latter in Lawrence county, New York, in the year 1855. When two years old John O. Sackville was taken by his parents to De Kalb county, Illinois, where he grew to maturity and shortly after attaining his majority he came to Fayette county, Iowa, locating in Jefferson township in 1869. Purchasing a tract of wild land, he addressed himself to the task of clearing and improving the same and in due time his labors bore their reward in a good farm and a comfortable home where he spent the remainder of his days, dying on the 3d day of July, 1903.

Mrs. Sackville's father was S. W. Day, whose birth occurred in Chittenden county, Vermont, in 1830. In 1848 he went to Lawrence county, New York, thence to Jackson county, Iowa, in 1853, where he remained ten years, at the expiration of which period he moved to Fayette county and in due time became one of the well-to-do men and public spirited citizens of his locality. Eliza Hawkins, who became his wife on December 7, 1852, was born in Lawrence county, New York, April 5, 1834. Five children constituted the family of this worthy couple, viz: Mrs. Alice E. Sackville, born October 29, 1854; Wilson H., born October 10, 1857; George A., whose birth occurred in May, 1860; Effie Louise, born April 11, 1864, and Gertrude A., whose natal day was the 22d of October, 1869. John O. and Alice Sackville were the parents of three children, the oldest of whom, a daughter by the name of Maude, married Richard Smith and lives in Oelwein, where her husband is engaged in the real estate business. Ray S., of this review, is the second in order of birth, the youngest being Fern, who lives with her mother in Oelwein. John O. Sackville was an industrious, hard working man, a successful tiller of the soil and from time to time was honored with

various local offices, having served very acceptably as assessor, school director and in other capacities. He was a Republican in politics and a worthy member of the Presbyterian church of Oelwein, with which organization his widow is still identified.

Ray S. Sackville was born November 9, 1879, on the family homestead in Jefferson township, and early became familiar with the varied duties of the farm. In the public schools, which he attended at intervals during his minority, he obtained a practical education and having been reared in close touch with nature he took kindly to the soil and decided to devote his life to the cultivation of the same. He remained with his parents until reaching his majority, since which time he has been farming for himself and he now runs the homestead besides owning one hundred and twenty acres of fine farm land in section 11, Jefferson township, from which he realizes a fair share of his income.

Mr. Sackville is an enterprising, wide-awake man, who cultivates the soil according to the most approved methods and in addition to general agriculture devotes considerable attention to livestock and dairying, in both of which his success has been very gratifying. He aims to keep abreast of the times in all matters pertaining to his calling and, being a careful observer as well as an excellent manager, his progress since beginning life upon his own responsibility has been steady and substantial and, as already indicated, he now ranks among the enterprising men and representative citizens of the township in which he resides. Politically, he gives his support to the Republican party; fraternally, belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America at Oelwein, and since childhood has been a member of the Presbyterian church. Personally, he is very agreeable and has many warm friends and no one is more highly esteemed or holds a larger place in the confidence of the public.

On February 12, 1907, Mr. Sackville was happily married to Minnie J. Spence, a native of county Down, Ireland, and a daughter of James Spence, who came to this country some years ago and is now one of the permanent farmers of Jefferson township (see sketch). Mrs. Sackville was a very popular teacher before her marriage and could at any time have her choice of schools in her neighborhood. She is a very cultured lady. Mr. and Mrs. Sackville move in the best social circles of the community and their home is the abode of a genuine hospitality which makes it a favorite rendezvous for the young people of the neighborhood. Blessed with health and a generous share of this world's goods, their lives have indeed been cast in pleasant places and their future appears bright and promising.

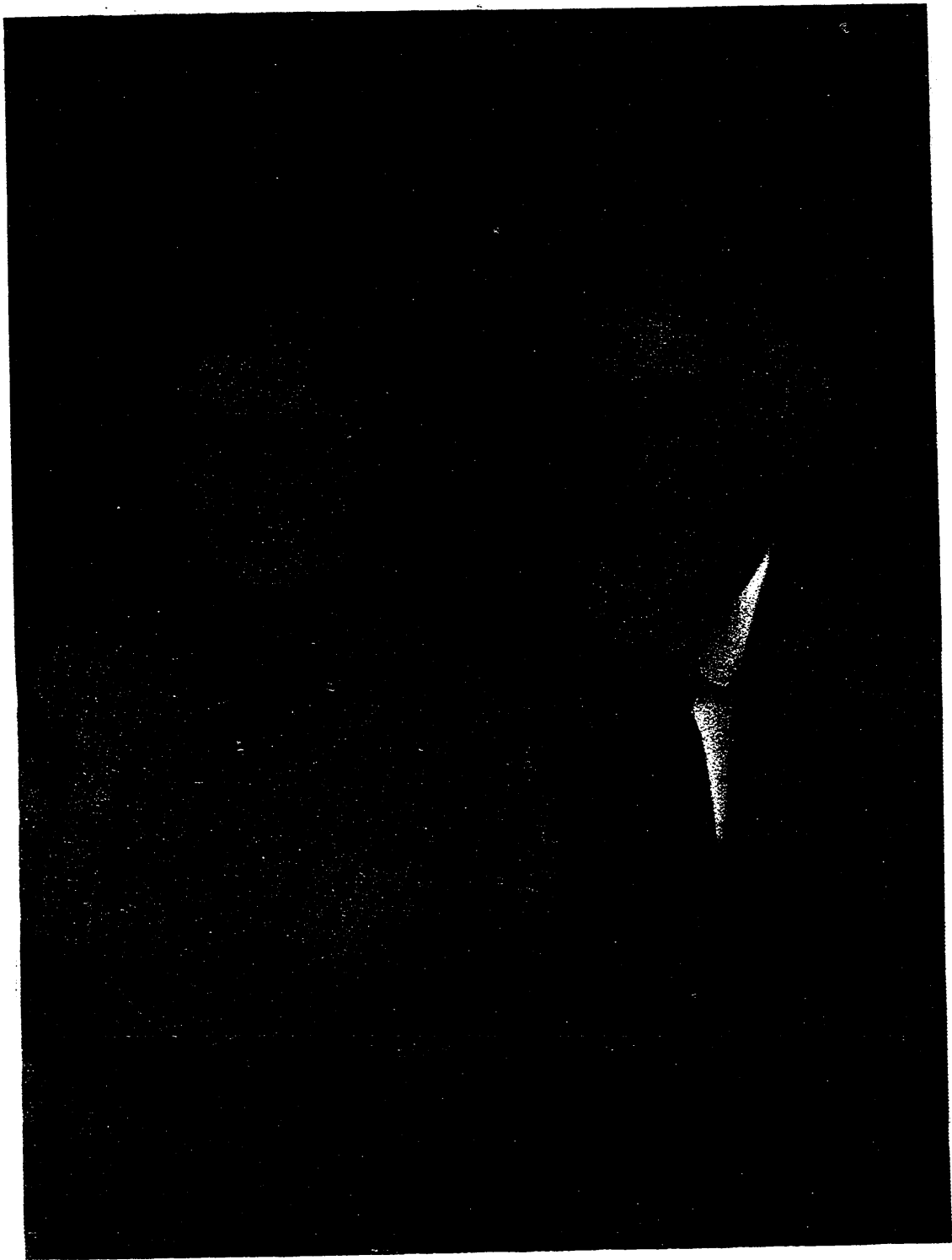
JOHN RAFFERTY.

The subject of this sketch is descended from sterling Irish ancestry and in him are found those stanch qualities of character which have made the Irish people so desirable a class of citizens in this cosmopolitan land. During a course of years in Fayette county he has so ordered his life as to earn and retain the confidence and esteem of the people with whom he has been associated and today is numbered among the representative citizens of Clermont township.

Mr. Rafferty was born in Ireland on November 17, 1844, and is a son of Nicholas and Bridget (Halpin) Rafferty, both also natives of the Emerald isle. The family emigrated to the United States in 1851, locating first in New Jersey and later removing to Cincinnati, Ohio. Subsequently they made their home at Newport, Kentucky. The father's death occurred in Cincinnati in 1852. In 1866 the mother and her four sons came to Iowa, locating in Clayton county, where they made their future home and where the mother's death occurred in 1890. Prior to leaving Ohio, a daughter had married and moved to New York.

John Rafferty was reared on a farm and received his education mainly in the schools of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Newport, Kentucky. As soon as old enough, he went to work in factories in an effort to help care for his mother and other members of the family, his first employment being in a hemp weaving factory. Eventually he learned the trade of a carpenter and prior to the war of the Rebellion he was employed at his trade by the government at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Subsequently he came to Clayton county, Iowa, and entered upon an agricultural career, becoming the owner of four hundred and eighty-seven acres of fine land, to which he has devoted his attention and in the operation of which he has met with well deserved success. He is thoroughly practical in his work and progressive in his ideas, keeping in touch with advanced ideas relating to the science of agriculture, so that he has been enabled to realize satisfactory returns for the labor he has expended. His farm is well improved, containing an attractive and comfortable residence, substantial and well arranged barn and other necessary buildings, while the general appearance of the place indicates him to be a man of good judgment and excellent taste. Though his farm lies in Clayton county, Mr. Rafferty maintains his residence in Clermont, having during the past ten years been practically retired from active labor, enjoying that rest which his past efforts have entitled him to. He is a stockholder in the Clermont State Bank.

Politically, Mr. Rafferty has always been aligned with the Democratic party and has rendered efficient and satisfactory service as a justice of the



MR. AND MRS. JOHN RAFFERTY.

peace in both Clayton and Fayette counties. In religion the family are identified with the Catholic church, to which they render a faithful and generous support.

On September 6, 1906, Mr. Rafferty was united in marriage with Fay Wells, a native of Clermont village, this county, and the daughter of Joseph and Josephine (Mathews) Wells. Her father is a native of Wisconsin and her mother of Clayton county, their home now being in Clermont. They became the parents of eight children, all of whom are living. They are numbered among the leading and most highly respected families of the community.

Though quiet and unostentatious in his personal bearing, Mr. Rafferty is possessed of qualities which have commended him to the esteem of all who know him and he is enjoying an enviable standing in the community in which so many useful years of his life have been spent.

NELSON A. GERKEN.

Believing that greater opportunities existed for him right here at home than elsewhere, Nelson A. Gerken has spent his life in the same vicinity, and, judging from the large success that has attended his efforts, he was wise in remaining on the old homestead in Oran township, Fayette county, where he was born August 2, 1865. He is the son of Henry Gerken, who was born December 28, 1826, in Hanover, Germany. He married Nancy Sidler March 26, 1854; she was the widow of Samuel Sidler and the daughter of Henry and Sarah Myers, natives of Pennsylvania. The following children were born to Henry and Nancy Gerken: Ellen, born December 21, 1856, married Henry Gerlt, and they are both now deceased; John Wesley, farmer, born March 11, 1859, in Oran township, married Alice L. Judd and they have four children, Mary L., Jessie M., Walter C. and John H.; Levi Arnold Gerken, born July 28, 1861, died when five years of age; Mary Agnes, born June 25, 1863, married Henry P. Faust, of Parkston, South Dakota; Nelson A., subject of this review; Aliva L. A., born November 16, 1868, married Dell Hunter, of Oelwein, Iowa; Benjamin F., born February 24, 1887, in Oran township, married Della Bradly, and died March 8, 1910.

Henry Gerken, father of these children, was reared and educated in his native community, Hanover, Germany, and, having his boyish ambition fired by the stories of success and opportunities in the New World, he set sail for America in 1844 and, after a tedious voyage, landed on our shores, unac-

accompanied, first setting foot on American soil at New Orleans. From that city he went by steamboat to St. Louis and from there to Saline county, Illinois, where he secured eighty acres of school land. In 1854 he came to Oran township, Fayette county, Iowa, and came into possession of one hundred and sixty acres of government land in section 10; then he went back to Illinois and brought his wife, who drove the team while he drove the cattle. They fell very sick with the ague and stayed at Fairbank, Iowa, living with Henry Myers, the wife's father; however, not long afterwards he began improving his farm. He was compelled to melt snow for his cattle to drink. He was a hard worker and was not to be discouraged, consequently he developed a fine farm and a comfortable home in due course of time. He took an interest in local political affairs and held some township offices. He was a Republican, a member of the Baptist church, and an honest and highly respected man. He reached an advanced age, dying in 1902. He was three times married, his first wife dying in 1883; his second wife was Annie Hillman, a native of Indiana, who died in 1898, and his third wife was Rachael Watkins, a sister of his second wife and the widow of a Mr. Watkins; she now lives in Kansas. In 1891 Mr. Gerken moved to Oelwein, Iowa, where he remained until his death. He made a success of his farming, being economical and a good manager, though there was a time when he sold wheat at thirty cents per bushel, butter at six cents per pound and eggs at three cents per dozen, pork at one dollar and twenty-five cents per hundred; this was at McGregor, Iowa. But whether prices were low or high, he always made money.

Nelson A. Gerken grew up on the home farm and attended the neighborhood schools. In 1887 he went to Wessington Springs, South Dakota, and remained there for a period of two years, and he spent four years in Antelope county, Nebraska, on a farm. Although he got a good start in the West, he preferred his home county and in 1893 returned to Oran township and rented land here for ten years and lived in Oelwein until the spring of 1907. Since that time he has lived on the old home place, of which he owns one hundred and sixty acres.

Mr. Gerken was married in March, 1890, to Mary Hundley, who was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, the daughter of O. E. and Dorothy (Hughes) Hundley, the father a native of Ohio and the latter of Wales. They were married in Ohio and in 1885 went to Clark county, South Dakota, where they remained for one year, then moved to Antelope county, Nebraska, and in 1891 moved to Washington county, Oregon, where they live on a farm. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Hundley: Thomas, of Dilley, Oregon; Margaret, the widow of Arch Van Kirk, of Hillsboro, Oregon; Mary,

wife of Nelson A. Gerken, of this review; Charles, who is farming in Washington county, Oregon; Richard and John, twins, the former living in Washington county, Oregon, and the latter in Portland, Oregon; Norman, living at home; Oscar and Arthur are the youngest children.

Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Gerken, namely: Floyd R., Roy V., Leslie C. and Glenn A.

Mr. Gerken has always been a farmer and has been very successful owing to his close application to business and his careful management of his own affairs and his honest dealing with his fellow men. He now manages a dairy in connection with his farm; he has twenty head of milk cows, handles short-horn cattle, and draft and driving horses of an excellent quality; raises Chester White hogs, Plymouth Rock chickens, Bronze turkeys and Indian Runner ducks. His stock and poultry are greatly admired by all who see them. He has a splendid and attractively located home, good barn and outbuildings. He has served on the school board and was trustee of Oran township for two years, also serving as assessor. A Republican in politics, he has long been active in local affairs and has very faithfully and ably served his fellow citizens. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, Camp No. 230, at Oelwein, Iowa.

WILL H. PAYNE

A resident of Smithfield, Fayette county, who is known among his neighbors as an honest, straightforward man in all of his dealings, conscientious in his work as a farmer and citizen, is Will H. Payne, and it is with no misgivings that this brief tribute to his worth as a factor in the affairs of this locality is given place in this volume. He was born on the farm he now occupies, on October 5, 1868, and he received his education in the local schools, and also spent one year in the Upper Iowa University at Fayette and two years at the Iowa State Agricultural College, having made splendid records in each. He is the son of William Harvey and Laura (Clark) Payne, the father a native of Batavia, Genesee county, New York, born November 15, 1828, and he is still living in Fayette county, Iowa. He is the son of Stephen and Wealthy (Miner) Payne, natives of Vermont. During the war of 1812, Stephen Payne was captain of a sloop on Lake Champlain, in the service of the United States. Later in life he moved to Genesee county, New York, and thence to Cattaraugus county, that state, where he died in 1868; he was a zealous Whig and an active member of the Methodist church.

His wife died in 1873; to them five sons and three daughters were born, William H. being the sixth child in order of birth. During his boyhood days he attended subscription schools in winter and worked on his father's farm in crop seasons; he also worked out awhile as a farm hand. In 1851 he married and lived on a farm until the spring of 1861, when he brought his family to Fayette county, Iowa. About May 1st he purchased one hundred and seventy-six acres with the crops on the place, etc., paying eleven dollars per acre for it; the land was located in section 7, Smithfield township, where he still resides, having remained on the same farm half a century, during which time he has noted and taken part in many great changes in this community. When he took possession of the place there was a log house on it, but in due course of time this was replaced by a modern frame structure. He made a specialty of raising Norman horses and Holstein cattle. Politically, he was a Whig and when a boy took part in the campaign of Gen. William Henry Harrison, with the exception of drinking the hard cider which, he remembers, flowed freely at that time; later he became a Republican. It is indeed interesting as well as instructive to listen to his reminiscences of the early days, which he delights to talk of. When a lad of only eight or nine years he joined the old Washington Temperance Society and has never broken the pledge, and no doubt his long life has been due in no small degree to this fact. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, but his wife belonged to the United Brethren church. When the Prohibitory amendment was presented to the people of Iowa for their consideration, Mr. Payne labored untiringly in its behalf. He was for some time a member of the "Recholites," a temperance organization of the Methodist church. He cast his first vote for Gen. Zachary Taylor; he had the distinction of being one of the organizers of the Republican party in New York, and he voted for General Fremont in 1856 and he has remained loyal to the party since that time; he has never held other than minor township offices.

On September 15, 1851, was solemnized Mr. Payne's union with Laura Clark, who was born in Genesee county, New York, in 1838, the daughter of Hubbard Clark, of Vermont, who served in the war of 1812 as a musician, having been present at the battles of Lundy's Lane, Ft. Erie and others of lesser note. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Payne, namely: Mrs. Alice Gilmer, of Center township, Fayette county, was born October 18, 1854; Hannah, who was the wife of David Miner, of Missouri, was born on November 28, 1856, and died January 22, 1909; Mrs. Ada Odekirk, of Center township, was born January 3, 1864; William H., of this review; Mrs. Laura Ranney, of Bismark, North Dakota, was born March 5, 1871. These

children were all well educated, having first passed through the common schools, then taken a course in the Upper Iowa University at Fayette.

Will H. Payne has always made his home with his father on the farm here and he has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. On December 1, 1896, he married Amy I. Shepard, who was born in Lima, Fayette county, April 11, 1877, the daughter of Andrew and Rebecca R. (Elston) Shepard, both natives of Kentucky, who located in Iowa about 1867, not long after their marriage. To Mr. and Mrs. Payne seven daughters have been born, namely: Thelma M., born September 28, 1897; Phila L., born June 8, 1899; Carol V., born September 4, 1903; Elizabeth H., born August 14, 1905; Gwenda L., born August 15, 1908; Frances S., born January 22, 1910.

Politically, Mr. Payne is a Republican and in fraternal matters he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Payne is well known in this part of the county as a raiser of fine, thoroughbred Holstein cattle, having perfected the breed that his father started many years ago, and because of the high quality of his stock they find a very ready sale at all times.

CARSTEN H. PAPE.

