

county, Iowa, whither he had gone some years previous, and who is now living in Cumberland, Wisconsin. Henry, another brother, is living at Leroy, Kansas. Peter G. remained with Ezra Abbott from May, 1855, until December of that year, the latter's home having been near Carter's Grove, eight miles east of Clermont. In December, 1855, Peter G. Abbott came to Bethel township, Fayette county, and bought an eighty-acre tract in section 9, when the surrounding country was all a wild and unbroken prairie; but before purchasing the tract mentioned he rented land for a short time and, being a good worker, soon had a start.

On September 7, 1856, Peter G. Abbott married Emily, the daughter of Martin and Harriett (Hunt) Palmer, who came to Fayette county, Iowa, with her mother and stepfather, Davis Kidder, in the spring of 1855, her father having died when she was young. Her family on both sides of the house were highly respected and well known in their respective communities, being people of the highest honor and integrity and always pleasant to meet.

About five years after his marriage Mr. Abbott sold his first farm and bought one hundred and sixty acres in section 8, buying at first only forty acres, which he added to as he prospered, forty acres, then eighty acres. He raised enough colts to pay for the last eighty acres, having formerly raised a great many horses and his stock was always of a high grade and easily marketed. He has lived on his present place for a period of forty-seven years, having resided in Bethel township longer than any one now living here, being the oldest settler of the same. When he came the vicinity was decidedly wild and the virgin prairie was overrun by wolves, deer and small game. He has lived to see the township develop from its wild state to its present far-advanced stage of improvement, playing well his part in the great transformation, there being only about fifteen families in the township when he came here.

The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Peter G. Abbott: Almida Josephine married Charles Dickens, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work; Reuben Martin married Ruth Graves and lives in Oelwein, he being employed by the Chicago Great Western railroad; they have three girls and one son, Esther Lorena, Julia, Ada Clare, and Reuben Merle; their oldest child, Esther, married Eugene Borland and has three children, Ida Ruth, Vernon Eugene, and an infant; Julia married Charles Brownell and lives in Scott township, near Stanley; Justin Palmer Abbott, who lives near Brushie, South Dakota, on government land; Arthur Platts Abbott married Etta Freeman and four children have been born to them, three of whom are living, two girls and one boy, George Deigle, who died when

eight years of age, Arthur Green, Mary Emma and Sybil. Arthur Platt Abbott is employed by a company organized to push an invention of his own. Walter Henry Abbott died when ten months old. Henry Walter Abbott, the youngest child, married Etta Schoonover and lives on the farm adjoining his father on the north, owning one hundred and sixty acres, half of which lies in section 8 and the other half in section 9. He has two children, Clarence Weston and Edith Belle.

Mrs. Peter G. Abbott passed to her rest on May 11, 1873, and Mr. Abbott was again married, his second union taking place in Chickasaw county, Iowa, in November, 1879, when he espoused Achsah (Oatman) Moss, widow of Thomas Moss and daughter of Simon Oatman. She was born in Ontario county, New York, and came to Iowa in 1854 with her aunt, with whom she resided until her marriage with the subject. Her aunt, Mrs. S. M. Crandall, widow of J. B. Crandall, died October 7, 1909, lacking less than three months of reaching the age of one hundred years.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Abbott are members of the Congregational church. In early life Mr. Abbott was active in the Republican party and he was formerly a Whig, then allied himself with the Know-Nothing party. He was a delegate to county conventions and was elected to the office of justice of the peace, assessor, township clerk, township treasurer and school director. For many years he has refused to run for offices, although often nominated for them without his knowledge or consent. This is an indication that he is held in the highest esteem by his fellow men and that he gave the utmost satisfaction in his former official capacities.

THOMAS KERR.

Of thrifty Scotch-Irish parentage comes Thomas Kerr, one of the well known and progressive agriculturists and stock raisers of Illyria township, Fayette county. He was born May 18, 1851, in Kane county, Illinois, and is the son of James and Elizabeth (Binnie) Kerr, the father born in county Tyrone, Ireland, in 1820, and the mother a native of Glasgow, Scotland. James Kerr, who came to America in 1820, was a sailor on the lakes and the Atlantic ocean for a period of nine years. In 1849 he located in Kane county, Illinois, and there he and Elizabeth Binnie were married, she having come to America in 1848 with her parents, the family locating near Elgin, Kane county, Illinois. After their marriage, James Kerr and wife lived in

Kane county, Illinois, three years on a farm, then came to Iowa, locating in Highland township, Clayton county, in 1854, being among the first settlers there. Mr. Kerr got good government land there for one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. He was a man of enterprise and he added to his original purchase until he owned five hundred and eighty acres. He cleared a great deal of this land and soon had a splendid home, and he lived there in 1901, when he sold out and moved to River View, Chicago, Illinois, where he now resides. Mrs. James Kerr died in 1896. Mr. Kerr is a well preserved man notwithstanding his life of hard work; he was well and favorably known in Clayton county. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the Presbyterian church. Fifteen children constituted his family, namely: Thomas, of this review; Agnes lives in Chicago; Marian also lives in Chicago; Robert lives on the old place in Clayton county, Iowa; James lives in Chicago; John lives on the old place in Clayton county; Hannah and Annie live in Chicago; Henry lives in Highland township, Clayton county, Iowa; Elizabeth lives in Volga City, Iowa; Jessie lives at Osborn, Clayton county, Iowa; Amelia, Lydia, Edward and Erias are all deceased.

Thomas Kerr received a good education in the home schools and he remained under his paternal roof until twenty-four years of age. On December 10, 1879, while living in Highland township, Clayton county, Iowa, he married Ella E. Moats, of that vicinity; she is the daughter of David and Lydia (Clapper) Moats, the father a native of Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and the latter of Stark county, Ohio. They came to Clayton county, Iowa, in 1851, got wild land, cleared it and made a home. Selling his land, he moved to Elgin, Iowa, in 1897. Mr. Moats was a carpenter by trade and he also farmed. He is a Republican and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fourteen children constituted his family, named as follows: Ambrose is a blacksmith at Scotch Grove, Iowa; Martha Jane is deceased; Steward M. lives in Nebraska; Austin lives at Cedar Rapids, Iowa; James, who was an attorney at Eagle Grove, Iowa, died in 1906; Elizabeth is deceased; Lyman is an attorney at Eagle Grove, Iowa; Ella E., wife of Thomas Kerr, of this review; Mary lives in Elgin, Iowa; Harry is deceased; Hattie lives at Elgin, Iowa; Adelbert is deceased; Abraham lives at Volga City, Iowa; Charlie is the youngest in order of birth.

Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kerr, named as follows: Lulu married Charles Ruthlesberger and they live in Illyria township, this county; William is attending business college at Oelwein, Iowa; Lydia is attending school at Fayette, Iowa; Hattie is also attending school in Fayette; Fern is living at home.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kerr began farming in Highland township, Clayton county, Iowa, remaining there until 1901; they came to Illyria township, Fayette county, and bought the place on which they now live, in section 3. Mr. Kerr owns in all two hundred and ten acres, formerly known as the Sampson Humphrey place; he has added many substantial improvements on the place and is carrying on general farming in a very satisfactory manner; he also devotes much of his time to stock raising, paying especial attention to raising Durham cattle, Norman horses and Poland China hogs.

Mr. Kerr is a Republican in politics, and he has been trustee and school director, clerk of the board, and is now clerk of Illyria township. He is interested in the Elgin Farmers' Creamery at Elgin, Iowa. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, of Highland township, Clayton county. Mrs. Kerr is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JOHN M. FREY.

In placing the name of John M. Frey in the front rank of Fayette county's progressive citizens, simple justice is done to a biographical fact, universally recognized throughout this locality by men at all familiar with his history. A man of judgment, sound discretion and business ability of a high order, he has managed with tactful success large landed interests and so impressed his individuality upon the community as to gain recognition among its leading citizens and public-spirited men of affairs. Like many of the enterprising residents of the Hawkeye state, Mr. Frey hails from the great German empire, his birth having occurred in the province of Baden, Germany, September 11, 1858, and he grew to maturity and was educated in his native village. He is the son of Martin and Caroline (Herbold) Frey, both natives of Baden, Germany, the father born May 18, 1822, and the mother on October 10th of the same year. The elder Frey was a cabinetmaker by trade, which he followed until he came to America. In March, 1872, the family left Germany and on the 22d of that month arrived in Highland township, Clayton county, Iowa. A week or two later the father bought a farm of eighty acres in section 11, Illyria township, Fayette county, and remained on the same for a period of five years, then sold out and bought one hundred and twenty-nine acres in section 25, Illyria township, and this splendid place is at present occupied by his son, John M. Politically, the elder Frey was a Democrat, and he was a good and useful man in his community.

In 1848 Martin Frey came to America and located in Painesville, Ohio, where he worked at his trade. He took out his naturalization papers in Warren county. He became affiliated with the Freesoilers, which later became the Republican party, and he was very active in political affairs, being a very strong Abolitionist. His wife and family did not accompany him to America and in 1850 he returned to his home in Germany, returning to America two or three years later and made a trip to Iowa. He was in Iowa City when it contained only three houses, but on account of cholera he returned to Painesville, Ohio. About 1858 he returned to Germany again and remained there until 1872. He remained a Republican until the time of Grant's last administration, when he became a Democrat. He was a member of the Masonic lodge, which he joined in Painesville, Ohio, upon his second trip to America. He was a member of the Protestant church.

Mr. and Mrs. Frey were the parents of nine children, two sons and seven daughters, six of whom are now living, namely: Sophia Reichart lives in the province of Baden, Germany; Robert lives at Sand Point, Idaho; Mrs. Ida Leonhart lives in Chatburn, North Carolina; John M., of this review; Mrs. Annie Cooley lives in Waukon, Iowa; Lisette Jellings lives at Stanley, Iowa.

Mr. Frey's death occurred on December 20, 1903, and the death of his wife occurred on December 29, 1897.

John M. Frey, of this review, remained on the farm with his parents until their death, being a partner with his father, at whose death the farm became the property of the subject. Previous to the death of the elder Frey he and his son bought sixty-one acres in section 35, making in all one hundred and ninety acres. Mr. Frey has carried on general farming very successfully, being a hard worker and a good manager. He has engaged extensively in registered Poland-China hogs and Shorthorn cattle, raising many at present, but not so extensively as formerly. He raises from forty-five to fifty full-blooded hogs each year and about the same number of cattle, and owing to their superior quality they find a very ready market. Mr. Frey has become widely known for the fine stock which he has so long raised. In 1904 he built a two-story hotel in Wadena, which he conducted for about two years, but notwithstanding the fact that this was a promising line of endeavor he returned to the farm and his efforts as a husbandman have always been abundantly crowned with success. Politically, he is a Democrat, and he has held the office of township school treasurer for over fifteen years, and has been justice of the peace for the past two years, filling both these responsible positions with fidelity to duty that reflects credit upon himself and with satisfaction to all concerned. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of

America, the Yeomen and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, all at Wadena. He and his family are members of the Protestant church.

On January 25, 1882, Mr. Frey married Mary E. Leonhart, who was born November 1, 1864, in Arlington, Fayette county, Iowa, the daughter of Phillip and Catherine (Eckart) Leonhart; he was born in the province of Baden, Germany, in 1841, and she was born in the state of New York in 1845. He came to America with his parents, who located in New York, where Mrs. Leonhart died. Two sons and two daughters came to Iowa and located in Arlington, where Phillip and Mary Leonhart were married. He bought a farm near Arlington, where he still lives. Mrs. Leonhart died in 1889, leaving nine children, one having died previously. Mrs. Frey was the oldest of the ten children.

Mr. and Mrs. Frey are the parents of five children, namely: Lisettia C. is the wife of James H. Wilson, of Illyria township, and they are the parents of two children, Ruth and Charlie; Mrs. Wilson was born on January 9, 1883; Ella, born November 9, 1884, is the wife of Harry R. Humphrey, who lives at Volga City, Iowa, and they are the parents of one child, Bonita; Robert M. Frey, born March 20, 1887, resides at Wadena, Iowa; he married Ethel A. Moore, of Illyria township, and they have one son, Albert K.; William was born June 20, 1891, and lives on the farm with his parents; Sophia L., born December 7, 1894, also lives with her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Frey paid a delightful visit to his old home in Germany several years ago, spending several months in the Fatherland. They are both very pleasant, hospitable and well informed and they have the esteem of a wide circle of friends.

ROBERT H. MAY.

A venerable and highly honored citizen of Illyria township, Fayette county, was Robert H. May, a pioneer who made his residence here for nearly fifty-six years, during which time he played a conspicuous part in the general development of the community and watched its growth with much interest. He was born October 11, 1820, on the Indian ocean, three days' sail from the Cape of Good Hope. He was the son of Robert H. and Mary A. (Campbell) May, the father a native of England and the mother of Ireland, but of Scotch descent. The father and all of his brothers were seafaring men, and during the last voyage of Robert H. May, Sr., his son, the subject, was born. He spent the last part of his life farming in county Wicklow, Ireland, but

he died in the prime of life as a result of injuries received from being thrown from a horse. His family consisted of three children, Robert H., Jr., John, who came to the United States and was killed in the Mexican war, and Mary, who married a British officer and went to Australia with her husband and her mother.

Robert H. May, of this review, spent his boyhood and youth in county Wicklow, Ireland, and received a good education there,—in fact he was educated for the Episcopalian priesthood, consequently his text-book training was very broad and complete. When seventeen years of age he went to sea with an uncle, serving for three years as steward. The first vessel on which he sailed was caught in a storm on the Irish channel and driven shoreward and finally shattered to pieces on a sand-bar, but all on board were saved. After three years of "life on the ocean wave," Mr. May made a trip to Canada, in 1841, and after a year moved to Ohio, thence to Pennsylvania, where, for a time, he engaged in mining. While living in Mercer county, that state, on January 18, 1849, he married Martha Alcorn, who was born in Ohio on October 2, 1829, the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Callehan) Alcorn, the former of German lineage and the latter of Irish ancestry, but both were born in Pennsylvania, where Mr. Alcorn followed farming throughout his life. The mother died in Fayette county, Iowa, at the age of sixty-six years. Their family numbered nine children, Mrs. May being the fifth in order of birth. By her marriage she became the mother of eleven children, two of whom died in infancy. They are: William H., born April 21, 1850, lives in Albert Lea, Minnesota; Edward O., born January 4, 1852, lives in Glendive, Montana; Mrs. Elizabeth J. Bartholomew, widow, was born September 6, 1853, and lives in West Union, Iowa. The above named children were born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania; those born in Fayette county, Iowa, are, Mary A., wife of John W. Graham, born September 12, 1856, lives in Fayette, Iowa; John J., born August 18, 1858, lives in Smithfield township, Fayette county, Iowa; Martha E., born May 20, 1861, is the wife of Ira Bennett and resides at Elgin, Iowa; Sarah L., wife of Clinton Ambrose, of Hastings, Nebraska, was born December 21, 1863; David D., born May 3, 1866, rents the home farm and lives with his parents; he is unmarried; Mrs. Inez E. Greathead was born August 19, 1868. Mr. and Mrs. May have twenty grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

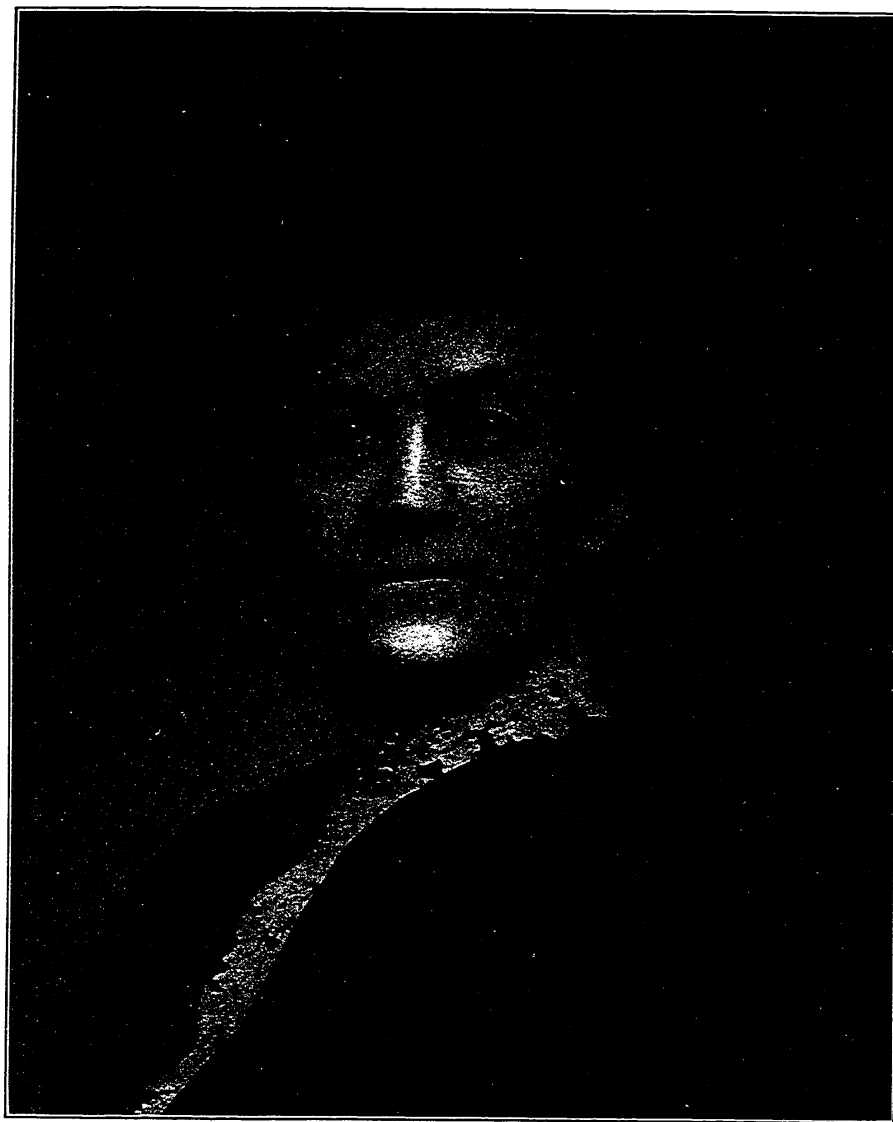
Upon his arrival in Fayette county in the fall of 1854, Robert H. May purchased eighty acres of land, which was covered with brush, this being his first possession of real estate. He set to work and soon developed a fine farm and a good home, adding to his original purchase until he had one of the

best farms in the township, consisting of two hundred and forty acres, he having cleared one hundred and seventy acres of brush and timber. This place is well watered by three excellent springs and everything about the place indicates good management and splendid taste. The dwelling is substantial, comfortable and neatly kept. Mr. May made what he had through his individual enterprise and was long rated as one of the leading citizens of Illyria township. He was not able to do any active work for some time prior to his death, which occurred on August 27, 1910, being then eighty-nine years of age; his good wife is in her eightieth year. They lived long and useful lives and enjoyed the friendship and good will of everyone. Mr. May was progressive in everything to which he turned his attention. In politics he was a Democrat, and he always kept well posted on current topics. He was a member of the Illyria township school board for a number of years, and district member of the county board, and as such he was always an advocate of better schools, of higher and better educational advantages, better paid and better educated teachers for county schools.

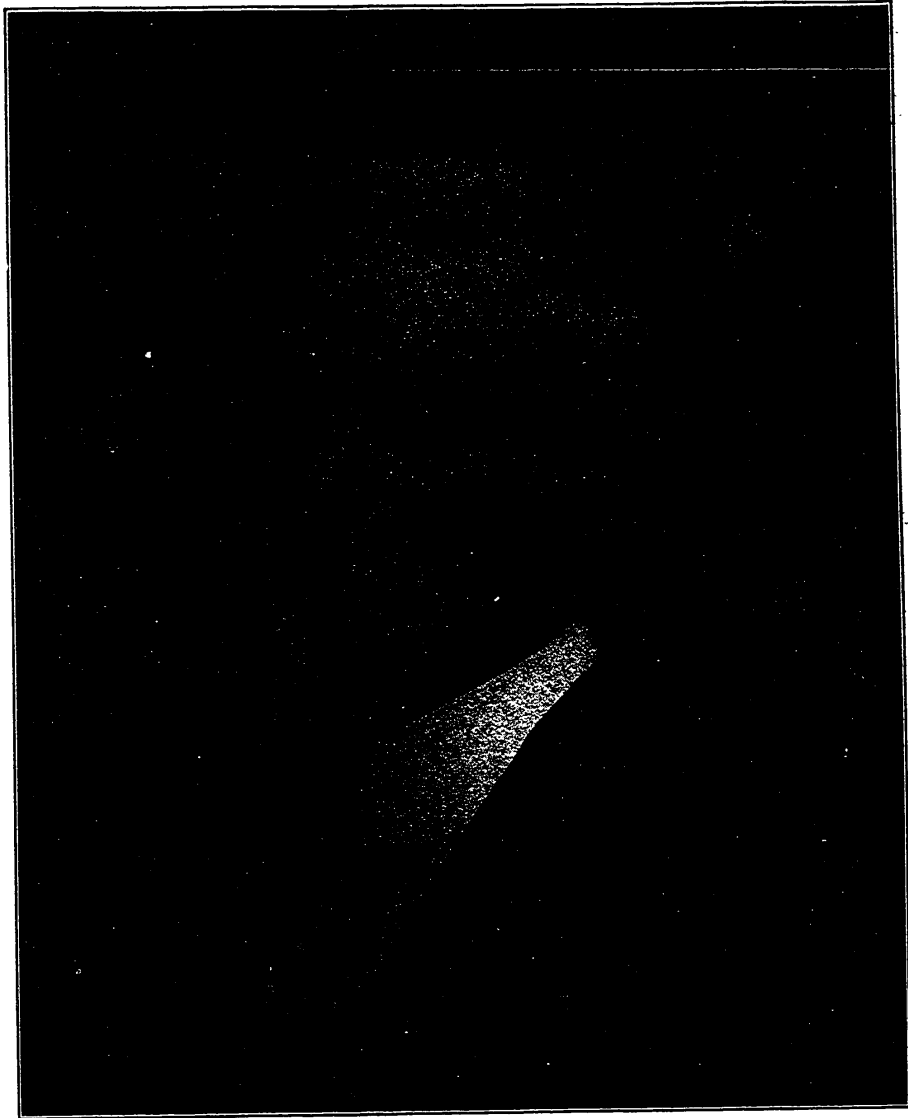
WILLIAM COLBY.

A man who has long been identified with the progress and advancement of Fayette county, one of the favored sections of the great Hawkeye state, where he has maintained his home for nearly a half century, is William Colby, who has attained gratifying success in connection with the development of its resources, successful in whatever line of business he sought to pursue, but who is now living in honorable retirement in West Union, surrounded by evidences of thrift and comfort as a result of his former years of activity. He was born October 14, 1830, in Oakland county, Michigan, where he remained till eleven years of age and received his education in the common schools. In 1841 he came to Rock county, Wisconsin, and in 1854 came to Windsor township, Fayette county, Iowa, and entered government land, twenty acres of timber and eighty acres of prairie land. On September 13, 1863, he was married to Mary Delzene, who was born May 9, 1844, in Missouri, and whose death occurred on May 8, 1875. Two children were born to them, both dying in infancy. William Colby taught school three winters in Wisconsin. Previous to his coming to West Union he also taught two years in Fayette county.

The father of William Colby, Samuel Colby, was born in New York, the



MRS. GRACE COLBY.



WILLIAM COLBY.

son of Ephraim Colby, who came from New Hampshire and settled near Rochester, New York, the Colby family having been early settlers in Vermont. Samuel Colby was reared thirteen miles west of Rochester, New York, and there received his education. He followed farming during his active life and spent his last days with his children in various parts of the United States, and died in Wisconsin. He was a Democrat up to the days of Buchanan, afterwards a Republican, always taking an active part in local politics, and he served as school trustee. Religiously he was a Baptist. David Colby, brother of William, who lives in Beloit, Wisconsin, was a soldier in the Civil war in a Wisconsin regiment, having acted as guard at various places. S. F., another brother, enlisted in 1862 in the Thirteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and served until the close of the war. There were five sons and one daughter in Samuel Colby's family.

In about 1878 William Colby left the farm in Windsor township and came to West Union, Iowa. He was married a second time to Grace Jamison in September, 1881; she was the daughter of James and Jane (Boale) Jamison, who were born in Ireland and who came to America, first settling in Pennsylvania and in 1852 came to Fayette county, Iowa. Mrs. Colby was born before the family left Pennsylvania. Mr. Jamison engaged in the mercantile business at Auburn when he first came to Fayette county, as a partner of Joseph Boale. He later engaged in farming until his death. One daughter, Jennie Alice, was born to Mr. Colby and his second wife. She was educated at the West Union high school, also spent one year at the Northwestern University and had two terms in school at Cedar Falls. She studied oratory at the Northwestern University and became highly educated and cultured. She was first married in West Union to Morton F. Blake, and her second marriage was in 1907, to C. W. Forche, a druggist of Kellogg, Jasper county, Iowa. Mrs. Colby, who received her education in West Union and Fayette, taught two terms of school successfully. She is a member of the Woman's Missionary Society and the Temperance and Aid societies of her church, being the treasurer of the temperance organization. She an earnest and efficient worker in all good causes.

William Colby was justice of the peace in Windsor township for two years and he held that office for a period of twenty-eight years in Union township while a resident of West Union township and he proved to be a very efficient and faithful public servant, his decisions being fair and unbiased and seldom reversed by higher tribunals. He was a member of the county board for four years while living in Windsor township and was secretary of the school board in that township for a period of eleven years, and he was

also township clerk and held other offices. In Wisconsin he was township collector and treasurer for two years, and he taught school there during three winters. He was the first mayor of the city of West Union, to which office he was elected in 1894 and which he held for a period of four years, during which time many movements were inaugurated that have made for the permanent good of the city, in fact, he has been as faithful in the discharge of his duties in all the offices he has held as if he was looking after his individual business. He was mayor when the electric lighting plant was installed, also the town clock.

Mr. Colby has been a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church for a period of twenty-eight years; his wife also belongs to this church. They have always been active in the affairs of the church.

Mr. Colby has been a director in the State Bank of West Union for the past twenty years, almost since its organization, and he has been one of the examiners since the first organization of the same. He has been very successful in his life work, because he has been both honest and industrious, always considerate of the interests of others.

DANIEL G. MATTOCKS.

The Mattocks family has long been a prominent one in Fayette county, Iowa, and several generations of this name have figured more or less conspicuously in the affairs of the same. They have been industrious, law-abiding and always willing to do their full share in the development of the communities in which they have resided. One of the best known and most highly honored of the older members of this family was Daniel G. Mattocks, son of Jacob and Margaret Mattocks, and who was born October 1, 1806, in Venango county, Pennsylvania, his parents being natives of the same. He grew to maturity there and received what education he could in the old-time subscription schools. He was bound out at the age of five years until he was twenty-one years old, and he knew the meaning of hard work; after that he learned the tailor's trade. When he reached maturity he was married, on April 5, 1827, to Elizabeth Hays, in Pennsylvania, she having been born April 6, 1807, in that state, the daughter of William and Charlotte Hays.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel G. Mattocks began their married life in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, and in 1846 they came to Iowa, among the pioneers. They took up a claim, on which they remained one year. Then they returned to Pennsylvania and remained there five years, when they again came to

Iowa and rented a farm. After living on the same one year, they purchased a farm in Illyria township and became very comfortably established here, owning, in due course of time, a very comfortable and substantial home.

They were members of the Methodist church, and, politically, Mr. Mattocks was a Republican. He took an interest in the welfare of his community and was well and favorably known here. His death occurred on March 7, 1873, at the age of sixty-six years, five months and six days. His wife survived him ten years, dying on June 30, 1883, when seventy-six years of age.

The following data from the family record will be of value to those interested in the genealogy of this household:

Elizabeth Mattocks died June 30, 1883, at the age of seventy-six years; Orinda E. was born February 4, 1828, and died March 2, 1880; Permilla was born October 5, 1829, and died March 25, —; Cordelia was born August 27, 1831; Ira Eddy was born November 25, 1833, and died October 22, 1866; Wilder Mack was born May 24, 1836, and died March 7, 1899; Aurelia, born September 22, 1838, lives at Wall Lake, Iowa; Jason Lee, born January 13, 1841, lives in Oregon City, Oregon; Elmina, born September 25, 1843, lives in Lewiston, Idaho; Ross, born February 8, 1846, lives at Jennings, Oklahoma; Wilder M. Mattocks was born in Pennsylvania and he received a common school education. When twenty-three years of age he enlisted in the Union army and remained in the same until the close of the war, when he was mustered out. In 1865 he was married to Anna E. Henderson and they lived on a farm in Windsor township, Fayette county, Iowa, and later in Illyria township, where they both died. Anna E. Henderson was born in 1836 and died October 25, 1873.

THOMAS GREATHEAD.

One of Illyria township's most progressive agriculturists and highly honored citizens is Thomas Greathead, who has won success in life because he has worked for it along legitimate lines. He was born in April, 1865, in Dubuque, Iowa, and was educated in the public schools of McGregor, Iowa. He is the son of William E. and Mary (Davis) Greathead, the father born in McConnelsburg, Fulton county, Pennsylvania, about 1825; she was born in Wales about 1835, having come to America with her parents, who located near Elkader, Iowa, where they lived until their deaths. Mr. Greathead was a carpenter by trade. He left his home in Pennsylvania when a young man and came to Iowa, working in the city of Dubuque for a time, also worked

in Elkader, and it was there that he met and married Mary Davis. After this event he and his bride moved to Dubuque, where they lived a year or two, then returned to Elkader, thence moved to McGregor and then he moved to Kansas, where he lived until his death, in 1909. He had worked at his trade all the while. His family consisted of five children, four of whom are living, namely: Thomas, of this review, is the eldest; Frances, deceased; William D. lives on a farm in Westfield township, near Fayette; F. S. lives at Oelwein, being an instructor in the manual training department of the public schools there; Mary E. is the wife of W. J. Whitson, of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mrs. Greathead has made her home with her son, William D., for a number of years.

Thomas Greathead was about fifteen years of age when he began working as a farm hand, continuing to work as a laborer until 1888, when he came to Fayette county, Iowa, and rented a farm in Illyria township, usually renting about one hundred and seventy acres. He continued to rent until 1898, laying by a competency, then he purchased eighty acres, forty acres in section 7 and forty in section 8, Illyria township. He has brought his place up to a high standard, adding some substantial buildings, a gasoline pumping outfit, and has built an addition to his dwelling and made many other changes that makes his place a very desirable one. He has a beautiful home, neatly kept and which is presided over by a lady known in her maidenhood as Inez E. May, whom Mr. Greathead married on January 11, 1894; she was born in Illyria township, this county, August 19, 1868, and is the daughter of Robert H. and Martha (Alcorn) May, pioneers of Fayette county and a highly honored family. Mr. and Mrs. Greathead have no children. A sketch of Mrs. Greathead's parents is to be found on another page. Politically, Mr. Greathead is a Republican, but is not interested in politics to any great extent. He is a man who is well thought of by his neighbors, having always led a quiet, honorable life and tended strictly to his own affairs.

FREDERICK WILLIAM SCHNEIDER.

Enjoying distinctive prestige among the enterprising business men of West Union is Frederick William Schneider, and as a neighbor and citizen he is highly esteemed by all who know him. He has earned the right to be called one of the progressive men of Fayette county, having fought his way onward and upward to a prominent position in commercial circles,



FREDERICK W. SCHNEIDER.

being the manager of a large drug store, and in every relation of life his voice and influence are on the side of right as he sees and understands the right.

