

and wide-awake, farseeing business man. He is a thorough student of monetary questions, has broad and intelligent views of finance and its relations to the other interests of the country, while his practical experience in the position he has so long and so creditably held has made him familiar with every phase of banking and an authority on all matters relating to the business. Mr. Henderson has not only been active and influential in the financial circles of his town, but also has been a local leader of the Republican party and judicious adviser in its councils. Notwithstanding his indifference to official honors, his fellow citizens of Hawkeye some years ago elected him mayor of the town, which office he held with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the public for one term and a position for which his business experience peculiarly fitted him.

The domestic life of Mr. Henderson dates from June 3, 1894, when he was united in marriage with Jessie E. Hull, of Hawkeye, Iowa, daughter of J. A. and L. J. Hull, the union resulting in the birth of two children, Dolly G. and Josephine H. Mrs. Henderson dying May 20, 1902, Mr. Henderson subsequently, on January 17, 1905, took a second wife in the person of Margaret Riley, of West Union, who has borne him three children, namely: Kenneth R., Martin V. and Anna Laura Henderson.

In closing this brief review of the career of one of Hawkeye's prominent and respected business men suffice it to state that he has succeeded admirably in all of his undertakings and honored every position to which his fellow citizens have called him. Of unimpeachable integrity, public spirited in all the term implies, liberal in his benefactions and popular in the social circle, he fills a large place in the public eye and all who know him pronounce him an affable and courteous gentleman who has worthily earned the high esteem in which he is held.

JAMES F. SMITH, JR.

A well known and highly respected citizen of West Union, Fayette county, who has won the undivided esteem of those with whom he has come into contact and labored alike for the advancement of himself and family and the community at large, is James F. Smith, Jr., who was born near Battle Creek, Calhoun county, Michigan, September 4, 1839, the son of James Floyd and Eliza Ann (Hoag) Smith, both natives of Thompson county, New York. The paternal grandfather, James Smith, was born near Ithaca, New York, and devoted his life to the shoemaker's trade. He left New

York about 1845 and moved to Calhoun county, Michigan, where he continued his trade. The maternal grandparents, Hewitt and Ann (Ogden) Hoag, lived in New York, where Mr. Hoag was born; later in life they moved to Michigan, where Mr. Hoag followed farming and carpentering until his death.

The parents of James F. Smith, Jr., were married in New York, where they lived for a time, then moved to Calhoun county, Michigan, making the long journey in wagons drawn by oxen. There, amid primitive surroundings, they entered land and began farming, first on forty acres, after they had erected a log house and cleared a small "patch." Mr. Smith was a wagonmaker by trade. In those days money was scarce and Mr. Smith would often walk five miles in order to do a day's work. He cut timber into cord wood, off the ground which is now the main street of Battle Creek. Mr. Smith was employed for some time as wagonmaker in the Jackson Wagon Works, one of the best known plants in the state. He was a very industrious man and improved a good farm of three hundred and sixty acres, one hundred and sixty acres of which lies where the city of Lansing now stands. He walked to that city, quite a distance, to pay taxes, making his path through the dense woods by "blazed" trees. There were deer, bears, wild cats and all kinds of wild animals and great varieties of fish in those days, and the elder Smith, being a hunter and fisherman, kept his table supplied with fresh meat. His family consisted of ten children.

In May, 1854, the Smith family came to Fayette county and settled one mile north of West Union, where a farm of four hundred and sixty acres was purchased. A number of other farms and timbered lands were purchased from time to time, in all five forty-acre tracts, some in-lots, and ninety acres in bottom lands. In the late seventies, the elder Smith sold out his vast holdings here and moved to Kansas, locating at Beloit, where he erected a store building, also bought land; he later took up a homestead in Thomas county, that state, where he lived until his death. Politically, he was a Whig, and he held various small township offices. He was a man of exemplary character, successful in whatever he undertook and was liked by all who knew him.

James F. Smith, Jr., was educated in the old-fashioned log school houses in Michigan and at West Union and assisted his father with the work on the farm during the crop season. He still owns the place his father left him, the farm proper consisting of one hundred and forty acres, also twenty acres containing Denton's cave. He is a general farmer, raises small fruits and nursery stock, having been successfully engaged in this line of work for forty

years, during which time he has become known as one of the leading nursery-men of this locality. He keeps well advised on all horticultural topics. He formerly kept a varied nursery stock, but he deals now in evergreens only. In 1892 he moved to West Union and built his beautiful modern home the following year and has lived here ever since.

Mr. Smith was married in December, 1860, to Lucy M. Hacket, who was born and reared in Smithfield township, Bradford county, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Elisha and Polly (Phelps) Hacket, the former born in Massachusetts and the latter in Pennsylvania, her people having long been well known there. This union has resulted in the birth of the following children: Mrs. Ella N. Forbes, Mrs. Jessie B. Forbes and Mrs. Alice Gertrude Pilson.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the Universalist church, in which they take a great deal of interest in its various lines of work. Politically, Mr. Smith is a Republican and he has been school director for the past twenty-five years, also served as road supervisor, and while he is deeply interested in all that goes to develop Fayette county, he has not aspired to public office, always preferring to give his exclusive attention to his horticultural and agricultural pursuits, hence his eminent success in these chosen lines.

THOMAS D. REEDER.

The agricultural and stock raising interests of Fayette county have no better representative than Thomas D. Reeder, who, like many of his worthy neighbors and fellow citizens, is a native of the old Keystone state, having been born in Pennsylvania, January 8, 1847, but most of his life has been spent in Iowa, his mother having brought him to Fayette county when he was seven years of age. He is the son of Robert and Dorcas (Kilgor) Reeder, both natives of Pennsylvania, the father working in a foundry there many years. In 1854 the family joined the tide of emigration setting in for the Middle West and came to Fayette county, Iowa, and settled in West Union. While living here, Mrs. Dorcas Reeder married a second time, her last husband being Steve Reeves, which union resulted in the birth of three sons.

Thomas D. Reeder was educated in the common schools of West Union and remained under the home roof until he enlisted in the Union army in 1862, becoming a member of Company C, Sixth Iowa Cavalry. He saw some hard service in the West, under Capt. L. L. Ainsworth, serving with credit

and marked devotion to duty until in October, 1865. Although he was but fifteen years of age when he enlisted, he proved to be just as gallant and brave a defender of the flag as the matured men of his regiment, his conduct at the battles of Whitestone Hill and Tahkahokutu being especially commendable. After his career in the army he returned home and began farming for his step-father, later buying a farm of three hundred acres in Union township on which he placed all the important improvements, being an excellent manager and a persistent worker, until his farm today ranks with the best in the township in every respect. He has very successfully carried on general farming and stockraising, handling large numbers of Durham cattle, having long been a well known breeder of this special line; he also raises Poland China hogs. He has an attractive and nicely furnished home and many substantial outbuildings. However, Mr. Reeder is now living practically retired, merely overseeing his extensive interests, having moved from his farm to West Union in 1905 where he has a pleasant home.

Mr. Reeder was married on September 13, 1876, to Isabella Montgomery, who was born in Delaware county, Iowa, daughter of Archie and Elnaor (Kilgore) Montgomery, a well known and highly respected family of that county, where Mrs. Reeder was reared and educated. This union has resulted in the birth of the following children: Robert D., John J., Christabel May, Thomas R. (deceased), Alta Valora. They are all living and have been given every attention possible as to their education and culture.

Mr. and Mrs. Reeder are members of the Universalist church, and, politically, Mr. Reeder is a Democrat, and while he has not had time to devote any special attention to political affairs he has always been ready to assist in furthering the general good of his county, and he has held very satisfactorily such offices as township trustee and all school offices, and he has been road supervisor many times. Fraternally, he has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for a period of thirty-six years.

Personally, Mr. Reeder is a pleasant man to know, genial and hospitable, and he has lived such a life of honor and integrity that he has won and retained the confidence and respect of the people of Fayette county.

RANSON S. NILES.

Many friends and acquaintances of R. S. Niles, a well known agriculturist for many years in Fayette county, but now retired, know of his energy, public spirit and exemplary character and such a wholesome career will not

soon be forgotten. He was born in Vermont, of hardy New England parents, March 4, 1834, the son of Alansor and Olive (Stoddard) Niles, both natives of Vermont. His paternal grandfather, Icabod Niles, was born in Connecticut, and he was a pioneer in Alburg, Vermont, where he established a home and engaged in farming until his death. The maternal grandfather, ——— Stoddard, married Laura Ladd, whose father was one of the earliest settlers in North Hero, Vermont, where he owned a large tract of land and was proprietor of a hotel. The father of R. S. Niles was educated in the common schools of Vermont and followed farming, spending the rest of his life in Vermont. He took an active part in politics, was a Whig, later a Republican and he held various offices in those early days. He and his wife reared a family of nine children. Icabod Niles, grandfather of R. S. Niles, was also a local politician and he served as justice of the peace for many years. Sumner A. Niles, brother of R. S. Niles, was a soldier in the Civil war, as was also I. E., who entered the service later in the war; N. C. Niles also served in the Union army. R. S. Niles of this review was a member of Company G, Thirty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, having enlisted in the fall of 1862, served two years and two months and was discharged on account of disabilities, after which he returned to Fayette county, Iowa, having first come here in 1858, but he came to the state in 1856, remaining in Clayton county the first two years. He first bought land near Auburn township, Fayette county, and remained on his thirty acres there for several years, then bought one hundred and sixty acres in Windsor township, later one hundred and twenty acres in Bethel township; selling his land there, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres adjoining the old place in Windsor township and there he farmed with his usual success until about 1897. About 1902 he traveled considerably and finally located in West Union and has since lived retired.

Mr. Niles was first married to Ruth A. King, in the spring of 1857. She was the daughter of Isaac W. King, who was born in the state of New York, but who later in life moved to Fayette county, Iowa. This union resulted in the birth of the following children: I. A.; Alma is deceased; Carrie May, Alice R. and Blanche B. The mother of these children died March 1, 1900, and Mr. Niles was married, on September 20, 1901, to Mrs. Nancy H. (Finch-Chandler) Cowle Swank. She had been married twice before, her first husband being Esq. Chandler, whom she married in September, 1855, and they were the parents of three children, Hazen, born July 31, 1858, B. D. Chandler, who was born on August 29, 1860, and one who died in infancy. Her sec-

ond husband was Capt. Jacob Swank, and the following children were born to them: Lulu, born January 19, 1868; Eddie, born June 6, 1873, is deceased. The father of these children was captain of Company F, Third Iowa Volunteer Infantry.

Mrs. R. S. Niles, who was born March 7, 1837, is the daughter of James B. and Hannah (McDonald) Finch. James B. Finch was born in England, came to America when young and for many years engaged in farming near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. On March 7, 1855, he came to Iowa and located seven miles east of West Union. In 1862 he enlisted in the Thirty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry, known as the "Gray Bird Regiment," in which he served until the close of the war. Politically, he was a Whig. His family consisted of three girls and three boys; one girl died at the age of eleven years. They were, R. M. Aspland, living at Dundee, Delaware county, Iowa; C. C., of Fayette; B. B., of Severy, Kansas; Mrs. R. S. Niles, and D. D., living at Trinidad, Colorado. D. D. Finch enlisted in Company F, Third Iowa Volunteer Infantry, in 1861 and served for three years, reenlisted and served until the close of the war. He was wounded at Shiloh and taken prisoner and was confined for six or eight months in Libby prison, but he survived both prison and battles.

EDWARD MORTIMER PAUL.

This well known farmer and stock raiser and a representative citizen of Eden township was born in Walworth county, Wisconsin, November 1, 1854, and is descended from an old New England family on the paternal side, his grandfather, George W. Paul, having been a native of Massachusetts and on the maternal side he traces his family history back many years to the state of Connecticut. George W. Paul was born in the town of Dighton, Massachusetts, November 13, 1804, and in young manhood he married Mary Root, whose birth occurred at Cheshire, Connecticut, April 30, 1805. This couple, prior to the year 1852, moved from New York to Wisconsin, where they spent the remainder of their lives, both dying in Walworth county, he on the 20th of September, 1864, she in the year 1867. Among their children was a son Oscar, who was born October, 1831, and spent his early life in New York, which was his native state. He accompanied his parents to Wisconsin, where he grew to maturity on a farm in Walworth county and there married, on the 13th of December, 1853, Sarah A. Perkins, whose people were among the early pioneers of that part of the state.

In 1861 Oscar S. Paul and wife moved to Fayette county, Iowa, and settled near the village of Alpha, but, owing to the prevalence of ague at that time, remained only a brief period, returning to Wisconsin within a couple of months, crossing the Mississippi river on April 9th of the year indicated, the day war was formally declared by the Southern states. Mr. Paul served in the latter part of the war as a private in Company K, Forty-ninth Regiment Wisconsin Infantry, a regiment sent to Rolla, Missouri, to do garrison duty. By reason of illness he obtained a furlough and did not again rejoin his command, having been discharged on account of his disability. A farmer by occupation, he made his calling fairly successful and lived the remainder of his days in Walworth county, where his death occurred on September 10, 1876. The following are the names of the children born to Oscar S. and Sarah A. Paul; Edwin Mortimer, of this review; Carrie R., who married Seth L. Clark and lives in the village of Alpha; Frank W., a painter living in the state of Washington; Laura A., wife of L. G. Liddle, of Waucoma, and Kittie, now Mrs. W. E. Stamp, of Waterloo, this state.

In 1876, shortly after the death of her husband, Mrs. Paul brought her children to Fayette county, Iowa, where her mother was then living, the latter moving to this state in 1861 and settling in Bethel township on land still in possession of her descendants. Edwin Mortimer, being the oldest of the family, very naturally assumed the responsibility of supporting his widowed mother and the younger children, accordingly he commenced work on the above land and in due time developed and improved a good farm. Prior to leaving Wisconsin he attended high school at Delavan, that state, two terms, which terminated his schooling, but his education is largely of the practical kind which is obtained in the stern school of experience. He continued to cultivate the above farm and look after the interests of the family until the younger children were able to care for themselves, his sisters in the meantime becoming teachers, which removed no small burden from his shoulders.

After a period of twelve years on the above place, during which time his younger brother became self supporting, Mr. Paul married and purchased the farm on Crane creek, one mile northwest of Alpha, which he still owns and which, under his efficient labor and management, is now one of the finest and most valuable tracts of land in Eden township. It consists of one hundred and forty-eight acres of excellent land, originally covered with small timber, to remove which and reduce the soil to cultivation required a great deal of grubbing and other hard and exacting toil. When properly developed, however, the soil proved exceedingly fertile and at this time could not be bought for five times the price Mr. Paul paid for it, which was seventeen dollars per acre.

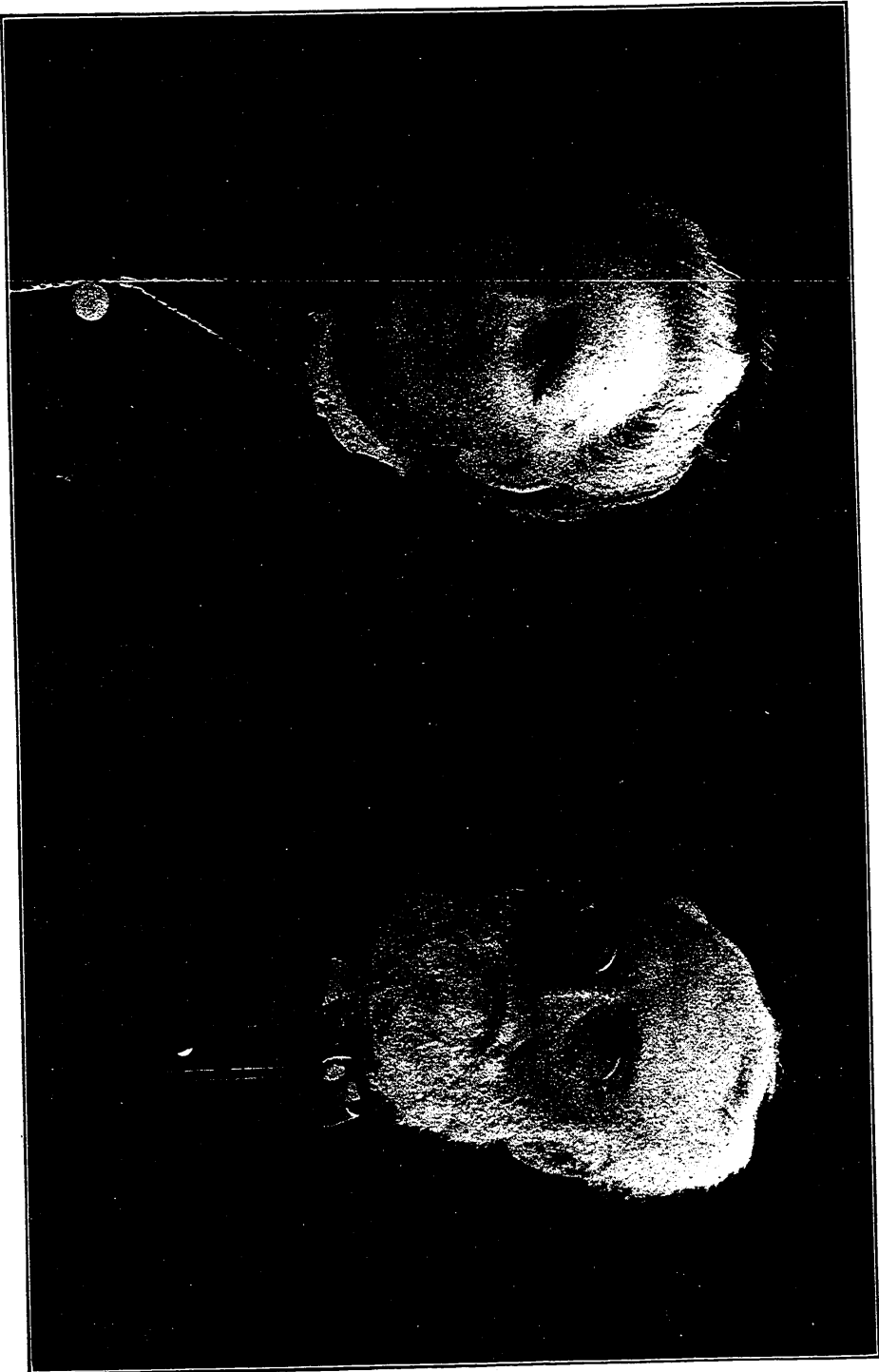
Mr. Paul made a careful study of the science of agriculture and is a first class farmer, his place being highly improved and in many respects a model country home. He is a man of progressive ideas and tendencies, cultivates the soil by the most approved methods and in connection therewith devotes considerable attention to livestock, in the raising of which he has been very successful. He is a Republican in politics and as such has been elected from time to time to various local offices, having served his township for some years as justice of the peace, also as clerk and constable. He is invariably chosen a delegate to the conventions of his party and takes an active part in their deliberations, possessing, as he does, sound, practical intelligence and well balanced judgment, qualities of especial value in making platforms, drafting resolutions and in formulating and directing policies. In matters religious he is a Congregationalist and with his wife and two daughters belongs to the local church of that denomination at Waucoma.

Mr. Paul's marriage, to which reference is made in a preceding paragraph, was solemnized on January 1, 1883, with Fannie Clark, who was born in Eden township, November 12, 1861, being a daughter of Hiram and Diana (Broadbent) Clark and a sister of Seth Clark, whose marriage to the subject's sister, Carrie Paul, has already been noted. Mr. and Mrs. Paul have eight children, namely: Allie B., an accomplished musician and teacher of music, is now the wife of Tracy E. Dungey, a successful farmer in Bethel township; Oscar S., a carpenter and builder; Avis L., a stenographer at Charles City; Ray S., a painter; Wanda L., Edward McKinley, Harley Clayton and Arlo Freeman.

JAMES M. WETHERBEE.

No one should be stinting in his honor to the silvery-haired veterans who sacrificed so much to save the national union and to bring to us of the present generation a great and united country. We are often prone to forget what they did for us, to lose sight of their noble sacrifices and the hardships which they endured for our peace, perpetuity and prosperity. One such gallant son of the Northland was James M. Wetherbee, a venerable and interesting resident of West Union, a man greatly admired by a host of friends in Fayette county for his many traits of sterling character and for his past record, which has been without blemish.

Mr. Wetherbee was born in Royalton, Niagara county, New York, November 4, 1831, the son of Ira and Lydia (Manchester) Wetherbee, both



MR. AND MRS. JAMES M. WETTERBEE.

natives of Fulton county, New York, where they grew to maturity and married; soon after this event, however, they came to Niagara county, and there spent the major part of their subsequent lives, the father dying in West Union, Iowa, at the home of his son, James M., of this review. He reached an advanced age, as did also his wife. They had three children that lived to years of maturity: James M., the eldest; Harriett Freeman, and Rexa Burns, now living at Potterville, Michigan. Several children died in infancy or childhood.

James M. Wetherbee was educated in the common schools of Niagara county, New York, and there grew to maturity. He came to Mercer county, Illinois, in 1856 and remained there two years engaged in farming. In 1858 he moved to Henry county, Illinois, and farmed the land on which the town of Alpha is now located, remaining at that place three years or until he enlisted in the Federal army, as a private in Company D, Eighty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, August 7, 1862. He was at Fort Donelson in 1863 and was on detached service for two years, mounted, in which he participated in many skirmishes and was much exposed to danger and had a great deal of hard work, the duties of this detachment being to control the guerrilla warfare and protect interests from their depredations. He was twice wounded. He assisted in the capture of the notorious guerrilla leader, Jake Sly, and rendered other valuable service in his sojourn in this irregular military service, and he was honorably discharged on June 26, 1865.

Mr. Wetherbee came to Fayette county, Iowa, October 1, 1865, with two yoke of oxen and two cows, locating first in Center township, and then bought one hundred and twenty acres in Richfield township (now Bethel) and lived there from 1867 to 1874, when he moved to West Union, where he was in the machinery business until 1904, and in the wool business continuously until the present time. In 1906 he went to South Dakota and took up one hundred and sixty acres of government land, which he has improved and which is located one hundred miles west of Chamberlin.

Politically, Mr. Wetherbee is a Republican. He served as constable for two years in Henry county, Illinois, also served as school director and road supervisor. He is a member of Abernathy Post, No. 48, Grand Army of the Republic, of which he is the present commander.

In 1854 Mr. Wetherbee married Louisa Johnston, a native of New York state, and of Irish extraction. This union resulted in the birth of five children, namely: Ellen is the wife of E. N. Fortney and lives in Spencer, Iowa; George W. lives in Lathrop, California; Addie M. married Charles Stuckey and they live in Stockton, California; Ira J. lives at Buffalo Center, Iowa,

and May Brown Miller lives in Cherokee, Iowa. The mother of these children died on August 18, 1866, and in 1874 Mr. Wetherbee married his present wife. She was known in her maidenhood as Catherine M. Roberts, and she was the widow of Lewis Baker. Five children were born of this union, namely: Ida married Clarence Augis and they live in the state of Idaho; James M. is engaged in the livery business in West Union; Charles E., formerly in business with his brother, is now deceased; William has a homestead in South Dakota, and Cora is the wife of Glenn Kinney, of North Dakota. James M. Wetherbee, of this review, has thirty-four living grandchildren, and thirty great-grandchildren. He has been an active and hardworking man all his life and only retired when compelled to do so by advancing years and failing health. He recently made a most enjoyable trip of four months, during which time he visited the states of Idaho, Washington, California and the Dakotas.

EDWARD H. MUMBY.

A descendant of England, a man fortunate to count himself by birth a member of that nation which has spread its dominion farther than empire before ever extended, which has developed a language that will soon become a world tongue, is the subject of this sketch. And it is the virtues of just such stalwart citizens as this man, the brawn of the empire, which have made England great and are making her descendant, the United States of America, greater.

Edward H. Mumby was born in Fulston, Lincolnshire, England, March 10, 1837, and reared on a farm until sixteen, when he learned the blacksmith trade. He came from England to Quebec, worked at his trade two years in Canada, then, in the fall of 1860, moved to Rockford, Illinois, to a farm. In 1869 he came to Eden township, this county, and for twenty-one years rented one of Mr. J. Harris's farms, the old homestead. He has now one hundred and twenty acres of his own in Eden township which was deeded to him by Mr. Harris for his excellent services.

On December 10, 1863, Mr. Mumby married Christie Ann Elliott, who was born in Winnebago county, Illinois, where he lived several years. She died in 1880 and was the mother of five children: J. W.; Frank E., farmer in Morton county, North Dakota; Zilla, wife of James Prouty, McGregor, Iowa; Mary Olive, wife of L. C. Gifford, of West Union; Herbert, farmer in Eden township. In 1861 Mr. Mumby enlisted in Company G, Forty-fifth Illinois

Volunteer Infantry. He was absent from home six months and was in the battles of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, but was discharged from hospital on account of disability. He was in the hospital longer than in field service. He is a member of Sutherland Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Waucoma, and is a past commander. He has been present at four national encampments, at St. Paul, Minneapolis, Chicago and Milwaukee. He is a very enthusiastic member and has done much for the support of his post. He is a Republican, was justice of the peace for sixteen years, and has held other township offices. The Waucoma lodge of Masons claims him as one of its best members and he has filled most of the offices in the lodge. He is very familiar with the Masonic work and has visited lodges in many other states. He is also a member of the Eastern Star. Mr. Mumby's reputation is above reproach and he is a very entertaining man with whom to spend some time in conversation.

JOHN W. MUMBY.

It is improbable that a better informed man on general agricultural and stock raising topics than John W. Mumby, of Eden township, Fayette county, could be found, as those familiar with his record will readily attest. He believes in doing everything well and, taking a deep interest in his work at all times and being a man of good judgment and persistent energy, he accomplishes a great deal more than the average man in this line of endeavor. As superintendent of the large Harris stock farm at Eden, Eden township, he fills a very responsible position to his credit and to the satisfaction of his employer.

Mr. Mumby was born in Winnebago county, Illinois, November 17, 1864, and is the son of Edward H. and Christie Ann (Elliott) Mumby, the father born in England in 1837, coming to Quebec, Canada, when a young man, working at the blacksmith's trade, which he learned in his native country. He came to Rockford, Illinois, in 1860, locating on a farm near there, and in 1869 he moved to Eden township, Fayette county, Iowa, and for twenty-one years rented one of the Harris farms. He now lives on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in this township, which Mr. Harris gave him in recognition of his valued and faithful services.

Mr. Mumby and Christie Ann Elliott were married on December 10, 1863, in Winnebago county, Illinois, where he lived several years. His wife, who bore him the following five children, died in 1880: J. W., of this review;

Frank E., a farmer in Morton county, North Dakota; Zilla, wife of James Prouty, of McGregor, Iowa; Mary Olive, wife of L. C. Gifford, of West Union; Herbert, who is farming in Eden township. The father was a soldier in an Illinois regiment during the Civil war. He is a Republican, a Mason and an enthusiastic member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and a man well liked by everyone. See his sketch in this work.

John W. Mumby, of this review, remained at home until past twenty-one years of age, assisting his father in the farm work and attending the common schools of Eden township. Early in life he began to work for J. Harris and has been in his employ for a period of twenty years on his large farm. For the past fifteen years he has been superintendent of about twelve hundred acres, which he has managed very successfully, all of this fine tract being under his supervision. He is up-to-date in his views of general farming and he gets the best results possible. He keeps about two hundred and fifty head of cattle, is a good judge of the bovine tribe and knows well how to properly care for stock and prepare them for the market. He trades continuously, and is at all seasons a very busy man. He has four men under his direction in working the place. He grows from one hundred and fifty to two hundred and twenty-five acres of corn each season.

Mr. Mumby was married on August 26, 1894, to Gladys A. Roberts, daughter of H. N. Roberts and wife, of Eden township, this county, near Waucoma, where Mrs. Mumby was born and reared, receiving her education in the local schools. Four children have been born to this union: Glennie A.; Howard W. was born November 17, 1898, on his father's thirty-fourth birthday; Lee H. and Fay B.

Politically, Mr. Mumby is a Republican, but he has been too busy all his life to seek public office or mingle much with politicians, if he had had the desire to do so. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Waucoma, also the Rebekahs.

JOHN H. ERNST.

It is always pleasant and profitable to contemplate the career of a man who has made a success of life and won the honor and respect of his fellow citizens. Such is the record of the well-known retired farmer whose name heads this sketch, than whom a more whole-souled or popular man it would be difficult to find within the limits of the township where he has his home.



J. H. Ernst

John H. Ernst is a native of the state of Ohio, where he was born on the 27th of August, 1841, a son of John D. and Katherine (Pfeiffer) Ernst. These parents were both natives of Germany, where they were reared and married. In May, 1834, attracted by the allurements held out to them by a free country, where unlimited opportunities awaited them, they took passage on a slow-going sailing vessel and six weeks later landed on the shores of this country. They at once located in Richland county, Ohio, and a few years later moved to Geauga county, the same state. They were pioneers of the former county, where they owned a large tract of land, as they did also in Geauga county. In the fatherland Mr. Ernst had followed the trade of a butcher, but after coming to the United States he devoted his attention to the tilling of the soil, in which he met with fair success. On November 8, 1856, the family came to East Dubuque, Illinois, from which point they went by team and boat to Highland, where the father bought land. Subsequently he sold out there and moved to Missouri, where he spent the remainder of his days. He was the father of four children, namely: Frederick was a pioneer farmer, owning land in Clayton and Fayette counties, Iowa, subsequently retiring and moving to Elgin, Iowa, where his death occurred in 1909; Charlotte, who lived in Ohio, is deceased; Irene Ely, who resides in Elgin; John H., the immediate subject of this sketch. Frederick was a member of an Iowa regiment during the Civil war and took part in Sherman's famous march to the sea. John D. Ernst, the father of these children, was a Democrat in political faith and always took an active interest in political affairs, though he never held office. Religiously, he belonged to the Evangelical church.