No people that go to make up our cosmopolitan civilization have better habits of life than those who came originally from the great German empire. These people are distinguished for their qualities of thrift and honesty, and these two qualities in the inhabitants of any country will in the end alone make that country great. When with these two qualities is coupled the other quality of sound sense, there are afforded such elements as will enrich any land and place it at the top of the countries of the world in the scale of elevated humanity. Of this excellent people came the subject of this sketch. He was born in Germany on April 30, 1871, and is a son of Henry and Anna (Hinch) Pape, both of whom also were natives of Germany. They came to the United States in 1876 and came at once to Fayette county, Iowa, locating about two miles north of where the subject of this sketch now lives, buying a farm of ninety-five acres. Subsequently they moved to another and smaller farm, where the father spent his last days. He made many good improvements on the place, erecting a comfortable residence and commodious barn. He was the father of thirteen children, eight of which number are now living. He was a Lutheran in his religious belief.

C. H. Pape was educated in the public schools and remained with his parents until his marriage, in 1893, when he rented the Neumann homestead.

where he now resides. After five years he purchased the place, which comprises eighty-six acres, and on which he has successfully carried on general farming operations. He is methodical and up-to-date in his business affairs, giving careful attention to every detail of his work, and the general appearance of his place indicates him to be a man of good judgment and excellent taste, while the results attained by him testify to his industry and good management. He has given considerable attention to the raising of livestock, in which also success has attended his efforts.

In 1893, Mr. Pape was united in marriage with Bertha Neumann, a daughter of August and Lisette (Fiebelkorn) Neumann, who are mentioned personally in the sketch of H. W. Neumann, elsewhere in this work. To them have been born two children, Walter and Anna. Politically, the subject of this sketch is a Republican and he takes an active interest in the success of his party. His religious membership is with the Lutheran church, to which he renders a liberal support. Mr. Pape is a man of splendid personal qualities and his life here has been such as to win the earnest commendation and esteem of the entire community. He is a supporter of all worthy movements for the benefit of the community and at all times is found on the right side of every moral question.

Martha Pape, a sister of the subject's father, came from Germany to America in 1869, seven years prior to the emigration of her brother, of whom she was a twin sister. She was very small in stature, but was very active physically and was employed at various places as a seamstress, in which work she was unusually proficient. She was a woman of gracious personality, who enjoyed the friendship and high regard of all who knew her.

JOHN SACKETT BREWER.

Of all the men whose lives have honored and blessed Fayette county, none is more deserving of mention than the late John Sackett Brewer, who was one of the sterling pioneers here and who did his full share of the work of developing the county along all lines. He was born in Lodi, Seneca county, New York, on March 18, 1818, and was the son of William S. and Hester (Jones) Brewer. The father, a native of Catskill, New York, a farmer and lumberman, was twice married, Hester Jones being his second wife; she was born in Ulysses, Tompkins county, New York, in 1784 and died in 1819, when thirty-five years of age, leaving a family of four children, one son and three daughters.

The son, John S., of this review, was reared on a farm and served an apprenticeship to the wagonmaker's trade in Lodi, Seneca county, New York, at which trade he engaged at North Hector, New York. On September 18, 1840, he was married in his native town to Charlotte A. Simmons, who was born in Burdett, Tompkins county, New York, December 25, 1817, the daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Meisner) Simmons. This union resulted in the birth of nine children, three sons and six daughters, namely: William Wirt, born in North Hector, New York, November 27, 1841, married Maggie McDonald and now resides in Omaha, Nebraska; Elizabeth A., born in North Hector, May 17, 1843, is the widow of D. J. Page, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; James Madison, born in New York, December 21, 1845, died in Wisconsin, December 7, 1847; Catherine, born in Rock county, Wisconsin, October 2, 1846, is the wife of N. C. Spencer, a resident of Union township, this county; Henrietta, born September 2, 1848, is the wife of William M. Kenzie, of Union township; John Henry, born September 14, 1849, died January 9, 1876; Mary Augusta, born in Iowa, November 10, 1852, died August 27, 1854. All younger than James Madison and older than Mary Augusta were born in Wisconsin. Eva, the youngest, born in Fayette county, January 15, 1857, is the widow of E. C. Dorland, late of West Union, and one child died in infancy.

In 1845 Mr. Brewer moved to Rock county, Wisconsin, and located in the town of Porter, where he carried on wagonmaking and farming until June, 1852, when he emigrated with his family to Iowa and located in West Union, where he opened a wagon shop and was engaged in the manufacture of wagons and carriages for nine years. In September, 1862, he proved his patriotism by enlisting in the Union army, Company C, Sixth Iowa Cavalry, and on April 7, 1863, was transferred to Company F, Seventh Iowa Cavalry, with a recruiting commission. He assisted in recruiting Company F, of the latter regiment, of which he was commissioned first lieutenant on June 3d following. His regiment was assigned to the Department of the West and was engaged in operations against the Indians in Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado, Mr. Brewer taking part in the battle of Julesburg, Nebraska, and Rosebud, Wyoming, besides numerous skirmishes. His horse was shot from under him at the battle of Julesburg and he was wounded in the fall. After the close of the war, he resigned, November 3, 1865.

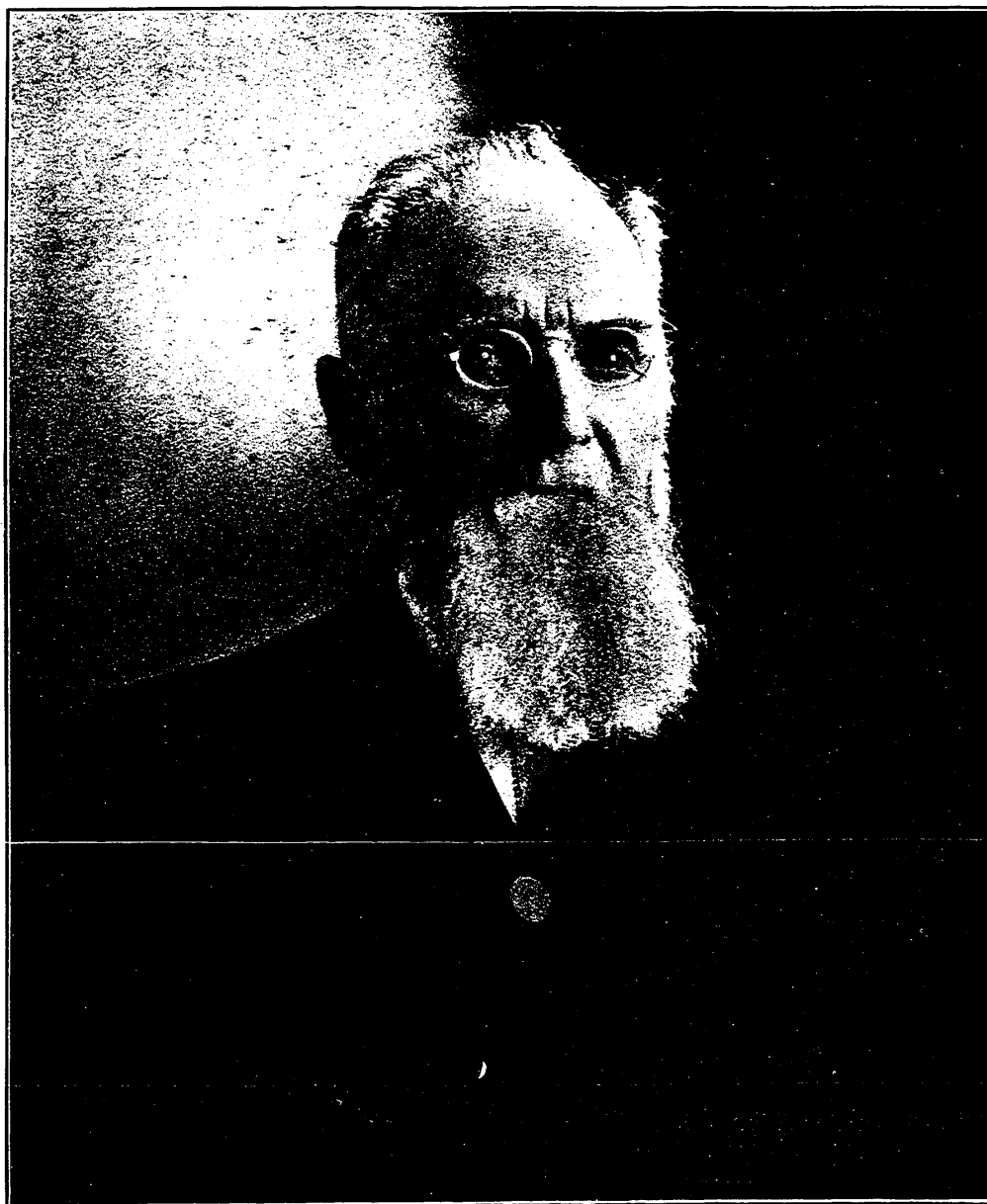
Mr. Brewer engaged in farming near West Union, after his army experience, and made his home in West Union almost continuously after coming here, and he was identified with many of the city's leading interests. He was one of the stockholders of the Bank of West Union, also was stockholder and

director of the Fayette County National Bank of this place. He was one of the incorporators of the First National Bank of Sheridan, Wyoming, and was for many years prominently identified with the financial affairs of Fayette county. He was a fine type of our sterling, self-made American manhood, self-reliant, progressive, and a man of sound business judgment, and during his residence here of nearly forty years he played a very important role in all circles here. His course was uniformly upright and honorable and he was highly esteemed as a citizen. He was always a Democrat, and he was liberal in his religious views, having more faith in good deeds than in man-made creeds. He was a member of West Union Lodge No. 69, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, having united with the Masons on the organization of that lodge.

The death of this prominent citizen and highly esteemed neighbor and friend occurred in 1891, and he was followed to the grave in 1902 by his faithful life companion.

ALEXANDER NELSON GOODRICH.

A venerable and highly honored citizen of Fayette county is Alexander Nelson Goodrich, a man who, during a long stretch of years, has so ordered his life as to win and retain the confidence and esteem of all with whom he has come in contact, and while he has labored for his own advancement he has not neglected to do what he deemed his duty at all times in fostering the up-building of the community at large, having lived to see and take part in the great development that has characterized Fayette county, whose interests he has ever had at heart. He was born at the town of Brooklyn in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, on August 2, 1829, and he is the son of Eli Butler and Cynthia (Tiffany) Goodrich, the Tiffany family being of British origin and distant relatives of the noted New York jewelers. The Goodrich family came to America in early colonial days. Eli B. Goodrich was born in 1802 at New Berlin, New York. He was the son of David Goodrich, who was a Jew of the strict orthodox type. He came from Connecticut to Chenango county, New York, when Eli B. Goodrich was a small baby. The subject's mother, Lucy Miller Tiffany, was born in Brooklyn, Pennsylvania, in 1806, and was the daughter of Alfred and Lucy (Miller) Tiffany. Alfred Tiffany was born at Attleboro, Massachusetts, in 1781. He was the eldest son of Thomas Tiffany, who, with his family, joined the "Nine Partner Settlement" of Hart-



ALEXANDER N. GOODRICH.



MRS. ELIZABETH GOODRICH.

ford, Pennsylvania, in the fall of 1794, when Alfred Tiffany was thirteen years of age.

Alexander N. Goodrich, of this review, grew to maturity on a farm at Brooklyn, Pennsylvania, where he worked until reaching his majority; then he worked at farming for four additional years in Pennsylvania and New York. In 1854 he came to Iowa, landing in West Union, October 20th of that year. He drove to Buffalo, a distance of seventy miles from his old home, with one horse and a "sulky," then came by water to Chicago; then, with the same horse and vehicle with which he started, he continued his journey across Illinois, crossed the Mississippi river at Savannah on a ferry-boat, which was propelled by a mule on a tread-mill. Mr. Goodrich drove nearly two hundred miles more in Iowa, stopping at Orben, where he spent the winter, this being five miles from West Union. He worked there in a saw-mill, and in the spring of 1855 he became acquainted with John A. Griffith, a well known contractor of the early days here, with whom he came to Fayette, assisting in erecting what proved to be the first house in this city after the town had been laid out. He also drove the first stake in the construction of Upper Iowa University, Mr. Goodrich having learned something of surveying from his father, who had done some surveying in the state of New York, and he staked off the ground for the several buildings. He stayed in Fayette until Christmas day, 1855, when he started back to Erie county, Pennsylvania, where he had lived for some time prior to coming West, and while there he became engaged to Elizabeth Ann Janes. On the last day of December, 1856, they were married; soon afterward he brought his bride to Fayette, Iowa, and has remained ever since, having continued at the carpenter's trade from that time to this, and he has built more houses, business blocks and outbuildings than any other man in the city. Even at his advanced age he still does some work. His services have always been in great demand, owing to his skill as a workman and his honesty in his dealings with his fellow men. During his fifty-four years' residence here he has worked on nearly every house in the town.

One daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Goodrich, named Hattie Evaline, born in 1857; she married Cyrus Lane Bentz in 1882, and two children were born to them, Arthur Henry, whose birth occurred September 15, 1883, and Fred Leonard, born May 22, 1885; the former lives at Hazleton, and the latter, who formerly traveled for one of the large jewelry houses, selling diamonds, is now in business for himself selling jewelry and diamonds,

Arthur Henry Bentz was married on December 22, 1909, to Agnes Myer, and they reside in Fayette.

Mrs. Alexander N. Goodrich was called to her rest January 12, 1905. She and her husband were popular with a large circle of friends and acquaintances, having always been known as jolly, congenial, cheerful in social gatherings and at home. Mrs. Goodrich was known as one of the best attendants upon the sick in Fayette and many deeds of kindness are attributed to her.

Mr. Goodrich has long taken an interest in whatever tended to the general welfare of Fayette,—in fact, he has done his full share in the work of development. Three terms he served in the city council, two terms on the school board, besides other minor offices; he is a Democrat, but not a politician. He was thrown on his own resources early in life, but he manfully took up life's duties and has succeeded, his wife being of great assistance in all his affairs. He resolved when a young man to let whisky and tobacco alone and work faithfully, and he now has a good, comfortable home, owns stock in the First National Bank of Fayette, and owns an excellent farm of one hundred and thirty acres, one mile south of Fayette, and although well provided for in his old age, having laid by quite a competency, he still does some work to keep him in good health and spirits.

Mr. Goodrich has belonged to the Masonic lodge, taking the degrees up to Knight Templar. He joined the Odd Fellows in 1851, while living in Pennsylvania, and he is now noble grand of the lodge at Fayette. He is a conspicuous and highly esteemed character throughout the county and is a man whom everybody likes.

Cyrus Lane Bentz, who married Hattie Evaline Goodrich, was born near Columbus, Ohio, on January 10, 1847, and was a son of Henry and Amanda Bentz. These parents, in 1860, came to Iowa and settled on a farm in Howard county, near Cresco, and there Cyrus L. was reared to manhood and attended the public schools. Subsequently he entered the Upper Iowa University at Fayette, where he graduated in the commercial course. Upon the completion of his education he took up the vocation of a traveling salesman. His marriage to Hattie Goodrich occurred on September 6, 1882, and his death occurred on January 23, 1885. A man of sterling qualities of character, he enjoyed the universal respect of the community and his friends were in number as his acquaintances. Fraternally, he was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while his political creed was that of the Republican party, to which he gave a loyal support. He was, as his name indicates, of German antecedents and in his veins flowed noble blood, his great-grandfather having married the daughter of a German nobleman, while the paternal grandfather lived in a castle on the Rhine.

THOMAS M. WHITE.

The subject of this review is a well known and honored citizen of Fayette county in whom the spirit of a noble and earnest purpose has been the controlling motive of his life. Enterprising and actively identified with the best interests of the community, he has made his influence a power for good among his fellow men, and he stands today in the front rank with those who add honor and dignity to the public mind. Thomas M. White is a native of Virginia and the scion of an old and esteemed family of Loudoun county, where his birth occurred on the 21st day of October, 1839. Col. John Hamilton White, his father, who also was born and reared in the county of Loudoun, was in early life a merchant and quite an extensive shipper of grain and lumber. In 1854 he disposed of his interests in his native state and went to Ogle county, Illinois, where he purchased land, improved a farm and bore an active part in the development of the locality in which he settled. He was one of the early pioneers of the above county, but after a residence there of five years moved to Rockford, in the same state, and engaged in the grain and produce business, in connection with which he also dealt quite extensively in land.

Colonel White married in Loudoun county, Virginia, Malinda George, who was born near his native place, and by her had the following children: Mary E., of Stillman Valley, Illinois; James G., deceased; Annie, also a resident of Stillman Valley; Robert J. T., of St. Louis, Missouri; William V., a farmer of Fayette county, Iowa; John, of Stillman, and Thomas M., of this review, who was the third in order of birth. The mother of these children, a well born, intelligent and most excellent woman, departed this life on February 16, 1890.

Colonel White was a Democrat and a politician of wide influence and from time to time was honored with public positions, having served two years in the Illinois Legislature, besides filling various minor offices. He was a large land owner, a successful business man and before leaving Virginia was colonel of the Home Militia of that state. He died in Ogle county, Illinois, on the 16th day of July, 1881.

Thomas M. White received his early education in the schools of Loudoun county, Virginia, and Ogle county, Illinois, having been a youth of fifteen when his family moved to the latter state. He also pursued his studies for some time at Rockford and later attended an educational institution of a higher grade under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal church, at the town of Mt. Morris, Illinois. In 1865 he went to Buchanan county, Iowa,

and rented a farm near Independence, but after a year purchased a farm in Scott township, Fayette county, which he cultivated for a period of two years. Disposing of his land at the expiration of that time, he returned to Illinois and settled at Stillman Valley, where he remained until 1869, when he went to Mexico, Missouri, near which place he purchased land and engaged in the pursuit of agriculture. After living in the latter place until 1894, he sold out and returning to Fayette which he greatly improved and on which he continued to reside until 1900, when he moved to Maynard, where four years previously he had engaged in the mercantile business. Since the year 1900 he has devoted his attention principally to the raising of fruits and vegetables on his small but beautiful little farm adjoining Maynard, his comfortable and attractive home being within the limits of the town.

Mr. White served two years as mayor of Maynard and for six years was a member of the school board. He is a Republican in politics, stands high in the councils of his party in both local and general affairs and keeps well informed on the leading public questions of the day. A close observer of current events and a reader and thinker, he is widely informed on many subjects and his sound, practical intelligence and varied culture make him in no small degree a moulder of opinion among those with whom he is brought into contact.

On October 17, 1862, Mr. White was united in marriage with Sarah A. Hurd, of Ogle county, Illinois, daughter of Dr. Arnold E. Hurd, of Herkimer county, New York, a union blessed with five offspring, the oldest being Walter H., who was born September 28, 1863, and is by profession a civil engineer; he married Hattie Edsell and is the father of three children, Florence C., Persis and Edsell, and Mildred E. Mary Eva, the second of the subject's family, was born October 21, 1867. She attended the public schools for her elementary education, later took a full course in the normal school at Kirksville, Missouri, and for some time was principal of the high school of Mason City, Iowa. She is now a student of the University of California, at Berkeley, from which institution she will soon be graduated. Hiram Eugene was born April 14, 1870, is engaged in the manufacture of awnings, mittens, gloves and various articles at Laughlin, Oklahoma, being one of the leading business men of that place. He married Mabel Snittinger and has two children, Thomas and Marion Burton. Lewis M., born January 31, 1874, is a druggist in Oklahoma and unmarried. Anna Persis, whose birth occurred on the 12th of January, 1877, is the wife of Chester Master, a druggist of Maynard, this county, Julia R., the youngest of the children, was born on September 8, 1880, and died November 26, 1883.

