

Theodore Rolfs was born in Scott county, Iowa, on October 21, 1873. He was reared by his parents and secured a good practical education in the public schools of his home neighborhood. He was reared to the life of a farmer and has always devoted himself to this industry. He is thoroughly practical in his methods and has achieved a distinctive success as a husbandman. His home place is near Clermont and comprises one hundred and sixty acres of land, which is owned jointly by him and two brothers. The place is well improved in every respect and is numbered among the best farms in the township.

Politically, Mr. Rolfs is aligned with the Republican party, to which he gives a staunch support, and in the welfare of the community he takes a commendable interest, giving a hearty support to all movements which promise to be of benefit to his fellow citizens. Religiously he is a member of the Lutheran church, to which he gives an earnest and liberal support. He is a gentleman of fine personal qualities and among his large list of acquaintances he numbers many warm and personal friends, who esteem him because of his high personal qualities and genuine worth.

WILLIAM LOFTUS.

The subject of this sketch is one of the active and useful citizens of West Union, Fayette county, Iowa. Unlike the average citizen of today, he has always exerted his strength and energies in the furtherance of manual labor, and no man in Fayette county has been a more zealous worker than William Loftus. For many years he was engaged in the operation of a large farm in Union township, leaving it and moving to town in order to give his children better educational advantages than they enjoyed in the country schools. Here he has been employed in various ways, but latterly as street commissioner of the city. In this capacity Mr. Loftus has given universal satisfaction, his work being directed in such a manner as to be entirely devoid of the charge of favoritism or partiality, but every portion of his large district has received the consideration which the condition of the roads and streets would seem to demand.

William Loftus was born in the state of New York, on the 25th day of January, 1857, his parents having located in that state for a few years on their arrival from the Emerald Isle, the country of their nativity. These parents, Daniel and Bridget (O'Donnell) Loftus, came to Fayette county,

Iowa, about the beginning of the Civil war, and the father purchased a farm, principally unimproved, in what is now Union township, but then designated as West Union township. William is the eldest of the five children born to these parents, the others being briefly mentioned as follows: John, the second born, who also was a native of New York state, died in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in December, 1907, leaving a widow, but no children; Daniel, who is conducting a restaurant and provision store in West Union, married Eliza McCarthy, and they have two children, Aileen and Francis; the former is a graduate of the West Union high school and a young lady of bright promise; Thomas is the fourth in order of birth and he and his sister Florence have maintained the home in West Union since the death of their mother.

Thomas Loftus has achieved more than the average man in his circumstances. At the age of ten years he was placed in the family of John Owens and remained a member of that family for some fifteen years. He was reared amid the environments of mercantile life and soon became thoroughly familiar with all business details. For many years he was the "head and center" of the extensive business enterprises then conducted by Mr. Owens. He was commissioned postmaster of West Union in 1893, and served four years in that capacity to the entire satisfaction of the government and the patrons of the office. He was in mercantile business eight years in partnership with Charles E. Owens, a son of his former employer, and in January, 1907, he was chosen deputy county treasurer under the administration of Albert B. Blunt. Thomas Loftus wields a potent influence in the councils of Democracy and has been, and still is, a useful and prominent citizen in the community. Members of the Loftus family have performed an active and important part in the history of the locality in which they have lived, and no family in the community sustains a more honorable record within their sphere of existence.

Being the eldest of the family, much of the labor of improving and developing the homestead farm devolved upon William Loftus, the immediate subject of this review, and he then learned something of the duties of the active and self-reliant life which has been a leading characteristic in his later career. The farm home later became a part of the extensive land holdings of John Owens, whose history is so inseparably connected with that of West Union and vicinity.

Mr. Loftus was happily married on the 17th of March, 1876, to Kate Nugent, a most exemplary wife and mother, who bore with him the trials and vicissitudes of life until the meridian was passed. They reared an interesting family of eleven children, namely: Mae, Florence, Laura, Charles, Clarence, John, Lucile, William, Fred, Robert and Herbert. Mrs. Loftus operated a

millinery business in West Union, known as the Loftus Millinery Store, from March, 1899, until her death, which occurred August 27, 1907, since which time Miss Florence has conducted the business. Mrs. Loftus was consigned to rest in the Catholic cemetery connected with the church which is the religious home of the entire family. They are active and zealous church people and represent a class of citizens who are welcome in any community and whose lives are an inspiration to the rising generations.

Of the children enumerated above, it may be briefly noted that Clarence is a successful attorney in Des Moines, this state; William, who was employed in a patent office at Des Moines, is at present in the law college of Drake University, Des Moines; Charles is engaged in the wholesale grocery business in the same city; John is employed in a wholesale shoe store in Kansas City; Laura is bookkeeper for Doctor Darnell, at West Union; Lucile is at home and the other children are students in the public schools.

ANDREW A. NORDHUS.

In the daily laborious struggle for an honorable competence and a solid career on the part of a business man or farmer there is little to attract the casual reader in search of a sensational chapter; but to a mind thoroughly awake to the reality and meaning of human existence there are noble and imperishable lessons in the career of an individual who without other means than a clear head, strong arm and true heart, directed and controlled by correct principles and unerring judgment, conquers adversity and, toiling on, finally wins, not only pecuniary independence, but, what is far greater and higher, the deserved respect and confidence of those with whom his active years have been spent.

Andrew A. Nordhus was born in Norway on August 24, 1864, and is a son of Andrew O. and Annie A. (Larson) Nordhus, both also natives of Norway. They came to America in 1872, when the subject of this sketch was a lad of but eight years, and they landed in Winneshiek county, Iowa, that year on the anniversary day of our national independence. In 1879 they came to Fayette county and settled on a farm of seventy-one acres, where they spent the rest of their years and died, the father's death occurring in 1903, his wife having passed to the silent land the year previous. Mr. Nordhus was a staunch supporter of the Republican party in political matters and was influential in his advocacy of temperance measures. He and his wife, as well as the other

members of the family, affiliated with the Lutheran church, to which they rendered an earnest support. They became the parents of eleven children, of which number eight are living at the present time.

Andrew A. Nordhus, who was reared under the parental roof, attended the public schools and received a good practical education. He has always devoted himself assiduously to the agricultural industry and because of his persistent efforts and good management he has met with well deserved success in this line. He is now the owner of two hundred and ten acres of as good land as Clermont township presents and here he carries on general farming and stock raising. The place is well improved and its general appearance indicates the owner to be a man of excellent taste and wise discrimination. He raises all the crops common to this section of the country and his efforts have been characterized by a spirit of progressiveness and enterprise that have insured him maximum results in return for his labors.

Politically, Mr. Nordhus is affiliated with the Republican party, in the success of which he is deeply interested, while his religious membership is with the Lutheran church, to which his wife also belongs.

On April 1, 1891, Mr. Nordhus was married to Julia Brager, who was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, a daughter of Knudt and Carrie Brager, natives of Norway. Mrs. Brager died in Polk county, Minnesota, in 1892, and Mr. Brager passed away on October 9, 1909, while visiting his daughter in Fayette county. To the subject and his wife have been born five children, namely: Cora, Arthur, Aven, Agnes and Annie. The members of the family move in the best social circles in the community and among their friends and acquaintances they are held in high esteem. Mr. Nordhus is numbered among the influential citizens of Clermont township and withholds his support from no movement calculated to confer benefit on the community in any way.