Mr. Schneider was born in West Union, November 15, 1876, the son of Frederick and ——— (Ehrhardt) Schneider, the father a native of Alsace-Lorraine, a province of Germany, and the mother is also a native of Germany. The locality of which the father was native was formerly a part of France and he served in the French army during the Franco-Prussian war. He is a tailor by occupation.

Frederick W. Schneider was educated in the public schools of West Union and Elkader, also at Cresco and Decorah. Deciding to become a pharmacist, he entered the Highland Park College and received full instructions in this line. He served eight years as a druggist under the tuition of the late A. K. White and others, prior to taking his professional course. He has been in the same store for a period of eighteen years, and has been proprietor of the same since 1903, and has been sole manager of the same since January, 1908. This is an old and well established store, having been operated during the past many decades by some of the best drug men of their day and generation. The prestige of this store is such that a very satisfactory trade has been carried on here for many years. Mr. Schneider carries at all seasons a large and carefully selected stock of pure drugs, books, toilet articles, paper, paints, and, in fact, everything found in a modern drug store. He has stock in the American Druggists' Syndicate and the Aseptic Products Company, also in the Sanitol Chemical Laboratory Company, being the accredited local agent of all these. He is also a stockholder in the Rexall Company and is the accredited local agent for the famous Rexall remedies. He is a stockholder in the Fayette County Savings Bank, and both a stockholder and director in the Fayette County National Bank. He has been very successful as a business man and is deserving of a great deal of credit for what he has accomplished owing to the fact that he has acquired his large success unaided and by overcoming numerous obstacles.

Mr. Schneider was married on June 15, 1903, to Grace Hoyt, daughter of H. B. and Hattie A. (Booth) Hoyt, a prominent West Union family. (See sketch of F. E. Hoyt, appearing elsewhere in this work.) No children have been born to this union. Politically, Mr. Schneider is a Republican, but he is independent in local affairs and is no politician, having never aspired to public office. While he belongs to no church, he is a Presbyterian in sentiment. Fraternally, he belongs to West Union Lodge No. 69, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Unity Chapter No. 47, Royal Arch Masons,

at Elgin, Iowa; Langridge Commandery No. 47, Knights Templar; Elkadir Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Cedar Rapids; also the West Union Chapter No. 110, Order of the Eastern Star, of which his wife is also a member. He also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, the Homesteaders, the West Union Commercial Club. He belongs to the Iowa Pharmaceutical Association and the National Association of Retail Druggists and the Pure Drug Association of America. In all these he takes an abiding interest and is well known and influential in many of them.

FRANK K. WHITE.

Descended from pioneers and soldiers, men of bravery and fortitude, tried in those crucial testing places, where man's real self is revealed, in the heat of battle or the solitude of frontier life, this man must needs be proud of his birth. In his position as justice of the peace, he finds an opportunity to exercise much wisdom in a variety of situations, for his duties range from that of tying the knot of marriage for a pair of blushing lovers, to those of advising angry disputants to settle their differences without the law's aid, or if this they will not do, settling the case in his judicial capacity by the application of his knowledge of the principles of law. His position is unique and important.

Frank K. White was born in Green county, Wisconsin, July 8, 1846, the son of Vacher T. and Sarah A. (Fickey) White, both natives of Pennsylvania and married at Washington, in that state. His maternal grandfather gave his property to assist widows of soldiers of the war of 1812 and died en route to or from France to help settle government affairs after the war of 1812. His parents came in 1845 to Monroe, Wisconsin, by water and wagon. His father took up a farm there and established a pioneer blacksmith shop. In 1848 he moved to Magnolia, Rock county, Wisconsin, and there set up another shop. In 1855 they moved to Jacksonville, Chickasaw county, Iowa, being the second family to settle there, and there Mr. White rented a shop and worked in it that winter. In 1856 he went to a farm nearby and there conducted a shop. In 1867 he removed to Hamilton county and continued his trade there. Here his wife died and he remarried and later went to Kansas, where he died. He was the father of ten children and had two sons in the Civil war, E. C., in Company I, Ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and Zachariah, in the Sixteenth Iowa, killed in the Stone River charge at Murfreesboro, the first victim of the war from their township. During the war

the White home was a general stopping place for soldiers and others and Mrs. White dressed many wounds for the boys.

F. K. White is self educated save for a limited schooling in Magnolia, Wisconsin. He farmed with his father for a time, then became a merchant, and later took up the insurance business, in which he is still interested. He came to Clermont in 1889, and has been justice of the peace for eighteen years, giving general satisfaction. He is the owner of a farm of one hundred fifty acres near Clermont, and one hundred and twenty acres near Luana. In the town he finds opportunity to raise some fine specimens of Poland-China hogs.

On September 4, 1870, Mr. White married Mary Shepherd, and three children were born to them: J. E., an electrician of Chicago; Guy C., an attorney of San Diego, California; and Pearl, who died in February, 1899. On November 17, 1889, Mr. White married Mary Frisbee, and they have five children: Harry B., Ruth E., Laura R., Ora R. and Margaret F. Mrs. White's father, H. B. Frisbee, was a pioneer of the county, the founder of the express line between West Union and Clermont, later extended to McGregor. He came from New York to Clayton county in 1857, moved to Clermont in 1866, and lived there until his death. He conducted large land holdings in various parts of the state.

Mr. White is a Mason, a Mystic Toiler, and a Democrat. He is one of Clermont's worthiest citizens.

GEORGE J. KOEHLER.

In writing of the well known citizens of Windsor township, Fayette county, the name of George J. Koehler should not be overlooked. He was born on the farm on which he now resides, on October 2, 1859, the son of Nicholas and Catherine (Reithel) Koehler, the former born in Bavaria, February 16, 1823, the mother also coming from the same province of Germany, where her birth occurred on January 8, 1832. They came to America when young and were married in Kendall county, Illinois, in 1849, having resided in that state about three years. They came to Fayette county, Iowa, in 1855 and entered, from the government, the farm on which George J. Koehler lives, the place consisting at first of one hundred and eighty-five acres. The parents were honest and hard working and they were the first members of the local Zion Lutheran church. But one member of the Reithel family, John, is now living. Nicholas Koehler was a Republican politically

and he held some of the township offices, including school director. He was a good and honest man, and when his death occurred, in 1897, he was greatly missed. He had been preceded to the grave by his wife, who died when thirty-nine years of age.

When George J. Koehler was about ten years of age his mother died and he and a sister, then twelve years old, reared the family, the sister becoming housekeeper. Late in life their father, Nicholas Koehler, married again, his second wife being Mrs. Margaret Slagle, who is now living in Hawkeye. His last years were spent with his youngest daughter. Nicholas Koehler's family consisted of four children, namely: Charlotte, wife of Conrad Daum, of Albert Lea, Minnesota; George J., of this review; Annie, who married Charley Bruehler, of Hawkeye; Lizzie married Mr. Gyer, living in Bethel township.

Nicholas Koehler had nothing when he came to Bethel township. He erected a slab shanty and hired out to his neighbors in order to get a start, and by working hard and saving his money he was soon well established. He had been a weaver in the old country.

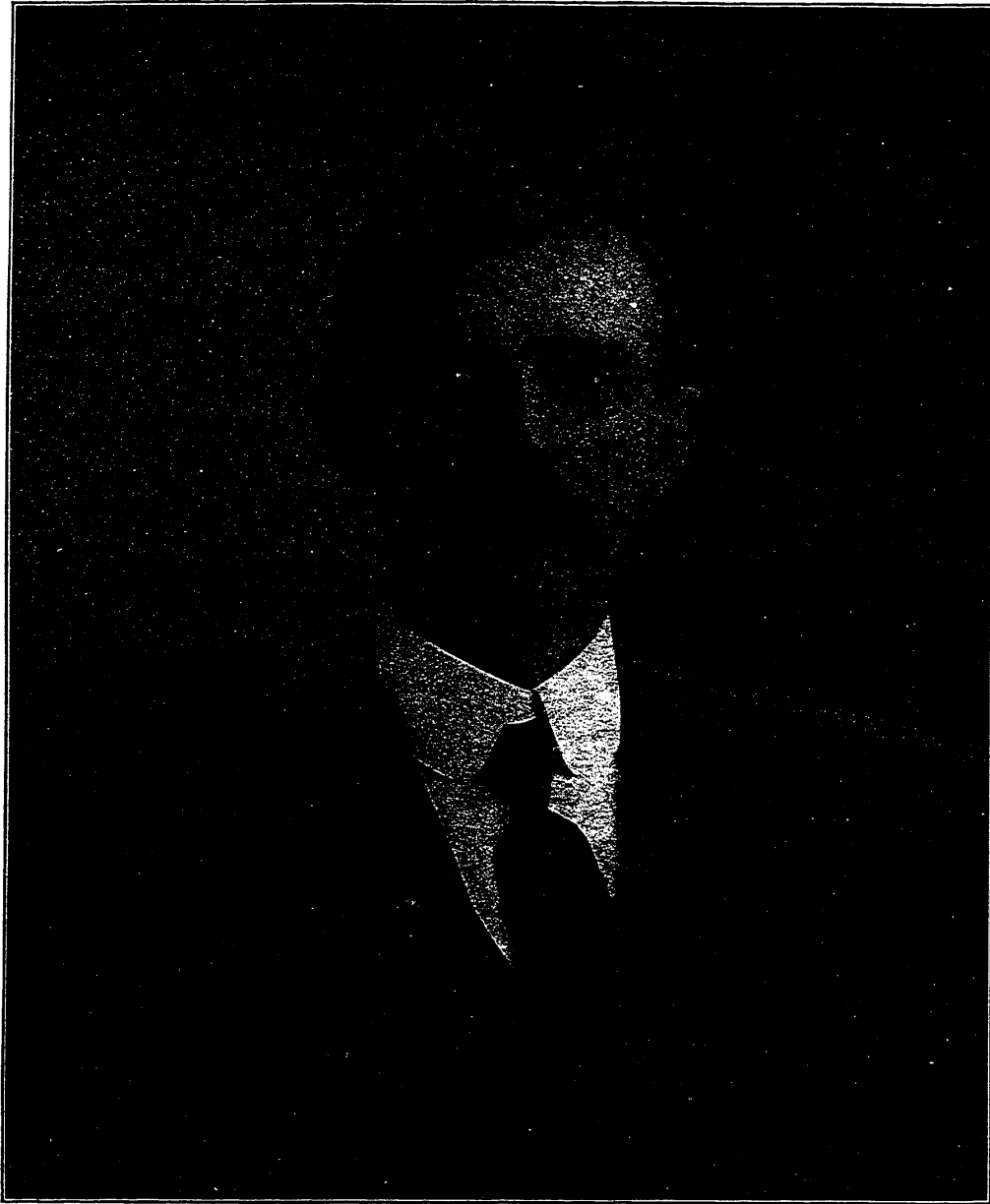
George W. Koehler has always lived on the home farm, having taken charge of the same years before his father's death and finally bought it from his father. He has continued to improve and repair it until it is now in good condition and he carries on general farming and stock raising very successfully. He has a substantial dwelling and outbuildings, surrounded by an inviting grove, most of which was set out by himself when a lad.

Mr. Koehler was married on November 11, 1880, to Johanna Krueger, a native of Washington county, Wisconsin, and this union has resulted in the birth of three children, namely: Albert J., who married Edith L. Gray, is farming in Smithfield township; Edwin H. and Lula L. are living at home.

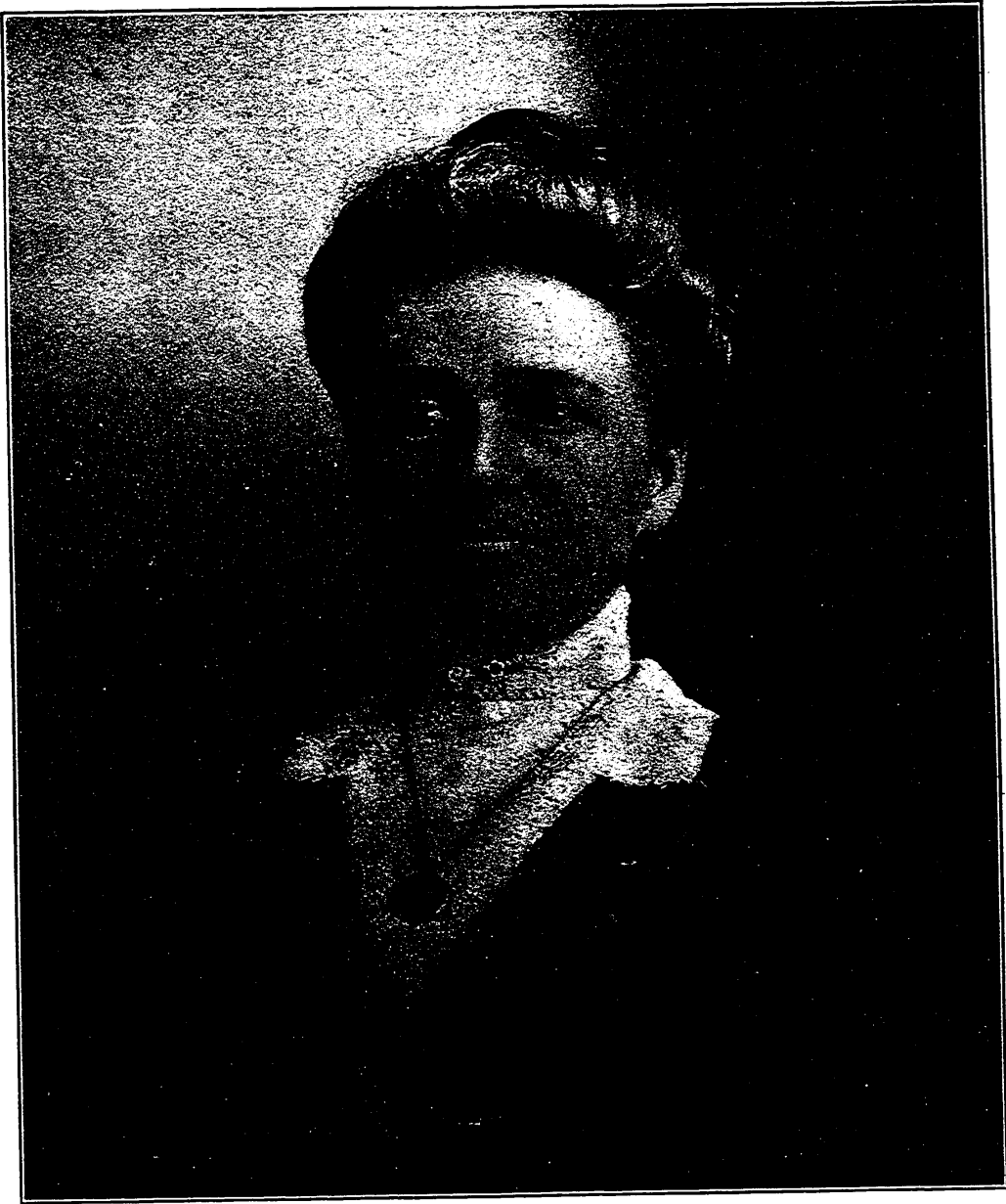
Both Mr. and Mrs. Koehler are members of the Zion Lutheran church, Mr. Koehler being the second deacon and is also serving as secretary of the church. They are both active in church affairs and liberal supporters of the local congregation.

ABRAHAM L. EVANS.

The life of Abraham L. Evans, well known farmer of Smithfield township, Fayette county, has been an earnest one, fraught with much that tends to benefit his kind, and his career in the humble sphere of private citizenship has added to the character and stability of the community in which he lives.



ABRAHAM L. EVANS.



MRS. LILLIE EVANS.

His conduct among his fellow men has ever been above criticism, for he has always aimed to keep his name and reputation unspotted, as did his forefathers.

Mr. Evans was born in Clayton county, Iowa, February 11, 1864, but the major part of his life has been spent in Harlan township, Fayette county, where he received his education in the public schools and in Upper Iowa University at Fayette, from which institution he was graduated in 1890, having made a splendid record there for scholarship. He is the son of Elias and Julia Evans, the father a native of England, from which country he came to America about 1852 and located in Clayton county, Iowa, where he bought a farm of the government and made his home, until his death, on the place which he developed into a very valuable farm and established a comfortable home. His death occurred about 1866, his wife surviving him until 1876. They were the parents of six children, of whom Abraham L., of this review, was the youngest in order of birth. When he was three years of age he was taken to raise by L. D. Talcott, a friend of the Evans family, living in Harlan township, this county, and he made his home with his benefactor until he reached the age of twenty-one years, consequently he never learned very much concerning his parents or their family. Young Evans worked on the farm of Mr. Talcott during the summer months and attended school in the winter time. About 1885 he began teaching, attending school the following term, thus alternating for some time until his graduation in 1890. In 1891 he was principal of the schools at Henderson, Nebraska, and from 1892 to 1895, inclusive, he was principal of the school at Maynard, this county. He was very successful as a teacher, being well equipped from a text-book standpoint and was naturally endowed for this work, being both an entertainer and an instructor in the school-room, so that he won hearty commendation in his work both by pupil and patron. His services as principal were of especial value, he being a good organizer and master of details, so that his services were in great demand, and had he desired to continue in this line of endeavor he would doubtless have become one of the leading educators of upper Iowa; but, tiring of the school-room, he sought the more independent and withal desirable life of the husbandman, and in the spring of 1895 bought a valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 18, Smithfield township, Fayette county. Prospering by reason of close application to his individual affairs and being a good manager, he in time added eighty acres to his original purchase, and he has continued to devote his attention to agricultural pursuits in its various phases since that time, and the

neat and thrifty condition of his farm will readily attest that his labors have been abundantly crowned with success. He has some good livestock, and his home is a pleasant one. He takes an active part in the business life of his home town, being a leading stockholder and director of the Maynard Savings Bank.

Politically, Mr. Evans is a Republican and he has held a number of minor offices in his township, being township trustee at present. He takes an abiding interest in local affairs and is always ready to assist in furthering anything calculated to be for the general good. Fraternally, he is a Mason, holding membership in Lodge No. 510 at Maynard, and, together with his wife, he is a member of the Eastern Star, Chapter No. 103, of Maynard. Mr. Evans, his wife and children are all members of the Methodist Episcopal church and faithful in the discharge of their duties in the local congregation.

On June 1, 1893, Mr. Evans was united in marriage with Lillie M. Beckner, who was born in Smithfield township, this county, on April 2, 1872, the daughter of Frank and Mary (Metcalf) Beckner, a highly honored family of this locality. Mr. Beckner was born in LaPorte, Indiana, November, 1842, and his wife was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in April, 1843. Mr. Beckner came to Delaware county, Iowa, with his parents when young. The parents of Mary Metcalf located in Minnesota when they came West and there she married Mr. Beckner, about four years later moving to Fayette county, Iowa, locating in section 18, Smithfield township, where they lived until 1906 when they moved to Maynard where they still reside. Mrs. Evans was educated in the public schools of Smithfield township, afterwards attending the Upper Iowa University, where she graduated in music in 1891. She is a pleasant lady and highly accomplished. She is an artist of merit and her home is beautifully decorated with a number of her paintings.

To Mr. and Mrs. Evans five children have been born, named as follows: Carleton F., born July 8, 1894; Ruth M., born October 2, 1896; Frank R., born December 1, 1898; Viola F., born August 20, 1906, died January 2, 1908; Robert L., born February 4, 1908.

BENJAMIN SHEPHARD BEMIS.

It is eminently proper that attention be called to the achievements of Benjamin Shephard Bemis, one of Windsor township's most successful agriculturists, and that due credit be accorded to his worth as an enterprising

citizen. He was born at Windham, Vermont, April 12, 1861, the son of Shephard Benjamin and Mary (Lewis) Bemis, both natives of Vermont, each, like the families from which they came, being sterling New Englanders. Their son, Benjamin Shephard, grew up on the farm and when nineteen years of age, desiring to get away from a rough, rocky country, he came to Fayette county, Iowa, locating near West Union. He worked for George Blent for a period of six years, saved his money and was enabled to buy the farm which he now owns, paying only nine dollars and fifty cents per acre for land which is now worth a handsome figure; this land was formerly owned by his employer. His farm consists of two hundred acres and lies two miles southeast of Hawkeye. He rented his land out and on September 23, 1888, he moved to the place, which he has since occupied continuously, paying fifty dollars per acre for the last forty acres he purchased. His farm is intersected by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, two miles southeast of Hawkeye. He has one of the finest farms in this locality and very successfully carries on general farming and dairying, also devotes considerable attention to cattle feeding, two or three car loads of cattle at a time, buying large numbers of cattle to feed or sell at a time. He breeds some excellent stock, most of which is high grade in every respect, and, well understanding the "ins and outs" of the stock business, he is well repaid for his efforts in this direction. He has always been very successful as a general farmer and stockman.

Mr. Bemis has erected an attractive and commodious dwelling, recently completed, which is inviting and nicely furnished. He also has a substantial bank-barn, located on a fine knoll from which an excellent view of the country may be had. Everything about his place indicates good management and good taste.

Mr. Bemis is a Republican politically, but he does not find time to devote any special attention to political matters, though he is deeply interested in whatever tends to promote the general interests of his county and state, whether political or otherwise.

Mr. Bemis was married on September 23, 1888, in Westfield township, this county, to Jane Smith, daughter of Chauncy and Susan (Bishop) Smith, the father of Vermont and the mother a native of Kentucky, and a highly respected and influential family, who came to Fayette county, locating in Westfield township before the Civil war, and they both lived here the rest of their lives. Mrs. Jane Bemis was born in Westfield township and there grew to maturity.

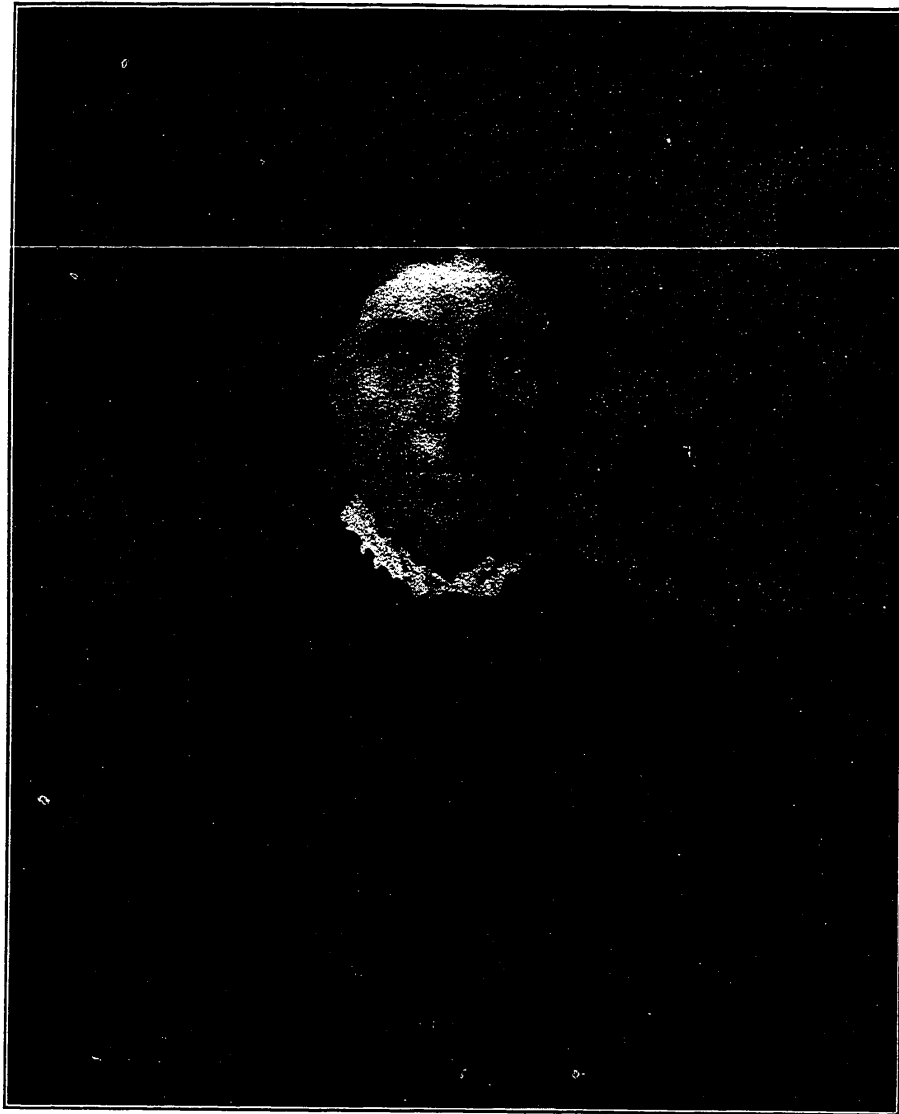
Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bemis, namely: Luella, living at home, attended the Hawkeye high school; Arthur C. attended the

business college at Austin, Minnesota, and is now living at home; the other children who form members of the family circle are Edith Maud, Homer Benjamin and Viola.

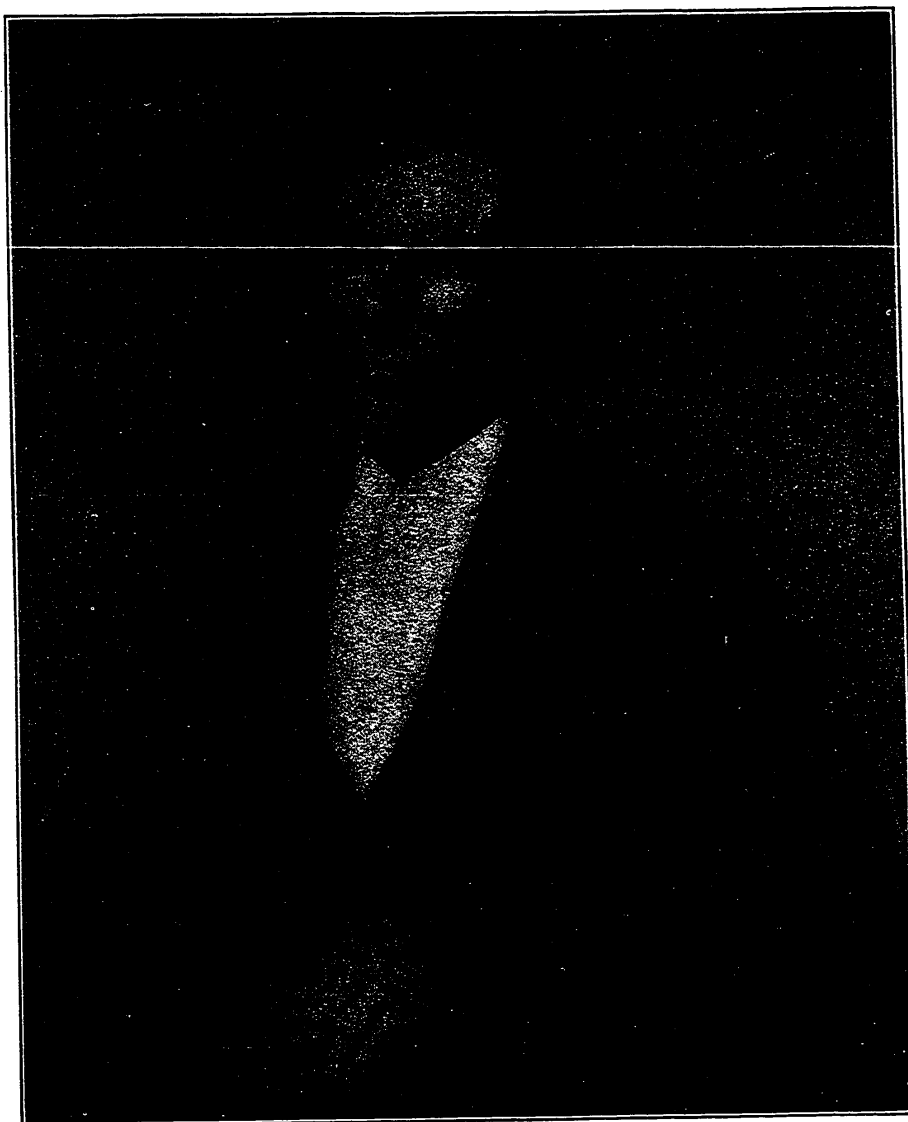
Mr. Bemis enjoys hunting and he is also a devotee of the rod, being both a successful huntsman and fisherman. He has made several trips to Lake Itaska, Minnesota, where much wild game is to be found and where he never fails to get his full share of the game, deer, ducks, etc. He has many fine trophies of the chase to show for his skill as a marksman. He is a stockholder in the Hawkeye Creamery, the success of which is due not a little to his judicious counsel. He has visited his old home in Vermont two or three times since coming here. His brother, Charles, also came to Windsor township two years after Benjamin S. located here, but he is now living in California, having lived here ten years. Several young men have come from Vermont to Fayette county, Iowa, as a result of the successful venture of Mr. Bemis and they have all become well-to-do and prominent citizens. Personally, Mr. Bemis is a very likable man, being jovial, kind-hearted and straightforward in his dealings with his fellow men.

JOSEPH SCALLAN.

Notwithstanding the fact that Ireland is one of the smallest countries of Europe, it has sent more people to the United States perhaps than any other nation of the Eastern continent with the possible exception of Germany. The inhabitants of the beautiful and historic isle, appreciating the blessings of liberty, of which they have been so long deprived, have not been slow in recognizing the possibilities that opened out in splendid perspective for all who ventured across the Atlantic and settled down to the pursuit of a competence under the influence of institutions that make for man's greatest happiness and success. They have here become among the most intelligent, patriotic, industrious and upright of our great cosmopolitan population and are to be found in every line of industry, also as leaders of thought and moulders of opinion in those avenues of life upon which depend the safety and welfare of the republic. Among the leading representatives of this sturdy nationality in Fayette county, Iowa, was Joseph Scallan, a man of sterling worth who came to this part of Iowa when the country was new and filled well the measure of his duties and responsibilities during the pioneer period and left the impress of his individuality deeply stamped upon the community which he helped to found and in which so many years of his life were spent.



MRS. ANN SCALLAN.



JOSEPH SCALLAN.

Mr. Scallan was born in county Wexford, Ireland, about 1820 and when a young lad he ran away from home to go to sea and, making his way to Liverpool, secured a place on the "Agitator," a sailing vessel from Belfast which had for a figure-head the carved image of Daniel O'Connell, the great Irish orator and statesman. At that time the boy was ignorant of the ship's destination and only learned it on meeting another vessel whose captain's hail was answered with the information that the vessel was the "Agitator" bound for Charleston, Prince Edward Island, on the coast of British America. Arriving at that port, young Scallan was more anxious to remain on shore than to spend his life before the mast, accordingly he took advantage of an opportunity to escape, in due time succeeded in reaching the town of Chatham, where he settled down to learn the trade of shoemaking. After spending two years at that place and becoming a proficient workman, he went to Quebec, where he followed his trade for some time, going thence to Rochester, New York, where he also operated a shop with gratifying success.