The family are members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. White belongs to Blue Lodge No. 510, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Maynard, which he has served two terms as worshipful master, besides holding various other offices from time to time. He holds membership with the chapter of Royal Arch Masons at Fayette, and with Eastern Star Lodge No. 103.

Dr. Arnold E. Hurd, father of Mrs. White, was born January 5, 1809, in Herkimer county, New York. He received his medical education in Albany, that state, and on the completion of his course, in 1836, went to Illinois where he began the practice of his profession. In 1844 he located at Stillman Valley, the scene of a noted battle between the United States troops and the hostile Indians under Chief Black Hawk, and subsequently served as superintendent of the Ogle county public schools. He was a member of the first grand jury of that county in 1839 and took an active interest in public affairs, having long been one of the leading men of that part of the state.

Doctor Hurd's first wife was Persis P. Brown, whom he married in the year 1840 and who died August 29, 1862. She bore him one daughter, Sarah A., who, as already indicated, became the wife of the subject of this sketch. Margaret V. Vandyke, whom the Doctor married on June 30, 1862, departed this life December 7, 1907, at the advanced age of ninety-three years, this union being without issue. In addition to Mrs. White, Doctor Hurd was also the father of six sons, namely: Prof. Henry E. Hurd, for many years connected with the Upper Iowa University, and a teacher of high attainments and state reputation who died October 2, 1902; Horace G., the second, is a merchant at Stillman Valley, Illinois, as is also William S., both being well known and successful business men; Hiram H. Hurd is a farmer and merchant; D. B. Hurd lives in South Dakota, and Arnold E., the youngest of the family, is engaged in agriculture and stockraising in Harlan township, Fayette county.

Doctor Hurd was one of the original abolitionists of Illinois and took an active and influential part in the anti-slavery movement which caused so much excitement in that state. He was a man of strong personality, brave and fearless in expressing his opinions, and left the impress of his individuality upon the section of country in which he lived. When the Republican party was organized he became one of its earnest, unyielding supporters, and so continued until the day of his death. He also manifested an abiding interest in religious work and for a number of years was a member of the American Bible and Missionary Societies. He served a long term of years as justice of the peace and is remembered as one of the leading men of his day in the community where he resided.

JAMES HARVEY BOLEYN.

One of Fayette county's native sons who has preferred to spend his life in his native community rather than seek uncertain fortune in other fields, thereby greatly benefiting himself and those with whom he has come into contact, is James Harvey Boleyn, of Wadena. He was born in Illyria township, this county, April 25, 1857, and is the son of Samuel B. and Sarah (Brown) Boleyn, the former born on July 15, 1827, in the state of Ohio, and the latter on June 28, 1832, in Pennsylvania. They were married in the last named state on May 15, 1853, and they came from there to Fayette county, Iowa, in 1855, locating on a farm where they spent the remainder of their lives, the mother passing away on July 19, 1892, and the father following her to the silent land on September 18, 1903. Samuel B. Boleyn had been previously married to Margaret Ann Rice, of Pennsylvania, who died May 14, 1852, leaving one son, Joseph M., who died in Fayette county, Iowa, leaving a family. He was born before the Boleyns left the old Keystone state. By his union with Sarah Brown, Samuel B. Boleyn had a family of one son and four daughters, all living; they are, Sarah Jane, now Mrs. Lewis Hummell, born in Pennsylvania, March 4, 1854; James Harvey, of this review, who was second in order of birth; Mary Ellen, now Mrs. Charles Lockard, was born in Illyria township, June 6, 1860; Margaret, who is the wife of Jesse Poor, was born April 3, 1865; Amanda, wife of William Frame, born January 28, 1878. All these children make their home in Illyria township, this county.

Samuel B. Boleyn was a quiet, unassuming man, devoted to his domestic life and cared but little for public affairs except that they be administered honestly and thoroughly. No one doubted his honesty and integrity. His father, Eli Boleyn, served in the war of 1812, in which service he lost all his toes by freezing. He organized and drilled a company at Elgin, Iowa, for the Civil war and shed tears when denied a commission by the governor, by reason of his advanced years. He died in Fayette county in 1869. He was a sterling character whom everybody respected.

James H. Boleyn received his education in the public schools of Illyria township, and was reared to farm life and followed the plow until 1902, when he rented his farm and moved to a new house he had just finished in the town of Wadena. He bought a steam feed and saw-mill which he still owns and operates. He owns a farm of ninety-five acres near Waudena, and thirty-six acres of the old parental farm in this township. They are both well improved and yield rich harvests. He has been very successful in all his business undertakings and is rated as well-to-do and is an excellent citizen in every sense

of the word. Politically, he is a Democrat and, while he has never taken any leading part in political affairs, yet he has served on the school board and for four years as constable, each in a very commendable manner.

Mr. Boleyn was married on December 21, 1886, to Eliza Jane Smith, daughter of David and Anna Smith, of Dubuque county, Iowa. The mother died when Mrs. Boleyn was two years old. The father, who is living in Wisconsin, was a soldier in the Civil war. Eliza Jane was reared in the home of her uncle (by marriage), Thomas Brown, a brother of the subject's mother, and these were the only "parents" she ever knew. After the death of his wife, Thomas Brown became a member of the subject's family and so continued for five years and died here. Mrs. James H. Boleyn is a member of the Christian church. Both she and her husband are members of the Yeomen, an insurance organization, their daughter being a social member of the same.

One child, Bertha Golden, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Boleyn on August 20, 1890; she was a talented and highly esteemed young lady, a graduate of the Wadena high school, a musician of some note for one of her years, a zealous worker in the church and Sunday school and a universal favorite with all who knew her. She was called to her rest on February 16, 1909, which was one of the saddest events in the recent history of Wadena, where she will long be deeply mourned and greatly missed.

J. FRANK FOLLENSBEE.

There is no discounting the substantiality of such men as Frank Follensbee, whose name furnishes the subject matter for this brief article. He is a native of Illyria township, Fayette county, Iowa, his natal year being that of 1863, and the date of his birth July 22d. He is of Scotch descent, from whence his mother, Isabella (Meikle) Follensbee, came, having been born in Edinburgh, Scotland. His father, Dexter Follensbee, was a New Englander, and both are referred to at length elsewhere in this work. Frank's education, so far as book learning goes, was obtained by the course of instruction offered by the district township school. He was permitted to remain at the old homestead until he was twenty-one years old. At this time he rented his father's farm of eighty-seven acres for a term of four years, when he became the owner through the execution of his father's will. This land lies in sections 18 and 19 and Mr. Follensbee still retains it as his place of residence. By judicious economy he has added eighty acres which he deeded to his only son when he became of age.

In the spring of 1905 the subject and family moved to West Union and rented out his farm for one year. He then decided to try the plains of South Dakota and pitched his tent on the desert lands of Butte county. He and his wife each homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres. Tiring of the vicissitudes that a life of this nature entails, he returned with his family in 1908, locating again on the home farm. In 1910 he sold their Dakota property.

Mr. Follensbee was united in the bonds of matrimony with Emily M. Jones on May 6, 1888. She was born in Illyria township, May 10, 1867, and the names of her parents were William and Ann (Sanders) Jones, both natives of Wales. To the subject and wife were born two children, one dying in infancy, the other, William Dexter Follensbee, born January 29, 1889, lives with his parents, and is a valuable helper about the duties connected with the farm.

Mr. Follensbee has taken hold of an industry that will no doubt net him a profitable income, that of raising bees. He proposes to carry this work on extensively and to transform his place into a veritable apiary, as it were, installing all the necessary equipments for conducting such a business. He has for a partner W. W. Burns, of Illyria township, a gentleman of considerable experience as an apiarist. Politically, the subject is a Republican. He never served his party other than voting the dictates of the honest conception of the thoughtful American citizen. Mrs. Follensbee is a member of the Methodist church of Lima, Iowa.

GEORGE W. WALTERS.

Owing to the fact that George W. Walters, retired farmer, has long been regarded as one of Fayette county's representative citizens, and so high is the confidence in which he is held that it is imperative that he be accorded recognition in a publication of the province assigned to the one at hand, he being one of the influential citizens in the vicinity of Arlington.

Mr. Walters was born in Harrison county, Ohio, October 7, 1850. He is the son of Martin and Susan (Hess) Walters, both natives of Harrison county, Ohio, where they grew to maturity and were married. A fuller record of the Walters family will be found in the sketch of Rev. John Walters, appearing on another page of this work. Martin Walters enlisted in Company A, Thirty-eighth Iowa Infantry, August 15, 1862, and was discharged from the service August 15, 1865, at Houston, Texas. He was in the siege



MR. AND MRS. MARTIN WALTERS.

of Vicksburg, battle of Fort Donelson, also Fort Blakely and other engagements, and crossed the gulf of Mexico twice. He was a brave soldier.

George Walters was educated in the public schools of Wadena. He was reared on his father's farm and has always been a hard worker, his efforts having been crowned with a reasonable degree of success. He was married on February 19, 1873, to Florence Hageman, daughter of John N. and Abigail (Solomon) Hageman, both natives of New York state, and they married before they came to Iowa, in 1854. They lived in this county the rest of their natural lives, the father dying March 16, 1886, and the mother March 18, 1902. The Hagemans were Germans and the Solomons were New Englanders from very early days. Mr. Hageman was a mechanic and was postmaster at Wadena for a number of years. He served three years as a member of Company A, Thirty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil war, having been in the same company with Martin Walters. Of the Hageman family, Florence Walters and Eugene Hageman live at Wadena, Fayette county; David H. Hageman was last heard from in Oklahoma; Patience, a lovely girl, died in young womanhood; she and her younger sister, Mrs. May Hinkle, were teachers. Mrs. Hinkle is a widow with six children and lives in Wadena.

The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Walters: Alma is the wife of Orrin Fallen, a farmer in Clayton county; Oren married Gertrude Cummings, and they live on a farm in Sperry township, Clayton county; Elmer E. is living at home; Lewis Earl married Maggie Ward and they live on their farm in Clayton county; Orpha, a teacher in the public schools, is living at home; Elsie is a dressmaker at Strawberry Point, Iowa; Ellen is now in Montana on a claim.

For several years after his marriage, Mr. Walters lived on rented farms in Illyria township. In January, 1881, he bought fifty acres in Sperry township, Clayton county, and that was his home for twenty-five years. He added eighty-five acres to this farm and he now has one hundred and thirty-five acres, which is well improved and fertile land. He bought another farm of one hundred and twenty acres in 1901, about one mile from his home farm, which was well improved. General farming and stock raising have been his chief life work, and he has been very successful at both, being a careful observer, a persistent worker and a man whose relations with his fellow men have always been straightforward. Mr. Walters has not been in robust health for the past thirteen years. In July, 1909, he left the farm and bought a substantial, attractive and pleasant home in Arlington where the family now lives. Two of Mr. Walters' sons live upon and work the parental farms.

Mr. Walters inherited one thousand dollars from his father's and mother's estate, otherwise his possessions are entirely the result of his own and his wife's industry and economy.

Politically, Mr. Walters is a Republican and he has always taken an active interest in public affairs.

EDWARD HENRY LOCKWOOD.

The subject of this sketch is one of the successful farmers and enterprising citizens of Fayette county, whose life has been characterized by strict integrity and unsullied honor. He is a shrewd and practical man of affairs and because of his sterling qualities he has won the respect of all who know him. Mr. Lockwood was born in Oran township, Fayette county, Iowa, on September 25, 1854, and is a son of Lewis and Hannah (Seamans) Lockwood. The father and mother came from Steuben county, New York, in 1852 and located in Oran township, where they took up two hundred acres of farm land. Here the subject of this sketch was reared to manhood and received his education in the public schools of the locality, subsequently, in 1874-5, attending the Upper Iowa University. He then engaged in teaching school. He taught school fourteen terms in Bremer and Fayette counties, beginning his work while the editor of this history was serving as county superintendent. Seeking a wider opportunity for advancement, Mr. Lockwood ceased teaching and took to farming and dealing in livestock, in which he met with gratifying success from the start. He conducted farming operations in Oran township, Fayette county, and also across the line in Bremer county, owning land in both counties. He has been adding to his original possessions from time to time as he was able, until at present he is the owner of between eight hundred and nine hundred acres of as good farming land as can be found in this section of the state. Mr. Lockwood gave his personal attention to every detail of his business, which, under his careful management and energetic attention, was prospered. He made many permanent and substantial improvements on the property, which is considered one of the choice farming properties in the locality. In the fall of 1899 Mr. Lockwood moved to Fayette, having a nice farm located in the west edge of the city. He still gives his attention to his other farms, having men to operate them for him. He is a great fancier of cattle, of which he is an excellent judge. He has made all he has by his own efforts. His first start was in buying fifty-three acres of land, from which he soon realized a profit. He has frequently gone

into debt thousands of dollars in making land deals, but his sound judgment in every case has been vindicated by results. He is now the owner of a comfortable and attractive residence located on high land on the west edge of Fayette, overlooking the beautiful Volga valley, where the spirit of hospitality is ever in evidence.

In 1878 Mr. Lockwood was married to Mary Jane Green, the daughter of William and Sarah (Hand) Green. She was born in Iowa county, Wisconsin, and came to Bremer county in 1864 with her parents. The latter originally came to America from Worcestershire, England, in 1846, locating in Wisconsin, where they were numbered among the pioneers, as they were also in Bremer county, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Lockwood have been born nine children, namely: Estella V. is the wife of Fred Shelton, of Oran township, this county, and they have one son, Lyle B.; Lila E., who remains at home with her parents, has been engaged in teaching school for two years; Norma M., wife of Edgar Miller, of Banks township; Edna H., a teacher; Ray W. is at home and is assisting his father; Pearl is a student in the high school at Fayette; Zenita, Lelah and Earl S. are attending school.

Fraternally, Mr. Lockwood is a member of the Knights of Pythias and takes an intelligent interest in the workings of this beneficent order. Religiously, he and his wife are members of the Congregational church, to which they give an earnest and liberal support.

HON. TYSON RUSSELL STAM.

The history of a county or state, as well as that of a nation, is chiefly a chronicle of the lives and deeds of those who have conferred honor and dignity upon society. The world judges the character of a community by those of its representative citizens and yields its tribute of admiration and respect to those whose works and actions constitute the record of a state's prosperity and pride. Among the prominent citizens of Fayette county who are well known because of their success in private business affairs and the part they have taken in public life, is he whose name appears at the head of this article, and a man eminently deserving of the high esteem in which he is held by all classes.

Hon. Tyson Russell Stam, well known retired merchant of West Union, was born in Snyder county, Pennsylvania, July 27, 1857, and is a son of Dr. John and Nancy (Zeigler) Stam, both of whom were natives of Penn-

sylvania and of German ancestry. Doctor Stam was for many years an eminent physician in his native state, the latter years of his life being spent at Millheim, his death occurring in February, 1909. His wife died in May, 1873.

Tyson R. Stam enjoyed the advantages of a good academic education, having been a student of the Freeburg Seminary at Freeburg, Pennsylvania. Early in life he directed his attention to the mercantile field and has occupied the same during his manhood years, having begun as a clerk in a dry-goods store, continuing as such for several years. On October 30, 1880, he was married to Rose E. Musser, who was born and educated in Millheim, Pennsylvania, and there her marriage took place. She is the daughter of D. A. and Lyda (Schreffler) Musser, her father having been an extensive mill owner and manufacturer, also a dealer in lumber. To Mr. and Mrs. Stam two daughters have been born, Lyda R., born in Millheim, October 31, 1881, and Laura Z., born in West Union, June 13, 1886.

In 1883 Mr. Stam and family moved to West Union, where he soon embarked in the mercantile business, which he carried on for a period of twenty-six years consecutively, making a marked success of the same, conducting one of the leading stores of the county, consisting of dry goods, clothing, shoes and furnishings, his trade finally assuming very large proportions as a result of his tireless energy, his able management and wise discernment, and his honesty in dealing with his army of customers. Since retiring, ten years ago, he has re-engaged in the business once or twice, temporarily. He has extensive property interests in West Union and devotes his time very largely to looking after the same. He has built a number of blocks here and is thoroughly identified with the development and business interests of West Union. He is a nephew of S. B. Ziegler, now deceased, former president of the First National Bank here, and also closely related to a number of the important business concerns in West Union.

Mr. Stam has been chairman of the Democratic congressional committee for ten years and a member of the Democratic state central committee. As illustrating his standing in West Union, it may be mentioned that the town ordinarily gives a Republican majority of from two hundred and twenty-five to two hundred and fifty, but Mr. Stam was elected on the Democratic ticket as mayor for two years, first in 1887, his success being a compliment to his personal popularity, and he carried the town when a candidate for representative on the Democratic ticket. During the Cleveland administration he had a very strong endorsement of the Democrats of Iowa for national bank examiner, and he stands well with the general public. He is

a Knight Templar Mason, belonging to West Union Lodge No. 69, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Clermont Chapter No. 62, Royal Arch Masons, and Langridge Commandery, No. 47, Knights Templar.

Mr. Stam is an enterprising and successful business man, active and influential in the councils of his party, and an earnest worker for its success. He possesses superior ability, and has a host of warm personal friends, won by his consistent and manly course in business and politics, and is regarded by all classes as one of the county's substantial and representative citizens.

FREDERICK M. WHITELEY.

If one desires to gain a vivid realization of the rapid advance in the civilization which the last few decades have brought, he can listen to the stories that men who are still living among us can tell of their early experiences when the country was new and social conditions in this part of the state were in their formative period. Fayette county is still the abiding place of a number of old settlers, who, having spent the vigor and strength of their manhood in carving from the wilderness homes for themselves and their posterity, are now in the evening of life, when the shadows are growing dim and the past gradually receding from view, spending their declining years in rest and quiet, surrounded by neighbors and friends who honor and revere them for the good work they did in laying broad and deep the foundation upon which the community's prosperity has been builded. Conspicuous among these silver-haired veterans of a period long past is the venerable and highly respected citizen, now living a life of honorable retirement, to a brief review of whose career the following lines are devoted.

Frederick M. Whiteley was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, in December, 1835, and is a son of Lehman and Sarah (Riggs) Whiteley. Lehman Whiteley was a successful farmer and also conducted an extensive business in shipping hay and other farm products down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans. When the subject of this sketch was about ten years of age the family moved to Quincy, Illinois, making the trip by boat down the Ohio river and up the Mississippi. The father had a brother living at Fayette, Iowa, whom he intended to join, and the family remained at Quincy three months until the brother came after them with horse and wagon. On their arrival in Iowa, the subject's father rented a farm near Fayette, where he lived two years, at the end of that time buying a quarter section of land near

Cornhill postoffice. When the subject was about nineteen years of age he and his father were engaged during the winter months in splitting rails several miles from home. In the woods their only protection was a palisade of boards to break the force of the wind and keep the snow from drifting on them, and here they slept at night on the ground, without roof or other protection. Here they remained until they had split four thousand rails.