REV. PATRICK S. O'CONNOR.

A continuous pastorate of two decades, during which an upright, consistent life, devoted to the good of the community and the spiritual welfare of his parishoners, has won the sincere regard and high esteem of every one in the community, regardless of religious creed, has earned for Rev. Patrick S. O'Connor, of Oelwein, a widespread reputation as one of the most successful Catholic priests in northeastern Iowa. Coming to this point when the local church was in its infancy, he went to work with enthusiasm and his faith-

ful and earnest labors have been abundantly rewarded, the present congregation being numbered among the most prosperous in this section of the country.

Patrick S. O'Connor was born at Castlelack, near Bandon, county Cork, Ireland, January 21, 1863, and is a son of John and Ann (Hurley) O'Connor. These parents, who were farming people and in fair financial circumstances, enjoyed the respect of the community and reared a family of nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the oldest. Patrick S. was reared under the parental roof and received his elementary education in the local national schools, which he attended until the age of fourteen years. He then studied classics in a private school at Bandon and later went to Skibbereen, in southwestern Ireland, to further pursue his classical studies. After nine months at Skibbereen, the Bandon Classical School was re-opened, and the subject pursued his studies there one and a half years longer. He then became a student in St. Finbarr's Diocesan College, Cork, where he graduated in the classical, literary and scientific courses. He had long previously determined to consecrate his life to the most sacred of callings—the ministry of his church—and to this end he entered the Theological Seminary of All Hallows, at Dublin, where the following four years were given to faithful and conscientious preparation. At the end of that period he was ordained priest and assigned to the diocese of Dubuque. After a vacation of eight weeks, he set sail from Queenstown September 14, 1889, and arrived at Dubuque, Iowa, September 22nd following. After a few weeks at Dubuque, Father O'Connor was appointed assistant at the Cathedral, under Archbishop Hennessey, where he remained about a year. In October, 1890, Father O'Connor was appointed the first resident priest at Oelwein, and has remained here ever since, his pastorate being remarkably successful in every way. When he came here the town had a population of less than a thousand persons and the Catholic church was a small structure, that would scarcely accommodate one hundred persons, while the ground now occupied by the church, school and parochial residence was a mere brush patch. However, the new pastor brought with him an enthusiasm and energy that augured well for the future and it was not many months before there were tangible evidences of the fruits of his labors. A year after his arrival a parochial residence was built, it being a large, well arranged and comfortable building, costing five thousand dollars. A year later the little church was superseded by a larger one, costing approximately eight thousand dollars and located immediately north of the parochial residence. This remained the church home of the congregation until July, 1908, when it was removed to First avenue, to make room for the magnificent building which is now in course of erection. The new church, which,

when completed, will have cost fifty thousand dollars, has a fine, substantial stone foundation, and the iron work and girders of the first floor alone cost seven hundred dollars. When completed the building will be one hundred and thirty-five feet long, the transepts being thirty-two by seventy-five feet, and the building will seat one thousand persons comfortably and can accommodate fourteen hundred. The building will be heated by steam, supplied by two boilers. The basement will be used for various purposes, a part being devoted to an auditorium seating four hundred persons, also a "work room" where the records, paraphernalia, etc., will be kept. There will also be toilet rooms and other accommodations in connection. It is the intention to install in the new building a library of at least two thousand volumes, which will be open to the use of all who may become members of the library association.

In 1904 the Sacred Heart school was erected on the church grounds, at a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars. In this school, which has an average attendance of two hundred and sixty pupils, all grades are taught, from the lowest to the highest, the same standard of studies being maintained here as in the public schools. The school is free, being maintained by the generosity of the congregation. In connection therewith, there is also a musical directress, who gives instruction in both vocal and instrumental music. The congregation of the Sacred Heart at Oelwein numbers nearly twelve hundred souls, being by far the largest Catholic church in Fayette county, and it has exerted a strong and beneficent influence in the community.

Father O'Connor possesses marked business and executive ability and his material accomplishments here have been recognized by his superiors in the church. A polished gentleman, possessing a warm heart, broad views and generous impulses, he has won many warm and loyal friends among all classes, who have not been slow in recognizing his personal worth. In the pulpit, Father O'Connor has shown great strength, being a forceful and effective speaker and an able sermonizer. He has done great things in Oelwein and the future holds in promise still greater things for this congregation.

NELSON COBB SPENCER.

A name that is too well known in West Union and Fayette county to need extravagant comment here is that of Nelson Cobb Spencer, a man who has had the interests of his community at heart and, while advancing his individual interests, has labored to further the things that benefit the people in general,

thereby winning their confidence and esteem; a man whose long career has been interesting, though devoid of much of the spectacular, and he has endeavored to live his life in a manner that would not give offense to anyone.

Mr. Spencer was born in Portage, Livingston county, New York, September 23, 1839, and is the son of R. H. and Olivia (Cobb) Spencer. The father, who was a native of Rutland county, Vermont, came to Fayette county, Iowa, in 1855, buying land near West Union; it was wild and rough, but he improved it and placed it under cultivation—in fact, he devoted his life to farming. Politically, he was a Democrat, and was selected to represent the people of his community on several occasions, but he preferred home life and spent most of his time on his farm. He was an Episcopalian, but there was no church of this denomination here. He was well known in this part of the county and was regarded as a fairly successful man of affairs, honest and neighborly. His death occurred at the age of sixty-seven years. The Spencer family were of old New England stock, which originated in Europe. When the family came to Union township, this county, they found a sparsely settled community and much undeveloped land, there being but one store in West Union.

Olivia Cobb was born in the Catskill mountains, New York, in which state she grew to maturity and married, and there her four children were born, namely: Laura Shannon, now deceased; Elizabeth Sheppard, who lives in Texas; Nelson C., of this review; Julia, deceased. The mother of these children died when sixty-five years of age. The Spencer family came to Fayette county, Iowa, in an immigrant wagon from Illinois.

Nelson C. Spencer was practically an invalid during his early boyhood and his schooling was interrupted, he having had scarlet fever. After coming to this county he assisted in clearing the home place and placing it in cultivation, this, the south part of the county, then being known as Patch Prairie. He remained at home until he was about twenty-seven years of age, when he started in life for himself, and he has never done anything but farm. When he attained the age mentioned above, he married Catherine Brewer, who was born at Porter Rock, Wisconsin, in October, 1846, her family having come to the Badger state from New York, and they came on to Fayette county, Iowa, about 1855, being among the well known early settlers here.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Spencer: Fred died when eight years old; Gertrude married C. L. Chapman and lives in Union township; Mabel married C. H. Hidinger and lives in West Union.

Mr. Spencer still lives on the place on which he located thirty-eight years ago; however, on account of his advanced years he rents out most of

the place. He has been very successful as a general farmer. He has spent most of his married life on this farm, and he still owns a part of the old homestead. He has a neat and comfortable home about two and one-half miles from West Union in section 27, and he is regarded as one of the substantial men of his community; in fact, he has done remarkably well considering his opportunities, handicaps and the times. He has never taken any part in public life, having always been a home man. He is a well read man on all current events and is a good conversationalist, and well preserved for a man who has lived out the psalmist's allotted three score and ten. Mrs. Spencer is also hale and cheerful in her old age, and they are both highly esteemed in their community for their integrity, kindness, generosity and hospitality.