While at the latter city Mr. Scallan sent money to Ireland to defray the expenses of his brother James and sisters Mary and Sarah to America, also a brother-in-law by the name of Buldger, all of whom arrived in due time, the brother and sisters marrying shortly thereafter and establishing themselves in Rochester. About that time Mr. Scallan contracted a matrimonial alliance, choosing for his wife and helpmeet Ann Murray, who came to America the same year as himself. By reading various papers Mr. Scallan learned of the opportunities in the West for the men of moderate means and after perusing an article by Bishop Toris of Dubuque in the *Boston Pilot* describing the advantages of Iowa, as a place for securing cheap lands, he decided to seek his fortunes in the latter state. Accordingly, he wound up his business in Rochester and shortly thereafter started on his journey to the West with Fayette county as his objective point. Arriving at his destination, he found certain of his countrymen living at various places throughout the county, among whom were two gentlemen by the name of Brennan, known in the neighborhood as "King" and "Pope" Brennan, who were among the first permanent settlers, the former locating about one and a half miles west of the site of Waucoma, the latter entering land across the line in the county of Winneshiek. Mr. Scallan was directed to "King" Brennan as the man best calculated to give him information regarding the country, and his confidence in that gentleman was by no means misplaced, for in due time he was directed where to find the best and most desirable lands and otherwise assisted to settle and get a start. "King" Brennan was a man of intelligence and excellent judgment and took a leading part in the early settlement of this part of the

state and the development of its resources. He had sons, John, Owen, Philip, Larry and Thomas K., all of whom became men of prominence and influence in the community, the last named being the present owner of the original Brennan homestead. There were also three daughters, Mary Ann, who married a Mr. Finnigan; Bridget, the wife of James Shekelbor, and Ann, who married Patrick Lyons, these sons-in-law locating farms at no great distance from each other and becoming substantial citizens of their respective communities. There were several of the Brennan brothers who settled in Fayette county, also Michael and Patrick Kieron, the latter locating in what is now Eden township, being the second only to the Brennans in this part of the county. To Mr. Scallan belongs the credit of being the third permanent settler of Eden township, and a little later he was joined by the Heathertons, Thomas, William and Luke, the first named still living on the old place, which was purchased from the government. In 1853 Mr. Scallan secured his land and at once began improving the same. His first home was a rude shanty, which, ere completed, let water through the roof like a sieve until there was not a dry spot in the room where the family took shelter, but later it answered fairly well the purpose for which intended until replaced by the present substantial stone edifice. At odd times during the development of his farm Mr. Scallan worked at his trade, but the rain ruining what leather he had on hand interfered very materially with the business, as he had no money with which to replenish the stock, having loaned all of his available means to certain friends who failed to meet their obligations when due. During the first few years his experiences were trying indeed, losing in addition to the money referred to considerable of his grain and hay, so that at one time he had not sufficient feed for the single cow upon which the family depended for milk and butter. In due time, however, matters improved and in the course of a few years he had his farm in excellent condition and well stocked.

Mr. Scallan was among the first farmers in Fayette county to use reaping machines in the cutting of grain, his first reaper being operated by an ox-team. With the passing years he purchased other machinery and implements, always kept pace with the times in the matter of improvement and his labors were finally rewarded with one of the finest farms in his section of the country, to say nothing of the ample competence which he laid up to insure a prosperous and comfortable old age. During the late Civil war he was a firm and uncompromising Union man and at the close of the war became a stanch Republican, which party he ever afterwards supported and to the success of which he rendered worthy service.

Mr. Scallan was born a Catholic and throughout a long life remained loyal to the Holy Mother church, and brought up his family under the teachings and influence of the same. He was among the early members of the St. Rose parish and contributed liberally to the erection of the present house of worship, besides assisting the society in many other ways, always proving one of its most earnest and devout communicants. All enterprises for the benefit of the community found in him a zealous and liberal advocate and his benevolence and hospitality were such that no worthy person or project ever appealed to him in vain and he was never known to turn a deaf ear to the needy or distressed. In all of his relations with his neighbors and fellow citizens he was actuated by the purest motives, his word was as sacred as his bond, and he measured up to a high standard of excellence, which won the confidence and esteem of all with whom he came into contact and made him one of the notable men of his day and generation in the township of his residence. The death of this good man occurred on March 7, 1910.

Ann Murray, who, on June 20, 1853, became the wife of Joseph Scallan, was born in county Antrim, Ireland, and spent her girlhood days in her native land. When about twenty years old she emigrated to America, going direct to Quebec, Canada, removing thence to Kingston, where she spent the three ensuing years. At the expiration of the period indicated she went to Rochester, New York, where her marriage took place, as already stated. In December, 1854, she accompanied her husband to Dubuque, Iowa, where they lived until their removal to Fayette county the following spring. She shared with Mr. Scallan the vicissitudes and hardships of pioneer life, nobly assisted him in his efforts to establish a home and acquire a competency and to her judicious counsel and advice not a little of his success was due. For fifty-two years this estimable couple trod life's pathway hand in hand, ever willing to help each other and doing all within their power to promote their mutual interests and provide comfortably for those dependent upon them. Their golden wedding anniversary was celebrated on June 20, 1903. A long and beautiful life ceased when her spirit returned to its Maker, which sad event occurred at her home, one mile west of Waucoma, on Friday morning, September 20, 1907. Thus passed from the community, where she had been so long and so favorably known, a loving wife, a devoted mother, a generous neighbor, ever ready to lend a helping hand to those in need. A true friend, her friendship was real, serviceable, unostentatious and in the largest sense helpful. Patience and cheerfulness like golden threads run through her life, and, ever trusting in God for light and guidance, for courage and comfort, her influence like heaven's benediction made better all with whom she was wont to mingle.

Mrs. Scallan was a devout member of the Roman Catholic church during her life and in her dying hour, fortified by its rites and at peace with her God and the world, she gently breathed forth her spirit to her Maker, leaving to mourn her loss an aged husband, three sons and one daughter, namely: James and Elizabeth, of Waucoma, Joseph, of West Union, and Thomas, of Cincinnati, Ohio.

JOHN F. UNGERER.

One of the successful farmers of Windsor township, who, although born under a foreign flag, has the interests of Fayette county at heart as much as if he were native of the same, is John F. Ungerer, who was born in Ontario, Canada, March 14, 1859, and when a little over one year old his parents brought him to Dover township, Fayette county, Iowa. His parents were Michael and Elizabeth (Hipner) Ungerer, natives of Wittenberg, Germany. The father later married Christina Friedmann, and during our great civil conflict he showed his patriotism by enlisting in Capt. L. L. Ainsworth's company and fought against the Sioux Indians in the Dakotas. Shortly afterwards he settled at Independence, Iowa, as a baker and he continued successfully in business at that place until he retired. He was an honest and industrious man who had numerous friends wherever he was known. He had two sons, John F., of this review, and Henry George, an adopted son. The latter is living north of West Union and J. F. is still living in Windsor township, Fayette county.

John F. Ungerer was three years old when his mother died and he was taken by Adam Reisner, living north of West Union, and he remained with him until he was twenty-one years of age, assisting with the work on the farm when he became of proper age and attending the district schools during the winter months. When he reached his majority he worked out at farm work for a period of two years.

On April 12, 1883, Mr. Ungerer married Lena Schlatter, for a full history of whose family the reader is directed to the sketch of her father, Jacob Schlatter, appearing elsewhere in this work.

Mr. Ungerer settled on his present farm of eight acres in Windsor township, having gone in debt for the same, but being a hard worker he soon had it paid for. The land was unimproved and the few buildings on the place were mere makeshifts; however, they have given way under the prosperity that has attended the efforts of Mr. Ungerer until comfortable and sub-

stantial ones are now to be seen there. He later added another eighty acres, having paid twenty-five dollars per acre for both tracts, and he now has a fine farm and a good home, all due to his own unaided efforts along legitimate lines. About the place are to be seen fine groves of trees. Mr. Ungerer handles some high grade livestock from year to year. He milks twelve or thirteen cows, and he is a stockholder in the local creamery, having been a director in the same for three years.

Twelve children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Ungerer, ten of whom are living, namely: Henry, living in Center township, married Anna Begalski; Rena married William Fritz, living in Bethel township; Lizzie married Leonard Schlatter, of Bethel township; William and Mary are both living at home; Walter died when eleven years of age and Ida died in infancy; Sarah, Emma, Ella, Albert, Leroy and Freddie.

Politically, Mr. Ungerer is a Republican, and he was township trustee for a period of three years. He has been a delegate to the county convention and has long been influential in local politics. He is a member of the Hawkeye Lutheran church.

LEMUEL DEAN TALCOTT.

From a sterling line of ancestry of the old Buckeye state comes Lemuel Dean Talcott, a well known citizen of Maynard, Fayette county, who was born in Lake county, Ohio, November 19, 1842, the son of Silas and Jane (Hammond) Talcott, the father a native of Lake county, Ohio, and the mother of Pennsylvania. Silas Talcott grew to maturity and was educated in his native community. In 1848 he went to Berrien county, Michigan, where he worked at the wagon and cabinetmakers' trade until 1855, then went to Delaware county, Iowa, and bought a farm, where the town of Greeley now stands. The land was all wild there and Mr. Talcott broke his farm with oxen, using six yoke to a huge plow, improving the place and making a comfortable home, where he lived until 1859. He was an honest, hard working man. He had left the farm and was living with his daughter in Maynard, Iowa, at the time of his death, in 1888. His widow is still living with a daughter in Maynard. Isaac Talcott took considerable interest in political affairs and he ably served as justice of the peace and postmaster. He was a Republican, and religiously he held membership with the Christian church. He and his wife were the parents of four children, named as follows: Linden, of Delphos, Kansas; Lemuel Dean, of this review; Harriett, wife of

William Melven, of Maynard, Iowa; Henry, who was employed in the detective department of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company, was killed on the railroad in 1891.

Lemuel D. Talcott was educated in the common schools in Greeley, Iowa, and remained at home with his parents, working on the farm until the breaking out of the Civil war, when he showed his patriotism by enlisting in the Union army, on September 19, 1861, in Company F, First Missouri Engineering Corps, of the West, his enlistment taking place at Dubuque, Iowa. He was sent to St. Louis and to Vicksburg by steamboat for the purpose of building bridges. On July 4th of that year he was sent to Pittsburg Landing, later to Corinth, Mississippi, while in the Army of the West under Sherman and Grant, and he served very faithfully for three years. After the war he returned to Greeley, Iowa, where he remained for two years, then came to Fayette county, Iowa, and bought eighty acres of land in Harlan township, which he improved and managed in a very successful manner, later adding forty acres more to his holdings, the latter tract lying in the vicinity of Maynard, on which he lived until 1907, when he moved to Maynard and retired. He quit farming on his original eighty in 1895. He was very successful in his general operations as a farmer and is now enjoying the comforts of life as a result of his former years of activity.

Mr. Talcott was married on September 15, 1864, to Olive Perry, of Hampshire, Massachusetts, the daughter of Alden and Hannah (Young) Perry, the mother a native of Worcester, Massachusetts, and the father of Hampshire, that state. They grew to maturity there and were educated and married in their native state, and came to Greeley, Iowa, in 1859 and in that vicinity Mr. Perry bought wild land, which he improved and in 1861 he moved to Maynard, where he lived until his death, in 1874, his wife dying in 1894. Before coming West they maintained a hotel in Massachusetts. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Their family consisted of three children: Marie married Hiram Mackey, of Fayette county; Harrison, who is now deceased, was in Company F, Twenty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry, in which he served for a period of three years; he married Delia Jewett and they lived in Maynard; Olivia, the youngest member of Mr. Perry's family, is the wife of Mr. Talcott, and to their union three children have been born, namely: Nora married William Brownell, living at Lemon, South Dakota; and they are the parents of eight children: Fred, Harold, Dean, Neil, Fern, Will, Richard and Patsy, the two latter are both deceased. Don H., the second child of Mr. and Mrs. Talcott, is a farmer in Harlan township; he married Josephine Meddlestedt and they are the parents of three chil-

dren, Francis and Frank (twins) and Ruby, deceased. Myrtle, the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. Talcott, married Oscar Gilley, of Black Hawk county, Iowa, and they have two children, Floyd and May.

Mr. Talcott has been both trustee and school director and long active in Republican politics. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Reynolds Post No. 47, and he has held all the offices of the same, always taking an abiding interest in its affairs. He belongs to Masonic Blue Lodge, No. 510, at Maynard, Iowa, and he and his wife are members of the Relief Corps, Mr. Talcott having been a member of the soldiers' relief committee for ten years. He is a man whom all highly respect and admire for his useful life.

GEORGE P. SCHATZ.

Iowa profited greatly by the German immigrants of the nineteenth century, the stream beginning to pour in before the Civil war and gradually filling the state with as fine an agricultural population as any country could boast. These sturdy, industrious and intelligent people did much in the way of developing Iowa and placing it in the front rank, as they are always progressive and patriotic. They are found all over the state and Fayette county got her share. Among those who came to this section of the state before the war were representatives of the family name above given. Michael Schatz, who was born in north Germany, came to the United States about 1855 and immediately identified himself with Fayette county. He worked out for several years as a hand and then bought ninety-five acres in Fayette and Winneshiek counties. At first he contented himself with building a log cabin, in which he lived for seven years, and as prosperity favored him he put up a frame house, near a delightful spring, and this structure still stands. He made his home at this place until his retirement from business and meantime accumulated two hundred fifty-five acres of land in one body. His last days were spent in Windsor township with his son. He was an active member of the Lutheran church and helped to build the first church at Eldorado. He married Amra Mary Schlater, a native of south Germany, after his arrival in America, as both had come over single. Pretty much of his whole active life was spent in Dover township, north of Eldorado.

George P. Schatz, one of the four children of Michael, was born in Fayette county, Dover township, in 1860. He remained on the farm until the completion of his twenty-fourth year, meantime obtaining a fair education at

the public schools. He purchased the southern part of his father's farm of one hundred seventy-four acres, besides ten acres of timber, and since then has greatly improved the place. Excellent buildings of all kinds now ornament this farm, which is kept in neat shape and good condition for tillage. He raises cattle and hogs extensively and does a fine business in the livestock market. He is a man of influence in his section, ranking high as a farmer and man of strict integrity. At present he is trustee of the township and for twenty-six years has been treasurer of the school board. He and his family are members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Schatz affiliates with the Republican party.

In May, 1885, Schatz married Maggie Christena Winter, by whom he had eight children: John William, Alma Mary (deceased), Otto Dedrick, Augustus George, Lena Christena, Zelma Katy, Lenda, Maggie Bertha and William Frederick. Dedrick Winter, father of Mrs. Schatz, was born in Hanover, Germany, during the second quarter of the last century and came to the United States in 1869. Previous to embarking he had married Anna Pape and she was the companion of his voyage to the New World. Mr. Winter made his way west and finally decided to find a location in Iowa, whose fame as an agricultural state had been spread far and wide. He settled in Winneshiek county and engaged in farming, which was his main pursuit all his life. The last two or three years of his life were spent in Fayette county, where he passed peacefully away in 1888.

THEODORE MIEHE.

Of a most excellent people came Theodore Miehe, a progressive young farmer of Smithfield township, Fayette county. He comes of a race that produced the famous "Iron Chancellor," the greatest statesman, all things considered, that ever walked this footstool. He comes of a race that is famous for its original investigations in the problems of civilized life—such men as Goethe and Heckel. The Germanic blood is found in many of the greatest men and women of this and former epochs in the world's history, and Mr. Miehe may well be proud of his descent from such a race, he being of German parents but American born. His birth occurred in Dubuque county, Iowa, December 6, 1872, but he grew to maturity principally in Fayette county and received his education here. He is the son of Frederick and Sophia (Gerieker) Miehe, both born in Germany, the father on June 2, 1836, and the



MR. AND MRS. THEODORE MIEHE.

mother in 1840. The father came to Dubuque county, Iowa, with his parents when eleven years old; the mother also accompanied her parents to that county when a young girl. In 1857 they were married and lived on a farm in Dubuque county until 1876, when they moved to Fayette county and located in Harlan township where Mr. Miehe bought a farm on which he has remained to the present time, having become very comfortably established here. The death of his wife occurred in 1887. They were the parents of fourteen children, of whom twelve are living, Theodore, of this review, being the eighth child in order of birth.

Theodore Miehe lived on the farm with his father until he was of age and attended the home schools. In 1894 he moved to Kossuth county, Iowa, where he bought a farm and lived until 1903, when he returned to Fayette county and located on a farm of four hundred and ninety acres in sections 8, 9 and 17, Smithfield township, having bought three hundred and twenty acres of this fine place the year previous. He has improved his land and brought it up to the standard of the excellent farms of Fayette county, and he has an attractive and substantial dwelling and good outbuildings—in fact, everything about his place shows that a gentleman of good taste and thrift has its management in hand and that he is well fixed to enjoy life in the country, which, after all, is the most desirable.

Politically, Mr. Miehe is a Republican and he has held a number of the minor township offices. He is a member of the German Lutheran church.

On April 3, 1894, Mr. Miehe married Caroline Sundermeyer, who was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, December 29, 1870, she being also of excellent German parentage, the daughter of John and Johanna (Hemerant) Sundermeyer, the father born in Hanover and the mother in Byron. They accompanied their parents to America, he when about eleven years old, in 1848; he was born on September 8, 1837, and his death occurred on April 22, 1908; Mrs. Sundermeyer was born on August 19, 1838, and died March 28, 1908. They each located in Dubuque county, Iowa, where they were married and where they spent the remainder of their lives.

Mr. and Mrs. Miehe are the parents of four interesting children, named as follows: Roy A., born November 13, 1895; Johnnie F., born July 29, 1898; Vera C., born June 6, 1900; Walter E., born November 10, 1903; all are living at home.

Mr. Miehe's father gave him a one hundred and sixty-acre farm when he started out in life and he also received some from his wife's parents. That he has been so successful in his business affairs would indicate that he is a man

of strong will and not afraid of work, and also that he is a man who is deserving of a high rank in our citizenship.

A full sketch of Frederick Miehé, father of Theodore, appears on another page of this work.

PETER KRAFT.

The subject of this sketch, a successful merchant and farmer of Scott, Iowa, is a native of Nassau, Prussia, and inherits many of the sterling qualities of head and heart for which the Germanic nationality for centuries has been distinguished. His parents, Peter and Anna Marie (Kalb) Kraft, were born at the place above mentioned and there lived until immigrating to America, in 1862. They settled in Dubuque county, Iowa, where the father worked at the cooper's trade, which he had previously learned in the Fatherland, and also devoted a portion of the ensuing eight years to agricultural pursuits. At the expiration of the period indicated, he moved to Fayette county and purchased one hundred sixty acres of land in section 22, Scott township, later securing an additional two hundred acres, mostly in its natural state, which in due time he improved and converted into a good farm. Peter Kraft was a man of industrious habits, economical and thrifty and in the course of a few years he became one of the well-to-do farmers and enterprising citizens of Scott township. He reared a family of four children, whose names are as follows: William, a farmer, of Scott township, and a thrifty tiller of the soil; Charley, a farmer, of Scott township; and Jacob, who lives on the old homestead and is one of the substantial agriculturists of his neighborhood.

Peter Kraft, whose birth occurred on January 4, 1852, received his preliminary education in the Lutheran schools of his native place and after coming to the United States attended for a while the public schools of Dubuque. He lived at home, assisting in the cultivation of the farm, until January, 1887, when he married Frederika Doerfler, and immediately purchasing two hundred forty acres of excellent land in sections 14 and 15, Scott township, which he still owns and which, devoted to general farming and stock raising, has proven the source of a generous share of the ample competency now in his possession. Soon after moving to his place, he started a creamery which he conducted with gratifying success for a period of eight years, when it was purchased by the Welch Brothers, who in turn sold it to a company composed of several neighboring farmers, by whom it is still operated.

In the year 1899 Mr. Kraft engaged in merchandising at Scott, where he is still at the head of a large general store and doing a very successful business. He served as postmaster of that town for several years, was also a member of the school board and from time to time has been elected to other positions of responsibility and trust, including the office of township clerk and treasurer of the school board, in all of which he demonstrated ability of a high honor and discharged the duties incumbent upon him to the satisfaction of all concerned. In politics he is a Democrat, and as such is highly esteemed by his political associates, being a judicious adviser in the councils of his party and an influential worker with the rank and file.

Mr. Kraft has been successful in all of his undertakings and is today one of the enterprising farmers and stock raisers of Fayette county, as well as an influential factor in commercial circles. He carries on general farming and keeps from ninety to one hundred head of fine Durham cattle, in the breeding and raising of which he has achieved much more than local repute. He also devotes considerable attention to high grade draft and driving horses and Poland-China hogs, besides raising a large number of chickens of the Plymouth Rock breed, his poultry comparing favorably with the best in his part of the state and proving quite profitable from a monetary point of view.

In his mercantile establishment at Scott Mr. Kraft carries full lines of dry goods, boots, shoes, groceries, agricultural implements and machinery—in fact, his stock, which is quite large, is general in character and includes everything in the way of merchandise for which there is any demand. His relations with his customers have always been mutually agreeable and it is to his faculty of winning and retaining warm friendships, as well as to his integrity and strict sense of honor that he attributes much of the success with which his business career has been crowned. He is widely known throughout the county of Fayette, enjoys to a marked degree the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens and has so stamped the impress of his individuality upon his own community as a leader and trusted adviser among those with whom his lot has been cast.

Mrs. Kraft was born in the state of Wisconsin, and is a daughter of John Doerfler, who came to this country a number of years ago and was one of the early settlers of Clayton county, Iowa, where he spent the rest of his life as a prosperous tiller of the soil. To Mr. and Mrs. Kraft eight children have been born, namely: Lena, Willie, Bertha, Peter, Jr., Cecelia, Minnie, Laura and Matilda, all living and members of the home circle. Lena attended the business college at Oelwein, where she completed the prescribed course of study and is now an expert stenographer and typewriter. Bertha, a well edu-

cated and accomplished young lady, who for some time past has been one of the county's efficient and popular teachers. The rest of the children received their educational training in the home schools and are fitting themselves for future usefulness in various fields of endeavor.

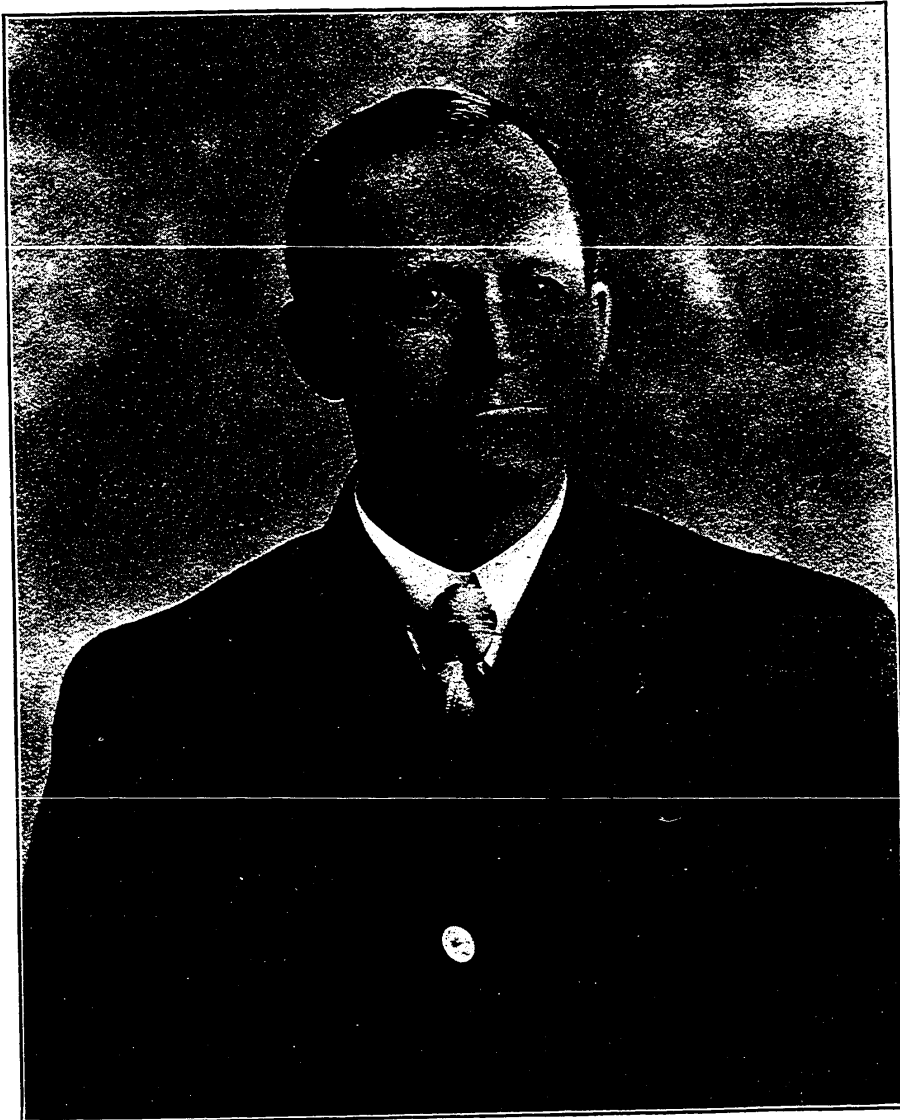
LOUIS F. MEISGEIER.

One would indeed be unappreciative if, upon passing the well improved and well kept farmstead of Louis F. Meisgeier, in Fairfield township, Fayette county, one should fail to be filled with admiration, for it has been the special care of its owner so long that it ranks with the best and most attractive farms in the community, and, consequently, something of the life work of such a man would be of interest to others. Mr. Meisgeier was born December 5, 1869, in this county, the son of Carl and Catherine (Huepsch) Meisgeier, both natives of Germany, who came to America when about twelve years of age. They went to school in Germany, but were married in this country. In 1855 they came to Fayette county, Iowa, settling on a farm which the father made his home for the long period of fifty-four years, during which time he became widely known as an excellent agriculturist and stock man, especially as a breeder of Hereford cattle. He recently sold his homestead to his youngest daughter, Mrs. Krumpel, and he has erected a modern residence, good barn and other buildings on an eighty-acre farm which he owned in section 15, Fairfield township, and there he will make his future home. His first wife died on December 19, 1908, and he was married subsequently to Mrs. Louise Hetzel. He is a member of the Lutheran church. His family consisted of seven children, all of whom are living, namely: John H.; Mary C., now Mrs. G. Martin; Louis F.; Emma M., now Mrs. George Eckhart; Caroline M., now Mrs. C. Andrews; Alma M., now Mrs. Fred Robbins; Johanna C., now Mrs. H. Krumpel.

Louis F. Meisgeier spent his early life on the home farm and assisted with the work about the place, attending the common schools in the winter months. On June 3, 1896, he led to the marriage altar Annie F. Martin, who was born May 13, 1875, the daughter of John and Margaret Martin, natives of Bavaria, Germany, who came to America in 1854 and located in St. Louis. They married after coming here, on May 12, 1855, and the following year came to Fayette county, Iowa. Mr. Martin was a carpenter and cabinetmaker by trade, and this he followed in connection with farming, having purchased a place



MRS. ANNIE MEISGEIER.



LOUIS F. MEISGEIER.

upon coming to this county. His death occurred here on January 19, 1908; his widow, who survives and makes her home with her daughters, is now seventy-four years old. Their family consisted of eleven children, of whom Mrs. Meisgeier is the youngest. Her parents were always members of the Lutheran church.

Mr. and Mrs. Meisgeier began their married life near Taylorsville, his farm at first consisting of fifty acres, but he soon began to prosper and lay by enough to add thirty-one acres more. A few years later he sold this place and purchased his present splendid farm of one hundred and twenty acres and he has lived here ever since, having devoted his attention exclusively to general farming and stock raising. He keeps a good grade of stock and feeds for the market. Everyone is of the opinion that his is one of the choice farms of Fairfield township. He has made a success by diligence, close application and honorable dealing with his fellow men; he is progressive, generous, neighborly and makes friends easily. For the past eight years he has been secretary of the school board, of which he is an interested and active member. Politically, he is a Republican and takes more than a passing interest in the campaigns.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Meisgeier, namely: Rupert, born April 14, 1898; Donald, born October 7, 1901; and Arneldo, born December 12, 1903. They attend school at Taylorsville.

Mrs. Meisgeier's parents resided in Windsor township and were farmers. Her father was a soldier in the Bavarian army. He and his wife were among the founders of the Lutheran church in Windsor township, a fact in which the whole family takes great pride. September 5, 1910, was the fiftieth anniversary of the church. Mrs. Martin and one other lady and an old gentleman were the only charter members yet alive. It was a day of great rejoicing for these venerable people, as, surrounded by their children, they were permitted to attend this jubilee.

JAMES SMITH.

The subject of this sketch was for many years intimately associated with the development and progress of Fayette county, his life and the history of the county during the formative period having been pretty much one and the same thing. That part of the county included within the present limits of Smithfield township appears to have been his special field of endeavor,

for it was there that he permanently settled on coming west, in 1854. He secured a large body of choice land, which in due time made him one of the wealthy and substantial men of northeastern Iowa. James Smith's father was Hector Smith, whose birth occurred May 18, 1789, in New Jersey, and who was by trade a blacksmith, also a man of wealth and influence and a slave holder. He married, in his native state, Sophia Clark, who was born August 29, 1785, and whose father, Abraham Clark, was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. On the paternal side of the Smith family is Holland stock, and several of the subject's ancestors served with distinction in the war of the Revolution. Hector Smith was killed in 1817, and some time afterward his widow became the wife of Andy Mann, of New Jersey, whose birth occurred on February 15, 1779; she departed this life January 25, 1865. James Smith was born February 10, 1816, and spent the greater part of his youth in New Jersey, where he was employed on a farm and where he remained until young manhood, when he went to Carroll county, Ohio. There he entered the service of Governor Pike, as a laborer on the latter's farm, and continued in that capacity for several years, meanwhile, on June 18, 1837, having been united in marriage with Mary Jane Morrison, who was born November 12, 1818, in Washington county, Pennsylvania, where her parents, John and Jennie (Montgomery) Morrison, natives of Ireland, settled the previous year. John Morrison and wife came to America from the city of Dublin and settled originally in Pennsylvania, but after a brief residence in that state moved to Carroll county, Ohio, where he entered a section and a half of government land and became one of the most influential men in the county. He was the organizer of the first Methodist church in the town of Carrollton, erected a house of worship for the society and also donated land for a burial ground, which is now known as Green Hill cemetery. He was a farmer and stock raiser and, as already indicated, occupied a conspicuous place in the esteem of the public. His death occurred in the year 1842, and, with his wife, he sleeps in beautiful Green Hill cemetery, which he laid out for burial purposes a number of years before.

Mr. Smith continued to live in Ohio until May, 1854, when he came to Fayette county, Iowa, and located in what is now Smithfield township, which was named in his honor and in the organization of which he took an active and influential part. The year previous he migrated west as far as Dubuque, where he left his family until he made a tour of investigation with the object of locating permanently, but spent a winter in Jackson county before going to Fayette. Being pleased with the part of Fayette county referred to above, he secured eleven hundred and sixty acres of fine land, to which he removed

his family the following spring. He soon had an excellent farm under cultivation and stocked with superior breeds of cattle and it was not long until he forged to the front as one of the leading agriculturists and stock men in his section of the country. He also manifested an active interest in other than material affairs, having been a friend and advocate of education, and to him belongs the credit of building the first school house in Smithfield township, in addition to which he afterwards donated a one-fourth section of land to Upper Iowa University. James Smith not only became one of the leading farmers of Fayette county, but, as an enterprising citizen having at heart the welfare and best interests of the community, he stamped his individuality upon public mind as one of the notable men of his day and generation in his part of the state. Originally a Whig in politics and a leader of that old party ere it fulfilled its mission, he afterwards became a stanch supporter of its successor, and as a Republican wielded a wide influence in political affairs and won the confidence and esteem of the people, irrespective of party ties. In matters religious he was a Methodist, and as such lived a life void of offense toward God and man and did much to promote the moral and spiritual interests of the community in which he resided. Mr. Smith was a man of decided domestic tastes and to him his home was the happiest and most sacred spot in the world. His fondness for his family became almost proverbial and the object which he appeared to make paramount to every other consideration was that his children might grow up to honorable manhood and womanhood and become useful and God-fearing members of society. After a long and eminently honorable career, this high-minded gentleman and public-spirited citizen was called to his final reward, on October 22, 1894, his widow surviving him until November 29, 1899, when she, too, ended her earthly sojourn.