John H. Ernst was reared and educated in his native county, attending the public schools of the locality. In young manhood he accompanied his parents on their removal to the west, where he gave his attention to farming. On taking up the battle of life on his own account, he rented land in Illyria township, Fayette county, Iowa, where he remained five years, meeting with a fair degree of success, and at the end of that period he bought a farm in the same township, the tract comprising one hundred and twenty acres of splendid land. He devoted his energies exclusively to the improvement of the place, making many permanent and substantial improvements in the same, until it became known as one of the best farms in that section of Fayette county. He gave his personal attention to every detail of the farm work, thus keeping in close touch with its operation, and his efforts were rewarded with abundant crops annually. In 1907 Mr. Ernst retired from active labor and moved to West Union, where he has since resided. During his active years on the farm

Mr. Ernst gave considerable attention to the raising of livestock, in which he met with gratifying success, being considered a good judge of stock.

In 1866 Mr. Ernst was married to Johanna Ernst, a daughter of Christian and Christina (Beaschler) Ernst, natives of Germany who married after coming to the United States, locating in Geauga county, Ohio, where their deaths occurred. Three children were born to this union, Eugene P., Myrtle and Edith, the brother deceased. Mrs. Ernst died December 14, 1895.

Politically, Mr. Ernst is a staunch Republican and has taken an intelligent interest in local public affairs, though he has never aspired to nor held public office of any nature. He is a member of Abernathy Post No. 48, Grand Army of the Republic, this membership being peculiarly consistent from the fact that in the fall of 1861 he enlisted in the military service of his country, becoming a member of Company D, Seventh Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, joining this regiment while on a visit to that state. He served three years and was then transferred to the Fifth Ohio Regiment, which was later reorganized. In November, 1864, Mr. Ernst was given an honorable discharge and immediately returned to his home. He had given his country nearly three years of valiant and efficient service and has just reason to be proud of his military record. In every avenue of life's activities he has been faithful to the duties which have confronted him and by a life of right living and irreproachable conduct he has earned and retains the sincere regard of all with whom he has been thrown in contact. Mr. Ernst has one of the model homes of the city of West Union, being located on the east hill overlooking the city, and here he has five acres to devote his time to.

FURNET A. KIEL.

The following is a record of the life of one who, by close attention to business, has achieved marked success in his chosen line of endeavor and risen to an honorable position among the enterprising men of his locality. Furnat A. Kiel, of Smithfield township, Fayette county, is one of those estimable characters whose integrity and strong personality win the confidence and respect of their fellow men and leave the impress of their personality upon the time in which they live. He was born in Green county, Wisconsin, April 15, 1868, and was educated in the rural schools of that community, and the German Lutheran school from which he was graduated, and in that church he was confirmed when fourteen years of age. He is the son of August and

Minnie (Bretzeg) Kiel, both born near Berlin, Germany, the father in August, 1826, and the mother in September, 1833; they were children of parents who worked on farms of large land owners, and when Mr. and Mrs. August Kiel became of proper age they also began farm work. They were married in 1855, and, desiring a home of their own, they sought American shores in 1856, and located in Green county, Wisconsin, where they worked as farm hands on a large farm for a number of years. About 1862 or 1863, Mr. Kiel bought one hundred and sixty acres and in later years added other purchases and he established a good home and became fairly well-to-do, owning an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres at the time of his retirement. About 1890 he sold his farm and retired from active life. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, eight of whom are living at this writing: Fred W. lives in Scott township, Fayette county; Herman lives in Green county, Wisconsin; Henry lives at Artesian, South Dakota; Frank lives in Martintown, Green county, Wisconsin; Mrs. Mary Trickle lives in Monroe, Wisconsin; Furnet A., of this review; James lives at Highmore, South Dakota; Mrs. Emma Trickle lives at Browntown, Wisconsin. The oldest and youngest children are deceased.

Furnet A. Kiel lived with his parents until he was eighteen years old when he left home and came to Fayette county, Iowa, with his brother, Fred, who rented a farm in Harlan township for about two years. The first year Furnet A. was in this county he worked as a farm hand, then returned to Monroe, Wisconsin, and worked three years in a brick yard and at railroad work. In 1890 he returned to Fayette county, and on May 26, 1891, he bought one hundred and eighty-seven acres in section 8, Smithfield township. During the summer of 1891 he worked out as a farm hand and in the spring of 1892 he moved onto his farm, where he lives at present. He is considered an honest, hard-working, capable farmer, a good hand at any kind of work about a place. He has built a very comfortable and modern dwelling and spacious barns on the farm since he bought his present excellent place. He carries on general farming and dairying, and always keeps some excellent stock, making a specialty of Duroc-Jersey hogs. He has been very successful in all these lines of endeavor.

Politically, Mr. Kiel is a Republican, but he has never held public office. He is a member of the Yeoman Lodge, No. 94, of Fayette, Iowa, and he is a member of the German Lutheran church.

On December 23, 1891, Mr. Kiel married Nettie L. Adams, who was born in Maynard, Fayette county, May 6, 1871, and was educated in the public schools of that place, graduating from the high school with the class of

1889. She is a lady of refinement and the possessor of many praiseworthy traits which render her a favorite with a wide circle of friends. She is the daughter of Leander L. and Rebecca (Cline) Adams, who are mentioned fully in a separate sketch in this volume. When eighteen years old Mrs. Kiel secured a school in Harlan township and taught there for three years in a very acceptable manner, giving up the position upon her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Kiel are the parents of two children, Grant Leander, born April 26, 1895, is attending school in Fayette; Louis Adams was born December 29, 1897. Mrs. Kiel is an active and leading member of the Mothers' Club, consisting of twenty-five members, which was organized in March, 1901, in Smithfield township. The object of the club is a very laudable one—self-improvement. Mr. and Mrs. Kiel gained prosperity by proving themselves worthy of it, and their success in life is a grand indication of what can be gained by industry, integrity and perseverance.

HENRY BADGER.

A descendant of one of the excellent and influential pioneer families of Fayette county is Henry Badger, owner of a well kept and highly productive farm in Union township, near Elgin. He is a native of this locality, having been born in Fayette county. He received a fairly good education in the public schools which he attended during the winter-time and worked on the home farm during crop seasons, and, thus early becoming interested in and acquainted with the various phases of farming, he has chosen to devote his life work to the same and he has not labored without adequate results, as his neat home and attractive farm attest. His farm consists of seventy-two acres.

Mr. Badger was married in 1895 to Addie Perrine, daughter of an honored family of this county, where she grew to maturity and was educated, and this union has resulted in the birth of one daughter, bearing the pretty name, Bernice May.

Henry Badger is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and also belongs to the Yeoman lodge. Politically, he is a Democrat, but he does not aspire to offices of public trust, preferring to devote his attention to his farming.

Mr. Badger's father, Richard Badger, was a man of sterling worth and influence in his day and generation and a detailed account of his life and work is deemed advisable in the history of Fayette county, where he spent much of his useful life; however, he was a native of Lower Canada, where his birth

occurred on December 25, 1829, the son of Elisha and Rebecca Badger, both born in Canada, where they spent their early childhood days on the farm. At least that is their record so far as the present generation is able to determine. In the year 1838 the Badger family left there and came to Illinois, where Elisha and Rebecca Badger lived until their deaths, having spent their lives on a farm. Richard Badger was educated in the common schools of Illinois and reared on a farm. When twenty-nine years of age he came to Iowa, locating near Fayette, where he began farming and became the owner of a fine tract of land of three hundred and twenty acres, four miles southeast of Maynard. He carried on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale, being one of the leading agriculturists of that community.

Richard Badger married, on November 1, 1857, Lucy Lucettia Gray, who was born December 7, 1839. She was the daughter of John B. and Lucy (Heth) Gray, both natives of Saratoga county, New York. It was in 1853 that they settled in Kane county, Illinois, where they followed farming until 1857 when they came to Iowa and located in Smithfield township, Fayette county, where they became the owner of one hundred acres of land on which Mr. Gray carried on general farming until his death.

To Mr. and Mrs. Richard Badger these children were born: John Elisha, who died when three months old; Martha Estell; Harmon; Henry, of this review; Alfretta, deceased; Margaret, Mary, Frank Ivan, Lucy Rebecca, Richard Elmer, Eugenia, George Earl (deceased).

Richard Badger's death occurred October 25, 1906. His wife is still living. They were excellent people, highly respected by all who knew them.

SETH LUTHER CLARK.

Seth L. Clark, farmer and stock-raiser of Fayette county, Iowa, was born on the farm in Eden township where he now lives, April 28, 1858. His father, Hiram Clark, a native of Rochester, New York, was a son of Samuel Clark and brother of Orlando and James Clark, the latter well known residents of Eden township, where the family has been represented many years. Hiram Clark, whose birth occurred on the 16th of June, 1833, came to Iowa with his parents and, securing a tract of wild land from his father, grubbed out and improved the farm in the above township on which he spent the remainder of his life, dying May 22, 1868. He married, on June 6, 1857, Caroline Broadbent, who was born May 30, 1837, in Leicestershire, England, and in 1841

came to America with her parents, William and Catherine Broadbent, who first settled in Illinois, removing thence to Fayette county in 1855, and settling in Eden township where they spent the remainder of their lives, he dying about 1894, at the age of seventy-six, she in 1899, in her eighty-sixth year. William Broadbent purchased land in Eden township which in due time he improved and in after years became a well-to-do farmer and respected citizen. In 1874 he lost his sight and from that time until his death, a period of twenty years, was totally blind, although he made the most of his misfortune and was never cast down nor heard to complain. Of the twelve children of William and Catherine Broadbent, four only survive: Robert, who lives at Akron, this state; Albert, at Alpha; William and a younger brother in Colorado. Two of the sons, George and Robert, served in Company B, Ninth Iowa Infantry, during the late Civil war and earned honorable records as soldiers, the former dying at Corydon, this state, at the age of seventy-four years. Mrs. Hiram Clark, who departed this life April 18, 1873, was the mother of three children, Seth Luther, the subject of this sketch; Fanny R., wife of E. M. Paul, and Martha, who died in infancy.

Seth L. Clark was reared amid the bracing airs of the country and while still young became familiar with the duties of the farm. He received a fair education in the district schools and, having lost his father when only ten years old, remained with his mother until fourteen and then went to live with his uncle, Orlando Clark, with whom he remained until twenty years of age, when he commenced life upon his own responsibility. On attaining his majority he took possession of the family homestead in Eden township, having purchased his sister's interest in the same and, addressing himself to the task of its improvement, soon had the house rebuilt and the farm in excellent condition. Since moving to the place he has given his attention very closely to agriculture and by his industry, energy and good management is now in comfortable circumstances, with a sufficiency of this world's goods at his command to insure his future against want or any other contingency that may arise. As a farmer he is energetic and methodical, a careful observer of the soils and their adaptability to the different crops and he seldom if ever fails to realize abundant returns from the labor expended on his fields.

Mr. Clark is quiet and unassuming, attends strictly to his own affairs, but at the same time manifests a lively interest in whatever tends to promote the welfare of the community and the common good of his neighbors and fellow citizens. He stands for progress in all the term implies, lends his influence and assistance to all laudable enterprises and as a Republican has rendered valuable service to his party, though neither a politician nor office

seeker. In his fraternal relations he is a Mason, belonging to the lodge at Waucoma, and with his wife is also identified with the Order of the Eastern Star at that place, both being active and influential workers in the organization.

Mr. Clark was happily married on November 23, 1881, to Carrie R. Paul, who was born in Walworth county, Wisconsin, April 9, 1859, being a daughter of Oscar S. and Sarah A. Paul, the latter now Mrs. J. T. Gager, of Eden township. For several years prior to her marriage Mrs. Clark taught in the public schools of Fayette county and earned a creditable reputation for her efficiency in the school room, both as a teacher and disciplinarian. She is a lady of beautiful life and character, takes an active interest in the social and intellectual life of the community and is held in high esteem by the large circle of friends and neighbors with whom she mingles. She has borne her husband two children, the older of whom, Hiram Paul Clark, married Mabel Peters and since his eighteenth year has been a salesman for various mercantile firms in Hawkeye. Sarah C., the second in order of birth, is a graduate of the Waucoma high school and for several years past has been teaching in the public schools of Eden and other townships.

FRANK L. MEDBERRY.

One of the citizens of Pleasant Valley township, Fayette county, who is eminently deserving of a place in the history of this locality is F. L. Medberry, because of his life of close application to legitimate lines of endeavor and his exemplary life among his fellow citizens. He comes from a sturdy family of the old Keystone state, having been born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, in 1860, and he is the son of M. D. and S. A. (Kilgore) Medberry, the father a native of Chenango county, New York, and the mother a native of Mercer county, Pennsylvania. George Medberry, the paternal grandfather of F. L. Medberry, was also a native of New York, while the maternal grandfather Kilgore came to America from Scotland. When a small boy the father of F. L. Medberry came to Pennsylvania and there received his education in the old-time public schools. He devoted his life to farming and carpentering. He married in Pennsylvania, and in 1863 he and his wife came to Iowa and located in West Union and bought forty acres near that place, remaining there until 1875, then moved to Illyria township and purchased eighty acres which M. D. Medberry improved and on which he lived until his death.

in 1889. He was a general farmer and made a good living after coming to Fayette county, leaving some valuable property to his family. He was a Democrat in politics. He and his wife reared four sons.

F. L. Medberry, of this review, was educated in the public schools of Union township, and he also attended Ainsworth Academy, receiving a very good education. He assisted his father with the work on the farm as soon as he was old enough.

Mr. Medberry was married in 1886 to Charlotte Foxwell and soon thereafter he began farming for himself, renting land for four years, during which time he got a good start, and then purchased eighty acres in Illyria township on which he remained for a period of nine years, then sold his place and purchased one hundred acres in another part of that township and lived there about seven years. Then he sold out again and bought a fine farm in Pleasant Valley township, south of Brainard, which place consists of two hundred acres of as fine farming land as the county affords and which has been greatly improved by Mr. Medberry, being well fenced and having on it an excellent dwelling and good outbuildings, orchard, garden, in fact, everything that goes to make country life desirable and attractive. He carries on general farming and stock raising and has become well fixed, all due to his own efforts.

The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Medberry: Frances married Francis Robbins, a native of Clayton county, Iowa, being now principal of the high school at Rosendale, Wisconsin; Katy is a teacher in Illyria township; Elma studied in the public schools of Illyria township; Jessie is living at home and is attending the public schools; Ivan, Bertha, Grace and Gladys are also in school and members of the home circle.

Mrs. Medberry is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Politically, Mr. Medberry is a Republican and he was township clerk of Illyria township for four years, during which time he rendered very faithful services which won the approval of all concerned.

JOSEPH PATTERSON.

It is always pleasant and profitable to contemplate the career of a man who has made a success of life and won the honor and respect of his fellow citizens. Such is the record of the well known farmer whose name heads this sketch, than whom a more whole-souled or popular man it would be difficult to find within the limits of the township where he has his home.



JOSEPH PATTERSON.



MRS. MARY PATTERSON.

Joseph Patterson, whose fine farm is located in sections 19, 20 and 21, Pleasant Valley township, Fayette county, is a native son of the old Buckeye state, having been born in Hancock county, Ohio, on the 13th day of March, 1837, and is a son of John and Jane (Graham) Patterson. John Patterson was born in Ireland and in young manhood accompanied his parents on their emigration to the United States. They first located in Ohio, where the father carried on farming until 1850, when he came to Clayton county, Iowa, and entered land, which he put in cultivation. He also entered land in Fayette county, it being that now occupied by the subject of this sketch. He lived in Clayton county until his death, which occurred when he was about seventy years old. He was an energetic and industrious man and was successful in his business affairs. In politics he was first a Whig, and later a Republican. His religious membership was with the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he took an active interest.

While a resident of Ohio, John Patterson was married to Jane Graham, who was a native of England, though of Irish parentage. They were the parents of ten children, eight of whom are living, namely: Mrs. Sarah Atwood, Mrs. Katherine Thompson, Mrs. Martha Keys, Wesley, Aaron, Samuel, Joseph and Ezra.

Joseph Patterson was about twelve years old when the family moved from Ohio to Clayton county, Iowa, the long and tiresome trip being made in wagons, the subject driving a team the entire distance. The major part of his education was received in an old-fashioned log school house in Iowa, his opportunities for attending school being somewhat limited from the fact that his assistance was needed in the arduous task of clearing the land and getting it in shape for cultivation. The country was wild and the land covered with the primeval timber, so that toil of the most strenuous kind was required before the pioneer farmer could begin to realize any income from his land. Mr. Patterson has remained on the original Fayette county farm since he was twenty-one years old, and has here devoted himself assiduously to its cultivation, in which he has met with a very gratifying degree of success. In connection with the tilling of the soil he also gives considerable attention to the raising of livestock, including horses and Polled Angus cattle, in which also he has been successful. He maintains his property at the highest standard of excellence and is considered one of the best farmers in his section of the county.

When twenty-one years old, Mr. Patterson married Margaret Bunkle, who was a native of Jersey City, New Jersey, who is now deceased. To this union were born four children: Arthur, Mrs. Lucy Hitch, Ida (deceased) and

Grant. Subsequently Mr. Patterson married Mary Upton, who was born April 14, 1838, in Maryland, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Upton. Her father was a native of Ireland, but she knew little of her mother, who died when Mary was very young. She accompanied her father to Clayton county in her early life and her marriage to Joseph Patterson occurred in Fayette county. Her death occurred on December 24, 1909. To Joseph and Mary Patterson were born nine children, of whom five are living, namely: John, deceased; Edgar, of this county; William, deceased; Grace, a resident of Washington; Bertha, of Oklahoma; Sidney S., who remains at home; Mary and Martha Ann, twins, a twin to Grace that died in infancy.

In politics Mr. Patterson is a stanch Democrat, and, though he keeps well posted on the current issues of the day, he takes no active part in local public affairs aside from the casting of an intelligent ballot. Religiously he is a member of the Christian church at Brainard. In every relation of life Mr. Patterson has performed his full part and because of his sterling qualities of character and his upright life, he has long enjoyed the unbounded respect of the entire community.

MARTIN BOUSKA.

As the name indicates, this gentleman is of foreign descent, though a native of Iowa, born in Winneshiek county in November, 1857. His parents, Frank and Josephine Bouska, natives of Bohemia, were married in that country and two of their nine children were born there prior to the immigration of the family to America some time in the early forties. On coming to the United States Frank Bouska made his way direct to Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he settled on government land and in the course of a few years developed a fine farm and was in comfortable circumstances. He lived a long, active and useful life, dying at the advanced age of ninety-one years, his wife being eighty-eight years old at the time of her death. Of their family, nine children grew to maturity and are still living, the subject of this sketch being the only one residing in Fayette county.

Martin Bouska remained with his parents until nineteen years of age when he came to Fayette county and located on the tract of land in Eden township which she still owns and makes her home. The place originally consisted of one hundred and sixty acres, but by his energy and well directed labors he has since succeeded in very materially increasing the area of the

farm until it now contains two hundred and forty acres of very fine land, admirably adapted to agriculture and the raising of livestock. Mr. Bouska was reared to agricultural pursuits and, having a natural liking for the vocation, he has succeeded well and at the present time is one of the leading farmers and stock raisers of the township in which he resides as well as one of the enterprising, public spirited citizens of the community. He has made many valuable improvements on his farm in the way of buildings, etc., and now has one of the most beautiful and desirable rural homes in the county of Fayette, everything on the place being in first class order and indicating the care and attention of the proprietor. As already stated, he is not only successful as a tiller of the soil but devotes considerable interest and attention to the breeding and raising of livestock, making Poland China swine a specialty, which high grade animals he markets in large numbers every year. He also raises fine horses of the Belgian breed, and a superior quality of cattle, his domestic animals of all kinds being among the best in this part of the state and yielding him a large income.

Mr. Bouska takes a lively interest in all matters relating to agriculture and livestock and, as a member of the Breeders' Association, has been influential in introducing a superior grade of domestic animals into his section of country, they proving of great benefit to the farmers who now find it just as easy and far more valuable to keep good stock instead of the ordinary and indifferent grades which were formerly the rule. He is public spirited, believes in progress and does all within his power for the material advancement of his township and moral improvement of his neighborhood. In politics he is a pronounced supporter of the Republican party, and in religion, a Roman Catholic, belonging with his family to St. Mary's church at Waucoma, to the support of which he is a liberal donor.

On the 20th day of January, 1877, when a little past twenty years of age, Mr. Bouska was united in marriage with Frances Resabeck, of Auburn township, Fayette county, a young lady of many estimable qualities of mind and heart and popular among the large circle of friends with whom she is accustomed to associate. She has borne her husband children as follows: Anthony, a mail clerk on the Northwestern railroad with headquarters at Omaha, Nebraska; Mary Lucy; Martin, a mail carrier on the rural delivery route from Waucoma; Josephine and Frank, who have left the parental roof and are doing for themselves; those still members of the home circle are William, Christ, Julius and Edward, all intelligent and responding cheerfully to the efforts which their parents are putting forth for their improvement. On November 10, 1910, Joseph, the youngest of the family, died at the early

age of forty-five years. He was a very prosperous breeder in Poland China hogs and during the last few years was doing an enormous business in Duroc-Jersey hogs. The Bouskas are among the most popular and highly esteemed families of Fayette county, the home being a favorite stopping place for the young people of the neighborhood while the spirit of hospitality which reigns therein sweetens the welcome and delays the departure of the guests who are accustomed to share it.

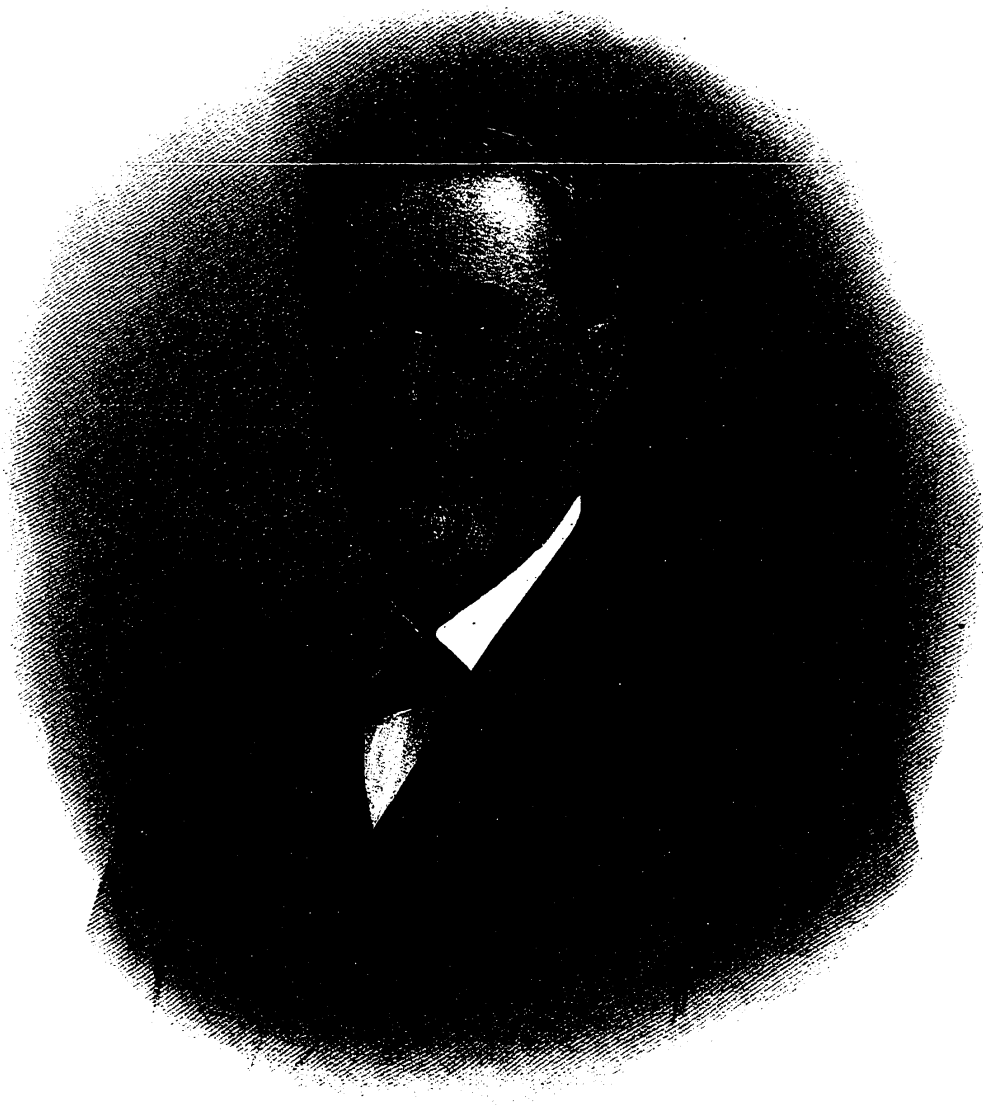
JUDGE ALFRED N. HOBSON.

Alfred Norman Hobson was born April 1, 1848, at Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, now a part of greater Pittsburg. He was the eldest child of Joseph and Elizabeth (Baker) Hobson, both now deceased. He came to Fayette county with his parents on May 4, 1855, upon their removal to this county, and, with the exception of brief absences from the county, has resided therein ever since. His father settled at Fayette, where he entered upon the practice of law. In 1858 he was elected county clerk and moved his family to West Union. After five consecutive terms as clerk, he was elected to a seat in the house of the thirteenth General Assembly, serving with ability during his term. At the close of it, he was appointed assessor of internal revenue, in which position he served until the office was abolished.

Joseph Hobson was a man of great force of character and commanding influence and enjoyed the respect and confidence of all who knew him. His wife was Elizabeth Baker, who was an ideal wife and mother, presiding over the home with dignity and tenderness, giving the best of care and counsel to her children.

It was under the influence of such a home that Alfred N. Hobson grew to manhood. In boyhood he attended the public schools of the village, afterwards the Upper Iowa University, and later for a brief period at the State University of Iowa. He chose law as his profession, and entered upon the study under the direction of his father and later in the office of L. L. Ainsworth. He was admitted to practice in the district court of the state on April 27, 1870, and in the supreme court of the state on April 2, 1873. After his admission to the bar he went to California with a view to locating there. He taught school one summer in the mountains in Sierra county, that state, and after an experience of a few months concluded to return to Iowa.

From April, 1871, to May, 1873, Mr. Hobson held a clerkship in the



A. M. Hobson

office of the United States assessor of internal revenue at Dubuque. During his residence in Dubuque he spent his leisure time in study and had access to many volumes from the public library. He considers the time thus spent among the most enjoyable and useful experiences in life. In his duties in this clerkship he was trained to the necessity for accuracy and promptness and gained much valuable knowledge of business, and made the acquaintance of a large number of the prominent men of Iowa.

After his return to West Union, in May, 1873, Mr. Hobson entered the law office of L. L. Ainsworth as a clerk and continued in that capacity until after the election of the latter to Congress. In February, 1875, a copartnership was formed which continued until Mr. Hobson was called to the bench at the beginning of 1895. During the last eighteen months Judge Hobson was engaged in practice, W. J. Ainsworth was also a member of the firm.

During the time he was engaged in practice Mr. Hobson devoted his energies to acquiring a thorough practical knowledge of the profession, and won recognition at the bar of the district as a thorough student of the law and well informed on all subjects necessary to successfully pursue the practice of the law, but was particularly recognized by the bar as a chancery lawyer, unsurpassed in northern Iowa. In 1894 there was a spontaneous movement in the district to elevate him to the bench, and the Republicans tendered him the nomination, which he accepted. He was elected and entered upon the duties of the position for which he was eminently qualified, on January 1, 1895. As a judge, he has been remarkably successful, not only in earning the esteem of the bar and litigants, but in the care and caution exercised in ruling on points of law, in his methods of expediting business in the court room, and in rendering decisions that have been affirmed in the higher judicial tribunals. His judicial district consists of the counties of Allamakee, Clayton, Winneshiek, Fayette, Howard and Chickasaw. Judge Hobson was re-nominated by acclamation in 1898, 1902, 1906 and 1910, and re-elected without opposition in the recent general election, and has always been re-elected either without opposition or with only nominal opposition.

In 1878 Judge Hobson was married to Martha K. Ingham, daughter of John B. and Catherine (Neeb) Ingham, of Allegheny City, Pennsylvania. They have had three children, Joseph Ingham, Ida Neeb, and Florence Louise. The latter died in her tenth year. Joseph is married to a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Howe, of Dover township, near West Union, and is one of the prosperous young business men at Emmetsburg, Iowa. Ida N. was graduated from the department of liberal arts of the State University of Iowa in June, 1909, and is at home.

Mrs. Hobson is a woman of intelligence and refinement, and, while devoted to her domestic duties, is imbued with the public spirit of the modern woman, and is active in club work, being a member of the Tourist Club, a well established literary club, and the Tuesday Art Club, which has for a number of years been an incentive to the study of art. In addition to her usual duties in connection with the church with which she is united, she has for many years been a teacher in the Sunday school and has seen a large number of young men and young women go out into life from her classes. Mrs. Hobson is also a favorite in the social circles of the community.

Judge Hobson is a member of the following, among other societies: Iowa State Bar Association; State Historical Society of Iowa; National Geographic Society of Washington, D. C.; West Union Lodge No. 69, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Unity Chapter No. 62, Royal Arch Masons, Elgin, Iowa; a charter member of Langridge Commandery No. 47, Knights Templar, West Union; a member of Zarephath Consistory No. 4, Davenport, Iowa, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasons, southern jurisdiction of the United States; is also a charter member of West Union Lodge No. 124, Knights of Pythias, West Union. Judge and Mrs. Hobson and their children are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

None of the able judges called to preside over the courts of the counties comprising the thirteenth judicial district has had a wider experience on the bench than has the subject of this sketch. None was better prepared for the position prior to elevation thereto. Now, in the prime of life, rich in the experience of years of faithful service, his life and health being spared, the future appears bright in its prospects for a continuance of this service during the term for which he has just been re-elected by the unanimous vote of the people.