In 1861 Frederick Whiteley manifested his patriotic spirit by enlisting as a private in Company F, Third Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry, the first company of soldiers to go to the front from Fayette county. The command was sent to Missouri and while in that state the train on which they were riding at one time was attacked by a Confederate force. Bullets came rattling through the cars and the soldiers jumped off on the opposite side from which the bullets came and in the act of jumping Mr. Whiteley fell and injured his hip. Jumping to his feet, he recovered his gun and formed in line with the remainder of the command. The injury received here, while painful, was not thought to have any permanent effect, but he has never recovered from its effects, his sufferings growing worse with increasing years. After Mr. Whiteley had seen a year of hard service, an offer was made by authority of President Lincoln that soldiers who had served a year could, if they so desired, be taken into the navy and assigned to river gunboats, their term of enlistment being at the same time shortened one year. Mr. Whiteley took advantage of the offer and sent in his name. The following morning his lieutenant, LeRoy Templeton, came to him, with tears in his eyes, saying he had just heard that the subject was about to be transferred to the navy. "But," said Lieutenant Templeton, "I can save you." To his amazement, the subject made a very vigorous protest against being "saved," so the lieutenant signed his pass and he went to the navy, being assigned to the gunboat "Louisville" as a seaman. While in Arkansas, proceeding up the river to the battle of Arkansas Post, a bomb-shell exploded near him, instantly killing an officer who almost touched him. Mr. Whiteley was put in charge of a thirteen-inch mortar as loader, and during the siege of Vicksburg his gun was effective in inflicting an enormous amount of damage on the Confederate works. When, in 1863, he was discharged because of the expiration of his term of enlistment, he was highly complimented by the navy officers for the splendid manner in which he performed his duties as a seaman. He was opposed to the use of whisky under any circumstances and at one time while on the gunboat was threatened with arrest for refusing to take whisky for malaria. Afterwards he took it, but usually threw it away after pretending to drink it.

After his return from army service Mr. Whiteley went to work on land in Fayette county which he had purchased before the outbreak of the war, and

this property he developed into one of the choice farms of the community. He was an active and progressive farmer and devoted himself assiduously to his farm until October, 1907, when he ceased active labor and has since lived practically retired, enjoying the rest which he had so richly earned. In his early days on the farm he was compelled to undergo many trials and misfortunes, but he was accustomed to hard work and had the pluck to persevere and the practical common sense which enabled him to make the best of conditions. For two successive years his wheat crops were destroyed by chintz bugs. He then changed from wheat raising to livestock. In this he was prospered and as prices continued to advance he realized handsome profits. He bought more land from time to time and is now the owner of two hundred and eighty acres. On the place is a large, convenient and attractive ten-room residence, which cost four thousand dollars at a time when building material was cheap. He has also erected several fine barns, including a general purpose barn, a horse barn and one which was built specially for a fine stallion in which he has an interest, the animal being a thoroughbred and valued at seventeen hundred dollars. When, in 1907, Mr. Whiteley left the farm and moved to Fayette, he had about seventy-five head of cattle, twenty-five horses (some of which sold at four hundred dollars a span), and a pair of three-year-old horses that brought five hundred and twenty-five dollars.

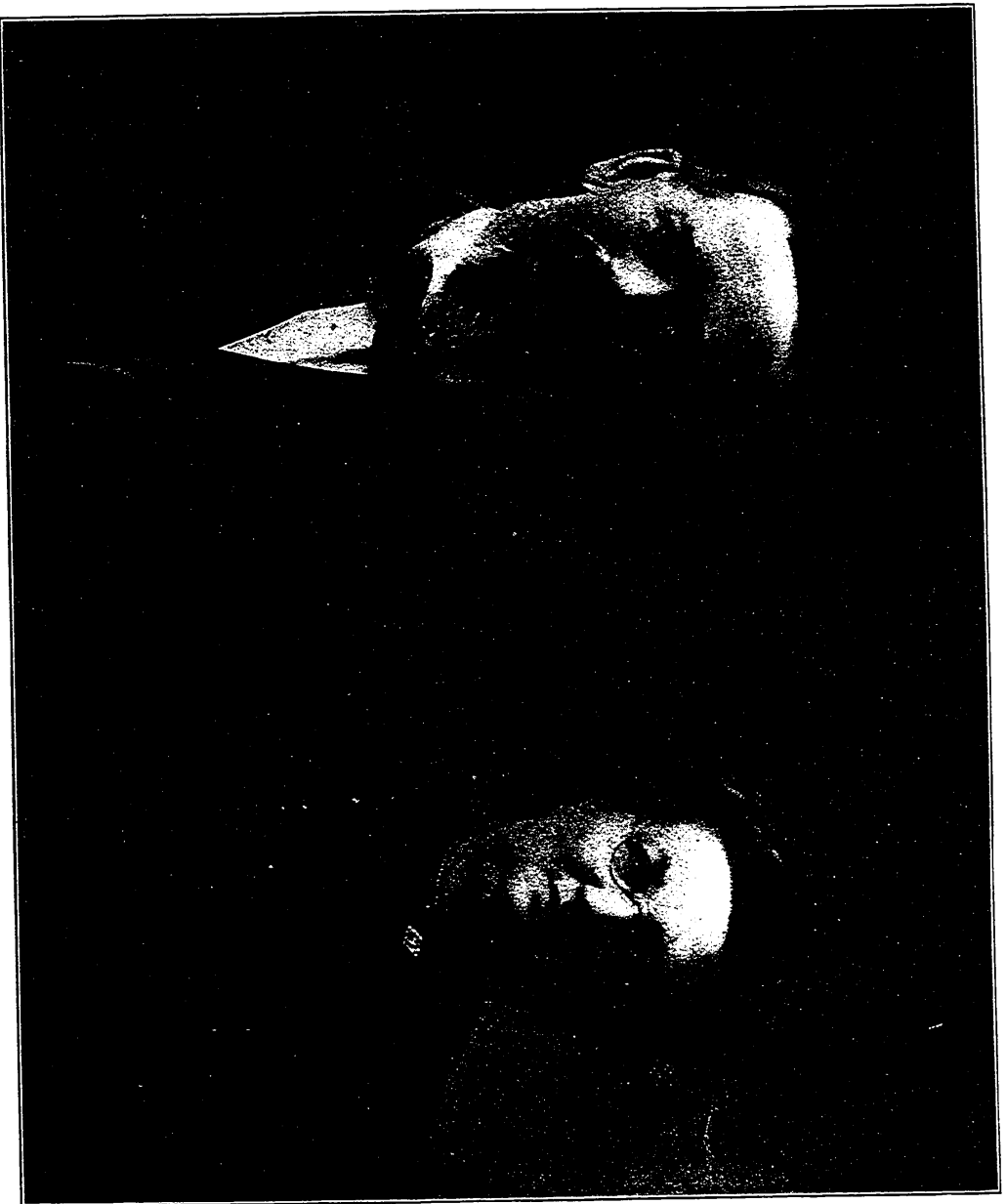
On November 29, 1863, Mr. Whiteley married Matilda Earl, of Albany, Iowa, a daughter of Richard and Catherine Earl. The family came to Iowa from Freeport, Illinois, in 1855, and the father bought a saw-mill at Albany, afterwards building a grist-mill at the same place. To Mr. and Mrs. Whiteley ten children were born, of whom three died in childhood. Those who attained mature years are briefly mentioned as follows: Charles, who lives on and operates his own farm three miles east of Fayette, married Louisa Crim, and they have three children, Harold, Mildred and Grace; Lucy married Thomas Homewood and lives on a farm near Clermont; Mary became the wife of J. A. Kramer, dealer in general merchandise at Elkader, and they have two children, Harriet and Dayton; Frederick is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and thirty-three acres near his father's farm; James, who lives on the home farm, married Jennie Landers and they have a baby girl, Zadie; Adell became the wife of Marion Dennis, of Fayette, and they have twin babies, Freddie and Marian; Richard, who lives on the subject's home farm three miles east of Fayette, married Anna Wilson.

In politics Mr. Whiteley is a staunch Democrat, though in local elections he assumes an independent attitude, voting for the best man for the office. He attends the Methodist church. He is a man whom to know is to admire and he has many warm friends throughout the community.

WILLIAM GREMMELS.

The record of the subject of this sketch is that of a man of foreign birth who, coming to the United States in early life, has worked his way from a modest beginning to a position of eminent respectability as a citizen and to a prominent place among the leading farmers and stock raisers of the county of which he has long been an honored resident. William Gremmels is a native of Germany, born at Ahstedt in the kingdom of Hanover, on the 5th day of June, 1851. His parents, Frederick and Dora (Buck) Gremmels, were also Hanoverians and spent the greater part of their lives in the city where the subject first saw the light of day. The father, a carpenter by trade, was for many years in the employ of the government first as a constructor and later as inspector of various public works. He was a man of sound practical intelligence, a master of his craft and stood high in the esteem of the people of his native place. He and his good wife died at Ashtedt and were laid to rest in the old cemetery where a number of their ancestors have long been sleeping the sleep that knows no waking. Frederick and Dora Gremmels were the parents of eight children, of whom the following are living: Henry, a carpenter, residing in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Frederick, also a carpenter by trade and a resident of Iowa; Christian, deceased, who was an inspector of government works in Germany; Wilhelmina, who married Henry Aschemann, of Braunschweig, where they still live, and William, the subject of this review. The following are the names of the deceased members of the family: Dora, Carl and Lena, all of whom departed this life in the fatherland. Christian Gremmels, the third in order of birth, was a mechanic of high standing in Hanover and, as stated above, held an important position in the public service. While still a young man he drew plans for the government bridge over the river Rhine at Cologne and Coblenz and no mechanic being willing to undertake the work, the contract was awarded to him. He finished the bridge in due time per specifications and it is today one of the finest structures of the kind spanning that historic stream. This work, which was completed in 1858, was three years in process of construction and it stands a monument to the skill and efficiency of the builder. Christian Gremmels had been in the employ of the Hanoverian government all of his life and had long ranked among the ablest and most trustworthy mechanics and inspectors in the public service of that country. He died November 24, 1909, in Zoelde, Hanover.

William Gremmels attended the Lutheran schools of his native place during his childhood and early youth and while still quite young manifested



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM GRENDEL.

the mechanical skill for which he has since been noted. He began working under his father's direction as soon as old enough to handle tools to advantage and at the age of sixteen was sufficiently advanced in carpentry to be styled a finished workman. Thinking to better his condition in a country where better opportunities obtained than in his native land, he came to the United States in 1867 and located at Dubuque, Iowa, where he soon secured remunerative employment as a carpenter and builder. After spending several years in that city, he revisited the land of his birth, but in due time returned to Dubuque, near which place he operated a saw-mill for his brother, and later took charge of mills for various other parties, continuing this line of business for several years, in connection with his trade.

Becoming somewhat dissatisfied with mechanical work as a means of livelihood, Mr. Gremmels subsequently turned his attention to agriculture, which he carried on in Dubuque county until 1894, when he moved to Fayette county and purchased two hundred acres of land in Jefferson township, on which he has since lived and prospered. The year of his arrival he erected the large and commodious barn which still answers the purposes for which intended and in 1906 he built the large and imposing modern residence which the family now occupy and which is one of the most beautiful and attractive rural homes in the county.

Mr. Gremmels has brought the farm to a high state of tillage, besides making all the improvements, his mechanical skill being greatly in his favor in adding to the beauty and value of his place. In connection with general agriculture, he devotes considerable attention to livestock and poultry and is also identified quite extensively in dairying. He has been signally successful since moving to his present place of abode, being at this time one of the financially solid men of the township in which he resides. His place, which is known as "Fairview Stock Farm," lies two and a half miles north-east of Oelwein and is one of the finest farms of its size in the county of Fayette, impressing the passersby as the home of an enterprising, up to date man whose interest in his calling he makes paramount to every other consideration.

Mr. Gremmels was first married in the year 1876 to Nathalia Schenkowitz, of Dubuque county, who died in 1880, leaving two children, Arthur, a farmer living in North Dakota, and Blanch, now Mrs. L. B. Miller, of Waterloo, Iowa. On May 24, 1881, Mr. Gremmels contracted a matrimonial alliance with Mrs. Henrietta Gremmels, widow of Henry Gremmels, her union with him resulting in the birth of four children, viz: William F.,

engaged in merchandising at Oelwein; Henry, who is also in business at that place; Julia, wife of Joseph Beck, of Lincoln county, Colorado, and Charles, deceased. By her marriage with William Gremmels Mrs. Gremmels had three children: Warren A., a musician of Oelwein and who is also in the grocery business; Ada, widow of Robert Brown, and Flora, who died in infancy. Mr. Gremmels and family are members of the Lutheran church and interested in all lines of religious and moral work under the auspices of the congregation to which they belong. He is a Republican in politics and while a resident of Dubuque county held various local offices, although never an aspirant for public honors.

Mrs. Gremmels, the present wife of the subject, was born April 27, 1842, at Hoheneggelsen, Hanover, Germany, and is a daughter of Henry and Julia (Flore) Rengell. These parents came to America in 1856 and settled on a farm in Dubuque county, Iowa, Mrs. Gremmels being their only child.

HERMAN BOESS.

The family of this name in Fayette county is part of the German immigration which began settling in Iowa at its earliest opening as a state and eventually became an important and influential part of the population. Herman Boess was born in Hillinghausen, Hanover, Germany, in 1843, but lost his parents by death when still a child. He learned the carpenter's trade and followed it for a living as long as he remained in his native country. He came to the United States in 1881 and located at Richmond, Indiana, where he followed his trade as a carpenter. Two years later he migrated to Iowa and settled in Fayette county in the extreme southwest corner of section 30, Bethel township. One year later he moved to section 20 and the year following rented two hundred acres in and near section 32. A year afterward he rented the south half of section 19, where he lived for three years. His next purchase was the northwest quarter of section 23, the place now owned by his son. On January 25, 1895, he was kicked by a horse and died a few minutes later as the result of his injuries.

In 1869 Herman Boess married Louisa, daughter of Mathias and Elsa (Schnatmeir) Brockman, also a native of Krukum, Hanover, Germany. They had six children, Fred, Marie, Lizzie, Minnie, Adam and Annie. A full sketch of the eldest son appears elsewhere in this volume. Marie, the eldest daughter, married John Erhardt and lives in California. Lizzie married George Huckle and resides near Fredericksburg, Chickasaw county. Minnie married Fred Brenner and lives in California. Adam lives with his mother

in section 15, Bethel township. Anna married Carl Sinner, of whom a fuller sketch appears below. In 1902, the home place was sold to Fred, and Mrs. Boess bought two hundred acres on the north side of section 15, Bethel township, and moved to this new home in the spring of 1902.

Carl Sinner, who married Anna, youngest daughter of Herman Boess, is a son of William Sinner. The latter is a native of Hesse-Cassel, Germany, and was born in 1851. His parents were John and Philopena Conradeine (Baker) Sinner, substantial people in the old country. In his boyhood days he learned the harnessmaker's trade, at which he worked for four years. In 1870, when nineteen years old, he came to America and pushed immediately for the west until he reached Fayette county. For four or five years he did farm work by the month and then rented one hundred and twenty acres at Arlington owned by his uncle, which he farmed for a year. Later he farmed in Windsor township until 1887, when he removed to eighty acres he had purchased in section 13, Bethel township. Since then he has added forty acres to his holdings in section 13 and has eighty acres in section 23, making two hundred acres in his possession.

In 1875 Mr. Sinner married Anna Margaret, daughter of George Belschner, of Illinois. She died in 1888, after becoming the mother of four children, of whom one died in infancy, two days before the death of the mother. Those living are George, Edward and Carl. The latter married Anna Boess and resides on a farm one mile north and one west of his father's place. They have one child, Florence. Edward resides in North Dakota, on a land claim bought from the government. George studied law at Fort Dodge and graduated in 1904. Besides practicing law, he was interested for two or three years in mining at Basin, Wyoming, but his health failed him and he sought the more congenial climate of Arizona. In February, 1889, he married Amelia Schwan, a resident of Sumner, Bremen county, Iowa. He has had four children, William, Alma, Ella and Edna. Alma died when two years old, but the other three children remain at home with their parents.

The Sinner family belong to the German Lutheran church at Hawkeye and no connection enjoys higher esteem in that neighborhood.

THOMAS L. FORDYCE.

It is a pleasure to meet an old settler, one who came here in the commencement of the county's widespread development, and learn from his lips of the trials which were endured for the sake of the happy homes which now

dot the county of Fayette,—a man who has, while advancing his own interests, also labored for the general good. Such a man is T. L. Fordyce, a well known farmer, many of whose early impressions were gained in the woods of the pioneer period and he tells many interesting stories of those times. The pioneers were happy. It is singular how easily a person can adapt himself to any surroundings and derive comfort therefrom. And yet it fails to be at all singular when account is taken of the selfish desire to be comfortable. If we have enough to eat and enough to wear and a little ahead and an outlook for some good books, we can manage to worry along and get some satisfaction out of life. So the old settler was happy, as everyone will emphatically tell you. So says the subject of this sketch.

Thomas L. Fordyce was born December 25, 1839, in the township of Dunham, province of Quebec, Canada, and received his education in that neighborhood, the school being held in his uncle's house, the equipment of which was primitive in the extreme. His services being required in the clearing of the small farm owned by his father, his schooling was limited, though by subsequent reading and habits of close observation he has become a well informed man on general topics. His ancestors were originally from Scotland, though his father was born on the same farm as was the subject, while the mother is supposed to have been born in Vermont.

Mr. Fordyce was married to Cornelia Carter, the daughter of James and Ortha (Cora) Carter, and to this union were born five children, four sons and one daughter, namely: Genevieve, Frank, Jerard (deceased), Clare (deceased) and Marcellus. The living children are married and reside in Fayette county.

Mr. Fordyce came to Fayette county, Iowa, in March, 1867, and bought forty acres of land, to the improvement and cultivation of which he at once applied himself. He was industrious, economical and a good manager and was prospered from the beginning. Having early in life become familiar with general farming, he has made this vocation, together with stock raising, his life work and that a large measure of success has attended his efforts goes without saying. He is now the owner of three hundred and ten acres of excellent land, eighty acres lying in Windsor township, the balance in the old home place. In March, 1900, Mr. Fordyce came to Randalia, this county, to make it his permanent home, having an attractive and nicely furnished dwelling here.

Soon after taking up his residence here he was active in the general affairs of the place and a short time ago he was appointed justice of the peace to fill a vacancy and he is very ably and conscientiously discharging the duties of

the same. Politically, he is a Republican and has long taken more or less interest in the affairs of his party. Fraternally, he is a Mason and stands high in that order.

Although he is now living retired from the active duties of life, yet Mr. Fordyce takes a delight in overseeing the general management of his lands, which he has brought up to a high state of improvement and which, under his skillful management, have been producing abundant harvests for years. He is a man of strictly honest principles and has the good will of all who know him.

DR. MARTIN BENTLEY FITCH.

To attain success in any one line of endeavor is within the power of every man of ordinary intelligence and judgment, but to become distinguished in more than one vocation and that, too, at a period of life when the majority of men are supposed to discontinue active duty to spend the remainder of their days in quietude and retirement, indicates a degree of mental and intellectual strength such as few possess. The record of the subject of this review is that of a man who in his prime fitted himself for a sphere of activity in which much more than ordinary technical training was required, but later, when through force of circumstances he could no longer rely upon his vocation for a livelihood, he turned his attention to a profession for which its devotees prepare only by long years of painstaking study and research. His career, which has been a strenuous and honorable one, is replete with interest and it is with much satisfaction that the following brief outline is accorded a place in these pages.