James and Mary Jane Smith had nine children, namely: William, who died March 4, 1838, in Carroll county, Ohio; Jennie, born May 13, 1839, was for many years a teacher in the public schools of Fayette county and is still living near the family homestead, being unmarried and one of the most highly esteemed ladies of the community; Sophia Z., wife of Lewis Shirley, is deceased, her husband being a resident of Boone county, Illinois. John M. was born July 4, 1843, and died on the 10th day of March, 1888. He married Ella White, who bore him one daughter, Elizabeth, now Mrs. Harvey Rawson, of Moscow, Idaho; the mother is still making her home in Arlington, Iowa. Rose, whose birth occurred May 5, 1845, was engaged in educational work for a number of years and enjoyed the reputation of being one of the ablest and most popular teachers in the county of Fayette; she is now the

wife of E. Evenson and lives at Oelwein. Mary, the next in order of birth, died on July 28, 1851. Harriett, who was born July 22, 1851, departed this life in 1854. James H., born June 11, 1855, a well known farmer and representative citizen of Fayette county, has always lived on or near the home place, which he now helps to manage. Charles F., who also resides near the paternal estate, was born August 24, 1858, and is one of the leading farmers and stock raisers of his township. Of the above, Jennie, Joseph H. and Charles F. Smith remained with their parents until 1890, when they purchased eighty acres of land in Scott township, where they have since lived, owning in addition to their place of residence four hundred and eleven acres of the old homestead. They rent all of the latter farm and are among the most enterprising and prosperous agriculturists of the county, their home being modern and up-to-date in every particular and comparing favorably with any other place of residence in this part of the state. The brothers are Republicans and stand for progress and improvement in the most liberal meaning of the term. They are also deeply interested in natural history, archaeology and kindred subjects and their collection of curios, specimens, etc., which represent many years of travel, painstaking research and no little expense, is one of the largest and most valuable private collections in the state. Indeed many objects in their cabinets cannot be duplicated, consequently are beyond price, while others are quite rare, all being very valuable and a mine of information to those interested in such things.

JOHN ROTH LISBERGER.

From sturdy and worthy Swiss parents, as good blood as could course through the veins of any man, comes John Rothlisberger, an enterprising and highly respected farmer of Illyria township, Fayette county. He was born in Wagner township, Clayton county, Iowa, October 6, 1853, and is the son of Simeon and Elizabeth (Neuenschwander) Rothlisberger, both natives of the canton of Bern, Switzerland. They grew to maturity in their native land and were married there, coming to America about 1851 and located near Mansfield, Ohio. However, they soon came on to Clayton county, Iowa, where they secured forty acres of land; after retaining this a short time, they sold out and came to Pleasant Valley township, Fayette county, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres, which was soon cleared and a comfortable home established on it. The parents lived there until 1867, when they sold out



MR. AND MRS. JOHN ROTH LISBERGER.

and located in section 1, Illyria township, on a tract of one hundred and sixty acres; later additions brought this place up to two hundred acres, and here the father spent the rest of his life, dying in July, 1887, his widow surviving until November 24, 1908, reaching an advanced age. Simeon Rothlisberger was a hard working, successful agriculturist, honest and a man who had hosts of friends wherever he was known. He and his good wife were members of the Reformed church. He voted the Democratic ticket. The following children were born to them: Alice married L. H. Oswald, of Elgin, Iowa; John, of this review; Simeon is a farmer in Plymouth county, Iowa; Emma is deceased; Louisa married G. W. Bowder, of Ft. Collins, Colorado; Pauline married C. Oswald, of Gary, South Dakota; Fred married Mabel Humphrey and is farming in Illyria township; Rosanna is single and is living in Illyria township; Ida and George are twins; the former married John Mattox, of Illyria township, and one child which died on the ocean and is buried in New York City; George is deceased.

John Rothlisberger was educated in the common schools and he remained on the home place until he was thirty years old. On January 11, 1883, he married Cora M. Kohler, who was born in Elgin, Iowa, the daughter of Benedict and Magdalena (Wenger) Kohler, both natives of Switzerland, from which country they came to America in 1854, he at the age of seventeen and she when fifteen years old, each with their parents.

Mr. Kohler spent three years in Elgin, Iowa, with Benjamin Dimond in a grist-mill. Three trips to Kansas, with a view of locating there, ended in a final location in West Union, Iowa. The first trip, in 1857, was made by steamboat, the return being made afoot, in order to view the country. After this trip, Mr. Kohler never refused lodging or food to any wayfarer who appealed to him. In August of the same year he returned to Kansas, taking with him a bride, Magdalena Wenger, and his older brother, John Kohler, the wedding trip being made in a "prairie schooner," drawn by oxen. Mr. Kohler found that his claim had been taken by frontier sneaks, and, with his wife and brother, he pushed on farther south and then west. After three years of sickness and frontier hardships, drouth compelled them to abandon Kansas and they again came to Elgin. Three years were spent in Elgin and twenty-seven years on a farm three miles south of that place, and then Kansas lured him again. This time, however, the trip was made by rail. Less than a year in Kansas sufficed to send them back to Fayette county, locating near West Union, where they remained for sixteen years. Then came a trip to California and a final location in West Union, where Mr. Kohler's death occurred on April 22, 1907, his remains being laid to rest in Leo cemetery,

Illyria township, a burying ground to which many are brought great distances for burial near their old homes. His widow is living in West Union. Ten children were born to them, namely: Esmeralda died in Kansas; Angeline married Sampson Humphrey, of Pacific Grove, California; Cora M., wife of the subject; Josephine married William Boyer and lives in Decorah, Iowa; George is deceased; George, the second, is living in Kansas; Ida lives in West Union; Frank is deceased; Cecelia married William Stirk and lives near West Union; Lillian is single and is living with her mother.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. John Rothlisberger: Charles E., who married Lulu Kerr, is living in Illyria township, and they have two children, Earl and Helen; Walter S., who lives at home, is a graduate of the Oelwein Business College, of the class of May, 1907; Leo E. is the youngest child.

After their marriage the subject and wife lived one year on his father's farm, then rented land in Illyria township for two years, then bought where they now live in section 3, of this township, which is known as the Charles Speed place. This excellent place consists in all of two hundred and twenty-seven acres, a part of which is the W. Boyle place in section 3, Illyria township. The subject has a well improved farm in every respect, which is well kept, and his home is one of the most desirable and attractively located in the community. General farming has always claimed his attention for the most part, though he is known as a raiser of fine Durham cattle, Belgian and Norman horses. Poland-China and Duroc-Jersey hogs. His stock always finds a very ready market, owing to the fact that they are well cared for and are admired by all. He has been very successful considering the fact that he is a self-made man and has but little assistance in all his operations.

Mr. Rothlisberger is a Democrat and he has held many of the township offices. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. His wife is a member of the Ancient Order of Gleaners, as is also their son, Walter S.

GUERNSEY SMITH.

After a long and strenuous career, filled to repletion with stirring experiences and exciting adventures, the subject of this sketch retired from active life and is now spending his closing years in the town of Hawkeye. Guernsey Smith is a native of Ulster county, New York, born July 15, 1833, near Lloyd, in what was known as "Pancake Hollow," so called on account of a mill for the grinding of buckwheat flour, which was extensively patronized by the

farmers of the vicinity. His parents were Calvin and Henrietta (Chambers) Smith, the former being descended from Scotch ancestry, who came to this country in a very early day and settled in the eastern part of New York state. From the most reliable data obtainable, it appears that four brothers of the name of Smith sailed for America as long ago as 1640 and located at Jamaica, Long Island, where their names can still be seen in the old church records at that place. They were ship carpenters and one of them subsequently started a shipyard at Milton, on the Hudson, near which place he also received a patent for a body of land extending three miles back from the river to the top of a mountain in the vicinity of Lake Mohawk. In addition to this shipyard, he erected a grist mill, which was highly prized by the early settlers and which was in operation many years, though all traces of the building have long since disappeared. A piece of one of the old buhrs, however, was saved and is now in possession of the subject of this sketch, who prizes it as a very valuable relic. The Smith who settled in Ulster county was the founder of the family to which the subject belongs. He appears to have been a man of intelligence and great energy and under his management the shipyard and mill were operated very successfully, both finally passing into the hands of his descendants, by whom they were afterward abandoned. Eliphalet Smith, the subject's grandfather, was also a ship carpenter and for a number of years did a thriving business building schooners, which he loaded with wood or grain and sold in New York city. During the Revolutionary war work in the shipyard was discontinued and at one time the British soldiers tried to find tools belonging to the blacksmithing department, but failed by reason of their having been hidden by "Aunt Nancy" in a well nearby. The family is still represented in Ulster county and in different parts of New York, a sister of Guernsey Smith being a teacher in the schools of Poughkeepsie, and a brother is a resident of Pleasant Valley, in the county of Dutchess. Calvin Smith spent all his life in New York and died at the early age of thirty-two years. He was a farmer by occupation, and, like his antecedents, possessed sound, practical intelligence and was an excellent and praiseworthy citizen.

Guernsey Smith spent his childhood on the home farm, in Ulster county, and was eight years old when his father died. After this sad event he was obliged to earn his own livelihood and during the nine years ensuing worked for different parties at an average of about four dollars per month. The discovery of gold in California, in the year 1849, caused great excitement throughout the entire country and young Smith, caught by the craze, decided to seek his fortune in the far West, though but seventeen years old at the

time. To carry his desires into effect, he subsequently drove a team for his employer to Cayuga county, for which service he received thirteen dollars per month and while thus engaged saved sufficient money to pay his way to St. Louis, where he went with the intention of going with an overland party to California. Not finding conditions as he anticipated, he gave up the western venture and engaged as a deck hand and foreman on a steamboat which was then bringing railroad iron from New Orleans to Paducah, Kentucky. After making two trips between those cities, he became quite sick with typhoid fever and for several weeks was confined in a marine hospital at the latter place. When sufficiently recovered he returned to his home in New York to look after the interests of his mother and sister, whom he took to a rented farm in the neighborhood, where they continued to reside until the sister began supporting herself by teaching. He then moved to Illinois, locating near the town of Rochester, where certain of his friends were then living, and for some time thereafter worked as a farm hand at twenty dollars per month. This was in the fall of 1856, the beginning of the great financial panic which embarrassed the country the following year and it was about that time that many people from the Central states were going to Kansas and other parts of the west to secure cheap lands.

Mr. Smith, with a number of his neighbors and friends, becoming infected with the general desire, joined the tide moving westward, going as far as Iowa City by rail and thence on foot to Ft. Dodge, where his cousin was then living. The Indians, who for some time had manifested a restless disposition, finally went on the warpath and in the spring of 1857 occurred the terrible massacre at Spirit Lake, in which nearly every inhabitant of the village was either killed or taken captive, not a person being found alive when the rescuers reached the place. Mr. Smith at once volunteered, being one of the one hundred and ten men who went to Spirit Lake to bury the dead and rescue the survivors. On arriving at the scene of the massacre forty-nine horribly mutilated bodies were found lying about in the snow, all of which were buried in cellars, the ground being too much frozen at the time to dig graves. This expedition consumed about three weeks, during which the volunteers marched over a large area of territory and suffered much from cold and other causes. To commemorate the massacre, a monument was afterwards erected on the spot on which were carved the names of the victims and all of the survivors; but few, if any, of the latter are now living.

Returning from the above experience, Mr. Smith found a tract of land to his liking, a quarter section in the northeast corner of Pocahontas county, which he at once entered and proceeded to improve. After erecting a cabin,

he earned some money by breaking land for others, in this way putting his three yoke of oxen to good use. Not long after his arrival there was a rush of people to the county, which at that time was not organized, the majority of whom settled along the river in order to procure timber. Among the newcomers were Gus Malcolm and William Haight, Mr. Smith's nearest neighbors, and the three working together earned sufficient money breaking prairie to keep themselves supplied with the necessities of life, the nearest market place being Ft. Dodge, thirty-five miles distant. When a movement was inaugurated to organize the county, Mr. Smith presented a petition to Judge Pease at Ft. Dodge in favor of the project, the instrument containing the signatures of the majority of voters then residing in his part of the country. The seat of justice was originally established at Old Rolfe, in the northeast corner of the county, but subsequently, after several votes had been taken and considerable rivalry aroused among three or four different factions, each having a favorite location, the county seat was established at Pocahontas, where it has since remained. At the first election Mr. Smith was elected county surveyor and one of his earliest official duties was to locate the seventy thousand acres of swamp land which was to be sold for the county and the proceeds used in the construction of a court house, bridges, school houses and other public utilities.

About the time the county organization went into effect the people became considerably wrought up over the question of slavery and sectional spirit ran high, causing no little trouble among the friends and neighbors who had formerly lived in peace and harmony. To escape this, Mr. Smith disposed of his interest in Iowa and proceeded farther west; accordingly, after spending three years on his claim and making considerable improvement, he sold out with the intention of going to California. Returning to St. Louis in the spring of 1860, he made a few trips on the Missouri river, after which, in company with Abe Farr and a Mr. Hannah, started from St. Joseph to the far west with an outfit consisting of wagons and several small Mexican ponies, which previous to that time had never been worked in harness. Their experiences at first were anything but encouraging, as the ponies refused to move, in which dilemma horses were hitched in front of them, and, with the men behind pushing, the animals were forced forward. After a short time the ponies became inured to the harness and thenceforth no trouble was experienced by the three men, who from that time on passed those who had before laughed and jeered at them.

Arriving at Pike's Peak, Mr. Smith secured employment in a mine, working at night time for two dollars and a half a night, and in this way

spent his first summer in the West. In February, 1861, he set out alone and on foot for Ft. Laramie, two hundred fifty miles distant, the weather being exceedingly cold and the snow at times quite deep, making the trip a long and laborious one. During a part of that year he worked for the stage line, erecting log stations at intervals on the route, receiving forty dollars per month for his services, and continued with his employer until the following autumn. He then went to Salt Lake City with Governor Morton and guard, the superintendent of the stage line having given him a pass to the former place. Meeting his old friend Farr at the head of Echo Canon, he stopped there and spent the summer helping care for stage stock, building barns, etc., and while thus engaged he learned of the discovery of the Bannock diggings in Montana. In December, 1862, he went to Salt Lake, where he remained until the following February, when, in company with nine others, he started for the Bannock mines, which were reached after fourteen days of travel over a very rough and difficult stretch of country. Arriving at his destination he was engaged for some time in getting out piling and other kinds of work. Bannock was the first mine discovered in the fall of 1862, being discovered by a party from Wisconsin and some from St. Paul, who were going through to Oregon. There were old miners with them who knew the ore and being short of provisions they stopped there and sent to Salt Lake for the supplies. Mr. Smith spent two years at the diggings, during which time he devoted his attention to various other kinds of labor, besides taking an active interest in all that concerned the welfare of the locality. When the lawless element became predominant he helped organize the vigilance committee, which soon restored peace and quiet, and in many other ways he made himself an influential factor in promoting the prosperity of a place which afterwards figured so prominently in the annals of the West. At the expiration of two and a half years, his old friend Farr sold his claim and turned his attention to the breeding of horses, Mr. Smith meantime becoming associated with C. W. Brundige, of Bath, New York, a partnership which lasted as long as the subject remained in Virginia City. Disposing of his interests at that place, in 1864, he returned to the states via San Francisco and in due time arrived at his old home in New York, where, on February 3, 1865, he was married to Charity Perkins, after which he bought a farm and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits.

Mr. Smith remained on the above farm about eight years, when he changed it for a farm near Rochester, Illinois, to which he at once removed and on which he lived and prospered until the latter part of 1881, a period of eight years. Owing to his wife's declining health, he came to Iowa in the

fall of the year indicated and after looking over a number of farms in different parts of Fayette county, as well as adjoining counties, he finally purchased a half section of land near Randalia, to which he moved his family and on which he lived until his retirement to Hawkeye, in the year 1902. Mr. Smith has a neat and attractive home, consisting of a few acres adjoining the town, where he is now spending his declining years in the enjoyment of material blessings, which his industry and thrift have enabled him to accumulate. He is a close observer of current events, keeps well informed on the questions of the day and in politics is a pronounced Republican, with decided Prohibition tendencies. A gentleman in the most liberal meaning of the term, he enjoys the respect of all with whom he comes into contact and as a citizen interested in everything calculated to advance the interests of his adopted county and state, no one in the community commands in a more marked degree the esteem of the public.

Mrs. Smith departed this life in May, 1891, after a residence of about ten years in Fayette county and on June 2, 1892, Mr. Smith married Mrs. Martha Clark (nee Morgan), widow of the late William Clark, of Rochester, Illinois. The first marriage resulted in the birth of eight children, of whom one died in infancy and another, Theora, who married James Newton, died in the year 1905. Those living are Jennie E., former postmaster of Randalia, but now operating a homestead in North Dakota, which she entered and improved, in connection with which she also farms two additional quarter sections in the same locality. She taught school for a number of years and is a lady of intelligence and marked individuality. Selah G. is a farmer and stock raiser of Fayette county, in which he owns about six hundred acres of valuable land. Harry D., now in the government service as district auditor in the Philippine islands, is also interested in North Dakota real estate, owning a half section in Bottineau county. Robert D., a carpenter, lives at Hawkeye, where, in connection with his trade, he operates a flouring mill. Nellie C. is principal of the public schools of Castalia, and Helen, the youngest of the family, married Austin J. Fox, of Fayette, Iowa.

O. E. OLESON.

A man who stands in the front rank of successful men in his county, one who has himself worked his way to this position, whose time and labor spent on his farm have rewarded him proportionately, until now, in spite of early

struggles, he can spend the remainder of his life surrounded by every substantial comfort, enjoying the confidence, respect, and esteem of those who know him, taking part in the more important business operations of his community—such a man is the subject of this sketch. He is one of those who have found their Norwegian blood not a detriment, but an aid, in working out a successful career in life.

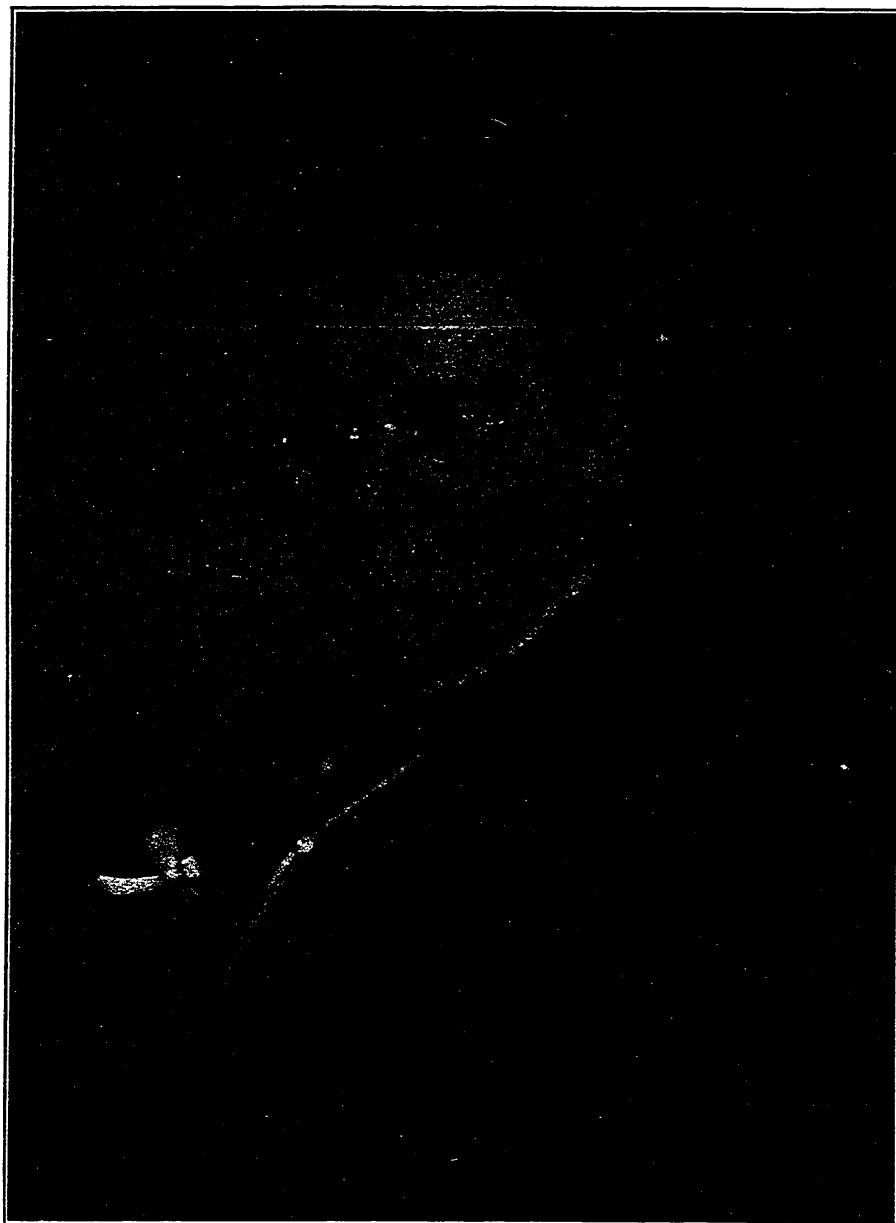
O. E. Oleson was born in Clayton county, Iowa, July 9, 1855, the son of Emrick and Gunil (Swinson) Oleson, natives of Norway, who came to this (Clayton) county in the fifties, and here died. They came to Rock Prairie, Wisconsin, on arriving in this country, but did not remain there long until the desire for some of Iowa's land brought them here. Emrick Oleson was a farmer, a Republican, and a member of the Lutheran church.

O. E. Oleson was born and brought up on a farm, and educated in the parochial and common schools. He has followed farming all his life, owns the farm of one hundred and forty-seven acres on which he lives and four hundred and eighty acres in Minnesota. His farming has been general in character, as the soil of this portion of the state is best suited to that style of farming.

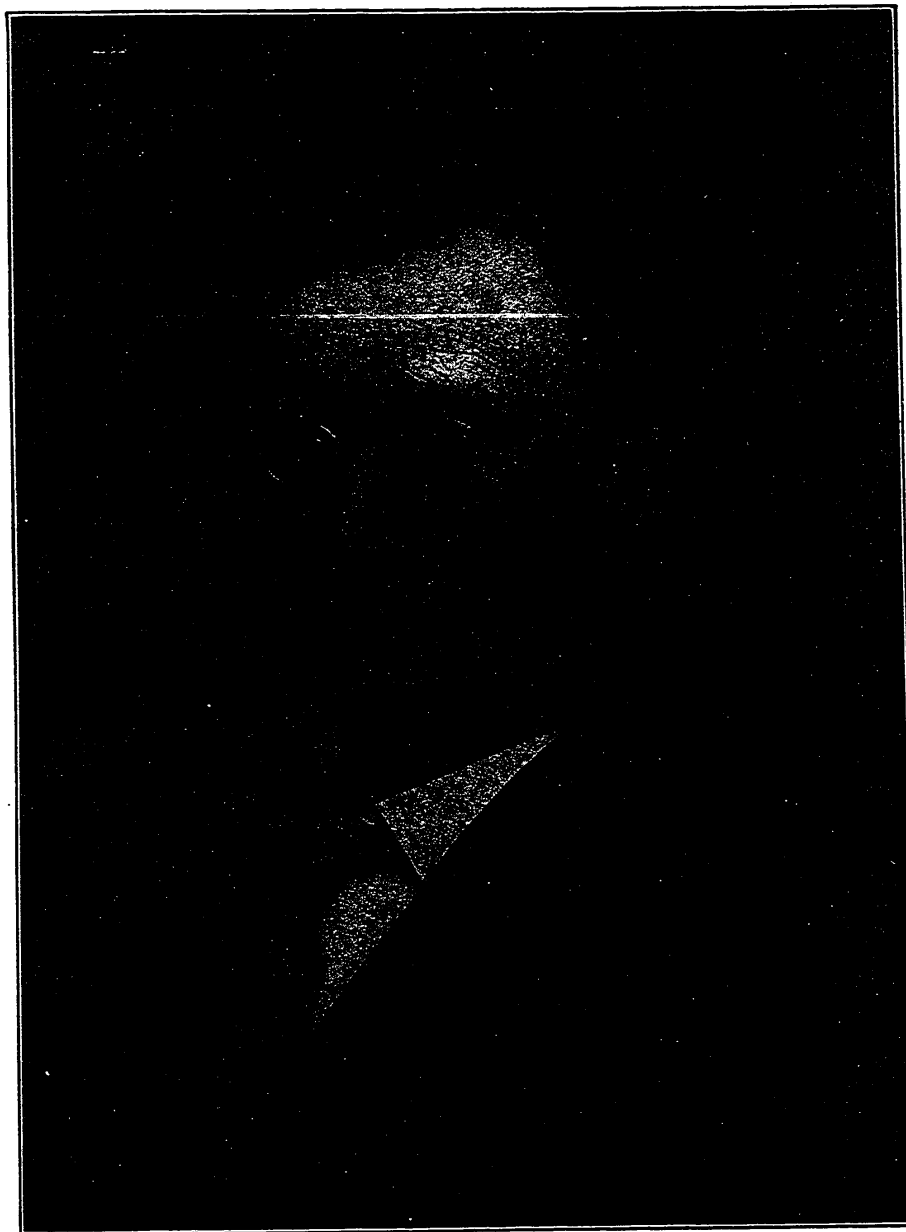
In 1885 O. E. Oleson was married to Caroline Jacobsen, born in Norway, and the daughter of Erick and Bollete Jacobsen, who came to Fayette county among the early settlers and here both died. To this marriage there have been born two daughters, Ellen and Gussie. Mr. Oleson is a Democrat, a conscientious party worker, and was elected to the office of township trustee by his party, retaining the office for six years and faithfully performing his duties as such. He is a director in the Elgin State Bank and a stockholder in the Clermont State Bank. Prosperity has crowned his efforts in every line. His business sagacity, his good understanding of the conditions about the county, and his strong sense of responsibility have contributed to the success of all his operations. For his true worth and many pleasant traits of companionship he is deservedly held in great esteem by those who know him.

JAMES E. JENNINGS.

In the villages of the middle West are found men who were born on the farm, who went through hard times and struggles in early life, who by dint of hard work and good management won first a living, then a competency, from the soil, and now have settled in the village, enjoying the fruits of their labor,



MRS. ANNIE JENNINGS.



JAMES E. JENNINGS.

active in all the interests of the neighborhood,—men whom it is a pleasure to meet and to talk with, veritable mainstays of the community.

James E. Jennings, better known as "Ed," was born February 7, 1850, near Delhigh, Clayton county, Iowa, the son of Zachariah (known as "Uncle Zack") and Mary (Morris) Jennings. The Jennings family are of English descent. Zachariah as a boy went from Pennsylvania to Illinois with his father, who took up land there and then went back east after his family. Zachariah's parents died in Illinois. They were the parents of five children. Zachariah married in Warren county, Illinois. The Morrisses were of Welsh descent, but his wife's mother was a German and was a woman of great natural ability as a doctor and used to ride over the country and treat the sick very successfully. She was the mother of thirteen children and raised several besides.

Zachariah Jennings started in a small way by farming near Mineral Point and working in the mines. In 1848 or '49 he went to Clayton county, Iowa, entered a claim, partly prairie land, and started to make a home, building a log house and making other improvements. He lost this claim and in 1853 came to this county, settling in Illyria township on the river near Fry bridge. He first worked in the Roll Mitchell saw-mill, then pre-empted a one hundred and twenty-acre claim, erected a log house, and went to Elkader to work in a grist-mill to get money to pay on his land. He found that another man was trying to beat him out of the land, so he walked from his home to the land office at Dubuque, starting from his home at one o'clock Sunday and reaching Dubuque by eight o'clock Monday ahead of his rival, who had driven through. He cleared and improved the land and lived on this farm until his death, April 4, 1908. His wife died September 21, 1901. She was a very active worker in the United Brethren church and was the first person baptized in Volga river. Besides being an excellent wife and mother, she had inherited her mother's ability as a doctor and made many remarkable cures in the country about. Zachariah Jennings was a man very well known and very much esteemed in the county. During the later part of their lives both he and his wife were cripples, the result of a sad accident when, returning from a visit, their team carried them over a forty-two-foot embankment. They were the parents of ten children, namely: John A., a farmer of Sumner, Nebraska, who married a Mrs. Wheeler; Jane, who married Henry Gage, a farmer and photographer, living near Spokane, Washington; Joseph, of Volga City, Iowa, a farmer and minister in the United Brethren church, who married Eleanor Crane; she died in June, 1908; Alonzo died at the age of three years; David, of Alberta, Washington, a blacksmith, married Emma Kaufman; J. E., the subject of this

sketch; Sarah, who was a teacher in this and Clayton counties and married Alonzo Fitzgibbons, of Clayton county; Mary married Wallace Crandall, of Illyria township; William died at the age of nineteen; George, a farmer in Illyria township, married Ella Walters.

J. E. Jennings had little chance to go to school and, except for the knowledge gained by three months' attendance at the old log Mitchell school house, is entirely self-educated. He lived at home until his marriage to Annie E. Walters on February 19, 1873. (See sketch of Rev. John Walters.) They have three children: Sidney, a farmer in Illyria township, who married Mary Wittenbaugh; Maggie, who married John Wittenbaugh, farmer and rural route carrier of Wadena, and is the mother of five children, Alta, Lola, Gertie (dead), Lile and Robert; Bert A., a mail carrier in Illyria township, who married Tillie Larson, to which marriage four children, Vivian, Harry F., Floy and Gladys G., have been born.

After his marriage Mr. Jennings lived in Clayton county one year, on the old Tusing farm in Illyria township two years, on John Harriman's farm one year, and then returned to Clayton county for two years. Here he bought a sixty-acre farm of Deacon Morley, going into debt for every dollar of the purchase price, lived there for eight years, got out of debt, then sold the farm and bought one hundred and five acres of J. Harriman three-fourths of a mile from Wadena, and three years later bought fifty-five acres more. He carried on general farming and made all the improvements on the place. He engaged in the livery business in Wadena for one year in 1903 and the next year he and his wife moved to the village, where he bought a home, remodeled it, and has since lived. Mr. Jennings has also made the real estate business part of his vocation and has been very successful. He made thirteen trips to Dakota in one year and also went often to Texas where he sold a great deal of land. He has been a member of the council and street commission to Wadena, and was formerly school director. Mr. Jennings is a Republican, and a member of the United Brethren church, a man well known and well liked, informed on all subjects and a good talker, one of the solid men of his town.

MICHAEL RILEY.

The subject of this sketch, who is a well known section foreman on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, with headquarters at Hawkeye, is a native of Clayton county, Iowa, where he was born on April 4, 1863. His parents, Thomas and Margaret Riley, both born in county West Meath,

Ireland, were married in their native country and about fifty years ago came to the United States, settling on a farm in Fayette county, Iowa, where they lived until their removal, in 1874, to the town of Wadena. There three years later Thomas Riley ceased his earthly labors, the subject being fourteen years old at the time.