WILLIE BRACE.

This enterprising farmer and respected citizen is a native of Stephenson county, Illinois, where his birth occurred on the 13th day of August, 1868. His father was Levi Brace and his mother Diana Fairchild, both natives of New York, but married in Illinois, to which state they were taken when young. In 1881 Levi Brace moved his family to Fayette county, Iowa, and purchased a farm in Eden township, adjoining the one now owned by the subject, and on this he spent the remainder of his life, dying in 1897, at the ripe old age of eighty-one years. His widow, who survives him, is still in

Eden township and has reached the age of eighty-one years, retaining to a marked degree the possession of her faculties, both physical and mental.

Levi and Diana Brace reared a family of nine children, all but one now living, their names being as follows: George M. F., Waucoma, Nettie, wife of Don Adams, of Armstrong, Iowa; Hattie, who married Mr. Christy, and lives in Seattle, Washington; David, of Portland, Oregon; Eva, now Mrs. Samuel Ferguson, of Nevada, Missouri; Luna, wife of Arthur Crowther, of Klondike, Oregon; Guy, a resident of Waterloo, this state, and Willie, whose name appears at the head of this article.

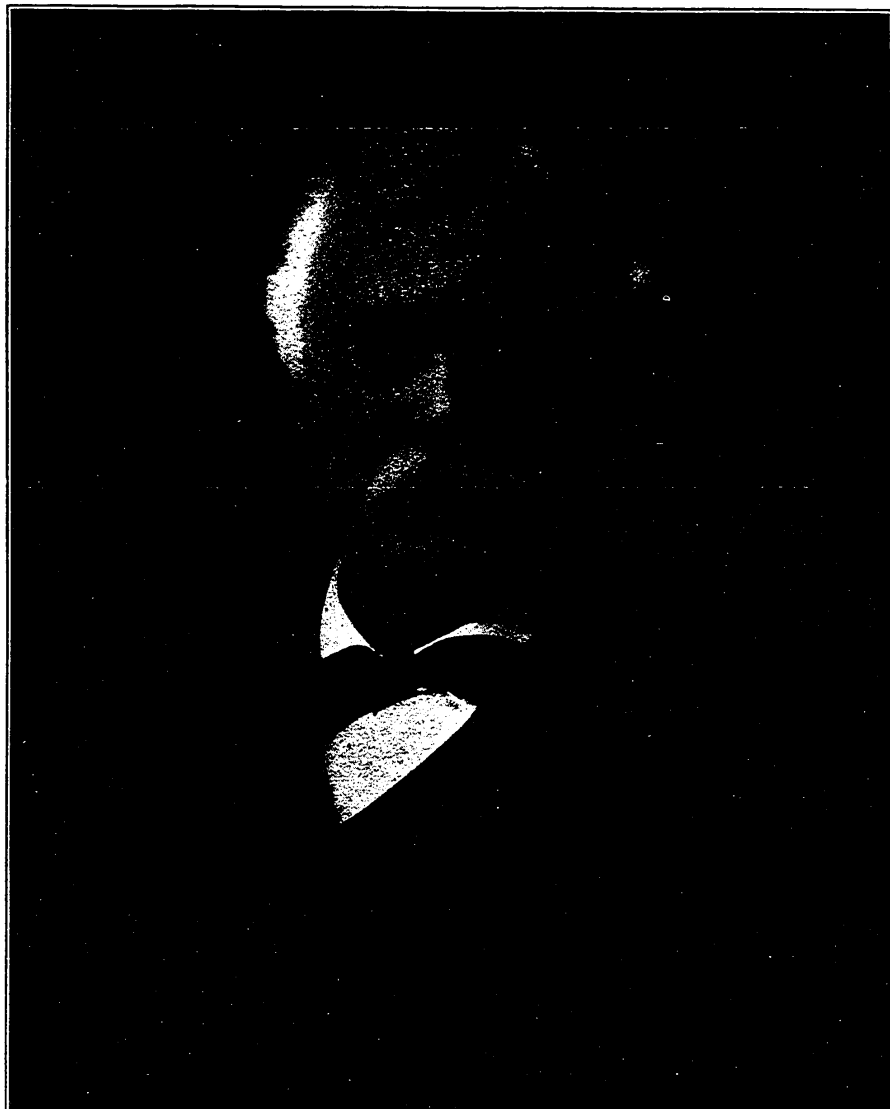
Willie Brace was a lad of thirteen when his parents came to Iowa and since that time his life has been very closely interwoven with material interests and general welfare of the township in which he now resides. He remained with his parents until twenty-six years old, when he, in partnership with his brother Guy, commenced clearing and developing land in Eden township, but after a short time he was obliged to return home to care for his father during the latter's old age and last illness. Sometime after his father's death he succeeded to eighty acres of the homestead and in 1895 took possession of the same, since which year he has erected substantial buildings, besides making a number of other improvements and now has a beautiful and valuable farm which in point of fertility and general productiveness is not excelled by any like area of land in the county.

Mr. Brace is enterprising in the full sense of the term and believes in the dignity of his vocation. As a farmer he is easily the peer of any man of his township similarly engaged, being progressive in his ideas and in favor of modern methods, which he early adopted and which with his industry, energy and general good management have contributed to the success which he has attained. For some time past he has devoted considerable attention to horticulture and the raising of small fruits and now has a small nursery of two acres in excellent condition which promises to become an important adjunct to his agricultural interests in the no distant future. Progressive and intelligent, he keeps his finger on the public pulse on all matters of general import, has firm and decided convictions, which he expresses fearlessly when occasions may demand. In his political allegiance he votes with the Republican party and his fraternal relations are represented by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Yeoman, in both of which orders he is an active and influential worker. Among his neighbors and friends he is held in much esteem, his good name standing above reproach and thus far no blameworthy act has attached to his career, his life being an open book in which no blurred or marred pages are to be found.

Mr. Brace was married on December 21, 1893, to Carrie E. Winter, daughter of Charles and Amelia (Fairchild) Winter, the mother and grandmother of the contracting parties being sisters, Mrs. Winter coming to Iowa from Missouri, though a native of New York state. Mrs. Brace was born in Moberly, Missouri, but has spent the greater part of her life in Fayette county, Iowa, in her girlhood and young womanhood having been among the most popular members of the social circle in which she moved. She was reared under religious influences and is now an honored member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Alpha and deeply interested in the good work of the same, as well as in other charitable and benevolent enterprises. Three children have come to brighten the home and gladden the domestic life of Mr. and Mrs. Brace, viz: Lloyd L., Lida I. and Donald M.

THOMAS L. HANSON.

The subject of this sketch, who is mayor of Oelwein, president of the First National Bank of that city, and a successful farmer, was born at Keigley, Yorkshire, England, and is a son of Thomas and Ellen (Smith) Hanson. Thomas Hanson was an early settler of Jefferson township, Fayette county, coming here in 1858. He was the son of Joseph and Shinoarn (Wood) Hanson and was born December 9, 1823, at Keigley. His parents also were natives of Yorkshire, the father born April 1, 1787, and the mother February 23, 1790. Thomas Hanson, the subject's father, was a stonemason in his younger days, after being a successful contractor and builder. On June 21, 1845, he married Ellen Smith, who was born in Yorkshire, the daughter of John and Jane Smith. Four children were born to them in England, namely: Thomas L., the subject; Isaac; Sarah A., who became the wife of J. W. Drayton; and Joseph. Three other children were born to these parents after their arrival in Fayette county, namely: John W.; Alfred, who is cashier of the First National Bank at Oelwein; Martha Alice. The Hanson family lived in Keighley, England, untill 1855, when, his father, a farmer, having died in 1854, Thomas Hanson moved his family to the homestead farm and there followed farming for two years. He then brought his family to the United States, locating in Iowa, where he purchased eight acres of land, located one mile northwest of what is now the prosperous town of Oelwein. The country at that time was wild and but sparsely settled and many kinds of wild game was to be found about them, and amid these con-



THOMAS L. HANSON.

ditions the Hanson boys were reared to manhood. After paying for his land, he was without means with which to buy a team and he was compelled to hire his first ten acres plowed, paying for it partly in cash and partly in work. The following spring he borrowed some money and bought a yoke of two-year-old steers, to which he hitched a home-made sled, which was his sole substitute for a wagon. However, with these primitive arrangements he managed to get through the year and after that was in easier financial circumstances. He was industrious and a good manager and met with splendid success in his operations, so that in time he became the owner of over six hundred acres of valuable land. He took an active interest in public affairs and served eight years as trustee of Jefferson township.

This brief recital shows the conditions under which Thomas L. Hanson was reared to manhood and which moulded his character. His mother, Ellen (Smith) Hanson, who had shared with her husband the hardships and vicissitudes of the pioneer life, lived to see her children grow to useful and respected manhood and womanhood. She died on February 6, 1884, and subsequently her husband married Eliza Mary Hanson, by whom was born one son, George L.

EDWARD EVERETT DAY.

Among the citizens of Oelwein, Fayette county, who have earned and retain the respect and confidence of the people generally, none stands higher than does the subject of this sketch. He is essentially a man of action, having for many years been energetic in the prosecution of his business affairs, in which he has met with a gratifying degree of success.

Edward E. Day is a native son of Iowa, having first seen the light of day in Andrew, Jackson county, on the 31st day of October, 1860, and is a son of J. B. and Emma Louisa (Hughson) Day. J. B. Day was a native of the state of Vermont, who came to Jackson county, Iowa, in about 1856. His wife was a daughter of Clement and ——— (Alden) Hughson. They were the parents of eight children, namely: Edward Everett, Katie, Belle, Rosetta, Maud and Mabel (twins), George and one that died in infancy. In 1861 the family moved from Jackson county to Fayette county, where, near Otsego, the father followed the pursuit of farming. About 1867 they moved to Winthrop, but three years later they returned to the farm at Otsego. Again, in 1873, they moved, going to Fayette for a year, and then again returned to the Otsego home.

During these transitory years, the subject of this sketch attended schools in the various localities of the family residence, and being ambitious and studious, he made such rapid advance in his studies that at the age of seventeen years he began teaching school, though not old enough to secure a regular teacher's license. He first taught a term of summer school two and a half miles southeast of Oelwein, after which he taught two winter terms, the first one being three miles northeast of Oelwein and the next four miles northwest of that city. The following winter he attended as a student Miss McMullen's select school at Oelwein, and a year later was engaged as a teacher in a school one and a half miles north of that place.

Returning then to the home farm, Mr. Day remained there a year, and was married and then took up agricultural affairs on his own account on a farm three and a half miles southeast of Oelwein, this being where the Otsego postoffice was formerly located. Two years later he located on a farm a mile farther southeast, where he remained eight years, meeting with splendid success the meanwhile. In 1893 Mr. Day bought a farm located two and three-quarters miles southeast of Oelwein, on which he resided until the spring of 1900, when he moved into the town of Oelwein, where he erected a handsome and attractive residence on the northeast corner of North Frederick and Third streets. His removal to this city was caused principally by the fact that he had accepted the position of secretary of the Oelwein Farmers' Creamery Company, which position he retained until 1904, performing the responsible duties of the position to the entire satisfaction of the stockholders. In addition to his original farm of two hundred and forty acres, Mr. Day has bought and sold several others, being now the owner of two others, one near Oelwein and the other one in Wisconsin, the latter consisting of five hundred and sixty acres of timber land.

On March 25, 1883, Mr. Day was united in marriage with Alice Smith, the daughter of Samwell and Hannah (Park) Smith. Mrs. Day and her parents were natives of Keighley, Yorkshire, England. The father came to the United States, locating near Oelwein, Fayette county, Iowa, in 1868, he being joined in 1870 by the other members of the family. In England Samwell Day was an expert machinist, but since locating in Fayette county he has followed the pursuit of agriculture exclusively and with a very gratifying degree of success. To Mr. and Mrs. Day have been born five children, namely: Everett Vernon, Mabel Alice, Shirley Louise, Inez Isabel and Gladys Hannah. Everett Vernon, after completing his elementary education in the public schools, graduated from the Upper Iowa University in 1909 and in the fall of the same year he became principal of the public schools at Kalona, Iowa.

Mabel and Shirley are attending college at Fayette and the younger children are students in the high school at Oelwein.

Politically, Mr. Day was formerly a Republican, but of recent years he has rendered a staunch allegiance to the Prohibition party, believing that the temperance question is the greatest issue now before the American people. He is a member of the Oelwein school board and takes a keen and intelligent interest in educational matters. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, belonging to the camp at Oelwein. Religiously, the family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Oelwein, of which they are earnest and liberal supporters, and during the past five years Mr. Day has rendered effective service as superintendent of the Sabbath school, in the operation of which he is deeply interested. Mr. Day has had a large part in the advancement of the best interests of the community in which he lives, his support being given unreservedly to all worthy movements affecting the material, educational, moral or social welfare of the people generally. His efforts have been characterized by intelligence, industry and wise economy and he is today numbered among the leading citizens of the community in which he resides.

K. K. KLEPPE, JR.

It is a fact recognized by all that the United States can boast of no better or more law-abiding class of citizens than the great number of Norwegians who have found homes within her borders. Though holding dear and sacred the beloved homeland, they are none the less devoted to the fair country of their adoption and should necessity require it would be willing to go forth in battle for the maintenance of its institutions. Among this highly respected class is the subject of this sketch, K. K. Kleppe, who is operating a splendid farm in Dover township.

Mr. Kleppe was born in Norway on September 21, 1851, the son of K. K. and Martha Kleppe, both also natives of Norway. The family came to America in 1857 and at once came to Fayette county, Iowa, locating in Dover township. Their first home was in a rude dug-out in the northern part of the township. This was their home for about a year, and during this time the father was employed at fifty cents a day wages. Their condition was certainly anything but encouraging, and was especially dismal and uncomfortable when, as a result of heavy rains and constant dampness, the bedding and personal

garments rotted. They then moved to where the subject of this sketch now lives. About two years later the father was enabled to buy eighty acres of land in that location, and subsequently added more land. He was energetic and applied himself assiduously to the task of clearing this land and rendering it fit for cultivation. He thus himself cleared practically all of the one hundred and eighty acres comprising the farm. He erected a full set of farm buildings and made many other permanent and substantial improvements. To him and his wife have been born seven children, five sons and two daughters.

Politically, Mr. Kleppe has always been a staunch Republican and has served as township treasurer and school trustee. His religious affiliation is with the Lutheran church and he materially assisted in the organization of the church here in an early day. Because of his belief that the members had a right to talk in church meetings, which was contrary to the belief of his church, he separated himself from it and joined another religious body where his belief was more in harmony.

K. K. Kleppe, Jr., was reared by his parents and he received a limited education in the public schools, he not being able to attend until he was sixteen years old. He remained with his parents until twenty-two years old, when he bought the eighty acres where he now lives and at once applied himself to its improvement and cultivation. He has erected attractive and well arranged buildings and has maintained the place at a high standard of efficiency and productivity. In addition to following a diversified system of farming, he gives some attention to the raising of Shorthorn cattle, and in the handling of livestock he has met with excellent success. He is thoroughly practical and systematic in his efforts and the success which has crowned his efforts has been richly earned.

His farm now comprises one hundred and sixty-two acres and is numbered among the best farms of the township.

At the age of about twenty-three years, Mr. Kleppe was united in marriage with Anna J. Peterson, and they have become the parents of nine children, namely: John, Christopher, Enoch (of Buffalo, South Dakota), Martha, Clara, Jacob (who is a student in Red Wing College), Elmer, Samuel and Evelyn. Of these, Clara is a resident of South Dakota, the others being still members of the home circle.

Politically, Mr. Kleppe is a Republican and has served six years as township trustee, having also served as road supervisor and has been school treasurer ever since he located where he now lives. Religiously, he is a Lutheran. He is a man of excellent personal qualities and takes a commendable

interest in local public affairs. Because of what he has accomplished and his genuine worth, he enjoys unbounded respect and confidence throughout the community where he lives.

HENRY HARRISON FOOT.

The family of this name, with its connections by marriage, in Fayette county, constitute an element of influence in the agricultural world. They enjoyed the benefits of a strong and honorable ancestry, of which they have proved themselves worthy in every respect. The Foots were of Eastern origin, but we hear of them in the West before the days of the great Rebellion. Ira Foot was born in Ashtabula, Ohio, but when he was a young man his parents migrated to Preston, Minnesota, and he came with them. About 1856 he appeared in Fayette county, where, in connection with another young man, he started a photograph gallery in West Union. He married Sarah, daughter of David and Fanny Thompson, of Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, who came to West Union while a girl in company with her parents. After marriage the Foots went to Dover township and lived there about one year, after which they removed to Minnesota, but did not remain long in that state. Returning to Dover township, Mr. Foot bought a farm of over one hundred acres which he cultivated until 1883 and then located in Hawkeye. He died there at the comparatively early age of fifty-four, his widow now being a resident of West Union and the wife of C. C. Bacon.

Henry Harrison Foot, son of the foregoing, was born in Dover township, Fayette county, Iowa, September 26, 1858. He is of patriotic descent on both sides, his father having four brothers and his mother one brother in the Union army during the Civil war. He began to make his own living when eighteen years old and since then has been busy in various ways and places. He did farm work in Iowa, Minnesota and Dakota, and finally reached the point where he wished to settle down. The first thought to this end was a wife and he selected Clara M., daughter of A. W. and Helen Strain Henderson, the ceremony being performed September 16, 1885. The Hendersons came from New York state to Wisconsin after the Civil war, but after a brief residence there concluded to cast their fortunes with Iowa. During the seventies they located in Fremont township, Fayette county, and were ever afterwards fixtures of that section. For five years after their marriage Mr. Foot lived south of Hawkeye. In 1890 he purchased a farm of two hundred and four acres

in sections 1 and 2 in Bethel township, and part across in Eden township, and on this place he has ever since made his home. Mr. and Mrs. Foot have had nine children: Blanch Maude, Melva Belle, Fern, Harrison Henry, Lulu Ruth, Alfred James, Hazel Lucille and Clara Amy. Melvin, twin brother of Melva Belle, died when two months old. Mr. Foot is a member of the Odd Fellows and takes an interest in all matters of local progress. In a quiet way he aims to be a good farmer, a good neighbor and a reliable citizen. He stands well in the community and is regarded as a man of integrity. In his farming operations he belongs to the class of sturdy-going men who have done so much to place Iowa at the forefront of agricultural states. He followed diversified farming, which includes all the cereal crops of the section and as much livestock as is justified by his facilities. He has met with success in his operations and this success is chiefly due to his own industry, economy and good management. He has risen from a common farm hand, without means or backing, to become one of the land owners of the county and has taught the rising generation the real way to overcome the difficulties of life. His farm is in good shape with suitable appliances and he does not allow slipshod methods around the place.

WILLIAM MILLER.

This esteemed and well known citizen is a native of Wayne county, Ohio, and dates his birth from November 20, 1846. Henry Miller, his father, a Pennsylvanian by birth, moved to Ohio about the year 1836 and spent the remainder of his life in the latter state, rearing his family in Wayne county and dying there a number of years ago. He served in the Mexican war.

The early experience of William Miller was attended by no event worthy of record, his childhood and youth having been spent under the parental roof, varied by attendance during the winter seasons at the district school near his home. At the age of sixteen years he started out to make his own way in life, and after working for one year on a farm in Wisconsin went to Iowa where he spent the ten years ensuing. While in Wisconsin he cut logs in the winter time for so much per thousand feet and during the summer months was employed in various capacities in the mills, in this way becoming familiar with the lumber interests and developing great aptitude in all parts of the business. At the expiration of the period indicated he returned to his Ohio home, but after spending a year there came to Iowa and

purchased, in 1873, one hundred and sixty acres of land in Chickasaw county near the Fayette county line, to which he removed his family three years later.

Addressing himself to the task of improving his land, it was not long until Mr. Miller had a goodly number of acres under cultivation and in due time his labors were rewarded with one of the best improved farms in the community. He spared neither pains nor expense in putting up good buildings and providing for the comfort of those dependent upon him and during the course of the next twenty years he not only increased his farm but made substantial progress as an agriculturist and stock raiser, at one time owning considerably in excess of one thousand head of cattle and hogs, which he disposed of at liberal prices. His land, which lies about six miles from Waucoma, with Fredericksburg as the nearest town, is admirably adapted to general farming and pasturage and while he occupied it his success was gratifying. By industry and judicious management he succeeded during the time indicated in amassing a handsome competence, sufficient in fact to enable him to retire from the active duties of the farm and spend the remainder of his life at less strenuous labor. With this object in view, also with a desire to provide his children with better educational advantages, Mr. Miller, in 1896, rented his place and moved to the pleasant and attractive home a short distance east of Waucoma, where he now resides.

For two years following his retirement from the farm, Mr. Miller was engaged in general merchandising at Waucoma as a member of the firm of Miller & Gressler, but at the end of that time disposed of his interest in the business and has since been enjoying the fruits of his industry in a life of ease and quietude. For many years he has kept abreast of the times on all matters of public interest and as a Democrat has been active in local politics, attending the various nominating conventions and using his influence in the making of platforms and the formulating of policies. Although a zealous worker for his party, he has never aspired to public position, but his influence is always sought by those who seek office at the hands of their fellow citizens or ask favors as a reward for partisan service. Fraternally, he is an Odd Fellow, having passed all the chairs in the subordinate lodge to which he belongs, and he also holds an important office in the encampment besides being an active and influential member of the canton. In religion he subscribes to the plain and simple teachings of the Christian church and with his wife is a zealous member of that body.

Mr. Miller was married at Fredericksburg, Iowa, March 18, 1879, to Flora Follett, whose parents, Simeon A. and Hannah (Wood) Follett, were natives of Ohio and New York respectively, and who came to Iowa about the

year 1849 or '50, their respective families locating near Elkader, in Clayton county. The parents of Mrs. Follett were among the earliest pioneers of the section of country in which they settled and are remembered as a very estimable old couple, whose lives were as benedictions to their neighbors and friends. Simeon Follett and Hannah Wood were married shortly after their arrival in Clayton county and later settled at Pleasant Valley, at which place and Elgin he worked for many years at the carpenter's trade. When their daughter was four years old they moved to Clermont and purchased the old brick hotel at that place, which they operated four years and then bought a farm one mile west of the town, where they lived until 1876, when they changed their residence to Lawler. Subsequently Mr. Follett located at the town of Alpha, where he died after a residence of two years, his death, in 1888, resulting from an injury received by a team of horses becoming unmanageable and running away. Mrs. Follett survived her husband about seventeen years, living the meanwhile at Waucoma, where her death occurred in 1905.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller's family consists of one son and two daughters, namely: Charles, engaged in telegraphic construction in Texas and South Dakota; Nellie, who married Oren King, of Waucoma, and had one child, Dorothy, who died October 11, 1910; and Lennis, now Mrs. Julian Peverill of Waterloo, this state; they have one child, Juliet.

MILTON W. GRIMES.

The gentleman whose life story is herewith briefly set forth is a conspicuous example of one who has lived to good purpose and achieved a definite degree of success in the special sphere to which his talents and energies have been devoted. Milton W. Grimes, one of the substantial and highly honored citizens of Fayette county, has, through many decades, carried on farming, gradually improving his valuable place, and while he has prospered in this, he has also found ample opportunity to assist in the material development of the county and his co-operation has been of value to the general good. Especially has this been true of Union township, which has long been honored by his citizenship. He is a native of the good old Hoosier state, his birth having occurred in Ripley county, Indiana, August 8, 1848. He is a descendant of an excellent Irish family. The first representative of the family, James Grimes, who was born in Ireland, came to America, penetrated the

wilderness to Kentucky and was a pioneer in that state, becoming well known during the days of its early history. John, the subject's grandfather, was born in Kentucky, married Mary McDonald, a relative of Joseph McDonald, of Indiana, and John Grimes and wife and one child moved to the last named state in 1817, locating in the woods, on a farm which Mr. Grimes developed, having spent his life as a farmer of the early Indiana days. He had the martial spirit, and served during the war of 1812 against the Indians in Kentucky. His death occurred on the old home place in 1877, at the advanced age of eighty years, which was the age of his wife when she joined him in the silent land three years later. He was a worker in the Democratic party and was a member of the Baptist church. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, one of whom, James, was the father of Milton W., of this review. He was born on the old homestead in Indiana, April 28, 1824, and he grew to maturity on the home place, where he learned farming, and, like most children of pioneers in that early day, his educational advantages were limited. He married Mary Hamilton in 1847. She was a native of Indiana, and in their native state they began their married life on a heavily timbered farm. They worked hard, economized and developed a fine farm and a good home. Seven children were born to them, named as follows: Milton W., of this review; George W., who moved to Union township, this county, where he purchased a farm; Theodore and Mary Elizabeth, who both died in Indiana; Emma married Frank Dunlap and is living near the old home farm; Gillett Bonner, a farmer of Union township, and Martha Ann, of Fayette county, Iowa. The father of these children was a devoted member of the Methodist church from early manhood throughout his career. Politically, he was a Democrat, and he was a highly respected citizen. His death occurred in Indiana, February 14, 1902, and in 1907 his widow moved to Iowa, where she remained until her death, September 23, 1908.

Milton W. Grimes, of this review, has devoted his life chiefly to general agricultural pursuits and he has been very successful, and is now interested in the banking business. He began working on the home farm when but a boy and he attended the neighboring schools during the winter months, acquiring a good education, notwithstanding his somewhat limited advantages, for he applied himself very carefully to his text books. He assisted in the hard task of clearing and improving four different farms, and he did not leave the old homestead to begin life for himself until he was twenty-three years old.

Mr. Grimes married Rebecca Green on March 16, 1871. She was born in Indiana December 24, 1848, and she was the representative of a fine old

pioneer family. To this union ten children were born, of which number one died in early life; they are Lindsay A., who is farming on the home place; he married Carrie Jacobs, September 2, 1896, and she died November 3, 1899, and he was again married, his last wife being Emma Wegmiller, whom he espoused on February 28, 1906, and the last union resulted in the birth of one child, Thelma Opal, born October 15, 1908. James Grimes was married to Clara Jacobs, a sister of Carrie, October 20, 1907, and they have the following children: Paul and Laura, both deceased; Forest, Carol, Ruthe E. and Howard E. He is a carpenter and resides at Roundup, Montana. Lizzie Grimes was married to E. H. Gillett, April 3, 1896, and they have these children: Stanley A., Edith Louise, Francis L., now deceased. They reside in West Union, Iowa, where he is pastor of the Baptist church. Edwin B. Grimes was married to Eliza R. Thompson, August 30, 1899, and they have the following children: Eva K., born July 6, 1900, died April 11, 1902; Riley, born November 1, 1901; Carrie Edith, born May 30, 1903, died April 30, 1904; Wilma M., born August 10, 1905; Lillian Irene, born July 4, 1908. Edwin B. Grimes is a farmer in Union township, this county. Katie Rebecca Grimes was married to Herman Rolfs, February 20, 1907, and they have one son, born May 2, 1909, named Archie. Mr. Rolfs is a farmer near Clermont, this county. Philmer Milton Grimes is still on the home place. Emma Frances is also a member of the home circle. Archie B., born February 15, 1892, is living at home, as is also George D., who was born on May 10, 1895. George, the fifth child born to Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Grimes, died when two years old, before the family moved from Indiana to Iowa.

After his marriage Mr. Grimes purchased a farm of one hundred and seven acres, which he successfully operated for six years, when, on account of failing health, he sold out and opened a drug store and general store, in Shelby township, of his native county, and for years he carried on a successful mercantile business; however, he finally returned to agricultural pursuits, which has been his chief life work. His uncle, J. B. Green, died in Fayette county, Iowa, and left him a valuable estate, consequently he came here in 1885 and took charge of the farm of five hundred acres, located in section 22, Union township, and from that time to the present this has been regarded as one of the choicest and most valuable farms in this township. Mr. Green was a very early settler of West Union, now Union township, and he earned the nucleus to a handsome fortune by operating threshing machines, which he owned. All old settlers remember "3 and 6," Jim Green, the thresher. He was a bachelor of rather eccentric character, quiet and unassuming, strictly honest and upright in his dealings and liberal with his friends. He lived

on his farm until his death. The farm in which he took such a pride has been carefully kept by Mr. Grimes, who has kept it well improved and the grounds about the old and picturesque dwelling very tasty. Mr. Grimes has been a good manager and has laid by an ample competence through careful business transactions and the exercise of sound judgment in the management of his place. He has had his fine residence remodeled and has erected a large and substantial barn, octagonal in shape, each side being twenty-four feet, thus making it one hundred and ninety-two feet around the building. Being a lover of good stock and an excellent judge of all kinds of live-stock, Mr. Grimes has devoted considerable attention to this industry with excellent results.

Politically, Mr. Grimes is a Democrat and has served for some time upon the local school board, and he and his wife are members of the Baptist church of West Union. He is a liberal contributor to the church and has not been sparing either of his time or means in furthering any measure which he deems of interest to the general public. Personally, he is affable, genial, kind and popular with the people of this community. By a life consistent in motive and because of his many fine qualities he has earned the sincere regard of all who know him, and his success and past usefulness bespeak for him continued service and advancement in the higher sphere of endeavor in the social, civic and industrial world.

REV. PHILIP ACKERMANN.