JAY COOK.

The subject of this sketch has worthily earned the proud American title of a self-made man in that he began without inheritance of wealth, present or prospective, without the assistance of influential friends, without any of the adventitious aids which tend to smooth the road to eminence; he was obliged to make his own way in the face of many obstacles and the notable success which he has achieved may well serve as an inspiration and incentive to young men who still look to the future for the maturing of their plans and for the reward of their efforts. He inherited from his ancestors a strong and healthy constitution, well balanced mental capacity and a frank and generous disposition, not at all a poor endowment with which to overcome inhospitable environment and make the most of such opportunities as he encountered during the formative period of life, when so much depends upon a proper disposition of time and circumstance. Every step in his progress has been the result of well defined purpose and his continued advancement is directly attributable to an inborn determination which no discouragement could check nor any adverse circumstance hinder. Few young men situated as he was in early life have accomplished so much in the same length of time and, as already indicated, it is with much satisfaction that the following brief outline of his career is herewith presented as an incentive to those whose capital, like his own, consists of a strong mind in a strong body with the ability and disposition to use both to the best advantage.

Henry Cook, father of the subject, was born December 5, 1805, in

Hagerstown, Maryland, and traced his descent in a direct line from Francis Cook, of the sturdy Pilgrim Fathers who came to America in the "Mayflower" and bore an active and influential part in the planting of the first English colony in the New World. The descendants of this pioneer became quite prominent in the affairs of the Plymouth colony and later the name appears frequently in connection with the founding and subsequent growth of various other settlements of Massachusetts, one of the family, Lemuel Cook, great-grandfather of the subject, having served with a distinguished record in the Revolutionary war.

Matilda Cook, wife of Henry and mother of the subject, was a native of Franklin county, Pennsylvania, where she was born February 16, 1815; she too belonged to an old and highly esteemed family whose history in this country is very closely interwoven with the settlement and development of the county in which she first saw the light of day.

Jay Cook was born in Fayette county, Iowa, March 11, 1857, and spent his early life on a farm in Illyria township, where, amid rugged surroundings and active duties, he grew to maturity, attending in the meantime the public schools of Wadena. The training thus received was afterwards supplemented by a course in the Upper Iowa University and later he taught school and studied alternately until the spring of 1880, when he took up telegraphy and within less than a year had made sufficient advancement in the profession as to secure the position of operator and station agent on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, which branch of service he continued for a period of nine years. Having early conceived a decided preference for the legal profession, he severed his connection with the road at the expiration of the time indicated and entered the law department of the State University at Iowa City, graduating with honors in the class of 1891.

Mr. Cook immediately thereafter opened an office at Mason City, where, by diligence, tact and a deep interest in the business entrusted to him, he made substantial progress in his profession and gained worthy prestige among the rising young attorneys of the local bar. After success came there was no relaxation. He continued to be the untiring student, keeping himself in close touch with his profession, and as a result his business has continued to grow until he now ranks high at a bar long noted for the superior order of its legal talent, besides gaining considerable reputation among the leading lawyers in other than his immediate field of practice. After three years at Mason City, he removed, in the summer of 1894, to Oelwein, where he soon won recognition as a safe and reliable counsellor and successful practitioner and where he is still forging steadily to the front, his clientele at this time being

quite extensive and numbering many of the wealthy and influential men of the city and county. Aside from his chosen calling, Mr. Cook takes an active interest in all efforts to promote the social and moral advancement of the community, and as a citizen is typically representative of that large and eminently respectable class to which the public looks for leadership in all that makes for the progress and permanence of the body politic.

During his childhood and youth Mr. Cook was quite popular among the young people of his community, and as he grew to manhood rose to a prominent place in social life, which position he still holds. Those who know him best are lavish in their praise of his many estimable qualities, the confidence reposed in him, professionally and otherwise, giving him a prestige and influence such as few exert. Fraternally, he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Knights of the Maccabees and the Mutual Benefit Association, in all of which orders he has been an active and prominent worker and to his efforts is due much of the success which the lodges enjoy.

On June 10, 1885, Mr. Cook was united in marriage with Belle L. Smith, of Janesville, Wisconsin, who has borne him four children, Rollin J., Ethel B., Harold B. and Willard L., all living and affording their parents many fond hopes for the future. Like her husband, Mrs. Cook is well known in the social life of Oelwein and popular in the circles in which she moves.

CHARLES E. McALAVEY.

Each man to his occupation, and may he have that one in which he is contented, can do his work best, and make life comfortable with the monetary reward. The livery man has a business in some respects peculiar and adapted only to certain temperaments, but which seems to appeal to farmers, judging from the number of those who leave farming to follow this business. The livery business, like all others, has its agreeable and disagreeable sides. The livery man is necessarily more or less of a lover of horses and so the treatment which his horses receive at the hands of some of those who hire them must be disagreeable to him. Very useful he is, yet the traveling man and the young man, who used to be his best customers, are forsaking him for the automobile garage. To succeed he must possess a knowledge of horses, a knowledge of men, and must be a good manager above all else. Evidently Mr. McAlavey fills all of these requirements.

Charles E. McAlavey was born in Fayette county, Iowa, October 28, 1858, the son of William and Catharine (Coleson) McAlavey, both natives of Pennsylvania who came to this county in 1855 and settled at Mill Grove, where she died in 1859, and he in October, 1892, aged seventy-six. They were the parents of eight children, of whom six are living. Mr. McAlavey was always a consistent Democrat.

Charles E. McAlavey was brought up on the farm and educated in the common schools. For some time he farmed, then engaged in the livery business, first at Norton Center, Kansas, then at Republican City, Nebraska, later at Sioux City, Iowa, then at Wadena, in this county, and has been in Clermont for three years.

In 1884 Mr. McAlavey married Minnie Lucas, a native of Ohio, daughter of John and Ann (Hagel) Lucas, who came to Fayette county at an early day, and here both died. His married life has been very pleasant, and has been blessed by the birth of two daughters, Pearl and Cassie.

Mr. McAlavey is a stanch Republican. He has won a reputation for the character of the horses and turn-outs which are kept in his stable. He is a man of many good points of character and one who is hailed as a good companion by many citizens of the county and passing travelers.

WILLIAM A. MAGNER.

One of West Union's enterprising and successful merchants is William A. Magner. He has been prominently identified with industrial enterprises of considerable scope and importance and the name which he bears has long been one which has stood for progressiveness. Owing to his business relations with the people of Fayette county, and the high confidence in which he is held, it is imperative that he be accorded recognition in a publication of the province assigned to the one at hand.

Mr. Magner was born at Elkport, Clayton county, Iowa, March 23, 1868, the son of Stephen and Honora (Fitzgerald) Magner, both natives of county Cork, Ireland, and both born in the year 1830. They came to America when young and were married in Boston, Massachusetts. About 1855 they came to Elkport, Iowa, and lived in that town until 1883, when they moved to West Union and remained here four years. In 1887 they moved to Dubuque, Iowa, where they both died, the mother in 1903 and the father in 1905. Ten children were born to them, two of whom died in infancy and Robert died

when seven years old. The living are, Edward, Anna, John, Thomas, Elizabeth, Stephen and William A. Edward is a contractor in Dubuque; Anna (Sister Mary Cyprian) is in a convent at Cedar Rapids, Iowa; John is in the life insurance business at Spokane, Washington; Thomas is in the real estate business in Denver, Colorado; Elizabeth is a milliner in Dubuque; Stephen is engaged in the real estate business at Lorimer, Iowa.