Michael Riley remained at the parental home until his twenty-fourth year, but in the meantime, at the early age of fifteen, began his long career as a railroader by accepting a position on the section, of which he is now foreman and with which his life from that time to the present has been very closely identified. Such was his efficiency as a workman and so faithful did he prove to the interests of the road that two years after entering the service he was promoted foreman, being but seventeen at the time and doubtless the youngest man on the entire line to be entrusted with such a responsible position. He has been with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul company continuously for thirty years, during about twenty-eight years of which time he has been foreman of the Hawkeye section, which extends six and a half miles north and one and a half miles south of the town, the entire distance of eight miles ranking among the best-kept sections on the entire road. At times he has had charge of very important work, requiring a large force of men, his gang in the spring of 1893 averaging more than a hundred, a number of whom have been with him on full pay from the beginning of his service as a foreman.

Mr. Riley stands high in the confidence of the large corporation with which he is identified and his long period of service in the same capacity and the same place speaks volumes for his faithfulness and efficiency as a leader of men. While deeply interested in his duty and making it paramount to everything else, he has not been unmindful of the obligations which every citizen owes to the community. To this end he is alive to all that makes for the growth and advancement of the city in which he resides, taking an active part in all laudable enterprises for the good of his fellow men, and his influence has always been on the right side of every moral issue.

At the age of twenty-five Mr. Riley was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Mary Maguire, daughter of John and Bridget Maguire, of Fayette county, the marriage resulting in the birth of the following children: Margaret, born July 19, 1888; Edward, born November 15, 1890; Bessie, born October 5, 1892; Michael, born December 28, 1895; Viola, born September 26, 1901, all living and with their parents, excepting Margaret, who married Ed. Koeler in March, 1909.

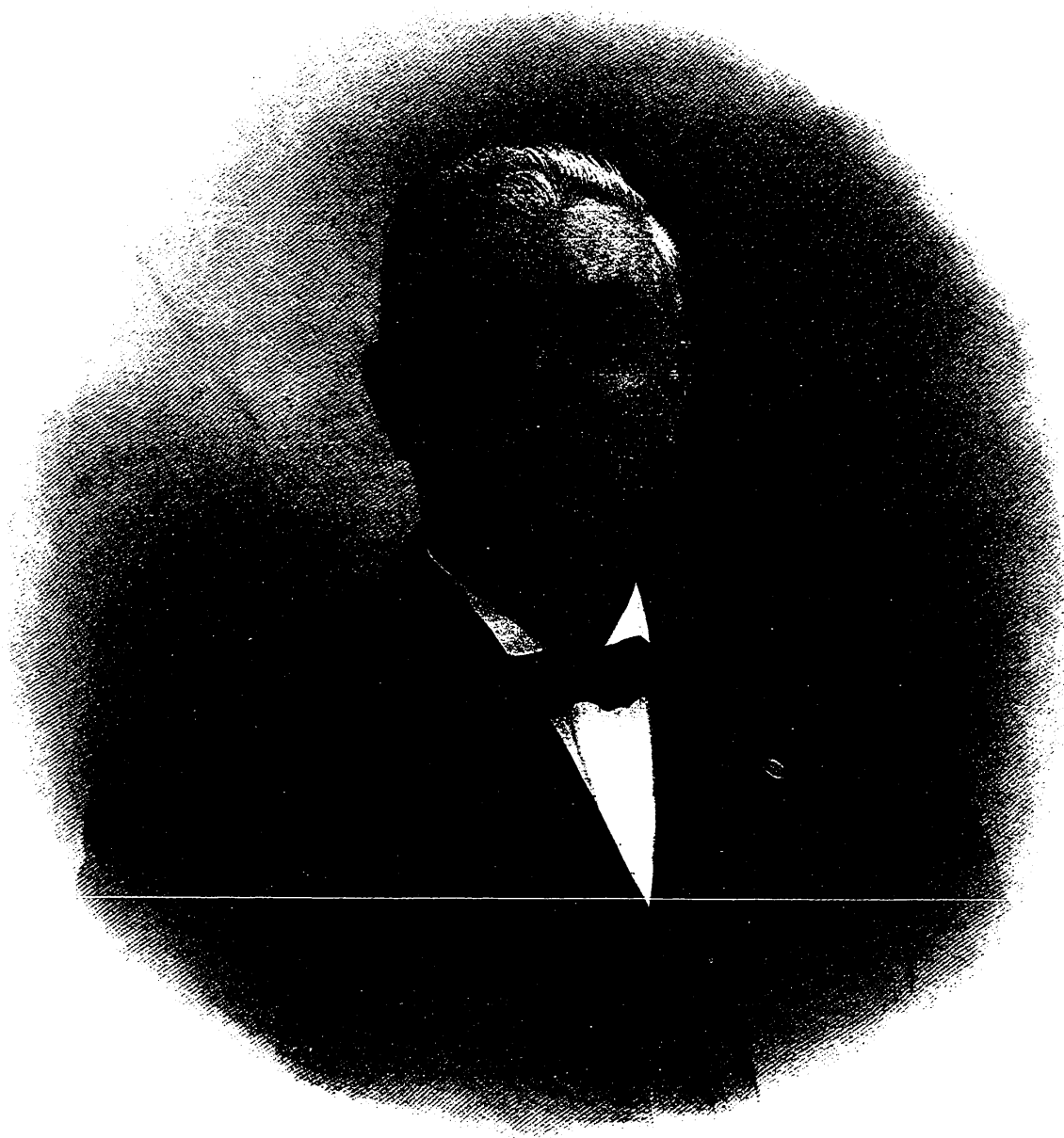
Mr. Riley was reared a Catholic and has ever been a true son of the Holy Mother church, his wife and children also being communicants. The family

is highly esteemed in Hawkeye, where Mr. Riley's friends are as the number of his acquaintances. Inheriting many of the characteristics and sterling qualities of his nationality, he has become a great favorite in social circles and those who know him best speak most highly in praise of his upright life and manly conduct.

WILLIAM CROSS.

Smithfield township, Fayette county, has no more progressive and public spirited citizen than William Cross, who was born February 19, 1844, in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, the son of Henry and Hannah (Leonard) Cross, the father a native of New Jersey and the mother of Scotland, the former dying in 1848 and the latter in October, 1852. Henry Cross was successful in his business life, owned considerable land and was a money lender. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: Lydia, deceased; Fannie, deceased; Julia A., living in Virginia; S. B., of Jackson county, Missouri, was in Company H, Ninety-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry; Simeon, who is now deceased, was a teamster in the Union army for two years; William, of this review; Asher, who died in Texas, was in the Sixteenth New York Infantry, later in Company M, Twelfth Illinois Cavalry; Charles was killed on a railroad in Pennsylvania; the youngest child died in infancy.

William Cross received a limited education, having attended school only five months, but he is a well-read man. In the fall of 1852 he went to Elmira, New York, and in 1854 he came to Dixon, Illinois, where he farmed until 1861, when he went into the Union army, enlisting on September 7, 1861, in Company B, Thirty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. After being drilled, he was sent to Shiloh, Mississippi, and was wounded in that battle, April 2, 1862, having been shot through the left side. Having been left on the field for dead, he lay there one night and one day without attention, then was taken to a hospital in St. Louis; but he recovered rapidly and was back in his regiment by May 16th following. He was sent to Corinth to participate in the siege there, later went to Iuka, Mississippi, and was in several other battles, including those near Chattanooga, also went to Perryville and Louisville, Kentucky, Crab Orchard, Laverne, Stone River, Resaca, Lookout Mountain and many other battles and skirmishes. He was in front of Atlanta in 1864; after remaining in Chicago for six weeks, whither he was sent on guard duty, he reached home on October 31, 1864. He then re-enlisted in the Eighth Illinois Cavalry and was sent to Fairfax Court House, where he did scout duty. He



William Crook

went all through Virginia and Maryland, after Mosby on his famous raid, remaining in the service until the close of the war, receiving an honorable discharge in August, 1865, at St. Louis, Missouri. He was also wounded at the great battle of Stone River, December 31, 1863, and was taken prisoner and held for ten days, when he was paroled. In crossing the Cumberland mountains he was caught in a rope and dragged part way down the mountainside, but a comrade ran after him and cut the rope, preventing his being literally torn apart. From the effects of this experience he has never fully recovered. In spite of his parole, he and a number of comrades returned to the army and performed effectual service, the cause for their action being that the Confederates sent twelve thousand of their men to the front before being exchanged. He made a most faithful and gallant soldier, according to his comrades, always at the front and never shrinking from duty. In recognition of his bravery, General Rosecrans conferred on him the distinction of having a third button sewed on his sleeve as a distinguishing mark. This intention was vetoed by the war department, but the recognition was a source of much gratification to Mr. Cross.

After the war Mr. Cross spent one year in Whiteside county, and one year in Lee county, Illinois, and he came to West Union where he remained for four years. He then moved to Center township, and bought eighty acres, remaining seventeen years in that township. Then selling out there, he, in 1888, moved to Smithfield township in section 3, buying a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres.

Mr. Cross was first married in Illinois, on February 15, 1866, to Hannah Carse, who was of Scotch-Irish descent; she died in 1895 and he married, sometime thereafter, Ellen M. Hotchkiss, of Illinois, a daughter of Charles and Maria (Crandall) Hotchkiss, the father a native of Chenango county, New York, where the mother was also born. They grew to maturity and married there, and came to Fayette county, Iowa, May 19, 1856, and settled in Center township on wild land which they transformed into a good farm, and there Mr. Hotchkiss lived until his death, in February, 1903; his widow is still living on the old place, having reached the advanced age of eighty-four years. Mr. Hotchkiss was a blacksmith by trade and highly proficient in the same. He and his wife became the parents of four children, namely: Mary is the wife of Frank Dewey, living in Harlan township, Fayette county; Charles is single and is living on the old homestead with his mother; Sarah J. married Henry Sidler, of Oran township, Fayette county; Ellen M. is the wife of William Cross, of this review.

Mr. Cross has become the father of the following children: Fannie, widow of Harvey Applen, lives at Seymour, Iowa, and is the mother of three children; Joe is living in the state of Washington; William, who married Effie Neffin, lives in Oakland, Iowa; Lizzie B. married J. C. Campbell, of Nebraska; John, who married Nellie Perkins, lives in Oakland, Iowa; Asher, who is single, is living in Omaha, Nebraska; Roy, who married Bessie Vanmeter, is living at Oakland, Iowa; Pearl and Ruby are both living at home; Sarah, the fifth child in order of birth, married William Rogers, of Perry, South Dakota.

Mr. Cross was formerly a member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Randalia, Iowa, but he now belongs to Warner Post No. 46, Fayette, Iowa. He was commander of the post for three years and he has held all the other offices. Politically, he is a Republican and has held some of the township offices, always with credit and to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Mr. Cross has a fine farm, well improved and which he has kept carefully tilled. He has been very successful raising stock, being a breeder of registered Polled-Angus cattle, draft horses and Poland-China hogs. He has devoted his entire life to farming and, having made a success, has retired, having been living quietly at his pleasant home for some time. He is well known and has many warm friends throughout the county. He has had some hair-raising experiences and narrow escapes from death. In 1891, he was attacked by a vicious steer and had it not been for the actions of his faithful dog he would have been killed.

WILLIAM BILLMEYER.

Realizing the fact that persistent industry constitutes the basis of success, William Billmeyer, a well known citizen of Auburn township, Fayette county, sought no royal road to the goals of which he dreamed when a youth, but began to work earnestly and diligently in order to advance himself, and the result is that he is now numbered among the progressive, successful and influential agriculturists of this locality. He comes of a sterling old family of the Keystone state, he himself having been born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, April 11, 1847, but most of his long and useful life has been spent in Auburn township, Fayette county, Iowa, whither he came when a lad and where he grew to maturity, receiving his education in the district schools. He is the son of Ellis and Matilda (Berdine) Billmeyer, both natives of Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, the former born in

April, 1827, of German ancestry. Mrs. Billmeyer, born in 1826, was one of three children, and was left an orphan at a very early age. They were both reared on farms. Ellis Billmeyer learned the milling business, but gave it up on account of the dust, and mastered next the cabinetmaker's trade, later taking up the trade of sawyer for his father and followed that for a number of years. He purchased the home farm at his father's death, also the saw- and grist-mill, etc., and conducted them for a number of years. In 1855 they sold out in Pennsylvania and moved to Ft. Atkinson, Iowa, where Mr. Billmeyer took up a homestead, but he remained there only five months, moving to Auburn, Fayette county, in the fall of 1855, where he worked in a saw-mill as a hired hand for one hundred days that year. In the spring of 1856 he bought forty acres of timber land in section 27, Auburn township, where his son, William of this review, lives at present. The senior Billmeyer built a saw-mill on the forty acres and began sawing lumber for the market, operating the mill until 1893 when he sold to his son, Charles, who operated it until about 1902, when he sold out and engaged exclusively in farming. The elder Mr. Billmeyer from time to time added to his first purchase of forty acres, at one time owning four hundred acres, principally timber, but a large portion of this was eventually cleared and his sons farmed the land.

Politically, Mr. Billmeyer was a Republican and was a faithful worker for his party, though he never desired or sought public office. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was public spirited and friendly toward churches and schools. The death of this excellent citizen occurred on April 18, 1898, his wife having preceded him to the silent land on April 9, 1887, leaving eight children, two daughters having died young. Those living at present are, William, of this review; Ella, wife of Andrew Wilson, of Hawkeye, this county; Emma, wife of Herbert Hall, living at Auburn; Lydia, the wife of Allen Desent, living in Dover township, this county; Josephine, the wife of David Musser, of Auburn township; Rittie, the wife of Samuel Musser, of Auburn, Auburn township; Charlie lives in Auburn township, adjoining the home farm; Clara, the wife of William Dwello, of Granville, North Dakota. Ellis Billmeyer was twice married, his last wife being Mrs. Elizabeth (Ostrander) Miles, whom he espoused in April, 1890; she was born in New York state, and at present she resides in Omaha, Nebraska.

William Billmeyer remained on the home place, assisting his father with the general work until he was twenty-one years of age. He continued to live with his father, but worked for himself until the age of thirty-five years.

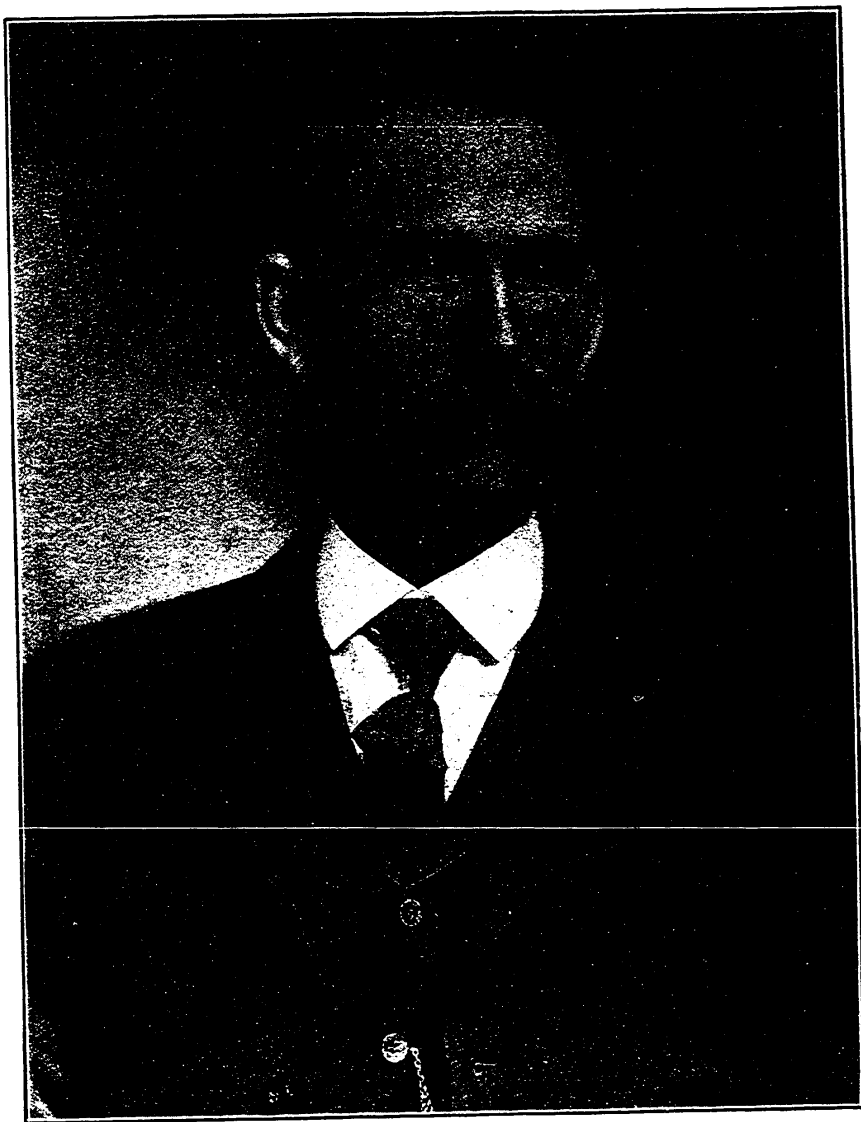
He bought five acres of timbered land in section 34, this township, which he cleared; he added more land to this from time to time, clearing it, until he now has a very valuable and well improved farm of five hundred acres, all cleared but one hundred and eighty acres. Fourteen acres are in section 27, and twenty-two acres were formerly a part of the old homestead. He also owns eighty acres in sections 25, 26 and 35. He has devoted his life to clearing and farming his land and he has been very successful and owns a good comfortable home. He has made all this himself, having received practically no aid from anyone. Politically he is a Republican, but he has never held office.

Mr. Billmeyer was married on April 22, 1883, to Ellen Bopp, who was born in Eden township, this county, August 4, 1855, and is the daughter of Michael and Margaret (Smith) Bopp. Mr. and Mrs. Billmeyer are the parents of seven children, two of whom died in infancy. Those living are, Mabel L., wife of Felix Pickworth, living in Carthage, Missouri; she was born February 23, 1884; her husband is the son of Felix Pickworth, chaplain of the Iowa State Reformatory for the past twelve years. Alma Edna was born May 6, 1890; Margaret M. is the wife of Clare Shepard, living at Mason City, Iowa, was born December 4, 1891; Anna Elizabeth, born September 12, 1893; William E., Jr., born August 5, 1898.

GUS GUNDERSON.

Whether the elements of success in life are innate attributes of the individual or whether they are quickened by a process of circumstantial development, it is impossible to clearly determine. Yet the study of a successful life, whatever the field of endeavor, is none the less interesting and profitable by reason of the existence of this same uncertainty. So much in excess of those of successes are the records of failure or semi-failures, that one is constrained to attempt an analysis in either case and to determine the measure of causation in an approximate way. But in studying the life history of the well known resident and popular citizen of Elgin, Fayette county, whose name forms the caption of this article, we find many qualities in his makeup that always gain done, which has resulted in a life of good to others as well as large success and definite success in any career if properly directed, as his has evidently been a comfortable competence for himself.

Gus Gunderson, president of the Elgin Savings Bank, at Elgin, Iowa,



GUS GUNDERSON.

and one of the most substantial and influential business men in the northern part of Fayette county, is a descendant of a Norwegian family, as his name would indicate, though he is a native of the locality which he now honors with his citizenship, having been born in Fayette county on August 31, 1859. He is the son of Eliff and Johanna Gunderson, both born in Norway, where they grew to maturity and were educated and where they were married. They came to America in 1858, and after a long and tedious voyage across the great ocean between these two countries and scarcely less prolix journey across half of our continent, finally landed in Fayette county, Iowa, locating at Clermont, in the northeastern part of the county. There the father became well established, being a business man of more than ordinary ability, especially able in the management of a farm. He accumulated here between four and five hundred acres of valuable land and became a man of influence in his community, of which he was regarded as one of the leading general farmers for many years, and he was a man whom his neighbors held in the highest respect owing to his life of industry, honesty and sobriety. There were ten children in his family.

Gus Gunderson, of this review, was educated in the common schools of his native community and assisted with the work on the home farm during the crop seasons and he began life as a farmer, but, ascertaining that his true bent lay along business lines, he entered the mercantile field at Elgin, which he followed until 1899 with very gratifying success from the first, having enjoyed a very liberal patronage during that period and establishing a lasting reputation for keen discernment in business, fairness in all his dealings with his fellow men and a desire to see others prosper at the same time he was advancing his own interests. This, of course, inspired the confidence and good will of the people of this community, and when he entered the implement business in the year mentioned above his old customers proved their loyalty and friendship by turning their trade and their influence to him, and he prospered in this line of endeavor, which he followed until 1907. Then, realizing the long existent need of a banking institution in this thriving vicinity, he set about organizing the Elgin Savings Bank and became its president, which responsible position he still worthily retains to the entire satisfaction of his patrons and all concerned, having built up one of the most popular and soundest banking institutions in the county, which is rapidly growing in prestige and importance.

Having long taken an abiding interest in the upbuilding of the village of Elgin and the general advancement of this community, Mr. Gunderson has aided very materially in all movements calculated to be of general interest and for the uplift of this vicinity, sparing neither means nor time in his efforts to

foster movements having for their object the general good. He has held all the offices of the village and is now one of the county supervisors, very faithfully discharging his duties in all positions of public trust. Politically, he is a Republican and in religious matters is a Lutheran, being a liberal supporter of the local church.

The domestic life of Mr. Gunderson dates from 1892, when he was united in marriage with Lizzie Kittelson, a lady of education and culture and the representative of an excellent family. Mr. and Mrs. Gunderson are popular with the best social circles of the county.

FREDERICK GEORGE BURKHART.

The popular and well known village marshal and street commissioner of Hawkeye, Frederick G. Burkhart, is a native of Kendall county, Illinois, born in the town of Oswego, on the 29th day of March, 1850. His parents, Leonard and Margaretta (Brunemeyer) Burkhart, were born in Bavaria, Germany, but came to America when young and were married in Oswego, Illinois, near which place they resided for a number of years. Frederick G. Burkhart spent his childhood and youth on a farm near the above town and remained there until his twenty-third year, in the meantime attending the public schools as opportunities afforded and after attaining his majority, looking after his own interests as well as those of his parents. In 1873, when twenty-three years of age, he was united in marriage to Mary A. Rhutasel, of Aurora, Illinois, born July 3, 1854, and five years later they came to Fayette county, Iowa, and purchased a tract of prairie land in Banks township, which in due time he reduced to cultivation and converted into a very valuable farm. After living fourteen years on the place and bringing it to a high state of tillage, he sold it, and in 1892 moved to Hawkeye, where, in partnership with Chris Burkhart and T. L. Hinz, he helped incorporate the Burkhart & Hinz Mercantile Company, subsequently succeeding Mr. Hinz and continuing with the enterprise until the failure of the company, about one year later.

About 1869 Mr. Burkhart engaged in the threshing of grain upon quite an extensive scale and for forty years devoted considerable attention to that line of work, operating at times as many as nine machines, which did a very large and successful business, although there were always more demands for his services each year than he could possibly meet. He earned a wide repu-

tation as a thresher in northeastern Iowa and other parts of the state, his machinery being of the latest and most approved kinds and his services were always eminently satisfactory. In 1894 he was elected marshal of Hawkeye, which office he held two years and filled the office again at different times until 1910, when he was succeeded by another. He also discharged the duties of street commissioner, filling both positions with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the people of the town. His long service as marshal speaks well for his high standing with the public and it is worthy of note that while he looked after the peace of the town the laws were more strictly enforced than ever before, offenders and criminals giving the place a wide berth. Mr. Burkhart made his name a terror to evil-doers and under his careful surveillance Hawkeye became one of the most quiet and law respecting cities of its size in the state. He discharged his duties fearlessly and impartially, not only as a peace officer but also in the matter of the streets, which have been greatly improved since he became street commissioner. Fraternally, he is an Odd Fellow, holding membership with Relief Lodge No. 138, at Hawkeye, of which he is secretary, and is otherwise interested in social and benevolent affairs, being ever ready to help a fellow man in need and never turning a deaf ear to the cry of suffering or distress.

Mr. and Mrs. Burkhart have four sons and one daughter, viz: Ed G., a farmer of Banks township; Arthur C., a graduate of the School of Pharmacy at Des Moines and for some time past engaged in the drug business in Hawkeye; Roy, an expert electrician, graduating from the State Agricultural College in 1909 and now holding the position of electrical engineer at Waukon, this state; Elmer Henry, who was graduated from the Hawkeye high school in 1909, is still with his parents; the daughter, Nora E., who is also a high school graduate, is the wife of Ralph Hecht, D. D. S., of Hawkeye. Mr. and Mrs. Burkhart are surrounded by their children and live a happy and contented life. He lives retired and enjoys life, being a very pleasant gentleman to meet. He has a beautiful home, over which his wife, one of Fayette county's best ladies, presides and make all welcome who call.

EPHRAIM B. SHAW.

Prominent in banking circles and, in fact, all relations of life in Fayette county for many years, Ephraim B. Shaw, now gone to his reward, is deserving of specific mention in this connection, for he was formerly the popular

cashier of the Fayette County National Bank, and treasurer of the Fayette County Savings Bank, of West Union, and was a leader in financial affairs in this community. He was born in Carroll county, Ohio, November 24, 1842, and was the son of Nathan and Eleanor (Bell) Shaw, the father a native of Jefferson county, Ohio, his birth occurring on September 13, 1820; he was of German descent by several generations remote. The mother was born in Hartford county, Maryland, February 14, 1820.

Ephraim B. Shaw was educated in the high school of Hanover, Ohio, and when twenty years of age he proved his patriotism by enlisting in the Union army, October 2, 1862, becoming a member of Company G, Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which he served until September 1, 1863. He took part in the great battle of Stone River and other minor engagements. Upon returning from the army, he attended school awhile, then began teaching, which he followed two terms. Later he was employed as clerk in a dry goods store in Hanover. Following the tide of emigration westward in 1867, he located in West Union, Iowa, where he secured a position as salesman with Thomas & McMaster, general merchants, and in January, 1871, was employed by S. B. Zeigler as cashier of the Fayette County Bank, which position he filled until that institution was merged into the Fayette County National Bank, in August, 1872, when he became teller of the new bank. In 1878 he was promoted to be assistant cashier, and on April 15, 1886, succeeded to the position of cashier, which he continued to fill until chosen to the position of United States bank examiner in 1906, which important post he filled with credit to himself and with satisfaction to all concerned.

On October 14, 1872, Mr. Shaw was united in marriage with Sarah E. Dickey, in West Union. She was born in Venango, Crawford county, Pennsylvania, August 25, 1854, and is a daughter of the Rev. J. W. Dickey, of Minneapolis. Two children were born to this union: Claude H., born February 5, 1874, died September 2, 1881; E. Blanche was born February 15, 1876, and is now the wife of Carl Evans, a merchant in West Union.

Religiously, Mr. Shaw was a member of the Presbyterian church, and politically he was a Republican, though he was not an office-seeker and took little interest in politics. He was prominent in Masonic circles, with the rank of Knight Templar, belonging to West Union Lodge No. 69, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Ansel Humphreys Chapter No. 62, Royal Arch Masons, and Langridge Commandery No. 47, Knights Templar. He was a member of Abernathy Post No. 48, Grand Army of the Republic, and in addition to these he was a member of all the mutual insurance companies represented in West Union.

Mr. Shaw was known as an active, enterprising business man, competent and faithful in the responsible positions which he filled, and as a neighbor and friend, genial, kind, reliable and trustworthy. He was summoned to his reward when away from home on business in connection with his duties as bank examiner, at Carrollton, Iowa, November 12, 1908. His widow and a daughter, Mrs. Evans, reside at the old home in West Union, where they enjoy the friendship of a large circle of acquaintances.

LEANDER L. ADAMS.

Among the highly honored and well remembered citizens of Fayette county of a past generation who are now sleeping the sleep of the just, having left behind them an inheritance of which their descendants and friends might well be proud, was Leander L. Adams, a man whose reputation was above reproach and who always did what he could in furthering the interests of others. He was born in Mansfield, Cattaraugus county, New York, January 18, 1834, and he was the son of Albygence and Diana (Latin) Adams, the father born in Otsego county, New York, in 1801, of English parentage; the mother was born in 1799, in New Haven, Connecticut, of Scotch parentage. They were the parents of four sons and one daughter, Leander L. being the fourth child in order of birth. When a young man he left his native state and went to Wisconsin, and from there to California in 1856, returning to Iowa in 1858, and the following year took up his residence in Illinois. On August 15, 1862, he proved his loyalty to his country by enlisting in Company B, Seventy-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was assigned to duty in the Army of Tennessee, participating in the battle of Perryville, Kentucky, and then went with the regiment to Nashville, Tennessee. He then enlisted under the provisions of general orders from the war department which authorized recruiting for the marine service for volunteers, and he became a member of the First Mississippi Marine Brigade. He was assigned to duty on the United States steamer "Baldic," on which he served with much credit from March 11, 1863, to January 24, 1865, under command of Commodore Porter, with the squadrons above Vicksburg doing patrol duty. The first engagement in which he participated as a marine was at Duck creek, on the Tennessee river, then at Goodrich Landing, Greenville, Mississippi; Richmond, Arkansas; the siege of Vicksburg and Fort De Russa on the Red River expedition under General Banks. Returning to the Mississippi river,

they went down to New Orleans and had a fight at Bayou Sara, followed by a full day's engagement at Old River Lake, in Arkansas, and the battles of Grand Gulf and Haines' Bluff. Upon receiving his discharge from the service, Mr. Adams returned to Illinois, and for two seasons following he was employed on the Mississippi river from Stillwater, Minnesota, to St. Louis.

On January 1, 1867, Mr. Adams came to Maynard, Fayette county, Iowa, and here made his home until his death. In June, 1855, he had entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land, and after 1867 devoted his time to its cultivation, becoming well established as a general farmer.

On February 7, 1869, Mr. Adams was married to Rebecca Cline, who was born in Washington county, Ohio, February 22, 1848, and was the daughter of Samuel and Phoebe (Gray) Cline, the former born at Bank's Station, Virginia, April 1, 1815, and the latter in Washington county, Ohio, November 11, 1822. They were married on December 5, 1839, and in 1850 moved to Delaware county, Iowa, and to Fayette county in 1856. They became the parents of twelve children, Mrs. Rebecca Adams being the third child in order of birth. Her mother died April 11, 1888, and the father joined her in the silent land four days later, April 15th.

The mother of Leander L. Adams died in Wisconsin in 1845 and about 1859 the father, Albygence Adams, returned to his old home in Otsego county, New York, where he died in 1867 and was buried in the family burying-ground at Hartwick, New York, where several generations of the Adams family are buried.

Mr. Adams traveled a great deal, seeing much of the world, both as a soldier and as a civilian, and he was a keen observer. He was a well informed man and a good conversationalist. At the presidential election of 1860 Mr. Adams voted the Republican ticket, and then supported the Democratic party until 1872 when he again became a Republican and remained one of the party's staunchest advocates. In religion he and Mrs. Adams were both liberal in their views; they always lived honest, honorable, upright lives, believed that religion consisted chiefly in one's everyday acts of kindness, etc., to their neighbors. Mr. Adams was a man who, by his genial disposition and gentlemanly deportment through life, won the confidence and good will of all with whom he came into contact. He was an influential member of Reynolds Post No. 47, Grand Army of the Republic. He, like his forefathers, was a very patriotic man. His grandfather was a captain in the patriot army in the Revolutionary war. The death of Leander L. Adams occurred July 22, 1905, honored and respected by all. Mrs. Adams, who enjoys the esteem of a host of friends, is living at the old home in Maynard.

Mr. and Mrs. Adams became the parents of four children, namely: Ida A., widow of Irving Miner, of Harlan township, was born January 13, 1870, and now lives in Fayette; she has two children living, Paul and Ruth Miner, aged eleven and eight, respectively. Nettie L. Adams married F. Kiel, of Smithfield township, whose sketch appears on another page of this work. Estella C. is the wife of Louis Talcott, and lives at Marcus, Cherokee county, Iowa, where Mr. Talcott has held a position of bookkeeper in a bank for the past six years. Mrs. Talcott was born July 15, 1872. Henry L. Adams, well known as state senator, was born November 28, 1875.