A man who has accomplished a great amount of good among his fellows, won their praise and good will and reared a large family in comfort and respectability is the Rev. Philip Ackermann, of Hawkeye, Fayette county, a man who is deserving of conspicuous mention in the history of his locality, and yet he is unassuming and unostentatious, desiring the approval of his Master and his own conscience rather than the plaudits of men. Such a life should be emulated by the younger generation, for it is free from selfishness, paltriness and false show and one fraught with incalculable good to mankind. He is an American by adoption only, having been born in Berfelden, grand duchy of Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, on September 5, 1850, and is the son of Frederick and Barbara Marguerite Ackermann. The father was a physician, first practicing with great success in the vicinity where his son, Rev. Philip Ackermann, was born; he later moved to Reichelsheim,

Germany, and finally he retired to the city of Bensheim, where both he and his good wife passed to their reward in the great beyond.

Rev. Philip Ackermann studied at Bensheim and Darmstadt, making an excellent record in the college there; later he studied at Giessen at the university; then at the Preachers' Seminary at Friedberg. In all of these institutions he applied himself very closely to his studies and became highly educated. He came to America in 1874 and located in Wisconsin.

Reverend Ackermann was ordained to the ministry at Buffalo, New York, and his first congregation was at Kirchhain, Ozaukee county, Wisconsin, where he remained three years, then moved to Frazier, Macomb county, Michigan, and remained there three years. He then spent fourteen years at Milford, Iroquois county, Illinois, after which he spent eight years at Hull, Sioux county, Iowa. He then moved to Welcome, Martin county, Minnesota, filling his pastorate there for three years. It was in 1903 that he moved to Hawkeye, Fayette county, Iowa, where he has since remained. Wherever his lot has been cast he has done very praiseworthy work, greatly strengthening the congregation and leaving a record behind of which anyone should be proud, for he is a good organizer, careful to look after all the details of his charge, a forceful, earnest and eloquent advocate of the doctrine of the Messiah.

Reverend Ackermann was married in 1875 to Anna Schroeder, at Kirchhain, Wisconsin. She has proved to be a very helpful help-meet, interested in the work of her husband and all worthy causes. This union resulted in the birth of the following children: Johanna, Hadwig, Robert, Gotthold, Karl and Lydia.

Reverend Ackermann was married a second time, his last wife being Anna Hauschild, whom he espoused in 1890; she is an excellent woman and the daughter of a highly respected family. The following children have been born to this second union: Frieda, Marie, Friedrich, Paula and Otto.

MARTIN G. FELS.

The life of Martin G. Fels, of Auburn township, Fayette county, has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance and the notably systematic methods he has followed have not only won him financial success but also the confidence and respect of all with whom he has come into contact. He was born in Dubuque, Iowa, February 1, 1859, and was educated in the



MARTIN G. FELS.



MRS. ADDIE FELS.

public schools of Auburn, Fayette county. He is the son of Gustave and Henrietta (Swantes) Fels, the father born near Cologne, on the Lower Rhine, Germany, February 8, 1817, and the mother was born in Pomeria, Germany, June 21, 1827, the daughter of Johann and Charlotte Swantes. Mr. Swantes left Germany with his family about 1857 and came to America, locating at Dubuque, Iowa. Gustave Fels came to America with his brother, Frederick, about 1848, and bought land within three miles of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where they lived two years, when, losing their land, they moved to Dubuque, Iowa. They were cabinetmakers by trade, and Gustave Fels owned the first turning lathe in Dubuque, and he made all the wagon hubs used there at that time, also turned windlasses for the lead mines around Dubuque, owning an interest in the lead mines there at one time himself, selling out his interest before they failed. He made the first baby carriage ever made in Dubuque and sold it to a banker for twenty-five dollars. He manufactured buggy bodies for a number of years, also made coffins and conducted an undertaking establishment. He owned a one-horse hearse, supposed to be the first in Dubuque. His brother, Frederick Fels, was a partner in the business for a short time, then bought a farm near Dubuque, where he lived until his death, in 1870. Gustave Fels sold out his business in Dubuque in 1865 and moved to Auburn, Fayette county, where he continued working as a cabinet-maker until about 1870 or 1875, when he took up farming, having bought land upon moving to the county, owning about forty acres. He and his family were members of the Lutheran church. About 1858 he and Henrietta Swantes were married in Dubuque, and they became the parents of five children, Martin G., of this review, being the eldest; three sons died young; one daughter, the youngest of the family, is Mrs. Anna Sutorins, wife of Carl Sutorins, and lives in San Antonio, Texas. The death of Gustave Fels occurred on July 6, 1892, and his widow makes her home with the subject.

Martin G. Fels remained with his parents until the death of his father, when he bought the farm of fifty-two acres, twenty acres in section 25 and thirty-two in section 35. To this he has added about three hundred and twenty-five acres, in sections 15, 34 and 35, Auburn township. After his father's death he built a modern, two-story dwelling on his land in section 35, and everything about his place is up to date, showing thrift and prosperity. He has established here one of the best water systems in the county, taking the water from a spring located about four hundred feet from the house on a hill-side, about sixty feet higher than the house; he has piped the water below the frost line in the ground, into the cellar, which is there brought

into contact with an automatic water-lift or pump, the pressure from the "lift" by the spring water forcing the soft water from two cisterns throughout the entire house, supplying kitchen, bath room, etc., with hot and cold water, also soft and cold spring water. The barns, milk-house, hog yards, etc., are also furnished with running spring water, also a tank is supplied and running water is at the road side for the benefit of the public. The entire system of this splendid water plant works automatically, and is without an equal on any farm in this or adjoining counties. The house is lighted with gasoline gas throughout. Mr. Fels also owns "Falling Spring Fork," a popular picnic resort. He keeps more horses on his place than any farmer in the township, and, being a good judge of horses, knows well how to properly care for them, usually having twenty-eight or thirty head of fine ones, which, when he desires to sell, always find a ready market. He carries on general farming and stock raising in a very successful and satisfactory manner.

Politically, Mr. Fels is a Republican, and is influential in his party, having held the office of chairman of the township committee for twenty or thirty years, and has been township clerk for two years. He has been treasurer of the independent school district for the past fifteen years, and he was a director of the Fayette Agricultural Society for eight years. In all these positions of trust he has performed his duties in a manner to elicit the approval of all concerned and with much credit to himself. He is a member of the German Lutheran church. He has been very successful in all his business affairs and his home is one of the most attractive and beautifully located in the county, lacking nothing in the way of modern conveniences, being on a par with city homes, with the exception of electricity. But he is a man of progressive ideas, energetic, keeping abreast of the times in every respect. The falling spring mentioned above is one of nature's greatest wonders in this state, a spring of pure cold water gushing over a solid rock, falling about fifteen or twenty feet into a pool or natural basin, a miniature Niagara. The McCreary cave is another natural wonder of the park, being a natural cavern in a solid rock, eight to ten feet high and twenty feet wide and over one hundred feet in depth, where it becomes narrower as it descends, continuing under the hill for another fifty feet. The cave is perfectly dry and at the side of the mouth of the cave there gushes a stream of cold sparkling water, called the Spring of the Cave. Another natural wonder is the "Rocky run," a sort of canyon in an immense rock about four hundred feet long, while the walls rise perpendicularly on both sides to a height of about thirty to forty feet, and

the space between the walls is about seventy-five to one hundred feet wide. These attractions of nature are all in a park, covering less than forty acres. Besides, there are numerous stately trees, everything as nature formed it.

On November 26, 1884, Mr. Fels married Addie Soward, who was born in Bethel township, Fayette county, February 18, 1861, the daughter of Stewart and Mary (Umbarger) Soward, natives of Ohio, the former born in 1834 and died in December, 1909. He was a veteran of the Civil war, and was a pioneer settler of Bethel township, having established his home there in the early fifties. After serving throughout the war in an Iowa cavalry regiment, he returned home and soon afterwards moved to Kansas, later settled in Missouri, where his death occurred. Mrs. Soward died about 1863 or 1864, when about thirty-two years old. She was the mother of three children, of whom Mrs. Fels was the second in order of birth.

To Mr. and Mrs. Fels six children have been born, three of whom are living, Carl H., born February 4, 1891; Ray S., born April 10, 1894; Vergie E., born April 12, 1901.

ALBERT B. BLUNT.

The record of Albert B. Blunt, the well known and popular county treasurer of Fayette county, is that of a man who, by his own unaided efforts, has worked his way from a modest beginning to a position of influence and comparative affluence in his community. His life has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance, and the systematic and honorable methods he has followed have won for him the unbounded confidence of his fellow citizens. He has always sought to promote the interests of his county, having the same at heart. He is a native of Westfield township, Fayette county, his birth having occurred on June 7, 1861, and he is the son of Dr. Harrison Blunt, a native of Ohio, but an early settler of this county; he is now living at Geneseo, Illinois. He married Mary Ann Butler, a daughter of Harrison Butler, a pioneer family. Mrs. Blunt is now deceased. Their family consisted of six children, four sons and two daughters, all living, namely: Jennie, now Mrs. Pillsbury, of Milford, Iowa; Albert B.; Clara is the wife of C. T. Hanna, of Carpenter, South Dakota; William H., of Spokane, Washington, where he is connected with the Creamery Supply Company; George E., of Goldfield, Colorado; J. L., who resides in Charles City, Iowa.

Albert B. Blunt was educated in the public schools of his native county and in the Oelwein city schools. He began his life work as a farmer, and he

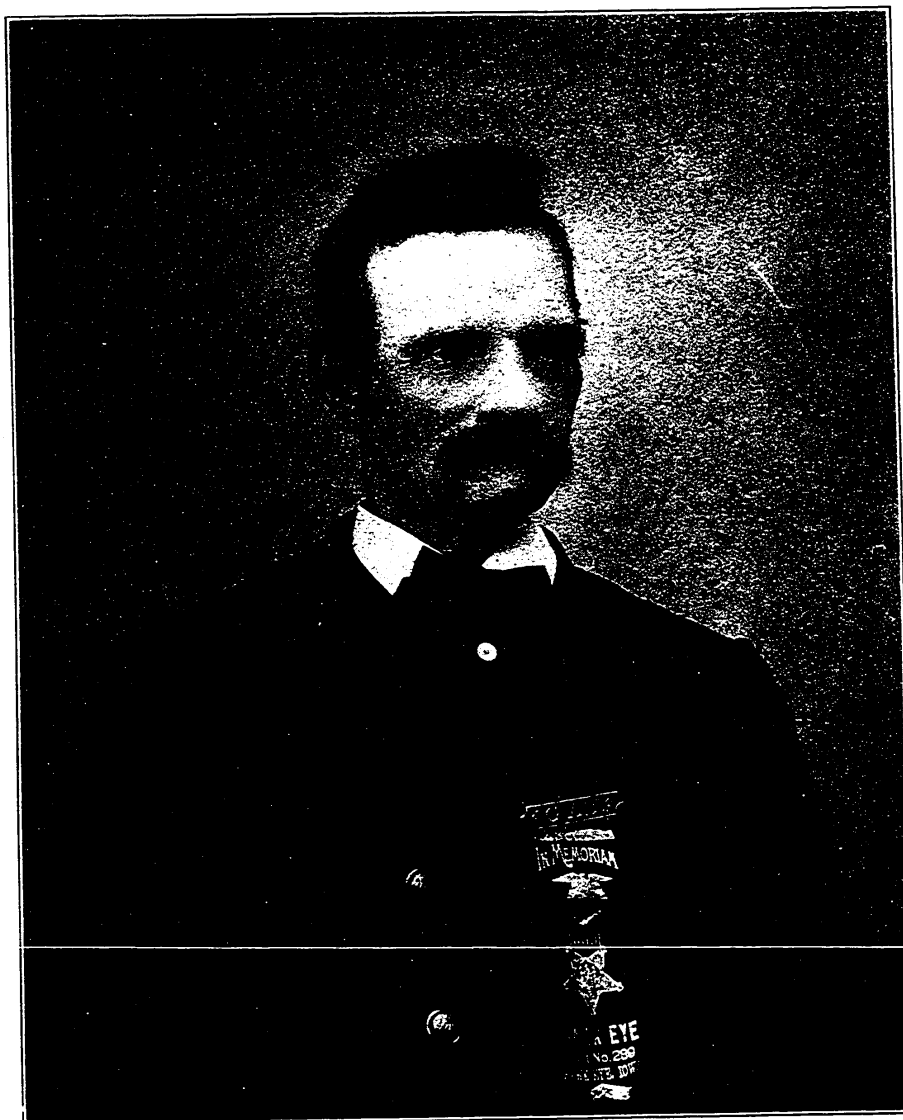
engaged in the grain and produce business at Oelwein and other points for about twenty years. He very ably served as deputy postmaster at Oelwein from 1893 to 1897, and also city recorder during the early nineties, and member of the school board from 1899 to 1902, and elected president three times during his incumbency of that office. In that city he was manager of a lumber business in 1903, and in January, 1904, he was appointed deputy sheriff and served three years in that capacity, during which time he was nominated by the Democratic party and elected at the general election in 1906, as county treasurer, taking possession of that office January 1, 1907, and he made such a splendid record that he was re-elected in 1908. From the first Thomas Loftus has been his efficient deputy.

Mr. Blunt was married August 30, 1884, to Fanny Sadler, of Hazleton, Buchanan county, and a daughter of Wallas Sadler, a farmer at Hazleton. Three children have been born to this union: Bessie; Grover A., teaching in public schools at LeMars, Iowa, who married Helen Schmuhl; and Miles. The daughter is now the wife of W. S. Wiley, a contractor, carpenter and builder at Livingston, Montana, and they have two children, Phyllis and Walter.

Mr. Blunt has always taken an active interest in local political affairs and is a recognized leader in Democratic affairs. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, subordinate lodge and encampment. He has passed the official stations in all, and since 1896 has been a member of the grand lodge of Iowa, and represented the lodges of his county five years in the grand lodge. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias, and is past chancellor of the same, and was a member of the grand lodge in 1893. He also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. Mrs. Blunt is a Presbyterian and is a representative of a very excellent old family, the Sadlers having come from Ohio to Wisconsin in an early day, thence to Buchanan county, Iowa.

D. W. WILBUR.

Back to the Revolutionary days is traced the Wilbur family and from that remote period to this the several members of the same have so comported themselves as to be of great service to their fellow men wherever they have lived. A very creditable representative of the family is D. W. Wilbur, of Hawkeye, Fayette county, who was born in Madison county, New York, at the town of Eaton, August 24, 1840, the son of Daniel and Polly (Buck).



D. W. WILBUR.

Wilbur, both born in that part of New York state. The paternal grandfather, whose name was probably Ezry Wilbur, was a soldier in the patriot army during our struggle for independence. The maternal grandfather, John Buck, was born in Pennsylvania, but he spent the major portion of his life in New York. Daniel Wilbur, the father, was reared in New York, from which state he came to Wisconsin and located in Walworth county, where he bought twenty-five acres of land at two and one-half dollars per acre and on this he reared his family and lived the balance of his life. His sons managed the farm while he followed his trade of carpenter. He eventually became the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land. He was a Whig and later a Republican and was active in the party. He reared nine children.

D. W. Wilbur was educated in Wisconsin and he farmed until the war broke out, having lived in Missouri for a year and a half before the opening of hostilities. He returned to Wisconsin in 1861 and on September 16th of that year enlisted in the Seventh Wisconsin Light Artillery, and he very faithfully served until he was disabled, on account of which he was discharged in 1862. But he re-enlisted in Company A, Fourth Wisconsin Cavalry, in 1863, and served with credit in this command until August 9, 1865, when he was injured in a charge near Liberty, Louisiana; he remained and did light duty until the following April and then returned to Wisconsin on furlough and was discharged on August 9, 1865. Mr. Wilbur had four brothers, three of whom were also soldiers in the Union army: Philander was killed in a charge at Fort Blakely; the other two, J. F. and C. H., survived, J. F. now making his home in the state of Washington.

On September 6, 1865, Mr. Wilbur started for Iowa with his brother-in-law, and in that month he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Fayette county, south of the present place, and he still owns it. Mr. Wilbur lived on the first land he purchased here until 1896, placing all the improvements on the same. In 1887 he bought one hundred and sixty acres, which is now a part of Hawkeye. He has been a general farmer, stock and grain raiser, and he followed grain buying for years. In 1896 he moved to the place where he now lives, having built a splendid residence on the same in 1895. He has in all three hundred and ten acres here. He had nine hundred acres in Fayette county at one time, three hundred and twenty acres in Sanborn and Hand counties, South Dakota, and one hundred and sixty acres in Texas. He raised grain extensively on his Dakota land and, as already intimated, during his most active career he was an extensive grain dealer and stock man, and became well-to-do, all through his own judicious management and persistent efforts.

Mr. Wilbur was married on January 1, 1868, thus starting the new year right, having espoused Susan Matthews, and this union resulted in the birth of the following children: William, deceased; John lives in Hawkeye; Mary lives at Chamberlain, South Dakota; Wallace lives in Idaho. The mother of these children died in 1902, and on December 10, 1908, Mr. Wilbur was married to Emma Peterson.

The subject is a Republican in politics and he very ably served as township assessor for ten years, and was treasurer of the school board of Windsor township for sixteen years. He takes considerable interest in lodge affairs, belonging to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; he is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He is highly respected by all who know him, for his life has been one of honesty and good deeds to his neighbors. He is a well informed man and is a good conversationalist, especially when recalling reminiscences of the early days.

MELCHIOR LUCHSINGER.

Among the sturdy and progressive Swiss element who have done so much for the general development of Fayette county and at the same time have bettered their condition, now owning nice, substantial homes and valuable landed estates, is Melchior Luchsinger, of Pleasant Valley township, who was born in the canton of Glaris, Switzerland, April 9, 1858. He is the son of J. P. and Barbara (Tschudi) Luchsinger, people of high standing in their native community in Switzerland. Their son Melchior received a good education in the schools of his native country, having attended two years in a school that would in America be termed a high school, and since coming here he has greatly broadened his early education by general reading and contact with his fellows. After leaving school he worked for three years in the emigration office. Then, in 1875, at the age of seventeen years, he came to America, first locating in Ohio, later removing to Iowa, then to Wisconsin. In 1880 his father and sister came to America, arriving here in the springtime, and in the fall of that year J. P. Luchsinger, the father, returned to Switzerland and brought his wife and his other daughter to the United States. He then purchased a valuable farm of two hundred and thirty acres, about one and one-half miles south of Elgin, where his son, Melchior, of this review, now resides, this place having become the permanent home of the family and here they prospered, developed one of the best farms in the township and in due

course of time had a pleasant home. The father died here some years ago, after a life of honor and usefulness, but his widow survives, living on the old home place, making four generations in the same house.

Melchior Luchsinger has lived here ever since the place was purchased, and he carries on dairying and general farming very successfully. In 1895 he was one of the organizers of the Farmers' Dairy Company of Elgin, which company purchased the holdings of the Union Creamery Company, at which time Mr. Luchsinger became director, remaining as such for a period of three years, then was made secretary, which office he has since held and the large success of the undertaking is due in no small measure to his able management of its affairs. The firm is well known throughout this locality and an extensive trade is carried on throughout the year.

Mr. Luchsinger was married in 1880 to Esther A. Miller, daughter of John F. Miller, Sr., a prominent pioneer citizen of Pleasant Valley township, where Mrs. Luchsinger was reared and educated. To Mr. and Mrs. Luchsinger the following children have been born: Peter married Laura Maurer and he is farming on the home place; Mary and John are both living at home.

Members of this family belong to the Baptist church at Elgin and they are liberal supporters of the same. Politically, Mr. Luchsinger is independent, preferring to cast his vote for the man whom he deems best qualified for the office sought rather than for the party. He has served very ably and acceptably as clerk of Pleasant Valley township, also as secretary of the township schools.

ALMON DAVIS.

The subject of this sketch, who is a well known dealer in hardware and agricultural implements, also proprietor of the largest wagon, carriage and general repair establishment at Alpha, is a native of Rock county, Wisconsin, where he was born July 12, 1851. When six years old he was brought to Fayette county, Iowa, by his parents and here grew to maturity, spending the summer seasons at various kinds of labor and the winter months in the pines of Wisconsin, the meanwhile, as opportunities afforded, attending the public schools, until acquiring a fair knowledge of the branches constituting the prescribed course of study. When a young man he turned his attention to carpentry and after becoming a proficient workman found remunerative employment at the trade, which he followed with success and financial profit until 1894. While thus engaged he built a number of private residences in

various parts of the country, also several church edifices and other structures, and in the year 1908 erected the large two-story brick business block, twenty-five by fifty feet in area, which he now owns and occupies, having been engaged in his present line of trade since 1894.

Mr. Davis carries large and complete lines of hardware, handles all kinds of agricultural implements and machinery and by strict attention to business and honorable methods has built up an extensive patronage which from the beginning has grown steadily in magnitude and importance. In his shop he is prepared to do with neatness and dispatch all kinds of repairing on wagons, carriages and other vehicles, also in various other lines and his success in this establishment is in keeping with that of his mercantile trade, the two yielding him a handsome income, making him one of the leading business men of the town. In addition to the large and carefully selected stock referred to he also deals quite extensively in gasoline engines, his patronage in this line being larger than that of any man in Alpha similarly engaged.

Mr. Davis is a public spirited man in all the term implies, although he has never sought office nor had any ambition to distinguish himself as a politician or leader. He served several years as justice of the peace and acquitted himself with ability and credit in that position, his rulings having always been fair and impartial and his decisions just and satisfactory to litigants. He cast his first Presidential vote for U. S. Grant (second term), since which time he has been somewhat independent in political affairs, although he supported President Roosevelt in his campaign and doubtless would do so again should the opportunity present itself. Fraternally, he stands high in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being a zealous worker in the subordinate lodge and encampment and is also a member of the Masonic order, belonging to the lodge at Waucoma, in which, as well as in the former organization, he has been honored with important offices from time to time.

On December 31, 1877, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Davis and Mattie Savage, of Ohio, daughter of Reuben P. Savage, of that state, a lady of intelligence and culture and in every respect suited to be the companion and help-meet of her energetic and wide-awake husband. Mrs. Davis came to Fayette county to live with her sister, Mrs. Frank Talcott, of Maynard, and it was in Illyria township that she first met the gentleman with whom her life and fortunes have since been linked. Two children have blessed their union, the older of whom, Richard D., is his father's business partner and manager of the repair department. He married Tena Stone, daughter of Walter Stone, of Eden township, the union being without issue.

Fleeta E., the second in order of birth, was educated in the public schools of Waucoma and in a normal school and for two years was one of the popular teachers of Fayette county. She is still prosecuting her studies and has before her a promising future.

FRED ELBERT HOYT.

In investigating the commercial interests of Fayette county one soon meets the well known name of the Hoyt Hardware Company of West Union, of which Fred Elbert Hoyt, of this review, is the principal moving spirit. He is one of the representative native sons of this county, his birth having occurred in Dover township, December 16, 1864, the son of Hiram B. and Juliet (Kent) Hoyt, both deceased. A sketch of the father, whose death occurred January 3, 1907, appears elsewhere in this work. His second wife was Hattie Booth, by whom two daughters were born, Fred Elbert, of this review, being the only son by the first marriage; he has two sisters, Ella S., wife of E. P. Sears, of Salt Lake City, and Florence Andrews, of Alliance, Nebraska; his half sisters are Minnie, wife of Eugene Sawyer, of Alhambra, California, and Grace, wife of Fred Schneider, of West Union.

Fred E. Hoyt was educated in the West Union schools and at Ainsworth Academy, also a business college in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, thus becoming well equipped for life's subsequent career. It might be said that he grew up in the hardware business, hence took quite naturally to this line of endeavor, soon mastering its "ins and outs" and he has been unusually successful in his chosen line.

On September 4, 1889, Mr. Hoyt married Margaret Smith, a native of Quincy, Illinois, where her family is well and favorably known. Four children graced this union, namely: Fred is a high school graduate; Agnes graduated from the local high school in 1910; Philip and Eugene are the youngest of the group.

Mr. Hoyt is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. Politically, he is a Republican and belongs to the Presbyterian church. He has long been one of the active and progressive men of the county, interested in whatever tended for the general good, and he stands in the front rank of her citizens.

The Hoyt Hardware Company, to which the remaining paragraphs of this sketch will be devoted, is composed of Fred E. Hoyt, of this review, and

F. E. Hoyt, though for several years after his father's retirement the property was owned jointly by Fred E. and Joseph Butler, Hoyt & Wright and Hoyt & Lawyer. During the past three years Fred E. Hoyt has been managing the business alone, and he has not only succeeded in maintaining the high standard of excellency which the store had maintained for so many years previous, but also in greatly extending its prestige, enjoying a liberal patronage throughout the county.

The building in which this pioneer hardware business is now located was erected for the purpose in 1873 and 1874 by the late H. B. Hoyt, father of Fred E., it being a part of the Bank block. Previous to the construction of this building the store was located at the southwest corner of Vine and Main streets and operated there by Hoyt & Holton for many years.

Fred E. Hoyt, better known among his intimate associates as "Ebbie," is one of the successful young business men of West Union. He is a tireless worker and takes the lead and the hardest place in all of his extensive plumbing and heating work, and is recognized as the most capable mechanic along these lines in West Union. The residences in which he has installed heating apparatus and plumbing are of the best type in the city and county.

WILLIAM ORLANDO CLARK.

The subject of this review, a prominent farmer and stock-raiser and representative citizen of Fayette county, of which he is a native, was born October 1, 1854, on the place in Eden township where he now lives. His parents, James Clark and Frances C. Root, natives of New York, were married at Janesville, Wisconsin, June 11, 1850, and in the fall of 1853 came to Fayette county, Iowa, and settled in Eden township on land which Mr. Clark purchased from the government in September of that year. Later Samuel Clark, father of James, also entered land in this county and continued to live on the same until his death, at the age of sixty-four years. Orlando Clark, a brother of James, came with the latter and the two entered adjoining tracts of land and lived near each other for about eighteen years when the former disposed of his farm and moved to Colorado. Another brother by the name of Hiram, who arrived at the same time, entered land and developed a farm north of Alpha where his son Seth now lives. He married Caroline Broadbent, a sister of his brother Orlando's wife, and spent the remainder of his life on the above farm, dying there a number of years ago, as did also his

wife. Samuel Clark, a still younger brother, enlisted at the beginning of the Civil war in Captain Rogers' company as a fifer, but died at Dubuque before going to the front, being about nineteen years old at the time.

There were also three sisters who came west about the time their brothers arrived, namely, Esther, who became the wife of Henry Cushman and lived for some years on the farm now owned by Miles Holton, removing thence to the western part of the state where she and her husband spent the remainder of their days; Sarah married Barlow Pepper, who entered land in Fayette county and cleared a farm, on which their deaths subsequently occurred; Charlotte, the youngest of the number, married Harvey Conklin and with her husband still lives on their farm in Eden township.

James Clark spent the greater part of his life on the home farm in Eden township, and became successful as a tiller of the soil and a raiser of live stock. He served as justice of the peace when a young man, besides holding various local offices from time to time and for a number of years was one of the influential Republicans in his part of the county. His farm of one hundred and twenty acres adjacent to Crane creek was well improved and by industry, thrift and good management he accumulated a sufficiency of this world's goods to make him independent. Measured by the correct standard, his life was influential for good; he and his wife were members of the Christadelphian church. He always exemplified the principle of the Golden Rule and made the world better by his presence. On February 24, 1907, his good wife was called to her eternal rest after a mutually happy and prosperous married life of fifty-seven years and on the 3d of August following he too responded to the summons which soon or late must come to all, their deaths being widely and profoundly mourned by a large circle of sorrowing friends.

The family of James and Frances C. Clark consisted of six children, one of whom died in infancy, one at the age of nine years, the names of those who grew to maturity being Frances C., wife of Charles L. Perkins, of Wells-ville, Kansas; Mrs. Lizzie Meyer, of Greenleaf, that state; Mary K., who married Eugene F. Beebe, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and William Orlando, whose name introduces this sketch.

William Orlando Clark was reared to farm labor and early in life took his place in the fields where he was able while still young to do a man's part at almost any kind of labor. Meanwhile, during the winter months, he attended the district school of the neighborhood and on arriving at an age to begin life for himself selected agriculture for his vocation. For some years he cultivated a farm in Eden township not far from the homestead, but when his parents became old and decrepit he took charge of the latter place the

better to look after their interests and minister to their comfort. On this place the last twenty-five or thirty years of his life have been spent and after the death of his father he succeeded to the farm, which, under his careful management and effective labors, is now one of the finest and best improved homesteads in the township. It consists of one hundred and twenty acres of very fertile lands, the productiveness of which has been enhanced by proper tillage and judicious rotation of crops, and is also well adapted to stock raising, a branch of farming to which the owner has devoted a great deal of attention.

For some years Mr. Clark has been interested in bees and has quite a large apiary consisting of from seventy-five to one hundred and fifty swarms which yield upon an average of considerably in excess of three thousand pounds of very fine honey every year, for which there is always a great demand. His success in this industry has induced him to engage in it upon a more extensive scale and he is now preparing to enlarge his apiary and equip it with the latest modern devices for the raising and caring for these wonderful little insects. Mr. Clark keeps in touch with the trend of events and abreast of the times on matters of public and political interest. He votes the Republican ticket, but has never entered the political arena as an office seeker and lends his influence and support to all worthy enterprises for the advancement of the community and the general good of his fellow men. He has never married. His household is carefully managed by others, although he exercises judicious oversight and looks after his various interests in a manner becoming one who makes the most of life and its opportunities and strives to benefit his kind by every laudable means at his command. His neighbors and friends hold him in very high esteem and it is a compliment worthily bestowed to speak of him as one of the representative men of the community in which he resides.

HON. CARL EVANS.

The subject of this biographical review is one of the leading business men of West Union. According to the usual manner of expression, he is a "self-made" man, having attained an enviable standing among the business people of the county wholly through his own efforts.

The business house of Evans & Schatz, of which the subject of this sketch is the senior member, is well known throughout the county as one possessing the entire confidence of the people, and doing a large and profitable business in the line of "head-to-foot" clothiers.



HON. CARL EVANS.