The father, Stephen Magner, was a cabinetmaker and he followed that and carpentering throughout his productive years.

William A. Magner was educated in the Elkport and West Union public schools and when only a lad he decided to devote his life to the mercantile business, and when fourteen years of age he began clerking and for two years remained in the employ of John Owens, who conducted a general merchandise store. For four and one-half years he was employed in a like capacity with G. H. Thomas & Sons, during which time he mastered the "ins and outs" of the business, then went on the road as a salesman of dry goods for a Chicago wholesale house, remaining with the same for a period of nine years, giving the utmost satisfaction and selling an enormous amount of goods. Then, returning to West Union to make his permanent home, he purchased a half interest in the large mercantile business of G. H. Thomas & Sons, being associated with Ed. H. Thomas for six years, when he bought out his partner and has been alone ever since, having built up a large and increasing business, his customers coming from all parts of the county. This store has been in constant operation at its present site for over a half century and is one of the best known in this part of the state. Mr. Magner always carries a full and carefully selected stock of up-to-date goods and his store is neatly arranged in every detail. He carries dry goods, cloaks, ladies' and misses' shoes, etc. He has a natural genius for this line of business and has been very successful.

Mr. Magner is a Republican in politics and he has very ably and faithfully served in the council of the city of West Union for the past twelve years. He is a member of the Roman Catholic church, as were his ancestors. Fraternally, he belongs to the Knights of Columbus, Oelwein council.

On June 20, 1894, Mr. Magner was married to Helena Wonnenberg, daughter of Henry Wonnenberg and wife, a prominent family of West Union, and to this union two children have been born, Robert, born May 21, 1895, and Marian, the daughter, born April 24, 1899, who are both living at home.

Mr. Magner is emphatically a self-made man, having begun his life career without a dollar and he is now rated as one of the leading merchants of Fayette county. He employs regularly six people and in busy seasons

fifteen or more. He is a very pleasant gentleman, generous, kind, courteous and straightforward and honest in all his relations with the world, consequently he is deserving of the high esteem in which he is held by all who know him.

WILLIAM ALLEN DORLAND.

The gentleman of whom the biographer writes in this connection is a native and life-long resident of Fayette county and easily ranks among the enterprising business men and honored citizens of West Union, which city for a number of years has been his home. Daniel W. Dorland, the subject's father, was born at Ashland, Ohio, in 1828. He married, in his native state, Rachel D. Shaffer, whose birth occurred in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, in 1831, and in the fall of 1851 this couple moved by team from Ashland, Ohio, to Fayette county, Iowa, there being but one house in West Union at the time of their arrival. They were among the earliest settlers of the county and spent the remainder of their days within its borders, the father dying May 15, 1904, after seeing the country developed from a wilderness into one of the finest and most progressive sections of the Hawkeye state.

D. W. Dorland and wife reared a family of ten children, whose names are as follows: George W., of Salt Lake, Utah; Anna, now Mrs. Robert Hansen, of Spencer, Iowa; William, subject of this review; Clara Alice, who married Ernest Barr, and died at Oelwein, this county; H. Lincoln, who died in 1898; James Franklin, of Basin, Montana; Edward Allison, whose home is in Minnesota; Elizabeth May, a teacher in the public schools of Great Falls, Montana; Eva, wife of Ed Cole, of Clay county, Iowa, and Della, who married Rufus Turner, and lives at Spencer, in the latter state.

William Allen Dorland was born in West Union, Iowa, December 25, 1856, and received his education in the public schools and Ainsworth Academy. On attaining his majority he engaged in teaching, but after two years in the school room discontinued the profession and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, which he followed with varying success in his native county for a period of nineteen years. In 1897 he left the farm to engage in the real estate business and after conducting an office alone during the seven years ensuing, formed, in 1905, a partnership with H. T. Weed, the firm thus constituted lasting until 1909, building up a large and lucrative business the meanwhile in real estate, loans and insurance. The above partnership being dissolved in 1909, Mr. Dorland has been alone since that year and is now one

of the leading real estate dealers in Fayette county, his patronage in the loan and insurance business also being extensive, far-reaching and steadily growing in volume and importance.

Mr. Dorland is an enterprising, wide-awake man of progressive ideas and stands in the front rank of those whose business is similar to his own. He keeps in touch with the times on all matters of public interest and wields a strong influence for his party. At one time he was an aspirant for the office of sheriff, but failed to secure the nomination although strongly supported in the convention. He is a Master Mason, belonging to West Union Lodge No. 69, and is also indentified with the Modern Woodmen of America, being a charter member of Clermont Camp No. 3015.

On December 5, 1878, Mr. Dorland and Eva L. Skinner were united in the holy bonds of wedlock, the wife being a native of McHenry county, Illinois, and a daughter of Harvey and Anna Skinner. Mr. and Mrs. Dorland are the parents of children as follows: Blanche, for a number of years a popular teacher in the public schools, is now the wife of Luther Herrick, of Anaconda, Montana; Max Allen, born in 1880, was graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at St. Louis, Missouri, since which time he has been practicing his profession at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Doris Atlanta, the youngest of the family, whose birth occurred in 1891, was graduated from the West Union high school in 1909 and is a young lady of intelligence and culture, with a bright and promising future.

CHARLES FREMONT CHAMBERS.

Among the enterprising men of West Union few have been as active in business circles or exerted as great prestige as the well known gentleman whose name appears above. Charles Fremont Chambers, present postmaster of West Union and for many years variously identified with the interests of the city, was born in Lake county, Illinois, December 23, 1861, being a son of Jed O. and Catherine (Smith) Chambers, both natives of Binghamton, New York. The subject's mother died when he was an infant and his father departed this life at the Iowa home about the year 1890, there being at this time but three members of the original family living, namely: Myron, of Waverly, Iowa; Mrs. W. B. Shelburn, of Spangle, Washington, and Charles F., of this review. By a second marriage Jed O. Chambers became the father of quite a number of children, all of whom died at West Union, during an epidemic of diphtheria, which raged there some years ago.

Owing to adverse circumstances, Fremont Chambers was enabled to obtain but a limited training in the schools of Portage county, Wisconsin, where he went when quite young, consequently the greater part of his education consists of the valuable and practical kind received only in the stern school of experience. In the fall of 1879 he came to West Union, Iowa, and became a clerk in the postoffice, which position he held continuously for a period of thirteen years, during which time he served under C. H. Talmadge, William McClintock and again under the former gentleman. During eight years of the time spent in the postoffice he was agent of the American Express Company, but resigned the latter position by reason of the conflict in the issuing of express money orders in an office of the United States government. When the telephone was established at West Union Mr. Chambers took charge of the central office which he conducted to the satisfaction of the company until resigning the position on account of removal of the postoffice, resigning his position in the postoffice to become a clerk in a clothing store. After two years in the latter capacity he was elected, in 1894, county recorder, which office he filled by successive re-election three terms of two years each, declining to stand for a fourth term, although assured of being elected by the usual overwhelming majority.