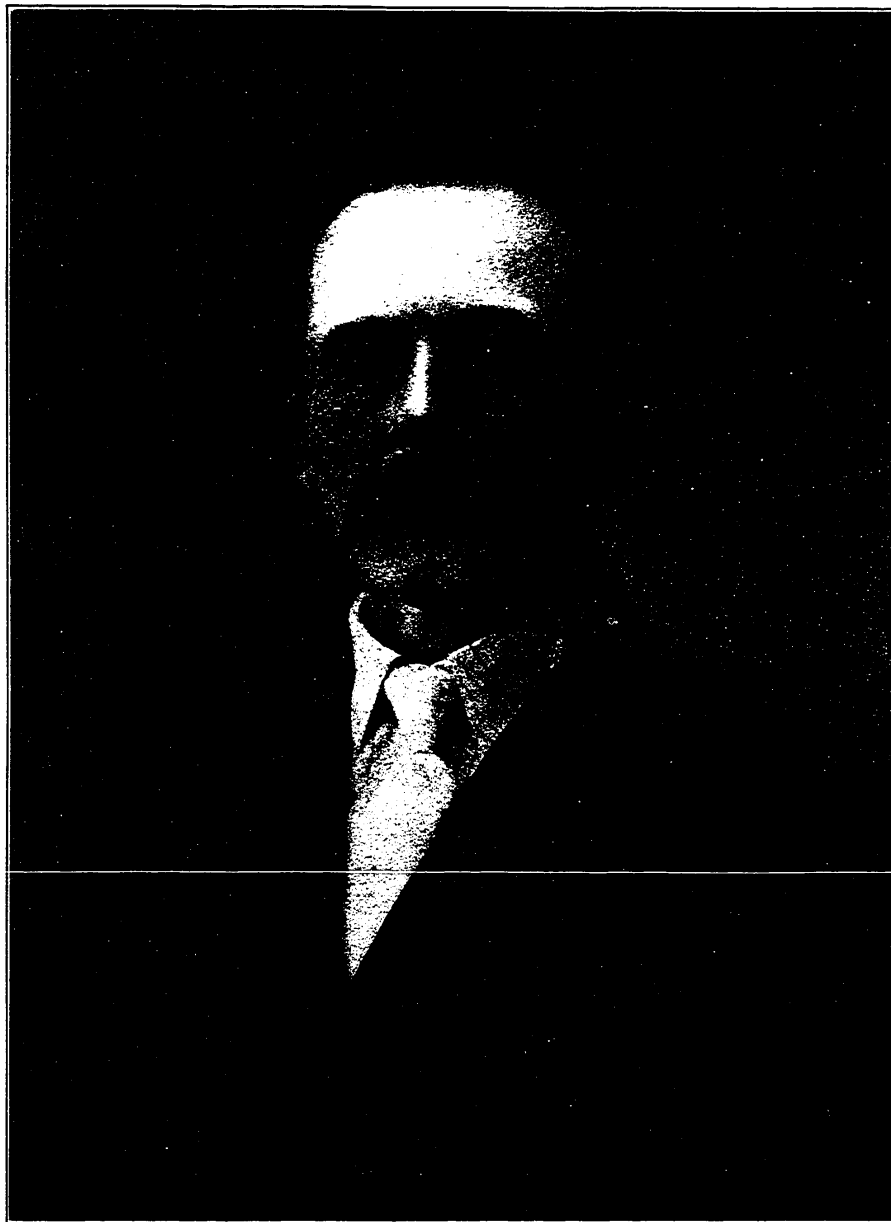
REV. FRANK BOEDING.

The story of the work of Catholic priests in the opening settlement and upbuilding of the west has often been told. In fact, it is a main feature of the history of the period. To tell of "The Winning of the West," with the priests left out, would be like omitting the most vital chapters. They were especially conspicuous in missionary work, for which they have a natural aptitude and training. Give a priest a little shanty somewhere, with two or three members to listen to him, and in a few years that neighborhood reports a flourishing church, with a live membership, good school, necessary buildings to accommodate the workers and all the other adjuncts of a prosperous religious community. There will be Sunday school classes of course, and most likely a flourishing parochial school. In addition to all this, the priest, who is always a busy man, will find time to establish missions in other localities and do much mission work. This story, in brief, has been repeated in thousands of communities throughout the Northwest, where the priests and their congregations are always regarded as valuable additions to the life of the place. With this brief preface we will now proceed to give a few notes of the life and work of Rev. Frank Boeding, the popular priest of St. Lucas in Fayette county. He was born in Neuenkirchen, province of Westphalia, Germany, September 4, 1853. His parents were Conrad and Mary (Freise) Boeding, also natives of Westphalia, and people of humble circumstances so far as this world's goods are concerned. In early childhood Frank attended school near his home, but in 1865 entered a classical school in Ritberg, where he spent six years. The two years, 1871-3, he spent at Paderborn, followed by a course of two years at the University of Muenster. In 1875 Mr. Boeding left his native land for the United States, where he completed his

studies at various institutions in Milwaukee, Dubuque and Montreal. At the latter he was ordained a priest, December 22, 1877, and his first appointment was to the Catholic church in Guttenberg, Clayton county, Iowa. This charge he left on the 22nd of September, 1882, for St. Lucas, with which place he has since been identified. His duties required him to attend the Catholic mission at Fort Atkinson and for fifteen years in similar work at Ciesco. There are now resident priests at both of these places. Following is a summary of Father Boeding's work during his pastorate: In 1883 an addition was built to the church; in 1891 a new residence was erected; in 1894 two school rooms were added; in 1905 an addition of a chapel and of two school rooms and an addition to the boarding house were the much needed improvements. Over one hundred families left the parish for the west, but one hundred and thirty-four families still remain despite the heavy drain. The members consist of eight hundred and fifty-six souls, one hundred and thirty-three men, one hundred and forty-three women, three hundred and three boys and two hundred and seventy-seven girls. It will be seen that Father Boeding's life has been a busy one and that he has done much for the uplifting of the community, morally, socially and in every way that leads to good citizenship.

CHARLES W. GOSSE.

Prominent among the enterprising farmers and public spirited citizens of Fayette county is Charles W. Gosse, a native of Wisconsin, but since the year 1889 a worthy resident of Jefferson township and a man whom to know is to esteem and honor. His father, who also bore the name of Charles Gosse, was born in Germany, but came to the United States when a young man and settled in Wisconsin, where he subsequently married Miss Luloff, who bore him seven children, namely: Bertha, wife of William Metzmeier, of Independence, Iowa; Fred, for twenty-eight years a trusted employe of the Chicago Street Railroad Company; Anna, now Mrs. Moses Reynolds, also a resident of that city; Louise, wife of Charles Krapa, of Nora Springs, Iowa; Charles W., whose name introduces this sketch, and Frank, a teacher in the public schools of Toledo, Ohio. The mother of these children dying in 1873, Mr. Gosse afterwards married Augusta Draeger, by whom he had the following children: August, a farmer of Harlan township, Fayette county; Martha, who lives in Michigan; William, a resident of Buchanan county, a farmer by



CHARLES W. GOSSE.

occupation; Henry, who is engaged in the livery business at Oelwein; Emiel, of Buchanan county, and Minnie, wife of Philo Rogers, of St. Joseph, Missouri.

In 1868 Mr. Gosse, senior, moved his family to Iowa and, settling ten miles southwest of Independence, purchased land and engaged in farming and stock raising. He was a reputable citizen, a worthy member of the Lutheran church and departed this life in 1879; his widow, who survived him, is still living near Independence on the place which he originally purchased and improved.

Charles W. Gosse, the subject of this review, was born in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, April 11, 1868, and when quite young was brought to Iowa by his parents. He spent his early life in Black Hawk county and at the age of eleven years was practically left an orphan, from which time on he was obliged to rely upon his own resources for a livelihood. He first found employment as a farm laborer in the above county and continued in that capacity until 1889, when he came to Fayette county, where he was similarly engaged during the two and a half years ensuing. On November 1, 1891, he was united in the bonds of wedlock with Minnie Schwartz, daughter of Frederick Schwartz, a pioneer settler of this county, and immediately thereafter set up his domestic establishment on a farm, which for a period of four years he cultivated as a renter. In the meantime, by industry and excellent management, he succeeded in saving sufficient means to purchase land of his own, which he did in 1905, investing in an eighty-acre tract in section 12, Jefferson township, which he at once began to improve and to which he subsequently added sixty-four acres in section 3, the two tracts making a farm which in point of fertility and productiveness is unsurpassed by any like area in the township.

Mr. Gosse has made many valuable improvements on his place and as a tiller of the soil is progressive and enterprising, being up to date in all matters relating to agriculture and as a stock-raiser he keeps abreast of the time, devoting considerable attention to cattle, hogs and horses, besides adding very materially to his income by conducting a first-class dairy business. In all of his undertakings his success has been most gratifying and he occupies today a prominent place among the enterprising citizens and agriculturists of the community, wielding a strong influence on the right side of every moral issue and giving his support and encouragement to all measures having for their object the advancement of the community and the benefit of his fellow men. Mr. Gosse votes with the Democratic party and in religion belongs with his family to the Lutheran church. His home is in many respects a model

and, believing in using the good things of this world to wise and beneficent ends, he has not been sparing in adding to its beauty and attractiveness.

Beginning life in humble circumstances and having always been obliged to rely upon himself, his success in overcoming a discouraging environment and advancing to his present position of independence indicates the possession of well balanced intelligence, mature judgment and the ability to mould conditions to suit his purposes. By his first marriage, which is noted in a preceding paragraph, he had five children, whose names are as follows: Charles Frederick, Arthur Emil, Dora Minnie, Fritz Richard and Herbert August Fritz. His wife dying March 9, 1902, on November 23d, of the following year, he was united in marriage with Theresa Loeb, daughter of Valentine Loeb, of Black Hawk county, the union being blessed with four offspring, viz: Walter Henry, Esther Minnie Marie, August Henry, and Willie Julius Valentine.

JAMES SPENCE.

The gentleman of whom the biographer writes in this connection is an American by adoption, being a native of county Down, Ireland, where he first saw the light of day on November 5, 1862. His parents, John and Mary C. (Stephenson) Spence, were also born in that country, as were their ancestors for many generations, both branches of the family being well known throughout their native county and highly esteemed for sterling qualities of manhood and womanhood. John and Mary Spence had seven children, whose names are as follows: Eliza, Bell, Jane, James, Anna, Maggie and Mary, the subject being the only one to come to the United States.

James Spence enjoyed the advantages of a common school education and spent his early life at the place of his birth. He remained at the parental home until twenty-five years of age, but in the meantime, April 9, 1881, was united in marriage with Ruth Marshall, daughter of William and Ruth (Shephard) Marshall, an estimable and intelligent young lady who has co-operated with him in his labors and sympathized in all of his aspirations from that time to the present. Satisfied that America abounded in better opportunities and advantages for a young man than his own country, Mr. Spence, in 1884, bid farewell to the house of his childhood and youth and, turning his back on the beautiful and romantic Emerald Isle, set sail on September 25th of that year and in due time arrived at his destination in the New World. Making his way west, he located at Oelwein, Iowa, where dur-

ing the two years ensuing he worked for a Mr. Harrison. Later he was employed for a similar period at farm labor in Jefferson township, at the expiration of which time he rented the John Irvin place and continued to cultivate the same until 1904, when he purchased the farm where he now lives, consisting of one hundred and twenty acres of fine land in one of the most productive agricultural districts of the county.

Since moving to this place Mr. Spence has made a number of improvements and added much to its appearance and value. He is an industrious man, a careful, methodical worker and by judicious management has placed his family in comfortable circumstances and earned for himself an honorable reputation as an enterprising tiller of the soil and praiseworthy citizen. Like the majority of his neighbors, he devotes his attention to general agriculture and stock-raising, in addition to which he also conducts a dairy, which has proven quite profitable. In his political affiliation he is a Republican and as such works for the interest of his party, keeping well informed on the questions and issues before the people and fully abreast of the times concerning matters of general import.

Mr. Spence possesses sound intelligence and, although a hard worker, finds time for the improvement of his mind and is one of the best posted men in the community, being a reader, a thinker, a close observer and widely informed on many subjects. He is held in high esteem by those with whom he mingles and wherever known his sterling qualities of head and heart, together with his desire to treat everybody fairly and honorably, have won for him many warm personal friends. In his religious faith he subscribes to the Presbyterian creed and, with his wife, holds membership with the church at Oelwein, both being interested in all lines of good work under the auspices of the society and ready at all times to lend their assistance and influence to further any laudable enterprise for the moral improvement of the community. They are the parents of four children, viz: Minnie, wife of Ray Sackville, of Jefferson township; William Henry, who married Eva Irvin and lives in Oran township; Anna E. and Thomas Ray, both of whom are members of the home circle.

Although of foreign birth and retaining fond recollections of the beautiful and romantic isle where he spent his childhood and youth, Mr. Spence is a loyal American citizen, has great respect for the free institutions of his adopted country and profound admiration for the flag under which he lives.

James Marshall, a brother of Mrs. Spence, came to the United States a number of years ago and is now a resident of Denver, Colorado. He is a brick mason and has done much at his trade in the above city and elsewhere.

FRED BOESS.

This highly respected farmer of Fayette county is a member of a family who came over from Germany in 1881, he himself being at that time only about eleven years of age. The little colony consisted of father and mother and a number of children. They were very poor and the father had to go to work without delay at his trade as a carpenter in order to provide for the family. He had a hard struggle for many years as a mechanic, farmhand and renter, but eventually made good and at his death, in 1892, owned a fair-sized place in Bethel township. Fred Boess, his oldest child, was born in Hanover, Germany, January 11, 1870, and was but a lad when the trip was made across the ocean. So he grew up with the training of an American boy, joined with the advantages that come from being a member of an ambitious German home. He attended school and worked on the farm, being of great assistance to his father as long as he remained with him, as he was steady, industrious and painstaking in business matters. When his father bought the farm in section 23, which proved to be his permanent home, he left the parental roof and concluded to strike a few blows for himself. For two years he did ordinary farm work by the month, but such was his German thrift and economy that he managed to save nearly every dollar of his wages, which were not large. By the fall of 1892 he had saved up enough to make a first payment on a farm, consisting of one hundred and twenty acres in section 22, Bethel township. In the spring of 1893 he took possession of his new place and immediately began to farm it on his own account.

On December 15, 1897, Mr. Boess married Louisa Hoepfner, a native of Fayette county. She is a daughter of Fred and Marie Hoepfner and of excellent stock. Before 1870 her parents came from Mecklinburg-Schwerin and located in Illinois. After spending two years in that state, they came to Iowa and settled in Fayette county on the south line of Bethel township. Mr. Boess lived on his first farm until the spring of 1908. In the fall of 1901 he bought his father's old place in section 23, still retaining the original place in section 22. The fact that he has prospered is shown by his present ownership of two hundred and eighty acres. He has four children, Albert, Clarence, George and Mildred. The family are members of the Lutheran church at Richfield. Mr. Boess has five brothers and sisters, all of whom are well settled in the world and have met with their share of prosperity. Marie, the eldest sister, married John Erhardt and is a resident of California. Lizzie, the second of Herman Boess' daughters, married George Hucke, and they are residents of Chickasaw county. Minnie, who is the wife of



MRS. LOUISA BOESS.

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FRED BOESS.

Fred Brenner, lives with him in California. Adam lives with his mother on the farm in section 15, Bethel township. Anna, the youngest child, married Carl Sinner, of whom full particulars may be found in the sketch of Herman Boess. The family, by its intermarriages, is connected with some of the most substantial farmers of Fayette county. With the Sinners and others they constitute a wide and influential connection in Fayette county. Without exception, they are unostentatious people, noted for their industry and saving habits and attend to their own business. In business they are reliable and in social circles they are highly esteemed by all who know them. In politics, Mr. Boess is a Democrat, but is inclined to be liberal in his views. Religiously, he is a member of the Lutheran church, to which he gives generously of his time and means.

HON. THOMAS L. GREEN.

The student interested in the history of Fayette county does not have to carry his investigations far into its annals before learning that Thomas L. Green has long been an active and leading representative citizen and one of the most influential men of West Union, his labors having proven to be a potent force in the upbuilding of this locality along many lines. The biographies of such men of success are instructive as guides and incentives to those whose careers are yet to be achieved. The examples they furnish of patient and consecutive endeavor strongly illustrate what is in the power of each to accomplish if his energies are persistently and conscientiously applied. Mr. Green is a conspicuous example of one who has lived to good purpose and achieved a definite degree of success in the various spheres to which his talents and energies have been devoted, and notwithstanding the fact that he has outstripped many of the less persistent plodders on life's highway and of the unquestioned good he has accomplished, he is conservative and unassuming, a true type of the genteel, self-made American gentleman, whom to know is to respect and admire.

Mr. Green was born at Hamilton, Canada, September 11, 1847, and is the son of Thomas and Ann (Stevens) Green, both natives of Ireland, the father having been born there in 1815 and died in America in 1904, and the mother's birth occurred in 1824 and her death in 1910.

Thomas Green, Sr., whose sketch appears in full on another page of this work, served three years and three months in Company F, Seventh Iowa

Cavalry, with a commission of sergeant, having charge of the horseshoeing, farrier and repair department on the frontier. While in the service he was injured, as a result of which he was remembered by his country with a pension of twenty-four dollars per month. He returned home in 1866 and, with his son, Thomas L. of this review, engaged in the manufacture of wagons, buggies and blacksmithing, the father having served an apprenticeship at the above line of work for seven years in Ireland, then went to Scotland where he worked in the shipyards of Glasgow, later in the Highlands, where he learned to talk the Gaelic language, and while there became a lover of the poetry of Burns and Scottish literature, and he was noted as a great reader all his life. During the more than sixty years of married life, during which time he and his wife reared a family of eight children, they were among the most highly respected and best citizens in the community. The elder Green enjoyed his work and made the "hours flit by on angels' wings," to quote from his Bard of Ayr, by giving vent to his effervescent spirit in song and stories of good cheer. His wife, too, a gracious and good woman, although ever active with her family, found time to share the joys and sorrows of her neighbors, being always with them in their troubles to serve and comfort.

Thomas L. Green came to Fayette county, Iowa, when a child and here he was educated in the common schools and at Upper Iowa University, where he spent one year. He has always been a student and has kept well informed on current events, topics of interest in the political, social and scientific world and is an interesting man to converse with. He started in life for himself as a wagonmaker, in which line he was an expert and which he followed successfully for a period of ten years. He then launched into the real estate business, which he continued with very satisfactory results for a period of twenty years. During the past twelve years he has very ably and creditably filled the position as postmaster at West Union, giving satisfaction in every respect both to the department and to everyone who patronized the local office, his long service in this connection being a criterion of his fidelity to duty and his genuine worth as a public servant. He is now living in honorable retirement, spending a part of his time with his family in Los Angeles, California, where his daughters, Gladys and Florence, are attending the University of Southern California. During the period noted above, Mr. Green served in a very praiseworthy manner as mayor of West Union for two terms, during which incumbency he was instrumental in securing the city water works, superintending the entire construction, devoting nearly a year of almost daily service to the work of procuring buildings and overseeing the construction of the plant, which is one of the best in the country. For this meritorious service

he received the compensation of twelve dollars. He was also largely instrumental in securing the town clock. Being interested in local public schools, he served as a member of the school board for a period of thirteen years, being president of the same during the last six years, and he takes just pride in the fact that the city has one of the best high schools in the state. He also took a leading part in securing macadam streets for West Union and in innumerable ways has contributed to the material prosperity and moral and intellectual growth of this community.

Thomas L. Green proved his loyalty to the stars and stripes during the nation's dark hours of trial by enlisting as a private in Company C, Ninth Illinois Cavalry, on March 9, 1864, and he served very faithfully in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Georgia. He was orderly to the provost marshal at Selma and Montgomery, Alabama. He was mustered out of service at Selma in October, 1865.

Politically, Mr. Green is a Republican. He was county chairman for a period of six years, and a member of the Republican state central committee for the fourth district of Iowa for two years. He has been active and influential in politics and he belongs with the progressive Republicans of Iowa. During the past twenty-five years he has devoted much of his energies and the best years of his life, as well as given freely of his means, in conducting a campaign of education along temperance lines and he is proud to note the efforts of himself and others who have worked against prejudice and bitter opposition, bringing good results in the better condition of our county, state and nation, and he hopes for the final overthrow of what he considers the greatest evil that confronts our civilization. He has defeated different county petitions for the saloon, having gone to the supreme court to get his counter remonstrance, maintained in the case of Green and the State of Iowa against Smith, and in retiring he hopes that the younger element will continue to fight the great evils to the death.

He is a member of the H. A. L. Club, a literary society of wide note, and for twenty years has enjoyed the study and discussions. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He has been president of the Anti-Horse Stealing Society of the county, and he has been president of the Anti-Saloon League of Fayette county for many years and active in the enforcement of the prohibition laws. Also he was president of the Fayette County Law and Order League long before the Anti-Saloon League came on the scene.

On October 30, 1876, Mr. Green married Ella Sherwood, daughter of Philo and Trephena (Yale) Sherwood, of Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania. She is a lady of fine attributes and comes of an excellent family.

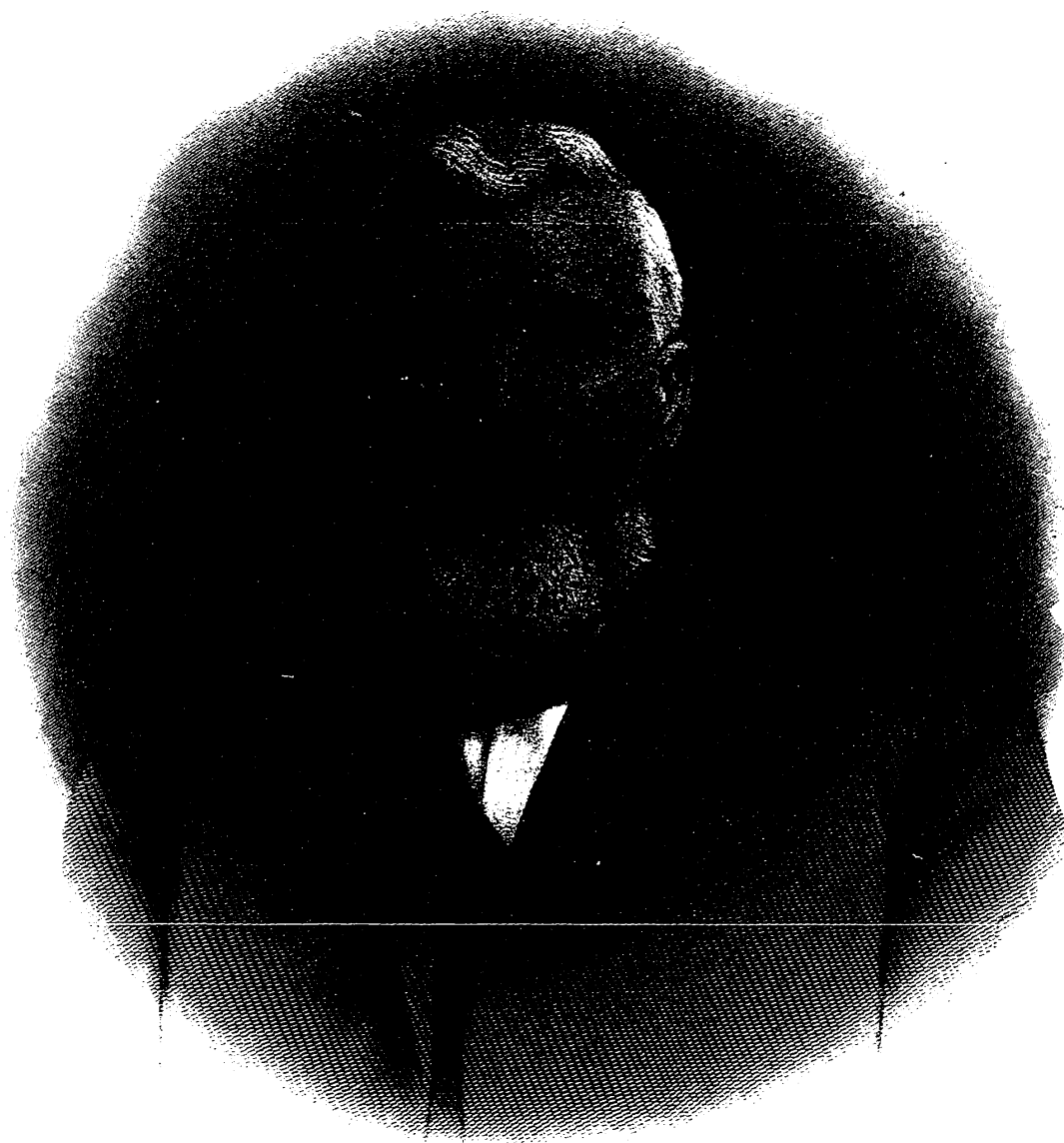
This union has resulted in the birth of the following children: Louise died in infancy; Lottie died when six years old; Laura M., now Mrs. Dr. E. T. Lawler, of Amarillo, Texas; Alfred N. died in infancy; Lillian S., now Mrs. P. E. Magee, lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Gladys and Florence are with their parents and attending school. Mrs. Green belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and has long been an active and earnest worker in the same, also in charities. She has been a helpmeet indeed, a true wife and mother, and a good neighbor whom all who knew respected.

BEN SCHORI.

One of the most useful members of an agricultural community is the stock dealer. To the individual farmers he saves much time, trouble and expense in providing for them near at home a safe and convenient market for their stock. At the same time stock-buying is by no means an easy task, and the successful stock-buyer must have an eye as skilled as that of the artist in order to be a good judge of stock, a skill which cannot be entirely acquired by practice, but must be to some extent inherent; moreover, his profession calls for a more than common shrewdness in judging human nature. It is the exceptional man who can succeed in this business and Mr. Schori belongs to this class.

Ben Schori was born in canton Bern, Switzerland, July 26, 1841, the son of Ben and Mary (Baumgartner) Schori, both natives of Switzerland. His mother died there and his father came to America in 1846 and located in Monroe county, Ohio. About 1849 Ben and his mother's sister came to Joliet, Illinois, but later he returned to his father in Ohio. Ben received but a limited education. In 1856 he came with his father's family to a farm two miles east of Elgin, where his father farmed for some years, and then moved to Elgin. Ben farmed until 1872, when he entered the retail butcher business. In 1875 he began buying stock and grain and became one of the largest dealers in this part of the country. During his operations he has accumulated one thousand acres of land, which he devotes to the stock business. His success in this has been commensurate with the care, attention and ability he has bestowed upon it, the work which has occupied the greater portion of his life. He is now president of the Citizens' State Bank of Elgin.

In 1869 Mr. Schori married Elizabeth Bauder, a native of Switzerland, to whom as a result of this marriage eight children were born: Emma, Albert,



Ben Gelbort

Ernest, George, Ida, Clara, Hulda and Elmer. Albert, Ernest and George are now conducting the stock business which their father founded. Ben Schori is a Republican in politics, but has always given his attention to his private affairs rather than to political.

This sturdy son of Switzerland is one whose strong qualities speak for themselves of the worth of the blood that flows in his veins. If all the immigrants into this country were of his mettle, the immigration problem would be solved.

JAMES HARKIN.

It is interesting to note from the beginning the growth and development of a community, to note the lines along which progress has been made and to take cognizance of those whose industry and leadership in the work of advancement have rendered possible the present prosperity of the locality under consideration. James Harkin, an extensive farmer of Putnam township, Fayette county, has contributed largely to the material welfare of the community in which he resides, being a progressive man of affairs and a public-spirited citizen. He was born August 17, 1847, in Kenosha county, Wisconsin, and is the son of William and Catherine (McCauley) Harkin, both natives of Ireland, where they grew to maturity, were educated and married, and from which country they came to America in 1832, Mr. Harkin entering our navy, in which he served as a gunner for three years. In 1836 he moved to Wisconsin, and in 1855 came to Iowa and settled in Clayton county, where he remained five years, coming to that county in 1860, locating two and one-half miles north of Strawberry Point, where he entered land, later trading the same for a farm in Fayette county, the present home of the Larkin family, and he was successful as a farmer and established a good home. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children, two of whom are living, Jennie, now Mrs. McClanahan, of California, and James, of this review. These parents were fine old pioneer people, well liked and highly respected wherever they were known.

James Harkin received a good common school education and later in life supplemented the same by contact with the world and by home study. He was married on October 14, 1888, to Emma Lang, daughter of Nicholas and Charlotte Lang, natives of Ohio, where they grew to maturity and were married, coming to Delaware county, Iowa, about 1856, and to Fayette county about 1866, purchasing a farm in section 34, Putnam township, on which he

lived continuously until his death, at the advanced age of eighty-four years, dying in 1907, his wife dying the same year at the age of seventy-six years, and they are both buried at Strawberry Point. They became the parents of nine children.

James Harkin began his married life on the farm which he now owns, it consisting at that time of two hundred and forty acres; he has been a good manager and a hard worker and has added to his place until it now contains four hundred acres of as good land as Fayette county can boast. He has made extensive and substantial improvements, and he is today one of the prosperous and up-to-date farmers of the county, having an attractive and comfortable home and commodious outbuildings, everything about the place indicating thrift, prosperity, good management and that a gentleman of fine taste has its management in hand. He has kept abreast of the times in the matter of up-to-date farming and stock raising, having been very successful in all his undertakings.

To Mr. and Mrs. Harkin two children have been born, William, whose birth occurred August 4, 1889, finished the common school course and graduated at the high school at Strawberry Point, also received a thorough commercial course at Oelwein and is a young man of much promise and natural business ability; Mabel, who graduated at the high school at Strawberry Point, is preparing for a career as teacher in the public schools, and she is well informed not only in text-books, but is talented and cultured and a favorite with a wide circle of friends.

JOHN GLADWIN.

An honored and highly respected citizen of Arlington, Fayette county, is John Gladwin, who, now that the evening of his years is upon him, can look back over a well spent life, one that has brought nothing but good to those whom it has touched, for he belongs to that class of citizens who believe in carrying the principle of the Golden Rule into their every-day affairs, "Live and let live" has been his motto, so that he now enjoys a wide friendship wherever he is known. Mr. Gladwin was born in Marrick, Yorkshire, England, July 19, 1839. He grew to maturity and was educated in his home country and when a young man came to America, finally, after a wearisome trip, reaching Wisconsin on April 27, 1855, where he remained four years, working at various things to earn an honest dollar; then he came to Dubuque, Iowa, where he spent about eighteen years. He then turned his attention to

farming, following the same in Dubuque county eleven years, then came to Fayette county in 1877 and for a period of twenty-one years devoted himself to tilling the soil in Putnam township. He is at present engaged as a rural mail carrier, having very faithfully performed this service for his adopted country for a period of eight years, giving the authorities entire satisfaction.

Politically, Mr. Gladwin is a Republican, and he has held several of the minor township offices and has been a frequent delegate to conventions of his party. He is very much in sympathy with the prohibition movement and lends his aid and influence in this cause whenever possible.

Mr. Gladwin was married in Dubuque county, Iowa, in March, 1861, to Mary Ann Reynoldson, who was born in England. Her death occurred on April 13, 1902. Nine children, all living, were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gladwin. Of this family, six daughters and three sons, one son became a teacher and taught very acceptably in Fayette county.