Carl Evans was born near the town of Clermont, in Fayette county, Iowa, on the 20th of March, 1872. His early life was spent on a farm, but as he approached years of maturity his parental home was established in Clermont, where the elementary education attained in the country schools was supplemented by a thorough course in the excellent high school, which has always been the pride of the handsome little city. Mr. Evans was graduated from this institution in 1890, from which time he dates the period of self-dependence, though he had been in a manner self-supporting for some years before. His first permanent business engagement was in the capacity of an employe at a local creamery. There he put in one summer's work, after which he turned his attention to mercantile pursuits. He was employed in a general store at Clermont, owned and operated by Paul Ellings, an early and prosperous merchant there. After a few years' experience under the teaching of Mr. Ellings, Mr. Evans came to West Union and entered the employ of W. B. Thomas, in his present line of business. His partner, George Schatz, was also an employe in the same store, and when they had fully mastered the details of the business, and saved a little money, besides establishing an enviable credit, they formed the present partnership, invested their savings and went in debt for the balance of their fine equipment. Their former employer having gone out of business soon after, and a stranger came into possession of that store, Evans & Schatz carried with them into their new business many of the desirable patrons of their former employer, and thereby readily established a profitable business, which fair dealing and "meaning" guarantees have been able to hold, together with the new trade which inevitably comes to reputable dealers. The debt made at the opening of the business was soon liquidated, and the ledger began to show a comfortable balance on the other side. As this accumulated, the savings were invested in Fayette county lands—always above par—and today the firm owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres of land about three miles west of West Union. This property is well improved, while other substantial improvements are being made this year. The land being paid for, Mr. Evans began investing his surplus cash in bank stock, thereby attaining a directorship in the Fayette County National Bank.

But it must not be understood that Carl Evans possesses a mercenary disposition, for he says himself, that his business success is a matter of wonder to him—that he has always been liberal in the expenditure of money for worthy causes, and has not been over-zealous in the accumulation of property. But every investment proved a "money-maker," and, almost unconsciously to himself, he forged to the front in the business world.

In 1896 Mr. Evans associated himself with the Presbyterian church in West Union; having been reared under the tutorship of a religious mother, the transformation was not, necessarily, a great one. But he entered upon the duties of a religious life with the same zeal and energy which has always characterized his business life. In a short time he became an elder in the church, and from that to other prominent positions, which places him at the head of religious matters, not only in West Union, but elsewhere, even outside of the state. He is at present president of the board of church trustees, Sunday school superintendent, and in 1909 he was one of the commissioners to the general assembly of the church, which met at Denver, Colorado. To Mr. Evans is due the credit for the preparation of the very excellent history of the Presbyterian church in Fayette county, as appearing in another department of this work.

In the field of literature, and in the matter of progression in fraternal societies, Mr. Evans maintains his well-established life-record for "going to the bottom of things." He is an honored member of the Historical and Literary Society, known, locally, as the "H. A. L. Club," a unique organization having an existence only in West Union. It was organized in 1879, and its existence has been maintained throughout all the intervening years with growing interest and popularity. The membership is confined to fifteen gentlemen who are selected because of their ability and activity in literary matters; and, with only one or two exceptions, the original members who are living are still connected with the H. A. L. Club. The discussions cover the whole field of literature, but usually avoid controverted religious or political questions. Mr. Evans started in Masonry in 1897, when he became a member of West Union Lodge No. 69, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He followed this soon after with a petition to Unity Chapter No. 62, Royal Arch Masons, at Elgin, Iowa. He then became a member of Langridge Commandery No. 47, Knights Templar, of West Union. He is also a member of Elkahir Shrine and Scottish Rite, thirty-second degree, at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He has shared in the official honors of these various branches of this time honored fraternity, and is the present grand warder of the grand commandery, Knights Templar, of Iowa. To be eligible to this position presupposes service in official capacities in the local organizations.

The subject has never been an aggressive politician until forced to the front by the Democratic leaders in the county. He has always been an interested voter and worker for party supremacy, and has wielded a strong influence, particularly among the younger members of the party. In 1908 he was chosen as the standard bearer for the office of representative in the Legis-

lature; but his party being largely in the minority, he went down to defeat along with the balance of the Democratic ticket. His opponent was a popular man, who had both time and means to devote to an active canvass, while Mr. Evans, recognizing "a forlorn hope," attended to his business affairs. But the same candidates are now confronting each other, and Mr. Evans, recognizing that he exceeded his party vote at the last election, now stands a fair chance for election, and is encouraged to give the matter more attention than on the former occasion.

Carl Evans and Elizabeth Blanche Shaw were married on the 6th of November, 1901. His wife is the only living child of the late Ephraim B. and Sarah Elizabeth (Dickey) Shaw, both of whose families were early settlers in West Union and vicinity. Mrs. Shaw is the daughter of Rev. Mr. Dickey, who was the first regularly installed pastor of the Presbyterian church in West Union. E. B. Shaw, father of Mrs. Evans, was a soldier during the Civil war, going into the army from Ohio, his native state. He came to West Union soon after the close of the war and was there prominently identified with the growth and progress of the town. He was associated with the Fayette County National Bank from its organization, and was its cashier for many years. Latterly, however, he had accepted the position of United States bank examiner for the state of Iowa, and died suddenly while away from home in this work. Mr. Shaw was a man of sterling integrity and uprightness of character. Everybody loved "Eph" Shaw, and, while he was not phenomenally successful, as the world goes, it is doubtful if the man lives who will say he ever did anyone an intentional wrong. But on the other hand, he was liberal to a fault, and prone to listen to and sympathize with everybody's tale of woe.

Mrs. Carl Evans is a lady of more than ordinary musical attainments, having a fine voice, cultivated under some of the best teachers, and as a pianist she has few equals and no superiors in the musical town which has always been her home. Mr. and Mrs. Evans have one son, little Edgar Shaw, named in honor of his deceased uncle and grandfather. He was born in West Union, October 16, 1902.

Carl Evans is a representative of a family of eleven children, born to Robert and Isabella (Denison) Evans. His father was born in Liverpool, England, September 6, 1827. He learned the tailor's trade in his native country and came to America when a young man. He located in Fayette county, Iowa, in pioneer days, and was one of the first tailors in the town of West Union. Later he followed farming for a few years, then worked at his trade in Clermont, and for a few years at Colmar, retaining his home in

Clermont, but for several years past he has lived in West Union, retired from active business.

Robert Evans has always been an active working Mason, and takes great interest in the fraternity. He is a man of good literary attainments, and possesses an excellent memory, being able to memorize and recite selections which would discourage many "readers" of greater pretensions.

Mrs. Evans, mother of the subject of this sketch, was born in New York City, February 21, 1835. Both parents are living in West Union. Of the large family mentioned above, four children died in infancy or early childhood, and four sons died in mature life. They were all married and each left one or more children. The names of the deceased sons are: Edgar A., Robert, Louis and Frank. There are but three of the family living, viz: George, a stock raiser and ranchman in Idaho; Henry, engaged in insurance and real estate business in Oklahoma, and Carl, of this sketch.

There is no military history in the Evans family in this country though all were loyal and patriotic subjects during the Civil war. Robert Evans was among the local musicians who stirred up the community with their inspiring melodies during the enlistment periods in the county. As a family they have always been noted as law-abiding, moral and intellectual citizens, honorable and upright, quiet and unassuming.

FRANK TALCOTT.

A sterling mechanic and worthy citizen, now living in honorable retirement at Maynard, Fayette county, and formerly of the Badger state, is Frank Talcott, who was born on October 10, 1846, in Burke township, Dane county, Wisconsin, the son of Fitz Henry Talcott, a native of Lake county, Ohio, who married Elmira Nye, of Geauga county, Ohio, each growing to maturity, receiving their education and marrying there. They moved to Dane county, Wisconsin, where Mr. Talcott became an influential character in local affairs, holding a number of political offices there, having been active as a Republican and later as a Populist. He was a well informed man on general topics, honest and influential, and he and his wife were members of the United Brethren church. It was in 1841 that they settled in Burke township, Dane county, Wisconsin, where they secured wild land which they improved and on which they established a comfortable home. In 1856 they moved to Lewistown, Columbia county, Wisconsin, and bought eighty acres of land there and in

1864 they came to Fayette county, Iowa, and bought two hundred acres of land in Illyria township where they lived for several years, when they moved to Smithfield township. Mr. Talcott died in 1900 and his wife passed away in June, 1866. Fitz Henry Talcott married a second time, his last wife being Amelia Harned, a native of Sycamore, Illinois, and she died in 1893, no children being born of this union. The following children were by Mr. Talcott and his first wife: Lydia A., who was a teacher, died in 1865; Frank, of this review; Charles A., of Wadena, Iowa, has devoted his life to railroading, merchandising and farming; Fitz Edward is a farmer in Center township, Iowa; Ida May died when five years of age; Inez, now deceased, married Reuben Savage, living in Fayette county; Etta L. married J. M. Burnside, of Waucoma, Iowa; Henry died in childhood.

Frank Talcott received a common school education in his native community, but his sisters, Lydia, Inez and Etta, became well educated and were successful teachers. Frank remained under the parental roof until he was twenty-one years of age. He learned the blacksmith's trade in Madison, Ohio, and followed that with much success for a period of fifteen years, becoming known in his community as a very skilled workman. He had served as an apprentice under an uncle.

In 1871 Mr. Talcott married Mary A. Savage, of Madison, Ohio, the daughter of Reuben Savage, who spent his life in Madison county, Ohio. In the spring of 1871 Mr. Talcott brought his bride to Fayette county, Iowa, where he followed his trade for a period of seven years with his usual success in Illyria township and for six years he maintained a shop at Alpha. In 1883 he located at Maynard and there built a steam mill, which was burned, but he rebuilt it and operated the same until 1905, when he took out the steam plant and put in a twenty-horse-power gasoline engine. In 1908 he installed a gas plant to supply the village of Maynard. He does an extensive business in custom grinding and makes buckwheat flour, the product of his mill having quite a reputation throughout this vicinity. His plant is modern in every respect, well equipped and neatly kept.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Talcott, namely: Louis H., who lives at Marcus, Iowa, where he is a bookkeeper in the Exchange Bank, married Stella Adams, of Maynard; he was educated in the common schools of Maynard and at the Oelwein Business College. After finishing his schooling he spent one year at Sioux Rapids in the creamery business for his father and later at Devon and Everly, and in 1902 he went to Marcus, Iowa. Inez L., the second child of Mr. and Mrs. Talcott, is the wife of E. C. Knight, a druggist at Waucoma, Iowa, with the firm of Burnside & Knight.

Myron E., the youngest of Mr. and Mrs. Talcott's children, is managing his father's farm in Smithfield township; he married Carrie Johnson.

For about eighteen years, Frank Talcott was with F. B. Fargo & Company, of Lake Mills, Wisconsin, and other firms handling creamery supplies. He has installed more creameries than any other man in the state. In 1903 he built the present Farmers' Co-operative Creamery at Maynard, Iowa, and he is at present one of the stockholders and directors. He is also a stockholder in the Maynard Savings Bank. He has been very successful in all his enterprises, being a man of keen discernment and cautious and honorable in his dealings with his fellow men.

Fraternally, Mr. Talcott is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, Blue Lodge No. 510 of Maynard, and he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star, of which Mrs. Talcott is worthy matron and a delegate to the meeting at Sioux City, Iowa, in 1909.

Mr. Talcott has long taken considerable interest in local politics and in 1905 he was mayor of Maynard and he has held other local offices, always with credit and satisfaction. He votes independently, always for the man whom he deems best qualified for the position sought. He has long been regarded as one of the leading citizens of Maynard and he has done a great deal for the town, being deeply interested in whatever tends to its development. He is very well known throughout the county and he has hosts of friends in all the communities where he has lived.

JOSEPH S. BISBING.

The family of this name were long settled in Pennsylvania and the earlier members were identified with the development of the Keystone state in the days when savage warfare was common on the border. They were laboring men or small farmers and tradesmen, but wherever found the Bisbings bore a good name and were regarded as good citizens. Jacob Bisbing, paternal grandfather of the subject of sketch, was an important man in his day, and during his residence of many years in Pennsylvania was regarded as a man of strong character. He left a son named Peter, who also was a man among men, who led an industrious, hardworking life, made many friends and always did his part when anything was to be done for the benefit of the community. The later generation of Bisbings could tell interesting stories descended from their ancestors of the settlement of eastern Pennsylvania and the stirring in-

cidents which accompanied the movement. The older ancestors went as far back as "Braddock's Defeat" and could remember "Logan, the Mingo chief," whose pathetic speech to the white men has always been regarded as an unequaled specimen of Indian oratory. Peter S. Bisbing married Mary Magdaline Barry, one of his Pennsylvania neighbors, and reared nine children, six sons and three daughters. One of his sons enlisted in the Union army during the Civil war and died of typhoid fever during his service. Peter was a farmer in a small way, but he always managed to make the ends meet and he trained his children to habits of industry. He passed away long ago, after a worthy and unobtrusive life, which left a good example to his children.

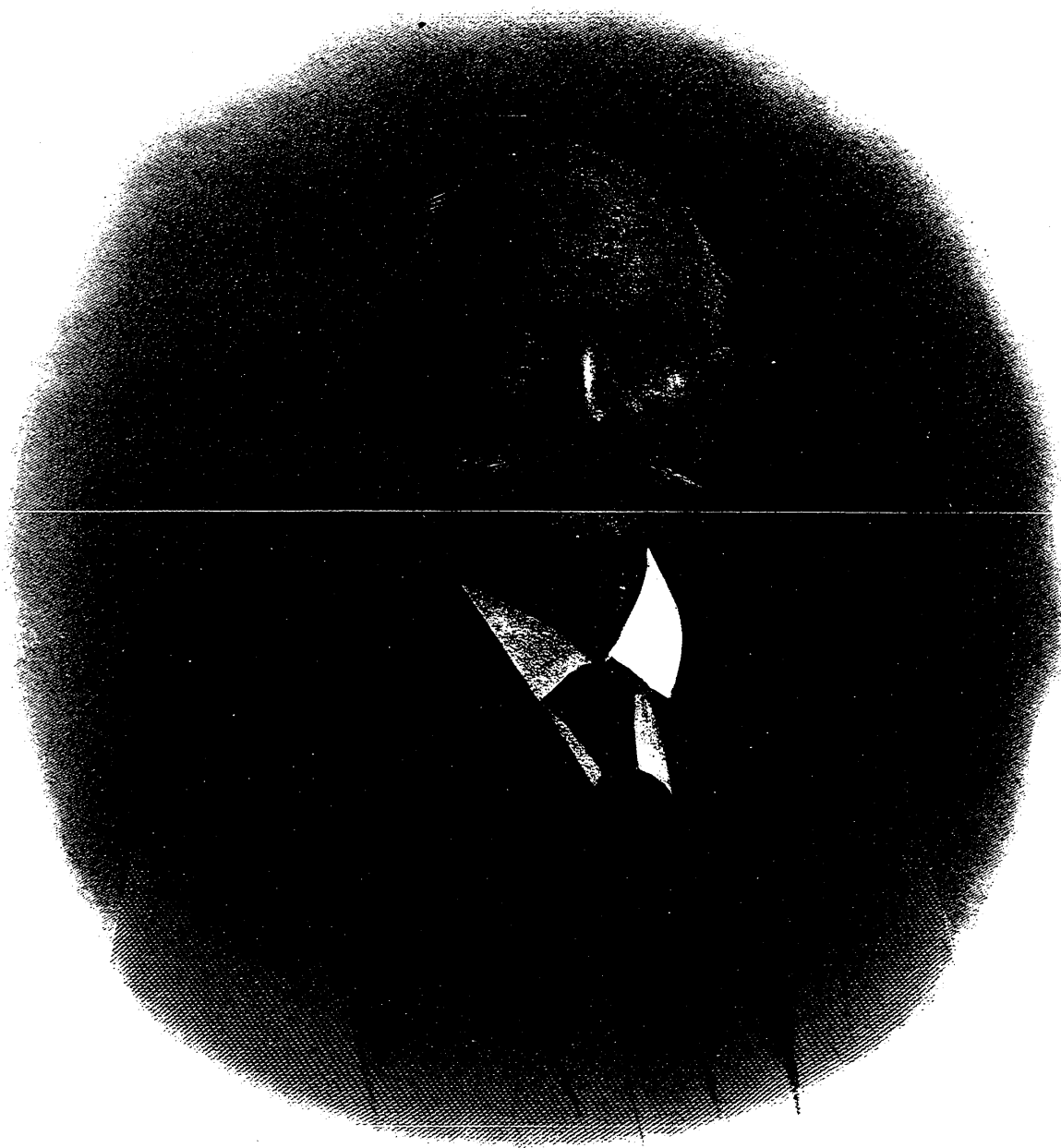
Joseph S. Bisbing, one of the nine children above mentioned, was born in northeastern Pennsylvania, January 5, 1856. Such education as he got was obtained in the neighborhood school in his native state, which he attended only for brief seasons in winter, as it was necessary for him to help with the farm work during the summers. He grew up a strong boy, well acquainted with work, and when the time came for him to branch out for himself he was equal to the emergency. As a young man, being without a trade, he turned his attention to various kinds of jobs, such as he could get to do in his neighborhood. He was active, industrious, a willing worker and found no difficulty in keeping employed. In March, 1879, he determined to seek better opportunities in the growing West and directed his route to the great state of Iowa, which offered special inducements to farmers. Going directly to Fayette county, he located in Dover township, where he remained two years. Hearing much of North Dakota, he determined to test that field, but after spending one summer there decided to return to Iowa, as a state better suited to his purposes. On January 1, 1883, he removed to Clermont township and has ever since been a resident of that community. He engaged in farming, met with success and at the present time owns two hundred and forty acres of productive land. He has greatly improved his place by the erection of suitable buildings and adding other features calculated to afford beauty and comfort. It is at present one of the model farms of Clermont township and managed in such a way as to bring the highest degree of profit. All his life Mr. Bisbing has been a lover of fine stock and it was his desire to possess some of the choice animals which he saw roaming over the fine farms of Iowa. It has been his good fortune to see this ambition realized and any one who visits his place will find a lot of thoroughbreds of the best quality. There are Shorthorn cattle of the choicest pedigreed stock, which are kept sleek and fat by Mr. Bisbing's skillful feeding. A fine herd of Poland-China hogs are also to be seen constantly in the meadow and pens and from this valu-

able swine comes much of the farm revenue. In horses Mr. Bisbing rather leans to the Percherons and keeps a number of these on hand all the time.

In March, 1880, Mr. Bisbing married Ida A., daughter of P. L. Rowland, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume, and who are members of one of the oldest and best known families in the county. They have three children, Jennie E., Harry L. and Victor H. Mr. Bisbing is a Republican, a member of the board of trustees and with his family is affiliated with the Evangelical church.

COL. GEORGE F. BROCKWAY.

The gentleman whose name appears above is too well known to the citizens of Fayette county to need a formal introduction, but this compendium of biography would be incomplete without a record of his career, a matter in which his neighbors and fellow citizens feel a deep interest. George F. Brockway inherits the sterling qualities of the Irish-Dutch ancestry on his father's side, and the no less sturdy French-Scotch blood of his mother's people, these different nationalities forming a combination which, centering in a single individual, accounts for intelligence and manly qualities and for a character which will ever stand for rectitude and a high sense of honor. Colonel Brockway was born near Quincy, Illinois, April 28, 1841, and is a son of Isaac and Susan (Bushaw) Brockway, the former of Irish lineage on the father's side and Dutch on the mother's side, the latter in the same manner of French and Scotch descent. Isaac Brockway was a native of New York, but when a young man went to Illinois to enter an institution near the city of Quincy with the object in view of fitting himself for mission work among the negroes in Canada, and spent ten years in this preparation, during which time he acquired superior educational training. He was active in assisting runaway slaves on their way to Canada by means of the "Underground Railroad," in which, for several years, he took a zealous interest. In the meantime his father, Samuel Brockway, had moved to Kosciusko county, Indiana, and, being blind, called upon Isaac to come and care for him, this being about the year 1849. Prompted by filial duty, the latter obeyed and from that time until their respective deaths he remained with his parents and ministered to their necessities and comforts, and continued to live there until his wife's death. About 1860 or 1861 he exchanged land in Indiana for real estate in Fayette county, Iowa, the latter being on Crane creek, Bethel township, to which he removed the latter year, bringing with him a sorghum



George F. Brockway

mill which he set up and operated for some years thereafter. In 1870 he disposed of his interests in the above named township and transferred his residence to Chickasaw county, where he lived during the four years ensuing, then moved to Illinois, where he spent two years, removing at the expiration of that time to Chanute, Kansas, where his death subsequently occurred at the ripe old age of eighty-four years. By his first marriage Isaac Brockway had six children, and his second marriage resulted in the birth of five children: Minnie, Isaac Brockway, Jr. (who now lives at West Union, this state), Milo, Luela and Orra.

George F. Brockway spent his early life at the parental home, and while a mere youth learned by practical experience the true meaning of honest toil. While in Indiana he decided to sever home ties and make his own way in the world, accordingly, in company with the hired hand, he stole quietly away without his father's knowledge and went to Michigan, being about sixteen years old at the time. After spending a few months in that state, he made his way to Walworth, Wayne county, New York, where his mother's sister was then living, and with his aunt he made his home during the next few years, working for neighbors by the month. At the expiration of the period indicated he engaged with the Quakers at Farmington, Ontario county, for whom he started work at a monthly wage of six dollars, invariably receiving an increase in wages with each new contract, and remaining in that locality until the national sky became overcast with ominous clouds of civil war, when he severed his connection with his employers and tendered his services to the government, enlisting on October 15, 1861, in the First New York Battery, under Capt. T. J. Kennedy, with Auburn as headquarters. This was the "banner" company of the Empire state at that time and shortly after the organization was completed it reported to Secretary Seward at Washington, D. C., and was given a very flattering reception at the White House by President Lincoln, who, in a brief, but felicitous speech, congratulated the men as follows: "Soldiers, I am glad to see you, and presume that you are glad to see me. If you do your duty in accordance with your appearance we will have nothing to fear; God bless you."

After protesting at remaining longer at Washington, the battery was assigned to the Army of the Potomac under General McClellan, from which time until the cessation of hostilities it took part in some of the most noted campaigns of the war, its record of thirty-two important battles, to say nothing of skirmishes and minor engagements, equaled by few such organizations and exceeded by none. Captain Kennedy resigning after the battle of

Williamsburg, the command afterwards fell to Lieut. Andrew Cowan, who proved a brave and faithful officer until mustered out after Lee's surrender. A special bronze panel has been placed on their monument at Gettysburg, on which Mr. Brockway is shown as number six, in the act of fixing ammunition. He was the only available man on his gun when the battery was ordered to change position. The First New York Battery consisted of six guns, with six horses, three drivers and six cannoneers to each, besides the officers, and regardless of loss this quota was maintained in full throughout the war. Possessing mechanical skill of a high order, Mr. Brockway was made artificer, and in this capacity, by untiring energy, methodical measures and courteous treatment, he was, by acclaim, given the title of "Colonel." The greatest loss sustained in any one engagement was at Cedar Creek, where, within a comparatively short time, twenty-one brave men gave up their lives for their country, besides the loss of one gun, but the latter was re-taken by a volunteer squad just previous to the capture of twelve thousand Confederates by the Union forces. Not infrequently were the men on duty the entire night. Although Mr. Brockway was not in the battle of Cedar Creek, being on detached duty, he worked all the following night remounting the gun that had been disabled during the day's fighting. He was the first one to re-enlist in the battery. The real service of this splendid battery will never be adequately known and only approximately estimated. At the expiration of the time for which it entered the service the entire command was kept intact until the close of the war, though few of the original members were with it when the Confederacy collapsed and the Grand Review at the national capital took place. The battery was assigned an important place in that never-to-be-forgotten parade, and attracted the enthusiastic attention of the throngs which it passed, because of the splendid appearance of the officers, men and guns. Mr. Brockway was rendered totally deaf in the right ear during his service. Receiving his discharge shortly after the review, Mr. Brockway returned to New York, where he remained until 1866, in February of which year he came to Iowa, where his father was then living and whom he had not seen since leaving home when a youth of sixteen. By diligence and economy the meanwhile he had succeeded in accumulating eighteen hundred dollars. With this neat little sum he purchased a mill-site at a point of Crane creek known as Port Washington, investing the greater part of his means in the venture. In due time he began to develop the water power at the above place, but, losing his wife about that time and experiencing other reverses, he finally after considerable financial loss abandoned the enterprise and purchased seventy acres of land adjoining a part of his present farm, and began

work of its improvement. The land was covered with scrub and small timber and much labor was required to reduce it to cultivation, but in due time the owner's efforts resulted in the making of a comfortable home and the placing of himself in comparatively easy circumstances.

By judicious management Colonel Brockway has been enabled to add to his possessions from time to time until he owns a half section of as fine land as Eden township can boast, nearly all under cultivation and improved with good buildings, fences, etc, the farm being especially adapted to stock, in the breeding and rising of which he has been more than ordinarily successful. In connection with his agricultural and live stock interests he has a large plant for the manufacture of sorghum, and also operates a threshing machine during certain seasons, for which a gasoline engine furnished the motive power.

As stated in a preceding paragraph, Colonel Brockway has a natural aptitude for mechanical work and all kinds of machinery, and on his place are various contrivances and devices which during a year save him no little time and money. He has been successful in nearly all of his undertakings and is today not only among the leading farmers and stockmen of his part of the country, but also occupies a prominent place among the county's financially strong and public spirited citizens. Prior to and after the breaking out of the great Civil war he was an ardent admirer and stanch supporter of President Lincoln and he continued with the Republican party until 1896, when he cast his vote for William Jennings Bryan. Since then he has been practically independent in politics, advocating principles and measures which he considers to be for the best interests of the people and voting for the best qualified candidates irrespective of party.

The domestic life of Colonel Brockway dates from May 1, 1867, when he was united in marriage with Almira Rogers, daughter of James Rogers (see sketch), the ceremony taking place at West Union. Mrs. Brockway died in 1875, leaving no issue, and two years later the subject married Sarah Leese, of Bremer county, this state, the union being blessed with five children: Major A., who farms a part of the home place and whose wife was formerly Cora Young, of Fayette county; Mary, the second in order of birth, has been a teacher for a number of years in Michigan and now holds an important position in the high school of Hawkeye, this county; Barry, who is a farmer and stock raiser of Eden township, married Minnie Houser and lives on a part of the homestead; Myra is still with her parents and has the reputation of being an expert cook and housekeeper; Katie, the youngest of the family, died in infancy.

EDWARD R. CLARK.

Among the strong and influential citizens of Fayette county, the record of whose lives have become an essential part of this section, the gentleman whose name appears above occupies a prominent place and for years he has exerted a beneficial influence in the community where he resides. His chief characteristics seem to be keenness of perception, a tireless energy, honesty of purpose and motive and every-day common sense, which have enabled him not only to advance his own interests, but also largely contributed to the moral and material advancement of the county.

Edward R. Clark, the popular and efficient sheriff of Fayette county, Iowa, was born in Iroquois county, Illinois, November 21, 1857, and is the son of Edward R. and Ellen E. (Sill) Clark. The father, Edward R. Clark, Sr., was born in Christian county, Kentucky, coming in his early youth with his father's family and other friends from the same locality to McLean county, Illinois, where they settled in and around Bloomington, and became identified with the early history and interests of that city. Southern born and bred, his brothers and friends for the most part adhered to their early teachings. He, on the contrary, early imbibed the spirit and principles of his adopted state. He was a young man of high ideals of duty and honor and unblemished character. When the war of the Rebellion broke out he hastened to join the defenders of the Union, and enlisted in the Eighty-sixth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers. He died in the first year of his term of service at Nashville, Tennessee, in the year 1863, leaving his wife to care for and train their two children, Helen M., who died in her young womanhood, and Edward R., the subject of this sketch, who at the time of his father's death was five years old. The mother still lives, a member of her son's household in West Union, Iowa.

Mr. Clark was educated in his native state. He came to Fayette county, Iowa, in 1887 and engaged in the stock business, continuing successfully in that line of endeavor until his election, in November, 1908, as sheriff of Fayette county. He was located at Hawkeye the greater portion of the time, although he was in Chicago ten years. He is regarded as one of the best judges of live stock in the county and he has a world of experience in buying, raising and shipping all varieties and qualities, his efforts having been crowned with abundant success.

Mr. Clark is a loyal Republican and was nominated and elected by this party, and so far he has discharged the duties of the important office to which he has been called with rare ability, foresight and discretion, to the en-

tire satisfaction of his constituents and, in fact, all concerned, thus proving the wisdom of his selection as sheriff. Fraternally, he is a member of Lodge No. 69, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at West Union, Iowa, and his daily life among his fellow men would indicate that he lives up to its sublime precepts.

Mr. Clark was married in September, 1891, to Cora F. Henderson, daughter of M. V. and Clara (Hall) Henderson, early settlers of Fayette county and a highly respected family. Mrs. Clark was educated in the public schools of Auburn, her birthplace, and for sometime prior to her marriage she was a very successful teacher in Clayton and Fayette counties.

JOSEPH L. SCALLAN.

It is always pleasant and profitable to contemplate the career of a man who has won a definite goal in life, whose career has been such as to command the honor and respect of his fellow citizens. Such, in brief, is the record of Joseph L. Scallan, the popular and efficient auditor of Fayette county, where he has long maintained his home and where he has labored not only for his own advancement and that of his immediate family, but also for the improvement of the entire community whose interests he has ever had at heart, thereby is deserving of the high esteem in which he is held by all classes.