On retiring from the above office Mr. Chambers engaged in the loan and abstract business, which he conducted with gratifying success for two years, a part of the time in partnership with Morton Blake and later as a member of the firm of Chambers & Ainsworth. At the expiration of the time indicated, he returned to the mercantile house by which he was employed when elected recorder, and continued with the firm as clerk until elected cashier of the First National Bank of Fayette, which position he did not assume by reason of being appointed postmaster of West Union a short time afterwards. He entered upon the duties of the latter office February 15, 1910, and thus far has met with the high expectations of his friends and the public in general and fully justified the wisdom of his appointment.

Mr. Chambers was secretary of the West Union school board for several years, retiring therefrom when appointed cashier of the bank. He also served two and a half years as city clerk and it was during his term that the new system of uniform accounts was established, a great improvement on the former way of conducting the business of the office.

On November 30, 1881, Mr. Chambers was united in marriage with Esther J. Rosier, daughter of George N. and Alice (Gibbons) Rosier, early settlers of West Union and members of a well known and highly esteemed family of Fayette county. Mr. and Mrs. Chambers have two children, Charles

Blaine, the older, being assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Oelwein and a young man of excellent business ability. Catharyne, the daughter, after finishing the high school course at West Union entered the Iowa State University, from which in due time she was graduated with an honorable record as a student and is now teacher of the English department in the West Union high school. Charles was also graduated from the city high school and later took a full commercial course at Cedar Rapids, where he fitted himself for a business career. Politically, Mr. Chambers is a staunch supporter of the Republican party and fraternally stands high in Masonic circles, belonging to West Union Lodge No. 69, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Unity Chapter No. 62, Royal Arch Masons, at Elgin; Langridge Commandery No. 47, Knights Templar, and De Molay Consistory No. 1, at Clinton, Iowa. He has been active and influential in the work of the various branches of the order with which identified and at different times has held the most important offices within the gift of his fellow-craftsmen. Honorable and upright in all of his relations, business, official and social, and enjoying to a marked degree the confidence and esteem of the public, Mr. Chambers is popular in the city of his residence and has worthily earned a conspicuous place among the representative citizens of his adopted county.

JOSEPH HOBSON.

One of the early settlers in Fayette county was Joseph Hobson, late of West Union, now deceased. He came to Iowa in May, 1855, and after a few months spent in Westfield township and vicinity, located upon a farm in Smithfield township. Here he built a residence, improved his land, and resided for about two years. He had for some years studied law as opportunity and leisure from other pursuits permitted, and in 1856 was admitted to the bar in this county. In 1857 he removed to Westfield (now Fayette), where he taught school, and later opened an office and engaged in the practice of law. In the fall of 1858 he was elected clerk of the district court, and in December of that year removed to West Union where he ever after resided until his death, December 15, 1893.

Mr. Hobson was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, October 17, 1823. He was the eldest son and second child of John Wainwright Hobson and Abigail Bishop (Scott) Hobson. His father was born at Peniston, Yorkshire, England, August 22, 1794, and was the son of Joseph Hobson, of that place.



Joseph Hobson

The subject of this sketch traced his ancestry back to his grandfather, Joseph Hobson, of Yorkshire, England, who was born at or near Peniston. In early life he was a woolen manufacturer, but later discontinued this business, and subsequently carried on business at Bullhouse Hall, at farming and colliery work. He was prominent locally, quite successful in business, full of enterprise, and something of a musician. Joseph Hobson was thrice married; his first wife was a Wainwright (the grandmother of the subject of this sketch), with whom he had one son and two daughters. He resided in that vicinity all his life, and died at seventy-four years of age, and was buried at Peniston church.

John Wainwright Hobson, son of Joseph Hobson, just referred to, came to America with his uncle, Joseph Wainwright, of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1816. He settled in Pittsburg and married Abigail Bishop Scott, in 1819. She was a daughter of Joseph Scott, a paper manufacturer, and a native of Massachusetts, who subsequently removed to, and was one of the early settlers of, Fayette county, Pennsylvania, and later located at Pittsburg, where he passed the later years of his life.

The mother of the subject was of Scotch-English ancestry. She was born in New Jersey, April 10, 1799, and crossed the mountains with her parents in childhood, when they removed to Pennsylvania. She resided in Fayette county, in that state, nearly all her life, and died at Connellsville in 1883.

John Wainwright Hobson was stricken with Asiatic cholera during the prevalence of that epidemic, and died August 14, 1834, at Pittsburg, after a sickness of a few hours.

The son, bereft of his father at the early age of eleven years, obtained such education as the times afforded and limited means could command. Public schools as we now know them being few in number, if any, at that time, he was compelled to depend upon such opportunities for securing an education as were afforded by private tutors and his own endeavors. He was always fond of reading, a good student, with a strong memory, and by the time he arrived at mature life had a wide range of knowledge, covering history, literature, politics, and general information. In early boyhood he was apprenticed to a cabinetmaker, but, not liking that avocation, learned the carpenter's trade. In the autumn of 1848 he removed to Connellsville, Pennsylvania, where he was employed at his trade, and was for a short time a partner in a foundry business. In the spring of 1853 he removed to Cleveland, Ohio, where he had charge of extensive building operations in connec-

tion with his brother-in-law, the late John B. Ingham, of Allegheny City. Between the time he located at Cleveland, and his arrival in Iowa, he resided for a short time in Sanilac county, Michigan.

A competent observer, who had known Mr. Hobson intimately for many years, said of him "that he never knew a man who excelled him in his ability to get along with men in his employ, or one for whom men would willingly do more than for him." His varied experience well fitted him for his work in the future. He entered upon the duties of the clerk's office when the county was new, and many of our modern methods and aids to officials were unknown, or even unthought of. During his incumbency of the office, extending from January, 1859, to January, 1869, he applied to the office that system which early gave to it the orderly and business-like methods which have ever since been employed, and which distinguish the clerk's office to the present time, as one of the best kept and managed offices of its kind in the state.

During the years of the Rebellion—1861 to 1865—there was no bank or railway in the county, and the express business was done by stage coaches, or by private messengers, between West Union and the terminal of the railroad. Mr. Hobson was during all this period designated by the soldiers in the field as the consignee of funds sent by them to their families at home and many thousands of dollars were sent to him for distribution, and by him delivered to the designated beneficiaries, without expense for services rendered by him. During this trying period he was ever active and vigilant in rendering such services as he could in befriending the families of the soldiers at home, in sustaining the soldiers at the front, and in upholding the government in its efforts to suppress the Rebellion. Next to the soldier in the field is the need of the loyal friend and supporter at home. Each in his own way equally important, although one is at the seat of carnage, and in daily peril, while the other, remote from the danger of disease and battle, by his co-operation helps to make the success of the soldiers possible. Few who have not given the matter thought, can conceive how necessary to the welfare and success of the soldier at the front is the earnest support of the great army of loyal men and women who by their voluntary efforts sustained and encouraged the forces in the field. Many were the acts of kindness performed, and numerous the sacrifices made, by the subject of this sketch, in that trying ordeal of which it would not be proper to speak; sufficient it is to say that at all times, by speech, act, and purse, he loyally upheld the efforts of the government to suppress the Rebellion.