Mr. Gladwin is a member of the Woodman lodge and the Methodist Episcopal church. He and his family are highly respected throughout the county. Mr. Gladwin takes great interest in Sunday schools, having been a scholar and teacher for over sixty years. He is a great promoter of the prohibition movement.

JOSEPH BLONG.

One of the best known men of Auburn township, Fayette county, is Joseph Blong, who was for some time engaged in farming in Winneshiek county, but is now a merchant and hotel-keeper at St. Lucas, in the interest of which place he has exerted a potent influence for years and is one of the leading citizens of this part of the county. He was born in Belgium, March 17, 1841, and his parents, John and Jennie (Lochrohr) Blong, were natives of the same place, the father born in 1805 and the mother in 1808. They grew to maturity, were educated and married in that country, and in 1855 the family came to the United States, when Joseph, the subject, was fourteen years old. They located at Fort Washington, Wisconsin, where the father spent the rest of his life, dying in 1865, having been survived by his good wife many years, she dying at the same place in 1886. They were the parents of four sons and two daughters, of whom, John, the eldest, is married and living in Winneshiek county, Iowa, with his family of seven children and devotes his attention to farming; Katie is the widow of Theodore Ellenbecker,

of Milwaukee county, Wisconsin; Joseph, of this review; Ambrose is now living in the Black Hills; John B., whose wife is deceased, lives in Charles City, Iowa; Margaret, who is the widow of Nicholas Ellenbecker, is the youngest of the family and resides in Port Washington, Wisconsin.

Joseph Blong began life by working in the copper mines of Michigan when only a lad. Remaining there for a time, he then worked out as a farm laborer until about 1888, when, with the capital he had saved through those long years of hard work, he came to St. Lucas, Fayette county, and opened a general store, which he has continued to operate in a very successful manner, having enjoyed from the first a very liberal patronage with the surrounding country, for at all seasons he has kept a very carefully selected stock of dry-goods, groceries, provisions, crockery, notions, boots and shoes, etc. He was fortunate in securing a good location and is always busy. In connection with his store he maintains a hotel, which is well patronized by the traveling public and has a reputation for general convenience and where all guests receive the best consideration and courteous treatment.

Mr. Blong was married, in 1867, to Christiana Hovertha, at Belgium, Wisconsin. She was born in France, in 1842, in which country she grew to maturity and was educated, coming to America with her parents, in 1865, locating in Wisconsin, where she lived until her marriage. This union has resulted in the birth of ten children, seven of whom are yet living: Nicholas, the eldest, died in infancy; Mathias, who was born in Wisconsin in 1870, is now in Waucoma, Iowa; Katie, born in 1872, died when fourteen years old; Margaret, Lizzie, Burdice (died February 22, 1908), Theodore, Barbara and Gertrude (who died in May, 1907.) These children have been carefully educated in the local schools, and have also been taught German at their church. The many friends of this honored family attest to their industry and integrity, and Mr. Blong is recognized as one of the county's substantial and influential citizens.

ERNEST MORTIMER HENDERSON.

Clermont township, Fayette county, Iowa, is characterized by her full share of successful and enterprising farmers, and in this class must be included the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch. Mr. Henderson was born in the township in which he now lives on August 12, 1867, and is a son of Alexander C. and Minervia C. (Teeter) Henderson, the father born in Old Deer, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, on November 15, 1835.

and the mother born in Canada in 1842. The subject's paternal grandparents were Thomas and Barbara Legg Henderson, both of whom were born in Old Deer, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, the former born March 14, 1790, and the latter on April 24, 1793. They emigrated to the United States in about 1848, making their home at first in the state of Illinois, where they resided until 1852, when they came to Clermont township, Fayette county, Iowa, making their home on what is known as Henderson Prairie, and there they made their future home, the husband dying there on June 16, 1872, and the mother on April 17, 1883. Their son, Alexander C. Henderson, father of the subject of this sketch, was reared as a farmer and followed that occupation after reaching mature years. In 1889 he sold his Fayette county farm and went to Sundance, Wyoming, where he settled on a ranch of four hundred and eighty acres, which he devoted to the raising of cattle and horses with considerable success. In politics he has always affiliated with the Republican party, but he has never aspired to public office. While living in Fayette county he engaged in threshing with splendid success, being a pioneer in that line in this county. In religion he and his wife are liberal in their views, though in their relations with their fellows they have ever borne high and blameless reputations. They became the parents of seven children, namely: Winifred C., Ernest Mortimer, Carrie A. (deceased), David B., Annie Lucretia, Barbara Minervia and Alice Gertrude.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the home farm and received his education in the common schools of Clermont township. His first paid employment was as a farm hand for his uncle, George Kerr, after which for several years he was engaged in hauling cream. Subsequently he engaged in the piano business, in which he met with such success that he remained so occupied for twenty-three years, being connected with the W. W. Kimball Company, for whom he established many agencies. In 1907 he engaged in the real estate business, giving his attention mainly to Texas, Mexico and Dakota land, in which he has met with good success. During the past nine years Mr. Henderson has maintained his residence at Oelwein, among the citizens of which thriving town he stands deservedly high in general esteem.

Politically, Mr. Henderson is a staunch Republican and takes an active and commendable interest in the success of his party. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Oelwein.

On June 26, 1890, Mr. Henderson was united in marriage with Anna Cevilla Brown, a native of Waukon, Allamakee county, Iowa, of which locality the parents were early and well known settlers. To Mr. and Mrs.

Henderson have been born three children, Horace Brown, Helen Minervia and Ernest Mortimer, Jr. In all of life's relations Mr. Henderson has exhibited those qualities which have commended him to the regard and admiration of the community. He has at all times given his support to those measures which have promised to be of the greatest benefit to the community and he is numbered among the stalwart and influential men of the township in which he lives.

ALVIN DELOSS PITTS.

The family of this name in Fayette county came originally from New York, but have been identified with the West for seventy-five years. Benjamin Pitts left New York with the Mormon exodus, though he was not a Mormon or connected with that organization in any way. He accompanied them as far as Illinois, but settled away from them in another part of the state. In 1856 he migrated to Iowa and found a location in Fayette county, being one of the early settlers of Bethel township. He took up government land in the southeast part of section 1 and lived there until advancing years prevented him from doing hard work. He gave up farming and started to Kansas, accompanied by his son James, but died on the way. His wife had died previous to his departure. Benjamin Franklin Pitts, the son above alluded to, married Sarah Louise, daughter of Reuben Henry and Elvira Richmond. After this he lived about a year in Wisconsin, but in 1856 removed to Iowa, located in Fayette county and found a home in Bethel township. This location was in the northeast quarter of section 12, where he resided for some twenty years and then moved to the west side of section 1, which was his home for five years. He then lived on a farm at Alpha for two years, from which place he went to Sanborn, Iowa, where he has charge of a store. He had two children, Alvin D. and Clarence, the latter of whom is a resident of Sanborn.

Alvin Deloss Pitts was born in Bethel township, Fayette county, Iowa, in 1869. He grew up on the farm in section 12, meantime attending the Pitt school, which was the district school of his neighborhood. After reaching young manhood he worked out four years for John T. Gager. In 1895 he married Millie, daughter of Rudolph and Emiline (Moon) Foreman. Her parents were both of German descent and came from Pennsylvania. Mrs. Pitts was born in Richland county, Wisconsin, and came with her parents to Auburn township when a child. Both of her parents have been dead for

some years. They were highly esteemed people, true to their duties in life and made good citizens, good neighbors and good friends. Mr. and Mrs. Alvin D. Pitts have five children, Harold, Grace, Vern, Lois and Ralph.

Before his marriage Mr. Pitts had bought a farm in the northeast quarter of section 1 and to this he removed and there he has ever since made his home. As a man, Mr. Pitts ranks high among his fellows, because of his integrity of character, his scrupulous regard of all his obligations and his general fulfillment of all the duties of citizenship. As a farmer he has made good in his methods of carrying on business. He attempts no fancy farming, preferring to follow the well settled paths and to pursue the courses which thousands of predecessors have shown to be the best. He raises the cereal crops adapted to Fayette county, besides a little livestock, keeps his farm in good condition, looks after the improvements and in every way seeks to be a model farmer. He has been successful in a moderate way and has nothing to be ashamed of in his years of operations as a practical agriculturist. He takes the interest of a good citizen in clean politics and may always be found on the side that gives the best promise of good government. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and pays proper attention to his duties in connection with the lodge.

T. N. CARNALL.

No occupation at the present day furnishes more examples of successful men than that of railroading, and perhaps none have risen more noticeably than those who began at the operator's desk. For there are developed qualities which are of highest importance. No man who is not alert and attentive can ever make a trustworthy operator, nor can any man be an operator without learning to bear responsibility. His position often seems minor in importance, but if he blunders only once, the consequences may be appalling. So it is that we find that many of the men occupying important places in railroad activities have risen from the operator's chair.

Thomas Nicholson Carnall was born two miles west of Arlington January 23, 1864, the son of James and Caroline (Nicholson) Carnall, both born in England, the mother being a native of London. They came to Canada in 1851, and located two miles from St. Thomas, buying two hundred acres of land and farming there until 1861, when they came to Fayette county, Iowa, and bought two hundred acres in Fairfield township, where they have since

lived excepting for one year at Harper, Kansas, and twenty years at Arlington. Mr. Carnall retired from farming for twenty years, but is now living on the farm again. He has carried on general farming, however, making a specialty of hogs, for he believes that the best market for the farmer's grain is in the living form and that such a practice will not only put more money in his pocket, but also will constantly improve his land. He has been a Republican except during the existence of the Greenback party; he has never cared to seek office, but has always been quite active in politics. He is liberal in his religious views and was baptized in the Church of England. He has reared a family of eight children.

T. N. Carnall was educated at the country schools of the county and at the Arlington high school, then took a commercial course at Upper Iowa University. He then entered the depot at Arlington as a student, in which capacity he remained one year, served as operator one year, and then went to Waucoma as operator one year. There he met Alice Duffy, and was married to her on June 25, 1889. He next went to New Hall, Iowa, remaining there as agent of the Milwaukee road for three years, then came to Hawkeye in 1892, and has since been agent of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul here. He has one interesting daughter, Mildred. Mrs. Carnall is a member of the Catholic church. Mr. Carnall is a Republican and was formerly a Knight of Pythias. He is the vice-president of the Hawkeye State Bank. He is known as a man of good business abilities and a good companion. He is in every way a leading citizen of his town, and one of whom she is justly proud, as any town would be.

CARL MEISGEIER.

The agricultural interests of Fayette county are well represented by Carl Meisgeier, who is one of the most practical and enterprising farmers of Fairfield township. Like many other successful self-made men in this county, he is an American by adoption only, being a native of Germany, whence come so many who form the bone and sinew of this great western republic. Wherever known, the German type is noted for its thrift and enterprise, and the gentleman whose life record is briefly reviewed here is no exception to this rule.

Carl Meisgeier was born in Germany on November 7, 1841. His parents, Andrew and Johanna Meisgeier, emigrated from Germany in 1852. A great calamity overtook the family almost immediately, for the father died



Engr. by E. G. Williams & Co. N.Y.

Carl Meisger

shortly after their arrival in this country, at the age of fifty-two years. The mother survived her husband, however, and lived to be eighty years of age before she passed away. Mrs. Meisgeier took her three children to the home of her sister, who lived at Cleveland, Ohio, and remained there for two years. Her indomitable courage led her, however, at the expiration of that period, in the year 1855, to make a home for herself and her family, and she took her children to Iowa, purchasing eighty acres of land in Fayette county, and on this farm she passed the remainder of her life. Her children were Herman, Mrs. Hugo Nus, and the subject of this sketch.

Carl Meisgeier was reared to days of industry on the farm where he lived with his mother, and alternated work on the farm with schooling in the common school. On November 10, 1864, he was united in marriage with Catherine Huepsch, of Clayton county, Iowa, who was also German born, having come to America in 1854, her parents coming to America from Germany and locating in Clayton county in that year. Mr. and Mrs. Meisgeier began their married life on the farm on which Mr. Meisgeier lived continuously for fifty-four years. On December 19, 1908, Mrs. Meisgeier departed this life, and was buried in the cemetery at Taylorsville. On April 23, 1910, Mr. Meisgeier married Mrs. Louise Hetzel.

When Mr. Meisgeier began farming he had twenty acres of land to cultivate. He added to this, however, with astonishing ability and thrift until he possessed five hundred acres of land, with excellent improvements, the entire acreage being in fine condition and highly cultivated and with every modern equipment. This valuable farm he recently sold to his youngest daughter, Mrs. Krumpel, who now occupies the homestead. Mr. Meisgeier has built a tasteful and substantial residence, with a splendid barn adjacent, on an eighty-acre farm in section 15, near his farm home, and on this new place he expects to live for the remainder of his days. He handles quite a great deal of stock of various kinds and no small amount of his income is derived from this source. He has been especially successful in breeding Hereford cattle, and has kept the best of stock.

The following children were born to Mr. Meisgeier: John H., born December 22, 1865; Mary C., now Mrs. G. Martin, born October 13, 1867; Fred L., born December 5, 1869; Emma M., now Mrs. George Eckhart, born October 15, 1871; Caroline M., now Mrs. C. Andrea, born July 25, 1873; Alma M., now Mrs. Fred Robbins, born April 17, 1877; Johanna G., now Mrs. H. Kreumpel, born in 1886. His grandchildren are: Dora, Paul, Herbert, Freda, Carl, Rupert, Donald and Ameldo Meisgeier; Laura, Elnove, Florentine and Emma Martin; Carol, Gertrude and Harvy Eckhart; Oscar, Walter and Emma Andrea; Roland, Beatrice, Johanna and Morris Robbins.

In spite of the energy and time that has been necessary to make a success such as Mr. Meisgeier's, he has found opportunity to look to public duties and has served as school trustee for his township for several years. He is also interested in commercial life, and is a director and stockholder in the German-American Bank, recently organized in Arlington, Iowa. He is a member of the Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican, although he has never desired any political offices or honors.

CHARLES F. AUER.

While yet a young man, Charles F. Auer has succeeded in gaining a good foothold in the business world of his own community, being a native of Jefferson township, Fayette county, where he was born May 15, 1881, the son of Frederick and A—— (Oelwein) Auer, the father a native of Hessen-Darmstadt and the mother of Saxony, Weimer, Germany. They came to America in their youth, he with his father, Carl Auer, who settled in Carroll county, Iowa, where he purchased eighty acres of land, where the senior Auer lived until his death. Mr. and Mrs. Frederick A. Auer met in this country and were married here. He finally went to Independence, Iowa, where he followed his trade of mason and contractor. He was one of the first settlers in Oelwein, Iowa, in which city he was married. His wife first married August Schmidt, a native of Saxony, Germany, who came to America and lived on a farm in Jefferson township, Fayette county, until his death. The following children were born to August Schmidt and wife: Otto, a farmer on the old home place in Jefferson township, this county; Oscar and Lena, twins, the former now deceased; Lena married Albert Sherman, who is living in Los Angeles, California, his wife being deceased.

Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Frederick A. Auer, named as follows: Anna, wife of Fred Sachtlevan, of Oelwein, Iowa; Charles F., of this review; Emma, the wife of Warren Gremmels, of Oelwein, Iowa. The father of these children lived in Jefferson township until 1894, when he moved to Oran township, Fayette county, and bought one hundred and forty acres of land in section 2. It was all wild, but he made extensive improvements on the same, placing it under a high state of cultivation and erecting a good dwelling and other buildings. His death occurred December 26, 1906, having been preceded to the grave by his wife on March 15, 1902. They were members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Auer was a Democrat but never an office seeker, preferring to lead a quiet, honorable life.

Charles F. Auer attended the home schools and the school at Westgate, Iowa, and he remained under his parental roof until he was twenty-one years of age. He had his youthful imagination fired by tales of the far west and he took a trip to California, traveling throughout the state and remaining there one year, spending considerable time at Los Angeles. He also remained for some time in Colorado in the fruit belt.

On January 14, 1906, Mr. Auer married Malinda Crandall, of Volga, Clayton county, Iowa. She is the daughter of Wallace and Mary (Jennings) Crandall, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of Clayton county, Iowa. Mr. Crandall is a successful farmer and stock man.

One son, Cyril Warren, has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Auer. Ever since his marriage Mr. Auer has lived in Oran township, Fayette county, on a valuable and well improved farm of one hundred and eighty-three acres in sections 1 and 2. He carries on general farming and stock raising in a very satisfactory manner, and in connection with his other work he maintains a dairy of twenty milch cows. He handles a good grade of shorthorn cattle, draft and driving horses, Chester White hogs, Rhode Island Red and Plymouth Rock chickens. He is a fine judge of all kinds of livestock and poultry, and he is regarded as one of the leading young farmers of Oran township, keeping well advised not only regarding agricultural and livestock subjects, but also on general topics of the day. He takes much interest in the general progress of his community and he has served as school director. He is a Republican and a member of the Lutheran church, and bears an unblemished reputation throughout the county or wherever he is known.

G. B. DARNELL.

This young man is a representative of the younger generation of farmers who are doing so much to give Fayette county high standing in the agricultural world. Few men of his years have led a more industrious life as a soil tiller, stock raiser and dairyman. He has "made good" in all departments of his work and has something to show for his years of labor. Still in the prime of life, there are many more years of usefulness before Mr. Darnell. He is enterprising, industrious, full of ambition and it would be strange if such a man did not succeed. The family is of Illinois origin and was long identified with the agricultural interests of that state. G. B. Darnell was born in Illinois March 2, 1877, and came with his parents the same

year to the old farm, his parents being J. C. and Mary M. (Rogers) Darnell, both natives of DeKalb county, Illinois. The son received a good education, having the benefit of both the common schools and a university training. When he entered the Upper Iowa University, he decided that as his life was to be that of a farmer he needed a more practical education than is usually obtained at the college. There was an excellent commercial department attached to the university and this he entered with a determination to get its full benefits. He studied book-keeping and other branches of the knowledge that is needed on the farm every day, and when he was graduated, June 1, 1896, he felt that he was much better equipped for the work to which he intended to devote his life. Immediately after leaving college he took up farming on the home place near Randalia. The farm consisted of three hundred and twenty acres and for five years he conducted it on the shares with his parents and did well with the business. His mother died March 28, 1902, and this untoward event caused a complete alteration in his plans. Soon after he bought the farm and engaged in the dairy business, and kept this up until August 31, 1910, when he disposed of his interests by sale.

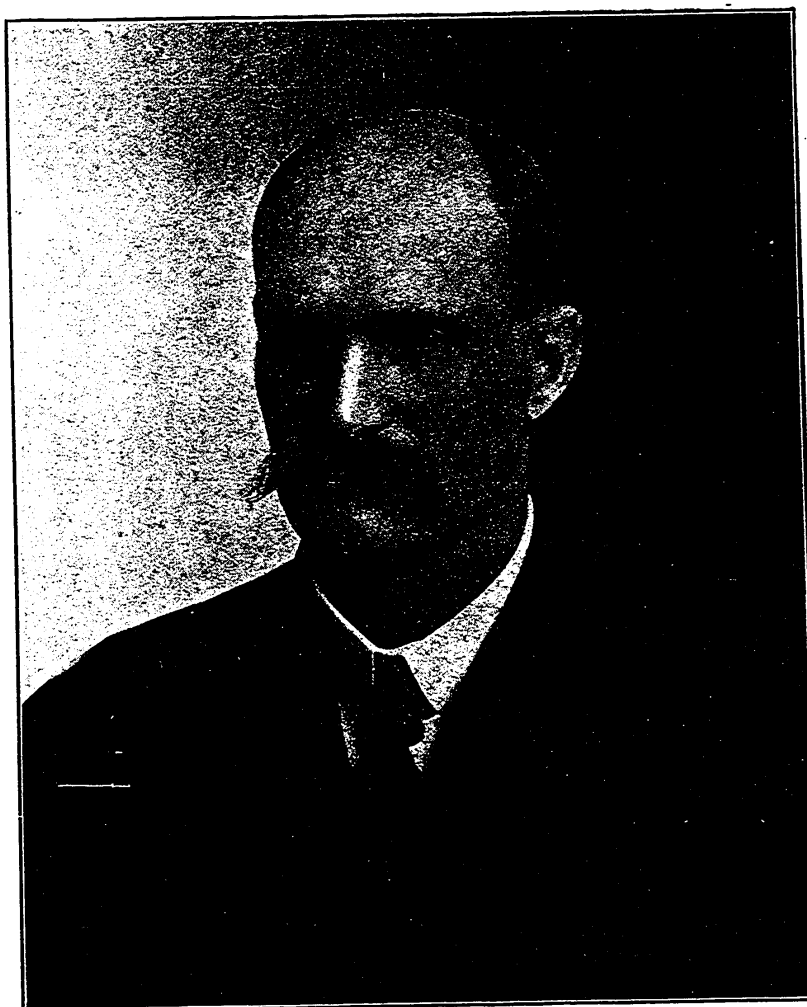
On January 19, 1898, Mr. Darnell married Carrie M., daughter of George and Lucy Whiteley, residents of Fayette county for many years. The Whiteleys were early settlers of the county and always regarded as among the most substantial residents. Mr. and Mrs. Darnell have two children: Zella, born November 14, 1898, and Donald, born August 23, 1900.

CHARLES H. ROBERTS.

In the course of an honorable career Charles H. Roberts, of Windsor township, Fayette county, has been successful in the manifold lines to which his efforts have been directed and he is enjoying distinctive prestige among the representative men of the county of which he is a native. He was born in the extreme southwest corner of Bethel township, October 2, 1860, the son of E. M. and Polly (Tambling) Roberts, both natives of the state of New York, having spent their youth in their home community in St. Lawrence county, Polly Tambling having been the second wife of E. M. Roberts. (See sketch of Lucian O. Roberts, elsewhere in this work, he being an elder half brother of Charles H. Roberts.) Polly Roberts was born on June 1, 1829, and her death occurred February 8, 1882, on the old home place, at the age of fifty-three years.



MRS. ROSE ROBERTS.



CHARLES H. ROBERTS.

Charles H. Roberts, the eldest son of the family, was reared by his uncle, Charles H. Roberts, in whose house he was born. He was inured to much hardship in early life, during the hardest years known to pioneers. He roughed it during the hard times resulting from the failure of the main crop, that of wheat, which for several years failed to mature, the prices remaining about the same for a long time. He was in this part of Fayette county when it was wild and undeveloped, and he recalls seeing the first train come into West Union. When a lad he herded cattle and horses, many hundreds of the former at a time. He himself broke the first eighty-acre tract of wild prairie land here, outside of the old Roberts homestead, his uncle having given him the place because he was named for him. After breaking it, however, it was sold to other parties and he never tilled it. He remained at the home of his uncle until he was more than of legal age. Later he bought the old farm known as the "Evergreen Farm," of his father, who had started a nursery. The pines on the place grew to be huge trees and since that time fifteen thousand feet of pine lumber has been cut from it and there is still a fine grove of pine on the place. Mr. Roberts purchased this place in 1886 and in March, 1899, he sold it and purchased his present farm, two and one-half miles east of Hawkeye, known as the George W. Schrock farm, comprising two hundred and forty acres, for which he paid upwards of thirty-five dollars per acre. A large barn built of huge hewn timbers is to be found on the place. It is forty-four by sixty-six feet and was built by Mr. Schrock. A large and well equipped dairy is also on this farm, Mr. Roberts keeping from sixteen to twenty milk cows all the time, his cattle being thoroughbred. Although his stock business takes considerable time, he devotes his attention principally to his general farming pursuits and in both lines he is one of the most successful of the enterprising men of this favored section of the Hawkeye state. He had been in the creamery business before coming here and he assisted in establishing the present flourishing creamery at Hawkeye, of which he became one of the first directors, having served in that capacity for several years, assisting to make it the best creamery in Fayette county. He has been very successful in all his business dealings and is now quite well established.

Mr. Roberts served two years on the school board, and, although a good Republican and interested in the success of his party at home and in national capacity, he is no politician, preferring to devote his time exclusively to his individual affairs.

Mr. Roberts was married on November 29, 1887, to Rose Crandall, daughter of George Francis and Esther Jane (Pendleton) Crandall, the

former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Maine. They came to Iowa when young and married in Fayette county, living three miles north of Hawkeye for a period of forty-two years. George F. Crandall died in 1894, but his widow is still living on the old home place with her son, Clyde.

To Mr. and Mrs. Roberts four sons and one daughter have been born, namely: Harrison G., who graduated in the normal department of the University of Iowa, with the class of 1910, had taught already one year each in three different schools and is now teaching in the high school at Plover, Iowa. His mother, who was a teacher for three years, received her first certificate from George W. Fitch, having taught school in Bethel township where she met her husband. Reno R. Roberts was also a student in the State University; Charles Irvin, Archie M. and Edna Rose.

Mr. and Mrs. Roberts are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Hawkeye and active in church work, being liberal supporters of the local congregation.

WILLIAM WOHLGEMUTH CONKLIN.

On a large farm in Bethel township may be found a fine specimen of one of the early pioneers, still well preserved, though at the advanced age of ninety-three. In William Wohlgemuth Conklin is seen a type of the class of men who made the west and stamped upon the communities where they settled their own individuality in a way so forcibly that it has survived for generations. Mr. Conklin is a native of New York state, belonging to a branch of the same family that produced the celebrated Roscoe Conklin. He was born in Montgomery county, December 24, 1816, of Mohawk-Dutch parentage. His father was a shoemaker and he, too, learned the trade as he grew up. About 1861 he joined the movement to the west and located in Rock county, Wisconsin, five miles south of Janesville. He took a government claim of eighty acres, but in March, 1866, removed to Fayette county, Iowa, coming by team from Calmar and settling in the north edge of Bethel township. At that time the county was comparatively new and he was able to buy eighty acres at a very reasonable price. His claim was in section 4, and only a part of it had been cultivated, the residence being a log cabin. Part of the land was timber and part prairie. At later periods Mr. Conklin added to his possessions one hundred and twenty acres in lots of forty acres in Eden township and still owns two hundred acres he purchased in his

earlier years. He became a fixture and has ever since resided in Fayette county, of which he has long been one of the most honored citizens. He joined the young Republican party at its birth and has ever since remained an ardent member. He has never missed voting for President since he became of age, has at various times served his township in official capacities and altogether has ever been regarded as a model citizen. One of his chief passions was a desire for the enlightenment of the people and with this end in view he used his constant influence for the establishment of schools and promotion of education. Meantime he stuck steadily to his farming and achieved a full measure of success among the best agriculturists of Fayette county.

On July 2, 1840, Mr. Conklin married Sally Margaret Weller, who was born August 21, 1821, and ended her earthly career March 20, 1897. They had five children, four boys and one girl. Sarah E., the eldest, is the wife of Willam Arnold and resides at Bristow, Butler county, Iowa. Harvey F., the eldest son, married Charlotte Clark and has four children, Edward, George, Carrie and Effie, besides a daughter who died in childhood. He is managing a farm of over one hundred acres in Eden township. Holden T., the second son of the subject, married Eliza Burzee and had one child, Almira. He resided near the middle of Bethel township, where he died March 10, 1871. Sebastian W., the next of the family, was born April 6, 1853, in Rock county, Wisconsin, and came with his parents to Fayette county some years later. He married Mary A. Bell, by whom he has had five children, Rose, Bert, Will, Mabel and Florence. Rose, the oldest of these, married Max Finch and resides with her father on the home place. Bert, the second child, married Jessie Sturch and became a stenographer at Cedar Falls. Failing health compelled him to give up and he was brought back to his old home, where he died December 18, 1907. Of his two children, one died in infancy and the other is a son named Kenneth. Will is homesteading in South Dakota. Mabel married George Sturch, a farmer of Fayette county, and has one child, Veryl. Florence remains at home with her father. Sebastian W. Conklin, fourth of the subject's children, has lived on the home place ever since coming to Iowa, except two years spent in Oswego, Kansas. He returned to Fayette county and now owns one hundred and twenty acres of the old home place, his father making his home with him. Besides general farming, he deals in cattle quite extensively and has prospered in his ventures. Edgar W. Conkling, youngest child of the subject, died in infancy. Mary A. Bell, wife of Sebastian Conklin, was born at Warren, Trumbull county, Ohio, being a daughter of B. K. and Clarinda Hulda Bell. The mother was descended from Governor

Bradford, who came over in the "Mayflower." Mrs. Mary Conklin came to Fayette county with her parents about 1861, the family locating in the southwest corner of Auburn township. Her father died in 1883 and her mother in 1896. Iowa has no family connection which is more universally esteemed than the Conklins and no family of equal opportunities has done more than they for the upbuilding of Fayette county. Mrs. Conklin and two daughters belong to the Christian church, two other daughters belonging to the Presbyterian. Mr. Conklin is a Republican in politics.

QUINTUS C. BABCOCK.

The gentleman to a brief review of whose life and characteristics the reader's attention is herewith directed, is numbered among the foremost citizens of Fayette county and has by his enterprise and progressive spirit contributed in a material way to the industrial, commercial and educational advancement of the county. He has in the course of an honorable career been most successful in his business affairs and is well deserving of mention in this history of Fayette county.

Quintus C. Babcock is a Yankee by nativity, having been born in Orwell, Vermont, on March 20, 1837, and is the son of Stephen P. and Emeline (Cooper) Babcock. Mr. Babcock was reared on the parental farmstead near the village of Orwell, and received his education in the schools of that locality, which for that early day were of a high order of efficiency and thoroughness. In 1857 he accompanied his parents on their removal to Fayette county, Iowa, they locating first at the town of Fayette. To still further round out his mental discipline the subject attended the Upper Iowa University three years. In 1860 the subject's father bought a farm in Smithfield township, this county, to which the family removed. In 1867 Mr. Babcock married and the year following he began farming on his own account in the same locality, owning a splendid tract of four hundred acres. He was prospered in his operations and added to his landed possessions from time to time as he was able until he is now the owner of sixteen hundred and fifty acres, much of it being a superior quality. Aside from a quarter section which lies in Fairfield township, this land all lies in Smithfield township. In 1892 Mr. Babcock moved to the city of Fayette, where he has since continued to reside, though he still gives his personal attention to his extensive farming operations. He is practical and progressive in his methods and keeps in close touch with the most advanced ideas and methods in agriculture.



D. H. Babcock

In 1867 Mr. Babcock was united in marriage with Mary Ellen Stevenson, a daughter of William and Ellen D. (Comstock) Stevenson. She was a native of Ohio and came to Fayette county about 1858. Her father had died in Ohio when she was two years old. Mrs. Babcock died June 1, 1897, and on August 4, 1903, he married Mary E. Bailey, who was born at Fowlerville, Livingston county, New York, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Simpson) Bailey. John Bailey came from Freckingham, England, in young manhood, his wife having been born in county Antrim, Ireland, though descended from Scotch Covenanters. She came to America with her sisters when she was sixteen years old. In 1875 Mrs. Babcock's parents came to Fayette county, Iowa, locating just north of Oelwein. In 1887 the family moved to Fayette, in order to give the children an opportunity to attend Upper Iowa University. After Mrs. Bailey came to Fayette she was engaged by the board of trustees of Upper Iowa University to be matron of one of the boarding halls. She held this position fourteen years, which was the longest period any person has ever held the position at the university. She was assisted by her children and the students that she came in touch with numbered many hundreds, perhaps thousands, the largest number attending at the hall at any one time being one hundred and fifteen. Mrs. Babcock taught school in Waudena, Randalia and Fayette before her marriage. Mr. Babcock himself had in his earlier days also engaged in teaching school, having in 1858-59-60, taught two winters at Arlington. There the pupils were all crowded into one room and for his service Mr. Babcock received twenty dollars a month and "boarded around." He there gained an interest in educational affairs that never left him.