Mr. Scallan was born on a farm in Eden township, Fayette county, Iowa, March 15, 1862, and he is the son of Joseph and Ann (Murray) Scallan, both natives of Ireland, the father born in county Wexford and the mother in county Antrim. They came to America when young and were married in Rochester, New York, and they came to Eden township, this county, probably as early as 1853. They located on a farm which they cleared and developed and which has since been the home of the Scallans. The mother died September 20, 1907, and the father died March 7, 1910, at the advanced age of ninety years. Their family consisted of four sons and two daughters, three sons and one daughter still living. The oldest is Thomas, who is in the wholesale paper business in Cincinnati, Ohio; Mary A., who married Miles McGovern, died in Winneshiek county, Iowa, when twenty-six years of age, leaving two daughters; Elizabeth is at home with her father; James E. is also on the parental farm; he married Anna Lynch, a neighbor's daughter.

Joseph L. Scallan, of this review, was educated in the public schools of

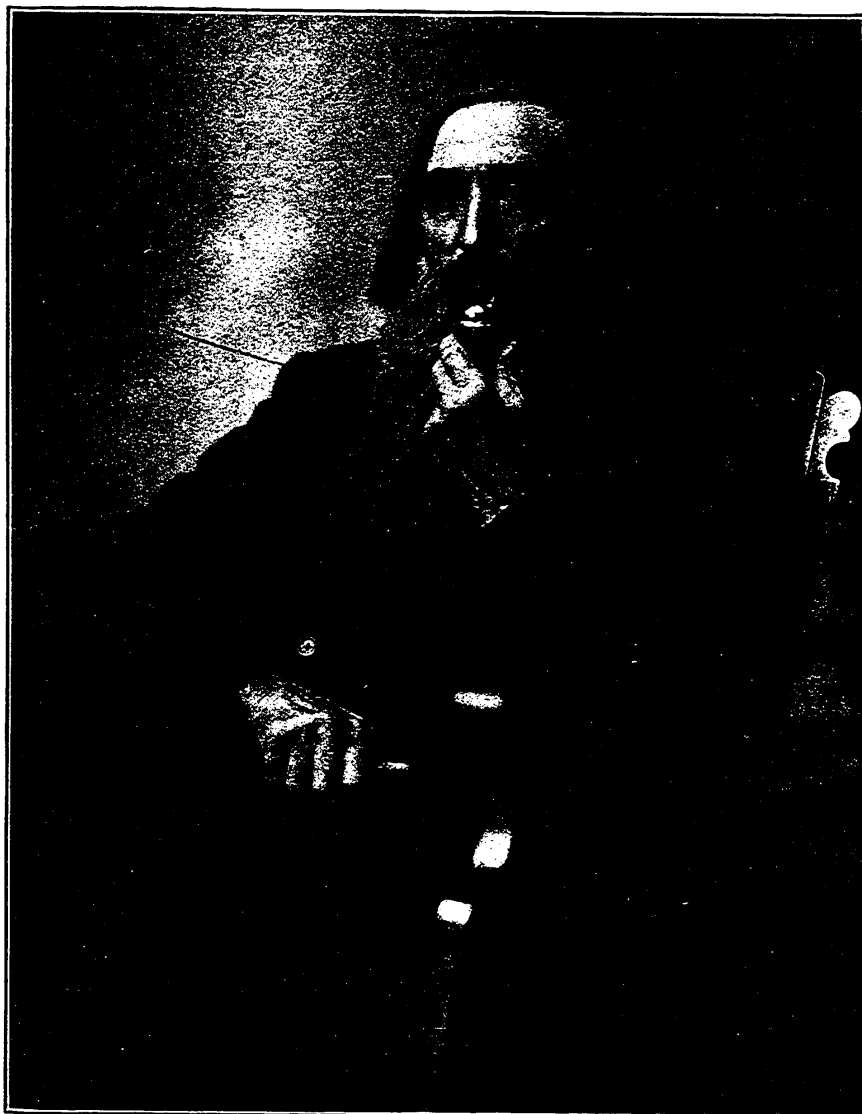
Eden township and the Waucoma high school, also in the Decorah Business College. He began his independent business career as a farmer in the summer months, teaching school the remainder of the year. He was appointed deputy county auditor under Ed. A. Kreamer, December 1, 1890, and continued in the office as a deputy, with the exception of 1896, which year he spent in Cincinnati, Ohio, until his election as county auditor, taking charge of the same on January 1, 1901. He discharged the duties of the same so faithfully that he has been elected to the same office six times and is now serving his tenth year as principal. He was elected as a Republican, having long been a loyal supporter of this party. His record in office has been without a shadow of suspicion, being regarded as a painstaking, conscientious, courteous servant of the people, and his conduct has won and retained the respect, confidence and admiration of all.

Mr. Scallan was married on June 22, 1897, by Rev. Father O'Reilly, of Waucoma, Iowa, to Alice McMahon, a daughter of Peter and Bridget McMahon, an early established family in Eden township, her parents both being natives of Ireland.

Mr. and Mrs. Scallan have two daughters, Madonna and Kathryn. The family are members of the Roman Catholic church, as were all their ancestors. Fraternally, Mr. Scallan is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Columbus. He has been a member of the county central committee and a member of the legislative committee in the county auditors' organization of the fourth congressional district.

FREDERICK MIEHE.

In a history purporting to be a complete chronicle of the important events of Fayette county, and to contain a resume of the careers of her most worthy and influential citizens, the name of Frederick Miehe would necessarily have to be included, in view of the fact that he has long labored for his own and the county's advancement, as we shall see. He was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, June 2, 1837, and began his education in the home land; in fact, he spent only twenty-five days in school in this country, and that in Dubuque county, Iowa. He is the son of Conrad and Dorothea Miehe, both natives of the province of Hanover, Germany, and from which country they came to America in 1848, locating in Dubuque county, Iowa, having landed at the port of New Orleans, from which city they ascended the Mississippi



FREDERICK MIEHE.

river on a steamboat. They bought a farm of eighty acres and spent the remainder of their lives on the same, the father having been killed by a horse, in July, 1865, at the age of seventy-two years. His wife died about May, 1865, at the age of seventy years. They were the parents of three sons, namely: Harmon, who remained single, died in Harlan township, Fayette county, when sixty-seven years old; Frederick, of this review; William lives in Dubuque county, Iowa.

Frederick Miehé, being the business man of the family, lived with his parents until he was twenty years old, when he purchased a farm of his own, containing one hundred and twenty-acres, prairie land in Dubuque county, and he lived there until 1873, when he moved to Fayette county, purchasing three hundred and twenty acres in section 28, Harlan township, where he still lives. At that time he also owned a section of land in that township which he had purchased before moving to this county. At one time he owned over one thousand acres in Harlan township. He also owned a section of land in Kossuth county, Iowa. To each son, as he became of age, he gave eighty acres in Harlan township and a quarter section in Kossuth county. In 1903 he made a final settlement, deeding all his possessions among his children. For some time he has been making his home on the original place with his son. He is an excellent business man and has had remarkable success in his operations, being a good manager and a keen observer, having made few mistakes in his calculations, and he has at the same time borne an unblemished reputation among his fellow men, and he is one of the well known and influential men of Harlan township. For a number of years he was a director of the Maynard Bank.

Politically, Mr. Miehé was a Democrat until the death of President Lincoln, when he became a Republican and has remained unswerving to its principles; however, he is no politician and has never aspired to public office. He is a member of the German Lutheran church.

On February 20, 1857, Mr. Miehé married Sophia Kenniker, who was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, November 8, 1840. When seventeen years old she came to America with her grandparents, who located in Dubuque county, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Miehé fourteen children were born, of whom twelve are living at this writing, namely: Charles lives at Maynard, this county; Hannah is the wife of Henry Lembka, of Harlan township; William also lives in Harlan township; Julia is the wife of John Meyer, of Maynard, this county; Fred lives in Swea City, Iowa; August lives in Fayette county; Theodore, whose sketch appears elsewhere, lives in Smithfield township; Albert lives in Harlan township; Emma is the wife of Otto Smith,

of Harlan township; John lives on the home farm; Etta is the wife of Vern Goodrich, of Austin, Minnesota; Caroline is the wife of Byron Odekirk, of Maynard, Iowa.

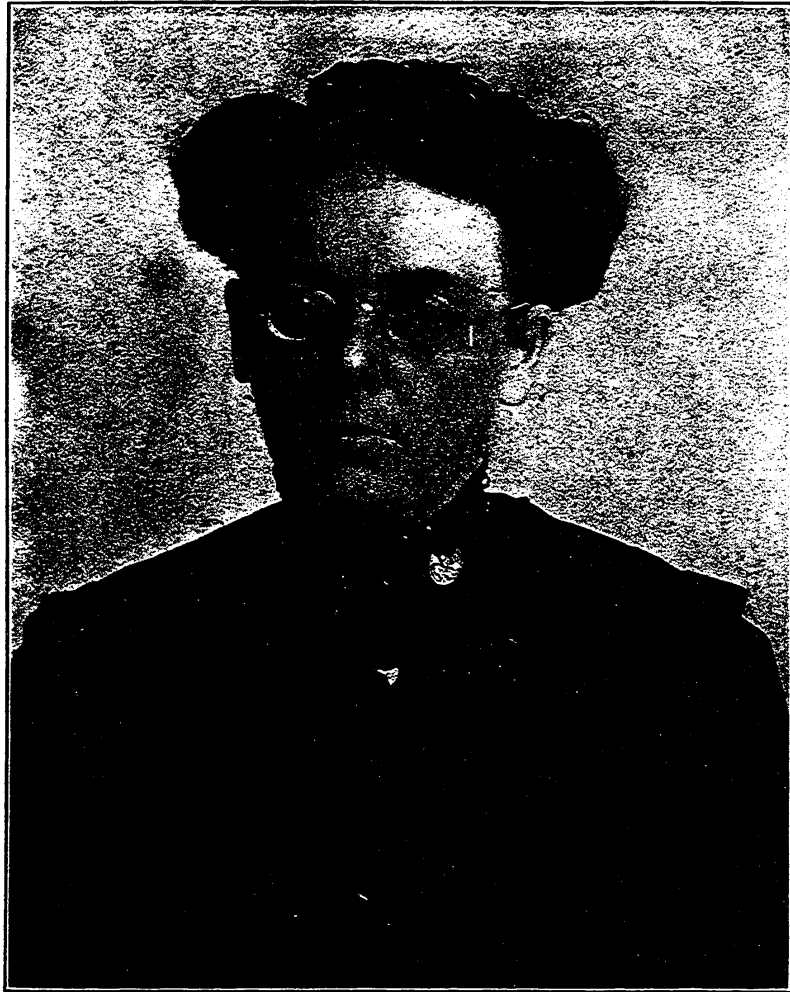
The mother of these children died on June 13, 1887, and on October 7, 1887, Mr. Miehé married Augusta Faber, who was born in Germany, about 1849; her death occurred about 1901; this union was without issue.

CALVIN L. CURTIS.

One of the sterling, practical men of Fayette county, Iowa, will be found in the person of Calvin L. Curtis. To have been born and reared in the same locality and had continuous residence there for a period of more than fifty years could not help but inculcate in one an interest in the affairs of county and township more vital than would be that of a new settler. This may be said of the subject of this sketch. He made his advent into the world August 2, 1858, in Auburn township, Fayette county, Iowa. He has lived on the old homestead all his life, and has demonstrated that he is the type of citizen that counts in making up the backbone of this great commonwealth.

Calvin L. Curtis is the son of Mason A. and Julia A. (Howe) Curtis. Mason Curtis was born in Chittenden county, Vermont, December 16, 1818. He was reared on a farm in his native county and there grew to manhood. He was the third in order of birth in a family of five children, of whom four were sons. When quite a young man he left the parental home and sought his fortune in that which the states farther west had to offer. His first stopping place was in Indiana, where he met Mary A. Beach in Elkhart county, where she was born in 1828. The Beach family soon afterward changed their place of residence to St. Joseph county, Michigan, and young Curtis accompanied them. On October 18, 1848, he was united in marriage with Miss Beach and soon afterward returned to Elkhart county, Indiana, where they lived until 1852, when they moved to Fayette county, Iowa. He pre-empted a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Union township, two miles west of West Union. Mrs. Curtis died in 1852, while living on this farm and was interred at Auburn, Iowa. She left one child, Emma A., born in Elkhart county, Indiana, July 27, 1851. She afterward became the wife of Thomas Kimpson. They live on a farm in Auburn township. No children have been born to them.

In 1853 Mason A. Curtis married Julia A. Howe, a native of Michigan.



MRS. JESSIE CURTIS.



CALVIN L. CURTIS.

She was born near Ypsilanti, in 1826. At the time of this marriage Mr. Curtis sold his farm and bought one hundred and eighty-five acres in sections 32 and 33, Auburn township. One-half of this farm was a dense forest. He cleared and improved about half of the timbered land and labored until he had brought his ground to a high state of cultivation. Previous to his death he sold sixty acres, principally wood land, in section 33. The homestead and eighty acres of improved land was in section 32. Politically, Mr. Curtis was a Democrat until the sixteen-to-one free-silver campaign caused so much stir in politics, when he voted for the gold standard and continued to vote the Republican ticket until his death. He never held an office. Mr. Curtis passed to his rest February 9, 1898, and his wife succumbed in April, 1896. They were the parents of four children, as follows: Mary L., born in 1854, resides in Hawkeye, Iowa, with her sister; Sarah E., born 1856, wife of U. M. Hathaway, lives at Hawkeye, Iowa; Calvin L. Curtis (the subject), and Clarisea N., born 1890, and the wife of Frank Winett, who reside at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Calvin L. Curtis, the only son, made his home with his father on the farm until the time of his marriage, at the age of twenty-five years. Being a young man of business ability, he had become the owner of eighty acres, in section 32 and adjoining his father's farm, at the time of his becoming of age. Here, with his wife, he set up the household gods at the time of their marriage. They continued their residence here for two years, when they erected a home on his father's farm, within a few rods of the homestead, and have since lived here. At present the subject owns one hundred and forty-five acres, having bought part of the home farm. Politically, he adheres to the policies of the Republican party. He is a worthy member of Relief Lodge No. 138, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Hawkeye, Iowa, and belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America.

In November, 1884, Mr. Curtis married Jessie F. Van Bogart, born May 28, 1866, in McHenry county, Illinois. She is the daughter of Frank and Amelia (Tromblee) Van Bogart. Mr. Bogart was a native of Washington county, New York, born June 26, 1844, and was the son of Ormus and Caroline (Pearce) Bogart, both natives of the Empire state, he born in Washington county, in 1813. His wife was born in Hampton county July 26, 1817, and they were married May 15, 1833. From this union came eight children, of whom Frank was the fourth child in order of birth. Of four sons, three of them served in the Civil war. Frank enlisted in February, 1865, in Company K, One Hundred and Fifty-third Illinois Infantry, and served in the Army of the Cumberland until the time of his discharge in 1865. He became

a resident of McHenry county, Illinois. During his youth there, on May 7, 1862, he married Amelia Tromblee, who was born in Champlain county, New York, September 29, 1843. In the autumn of 1866 they moved to Fayette county, Iowa, where they made their home until they died. Mrs. Van Bogart died September 1, 1886. Mr. and Mrs. Van Bogart were the parents of ten children, of whom Mrs. Curtis was the second child in order of birth.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis have been blessed with six children: Keith A., born October 1, 1885, and married to Birdie Hayden in 1904; they have two children and reside at Randalia, Iowa; Ella A., born December 24, 1887, wife of Forest Jones, and make their home at Alpha, Iowa; Everett F., born October 27, 1889; Edna O., born March 18, 1891; Hugh C., born May 10, 1893; Harold G., born November 19, 1896. The last four named live with their parents.

R. H. BELKNAP.

A prominent and influential citizen of this locality is R. H. Belknap, the present superintendent of schools of Fayette county. He was born in Auburn township, August 8, 1878, of Scotch-Irish descent. The family records show that Pilgrim and Stephen Belknap, brothers, came from Scotland in an early day and settled in New York state. Hiram Belknap, the son of Stephen Belknap and the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was born in New York state, September 3, 1808. He was married to Sarah Eastman, a native of New York, in the year 1836. To these were born five sons and two daughters: Charles Hiram, born August 25, 1837, is now a resident of Rapid City, South Dakota; Sarah Janette, born February 22, 1839, is now living at Petaluma, California; George William, born in 1841, is now a resident of Madison, South Dakota; Stephen Edgar, born March 25, 1848, is now a resident of Waterville, Minnesota; Riley Rosell, born December 12, 1849, is now living in Dexter, Kansas; Edward Eastman, born May 18, 1851, lives in Fayette, Iowa; Edith Esuba, born January 23, 1854, is now living in Oldham, South Dakota. These children were all born in New York state. The three eldest brothers served in the United States army during the Civil war.

In 1856 the Hiram Belknap family moved from New York to Wisconsin, which was a great undertaking in those days. From there they moved in 1863 to Auburn, Fayette county, Iowa. At this time, Auburn was one of the largest towns of Fayette county and Hiram plied his trade, that of a shoemaker, with great success.

A peculiar feature of this family was that both parents were cripples, Hiram having lost a leg in early life, and Sarah having suffered a paralytic stroke at the age of sixteen years from which she never fully recovered. Hiram died in December, 1873, as the result of a fall on the ice, while returning from the village store. After the death of Hiram, Sarah lived with her children the rest of her days. She died at the home of her daughter Edith, at Madison, South Dakota, at the age of eighty-four years.

The ancestry on the mother's side extends back into colonial days and is given briefly as follows:

Joseph Clark, the grandson of a ship carpenter, was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, May 19, 1719. Joseph Clark, the second, married a Miss Taylor, and to them were born three children. Joseph Clark, the third, married a Miss Lane, January 15, 1777, and settled in New Hampshire. He died June 25, 1810, and his widow died January 11, 1825; one child was born to them. James Clark, born February 15, 1784, married Polly Hinton, of Andover, New Hampshire, on October 2, 1808. She was born April 5, 1782, and died November 8, 1857; he died June 15, 1861. There were nine children born to James and Polly Clark, viz: Samuel Adams, Joseph, Charles, Dearborn, Martha, Mary, Kendall, Charlotte, Louisa.

Kendall Peabody Clark, the seventh child of James and Polly Clark, was born in Franklin, New Hampshire, December 6, 1820. At the age of twenty-three he settled in Portland, Dodge county, Wisconsin. On the 7th of May, 1848, he led to the marriage altar Betsey L. Wicker, who was born in Muckwonego, Wisconsin, July 6, 1828. One child was born March 4, 1850, who was named Betsey L. Clark. On the 19th of March of the same year the mother died, leaving the child to the care of the father. The child prospered, and in the course of time was married to Edward Belknap, and became the mother of the subject of this sketch. This will be related later. April 18, 1852, Kendall was again married, this time to Melissa L. Larrabee, who was born in Bennington, New York, June 30, 1832. As a result of this marriage, eight children were born, namely: James K., born June 20, 1853; Mary, born January 19, 1855, died March 29, 1856; Melissa L., born April 12, 1857; Fanny F., born April 9, 1859; Jennie L., born April 26, 1861, and died August 2, 1883; Hattie, born February 8, 1864, and died July 31, 1885; Charles Cyrus, born May 16, 1866; Nellie E., born June 23, 1872, and died July 23, 1892. The mother of this family died October 22, 1884. Kendall Peabody Clark was one of the first settlers in Dodge county, Wisconsin. He, with his brother, Dearborn, and a Mr. Hayes, built the first log house, dug the first well, and broke the first land in Portland township. The following is from

his obituary: "Mr. Clark was a practical surveyor, and for the past twenty years has been successively elected county surveyor of Dodge county. In the exercise of the duties of his position he proved himself reliable and accurate. In public as well as in private affairs the deceased has always borne an honorable part. He has ever enjoyed the implicit confidence of his fellow citizens, and his conduct upon all occasions was never such as to arouse suspicion or create distrust. He represented Dodge county in the Legislature, our village on the county board of supervisors, and has served on the village board and on the school board. In these several positions, strict regard for the interests confided to his care characterized his actions. His sudden loss is regretted by his large circle of friends, who speak of him in terms of praise—the highest tribute at their command. The Masonic fraternity, of which he has long been a member, had charge of the interment of his body. The services were held at his residence on Friday forenoon. His remains were then accompanied by a large procession to the family cemetery near the village of Portland. His death occurred on the 19th of March, 1890."

Betsey L. Clark, the mother of the subject of this sketch, came to the town of Auburn, Fayette county, Iowa, in March, 1873, to visit with her uncle, Ruel Parker. While with him she taught school in the village of Auburn, and it was during this time that she became acquainted with Edward E. Belknap. This acquaintance ripened into love and finally culminated in their marriage.

Edward Belknap was united in marriage to Betsey L. Clark, December 12, 1875. They first set up housekeeping in a log house on the south bank of the Turkey river, in Auburn township, Fayette county, Iowa. Edward has always been a hardworking man, being a farmer, thresher, wood-dealer, store-keeper, stock-dealer, always ready to buy when he could see a chance to make a dollar. He has ever been a man of his word, generous to his competitor, but never seeking quarter for himself. Betsey, his wife, is one of those quiet, unassuming gentlewomen. She has ever been a Christian lady and loving mother. To these, the father and mother of the subject, were born five sons, namely: Clark Hiram, born September 17, 1876, married Genevieve Strayer, September 5, 1898; she was born August 1, 1875. They have two sons, Jamison, aged eleven, and Hugh, aged nine. Clark is now practicing law in the town of McIntosh, South Dakota. The next child, the subject of this sketch, was born August 8, 1878. These two children were born in the log house mentioned above. In the winter of 1878-79 the family moved into a stone house which had been built on a small knoll back of the log house. Arthur Aldrich was born March 16, 1883, and married Sadie Finch,

August 31, 1907. She was born January 29, 1883. Arthur is now superintendent of schools at Strawberry Point, Iowa. Allen Edward, who was born September 15, 1884, is now in Canada. Ruel Kendall, born June 23, 1889, is now attending school at Upper Iowa University. The parents of this family are now residing in Fayette, Iowa, where they moved for the purpose of educating their children.

R. H. Belknap, of this review, was educated in the Fayette public schools and in Upper Iowa University; he also holds a diploma from the American School of Correspondence in the course of municipal engineering. Upon reaching maturity he married Edith Laura McGoon, May 26, 1902. She is a lady of culture and education and is the daughter of R. F. McGoon and wife.

Joseph McGoon was born in New Hampshire, from which state he removed in an early day to New York state. Richard McGoon, his son, was born January 17, 1826, in Cayuga county, New York. On November 4, 1847, at Mt. Pleasant, Wisconsin, he led to the marriage altar Maria Wood. To these twelve children were born, of whom R. F. McGoon, the father-in-law of the subject, was the third. He was born January 13, 1852. The other children who are now living are: Andrew, now living in Kilbourn City, Wisconsin; Sadie is a resident of St. Paul; Martha and Ella live in Monticello, Wisconsin; Addie lives in Belleville, Wisconsin; Albert is a resident of Hawkeye, Iowa; Arthur lives in West Union, Iowa, and Ernest in Utah. Maroa, Emma and Etta are deceased. Richard P. McGoon's grandfather participated in the battle of Bunker Hill, and he himself was a member of Company I, Forty-third Wisconsin Volunteers, in the Civil war. He died at Monticello, Wisconsin, in the winter of 1903.

Josiah Pierce was a native of New England. He was born May 21, 1786, and died December 25, 1845. Albert Henry Pierce, son of Josiah Pierce, was born April 28, 1820. He married Elizabeth Becker, who was born August 10, 1834, in the town of Clayton, New York. The marriage was solemnized November 28, 1852, at Washington, Wisconsin. Four children were born to them, of whom three are now living: Irwin and Florence, at Monticello, Wisconsin, and Burton, at Broadhead, Wisconsin. Ruth, who afterward became Mrs. R. F. McGoon, was born September 12, 1853, and died at Hawkeye, Iowa, December 19, 1901. Albert Pierce was a prominent citizen of his community, being twice elected to the Legislature of Wisconsin.

R. F. McGoon was married to Ruth Pierce, February 12, 1873, and, with his wife, drove from Monticello, Wisconsin, to Alpha, Iowa, in the spring of

1873, all they owned of this world's goods being in the one lumber wagon. They located on section 17, Bethel township, where they resided eleven years. From here they moved to Hawkeye, Iowa, where he engaged in the stock business. While there he did an enormous business for that time. After living here eighteen years, he moved to Clear Lake, Iowa. This was in the fall of 1902, a year after the death of his wife. He resided at Clear Lake only three years, when he moved to St. Paul, where he is now living. He is engaged in the stock business, being the sheep salesman for the commission firm of Corson, Wood & Weiler a part of the year, and carries on an extensive stock business in the Dakotas the rest of the time. To Mr. and Mrs. McGoon while on their farm in Bethel township were born three children: Albert R., March 7, 1874; Edith, March 21, 1879, and Alta, January 21, 1883. Albert was married to Mima Scouller, of Davenport, Iowa, June 15, 1894. She was born in Scotland and moved to Iowa, when a child. Five children were born to them: Richard, born June 13, 1895; Lynn, born January 25, 1897; Caryl, born May 10, 1898; Aileen, born March 27, 1900, and Douglas, born February 28, 1903. Albert and family are now living at Iowa Falls, Iowa. He is engaged with the Appleton Manufacturing Company as traveling salesman. Alta married Gus Ziehlke, March 21, 1907, at Galveston, Texas. They are now living in Omaha, Nebraska, where Mr. Ziehlke is engaged in the signal service department of the Union Pacific Railway. Edith attended school at Hawkeye and was graduated from the high school in 1897, being a member of the first graduating class of that school. She attended school at Upper Iowa University during the year of 1898-9. At this time her mother was seized with a serious illness and it became necessary for her to remain at home. She was with her mother constantly until her death, which occurred, as before related, on December 19, 1901.

The home of Professor Belknap and wife has been graced with two daughters, Betsey Beatrice, born March 10, 1903, and Ruth Imogene, born July 21, 1904, the former at Hawkeye, and the latter at Fayette.

Superintendent Belknap began his professional career in this county, teaching his first school in Auburn township, later becoming principal of the high schools at Westgate, Chelsea and Hawkeye, where he made very commendable records, being regarded as both an instructor and entertainer in the school room, a good organizer and was always popular with both pupil and patron, his services being in great demand. He held a high rank among the leading educators of this part of the state from the first years of his career. He was appointed county surveyor April 7, 1902, and elected at the next general election. He filled this important trust to the entire satisfaction of all concerned,

ever alert to his duties and untiring in the discharge of the same. He was appointed superintendent of the public schools of Fayette county, October 1, 1905, and elected at the succeeding election, and so faithfully and well did he perform his official labors in this capacity that he has been twice re-elected and is now serving in this position. He has given the cause of education a great impetus and Fayette county has one of the best school systems under his efficient management of any county in the great Hawkeye commonwealth, and the reputation of Superintendent Belknap far transcends the limits of this county. He keeps abreast of the times on all questions and issues of the day, and is familiar with the world's best literature, having been at all times a diligent and profound student, a fearless investigator for the truth and carrying his researches into all realms of learning, modern and ancient lore, so that he is well informed and symmetrically developed mentally, thus being well qualified for almost any gift at the hands of the people whom he ever seeks to conscientiously serve.

The Professor takes an abiding interest in fraternal matters, being a member of West Union Lodge No. 69, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Ansel Humphrey Chapter No. 80, Royal Arch Masons; Modern Woodmen of America; and the H. A. L. Club at West Union, and he and his wife are members of West Union Chapter No. 110, Order of the Eastern Star, of which he is worthy patron, and his wife is a member of the Tourist Club of West Union, Iowa.

EVERETT MADISON PHILLIPS.

The following is a brief sketch of one who, by close attention to business, has achieved marked success in business affairs and risen to an honorable position among the enterprising men of the city with which his interests are identified. It is a plain record, rendered remarkable by no strange or mysterious adventure, no wonderful or lucky accident and no tragic situation. Everett Madison Phillips, the well known druggist of West Union, Fayette county, is one of those estimable characters whose integrity and strong personality force them into an admirable notoriety which their modesty never seeks.

Mr. Phillips was born in this city which has always been his place of residence, on September 14, 1867, and he is the son of Everett Noah and Emma (Cox) Phillips, the former born at Laporte, Indiana, and the latter at Huntingdonshire, England. The father was a soldier in the Civil war, having come to America when young and proved true to his adopted country. He

made a good soldier and was first sergeant of Captain Stafford's Company H, Eighteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. The date of his enlistment was July 7, 1862, and he served very faithfully for a period of three years, being honorably discharged from the service of the United States on May 13, 1863, at Springfield, Missouri, by reason of a gunshot wound in the right leg, received at the battle of Springfield, January 8, 1863, which finally resulted in his death on July 8, 1879, at Boulder, Colorado. He was postmaster of West Union at the time of his death, and was a well known, highly respected and honest man. His widow still lives in this city. Two of their sons are practicing physicians in distant states.

Everett M. Phillips, of this review, was educated in the West Union public schools. Deciding upon a career as pharmacist as a life work, he was graduated in pharmacy in the Northwestern University at Chicago, Illinois, where he made an excellent record. He owned and operated successfully a drug store in West Union for several years. He was captain of Company G, Fourth Regiment Iowa National Guards, for one term and he is now agent of the United States Express Company at this place and district agent of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company for northeast Iowa. He has built up a very satisfactory business and has become well known in these lines of endeavor.

Fraternally, Everett M. Phillips belongs to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and Mrs. Phillips is a leading member of the Wednesday Art Club. Politically, Mr. Phillips is a Republican.

Mr. Phillips was united in marriage with Anna Hines Lacy, on August 31, 1897. She is the daughter of Milo and Jennie Elizabeth (Hines) Lacey, an excellent family of West Union, Iowa.

E. C. BELT.

Clearly defined purpose and consecutive effort in the affairs of life will inevitably result in the attainment of a due measure of success, but in following out the career of one who has achieved success by his own efforts there comes into view the intrinsic individuality which made such accomplishment possible, while there is at the same time enkindled a feeling of respect and admiration. The qualities which have made Mr. Belt one of the prominent and successful men of Oelwein have also brought him the esteem of his fellow townsmen, for his career has been one of well directed energy, strong determination and honorable methods.