Upon retiring from the clerk's office, Mr. Hobson was elected to the thirteenth General Assembly of Iowa, and served as a member of that body in 1870. In that year he was, without solicitation on his part, appointed assessor of United States internal revenue for the third congressional district of Iowa, and served efficiently and to the entire satisfaction of the officials in charge of the department until May, 1873, at which time the office expired by limitation and the duties connected with it merged with those of collector of internal revenue. Upon the conclusion of his services as assessor he received from the commissioner of internal revenue, at Washington, D. C., strong commendation of the manner in which the office had been conducted during his incumbency.

Joseph Hobson was one of the founders of the Fayette County National Bank in 1872, and was its first and only president until his resignation as such in December, 1887. He also served as vice-president of the Fayette County Savings Bank, from its organization, in 1875, until December, 1887. Much of the early success of each of these financial institutions was due to the business ability and integrity of Mr. Hobson, to his extensive acquaintance and to the personal confidence the people reposed in him after an acquaintance extending over so many years. He served as mayor of West Union for two years, and as a member of the school board in that town for twelve years. He was active in encouraging all public enterprises and liberal in aiding them. He had been a resident of the county many years before the advent of a railroad, and when a prospect of obtaining one presented itself, he was earnest in his advocacy of the measure and contributed liberally of his time and means to secure it.

The present generation knows nothing of the disadvantages of living in a county destitute of these necessities, but take them as a matter of course. The pioneers of fifty years ago obtained them by voting taxes and donating money to build them, and the community was satisfied if it could secure railroad accommodations by contributing liberally to their construction.

Politically, Mr. Hobson was originally a Whig, and later a Republican. He often alluded with pride to the fact that he cast his first vote for President for Henry Clay, and made a long journey by stage-coach to reach his voting precinct for this purpose. Upon his arrival in Iowa, he took an active part in politics. He had speaking talent of a high order and for many years was prominent in convention work and as a political speaker. Perhaps he made more political speeches in the county than any other man who has lived in it. His fund of facts, and acquaintance with history, literature, and politics, com-

bined with the happy faculty of always being able to illustrate his point with an appropriate story, well told, enabled him to entertain and instruct an audience.

Mr. Hobson was married at Sharpsburg, Pennsylvania, April 15, 1847, to Elizabeth Baker, daughter of James and Rachel (Wigfield, sometimes erroneously written Wakefield) Baker. She was born at Bakerstown, Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, June 16, 1825, that village having been founded by her family, one of the earliest to settle in western Pennsylvania. Mrs. Hobson was a woman of strong common sense, unusual force of character, untiring energy and industry, an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal church, of which she was a life-long member, and an efficient laborer in societies connected therewith, and was highly esteemed where she so long resided. She was from among that best of human-kind, the intelligent home-builder, the affectionate wife and mother, and in her life she proved an exemplar in all that pertains to the best and highest welfare of the family and the home. She died in her eighty-fourth year, on April 15, 1909, the anniversary of her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Hobson were the parents of eight children, six of whom grew to mature age. Leta, a daughter, died in infancy, and Loyd, a son, died in his eighth year. Joseph B. Hobson graduated at the United States Naval Academy with honor, and remained in the service until after he attained the rank of lieutenant, when he resigned. While he was in the navy he visited Japan, Australia, France, South America, England, Italy and other countries and many of the islands of the sea. Frank Hobson and Leroy T. Hobson founded the *Argo* at West Union, recently merged with the *Gazette*, and at this time conducted under the name of the *Argo-Gazette*, and published the paper successfully for many years. Frank Hobson had talent of a high order as a newspaper man, and was a public spirited citizen. The columns of the *Argo* will show that he zealously advocated every measure calculated for the upbuilding of the community and the city. The mechanical department was efficiently managed by L. T. Hobson, who was accomplished in everything necessary to the printer's art. Sickness in the family of Frank Hobson, in the person of his only child, and his subsequent death, necessitated the disposing of the property, and the removal of the father to Oklahoma, where he now resides.

The surviving daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Hobson are each married. Ella married H. I. McGuire, and resides at Cincinnati, Ohio. Fannie Elizabeth married C. W. Knickerbocker, M. D., and resides at Cedar Falls, Iowa. L. T. Hobson and A. N. Hobson reside at West Union, Iowa.

DAVID L. DORLAND.

One of the gallant "boys in blue" and a son of the Buckeye state is David L. Dorland, who has a large and well patronized livery and feed stable in West Union, his birth having occurred in Wayne county, Ohio, August 29, 1839, and he is the son of Cornelius and Elizabeth (Long) Dorland, natives of Wayne county, Ohio, who came to Clayton county, Iowa, in 1855, locating on a farm on Hewitt creek, near Volga. The father enlisted in the cause of his country, in Company H, Thirty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and he died of a disease contracted while in the service, his death occurring at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis. Previous to his enlistment he had sold his first farm and had bought another in Illyria township, Fayette county, and on this his widow and children lived until after the war, when they moved to Wadena, thence to West Union, where she died at the home of her son, David L., of this review. Ten children had been born to these parents, namely: James, who was killed in the army; David L., of this review; Mary Haynes; Margaret Ann, Cornelius, George, Samantha, Hidinger, William and Garrett. Besides the subject of this sketch, the only ones living are Cornelius, Elizabeth and William. Five sons emulated the patriotic example of their father in this family and gave their services to the Union during the Civil war, all except Cornelius being in Iowa regiments. After serving from August, 1862, until August, 1865, David L. returned to his maternal home and engaged in teaming for William Larrabee, hauling flour from the Clermont Mills to markets elsewhere, his home having been in Clermont at that time. He then moved to West Union and continued teaming for several years, hauling produce to McGregor and returning with merchandise, this being before the days of railroads in this locality. Mr. Dorland engaged in the grocery business in West Union for three years, and he was on a farm for three years. Selling his farm, he returned to West Union and for five years was in the saloon business, retiring from the same when the prohibition amendment passed. He then engaged in the livery business, which he still continues, having built up a very satisfactory patronage; in fact, he has met with a reasonable degree of success in all his business enterprises, having worked hard and managed his affairs in an honest manner.

Mr. Dorland was married on July 4, 1862, to Laura Jane Smith, daughter of Millard Smith, a very early settler of Fayette county. One daughter was born to this union, Ida, now Mrs. Lewis Lloyd.

Mr. and Mrs. Dorland reared two children other than their own: Leo, taken when three years old, and who is now operating an electric theater in

West Union, is married and has five children; he lived with his foster parents until twenty-one years old. Hattie Bowser has lived in the family from infancy, and is now twenty-seven years old.

Mr. Dorland owns his barn and livery equipment and also a nice residence property in West Union. He has eleven head of suitable driving horses and proper vehicles for their use, in fact, everything that goes to make up a modern livery stable. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and, politically, is a Republican.

WALTER H. BEALL.

By a life consistent in motive and action and because of many commendable personal attributes, Walter H. Beall, publisher of the West Union *Argo-Gazette*, has earned the sincere regard of all who know him, and because of his prominence in the public, business and social life of Fayette county, his name needs no introduction here. He was born in Mt. Ayr, Iowa, October 20, 1871. His father, Ithamer S. Beall, of Pennsylvania parentage and Maryland stock, was born in Ohio, and came to Ringgold county, Iowa, in 1856. His mother, Charlotte Swan, of Massachusetts stock and parentage, was born in Maine and came to Ringgold county in 1857. They were married in 1858, and became the parents of four children, of whom the eldest daughter died in infancy; Mrs. W. W. Moffatt and R. S. Beall live at Mt. Ayr, Iowa; and the subject of this sketch lived in or near that town practically all his life until he located in West Union in March, 1907. R. S. Beall died in 1876, and his widow still resides at Mt. Ayr.