Mr. Babcock has taken an active interest in business interests other than agricultural, being considered an able and shrewd business man. For five years he served as president of the Fayette County Mutual Insurance Company. In the spring of 1904 he was elected vice-president of the State Bank of Fayette, which position he still holds. He has been a member of the board of trustees of Upper Iowa University since 1891 and since 1904 he has served as president of the board and in which capacity he has rendered invaluable services in the interests of the institution. In June, 1907, when the university was preparing to celebrate their semi-centennial, he started the endowment fund of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars by giving twenty-five thousand himself to start the subscription. The entire fund was raised, thereby securing thirty thousand more than had been promised by Andrew Carnegie if the one hundred and fifty thousand dollars should be raised.

Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Babcock are both members of the Methodist

Episcopal church, and for many years he served as a trustee of the church, being at the present time a member of the official board. In every line of activity in which he has engaged Mr. Babcock has exhibited business qualities of a high order, his advice and counsel being considered desirable. His interest in educational matters is deep and his support and influence are ever given to every worthy object. He is a man of genial disposition and fine personal qualities, which commend him to the high regard of all who know him. He enjoys a wide acquaintance throughout Fayette county and his friends are legion in number.

JOHN T. GAGER.

Holding prestige among the successful business men of Fayette county, John T. Gager, although now living in honorable retirement at his comfortable home at Alpha, Eden township, has had much to do in advancing the material interests of his county and making it one of the important agricultural and commercial sections of the great Hawkeye state. The study of such a life cannot fail of interest and incentive, as he has for many decades been distinctively representative of his sphere of activity and has contributed in no small measure to the general prosperity and uplift of the locality, at the same time establishing a lasting reputation for honor and integrity.

Mr. Gager is the son of ——— and Amanda (Thurston) Gager. The father's death occurred at Downer's Grove, Du Page county, Illinois, in 1874. He was a man of many fine characteristics, was successful in business and was highly honored by all who knew him. His wife was the representative of the old English family whose genealogy, a long, complete and interesting one, was recently compiled and printed. The first Thurstons came to America in the old colonial days and many of them served in the Revolutionary war. The death of the subject's mother occurred on June 19, 1909, at Bourne, Kendall county, Texas, at the remarkable age of ninety-seven years. She was a grand old lady and an inspiration to her many friends. She and her husband were the parents of these children: Harrison, their eldest child, and Martha, the second, died in infancy; Anna M., born in New York in 1837, married George Groupe, with whom she moved to Kenoma, Missouri, later moving to Fairland, Oklahoma, are both now deceased; John T., of this review; Charles M., born April 14, 1843, now lives at Oelwein, Iowa; Joshua R., born October 4, 1845, now lives in Los Angeles,

California; Mary C., born April 27, 1848, married James Sucher, of Downer's Grove, Illinois, and she died July 20, 1885, leaving three children; Lydia M., born in New York in 1850, married George H. Talmage, and she died in Texas in January, 1900; Abbie, born in 1853, married Daniel Foote and resided at Bourne, Texas; Ambrose S., born in York, Illinois, in 1855, died at San Antonio, Texas.

During the boyhood of John T. Gager his family moved to Illinois, locating in Downer's Grove, where, after he had attained to man's estate, he was united in marriage with Sarah F. Austin, on October 29, 1865. She was born December 23, 1841, in New York, the daughter of Burgess and Lucinda (Jenks) Austin, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of New York. In their family were five children, of whom Sarah F. was the third in order of birth.

Ten children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. John T. Gager, namely: Clara A., born July 27, 1866, taught school in this county for some time, and is now the widow of Dr. J. W. Robinson, who was a physician in Chicago; she lives at Alpha, this county, with her two children, Violet and Alice; Charles H., born October 30, 1867, married Eliza Miller, and he died on his farm in Bethel township, this county, in January, 1908, leaving a widow and three children, Alva, Alta and Ada; Charles G., born September 4, 1869, married Helen Miller and lives on his father's old homestead; he and his wife have three children, Charles, Eveline and Verla; Ada L., born April 21, 1871, died April 28, 1878; Edith, born March 11, 1873, died September 13th following; Eva M., born August 16, 1874, is living at home; Alice M., born July 2, 1878, died in September, 1900, at the age of twenty-two years, unmarried; she was a young lady of much promise, had been a teacher in the Sunday school, an active church and lodge worker and prominent in society; Elmer E. and Ernest R. (twins), born November 29, 1881, conduct a general store at Alpha; the former married Lillian O. Gibson and they have three children, Ralston, Clover and Violet John.

The mother of this family passed to her rest on September 28, 1886, and in September, 1888, Mr. Gager wedded Mrs. Sarah A. Paul, widow of Oscar S. Paul, a native of Monroe county, New York. She was born near Rochester, New York, October 17, 1835, the daughter of Oliver and Catherine (Spears) Perkins. Her father was born in Rhode Island in 1800, and her mother, a native of New York, was born in 1808. Sarah A. Perkins became the wife of Oscar S. Paul in 1853, and five children were born to them. Mr. Paul died in Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1876. Of his children, Edward M. Paul married Fanny Clark and they have these children: Allie,

Oscar, Avis, Ray, Wanda, McKinley, Harley and Freeman; Frank M. Paul is farming in Eden township; Carrie R. married Seth L. Clark, of Alpha, and they have these children: Sarah and Frank M., the latter living in Tacoma, Washington; he married Lillie Burbank and they have two sons, Carl and Gordon. Laura A. Paul married L. G. Liddle, of Eden township, this county, and they have these children: Clifford, Paul and Russell. Kittie A. Paul is the wife of Will E. Stamp, of Waterloo, Iowa, and they have three children, Althea, Lyle and Ruth.

John T. Gager was one of the loyal sons of the North who offered his services to the Union during the dark days of the early sixties, enlisting at York, Illinois, July 29, 1862, in Company B, One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Infantry. The regiment was assigned to duty with the Army of the Ohio. In the fall of 1862 the troops went on a forced march from Louisville to Frankfort, Kentucky, arriving just in time to save the railroad bridge from burning. Leaving there, they participated in the campaign of Kentucky and Tennessee by the invasion of Bragg and Morgan, the entire fall of 1862, marched to Scottville, thence to Bowling Green, and at length to Gallatin, Tennessee, where they guarded the south tunnel of the Louisville & Nashville railroad. They participated in the engagement at Laverne and Murfreesboro and garrisoned Fort Negley at Nashville during the winter of 1863-4. Afterwards this regiment joined the Army of the Cumberland and subsequently was with the Army of Georgia, participating in the engagements at Resaca, Burnt Hickory, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek and the battles incident to the siege and capture of Atlanta and the Atlanta campaign. Mr. Gager enjoys the distinction of having been one of "Sherman's Bummers," and followed Sherman to the sea, and back to Washington, where he took part in the grand review of the victorious armies; in that city the regiment in which Mr. Gager served was mustered out, and he was honorably discharged near there on June 7, 1865, after having most gallantly served his country for three years.

Mr. Gager returned to the parental home at York, Illinois, at the close of the war, and in October following was married. He devoted himself assiduously to farming upon land which was purchased from savings from his army salary, and in 1872 came to Fayette county. He owned a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in Bethel township, and he has been very successful as an agriculturist and stock raiser. He owns a famous pleasure ground in Eden township, having set out a two-acre grove of maples, box-alder, elm, with some native timber, on the banks of Crane creek and it has become popular as a picnic ground. He has a boat house, row boats, gasoline

launch, etc. For years he has raised a fine grade of Poland-China hogs. He has made his home in Alpha since 1892. He has been extensively interested in the Alpha Farmers' Creamery Company, of which he is secretary. His annual report on the business and general standing of this firm during the past two years shows that this is one of the leading concerns of its kind in this part of the state. This company was organized on October 17, 1888, since which time the annual business has gradually increased until its cash receipts during the past year were nearly forty-five thousand dollars. It is fully equipped with modern appliances, occupying a modern stone, brick and cement building.

Mr. Gager is now a member of the Sutherland Post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Waucoma, being the present commander of the post. He is a loyal Republican and has taken an active interest in everything calculated to advance the county's interests. He and his wife are faithful members of the Congregational church.

HON. HARRY P. HANCOCK.

The biographies of the representative men of a county bring to light many hidden treasures of mind, character and courage, well calculated to arouse the pride of the family and of the community and it is a source of regret that people are not more familiar with the personal history of such men, in the ranks of whom may be found agriculturists, mechanics, teachers, lawyers, physicians, bankers and members of other vocations and professions. Hon. Harry P. Hancock, the well-known attorney of West Union, Fayette county, is distinctively one of the leading citizens of this locality and as such has made his influence felt among his fellow men and earned a name for enterprise, integrity and honor, that entitles him to worthy notice in a work of the nature of this volume.

Mr. Hancock was born in Wayne county, New York, September 15, 1852, and is the son of Harry and Louisa (Traher) Hancock. His ancestors came from England, the father's side from Cornwall and the mother's from Plymouth, Devonshire county. On both sides they came to the United States at an early age and settled in Wayne county, New York.

Harry P. Hancock was educated in Cazenovia Seminary, at Cazenovia, New York, also at the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, graduating from the latter in 1878. Selecting the law as his sphere early in life. Mr.

Hancock has devoted his energies to that, ignoring other aspirations, in the main, to make himself what he is today, a thorough master of legal science in all its ramifications. The common law, the statutes of Iowa, the history, progress and growth of jurisprudence, as well as the higher and more abstruse principles of equity, are all completely at his command, constituting him one of the leaders of the bar, which position is readily conceded him by his associates. As a practitioner he is cautious, vigilant and indefatigable, contesting every point with unyielding tenacity and employing his legal knowledge in sustaining his positions and attacking those of his adversary. He is forceful in argument, making an excellent impression upon the jury and the bench. He began studying law with Judge Waldron, of Saratoga county, New York. After receiving the degree of Bachelor of Laws from the above named institution, he began the practice of his profession at West Union, Iowa, forming a partnership with Judge W. A. Hoyt in 1879, which partnership continued until the death of Judge Hoyt; since that time Mr. Hancock has practiced alone, and has been very successful as a general practitioner. He has been retained as counsel by several banks. He has also been prominent in financial circles of the county, having organized and was vice-president of the State bank at St. Charles, Minnesota, and he organized and was the first president of the First National Bank of Perham, Minnesota. He is a director and stockholder in the State Bank at West Union, Iowa, and is interested in its management.

Politically, Mr. Hancock is a Republican and he has been prominent in the affairs of the same for some time. He was state presidential elector of Iowa in the Harrison campaign of 1888 and stumped the state. He was prosecuting attorney of Fayette county for six years, from 1895 to 1900, performing his duties in such a manner as to gain the approval of his constituents and the admiration of his party opponents. For a number of years he was president of the city school board. Religiously he is an Episcopalian. He belongs to the Commercial Club of West Union, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America, having been a charter member of all the foregoing associations. But the club he takes most delight and interest in is the "H. A. L. Club" (the Historical and Literary Society) of West Union, of which he is the only living charter member. He with a few kindred spirits organized it in 1879, for the discussion of general historical and literary subjects. The members have met in Mr. Hancock's office once a week during the club sessions since it was organized and the interest in the same has never abated. It is the oldest club of its kind in the state. It is limited to fifteen members, and its members are the leading literary people of the community.

Mr. Hancock is an eloquent and talented public speaker, profoundly educated, widely read and has a thorough knowledge of public affairs.

Mr. Hancock was married on July 2, 1879, to Octavia Lansing, of Cazenovia, New York, the daughter of Lyman and Cornelia (Webster) Lansing, an excellent old colonial family of Cazenovia. Her direct ancestors came from England in 1636 and settled in Connecticut, and she is connected with the old New England Webster, Evans and Lansing colonial families. The city of Lansingburg in New York is named after the family. And today there can be seen at the capitol at Albany, New York, a fine oil painting of her great-great-grandfather, Garrett Y. Lansing. She can be several times over a Colonial Dame and Daughter of the American Revolution, as her direct ancestors fought in the Revolution and the war of 1812, as well as members of the immediate family in the late Rebellion.

Emma Hancock, the only child born to Mr. and Mrs. Harry P. Hancock, first saw the light of day on February 14, 1885. She is a graduate of the West Union high school, and of the Iowa State College at Ames, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Science from the latter. She is now making a specialty of nature and agricultural studies in high-school work and county institutes. She is a talented, highly accomplished, broad-minded and genial young lady who has attained more than medium success in her chosen work.

DANIEL W. POTTER.

While it is a great hardship and a deprivation of many advantages, still nothing develops strength of character more than for a boy to be left at an early age in charge of the fortunes of his mother and the younger children of the family. Here he develops self-reliance and ability for management, and realizes the value of sacrifice. Such boys in after life are usually developed into men who not only gain a sufficiency of worldly goods for their needs, but are also, like Mr. Potter, among the men whom the community regards most highly for their general character.

Daniel W. Potter was born in Bethel township, March 31, 1856, and is said to be the oldest white male child born in Bethel township. His parents were Robert C. and Lucinda (Andress) Potter. Robert was the son of Daniel and Wealthy Potter (see early county history), who settled in Bethel township in 1856. Robert C. was a member of Company C, Thirty-eighth Iowa Infantry, enlisting as a drummer and serving as such until his death

at Camp Carlton, near New Orleans. He left a widow and three sons, Elmer, Daniel W. and William. Elmer and William died soon after their father, leaving Daniel and his mother alone. She remained on the place until her death, at sixty-three. Daniel took charge of the farm at sixteen, still owns it and lived there until September, 1909, when he retired to Alpha. The farm now consists of one hundred and twenty acres. He was married, at the age of twenty-two, on March 28, 1877, to Arlesta Mourer, daughter of Joseph and Amelia (Swauger) Mourer, of Fredericksburg township, Chickasaw county, where they settled when Arlesta was fourteen, she having been born in Wisconsin. Of this marriage five children have been born: Roy, of Greeley, Colorado; Orla, who is the wife of C. E. Pitts, a railroad man of Sanborn, Iowa, was a Fayette county teacher; Ernest, farming on the old home place, married Della Patterson; Madge, who was married August 24, 1910, to Roy Finch; Clyde, a farmer of Chickasaw county.

Mr. Potter carried on general farming. He is a Republican, very active in politics and is township chairman. The Odd Fellows at Alpha claim him as a brother, and he has filled several of the lodge offices. He is also a member of the Yeomen, a fraternal insurance association. All his neighbors recognize him as a man of good ability and as a friend to all. They can only wish that there were a great many more like him.

The incident told of in Argo of a man, boy and yoke of oxen perishing in a prairie fire occurred on the farm which Mr. Potter now owns, the old Potter farm.

CHARLES RANDOLPH BROWN.

Back to sterling English stock the ancestry of Charles Randolph Brown, late a well known citizen of Fayette county, Iowa, is traced, and the biographer finds that each successive generation of this name has added luster to an escutcheon of which anyone might well be proud. The gentleman whose name forms the caption of this sketch was born in York, Livingston county, New York, July 12, 1848. He was the son of George W. and Mary (McLean) Brown, the former the son of Ralph Brown, who came from England about 1807 and settled in Livingston county. The family history may be traced back to Darlington, England, where their ancestors, the Bartons and the Olivers, were people of high standing and prominence. George W. Brown was born in Livingston county, New York, in 1818. He was married to Mary A. McLean, of that county, in 1843. In 1855 he entered eighteen hun-



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C. R. BROWN

dred acres of government land in Iowa and in 1868 he came to Fayette county to live. Mary (McLean) Brown, mother of Charles R. Brown, was born in 1822 and her death occurred on September 4, 1856. In 1858 George W. Brown married Antoinette Hitt, who was born in Delaware county, New York, in 1830.

George W. Brown was a leader in his community and he was frequently called upon to serve his fellow citizens in positions of public trust, and he very ably filled the offices of township treasurer, road supervisor and sub-director of schools for several terms. He was a successful business man and became the owner of nine hundred acres of improved farming land, and he was also extensively engaged in breeding fine stock—horses, shorthorn cattle, hogs and sheep. Being a fancier of such stock, he raised them more for pleasure than for profit. His death occurred in San Antonio, Texas, in 1885.

Charles R. Brown, of this review, was the only son of George W. Brown. The former grew to maturity in Livingston county, New York, and attended the public schools there, where he laid a good foundation and later took a course in the Genesee Academy, also attended college at Brockport. After finishing school, he came west with his father to Fayette county, Iowa, in 1868. They located about four miles northeast of Oelwein and soon had a substantial foothold in the new territory where they found everything markedly different from their old home in the East.

Mr. Brown was married in May, 1870, to Rachael Burch, daughter of Elder J. B. Burch, the first settler of Oelwein, of whom more is given elsewhere in this work. Three children graced this union, namely: George H., Ray H. and Antoinette. The last named was a young lady who was very highly esteemed owing to her many praiseworthy attributes, and popular with a large circle of friends; she was called to her rest on February 18, 1899. The two sons are living in Oelwein, and are young men to whom the future promises much in a business way. The father of these children died on February 27, 1909, and it was generally felt that in his death the community suffered a distinct loss.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Brown moved about a mile north of Oelwein, where they resided until the death of Mr. Brown's father in 1885, when they returned to the old home, four miles from Oelwein, where Mr. Brown continued farming and raising fancy stock as his father had done. Stock raising has been a feature of this family's work through many generations, and it is known that away back in England some of the members of this family were early recognized breeders of shorthorn cattle, and from them has descended to the present family a valued set of five volumes of the original

edition giving the registered pedigree of that stock of cattle from the beginning.

In 1893 Mr. Brown moved into Oelwein, after which time he bought and sold real estate and made loans, having built up quite an extensive business. After coming here he figured prominently in business circles. He was part owner of the Temple block and had other valuable property on Frederick street and on First avenue. He was also the owner of three hundred acres of fine land in Smithfield township. In political life he was an active Democrat, and his influence was long strongly felt in local affairs, and his popularity was such that he was frequently solicited to fill official positions, and during 1901 and 1902 he filled the office of mayor of Oelwein, during which time the interests of the city were carefully conserved and his administration met the hearty approval of all concerned. The Brown family are members of the Presbyterian church, and are highly esteemed in all circles.

RITCHIE OGDEN WOODARD.

The record of a busy and useful life is always replete with interest. Such an one has been that of Ritchie Ogden Woodard, who holds worthy prestige among the representative men of West Union, and who, since becoming a resident of the city, has been actively identified with different lines of effort and taken a leading part in inaugurating and carrying forward various important enterprises. Mr. Woodard is a native of Richmond, Virginia, where he was born November 21, 1860. His father, Henry Woodard, who was of Maine birth, was a wholesale grocer in the above city at the breaking out of the Civil war, but his strong and outspoken Union sentiments not being relished in such a hotbed of secession, his property was finally confiscated and he was obliged to leave the state. Bidding farewell to his family, he started north and after various trying experiences arrived at Portland, Maine, where he remained until his wife succeeded in running the blockade and reaching Washington, D. C., when he rejoined her in that city. Her maiden name was Eugenia Gaszynski. Both husband and wife spent the remainder of their days in the national capital, the former dying in 1883, the latter in the year 1904. Of their children, Mrs. James F. Graham lives in Washington, D. C.; Clement Clay, of Brooklyn, New York, is a journalist connected with the *New York Daily News*; Ritchie O. of this review; Henry F., an attorney of Washington City; Downs M.

Ritchie Ogden Woodard spent his childhood and youth in the national capital and received his early education in the schools of the same. In 1879 he came to West Union, Iowa, where he made his home with an uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Woodard, and from September 15th of that year to the present time he has been an honored resident of the city and actively interested in all that tends to its growth and welfare. Shortly after coming West, he occupied a position in the Hospital for the Insane at Independence, where he remained one and a half years, at the expiration of which time he returned to West Union and, in July, 1881, entered the employ of Ziegler & Weed, abstractors. He began working for these gentlemen as a clerk, but soon took charge of the books of the firm and in due season was instructed with every department of the business, becoming a general utility man. After the retirement of Mr. Weed, about the year 1903, Mr. Woodard continued with Mr. Ziegler until 1907, when the two became partners, the firm thus constituted lasting until the death of the senior member in April, 1909, since which time the subject has conducted the business alone.

As already indicated, Mr. Woodard has long been quite active in the public affairs of West Union and from time to time has filled various positions of honor and trust. For several years he was secretary of the city school board and is now serving as treasurer of that body; he was also city treasurer for one term and as custodian of the public funds proved capable and trustworthy and fulfilled every requirement of the office. As vice-president of the Fayette County Savings Bank, in which capacity he served several years, he demonstrated executive ability of a high order, in recognition of which he was afterwards made president of the institution, a position he still holds. During the last five years he has also been manager of the Elgin Canning Company's business, an industry established in 1882 principally through the efforts of the late Peter Nicklaus, since which time it has grown to enlarged proportions, giving employment to more than three hundred hands during the busy seasons and furnishing a profitable market to the farmers of the surrounding country for nearly all kinds of fruit and vegetables usually put up in hermetically sealed cans. The plant, which is located in the town of Elgin, is supplied with every modern improvement and convenience required in the canning industry and the business, already large, is rapidly increasing in order to meet the growing demand for the product. The various brands of vegetables, fruits, etc., put up in this establishment have a wide reputation in the markets and their extensive sales bespeak an enlargement of the plant's capacity at no distant day. S. B. Ziegler was president of the company until his death, in 1909, the other officers at the present time being; C. F. Becker, treasurer, P. M. Weaver, secretary, and R. O. Woodard, general manager.

Mr. Woodard is an influential factor in political affairs, both local and general, and as chairman of the Republican central committee, of Fayette county, has rendered valuable service to his party in a number of campaigns. After serving three years in that capacity and demonstrating marked abilities as a counsellor and leader, he was chosen a member of the state central committee, which position he filled very acceptably for a period of four years. In his fraternal relations he belongs to the order of Freemasons, holding membership with West Union Lodge No. 69, in addition to which he has also risen to the Royal Arch and Knight Templar degrees, besides being a zealous worker in the Modern Woodmen of America in the city of his residence. Religiously, he was reared in the Episcopal faith, but for a number of years has been a Presbyterian, being, with his wife, a respected member of the church of that denomination in West Union and a liberal contributor to its support and to the various lines of good work under its auspices.

On the first day of September, 1886, Mr. Woodard was happily married to Mary Carver Barrell, an accomplished young lady of Lynn, Massachusetts, and a member of an old and esteemed family of that place. Mrs. Woodard received a superior education under the direction of private tutors and an excellent musical training in Boston, where for some years she enjoyed the instruction of one of the most noted professors of music in the city. She is an intelligent and cultured lady, devoted to her home and family, also popular in social circles and highly esteemed by all who know her. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Woodard has resulted in three offspring, namely: Henry Morton, born May, 1888, died February of the same year; an infant, born in 1891, and George Barrell, whose birth occurred on the 19th of April, 1896, and who is the only surviving child.

SIDNEY HERBERT BEVINS.

The subject of this sketch, who is president of the First State Bank of Hawkeye and for many years a leading business man and public spirited citizen, is a native of Fayette county, Iowa, born in Eden township, December 19, 1857. Nathan Bevins, his father, was born May 22, 1824, at Warren, New York, and his mother, whose family name was Rebecca Caswell, first saw the light of day at Fort Ticonderoga, that state, on November 3, 1831. In an early day these parents emigrated to Wisconsin and from there, in 1854, moved with an ox team to Fayette county, Iowa, locating in Eden

township, where they resided until the death of the husband and father in August, 1896, from which time to the end of her life Mrs. Bevins made her home at Hawkeye, dying there on the 17th day of April, 1909. Nathan and Rebecca Bevins had one daughter and four sons, the former, Martha Jane, dying in 1872, at the age of twenty-three years. Charles died when twenty-two years old, Horace at the age of eight and Orson N. lives at Hawkeye.

The early life of Sidney Herbert Bevins was characterized by no incident or experience outside the ordinary, having been spent under wholesome influences and in attendance at the public schools and the graded school of Waucoma until at an age to make his own way in the world. After devoting several years to teaching, he learned telegraphy, which he followed for some time and then turned his attention to the grain and lumber business, which he carried on with reasonable success for several years. Later he dealt quite extensively in real estate at Hawkeye, where he located in August, 1883, and it was there that he also embarked upon his career as a banker and financier, becoming cashier of the Bank of Hawkeye in 1889 and holding the position until 1894. Since the latter year he has been president of the First State Bank at Hawkeye, one of the most popular and successful institutions of the kind in Fayette county, and as a business man and financier he easily ranks among the leading bankers in the northeastern part of the state.

Mr. Bevins' career has been signally successful and in addition to furthering his own interests he has contributed largely to the material advancement of his town and county and used his influence in behalf of every worthy enterprise for the good of his fellow men. He keeps abreast of the times on all matters of public moment, is a friend and patron of the school, stands for the strict enforcement of the law and in his own life and conduct has always tried to realize the highest ideals of manhood and citizenship. Politically, he wields an influence for the Democratic party, but has never sought nor desired office, being content with the more satisfactory career of a business man and making every other consideration secondary thereto. Financially, his success has been in keeping with the interest he has ever manifested in his various enterprises, owning valuable farm lands in Eden, Bethel and Windsor townships, also good farm property, to say nothing of large personal holdings which swell the fortune in his possession to considerable magnitude and make him one of the substantial and well-to-do men of the community in which he resides.

Mr. Bevins was married at Hawkeye, November 6, 1884, to Clara L. Sible and is the father of three children: Nathan S., born August 19, 1886; Myrtle R., born September 25, 1893, and Beckey B., whose birth occurred on May 5, 1908.

Mr. Bevins has no church affiliations, but respects religion very highly and believes it to be a corrective for the evils to which society and humanity at large are addicted. Fraternally, he belongs to the ancient and honorable order of Masonry, holding membership with Standard Lodge No. 351, in which from time to time he has been honored with important office positions. Diligent in business, prompt in response to every call of duty, prominent in the affairs of his town and respected in the social circle, he has made the world better by his influence and is today numbered among the enterprising men of his day and generation in the county of Fayette.

ALFRED HANSON.

Among those men of enterprise and ability who have had much to do with the progress and prosperity which has characterized the thriving city of Oelwein, the subject of this sketch is numbered. Possessing business ability of a high order and an integrity that has never been questioned, he has for several years assumed a high position among the leaders of the city's commercial and financial men, and as a representative of the section where he lives he is entitled to representation in a work of this nature.

Alfred Hanson is a native son of Fayette county, Iowa, having been born on a farm near Oelwein, May 3, 1862. He is the son of Thomas Hanson, who was one of the pioneers of this county and highly respected because of his sterling qualities of character. For a more extended mention of his family, the reader is referred to the sketch of Thomas L. Hanson, elsewhere in this work. The subject's boyhood days were spent on the homestead farm and he secured his elementary training in the district schools of the neighborhood, supplementing this by attendance at the Upper Iowa University. He was then for a time a teacher in the commercial department of the university, but subsequently gave up that work and returned to the home farm. After his marriage, in 1885, Mr. Hanson began operations on his own account as a farmer on rented land, in which he was engaged for seven years, meeting with marked success the meanwhile. In 1905 he moved to Oelwein and, in partnership with H. R. O'Neel, organized the Aetna State Bank. He was elected president of the institution and served in that capacity until the spring of 1899. In that year the subject's two brothers, Thomas L. and J. W. Hanson, returned to Oelwein and the three brothers organized the Commercial Savings Bank of Oelwein, the officers of which were as follows: President, Thomas L. Hanson; cashier, Alfred Hanson; assistant cashier, J. W. Hanson.

The institution met with a liberal patronage and was successful from the start, being soon numbered among the leading financial institutions of the locality. In April, 1901, the bank was converted into a national bank under the name of the First National Bank of Oelwein, the same officers being retained. The success which attended the institution in its early days has remained with it and today it is one of the strongest and most influential banks in Fayette county. The present officers are as follows: President, Thomas L. Hanson; vice-president, A. C. Wilson; cashier, Alfred Hanson; assistant cashier, C. B. Chambers; directors, T. L. Hanson, J. B. Feltus, A. C. Wilson, Alfred Hanson, A. L. Hunter, G. W. Teague, R. S. Glenn, A. M. Odell and H. D. Wood. The bank is capitalized at \$50,000, and the bank's statement for September, 1909, showed surplus and undivided profits of \$20,234 and deposits of \$270,341. The total resources amount to \$365,661. This is certainly a splendid showing for so young an institution located in a city no larger than Oelwein and reflects greatly to the credit of the cashier, who to a large extent has in his hands the management of the affairs of the institution.

In March, 1908, Alfred Hanson was the principal organizer of the First National Bank of Strawberry Point, of which bank he has been the president ever since its organization. In 1904 he assisted in the organization of the Readlyn Savings Bank, at Readlyn, of which he is a member of the board of directors, and in the fall of 1909 he helped organize the First National Bank of Fayette. Mr. Hanson is also the owner of several valuable tracts of land near Oelwein, amounting in the aggregate to four hundred acres. He has a large interest in several of the best known business blocks in Oelwein, including the Glass block, the Hanson Brothers block and the Syndicate block, each of which is a credit to the city. Mr. Hanson's beautiful home on North Frederick street is numbered among the best in the city and is a favorite gathering place for his many friends, the spirit of true hospitality being ever there in evidence.

Mr. Hanson is a staunch Republican in politics, and takes an active interest in local public affairs, being a frequent visitor to the state conventions of his party and his advice being often sought in political matters. However, he has never sought office for himself. He is public spirited and his support is always given without reserve to every movement calculated to advance the interests of the community in any way.

On September 24, 1885, Mr. Hanson was united in marriage to Edith Scott, a daughter of Isaac and Marcella (Marston) Scott, who were early settlers of Fayette county, having located southwest of Oelwein. To Mr. and Mrs. Hanson two children have been born, as follows: Edith Marcella,

born November 2, 1895, died July 22, 1908, and Marion, who was born September 25, 1903. Mr. Hanson is a man of integrity and high purpose,—one who has done his share in the upbuilding of his section and who most justly deserves the high measure of esteem in which he is held throughout the community.

MARTIN VAN BUREN HENDERSON, JR.

Prominent among the representative business men of Fayette county is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. He comes of stanch old Revolutionary stock, and, inheriting to a marked degree the sterling qualities for which his ancestors were long distinguished, he has acted well his part in life and the honorable standing which he has attained in business circles and the high esteem in which he is held by his fellow men speak much in praise of a career which from the beginning has been characterized by success and continued advancements such as few achieve. Martin Van Buren Henderson, Sr., father of the subject, was born August 24, 1836, in Madison county, New York, and was one of the early settlers of Fayette county, Iowa, where he still resides. His wife previous to her marriage was Clara C. Hall, a native of Camden, New Jersey, where her birth occurred on September 26, 1839, the fathers of both having served with distinction in the war for independence, the subject's great-grandfather Henderson living to the remarkable age of one hundred and four years.

Martin Van Buren Henderson, Jr., was born August 5, 1874, in Westfield township and has been a life-long resident of the county of Fayette. At the proper age he entered the public schools of Hawkeye, where he made substantial progress, later pursuing his studies for some time in the schools of West Union, the training thus received being afterwards supplemented by a full course in the commercial department of the Upper Iowa University, where he fitted himself for the responsible position which he has since held. At the early age of sixteen Mr. Henderson entered the old Bank of Hawkeye as first assistant cashier, and in 1894, when the First State Bank of that town was organized, he was made cashier of the institution, being but eighteen years old at the time and the youngest cashier of a state bank in Iowa.

Mr. Henderson has held the above honorable and responsible position to the present time, discharging the duties incumbent upon him with ability and credit, also manifesting a lively interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the institution and gaining more than a local reputation as a capable official