Martin Bentley Fitch is a native of Trumbull county, Ohio, where his birth occurred on June 6, 1840, being the eldest son of George and Deborah (Boylan) Fitch, both representatives of well-known families in the north-eastern part of that state. His father dying in 1847, the boy of seven years thereafter lived among strangers, though he kept in touch with his mother, who, as circumstances would permit, maintained a home for the two sons who were with her. But, being a teacher, after the death of her husband, sometimes in Pennsylvania and later in the states of Indiana and Iowa, it was not always convenient for her to keep her children together, consequently they were often separated from her and while still young obliged to rely upon their own resources. Mrs. Fitch remarried in 1862, at which time or soon afterwards her three sons were in the army and from that date she saw little of them.

Martin B. Fitch attended the public schools and acquired a fair education in such branches as were then taught, but later by years of painstaking study and investigation he obtained a knowledge of many subjects and became a widely read and deeply informed man. When a young man nineteen years of age he was united in marriage with Helen B. Hayes, who bore him five children, viz: George H., who died February 10, 1863, aged two years and six months; Frank B., Elmer, Alice and Mary. Frank, the oldest survivor of the family, is employed in the railway service at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he married and has a home. Elmer died at the home of his grandmother in Fayette county at the age of fourteen. Alice, now Mrs. Davis, resides in Chicago. Mary was also reared among her mother's people in Michigan and still lives there. The mother of these children died some years ago in the city of Cedar Rapids, after being divorced from her husband.

In 1873 Mr. Fitch went South and finally located in southeastern Arkansas, where for a period of ten years he operated a blacksmithing and machine shop, which was extensively patronized, and he also spent one year in Texas. He was a skillful mechanic both in wood and metals and while in Arkansas his establishment was known far and wide, the most profitable part of the business being the repairing of grills and engines and boilers for the cotton planters of the surrounding country. Failing health compelled him to entrust too much important work to unskilled hired help, which caused him considerable pecuniary loss and as a result he was obliged to sell out and return to Fayette county, his early home. His mother was then living and the first thing he did after his return was to build for her a comfortable house on the farm which his step-father owned. After another disastrous trip to the South, in which he lost heavily, Mr. Fitch located at Decorah, Iowa, where, in 1888, he married Isabel Nelson, who bore him seven children: Roy A., the oldest, who was graduated from the Decorah high school with the class of 1909, is at this time assistant principal of a high school in North Dakota; George, the second in order of birth, married Emma Thompson, of Decorah, where he now resides and has a little son named after himself; Raymond is a student in a business college of the above city and the others who are old enough are attending the public schools, their names being; Martin D., June E. M., Lillian M. and William R. Both Mr. and Mrs. Fitch are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church and stand high in the social circles of the city in which they reside.

In 1862 M. B. Fitch enlisted in Company H, Eighteenth Iowa Infantry, with which he served until permanently disabled and discharged the following year. This disability, which was of a most aggravated nature, has been

continuous throughout all of the intervening years, making a physical wreck of an otherwise robust and exceptionally strong man. For a number of years he was on the pension roll at seventy-two dollars per month, but during the administration of President Cleveland his rating was reduced to thirty dollars; under President McKinley, however, it was increased to fifty dollars and so remains, an insignificant recompense for so costly a sacrifice. He manifests a lively interest in military affairs and all matters pertaining to the old soldiers and for a number of years has been an influential member of the Grand Army of the Republic, also belonging, with his wife, to the Woman's Relief Corps of Decorah.

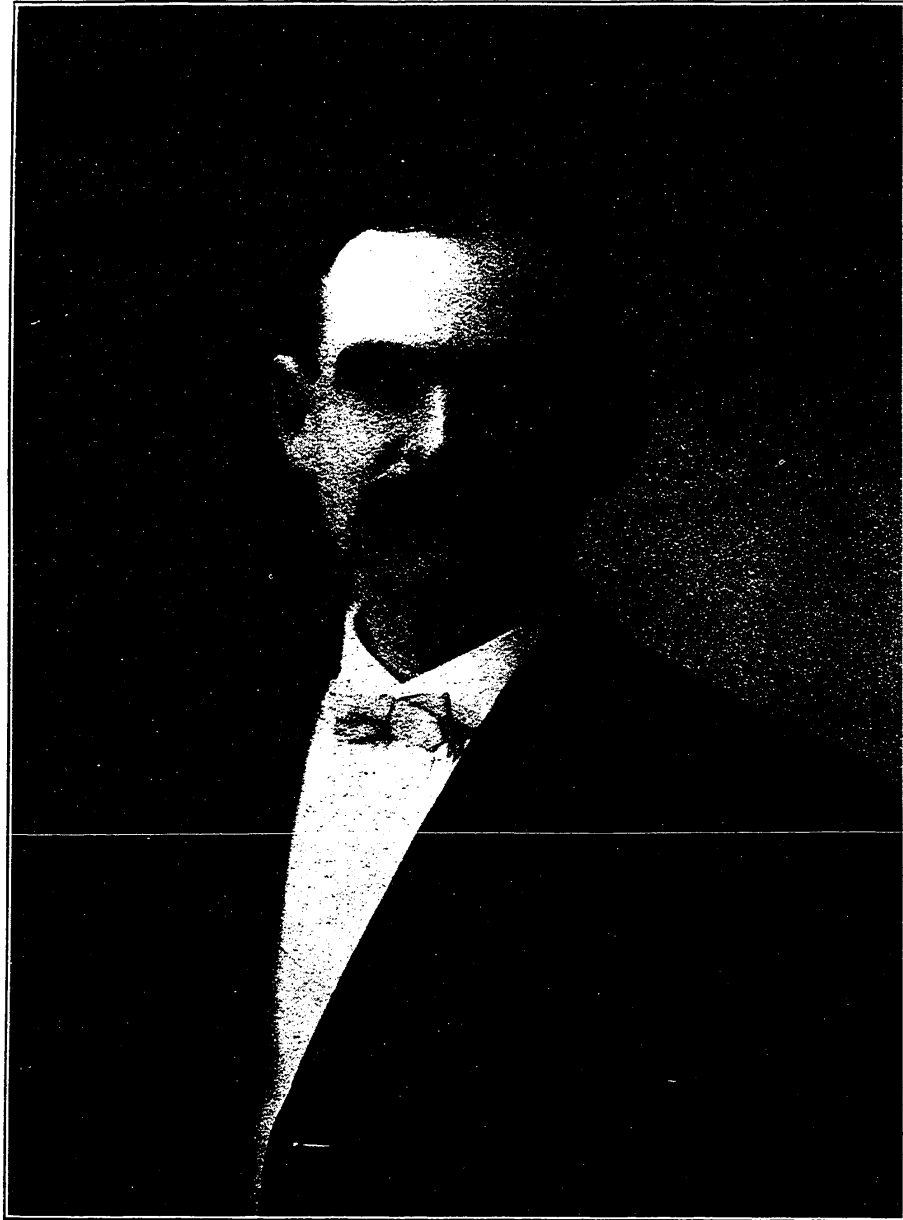
Being naturally a sympathetic nature and blessed with a good memory, besides being a keen and critical observer, Mr. Fitch became an excellent nurse while among the southern people and was frequently called to treat the sick in preference to the local physicians, who often lived long distances from the homes of the afflicted. In this manner he was finally induced to take up the study of medicine and for more than a quarter century he has been a devotee of that profession and a successful practitioner. Soon after locating at Decorah he opened an office and engaged in the general practice and to his credit be it said that some of his cures have been little short of marvelous and under all circumstances he has demonstrated unusual ability and skill in alleviating human suffering. Being physically incapacitated from meeting country patients at their homes with any degree of certainty, he has relied almost entirely upon his office practice, not going to the trouble and annoyance of complying with the "red tape" requirements surrounding the general practice of medicine. In this way his patronage partakes largely of the form of hospital nursing and care, in which line he has all the business to which he can possibly give attention, all of the rooms of his home, at No. 612 River street, being fitted up and provided with every convenience necessary to the successful treatment of those who seek his retreat. By dint of hard and close application, Doctor Fitch has succeeded in mastering the intricacies and difficulties of certain lines of professional study and on the 6th of February, 1900, he was awarded a diploma by the Institute of Physicians and Surgeons in the city of Rochester, New York. This institution includes practice along the lines of vitæology, suggestive therapeutics, magnetic healing and personal magnetism, in all of which he has made commendable advancement and by the application of which many of his most obstinate cases have been successfully treated. The Doctor also holds two diplomas from other scientific schools and is withal especially well equipped both by nature and training for the practice of his profession from the viewpoint indicated by the lines of preparation which he has pursued.

THOMAS AND RICHARD H. SMITH.

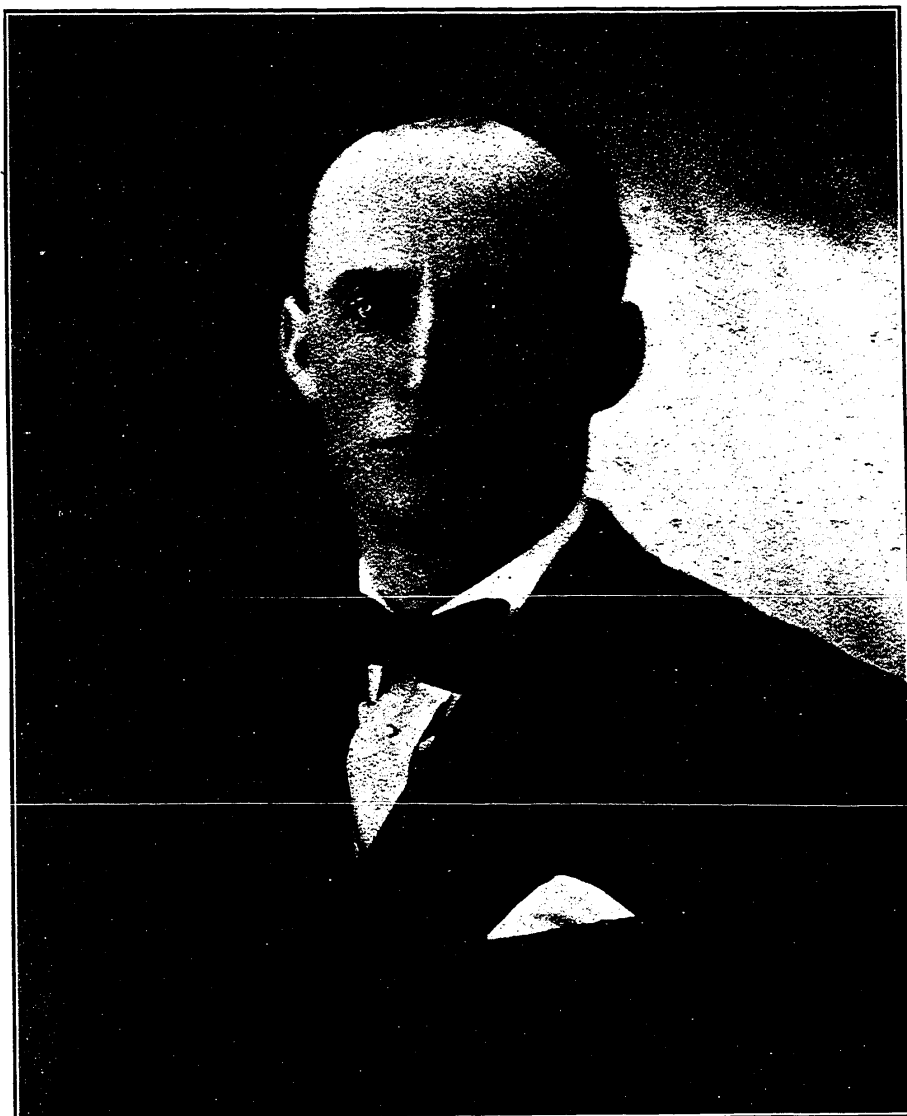
Among the business men of the thriving city of Oelwein, Fayette county, none are more highly esteemed generally than the gentlemen whose names appear above. Years of honest endeavor have brought to them a well-earned prosperity and today they are numbered among the representative citizens of the community.

The Smith brothers are scions of honorable parentage. Their father, Samuel Smith, was born near Keighley, Yorkshire, England, in 1838, and was the son of Richard and Martha (Hanson) Smith. He married Hannah Park, a daughter of Thomas and Sarah Park, of Pateley Bridge, Yorkshire, England, and they became the parents of six children, namely: Alice, the wife of Edward E. Day, a well-known citizen of Oelwein, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work; Thomas, of Oelwein; Jane, the wife of G. A. Schneider, a farmer north of Oelwein; Sarah M. A., the wife of W. S. Huntington, an expert draughtsman and successful foundryman; Richard H., of Oelwein; Mary Ellen, the wife of F. H. Martin, a contractor and builder at Oelwein. Samuel Smith was a machinist by trade and was part owner of a tool manufacturing plant in Keighley. In 1869 he came to Fayette county, followed in 1870 by his family, then consisting of wife and three children. For a year he lived with his uncle, Thomas Hanson. On June 1, 1870, they came to what later became Oelwein, he buying a farm located one and a half miles north and one-fourth mile west of where the city now is. He entered at once upon the cultivation of this farm, which he brought up to a high standard of agricultural excellence, and on which he resided until February, 1892. He then moved into Oelwein, and on November 14th, of the same year, he died, at the age of fifty-four years. His wife died July 21, 1901, at the age of sixty-six years.

Of this family, the two sons, Thomas and Richard H., were reared on the home farm and received their education in the common schools of their neighborhood. In 1902 Thomas bought a quarter section of land in Dickinson county, and soon afterwards Thomas and Richard together bought another quarter section nearby, where they lived for a few months, returning to the city in December of that year. Richard was then for a time in the employ of the Oelwein creamery, after which he entered the employ of W. H. Meyer & Company. In 1897 the two brothers formed a partnership and went into the grocery business in Oelwein, locating on the east side of Frederick street, between First and Charles streets. In July of the same year they moved across the street to No. 10 South Frederick street, where they remained until December 16, 1902, when they installed their business in a new building next door



THOMAS SMITH.



RICHARD H. SMITH.

south, the new store having been built especially for them. They were prosperous in their business and conducted it successfully until June 8, 1904, when they sold out. In 1878 their father, Samuel Smith, had bought forty acres of land from William Niblock, lying north of Charles street and west of Sixth avenue North, now included in Oelwein. After their father's death, the brothers platted this ground, making four successive additions, and after retiring from the grocery business Thomas built several residences there during the summer of 1904. In January, 1905, Thomas and Richard Smith formed a partnership and went into the real estate business, in which they have continued ever since. Besides their residence properties, they own a large interest in the Syndicate block, which is owned in the name of the Oelwein Building and Investment Company and was built in 1907. It is a splendid property, being one of the best blocks in the city, the ground floor being devoted to business rooms and the upper part of the building being divided into flats. Thomas Smith is secretary of the company. Both of the subjects are notaries public and in addition to their real estate business, they also examine abstracts and take charge of rentals. Thomas Smith is a stockholder in the First National Bank and the Aetna State Bank, both of Oelwein, and Richard is interested in the Aetna State Bank and the Iowa Savings Bank at Oelwein, while both are stockholders in the Oran Savings Bank, at Oran, this state. They are also the owners of much farm land in Minnesota and the Dakotas, as well as in their home state. Progressive and energetic, and yet wisely conservative, they have always given their support to every movement which has promised to benefit the community or contribute to the development and upbuilding of the city in which they reside.

Politically both of the Smith brothers are affiliated with the Prohibition party, in the success of which they are deeply interested. Religiously, Thomas is a member of the Christian church, in which he holds official relations, being treasurer, trustee and deacon; Richard is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is a member of the board of trustees. Both are earnest in their support of the churches, being liberal contributors to their support.

Both of the Smith brothers are married, Thomas having wedded Aura C. Hadley, the daughter of B. H. Hadley, of Iowa Falls. Richard married Maud E. Sackville, the daughter of J. O. and Alice E. (Day) Sackville, the former a native of Canada and the latter of St. Lawrence county, New York. They have one child, a daughter, Dorothy Maude. The subjects of this sketch are genial in their social relations and enjoy a large acquaintance throughout the county, among whom they are held in the highest esteem.

MARTIN MALONEY.

In the respect that is accorded to men who have fought their own way to success through unfavorable environment and circumstances we find an unconscious recognition of the intrinsic worth of a character which can not only endure so rough a test, but gain strength through the discipline. The gentleman whose name introduces this sketch has, in spite of obstacles, succeeded in his life's work to a satisfactory degree and has also earned and retains the regard and high esteem of all with whom he is acquainted, standing today as one of the representative men of the community in which he resides. As the mayor of the thriving city of Fayette he is making a record highly complimentary to himself and entirely satisfactory to the citizens.

Martin Maloney is a native of Savannah, Illinois, where he first saw the light of day on March 2, 1858. He is the son of John and Mary (Hulbert) Maloney, who were well known and highly respected residents of that city. The subject received his education in the schools of his native place, graduating from the high school at the age of sixteen years. In the fall of 1874 he accompanied his parents on their removal to Sabula, Iowa, and there he entered the telegraph office of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad as a student of telegraphy. He rapidly acquired proficiency and in the following fall he was given a position as telegraph operator on the same road. In 1877 he was transferred by the company to Dubuque, Iowa, a much better position. He retained this position until the fall of 1882, when his eyesight failed to such an extent that he was incapacitated for duty, being hardly able to get around without assistance. He resigned his position and during the following two years did no work, devoting himself entirely to the treatment and care of his eyes, which steadily improved. In the spring of 1885 Mr. Maloney returned to the railroad and was given a position at Bellevue, Iowa, where he remained until the spring of 1892, when he was promoted to the position of train dispatcher, with headquarters at Marion, Iowa. He performed the responsible duties of this position to the entire satisfaction of the railroad company and in February, 1899, he received another substantial promotion, being transferred to Fayette and placed in entire charge of the company's business at this place. His duties are multitudinous here, for besides being agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company, he is also agent for the Wells, Fargo & Company Express and local manager for the Western Union Telegraph Company. He is a busy man, but is systematic and energetic and handles his work easily and in a manner that has at all times won the approval of his superiors. He is accommodating and

courteous in his relations with the public and is well liked by all who have dealings with him.

Mr. Maloney has always taken a keen and intelligent interest in local public affairs. He was originally allied with the Democratic party, but in the political upheaval and new alignments of the parties in 1896 he found the principles of the Republican party to be most nearly in harmony with his own ideas, and he chose to be true to his own honest convictions rather than longer cling to a party that did not represent his views. Since 1896 he has been actively identified with the Republican party. He has not been a seeker after political honors, but in 1908, under rather peculiar conditions that prevailed in Fayette, he was induced to accept the nomination for mayor on the Independent ticket. He made the race, and, although the city is normally strongly Republican, he was elected by the handsome majority of eighty votes. He has given an honest and faithful attention to the duties of the position and is giving the city a good businesslike administration.

On December 11, 1879, Mr. Maloney was united in marriage with Eva Confere, a daughter of David and Caroline (Long) Confere, highly respected residents of Lyons, Iowa, where the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Maloney occurred. To this union has been born one daughter, Cora Irene, who is a graduate of the Upper Iowa University and is now assistant principal of the schools at Strawberry Point, Iowa. Religiously Mr. Maloney is a member of the Congregational church, to which he gives an earnest and liberal support. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a man of many estimable qualities and his friends are in number as are his acquaintances, his popularity being attributed to his sterling worth and genial disposition.