Walter H. Beall was educated in the country and Mt. Ayr town schools, and spent three years in Simpson College at Indianola, but did not graduate. A year, 1891-2, between two years at college was spent in Des Moines as stenographer, and in June, 1893, he was taken into partnership by his brother in the business of publishing the Mt. Ayr *Weekly News*, a paper established by T. F. Armstrong a year before, their mother supplying the means for the venture. Neither of the brothers had previous experience in the business, but Walter H. has never followed any other line of business than that of a local newspaper since he first embarked therein. He was responsible for the organization of the Southwestern Iowa Editorial Association (now the Southern Iowa Editorial Association), proposing the idea and enlisting the co-operation of other editors of that town in inviting the newspaper men of

southwestern Iowa to come to Mt. Ayr and organize, which was done in 1901. In 1894 the *News* was changed to a semi-weekly and so continued for thirteen years under the name *Twice-a-Week News*, enjoying fair prosperity, which greatly increased in 1905-6-7, until an advantageous sale was made and the business disposed of March 1, 1907. R. S. Beall had retired from the firm in 1899, the younger brother conducting the business from that time until he sold the paper eight years later.

A business visit to West Union in 1905 impressed Mr. Beall with the merits of the community, and three days after he gave up possession of the *News* at Mt. Ayr he was in West Union, owning the *Argo* and engaged in its publication, in which he has since continued. The *Argo* was founded in 1881 by Hobson Brothers. In April, 1910, he purchased the *Gazette*, founded in 1867 by Charles H. Talmadge, combining the two under the title *Argo-Gazette*. He has rendered it a potent factor in shaping public opinion and in fostering such movements as make for the general good of the community.

Mr. Beall is a Republican, with a firm belief in progressive policies, and has taken a more or less active part in the politics ever since 1899. He has never aspired to office, his sole ambition being to be known as the publisher of a first-class local newspaper. He is chairman of the Fayette county Republican committee.

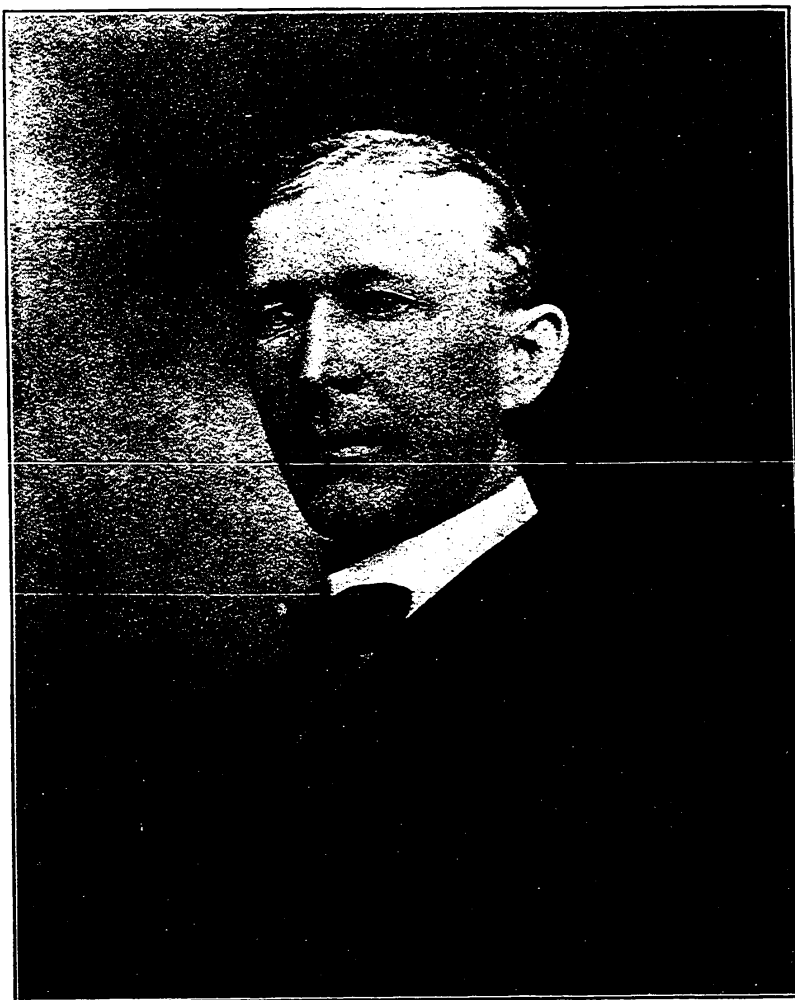
Mr. Beall was married June 30, 1897, to Maude Talley, also the child of pioneer people of Ringgold county, B. F. and Sarah C. (Keller) Talley. Mr. Talley died in September, 1907, Mrs. Talley now residing in West Union. Mr. and Mrs. Beall have an adopted son, Laurence, born in 1899. A previous foster son, Harold, died in 1905. Mrs. Beall's nephew, Tru Talley, also made his home with them during the first six years of their married life. Mr. and Mrs. Beall have both been members of the Methodist church since childhood. Mrs. Beall carries much of the responsibility of the *Argo* management, being as familiar with the conduct of a country newspaper as is her husband.

By close application to business and judicious management, he has made the *Argo-Gazette* one of the best papers of its type in eastern Iowa. Its columns teem with the brightest and best news of the day, and its mechanical appearance is all that could be desired. It has been rendered valuable as an advertising medium, and its circulation is rapidly increasing. Mr. Beall is known to be a man of high integrity and honor and is deserving of the high esteem which is freely accorded him by every one, having the confidence and good will of all.

MILTON O. MUSSER.

Holding worthy prestige among the representative business men of West Union and distinctively the leading merchant of the city, the subject of this sketch has made his influence felt in business circles and, though comparatively a young man, he has already forged to the front as a leader in all that makes for the general welfare of the community. Milton O. Musser is a native of the grand old Keystone state, which has furnished the West with so many men of ability and sterling worth, being the youngest of seven children, whose parents, Daniel A. and Lydia (Schneffler) Musser, were also born and reared in that commonwealth. Daniel A. Musser, who first saw the light of day in Center county, Pennsylvania, was by occupation a farmer and miller, owning at one time two flouring-mills and saw-mills; he also dealt very largely in lumber, grain and coal, besides manufacturing cement on quite an extensive scale. In addition to the above interests, he purchased from time to time large tracts of unimproved land, the timber from which he manufactured into lumber, this with his other enterprises proving remunerative and making him one of the wealthy men of the county. He was much more than ordinarily energetic and successful and everything to which he turned his attention appeared to prosper. A man of affairs and public spirited in all the term implies, he took an active interest in political matters and was twice honored by being elected treasurer of Center county, besides filling various other positions of honor and trust. He departed this life on June 30, 1880, leaving a widow and five children to mourn his loss, the names of the latter being F. Pierce Musser, editor and proprietor of the *Journal*, published at Milheim, Pennsylvania; Juniata, wife of A. Walter, cashier of the Milheim Banking Company; Mrs. T. R. Stamm, of West Union, Iowa (see sketch); H. Clymer, a traveling salesman living at Waterloo, this state, and Milton O., subject of this sketch.