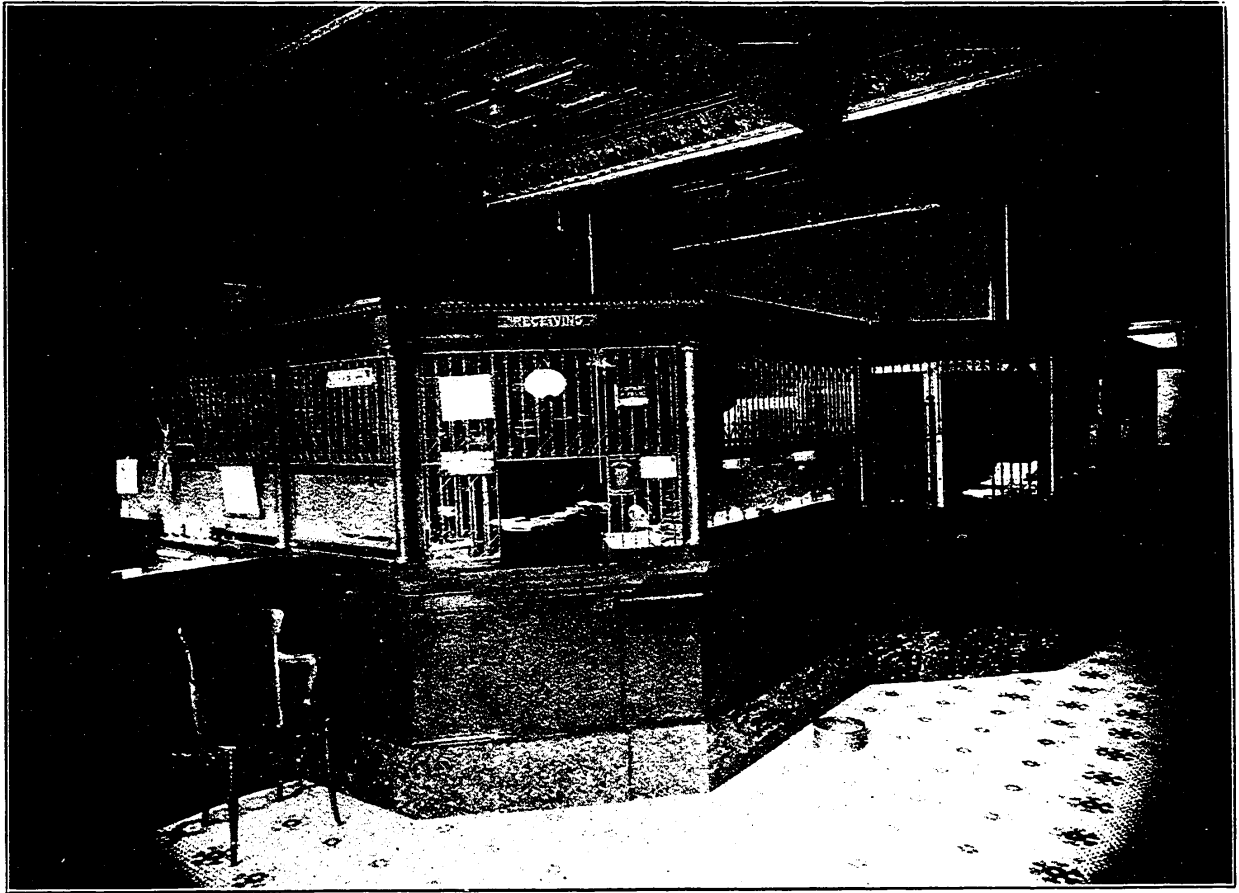
E. C. Betts

E. C. Belt was born in Kosciusko county, Indiana, on May 3, 1840, and is a son of Aquilla and Henrietta Elizabeth (Lewis) Belt, the father having been born in Licking county, Ohio, February 21, 1808. In the agnatic line the Belt family is traced to English sources, where several members of the family sat in the House of Lords. Soon after the close of the American Revolution two brothers of this family came to the United States, and from one of these brothers the subject of this sketch is directly descended. In the fall of 1850 Aquilla Belt brought his family from the Hoosier state to Iowa, stopping in Lima county near Mt. Vernon where he rented a farm for two years and in the meantime was looking for a permanent home, finally locating at what was then called Greeley's Grove, in the extreme northern part of Buchanan county—in fact, the north line of their farm was the north line of the county, bordering on Fayette. There the father took up a tract of land from the government, and also bought some timber land. At that time there were but seven families in that part of the county, and Aquilla Belt was the only Methodist within twenty miles. He succeeded in getting a Methodist minister to come to Greeley's Grove, the result being that a class was organized, of which Mr. Belt was elected the first class-leader, a position which he retained for many years. To Aquilla and Henrietta Belt were born six children, three sons and three daughters. The eldest son, Carleton, became a Methodist minister, and after years of effective and successful service in his church, he is now retired and living at Whittier, California. The younger son, George W., is living at Marshalltown, Iowa. Catherine became the wife of Marion Richmond, a Methodist preacher now located in Jasper county, Missouri. Matilda is the wife of Samuel Nicholson, a farmer in Iowa county, Iowa. Eliza is the wife of Leonard Brooks, a traveling salesman, their home being in Waterloo, Iowa.

E. C. Belt was reared on the paternal homestead and received his early education in the common schools of his neighborhood, later attending school at Fayette, after which he taught school for some time in the district schools. He was reared to the life of a farmer and agriculture has always had a strong fascination for him. He is now the owner of two splendid farms near Oelwein, one of two hundred and the other of one hundred and nineteen acres. In addition to the cultivation of this land, in which he has been uniformly successful, he has also given considerable attention to the handling of live-stock, raising, buying and shipping large numbers of cattle, in which line also he has prospered. In 1891 Mr. Belt moved to Oelwein and engaged in handling real estate, at the same time retaining the personal management of his farms. He has not, however, permitted husbandry to absorb his entire

attention and is interested in several other enterprises which have had a vital bearing and influence on the prosperity of the community. When the First National Bank of Oelwein was organized he became a stockholder and was chosen vice-president of the institution, retaining that position up to January 4, 1908, when he severed his connection with that bank and was instrumental in organizing the Iowa Savings Bank, of which he became president, in which position he is now serving. His forceful character and strong business qualities eminently fit him for a position of this nature and much of the remarkable success which has attended the bank thus far has been due to his indefatigable efforts and his personal influence. The present official directors of the Iowa State Savings Bank are as follows: E. C. Belt, president; W. E. Robinson, vice-president; J. W. Kint, cashier; W. G. Walrath, assistant cashier; directors, C. R. Brown, S. J. Fox, R. J. Young, G. A. Starr, J. J. Galvin, Robert Conner, George Schneider, W. E. Robinson, W. G. Walrath, E. C. Belt. The bank has enjoyed remarkable growth from the beginning, as the following statement of deposits shows: January 8, 1908 (date of opening), \$2,207.76; January 4, 1909, \$110,241.24; January 4, 1910, \$195,710.28; April 4, 1910 (date of examining committee meeting), \$302,246.77. The capital stock of the bank is thirty thousand dollars, and it is considered now one of the strong and influential financial institutions of the county, its rapid growth being conclusive evidence that it enjoys the confidence of the people. The sound, conservative banking methods adhered to by this bank have won, and the courteous treatment and the principle of reciprocity practiced by its officers is one of its valuable assets. The bank transacts a regular commercial business, though a specialty is made of the savings feature, which has already proven a popular department. To insure to the depositors absolute safety the bank officials purchased one of the very best burglar-proof manganese steel screw-door safes money could buy. This make of safe has many times defied the attacks of burglars—in fact, it is not known that one of these safes was ever opened by force. Another important and popular feature is the ladies' department, a feature which is not found in many banks in cities several times the size of Oelwein. A room was specially planned and furnished for the comfort and accommodation of lady patrons of the bank or others who may desire a resting place when in the city.

Mr. Belt also has other extensive interests, including a store on North Charles street, also one on Frederick street, one-sixth interest in the Glass block, and one-fourth interest in the Temple block. He has a modern, commodious, attractive and cozy residence on Charles street, the first, in fact, to be built on that street.



INTERIOR VIEW IOWA SAVINGS BANK, OELWEIN.

Mr. Belt married Juliet Lilly, a daughter of C. W. Lilly, a prominent farmer living at Independence, Iowa, and to them have been born four children, two of whom are living, namely: Cora, who married Charles Ozias, of Carthage, Missouri, and they have two children, Donna and Myrtle; Bert Lee married Bertha Bell, the daughter of A. Bell, and lives at Oelwein.

Politically, Mr. Belt is a staunch Republican and takes an intelligent interest in the trend of public events, though he has steadfastly refused to accept nomination for public office. Religiously, Mr. Belt and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he was chairman of the building committee which had in charge the erection of the beautiful church which that denomination now owns in Oelwein. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and of the Order of the Eastern Star, to which Mrs. Belt also belongs.

Mr. Belt's life work has been crowned with a large measure of success, but his prosperity has come to him as a result of energy, perseverance and hard work, his career thus illustrating most forcibly the power of patient and persistent effort and self-reliance. Mr. Belt is of an optimistic temperament and genial disposition, and makes friends easily, being one of the most popular and highly esteemed men in this section of the county.

CLEMENT T. SMITH.

The gentleman of whom the biographer writes in the following lines enjoys the distinction of being one of the most successful breeders and raisers of fine live stock in Fayette county, and as such he has been the means of inducing the farmers of his part of the county to improve their breeds of domestic animals, thus adding very materially to the wealth of the community by arousing an interest in this important branch of agriculture. Clement T. Smith comes of an old German family and combines in his make-up many of the sterling qualities and sturdy characteristics for which his ancestors were noted. His father, John Smith, whose birth occurred in Rhennish province, Germany, in 1831, came to the United States in 1854 and located in Wisconsin where his brother Jacob, who preceded him to this country the previous year, was then living. For several years after his arrival, he supported himself as a farm laborer, but in 1857 he married and made preparations to begin life upon his own responsibility, choosing for his wife Marguretha Schatz, a native of the same part of Germany in which he was born and who came to the United States about the time of his arrival.

Immediately after their wedding, John Smith and wife, together with his brother Jacob and family, started with an ox team to Minnesota, but after the Mississippi river was crossed, on meeting a number of emigrants, who gave quite an unfavorable account of the severe winters of that state, they concluded to remain in Iowa. Turning southward, they retraced their footsteps and in due time arrived in what is now Auburn township, Fayette county, where they decided to locate; accordingly they purchased land which cost them at the rate of six dollars per acre and at once proceeded to improve their possessions.

John Smith's first dwelling was a small log cabin of a very primitive pattern, on which he expended several days' labor, chinking the cracks with mud or clay, putting in windows about half the size of those now in use and for the first year the earth answered the purposes of a floor. In this modest edifice Mr. and Mrs. Smith commenced housekeeping, their furniture and few household utensils being in harmony with the building, but, blessed with sound health and animated by hope, they spent many pleasant years within the humble walls and by industry and good management soon improved their condition and found themselves on the high road to success and fortune. The nearest trading point at that time was the town of McGregor, more than sixty miles distant, and thither Mr. Smith would go to market his grain, pork, etc., selling dressed hogs at two dollars and fifty cents per hundredweight and other products at proportionate prices. Several years elapsed before prices advanced, but in due time there was a gradual increase, after which a better era dawned and the condition of the farmer was greatly improved. By energetic and well directed labor Mr. Smith was enabled to add to his land from time to time and, being an excellent judge, he never failed to make judicious selections. He remained on his original farm until it was increased to three hundred acres, in addition to which he purchased two hundred acres in Washington township, Winneshiek county, later becoming one of the largest owners of real estate in the county, his holdings at the time of his death amounting to eleven hundred acres, which he improved. The old Auburn township place is now owned by his son Philip and daughter Zita, the residue of his real estate being in possession of other members of the family, all industrious, economical and eager to add to what has come to them by inheritance.

Mr. Smith and family were among the first members of the Catholic church to locate in Auburn township, a mission having been started there in an early day by Father Wennegar, a Jesuit priest who visited the settlers from time to time and ministered to their spiritual wants. Later in the

spring of 1857 another priest visited the neighborhood and celebrated mass in the homes of the pioneers, the interest manifested in the work by all concerned finally leading to the organization at Festina, Winneshiek county, which is now the center of a flourishing parish and a comfortable home of worship.

To Mr. Smith belongs the credit of introducing a superior grade of live-stock among his neighbors and to this branch of farming he attributed the greater part of his success. By raising the finer breeds of cattle, horses and hogs, which he sold at liberal prices, he was soon on the road to prosperity and his advancement from that time on was rapid and substantial. In his prime he took pleasure in breaking horses and steers and it is said that from time to time he owned all the vicious and refractory animals in the neighborhood. He bought these for mere trifles, the owners being anxious to get rid of such stock, but after breaking and rendering them docile he would sell them at greatly enhanced prices, in this way adding very materially to his fortune. In breaking and training his animals he was as fearless as he was skillful, notwithstanding which he occasionally passed through experiences that were not always free from danger. On one occasion he was attacked by a crazed steer which broke his leg, and but for his bull dog which seized the animal by the throat just as it was on the point of goring him, he would have been killed. Another time, while riding a colt through a stream of water, the animal gave a sudden lurch which threw him backward, breaking the thigh bone, a very painful injury which was three months in healing and which caused him a lameness during the remainder of his life. Still later he was kicked in the side by a colt, breaking three of his ribs besides otherwise injuring him, and from this he also was a long time recovering.

In his prime Mr. Smith was an expert woodsman and had fine mechanical ability. He cut and hewed a great deal of timber and his services were frequently in demand by his neighbors and others in the construction of houses, barns and the making and repairing of farm implements, machinery, etc. In an early day he was active in his advocacy of public education and the first school started in what is now district No. 7, Auburn township, was largely the results of his efforts, each patron going security for the one hundred and twenty-five dollars required to defray the expenses of the term. Politically, Mr. Smith was pronounced in his support of the Democratic party, though never an office seeker, and he gave his influence to all measures and enterprises having for their object the material, social and moral advancement of the community. Mr. Smith was a man of progressive ideas, thoroughly in touch with the spirit of the times and had great faith in the future

development and prosperity of his adopted state. He was likewise an excellent neighbor, ever ready to do a favor or show a kindness and as a citizen none stood higher in the esteem of the public. His life was a very active one and his success pronounced and his death, which occurred on May 8, 1898, at the age of sixty-seven years, was deeply deplored throughout the community for the benefit of which he had done so much. Mrs. Smith survived her husband nearly nine years, dying April 22, 1907, aged seventy-one. The family of this esteemed couple consisted of twelve children, as follows: Katie, wife of C. Nepper, of South Dakota; Zita, who married John Hinker and lives on a part of the original homestead; Philip, a farmer and stock raiser, who also owns and operates a part of the farm; Fred J., of Eden township; Anna, now Mrs. Ben Gardner, of St. Lucas, Iowa; Barbara, wife of C. C. Grimes; Mary, deceased; Frances, who lives at Ft. Atkinson, Iowa; Peter J., a farmer residing near St. Lucas; John, who died in childhood; Clement T., whose sketch appears in following paragraphs, and Frank C., a merchant at Ft. Atkinson, Iowa. Philip is a stock-raiser of the Short Horn Durham breed and Peter J. of thoroughbred Clydesdale horses.

Clement T. Smith, the eleventh of the twelve children of John and Marguretha Smith and one of the leading livestock men of the locality in which he resides, was born September 9, 1874, in Fayette county, Iowa, and spent his early life on the family homestead in Eden township. While still quite young he became familiar with the duties of the farm and grew up to strong, well-rounded manhood without knowing what it was to eat of the bread of idleness. In the schools of the neighborhood he obtained a fair knowledge of the branches taught, this, with his subsequent experience in practical affairs, enabling him to discharge in a very creditable manner the duties of an active and successful career. Mr. Smith remained at home until March 1, 1898, when he took charge of the farm in Eden township which fell to him and later by good management increased its area from one hundred and twenty acres to one hundred and sixty, besides carrying forward a series of improvements which have added greatly to the appearance and value of the place. On April 26, 1898, he was united in marriage with Louise Schmitz, whose father, Peter Joseph Schmitz, a native of Cologne, Germany, came to America when quite young and after spending several years in Illinois came to Iowa, where she grew to womanhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have five sons, namely: Anthony P., Harold Philip, Leon Fred, John Theon and Paul Henry, all sturdy young Americans in whom their parents have centered many fond hopes for the future. The family are members of the Roman Catholic church and no efforts are being spared

to rear the children in the truths of religion and sobriety so that they may become an honor to the community, to the church and the state.

Mr. Smith's standing as an agriculturist is second to that of none of his neighbors, but his principal business is the breeding of fine livestock, in which he has been very successful and gained much more than local repute. As proprietor of Oakland farm, where he makes a specialty of high grade thoroughbred Poland China swine, he has become widely known throughout his own and other counties of northeastern Iowa, and his deals are always on the square. At this time his celebrated Oakland herd of the above breed of animals is not excelled by any like number of swine in the county and by judicious advertising he has succeeded in gaining quite an extensive patronage, this being among the factors that have given him prominence among the leading men of his part of the state.

Mr. Smith is progressive in the matter of public improvements and utilities and lends his influence to all worthy projects for the general welfare. He was a leading spirit in organizing and incorporating the St. Lucas Telephone Company, a very successful enterprise with which he is still identified, and his name also appears in connection with other means for promoting the material advancement of the country. In politics he is a Democrat, but not a politician, although interested in having good men in office and seeing the laws strictly enforced.

JOHN F. MILLER, JR.

Prominent among the leading agricultural men and influential citizens of Fayette county is John F. Miller, Jr., of Pleasant Valley township, for, while yet a young man in years, he has allied himself successfully with commercial as well as agricultural interests, and, furthermore, has, in the latter field, devoted himself to specialization.

John F. Miller, Jr., was born on February 13, 1872, on the farm where he now resides and which he operates in so admirable a manner and to such good purpose, and on this farm he has spent all his life, with the exception of some four years devoted to commercial pursuits. The home farm, however, although large and productive, did not furnish sufficient scope for a man of his energy and ambition, so, while keeping it under a high state of cultivation, he looked for wider opportunities. These he found on what is known as the Crandall farm, a tract of three hundred acres, where he conducted farming on an extensive scale, keeping it under a high state of cultiva-

tion. Here for five years he obtained excellent results from his up-to-date methods and careful attention given to the work. In addition to general farming, he gave special thought and attention to the breeding of Swiss cattle, with most satisfactory results, and the raising and breeding of these pure bred animals became a large portion of his work. In 1902 he chose to enter commercial life, and went into the milling business in Clermont, Iowa. This business he conducted to his profit for four years. At the end of that time he decided to return to farm life and to devote his entire time to general farming and stockraising. With characteristic energy, he chose a large tract for operations and now has under cultivation four hundred acres of land. While giving careful supervision to general farming on this land, he is again breeding fine Swiss cattle and conducts a dairy and feeding industry, and also raises fine horses.

Mr. Miller keeps actively in touch with the business world and holds an interest in the electric lighting plant. Politically, he is a Republican and, although not an office aspirant, has accepted a number of township offices.

On February 13, 1896, Mr. Miller was married to Katie Frautschy, who was born in Green county, Wisconsin, from which state she came to Fayette county with her parents. Six children have blessed their union, Walter, Edna, Karl, Wilma, Erwin and Clara, all of whom are living. The family are members of the German Baptist church, to which they are generous contributors, and of which Mr. Miller has been a deacon for ten years. Mr. and Mrs. Miller are a hospitable and genial couple, and their home is always found a pleasant one by those who have the good fortune to visit it. Throughout the community they are respected and admired.

CARL HENRY BRUEHLER.

In taking a cursory glance through the list of leading citizens of Windsor township, Fayette county, the biographer does not go far until he encounters the name of Carl Henry Bruehler, who was born November 30, 1855, in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, on a small farm which is now intersected by East Euclid avenue, Cleveland. He is the son of Henry and Caroline Bruehler, the former a native of Baden, Germany, and the latter of Saxony. They came to America when young and were married in Ohio. In 1856 they came to Fayette county, Iowa, where two sisters of Mrs. Henry Bruehler had already located. They were Johannah, the wife of Herman Meisgeier and



CARL H. BRUEHLER.



MRS. ANNA BRUEHLER.

the mother of Carl Meisgeier and Herman Meisgeier, of near Arlington; the other sister, Henerika, married Adam Becker. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bruehler bought land northeast of Arlington, near the homes of these two sisters, about three miles from town, and there the parents developed a good farm on which they spent the remainder of their lives, becoming well known in Fairfield township. Their farm was wild and unimproved when they moved on it, but in a few years it was yielding abundant harvests. Mr. Bruehler died in 1864, at the early age of thirty-five years, leaving a widow and six children, Carl, the oldest son, then being nine years of age; there were two older sisters. The mother of these children remained on the farm and reared the children, five of whom are still living, namely: Barbara is the wife of Doctor Wegman, of Blue Hill, Nebraska; Mary married H. Knapp and lives in Arlington, this county; Caroline is the wife of George Downham, living in Hawkeye, Windsor township; Carl H., of this review; Louisa is the wife of Elmer Hooper, living in Fairfield, Vermont. The mother of these children was called to her reward at the age of sixty-six years. She had the distinction of being the original member of the St. Sebald Lutheran church.

Carl H. Bruehler took the home place to work when he was twenty-three years of age and seven years later he married, his mother having kept house for him in the meantime. On December 25, 1884, he joined Mrs. Anna Hennig in the bonds of wedlock. A full sketch of her family appears elsewhere in this volume. She had married Carl Hennig when nineteen years of age, and by that union three children were born, namely: Henry, who was killed when fourteen years of age, by a horse kicking him; Ella is the wife of William Pieper, of Hawkeye; Christopher, living near Hawkeye. Three children have also been born to Mr. and Mrs. Carl H. Bruehler, namely: Catherine, who died when eleven years of age; Gottfried, who is married and living near his father, and Lottie, who is living at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruehler are members of the Lutheran church at Hawkeye. When they married, Mrs. Bruehler owned one hundred acres of good land which Mr. Hennig had purchased. Soon eighty acres was added to this and later one hundred and sixty, some of which cost as high as sixty-three dollars per acre, Mr. Bruehler having prospered from the first and made without assistance enough to own his present large and well improved farm. He is a good manager and is very successful with general farming and stock raising. He devotes considerable attention to feeding stock, especially cattle, and he breeds some high grade stock, which, owing to their high grade and excellent quality, always find a ready market, and he is known as one of the leading stockmen of Windsor township. His attractive and commodious

dwelling was built about twelve years ago, and he has good barns and all kinds of modern farming implements. He is a stockholder and director of the First State Bank of Hawkeye.

Mr. Bruehler has for some time been influential in local political matters, and for two terms, or a period of six years, beginning in 1900, he served in a very able and acceptable manner as county supervisor. This was during the time of the great flood, when many fine bridges were carried away, but he met the situation in a masterly manner. He had previously served as township trustee for several years. He has always been loyal to the Republican party and he is at this writing chairman of the local delegation. He is known throughout the county as an honest, industrious and public-spirited citizen whom everyone trusts and respects. Mr. Bruehler is one of the directors of the First State Bank of Hawkeye.

WILLIAM M. HORN, SR.

The family of William M. Horn, Sr., a substantial citizen of Maynard, Fayette county, prominent farmer and honored ex-soldier, were influential Kentuckians, but the subject was born at De Kalb, Buchanan county, Missouri, January 30, 1844. He is the son of John O. Horn, who was a native of Kentucky, but spent the latter years of his life in Missouri. He was of Irish descent and married Malissa Jane Bragg, a native of Kentucky. They went to Missouri in an early day, in 1847 went to Delaware county, Iowa, and in 1850 to California, making the long, tedious journey overland with an ox team. Mr. Horn died in California of the fever, shortly after he went there, leaving a widow, who married again and who died in 1858. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. John O. Horn: Samuel, who served three years in the Twelfth Iowa Volunteer Infantry during the Civil war, and is now living at Plattsville, Wisconsin; William M., of this review, was the youngest child. The parents of these children were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Horn was a Democrat.

William M. Horn, Sr., is purely a self-made man, starting in life under none too favorable environment. He lived with an uncle, James Retherford, at Colesburg, Iowa, until the spring of 1862, when he proved his loyalty to the old flag by enlisting in Company F, Twenty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry, in which he served in a very gallant manner until 1865. He was first sent to Minnesota to assist in keeping peace at the payment of a tribe of

Indians. He was later sent to Memphis, Tennessee, then to Vicksburg and on a long march eastward to reinforce Sherman on Big Black river, later returning to Vicksburg. He took part in Banks' fatal Red River expedition, and he was in the battle and capture of Fort De Russy, Louisiana, March 14, 1864, Mr. Horn being the second man to mount the breastworks. His next battle was at Pleasant Hill, April 9, 1864. He received a shot there which shattered his left thigh. His comrades dragged him and placed him under a tree and while lying there he received five other wounds and he was taken prisoner with four hundred others and was held three months in the open air, under the trees. He was paroled with one hundred and forty comrades, the rest of the four hundred dying of exposure and neglect. Mr. Horn was discharged on June 20, 1865, at Montgomery, Alabama, after serving three years.

After the war Mr. Horn returned to Delaware county, Iowa, and on September 13, 1865, he married Sarah Montgomery, a native of Pennsylvania, who at the age of four years came to Iowa with her father, Archibald Montgomery. To Mr. and Mrs. Horn one son was born, named William M., Jr., born June 16, 1866, in Delaware county, Iowa. He has always remained with his parents. Archibald Montgomery married Eleanor Kilgore, who, like himself, was a native of Mercer county, Pennsylvania, where they grew to maturity and where they were married. In 1842 they came to Colesburg, Delaware county, Iowa. The country was wild at that time, abounding in an abundance of wild game and Indians. Archibald Montgomery's father, William Montgomery, came to Iowa in 1840 and bought land. He was a great hunter and kept the family supplied with wild meat. He was a typical pioneer and loved the woods and primitive conditions. He died in 1866. In 1849 Archibald Montgomery went overland with an ox team to California, taking his son, William, who was then fourteen years of age, and a few neighbors, being six months on the journey. He remained in the Golden state two and one-half years, mining. He returned to Delaware county, Iowa, where he died in 1875, at the age of sixty-nine years; his wife had preceded him to the grave in 1849. Mr. Montgomery was a successful farmer and a man of considerable influence in his community. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, namely: William died in Illinois on his way home from the army on a furlough, having been a soldier in Company F, Twenty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry; Sarah, wife of William M. Horn, Sr., of this review; Martha is the widow of James Arbuckle and is living at Greeley, Iowa; Hon. John K., of West Union, married Mary Mellon and they are the parents of two children, Belle M. and William A. John K. Montgomery

was elected in 1885 to the twenty-first General Assembly and he served on two important committees, agricultural and senatorial districts, and he was also on the county central committee; he is a Democrat and formerly engaged in farming. Elizabeth Montgomery married William Alcorn, of West Union, Iowa; Mary J. Montgomery is the widow of James Montgomery, of West Union; Isabelle Montgomery married Thomas Reeder, of West Union.

After the close of the war, William M. Horn, Sr., lived in Delaware county, Iowa, until 1869, when he located on section 30, in Smithfield township, Fayette county, later on section 19, where he farmed successfully until 1896, when he retired and has since lived in Maynard, Iowa. They have in all two hundred and sixty acres of well improved and well kept land in Smithfield township. Mr. Horn has always been a farmer and a very progressive one and considering the disadvantages under which he started in life for himself he is deserving of great credit for what he has accomplished. He has been an extensive raiser of Durham cattle, Norman horses, Poland-China hogs, and a large part of his competency has been made by the skillful handling of livestock. He votes the Democratic ticket and belongs to Lodge No. 126, Knights of Pythias, at Oelwein, Iowa. He has won and retained hosts of friends wherever he has lived, for he is a man of genuine worth, honest, kind and hospitable.

LYMAN EVERETT MITCHELL.

One of the best known men and in some respects one of the most remarkable characters in Fayette county is the subject of this sketch, who, after a lifetime of varied and unusual experiences, is now living retired at Oelwein, making his home with his sister. Mr. Mitchell is a Yankee by nativity, having been born in the town of Enfield, Hampshire county, Massachusetts, on the 3rd of January, 1837. He is descended from noted ancestry and there flows in his veins some of the best blood on the continent. He is a son of Alden and Adeline (Hodges) Mitchell. Alden Mitchell was a direct descendant from Experience Mitchell, a native of England, who was a companion in Holland of Capt. Miles Standish and John Alden and others of the historic party who came to the New World, landing at Plymouth Rock in 1620. He, however, did not accompany this party, remaining in Holland until 1623, when he joined the party at Plymouth. Alden Mitchell's mother, who bore the maiden name of Nehitabel Alden, was a direct descendant of John Alden and Priscilla, the "Puritan maiden" immortalized by the poet,

Longfellow. The latter and William Cullen Bryant, another of America's beloved poets, were both also descended from John Alden. Through his maternal grandmother, who was a member of the noted Drake family, Alden Mitchell also traced his lineage back to Sir Francis Drake, the great English navigator. Thus it is seen that the subject's forefathers were of that stanch New England stock which has been in many respects the very backbone of American literature and religion. Many members of these families still live in Plymouth county, Massachusetts, though some live at Worcester.