FRANK GILMER.

It is proper to judge the success and the status of a man's life by the estimation in which he is held by his fellow citizens. They see him at his work, in his family circle, in his church, at his devotions, hear his views on public questions, observe the outcome of his code of morals, witness how he conducts himself in all the relations of society and civilization and thus become competent to judge of his merits and demerits. Judged by such standards, the life of Frank Gilmer, a farmer of Center township, Fayette county, has been led along proper channels and he therefore enjoys the confidence

and respect of his neighbors and acquaintances. He is a Canadian by birth, having first seen the light of day in the province of Toronto, September 6, 1854, and he is the son of Francis and Nancy N. (Soper) Gilmer, the father born in Scotland and the mother in Canada. His maternal grandfather, Timothy and Martha (Mask) Soper, were both born in Bowmanville, Canada, the grandfather being the first white child born in that township, and there he lived and died. The paternal grandparents came to Canada in an early day. Francis Gilmer, father of Frank, was born in March, 1817, and he came to Canada when young and engaged in the lumber business, and there married. In 1855 he came to Iowa and bought from George Seaton one hundred acres in the northeast corner of section 30, Smithfield township, Fayette county. The land was unimproved, and he erected, first, a log cabin and stable, and in 1863 built a frame house; he improved the place and remained on it until 1869, then moved one and one-half miles south of Fayette, buying there one hundred and ten acres of wild land. He improved this and made his home there until 1875, when he moved to Sumner county, Kansas, where his death occurred in November, 1884. He owned eighty acres there, and he was always a farmer. His family consisted of nine children, five of whom are still living. He was a Republican in politics, but he took little part in public affairs, giving his entire attention to agricultural pursuits. Before coming to "the States" he engaged very extensively in the lumber business. He was fairly successful in all his operations and was a man whom everybody respected.

Frank Gilmer first attended school in a log school-house on the banks of the Volga, the first in that community of Fayette county, later he attended the Fayette high school. After leaving school he devoted his attention to farming and has continued in this line of work, beginning for himself near Fayette. In the fall of 1876 he moved to Kansas and in 1880 returned to Fayette county and rented land for several years, thereby getting a good start. In 1902 he bought one hundred and twenty acres west of Randalia, Center township, and soon afterwards, having closed the deal in September of that year, he moved on the place and has remained on the same, devoting his attention to general farming and stock raising, and his labors in these lines have been crowned by success. He has a neat and comfortable home and good out-buildings, orchard, garden, and everything that makes a country place desirable and complete.

Mr. Gilmer was married on May 5, 1875, to Alice Paine, who was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, in 1854. She is the daughter of Harvey and Laura (Clark) Paine. They came to Iowa in 1864 and settled in sec-

tion 7, Smithfield township, where they bought two hundred acres of land from Deleishe Demott, who had homesteaded the land, and have lived on the place ever since. Mrs. Laura Paine died December 1, 1903, and was buried at the Fayette cemetery. In 1864, when ten years old, Alice Paine accompanied her parents to Fayette county, Iowa, and near the town of Fayette they located on a farm and became well established there. To Mr. and Mrs. Gilmer the following children have been born: Alta, born April 4, 1876; Eugene, born March 9, 1879; Frank, born August 20, 1881; Earl, born November 10, 1884, died December 11, 1887; Edith, born September 3, 1887, died October 8, 1889; Stella, born March 14, 1890; Madge, born February 22, 1894.

Politically, Mr. Gilmer is a Republican and fraternally a Yeoman. He has been trustee of his township and has held other minor local offices, always doing his full share in the work of public improvement and fostering principles calculated to result in general good to his township and county, and is therefore rated as a valued and substantial citizen.

JAMES J. McNAUL.

In this sketch it is a pleasure to record the history of a family whose men are the kind who count for something, strong men, of Scotch descent, of hardihood and courage sufficient for all the vicissitudes of life—such men as go to make a nation powerful.

James McNaul was born in Scotland March 25, 1787, and came to this country as a boy of five with his father, who settled in Pennsylvania and farmed. He was reared on the Center county farm and married Isabella Swanzey, who was born in the same county March 12, 1793. They were the parents of ten children: William, Sarah, Isabella, Thaddeus, James F., John, Jesse, Lebbeus, Lusk and Esther Ann. James McNaul died July 20, 1853. William McNaul was born January 17, 1817, grew up on the farm, and in 1844 married Elizabeth Riley, who was born January 11, 1818. In 1856 they came west, bringing three children, accompanied by his brother Thaddeus, and located in Westfield township, one mile south of Fayette, but remained there only during the winter and then removed six miles south in this county where William lived until his death, farming during his active life. The old farm contained about eighty acres. William was a strong Republican and held many township offices, among them clerk and trustee. He and his wife

were Methodists, very active in church work, and noted about the neighborhood on account of their hospitality. They raised to maturity four of seven children born to them. James F., William's brother, came to Fayette county in 1865, after serving two years in Company I, Thirtieth Wisconsin Infantry, and has lived here since. Thaddeus remained here until his death.

James J. McNaul was born in Clarion county, Pennsylvania, February 14, 1847, the son of William and Elizabeth McNaul. His maternal grandparents were Thomas F. Riley, born August 11, 1793, and Susanna (McBride) McNaul, born September 1, 1796, pioneers of Clarion county who had opened up timber land and died on the homestead. He was a man very much respected and of great influence. In the early forties he joined the Methodist church and was afterwards very active. He lived to the age of ninety-six and when ninety-three walked nearly a mile to the election, his great physical endurance holding out to the end of his life. When young, he used to clear land all day and then do a day's work in his blacksmith shop at night. J. J. McNaul was educated in the common schools, began work on the farm at a very early age and remained on the farm until his parents died. On July 4, 1871, he was married to Mary Howard, and continued farming until 1891, when he went on the road for the J. R. Watkins Medical Company of Winona, Minnesota, the largest concern of its kind in the world, during which time he lived at Vinton, Benton county. In this time he had many interesting experiences, and has witnessed the development of the county into its present prosperity. He retired in the fall of 1907, and in 1908 came to live at Randalia. He has retained the old farm, about two miles west of Randalia, containing one hundred and sixty acres, which his only living son now farms. They make a specialty of Duroc-Jersey hogs, and have raised very high grade individuals of that breed. Mrs. McNaul was born in Union county, Indiana, the daughter of John and Margaret (Hill) Howard. He was the son of James Howard, and was born in New York, while she was probably born in Indiana. Her maternal grandparents were Jacob and Eliza (Smith) Hill, early settlers near South Bend, Indiana, and the parents of a large family. They came to Arlington, Fayette county, Iowa, when the county was new, locating on government land. Jacob Hill was a soldier in the Mohawk war, and Mrs. McNaul had two uncles in the Civil war. Her father first farmed in Delaware county and moved to Randalia about 1860. He was the father of twelve children by two marriages. Since 1891 he has lived in Arlington, and is still, as formerly, very active in the Sunday school and church work of the Christian denomination. Mr. and Mrs. J. J. McNaul are the parents of four children: Margaret Elizabeth,

dead; Willis, who is married and living on the home farm; his wife was formerly Jeannette Burns and they have two children, Hazel Burnie, born June 3, 1903, and Mildred M., born October 16, 1904; Willard, and Cora May, dead. The family are Methodists, and Mr. McNaul is a church worker. He is a Republican and a Knight of Pythias, and a man whose presence in the community honors it and is in every way beneficial. The record of his forefathers was a worthy one, and he has in all respects lived up to it.

JAMES W. ORR.

To a considerable extent the gentleman whose name forms the caption of this sketch is a creditable representative of that class of citizens who win in the battle of life by sheer force of individual characteristics and not through the efforts of others or by legacies bequeathed him by his forebears, a class which has furnished much of the bone and sinew of the country and added to the stability of our government and its institutions.

J. W. Orr was born on the farm immediately south of where he now resides in Westfield township, Fayette county, Iowa, December 22, 1870, and is the son of John and Martha J. (Douglas) Orr, the father born in Canada and the mother in Virginia, thus uniting two families of a sterling but much different type. John Orr came alone from the northern country referred to above, to Fayette county, Iowa, locating in Westfield township in 1858, and here he purchased a fine tract of land, consisting of three hundred and eighty acres, all in one body except ten acres, and, being a hard worker and a good manager, he developed the same in due course of time into an excellent place, and was one of the leading farmers of that early day. He was also the pioneer stock man of Fayette county, for many years handling large numbers of livestock in connection with his farm, and, being a good judge of stock and always on the alert and a good observer, he did a thriving business in this connection and became widely known as a stock man, giving his entire attention to stock feeding and buying and selling and farming. He was influential in the affairs of his township and a man whom everybody admired and respected. His wife came with her uncle, Thomas Douglas, to Fayette county, Iowa.

Two sons and one daughter constituted the family of Mr. and Mrs. John Orr. The father was a Democrat in his political belief, but he did not aspire to political favors, being too busy with his personal affairs.

J. W. Orr of this review was educated in the public schools of his native community and the commercial department of the Upper Iowa University. He worked on the home farm and he has continued as a farmer and stock man and has preferred to spend his life on his native "heath," realizing that greater opportunities existed for him right here at home. He has a splendid farm here of two hundred and thirty-three acres, and eighty-six and one-half acres elsewhere. His land is well improved in every respect and ranks with the best in the township. He formerly won considerable local recognition as a breeder of Polled-Angus cattle. He has been very successful as a business man and everything about his place shows good management and thrift.

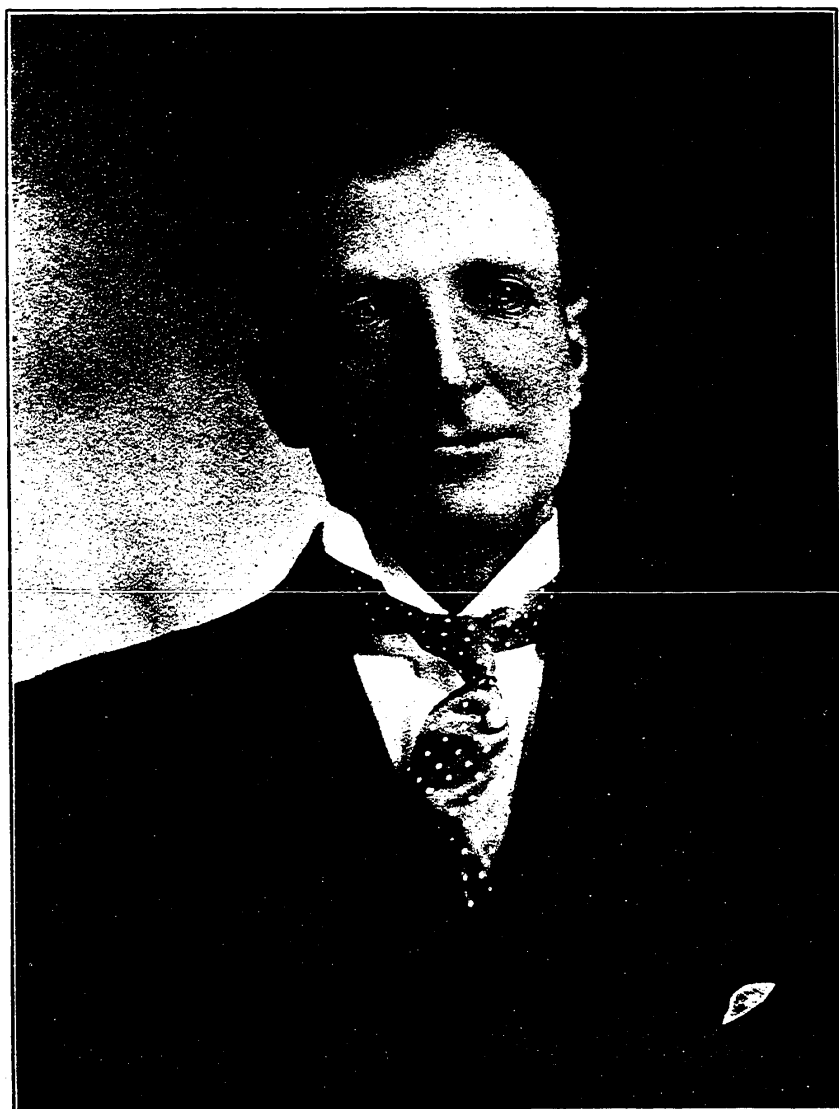
Mr. Orr was married January 9, 1895, to Dora Thomas, daughter of G. C. and Priscilla (McCannon) Thomas, the father a native of the state of New York and the mother of Pennsylvania. They grew to maturity in the East and were married there, and they came to Illinois in 1859, and in 1885 came on to Iowa, locating in Independence. They were the parents of ten children. Mr. Thomas is a veterinary surgeon, still in the active practice, now living at Clear Lake, South Dakota. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Orr; Francis Donald, Lotta May and Dorothy Lavon.

Mr. Orr is a Democrat politically, and, like his honored father before him, takes an abiding interest in whatever tends to the betterment of his community and county.

J. W. DWYER.

Among the leading business men of West Union, Fayette county, Iowa, none take higher rank than the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch, who is successfully engaged in the real estate business. The success attained in his business enterprises has been greatly owing to his steady persistence, stern integrity and excellent judgment, qualities which cause him to take rank with the leading business men of this section of the county, besides winning for him the confidence and esteem of the public to a marked degree.

J. W. Dwyer was born in Georgetown, Colorado, on August 26, 1871, and is a son of Michael and Mary (Galvin) Dwyer, both of whom were natives of New York state, though of Irish parentage. The subject's paternal grandparents, Dennis Dwyer and wife, were natives of county Limerick, Ireland, and on their emigration to America they settled at Hancock, Michigan, where the husband died. He had there followed the pursuit of farming and was a



J. W. DWYER.

man of fine qualities. The subject's maternal grandparents, John and Mary (Welch) Galvin, who also were natives of Ireland, located in New York on reaching the United States, and in that state he successfully carried on railroad contracting. Subsequently he came to Fayette county, Iowa, where he became a pioneer farmer, having entered land. He was successful in this enterprise, and acquired more land from time to time, until his accumulations amounted to six hundred and forty acres. He remained on this farm until his death, his life here having been replete with duty faithfully performed and honorable relations with those with whom he came in contact.

Michael Dwyer, the subject's father, followed the calling of mining and, going to Colorado, he operated one of the big mines of that state in its infancy, being considered an expert in his line. In 1878 he came to Fayette county and bought a farm near Westgate, to which he devoted his attention. The place now comprises two hundred and fifty-one acres and is generally considered one of the best farms in the township. Mr. Dwyer has here carried on a general line of farming and has also with much success given attention to the raising of livestock. In 1900 Mr. Dwyer relinquished the active labor of the farm and retired to the village of Westgate, where he now resides. To Michael and Mary Dwyer seven children were born, of whom five are now living.

J. W. Dwyer was reared under the parental roof and received his preliminary education in the public schools of Fayette county, also taking a full commercial course in the Upper Iowa University. At the age of nineteen years he engaged in the general mercantile business, forming a partnership with William H. Schoonmaker, this business being carried on until 1898. In 1892 Messrs. Schoonmaker and Dwyer began a private banking business, which was conducted with marked success until 1898, when they organized the State Savings Bank of Westgate, of which the subject became the vice-president, which office he still retains. The two gentlemen became associated also in the real estate business at Westgate, to which line Mr. Dwyer gave his entire attention until October 21, 1901, when he moved to West Union. On April 1, 1902, he bought the Colgrove & Snyder lumber and coal yards, taking possession on the 1st of the following October. He operated this business alone for several years, and then formed a partnership with F. B. Tamblyn, with whom he has since remained associated. Mr. Dwyer has given the greater part of his attention to the real estate business, his operations in the main being confined to Iowa and North Dakota, more particularly to Fayette county. His judgment is considered good as to real estate values and his

splendid business ability and sterling qualities of character have given him a marked prestige among business men. He has taken an active and leading part in efforts to advance the interests of the community and has served as president of the Commercial Club continuously since its organization, giving much of his time and personal effort to advance the business interests of the thriving town of West Union. Mr. Dwyer is also a partner with A. F. Dellit in the lumber and coal business at Wapaloo, Iowa, one of the leading commercial enterprises of that city.

Politically, Mr. Dwyer is a staunch Democrat and has taken an active interest in the success of his party. In November, 1899, he was elected a member of the county board of supervisors, and so eminently satisfactory were his services that he was re-elected to the office in 1904. The more noteworthy is the fact that he is the only Democrat ever elected to that office in Fayette county. Religiously he and his family are members of the Catholic church, to which they give a liberal support. His fraternal relations are with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Knights of Columbus.

On September 13, 1893, Mr. Dwyer was married to Grace Vanwie, of Osage, Iowa, and they became the parents of two children, Lillian, deceased, and Leo. Mrs. Grace Dwyer died in 1897, and on October 16, 1901, Mr. Dwyer married Helen Farr, a daughter of Levi L. Farr, a prominent citizen of Fayette county, who was a veteran of the Civil war and at one time sheriff of this county. To this union were born two children, John L., born in 1903, and Donald W., born in 1905. Mr. Dwyer is a man of fine personal qualities, possessing a genial disposition that enables him to readily make friends. He is public-spirited and is numbered among the progressive citizens of the community, being highly regarded by all who know him.

DENNIS TOOMEY.

One of the highly honored citizens of Fayette county who has lived a long, eventful and useful life is Dennis Toomey, a retired farmer of Wadena, Illyria township, a man deserving a place in his county's history for many reasons, too evident to enumerate. He was born in Cork, Ireland, February 4, 1836. His mother died about 1842, leaving three children, of whom Dennis was the oldest; the two younger children died soon afterwards. Their father, Patrick Toomey, came to America in 1844, locating in St. Lawrence

county, New York, where he went to work as a laborer on a railroad and later as contractor; still later he took contracts for building public roads in St. Lawrence county. He had left his children in Ireland, in care of his parents. Practically left to shift for himself, Dennis Toomey soon became a man in wisdom although but a child in years. He witnessed the horrible ravages of the famine which devastated his native land in his youth, and which was charged to British rule. He became imbued with a spirit of self-reliance as well as an intense hatred of the British. At an early age he left his grandfather's home and began the life of a tramp in his native country, a common thing in those days, and he lived by tending cattle on the commons for relatives and friends. During all this time his mind dwelt upon the time when he could make the trip to America, and in some manner beat the English. In 1852 he joined his father in St. Lawrence county, New York, and worked as a teamster and general chore boy. His father had married again and the parental home was not very congenial. In 1858 he left home and made his way across the country to Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, and there he secured work as teamster for Major Russell and Miller, government freighters, and he drove an ox team over the plains to Salt Lake City, Utah. There he joined three other men and with them walked to Carson City, Nevada. They had one pony, which they loaded with blankets, provisions, etc. From Carson City, Mr. Toomey walked to Sacramento, California, carrying his blankets and provisions on his back. In California he went to work in the harvest fields. In the early part of 1860 he left that state and went to New York by way of the Isthmus, paying one hundred and thirty dollars in gold for his passage. While in California he became acquainted with a number of Southern men and decided to go to the South to work. After visiting his father in New York he went to the parish of Pointe Coupee, near Bayou Sara, Louisiana, and here he went to work for a Mr. Jewell building roads, levees, etc., on his plantation. This was in the winter of 1860 and 1861.

Mr. Toomey was a strong advocate of the Union, having become naturalized, and he was also an ardent enemy of the English. He became a "chum" of Mr. Jewell's nephew, who was a strong secessionist, and they engaged in some heated debates, one of which is possibly responsible for the building of the famous "Merrimac." Mr. Toomey maintained that the Yankees could do anything, could foresee every danger and would provide for them, protecting their boats against the cannon of the Confederates. His rebel friend knew that the wooden hulls of vessels would not turn a cannon ball and inquired how this could be accomplished, and was informed by the subject that they could be covered with iron railroad rails. This idea at once suggested

itself as of value to each and although Mr. Toomey is a good scholar and a great reader, also endowed with lots of mother wit and the knowledge gained by hard knocks from the world, he eventually gave the Confederates the ideas which led to the building of the iron-clad "Merrimac," as above stated.

In the early spring of 1861 he was ordered to report for drill three days a week with a Confederate company being organized; the order came to report on a Thursday morning, but when the time for the drill arrived he was far on his way to Cairo, Illinois, but he had very little money, not being able to collect his wages. He developed the idea, born in argument with his rebel friend, and on his tramp from Cairo to New York he outlined his ideas to the men of intelligence with whom he came in contact and whom he considered would be able to impart the knowledge to the proper persons who might utilize them for the benefit of the United States government, and it is on record that the noted inventor, John Ericsson, who developed the ironclad "Monitor," always claimed that it was the idea of some unknown person, and although England built the first ironclad battleship, Mr. Toomey feels that he has the satisfaction of knowing they developed the idea of an Irish-American laborer.

Upon his arrival in New York City, Mr. Toomey, in 1861, shipped on a boat bound for California as a coal heaver, but by a fortunate circumstance was employed as wiper in the engine room. While in California he worked on a farm. Leaving that state in 1864 for New York, he landed in Fayette county, Iowa, the following winter and located at Arlington, where he bought one hundred and twenty acres, making his home on this farm until 1894, when he sold out and bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 16 and forty acres in section 20, Illyria township, and he owns this farm at present. In 1904 he moved from his farm to a house on the farm of his son-in-law in the outskirts of Wadena, where he still resides. He has been very successful in his life work, considering the hard time he had getting started, and now in his old age he is very comfortably fixed, as he well deserves to be, and he has the confidence and respect of his neighbors and all who know him. Politically, he is a Republican, a member of the Catholic church and faithful in his support of the same. In 1865 Mr. Toomey married Mary Leahy, who was born in county Tipperary, Ireland, November 10, 1838, the daughter of Timothy and Mary (Dwyer) Leahy, natives of that county, also. The father died in Ireland. Mrs. Leahy and four of six children, of whom Mary was the eldest, came to America in 1860. The family located in Syracuse, New York, where they remained until 1864, when they came to Fayette county, Iowa, and bought land in Fairfield township.

Mr. and Mrs. Toomey are the parents of four children, namely: Annie

J., who has remained single, is at home with her parents; Minnie E., born December 25, 1868, married, October 7, 1891, John C. Corkery, who was born July 5, 1862, in Illinois, and he is the son of John and Ellen (Barrett) Corkery, natives of Cork, Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Corkery live on a farm of one hundred and ninety-seven acres in sections 27 and 34, Illyria township, just outside the town of Wadena. They are the parents of nine children: Henry L., Francis J., William E., Richard M., Ellen R., Kathaleen M., Edna E. and Erma E. (twins) and Anna B. The third child born to Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Toomey was Margaret C., who is living at home, and the youngest child, Patrick W., lives on the home farm.

JOHN H. MATTOCKS.

Although a young man, John H. Mattocks is considered one of Illyria township's most progressive and substantial citizens, having demonstrated what perseverance, rightly-applied energy and good principles can accomplish if properly directed. He is the scion of an old and highly honored family, the good name of which he has ever sought to keep untarnished, therefore, he enjoys the confidence and respect of all who know him. He was born in Illyria township, Fayette county, Iowa, January 31, 1870, and was educated in the public schools of his native community. He is the son of Wilder M. and Anna E. (Henderson) Mattocks, the former born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, May 24, 1834, and the latter in the state of New Jersey. Mr. Mattocks came to Marion county, Iowa, with his parents about 1848. After remaining here a year, they returned to Pennsylvania, but about 1852 or 1853 came back to Iowa and located in Fayette county. They made the three trips overland in old-time covered wagons. They owned a horse that made the three trips. Upon their second trip they purchased a farm in Pleasant Valley township, later buying a farm in Illyria township, where they spent the remaining years of their lives. Wilder M. Mattocks made his home on the farm with his parents until he married Anna E. Henderson, just previous to the commencement of the Civil war, about 1860. In 1862 he proved his patriotism by enlisting in Company H, Thirty-eighth Iowa Infantry. He had two brothers and three brothers-in-law, who served throughout the war, all enlisting from Fayette county, but not in the same regiment. They all lived to return home after the war; only one of them was wounded, W. B. Warner, of Clermont, at the battle of Fort Donelson. The elder Mattocks bought a farm

during or just previous to the Civil war in Illyria township. After returning from the army, he lived on this farm until about 1872, when he sold out and bought a farm near Hawkeye, where Mrs. Mattocks died in March, 1873, leaving four children, one having died in infancy. About 1875 he sold out and moved to his mother's farm in Illyria township, which he bought at the death of his mother and on which he spent the rest of his life. This farm, consisting of eighty acres in section 11, was one of the best improved in this locality. Upon the death of the elder Mattocks, his sons, W. D. and John H., purchased the place, which they managed successfully until the summer of 1902 when they sold it.

Wilder M. Mattocks was a member of West Union Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was not a public man, but took much interest in the welfare of his community. His death occurred in 1899. To Mr. and Mrs. Wilder M. Mattocks the following children were born: Elvira is the wife of J. C. Curtis, of Jennings, Oklahoma; Allie E. is the wife of John Johnson, of near Gunder, Clayton county, Iowa; John H., of this review; William D. lives on a farm near Wadena, Iowa.

The parents of Wilder M. Mattocks, Daniel G. and Elizabeth (Hahn) Mattocks, were both natives of Pennsylvania, the former dying about 1872, the latter surviving until about 1882. Of the nine children born to them, five are still living, namely: Mrs. Adelia Warner, of Clermont, Iowa; Mrs. Aurelia Payne, of Wall Lake, Iowa; Mrs. Elmina Babcock, of Idaho; Jason lives in Portland, Oregon; Ross lives at Jennings, Oklahoma.

John H. Mattocks, of this sketch, made his home with his father until he was fifteen years of age, at which time he began life for himself as a farm hand, working out part of the time and for his father part of the time until the age of twenty years, when he began work for himself. The first land he or his brothers owned was the home farm of eighty acres, which they bought in 1900. They sold out in 1902 and in 1903 they bought one hundred and ninety-seven acres in sections 26 and 27, Illyria township. In 1909 John H. sold his interest to his brother and bought one hundred and thirty-eight acres, known as the Gilson farm, fifty-six acres in section 6, Illyria township, the balance in section 31, Pleasant Valley township. He is a very painstaking farmer and keeps his place well improved and he deserves to rank among the leading agriculturists of the county, for he is always fully abreast of the times.

Politically, Mr. Mattocks is a Republican, but in county politics he votes independently. Fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Lodge No. 723, of Wadena, also the Modern Woodmen of America.

On February 24, 1909, he married Ida A. Rothlisberger, who was born October 15, 1871, in this township. She is the daughter of Simon and Elizabeth (Neuenschwander) Rothlisberger, natives of Switzerland. Mr. and Mrs. Mattocks have no children.

FRIEDERICH VAGTS.

The agricultural interests of Dover township are well represented by the subject of this review, who is one of the practical and enterprising farmers of his section of Fayette county. Like many other successful self-made men of Iowa, he is an American by adoption only, being a native of Germany, from whence came so much of the bone and sinew of this great western republic. Wherever known the German type is noted for thrift and enterprise, the subject of this mention being no exception to this rule.

Friederich Vagts was born in Germany on February 14, 1852, and is a son of John and Anna (Pape) Vagts, also natives of the Fatherland and who never left their native community. The subject was reared by his parents and secured his education in the schools of his native land. At the age of eighteen years he came to the United States, locating in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he was employed at farm work. In 1878 he came to Dover township, Fayette county, locating on the farm on which he now resides, just south of Eldorado. His original farm comprised eighty-eight and a half acres, but as he has prospered he has added to his landed possessions until his present holdings amount to four hundred acres, all located in this township. He has been a hard worker and has carried on a diversified system of agriculture, in connection with which he has engaged extensively in stock business, raising cattle and hogs, the latter being thoroughbred Poland-China. He has made many permanent and substantial improvements on the place, which has been maintained at a high standard of efficiency and productiveness, so that he has been enabled to realize a maximum of results in return for his labor.

In 1879 Mr. Vagts was united in marriage with Rosa Schatz, the daughter of Lawrence Schatz, a native of Germany, and to them have been born the following children: Subenia (Mrs. H. Gross), Emma (Mrs. W. Lanes), Fritz, Freda, Evalt and Lawrence, the four last named being at home assisting in the operation of the farm.

Politically, Mr. Vagts is a staunch adherent of the Republican party and is rendering efficient service as a member of the board of school directors.

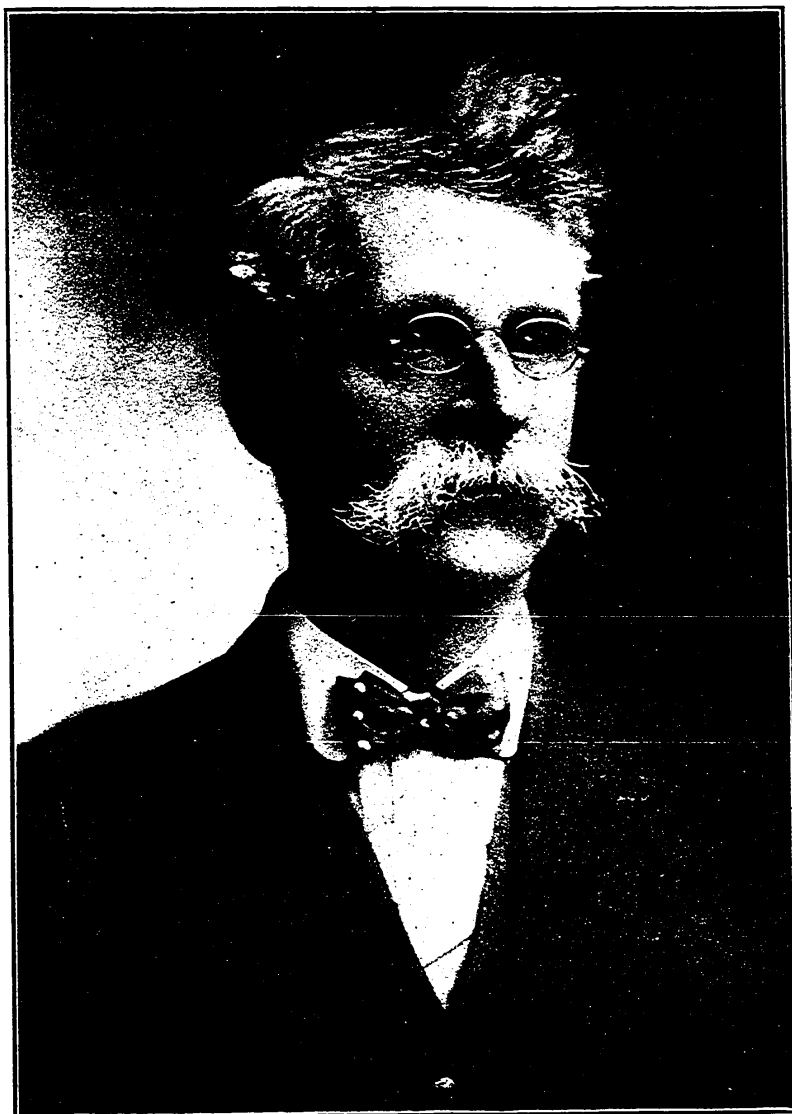
Religiously, he is a member of the Lutheran church, to which he gives an earnest and liberal support. Mr. Vagts deserves much credit for what he has accomplished. He has been a hard worker and has succeeded despite early disadvantages, until today he is one of the county's most representative agriculturists. He enjoys an extensive acquaintance throughout this part of the county and is held in high esteem because of his sterling character and honesty of his motives.

Lawrence Schatz, father of Mrs. Vagts, was born in Germany and came to the United States in the fifties, locating first in Pennsylvania. Eventually he moved to Lawrenceburg, Indiana, where he was variously employed. In 1868 he came to Iowa, settling where his son, George Schatz, now resides. After residing at different places, he settled in Eldorado, but subsequently went to Oregon, and then to California where he resided for a time. Eventually he returned to Eldorado, where his death occurred. Mr. Schatz was a soldier on behalf of his adopted country during the Civil war, enlisting in 1862 in an Indiana command. Near the close of the war he was wounded in the neck and spent some time in a hospital, after which he returned to his home. He was a man of splendid personal qualities and enjoyed a high standing wherever he lived.

C. F. BECKER.

The most elaborate history is necessarily an abridgment, the historian being compelled to select his facts and materials from a multitude of details. So in every life of honor and usefulness the biographer finds no dearth of incident, and yet in summing up the career of any man the writer needs touch only the most salient points, giving only the keynote of the character, but eliminating much that is superfluous. Consequently, in calling the reader's attention to the life record of the worthy gentleman whose name heads this paragraph no attempt shall be made to recount all the important acts in his useful life, nor recite every interesting incident in his commendable career, for it is deemed that only a few of them will suffice to show him to be eminently worthy of a place in this volume along with his fellows of high standing and recognized worth.

C. F. Becker, the well-known and well-liked cashier of the Citizens State Bank at Elgin, Fayette county, was born two and one-fourth miles east of Arlington, Fairfield township, this county, on July 30, 1860, and he is the son of Frederick and Sophia (Miller) Becker, an honored and influential family of



C. F. BECKER.

that place, the father having been born in Gutenberg, Germany, and the mother at Eospringer, Baden, Germany. The father came to America when only fourteen years of age, unaccompanied, located first at Cleveland, Ohio, where he remained three years, then came to Fayette county, Iowa, where he soon got a good start and he has since resided continuously in this county, now having a good farm and a very pleasant home. His wife was seventeen years old when she came to the United States, having accompanied her brother here, they coming direct to Fayette county, Iowa, and here she grew to maturity, received her education and met and married Mr. Becker.

C. F. Becker received the advantages of a liberal education, having attended the common schools of his native community, later taking a preparatory course at the Upper Iowa University at Fayette and then attended the academy at Iowa City. Deciding on a business career, after having worked at farming on the home place during the summers of many years, he went to Poughkeepsie, New York, and took a commercial course, graduating there with an excellent record in 1882. He soon afterward returned to Fayette county, Iowa, then went to Grand Island, Nebraska, where he clerked for some time, then came to Clermont, Iowa, and clerked there about eight years, then in September, 1892, he became cashier of the Citizens' State Bank at Elgin, Fayette county, and has continued to worthily and satisfactorily discharge the duties of that responsible position to the present time, the numerous patrons of this popular bank ever finding him obliging and courteous and well qualified by education and innate ability to fill such an important place. He has been very successful in a business way and he is a stockholder and treasurer of the Elgin Canning Company, a large and growing concern of this place.

Mr. Becker was married on May 13, 1885, to Alice A. Ford, of an excellent and well established family at Clermont, this county, where she was reared and educated and where she has a wide circle of friends. To Mr. and Mrs. Becker the following interesting family has been born: Ray A. graduated from the medical department of the Iowa State University in 1910, where he made an excellent record and is exceptionally well equipped for his chosen calling. Harry F. Becker is living on his father's farm, devoting his attention to agriculture; Clarence and Lewis F. are also members of the family circle.

Fraternally, Mr. Becker is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and also the Legion of Honor. Politically, he is a Republican and he has been school director of his district

for many years. No man in this part of the county stands higher in public esteem than Mr. Becker, having always led a life of uprightness and been strictly honest in all the relations of life, besides aiding in any way possible the advancement of his community.

DANIEL PROCTOR.

For many years the farmer was apparently downtrodden and oppressed. He seemed to be exploited by every capitalist and middleman; poverty was his lot; he was in the rut, seemingly never to get anywhere else. Now, how different his position. Bountiful crops and the increasing needs of the country have placed the farmer in a situation where he is envied by all. Prices are high, his land has doubled in value; his barns are overflowing and the farmers are today the most independent class in the country.

Daniel Proctor was born in Summit county, Ohio, September 14, 1848, the son of Nathan R. Proctor, born July 24, 1820, at Ames, Athens county, Ohio, and Lucy Ann (Perkins) Proctor, born at Northampton, Portage county, Ohio. His father married, for his second wife, Susan Collins, who was born at Charleston, Portage county, Ohio. His paternal grandparents were Henry Proctor, born April 16, 1789, at Danvers, Essex county, Massachusetts, and Electa (Rice) Proctor, born at Brookfield, Worcester county, Massachusetts, April 8, 1790. His father was educated in the public schools, and followed farming. He came west in 1854 and located on the farm which Daniel now owns, which he improved and made his home on until his death. In 1862 he enlisted in Company G, Thirty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served, among other campaigns, at the siege of Vicksburg. He died at Camp Carlton, New Orleans, of fever. Nearly half of his company died the same way. He was a brave and efficient soldier. He reared two children, Daniel and one daughter.

Daniel Proctor was educated in the home schools, and has always lived on the old homestead, which he has improved greatly and added to until it now consists of one hundred and twenty acres. Like the wisest farmers, he devotes his farm largely to livestock and makes a specialty of hogs and dairying. He was married April 20, 1873, to Mary McFadden, daughter of Thomas McFadden, of Fayette county. They are the parents of eight children: Lucy E., Lillie M., Kate E., Charles R., Mertie (deceased), Henry E., Pearl S. and Lyle M.

Mr. Proctor is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a Republican, has been school director and the just confidence which his neighbors have in him is shown by the fact that they have elected him to the office of township trustee for the last four terms. He is in every way one of the township's most substantial citizens.

WALTER PRITCHARD.

Among the enterprising and highly respected citizens of Fayette county, Iowa, is Walter Pritchard, owner of one of the banner farms of Illyria township, and who has come to us from the far-away little country of Wales, his birth having occurred in Breconshire, that country, on November 17, 1844. He was educated in the public schools of Wales and spent one term in school in Pennsylvania. He is the son of William and Esther (Price) Pritchard, both natives of Breconshire, Wales. They left their native country in June, 1855, and came to America, locating in Tremont, Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, where they lived one year, then came to Fayette county, Iowa, in June, 1856, where the elder Pritchard purchased seventy acres in section 18, Illyria township, and remained there one year. Then he sold out and bought one hundred and ten acres in section 8, of this township, later adding ninety-one acres to his first purchase, and here the parents made their home until their deaths. The father was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Wales, but did not join this lodge after coming to America. Politically, he was a Democrat, but never an office seeker. His family consisted of three children, namely: Walter, of this review; Ann, wife of W. H. McGee, of Illyria township; Mary, wife of George Follensbee, who resides on the Pritchard homestead in Illyria township. The mother of these children died on May 11, 1864, when forty-four years of age. William Pritchard, the father, was born July 4, 1813, died February 13, 1891.