Lyman E. Mitchell was reared on the paternal homestead at Enfield and received his education in a typical New England school house of that early day. When he was seventeen years old the family moved to Illinois, but in the spring of 1855 they came to what is now known as Smithfield township, Fayette county, Iowa, where they entered a quarter section of government land. It was known as graduation land, the price being graded according to the length of time it had been on the market or thrown open for purchase. The Mitchells bought it for seventy-five cents an acre, and it is worthy of note that the same land has since been sold for one hundred dollars an acre. At that time this township was very sparsely settled, especially in the southern part, and here the newcomers built a log cabin for their first home. At that time the subject was about eighteen years old and he made that his home until 1861, taking an active and effectual part in the work of clearing the land and putting it in shape for cultivation. In 1861 he caught the "California fever" and he and a number of companions started in wagons on the long and tiresome trip to the land of the golden sunsets. It required seventy days to make the trip from Fayette county to Salt Lake City. When he reached Sacramento, he learned that war had broken out between the North and the South and in October, 1861, he joined Company E, Fifth Regiment California Volunteer Infantry. This command was sent into Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, where they were principally engaged in keeping under subjection the Indians, chiefly the bloodthirsty Apaches. They also did much scouting and convoying of wagon trains, the noted scout, Kit Carson, being a member of their command a part of the time, and the subject took part in the battle of Val Verde. During this time their common lot consisted of long and weary marches across the burning sands of the Arizona desert, ever keeping a close watch for signs of Indian trouble. The regiment remained in this service during the entire period of the war and were discharged at La Mesilla, on the Rio Grande, in New Mexico, after actual service of three years and two months. Such was the condition of the surrounding

country that the subject and his companions had to practically fight their way back to civilization, it requiring forty-three days to get back to Los Angeles. Mr. Mitchell was first sergeant of his company and, having considerable talent as a drillmaster, he was given a good deal of responsibility in this direction. He was also a provost-marshal during a part of his military service in a wild western town, where he had to deal with many "bad men," with whom he dealt successfully, though at times it required an exhibition of nerve. During his military experience Mr. Mitchell escaped being wounded, but contracted malaria, from which he suffered greatly. From San Francisco he took ship and returned home by way of the isthmus of Panama and New York city. He was glad to get back to Fayette county, and here, under his mother's care and, as he says, largely her cooking, he was in due time restored to health. Had he been a man of less rugged physique he would have succumbed, but his great strength and vitality carried him through. He reached home March 11, 1865, and during the greater part of his subsequent life he continued to reside on the Smithfield township farm, in the operation of which he took an active part. He has always been a hard worker and has been numbered among Fayette county's most industrious and enterprising citizens.

In 1874 Mr. Mitchell was married to Mrs. Lydia W. (Bryer) Mitchell, the widow of his deceased brother, George Byron Mitchell, she being a native of Rhode Island. To them were born three children, namely: Jessie Alden and Charlotte Caswell, both of whom are now living in Brooklyn, New York, and Mark Milton, who lives in Massachusetts, where he is a traveling salesman for an aluminum manufacturing establishment. Mark married, in August, 1908, Lillian Bessie Moulton, of Maine. In December, 1907, Mr. Mitchell came to Oelwein, and is now making his home with his sister, Mrs. Mary Catherine Bogert.

Politically, Mr. Mitchell was at one time active in support of the Greenback party and in 1880 was a delegate to the national convention of that party. In later years he has not taken a great interest in political matters. Fraternally, he is an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic. In 1870 he became a member of the Masonic order, but is not now actively affiliated. In 1871 Mr. Mitchell was elected a justice of the peace and discharged the duties of the office until 1907, when he resigned. He is now (1910) again a candidate for that office. He has at other times also held various local offices, such as clerk, assessor, etc.

Mr. Mitchell is a wide-awake and intelligent man, and, despite his advancing years, he enjoys remarkable health, being a man of splendid physique and

fine personal appearance, erect and broad-shouldered as in his prime. He is a man of linguistic accomplishment, being a fluent user of Spanish. During the war, while on the Mexican frontier, he learned to speak the language readily, but recognizing that colloquialisms had rendered the language impure as he heard it, he determined to perfect himself in the use of the language in its purest form. To this end, after his return home, he gave the language serious study and became thoroughly fluent in its use, both in reading, writing and speaking. At one time, while at Des Moines as a member of the soldiers' monument commission, he was called upon to read and interpret some Spanish communications in connection with the official business of the state of Iowa. In other lines he has been self-educated, and is considered an exceptionally well-informed man. He possesses great conversational powers and his recital of reminiscences of the early days here and in the West are exceedingly interesting as well as instructive. He is exceedingly optimistic in temperament and carries with him the buoyancy of youth. He is a delightful companion and enjoys the unbounded esteem and friendship of all who know him.

JOHN IRVINE.

The agricultural interests of Fayette county are well represented by the subject of this review, who is one of the practical and enterprising farmers of his section of the county, his residence being in the attractive little city of Oelwein. Like many other successful, self-made men of northern Iowa, he is an American by adoption only, being a native of Ireland, from whence has come so much of the bone and sinew of this great western republic. Wherever known the Irish type is noted for thrift and enterprise, the subject of this sketch being no exception to the rule.

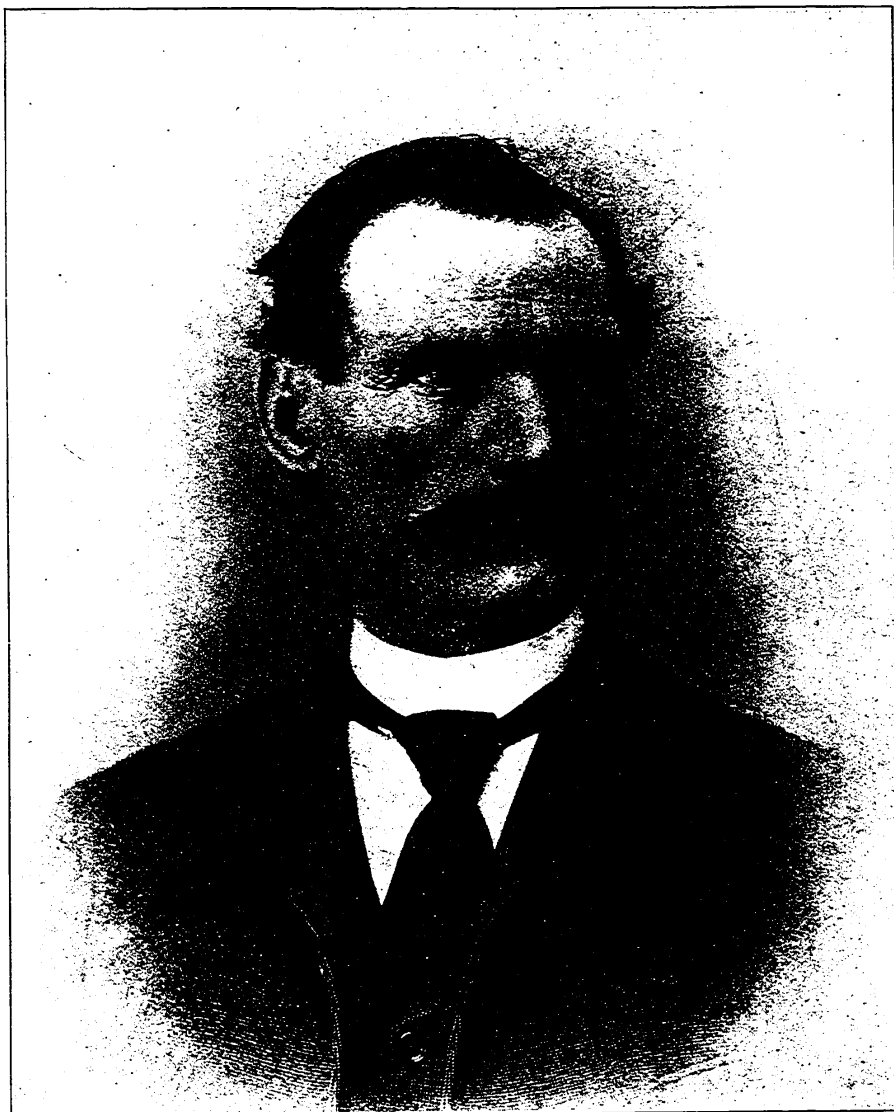
John Irvine was born near Belfast, county Down, Ireland, on the 20th day of January, 1836, and was reared on the parental homestead, receiving his education in the schools of the neighborhood. In 1857, when twenty-one years old, he came to America, going at once to Ontario, Canada, where he resided during the ensuing ten or twelve years. He there followed farming and dealing in livestock and was fairly successful. In February, 1870, Mr. Irvine came to Fayette county, Iowa, locating two miles west of Oelwein, though at that time the town had not been laid out. On his arrival here he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of land, to the cultivation of which he devoted his energies, and from time to time he added to his original

land until he eventually owned four hundred acres of land in Jefferson township, which is still in his possession. When the Great Western railway was run through Oelwein, Mr. Irvine moved to that place and has since resided there. About two years after locating here Mr. Irvine returned to Canada and brought back with him to Iowa four thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, and soon afterwards he imported a carload of these animals, being the first man in the county to handle thoroughbred cattle extensively. He now has on his farm a large herd of milch cows, which are managed by his nephew, W. J. Irvine. Mr. Irvine has been industrious and practical in his methods and during his active years he gave his personal attention to every detail of his work, that being one of the main secrets of his success. He is known as one of the most progressive farmers in the county and is considered a representative of that industry.

On March 24, 1866, Mr. Irvine was married to Isabella C. Wiley, a native of Canada, her parents having been natives of county Down, Ireland. To the subject and his wife have been born four children, namely: Louise, who died December 4, 1905; Florence, who died January 12, 1907; the latter as the wife of George L. Thompson, of Oelwein, and she is survived by two children, Marion Isabella and Viola Louisa, one child having died in infancy; the only surviving child is Albert E., who is now living in Oelwein, where he is engaged in the practice of law and is a justice of the peace. Religiously, Mr. Irvine and his family are members of the Presbyterian church, to which they give an earnest support. While he takes an interest of proper sort in public affairs of a local nature, he has never been an aspirant for official preferment. He is ever found in hearty support of every movement which promises to be of benefit to the community, morally, educationally, socially or materially. Because of his sterling qualities of character, he enjoys the highest regard throughout the community where he resides.

CHRIST LEHMAN.

Although the republic of Switzerland is no larger than a county or province in the great empires and countries of Europe and Asia, yet it is doubtful if any foreign land has sent to the United States a larger number of first-class citizens. For upwards of two hundred years they have been establishing their homes within our borders and assimilating our civilization, taking rank with our best citizenship, law-abiding, industrious and ready to de-



CHRIST LEHMAN.

fend our flag during crises. Of this great horde, C. Lehman, a well known merchant of Elgin, Fayette county, is deserving of special mention, as will be understood from a brief resume of his career outlined in the following paragraphs. His birth occurred near Bern, Switzerland, February 26, 1845. He is the son of John Lehman and wife, full mention of whom is made on another page of this work. They brought their son, the subject, to America in 1852, and he remained at home with his parents, attending school during the winter months, until 1862, when he began learning the wagonmaker's trade, under John Neunswander, in the building which now stands across from the Lehman hardware store, the subject's place of business. He served an apprenticeship of two and one-half years, but he remained in Mr. Neunswander's employ about four years, then worked at his trade in various places until 1871, in which year he was married to Mary Single, in Macomb, Illinois. They came to Elgin, Iowa, in a short time and here Mr. Lehman, in 1872, erected a two-story shop which still stands and there he maintained a well patronized wagon shop for six or seven years. He then began in the farm implement business and for several years sold implements in large numbers and became widely known in this part of the county in his special line. In 1883 he and his nephew, J. W. Lehman, formed a partnership and began a general hardware business, which they conducted successfully until 1890, when the partnership was dissolved, after which Mr. Lehman conducted his business alone until 1906, when he took his son, L. G. Lehman, as a partner and they have continued to do a very satisfactory business, enjoying a liberal trade with the people of northeastern Fayette county. Besides carrying a large, complete and carefully selected stock of general hardware, they also handle an excellent stock of builders' supplies.

To Mr. and Mrs. C. Lehman the following children have been born: Lulu, now Mrs. J. C. Schmidt; Eda married F. R. Burg; two children are deceased, Josie and Eddie, they having been the first and second in order of birth, respectively; the son, Leslie G., is associated with his father in the store and is a young man of excellent business qualifications.

Mr. Lehman in his fraternal relations is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (blue lodge, chapter and commandery) and the Mystic Shrine, also the Iowa Legion of Honor, taking an active interest in all these orders, and endeavoring to live up to their high precepts in his every-day life.

Politically, Mr. Lehman is a Democrat and has long been active in the ranks. He has the distinction of having been the first mayor of Elgin and he has done perhaps more for the upbuilding of the town than any other individual, having always stood ready to aid whatever measure that had for its

object the general welfare of the village and vicinity. He has been trustee of his township for several years, and he has been on the local school board for the past fifteen successive years. His life has been one of unceasing activity and has been led in such a manner as to inspire the confidence and esteem of everyone, since he ever evinces a desire to deal fairly with his fellow men and while he is advancing his own interests not to lose sight of his obligations to others.

ELBERT H. ESTEY.

Holding prestige among the successful attorneys of Fayette and adjoining counties, Elbert H. Estey, while yet a young man, has proven his worth to rank with the leading professional men in a community long noted for its high order of talent, especially along legal lines, and the study of such a life cannot fail of interest and incentive, as he is distinctively representative of his sphere of activity and has contributed in no small measure to the general uplift of West Union and the locality which is his home and field of operation, at the same time establishing a reputation for honor and integrity.

Mr. Estey is a member of the firm of Clements & Estey, and he was born in the city of Fayette, this county, November 4, 1873. He is the son of Charles P. and Mary (Scott) Estey, the father a native of Vermont and the mother of Ohio, the latter being the daughter of William Scott, who was among the early settlers of Dover township and where the family is still represented. Elbert H. Estey's paternal grandfather, Warren Estey, was an early settler of Winneshiek county. Charles P. Estey lived for a time at Postville, Allamakee county, but he came to Fayette about 1871. His family consisted of three daughters and one son, Elbert H. of this review being the youngest; his sisters are, Carrie, who married Rev. M. T. Miller, of Colorado, a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church; Addie, who has remained unmarried, is a talented lecturer and reformer, engaged in the work of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, located at Des Moines, Iowa; Blanche is the wife of Rev. George C. Fort and is located at Salina, Kansas. All the family except the youngest sister are graduates of the Upper Iowa University.

The father of these children is a painter and decorator, having made this his life work and he is very adroit in the use of the brush, his services having always been in great demand. He and his wife make their home in Fayette, where they are highly esteemed by a wide circle of friends.

Elbert H. Estey, after completing his college course, performed in a very commendable manner the duties of court reporter in the thirteenth judicial district for a period of two years, during the term of Judge William A. Hoyt. All the while he studied law during his spare moments, having decided early in life to devote his energies to the legal profession. He took a law course at the State University of Minnesota, where he made a good record and from which institution he was graduated in June, 1896. He soon returned to Iowa and opened an office in the city of Waterloo and he practiced there with a very satisfactory clientele for a period of seven years and became one of the leading members of the bar of that place, but desiring to return to his home county, he began practice in West Union on December 1, 1905, and has been here to the present time, his record at the Fayette county bar having been one of honor and credit and has won the admiration of his clients and contemporaries at the bar. He was associated with the late David W. Clements, one of the leading lawyers of this district, the firm of Clements & Estey having been a most potent one in all local courts.

Mr. Estey was married on August 19, 1903, to Mary E. Scobey, daughter of George P. and Martha B. Scobey, a prominent early family of Fayette, where the father was long a leading merchant and where his death occurred on February 2, 1904. The mother is still living. One son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Estey, Robert, born July 17, 1907. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and politically Mr. Estey is a Republican. Fraternally, he is a member of West Union Lodge No. 69, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and the West Union lodge of the Knights of Pythias.

ROBERT WILLARD HELMS.

The office of biography is not to give voice to a man's modest estimate of himself and his accomplishments, but rather to leave upon the record the verdict establishing his character by the consensus of opinion on the part of his neighbors and fellow citizens. In touching upon the life history of the subject of this sketch, the writer aims to avoid fulsome encomium and extravagant praise; yet he desires to hold up for consideration those facts which have shown the distinction of a true, useful and honorable life—a life characterized by perseverance, energy, broad charity and well defined purpose. To do this will be but to reiterate the dictum pronounced upon the man by the people who have known him long and well.

Robert W. Helms, merchant and postmaster at Brainard, was born in the state of New York, July 30, 1839, and is a son of William and Hannah (Robins) Helms. William Helms was a native of Scotland and at the age of seven years he accompanied his parents on their emigration to America. They located in Essex county, New York, where Mr. Helms spent the remainder of his years, dying at the advanced age of ninety-three years. He followed farming during his active years and was fairly successful in his business affairs. He took a leading and prominent part in local public affairs and held at different times many of the township and county public offices. He was a Republican in politics and in religion was affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he was a class-leader at the time of his death. He married Hannah Robins, a native of Vermont, and they became the parents of thirteen children, six of whom are living, namely: Robert W., who was the first born in the family, Jennie, Martha, Carrie, Addie and Melvin. The mother of these children was sixty-three years old at the time of her death.

Robert W. Helms remained in his native state until he was twenty-four years old. At the age of twenty-one years he enlisted in the First Regiment of United States Sharpshooters and served fourteen months assisting in the suppression of the Southern rebellion. During most of this time he was on detached duty, but he was actively engaged during the three-days battle at Gettysburg, and, with his regiment, took part in several other of the noted engagements of that war, seeing much hard service. At the conclusion of his military service he returned to Essex county, New York, and, as before stated, at the age of twenty-four years he came to Fayette county, Iowa. He soon afterwards went to Wisconsin, where he remained two years and then returned to Fayette county, which has since been his home. He is the owner of some splendid farming land, his home place being located in sections 30 and 36, while he also owns a good farm in section 16. He carries on general farming and also gives considerable attention to livestock, in the handling of which he has been very successful. He is a breeder of registered Hereford cattle, maintaining on his farm a good herd of these cattle, and he also buys and sells much other stock, mostly cattle and hogs. Besides his farming interests, Mr. Helms is doing a successful general merchandise business, being the proprietor of the only store in Brainard, where he carries a large and well-selected stock of such goods as are in demand by the trade. He is postmaster and maintains the office in his store. Courteous and accommodating, he has gained for himself the good will of all who have dealings with him and is numbered among the leading men of his community.

In 1875 Mr. Helms was married to Artherlinda Mounce, who was born

in Lynn county, Iowa, in February, 1849, and whose death occurred in 1903, at the age of fifty-four years. To this union were born four children, namely: Clara Louella is the wife of E. O. Randall, of Muscatine, Iowa, and they have two children: Harley W., of Brainard, married Celia Bohanan and they are the parents of three children; Ethel D. is the wife of Martin Hovey, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and they have one child; Judson, who was the first born of these children, died at the age of fourteen months.

The subject is a Republican, but has endeavored to keep clear of political affairs. He was, however, induced to serve as justice of the peace for a number of years, having retired from the office in 1908 because of the press of his other business affairs, which would not permit of a division of his attention and time. He is a firm believer in the uplifting influence of the church and he gives a liberal support to the Baptist and Methodist Episcopal churches. In many ways Mr. Helms has shown qualities of the highest order and has invariably given his support to every movement having for its object the advancement of the best interests of the community. Genial in disposition, optimistic in temperament and accommodating in his dealings with others—it is not strange that he enjoys a large circle of warm and loyal friends. Such men are desirable elements in any community and are the foundation of its growth and prosperity.

ELIAS HEWITT APPELMAN.

Specific mention is made of many of the worthy citizens of Fayette county within the pages of this work, citizens who have figured in the growth and development of this favored locality and whose interests have been identified with its every phase of progress, each contributing in his sphere of action to the well-being of the community in which he resides and to the advancement of its normal and legitimate growth. Among this number is he whose name appears above, peculiar interest attaching to his career from the fact that his entire life has been spent within the borders of this county.

Elias H. Appelman was born on May 7, 1858, in Clermont township, this county, on the farm on which his father settled. The latter, Gustavus Adolphus Appelman, is mentioned at length elsewhere in this work and the reader is referred to that sketch for further details as to the subject's genealogical record. The subject was reared on the paternal farmstead and secured his education in the public schools, finishing in the high school at Clermont. Upon completing his school days he took up the occupation of teaching, but the

call to the free and wholesome outdoor life of the farm was strong and he has since applied his energies to agriculture. He is a thoroughly practical farmer, keeping in close touch with advanced ideas relating to the science of husbandry and he has met with pronounced success in his labors. He is the owner of three hundred acres of land in the home place in Clermont township, and also owns several hundred acres of land elsewhere. He follows diversified farming, raising all the crops common to this section of the country, and he also gives considerable attention to the raising of livestock, particularly cattle, in which he has met with good results. Mr. Appelman's farm is maintained at a high standard of efficiency and therefore its productiveness is kept at the highest possible point. The attractive residence, commodious and well arranged barns and outbuildings indicate the owner to be a man of sound ideas and good taste.

Politically a Republican, Mr. Appelman has given due attention to local public affairs and has rendered appreciative service for many years as a member of the school board, and is now serving acceptably as the assessor of the township. He is liberal in his religious views, giving his support without reserve to all movements having for their object the betterment of the community in general.

On November 30, 1887, Mr. Appelman married Mabel Stewart, who was born in this county on October 17, 1866, the daughter of John W. and Emma (Hale) Stewart, the former born in Columbus, New York, on January 11, 1836, and the latter born in Chulmleigh, England, on May 4, 1845. To Mr. and Mrs. Appelman have been born six children, namely: Charles Stewart, an infant deceased, Mabel Winifred, Franz Alan, Lucian Hewitt and Ruth Elizabeth.

Mr. Appelman is a man of broad ideas and up-to-date methods and because of his persistent industry, sturdy integrity, good management and genial disposition, he has won and retains to a marked degree the esteem and good will of the entire community in which he lives.

ANDREW THORSON.

Clearly defined purpose and consecutive effort in the affairs of life will inevitably result in the attaining of a due measure of success, but in following out the career of one who has attained success by his own efforts there comes into view the intrinsic individuality which made such accomplishment possible,

and thus there is granted an objective incentive and inspiration, while at the same time there is enkindled a feeling of respect and admiration. The qualities which have made Mr. Thorson one of the prominent and successful men of Fayette county have also brought him the esteem of his fellow men, for his career has been one of well-directed energy, strong determination and honorable methods.

Andrew Thorson is a native son of Fayette county, having been born on the farm where he now lives in Clermont township, on August 7, 1864. He is a son of Thor and Anna Thorson, both of whom were natives of Norway, where the father was born on October 1, 1814. The latter, on coming to the United States, stopped for a few weeks in Wisconsin, but came to Fayette county in 1850. He bought two hundred acres of land, where the subject now lives, and to the cultivation of this land he applied his energies with marked success. He spent his remaining days on this place and his death occurred here on February 11, 1905. His widow is still living here, at the age of seventy-five years. They were the parents of three children, though by a former marriage Mr. Thorson had become the father of five others. Mr. Thorson was a Republican in his political views and he and the members of his family were faithful members of the Lutheran church.

Andrew Thorson spent his boyhood days on the paternal farmstead and secured his education in the common schools of the neighborhood. Reared as a farmer boy, he early decided to devote his future energies to the prosecution of this industry and that he has been successful goes without saying, for he has within him the elements which in any calling will inevitably invite success. Persistent and well directed industry, sound judgment in his business affairs and a love for his work have had results that have been satisfactory to a gratifying degree. Mr. Thorson is now the owner of a splendid farm of two hundred and ninety-five acres, besides which he is interested in about nine thousand acres of land elsewhere. On the home farm he carries on a diversified system of farming, raising all the crops common to this section and also giving considerable attention to the raising of livestock, with good results. Mr. Thorson also has other business interests, being a stockholder in the Elgin Savings Bank and the Clermont State Bank.

In 1888 Mr. Thorson was united in marriage to Hannah Kittleson, a native of Fayette county and a daughter of Hans Kittleson, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work. This union has been blessed in the birth of three children, Alphie, Clarence and Lena, the latter being deceased.

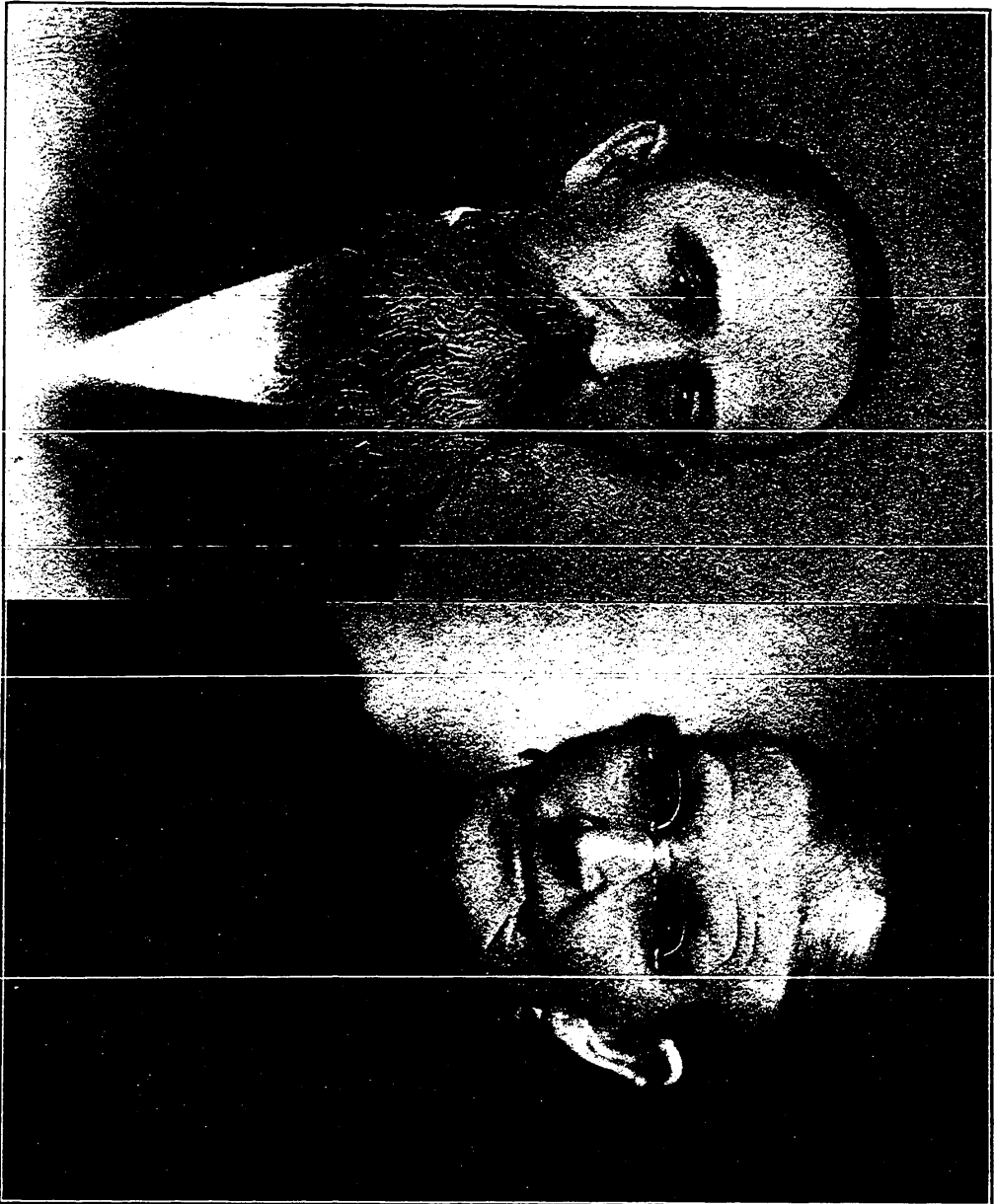
Politically, Mr. Thorson renders a stanch allegiance to the Republican party, in the success of which he takes a commendable interest, but he is not

in any sense a seeker after the honors or emoluments of public office, preferring to devote his time and attention to his numerous business affairs. Religiously, he and the members of his family are affiliated with the Lutheran church, to which they give an earnest and liberal support, being deeply interested in the welfare of the society. In every avenue of life's activities in which he has engaged he has been true to every responsibility and because of his industry, integrity and pleasing personal qualities, he enjoys the unbounded respect and esteem of the entire community. He is numbered among the township's representative citizens, giving his support and co-operation in advancing the best interests of the community.

THEODORE ROLFS.

Any person who will investigate the facts in the case will be surprised to learn of the proportion of people of Germanic descent now living in the United States. Unquestionably the greatest number of emigrants reaching the shores of the New World comes from that nation, and statistics show that there is more Germanic blood in the United States than any other. This being the fact, it is easy to account for the prosperity and morality of this country. Germany is famous the world over for the industry, patience, intelligence, morality and sturdiness of its citizens. These qualities have been brought to this country by the emigrants and are now part and parcel of our wonderful nation—its progress in domestic economy, its advancement in every branch of material improvement, and its love of country and home.

The subject of this sketch is descended from German ancestry, his father, Hans Rolfs, having been born in Germany on September 10, 1837, while his mother, whose maiden name was Charlotte Laumann and who was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on April 14, 1844, was a daughter of Christian and Margaret (Borgelt) Laumann, natives of Germany. Her parents left the fatherland for America and eventually made their home at St. Louis, Missouri, in 1847, where their deaths occurred. Hans Rolfs, on arriving in this county, located in Davenport, Iowa, and on March 12, 1883, he came to Fayette county where he became the owner of one hundred and seventy-six acres of land, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted his attention. His death occurred here on February 20, 1904. In politics he was a stanch Republican, while in religion he and his family were adherents of the German Lutheran church. To him and his wife were born seven children, namely: Louis, John, Theodore, Alvina, Minnie, Herman and Anna.



MR. AND MRS. HANS ROLFS.