Walter Pritchard, of this review, remained on his father's farm until he was twenty-two years of age, when he moved to a forty-acre farm of wild land which his father gave him in section 17, Illyria township, also bought three acres more in order to get a proper outlet to the highway. The only dwelling on this place was a small log house, with clap-board roof. After living on this farm one year, he sold it and bought eighty acres in section 5, where he has since made his home. He has added to his original purchase at different times, until he had two hundred acres. Of this amount he gave his son, Wil-

son W., fifty acres. The subject also bought eighty-one acres, forty in section 32, Pleasant Valley township, and forty-one in section 5, Illyria township, which he gave his son William. He has always carried on diversified farming, and he retired from active farm work three years ago and now rents his place to his son Wilson. Politically, he is a Democrat, but has never held office.

On October 28, 1865, Walter Pritchard married Ann Wilson, who was born in county Durham, England, March 10, 1847, the daughter of Christopher and Jane (Morras) Wilson, natives of England, the father born October 26, 1823, and the mother in 1824. They came to America in June, 1852, locating at once in Fayette county, Iowa, on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in sections 9 and 16, Illyria township, later purchased forty acres in section 15, later bought one hundred and twenty-seven acres in sections 9 and 16, also owned a half section in Cherokee county, Iowa. Mr. Wilson continued to reside on his farm in Illyria township until his death, February 27, 1885. Mrs. Wilson died August 20, 1872, leaving seven children, namely: Mrs. Ann Pritchard; William M., who lives in Union township; Judith, who died in 1909, when fifty-three years old; Christopher H. lives in section 17, Illyria township; John lives in section 5, Illyria township; Joseph lives in Fayette, Iowa; Mary is the wife of Louis Hunsberger, of Illyria township.

Mr. and Mrs. Pritchard are the parents of seven children, five of whom are living, namely: Esther, born in October, 1866, wife of John Langerman, of Westfield township; Jane, born February 23, 1868, is the wife of J. E. Dickinson, of Westfield township, and has two sons, Ralph M. and Harry E.; William Pritchard, born June 9, 1870, married Beula Baldwin, lives in Illyria township and has one child, Walter A.; Wilson W., born November 25, 1871, married Della Butler, and they have one child, Roscoe D.; Mary D., born November 11, 1873, died August 13, 1892; Stella A., born April 3, 1876, is the wife of George Baldwin, lives in Illyria township and has three children, Albert, Clarence and Clinton.

GEORGE FOLENSBEE.

In every locality no class of people are more respected or stand higher as a whole than the country-bred sons, for it is from the farm that spring the substantial men of the land. If we will review the lives of many of the men who have a place in our country's history, we will find that they

received their early training amidst the wholesome influence of the farm fireside.

While the subject of this sketch has not attained a high degree of prominence, he has the right to claim the esteem of his fellow men, and he does rank among the leading citizens and farmers in his native county in point of clean character, which is the keynote of a successful life. He is one whose life has been linked with that of the pleasant environments of the farm from his infancy. He was born in Illyria township, Fayette county, Iowa, September 17, 1859, the oldest living son in a family of six children, and has had a continuous residence in this county. His parents, Dexter and Isabelle (Meikle) Folensbee, located here about 1855 and had a share in assisting in the growth and improvement of Fayette county.

Dexter Folensbee was born in Enfield, New Hampshire, March 3, 1823. His wife was a native of Scotland, the place of her birth being near Edinburgh, and the year 1826. When Isabelle Meikle was a maiden of fifteen summers, she, in company with her parents, embarked to America, little realizing perhaps, that in this foreign country she was to meet her husband. A little prior to her arrival in Trumbull county, Ohio, where her parents settled, young Folensbee's parents had come from the New England states, both families locating on nearby farms. Here these young people grew up and a romance began which resulted in their marriage, in April, 1846. About ten years later they came to Iowa and remained for a short time at Lima, in Westfield township, when they removed to Illyria township and located on a farm of forty acres which he entered in section 20. They lived here eight or ten years and, selling their property to a good advantage, they bought a farm of one hundred and fifty acres in sections 18 and 19, which they made their residence until they passed away. Dexter Folensbee died July 31, 1891, his wife expiring November 14, 1885. They were adherents to Christianity, and, although deprived of present-day church affiliations, they worshipped within their home and lived every-day lives consistent for a follower of God. Politically, Mr. Folensbee was a Whig. Later he became a Republican, and assisted local politics by efficiently holding several minor township offices. They were the parents of six children, of whom two died quite young. Those living are Mrs. Jennette Eller, the oldest; George, the subject of this sketch; Frank Folensbee, and Mrs. Adelia Shepard, who reside in Westfield township.

George Folensbee remained with his parents and assisted with the farm duties until his marriage. At the age of twenty-one years he concluded to accept responsibility and began renting land and working it in connection with

that of his parents. At the time of his marriage, September 16, 1886, to Mary E. Pritchard, he took up his abode on a farm of one hundred acres in Illyria township, section 8, which was a gift to his wife from her parents, William and Esther (Price) Pritchard, it being the old homestead of her parents, and on which she has lived since less than one year of age. They keep it in the best of condition and it may truly be said that it is a valuable piece of property. Mr. and Mrs. Folensbee had educational advantages alike, both having received the instruction that the district school offered. They are the proud parents of one child, a daughter of education and many accomplishments. She was born October 6, 1887. Mr. Folensbee is a Republican. He has never taken an active interest in office seeking, but prefers studying the issues at hand and voting as behooves the honest American citizen.

ALBERT P. JOHNSON.

With a reputation of an honorable, upright man, industrious, temperate, economical and in every way exemplary in his every-day life and conduct, Albert P. Johnson, of Smithfield township, Fayette county, has performed well his part as a factor of the body politic and no one questions his standing as one of the leading farmers and enterprising citizens of the community in which he lives. He was born in McHenry county, Illinois, February 13, 1848, and, having come to Fayette county, Iowa, when a boy, received most of his education in the common schools here, with three terms in Upper Iowa University at Fayette. He is the son of Benjamin N. and Eliza (Sears) Johnson, the former born in the state of New York, August 6, 1803, and the latter born in the Empire state on July 10, 1806. They were both reared on farms and married in their native state, after which event they moved to McHenry county, Illinois, where Mr. Johnson bought a farm and lived until 1853, when they moved to Fayette county, Iowa, and located on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, forty acres each in sections 6 and 7, Smithfield township, and eighty acres in Harlan township, a part of this farm being owned at present by their son, the subject.

Politically, Mr. Johnson was a Whig, and later a Republican. He was a member of the Congregational church and a deacon in the same for many years, having always been a regular attendant on church services. Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin N. Johnson were the parents of eight children, of whom Albert P. of this review was the seventh in order of birth; three of these children are

living, namely: William S., who was born October 24, 1834, and resides in Wichita, Kansas; Mrs. Nancy Hulbert, born May 31, 1838, lives at Norwalk, California; Albert P., of this review. The father of these children was called from his labors on November 22, 1885, having been preceded to the grave by his wife in October, 1862.

Albert P. Johnson made his home with his father on the farm until the fall of 1876, when he rented a farm for about a year and a half. In the spring of 1878 he returned to the home place and rented it of his father, and he lived on this place in a house which he built upon moving there, until 1884, when he rented the adjoining farm and moved onto it, remaining there until the spring of 1887, when he returned to the home farm, which he bought in 1892, and, with the exception of the year 1903 and 1904, he has continued to make his home on the farm. During the period referred to he spent two years in Oelwein, Iowa. Mr. Johnson made a great success of general farming and stock raising, and he retired from active farm work in the spring of 1910.

Politically, Mr. Johnson is an independent voter, believing in men rather than party platforms, and he has never held political office. He is a member of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen, Lodge No. 51, of Maynard, Iowa. He and his wife were formerly members of the United Brethren church, but at present they are not members of any denomination.

On October 16, 1872, Mr. Johnson married Helen Bunton, who was born at Union, Rock county, Wisconsin, July 4, 1852. She was educated in the public schools of Fayette, Fayette county, Iowa. She is the daughter of Rev. Willis T. and Hila H. (Farris) Bunton, natives of London, Laurel county, Kentucky, the father born April 11, 1805, and the mother on January 5, 1810. They were married in Kentucky, later moving to Illinois, thence to Wisconsin, and finally to Fayette county, Iowa, locating on government land, three miles south of West Union. The death of Mr. Bunton occurred on July 19, 1890, and that of Mrs. Bunton on July 19, 1870. Mrs. Johnson is the eleventh of a family of twelve children, and she is the sister of L. M. Bunton, of West Union township. Two sons have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Ernest B., born March 17, 1878, and Willis B., born September 12, 1873, who lives in Des Moines, Iowa, is connected with the Des Moines Silo Company, and is secretary of the Iowa State Dairy Association. After graduating from the Fayette Business College, he was graduated from the Ames College of Agriculture in dairying; he was assistant state dairy commissioner for several years, but resigned that important post in 1910. Ernest B. Johnson resides in St. Paul, Minnesota. After completing his education, he took up

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the study of music, both vocal and instrumental, and he is considered an expert piano tuner, the best in the Twin Cities, and as a teacher of vocal and instrumental music and as a composer of popular music he has won an envied reputation. Both he and his brother are young men of exceptional ability, and, judging by their marked success in the past, the future will doubtless crown them with many additional laurels.

EDWARD C. DORLAND.

Edward C. Dorland, now deceased, was an enterprising business man and influential citizen of West Union. He was wide-awake, energetic and abreast of the times in all that concerns the material prosperity of the city and the social and moral welfare of the populace. He has been much in the public eye and his great personal popularity was indicative of the high esteem in which he was held by his fellow men, his death, on June 23, 1910, being greatly deplored by all who knew him.

Ed C. Dorland was a native of Fayette county, Iowa, and a son of John and Sarah (Schrack) Dorland, both born in Richland county, Ohio. These parents came to West Union in October, 1852, but shortly after their arrival moved to a farm, where the father's death occurred in 1865, his widow subsequently becoming the wife of Volney N. Brown, an ex-soldier of the Civil war, with whom she is still living, both having reached the advanced age of about eighty years.

The Dorlands were very early settlers of Fayette county and their descendants are now numbered among the esteemed and substantial men and women of their respective communities. James Dorland, the first of the name to move to this part of the state, died in 1864 previous to the arrival of his family from Ohio. Among his children who afterwards became well known and took an active part in the affairs of their different places of residence were: John, father of the subject; Mrs. Elizabeth Gruver, Daniel W., Cornelius, Clermont V. and Mrs. Mary Herriman, all deceased, Mrs. Herriman, the last of the family, departing this life in the year 1909.

The surviving children of John and Sarah Dorland are three in number, namely: James Charles, of Sioux Rapids, Iowa; Mrs. Anna Caldwell, who lives at Fort Dodge, and George F., a farmer of Spencer county, this state, all well settled in life and greatly interested in their neighbors and friends.



EDWARD C. DORLAND.

Ed C. Dorland was born August 11, 1857, on the home farm in Clermont township, where he early learned those lessons of industry and thrift which characterized his life from that time to its close. When fourteen years old he quit his studies in the public schools to begin work for himself and from that tender age he made his own way in the world. During the first ten years of his independent career he was employed in a hotel as chore and general utility boy, and at the expiration of that time turned his attention to the barber trade, in which he soon became quite proficient, and at which he worked on a weekly salary during the seventeen years ensuing. In 1881 he purchased a shop of his own, and with the exception of two years this had been his chief occupation subsequently, although becoming identified with various other business enterprises in the meantime. In 1902 he bought the stand formerly owned by his employer, the late George Thompson, one of the finest and best equipped establishments of the kind in the city, operating three chairs and sparing neither pains nor expense to make his place attractive to his customers. In connection with his regular business he was also proprietor of a fine billiard parlor, containing four tables, and two bowling alleys, both establishments affording a pleasant means of amusement and recreation to the young men of the town. Ordinarily he gave employment to three assistants, but during certain seasons the services of several more were required, his place being the most popular resort of this kind in the city and always conducted in a quiet, peaceable manner, meeting the approval of the public.

Mr. Dorland's business ventures were quite successful and he was one of the financially solid men of West Union, owning several valuable properties in the city, also a large stone livery barn and two dwelling houses which rent at liberal figures, besides holding considerable stock in the Fayette National Bank, of which institution for eleven years he was a director.

Beginning life without capital and with no assistance save that afforded by a sound body, willing hands and a laudable ambition to succeed, Mr. Dorland made the most of his opportunities and the competency which he acquired and the honorable place which he had attained in business circles were due entirely to his own unaided efforts. In the true sense of the term he was a self-made man and as such exerted a wholesome influence among his fellow townsmen and was ready to lend his assistance to enterprises and measures having for their object the general welfare of the community in which he resided.

Mr. Dorland was married on January 16, 1882, to Eva St. Clair Brewer, daughter of John S. and Charlotte (Seamons) Brewer, early settlers of West

Union and among the highly esteemed residents of the place. These parents died in this city some years ago leaving a family of one son and five daughters, namely: Mrs. W. W. Wirt; Mrs. N. C. Spencer; Mrs. D. J. Paige; Mrs. William McKinley; John S., living. Mr. and Mrs. Dorland became the parents of two children, Merle, born on November 22, 1882, now the wife of Joseph Nye, and Helen Louise, whose birth occurred on the 7th day of July, 1889.

Mr. Dorland affiliated with the Republican party and, like the majority of enterprising men, took an active part in the interest of secret fraternal organizations. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for about twenty years; he belonged to the Masonic brotherhood, being an influential worker in West Union Lodge No. 69, Unity Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, at Elgin, and Langridge Commandery, Knights Templar, besides taking a leading part in instituting the Knights of Pythias lodge in West Union, of which he was a charter member and which he represented at different times in the grand lodge of the state. He was honored with every official position within the gift of these different orders, holding the office of senior warden in the commandery at the time of his death and was esteemed very highly by his brethren at home and wherever known.

In 1884, with F. D. Merritt, Mr. Dorland was instrumental in organizing Company G of the Fourth Regiment, Iowa State Guard, of which he was commissioned second lieutenant, serving in that capacity for a period of three years. In addition to the interest he ever manifested in fraternal work, Mr. Dorland kept in touch with the business life of the city. He was a charter member of the West Union Commercial Club, which he served as chairman, and he was also an influential factor in inaugurating laudable enterprises for promoting the material prosperity of the city of his residence. He was active and full of energy and a gentleman of the highest integrity, and did much for the general welfare of West Union and Fayette county. He died in the prime of life. There is no doubt that had he lived to the fullness of his years he would have enacted a still greater influence upon the community.

At the time of the death of Mr. Dorland, expressions of regret and sympathy were freely given on all sides, and among the formal expressions were the following extracts from resolutions adopted :

West Union Lodge No. 69, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons: "Whereas, his years were well spent in exemplifying the teachings of Ancient Craft Masonry: Therefore, be it resolved, That the community in which he lived has lost a respected neighbor and citizen; that West Union Lodge No. 69 misses the fellowship of a well-beloved brother, and that his family mourns the departure of a husband and father who was faithful and true."

Langridge Commandery, No. 47, Knights Templar: "In his death our commandery has lost an honored and valiant knight, his family a true and exemplary husband and a kind and indulgent father, and the community an upright and highly respected citizen. As a Mason, he was faithful and true, as a citizen, patriotic and honorable, and as a man his life exemplified his belief in the brotherhood of man. Just as the shadows were beginning to lengthen in the afternoon of his life, when hope was still at flood tide, he responded to that summons which we all must obey, with courage undaunted, but the influence of his life has made the world better."

Board of directors of the Fayette County National Bank: "The bank has lost one of its most useful officers, who for twelve years gave his watchful care over the affairs of said bank, as one of its directors. We deeply deplore his death and tender our deepest sympathy to his wife and family in their hour of bereavement."

WILLIAM MCGEE.

In the year 1849, when the California gold fever was raging, a caravan might have been seen journeying westward from the more thickly settled country of the eastern borders of the United States. The passengers in this delegation were Joseph and Elizabeth (Weir) McGee, with their several children. They came from Rhode Island, and being content with the surroundings in Fayette county, Iowa, they stopped near Maynard and in 1850 entered one hundred and sixty acres of land and here continued to make their permanent residence. As time went on, and this land increased in value and produced abundant crops, Mr. McGee acquired three hundred and twenty acres near Maynard, which he later gave to his sons, Charles, James, Frank and Ernest.

Joseph McGee was married in New York state to Elizabeth Weir. She was a native of Ireland, and lived until the last day of August, 1882, to enjoy the blessings of home and family. Mr. McGee is a veteran in the Mexican war and now, at the ripe old age of eighty-six years, he enjoys relating the experiences which he encountered. These good people followed the admonishings of the Good Book to "multiply and replenish the earth," for unto them were born eleven children, seven of whom survive, as follows: The first in order of birth is William, the subject, Mary A., George, James, Earnest, Frank, and Rachel, who remains at home and cares for her aged father.

William McGee, of Illyria township, Fayette county, Iowa, was born at Newport, Rhode Island, November 20, 1842. He was seven years of age when he came with his parents to this county. He had the same educational advantages as did others of his associates, the training of the district school of Westfield township. As a boy he was of an industrious temperament and when not assisting with the farm work at home he secured employment with neighboring farmers, staying with his parents when work was slack elsewhere. In 1863 he enlisted in Company E, Seventh Iowa Volunteer Cavalry, and served three years. He was on duty for the western frontier. Upon his return he again assumed the duties of farm labor, and on November 11, 1870, he was happily wedded to Anna Pritchard, who was born February 24, 1849, in Wales, the village of Breconshire, the daughter of William and Esther (Price) Pritchard, natives of Wales. For one year the young couple rented sixty acres, located near Fayette, the property of his brother. At the expiration of this time Mrs. McGee's father presented her with fifty acres of land in section 8, Illyria township, where they moved, and have since made their place of abode. Later the subject's father deeded to him forty acres in Westfield township, which he has sold. He has had the habit of renting ground and working it in connection with his own.

Mr. and Mrs. McGee have had four offspring, the oldest dying in infancy. Those living are Frank A., born April 13, 1875, married April 3, 1905, to Nellie Jennings, who was born in Westfield township, February 20, 1881, a daughter of James and Jane (Carmichael) Jennings. Frank McGee and wife are the parents of one child, Parker J., born July 26, 1908. William E., second child, born November 28, 1876, and Mary Ann, born March 11, 1881, and who both reside with their parents. Frank owns and lives on a farm of ninety acres in Illyria township and with his brother, William, for seven years operated a threshing machine outfit.

Politically, William McGee was a Democrat until after the war, when he joined the ranks of the Republican party. He deserves recognition as one of Fayette county's honorable citizens.

HENRY SALISBURY.

The record of Mr. Salisbury is that of a man who by his own unaided efforts worked his way from a modest beginning to a position of comparative affluence and influence among men of affairs. His life has been of unceasing industry and perseverance and the systematic and honorable methods which