Milton O. Musser was born in February, 1870, at Milheim, Center county, Pennsylvania, and spent his childhood and youth in his native town, receiving his educational discipline in the schools of the same. At the age of thirteen he began his business career as bookkeeper with the Milheim Banking Company, a position he filled with ability and credit for a period of five years, when he resigned with the object in view of improving his fortune in the west. Coming to West Union, Iowa, in 1890, he entered the employ of his brother-in-law, T. R. Stam, with whom he remained three years, at the expiration of which time he and his brother, H. C. Musser, purchased the only exclusive shoe business in the city which they conducted as partners during the six years ensuing.



MILTON O. MUSSER.

Disposing of his interest in the business to his brother at the end of the time indicated, Mr. Musser bought the dry goods store of T. R. Stam, of which he is still proprietor and which, as stated in a preceding paragraph, is the largest establishment of the kind in the city and second to few in the north-eastern part of the state. The building in which this extensive and rapidly growing business is conducted is one hundred and ten by twenty-five feet in area, with basement under the entire floor, the various departments being thoroughly equipped with modern conveniences and especially adapted to the end which they are intended to subserve. Mr. Musser handles full lines of everything demanded in the dry goods trade, also complete stocks of ladies' cloaks and other wearing apparel, men's clothing, boots, shoes and furnishing goods, notions, etc., all carefully selected and calculated to satisfy the most critical and exacting. The services of five clerks are required to meet the demands of the numerous patrons and the business, quite extensive when the present proprietor took charge, has greatly increased under his efficient management, not the least of his success being his efforts to please and the true courtesy which he manifests not only in his relations with customers, but at all times and under all circumstances.

Mr. Musser possesses business ability of a high order, which he displays in buying as well as in selling, and being satisfied with legitimate gains he has never ventured into any kind of speculation or adopted schemes which, however attractive, never appealed to his sense of justice. He has pursued a straightforward, honorable course, treating all who patronize him with impartial fairness and ever keeping in view the reciprocity of interests which must obtain between tradesman and patron if true success is to be attained. Since coming to West Union he has won a warm place in the hearts of the people of the community and his continued advancement in their good graces attest the confidence with which he is regarded by the public.

Mr. Musser was married in the month of April, 1892, to Ella G. Finch, daughter of Benoni W. and Mary E. (Butler) Finch, the families of both parents being among the early settlers of Fayette county. Mr. Finch died in 1909, leaving a widow who is still living and three children, viz: Gilbert B., of Oklahoma City; Margaret, now Mrs. Earl Branch, of West Union, and the wife of the subject. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Musser has been blessed with one son, Paul, who was born May 30, 1903. In his political views Mr. Musser is a Republican and his fraternal relations are represented by the order of Royal Neighbors, a secret society founded upon the principles of mutual protection, the cultivation of the social instinct and life insurance, his wife being a member of the same order.

J. M. BURNSIDE.

One of the influential citizens of Waucoma, Fayette county, is the gentleman to whose career the attention of the reader is now directed, who is a leading druggist of the county. A man of excellent endowments and upright character, he has been a valued factor in local affairs and has ever commanded unequivocal confidence and esteem, being loyal to the upbuilding of his community and ever vigilant in his efforts to further the interests of his city along material, moral and civic lines.

J. M. Burnside was born in Franklinville, McHenry county, Illinois, July 29, 1851, and he is the son of George and Olive M. Burnside, an excellent old family of McHenry county. The father was born on March 21, 1821, at Oneonta, Otsego county, New York, and the mother was born at Smithport, Pennsylvania.

When young in years, J. M. Burnside came to Fayette county, Iowa, and he has spent the major portion of his life at Waucoma, having received his education in the schools here. When a mere boy he decided to devote his life work to the drug business, and he began in this line in 1873 and has been in the trade continuously ever since, being one of the best known druggists in this and adjoining counties. He has a neat, well arranged and well kept store, always carefully stocked with a choice line of drugs, sundries and everything that a modern drug store carries, and he has long enjoyed a very liberal trade with towns and surrounding country.

On February 22, 1876, Mr. Burnside married Etta Stine, daughter of S. H. and Lavona Stine, a highly respected and well established family of Waucoma. Mr. Burnside's family by his first wife consisted of three children, namely: E. Winfield, Lottie and George Harold, the latter being deceased. His first wife dying in 1885, Mr. Burnside married Etta L. Talcott, in 1886. She is the daughter of F. H. and Almira Talcott, a well known family of Illyria township, this county, and two children have been born to this union, Deane C. and Chester M.

Politically, Mr. Burnside is a Republican. He was a member of the board of county supervisors, having been appointed after the death of Supervisor Wells, and he was elected twice, thus serving seven years and one month in a very acceptable manner. The most important work done while he was a member of the board was the building of the county home in connection with the county poor farm.

Mr. Burnside was appointed postmaster of Waucoma in 1873 and he held the same to the entire satisfaction of the department and the people until

Cleveland's first election, when he was succeeded by J. J. Krom. Mr. Burnside was again appointed on June 21, 1889, and continued in office until in August, 1893. He held the office of township clerk for several years and he has been secretary of the school board for thirty-three years, during which time he has done much for the cause of education in this community; in fact, whatever tends to the betterment in any way of Waucoma and vicinity his ready support may be depended upon.

Fraternally, Mr. Burnside is a member of Standard Lodge No. 351, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Adelpia Chapter No. 113, Royal Arch Masons; Langridge Commandery No. 47, Knights Templar. In all of these he takes much more than a passing interest.

JAMES ALEXANDER ILIFF.

No name in the county of Fayette is better known than that of the subject of this review. The family to which he belongs has been connected with this part of Iowa ever since the country was opened for settlement and for over a half century its representatives have been actively identified with the development and prosperity of the respective localities honored by their residence. The first of the family of this name to migrate to Iowa was Valentine Iliff, who moved his family from Ohio in 1848 and settled near the present site of Eldorado, where his death occurred four years later. Benjamin Iliff, son of Valentine, accompanied his father west, although married at the time, his wife, also a native of Ohio, having formerly been Alvina Morrison.

Benjamin and Alvina Iliff had three children, the oldest of whom, Jasper N. Iliff, is the present county surveyor of Hamilton county, Iowa, and official engineer of Webster City. James Alexander, of this review, is the second of the family, the youngest being Mrs. Susan Paulson, of Los Angeles, California. Mrs. Iliff dying in November, 1852, Mr. Iliff married a second time the following year, the latter union resulting in the birth of ten children, only three of whom are living, namely, Ira, George and Iva; the father departed this life in 1869.

James Alexander Iliff, whose birth occurred on April 13, 1850, claims to be the first white child born within the present limits of Fayette county, although others are inclined to doubt the claim, but sufficient proofs have never been adduced to invalidate the honor to which the subject is undeniably entitled. Be this as it may, he is without doubt one of the oldest, if not the

oldest, native resident of the county, and has seen the country developed from a wilderness into one of the finest and most prosperous sections of a state which in all that constitutes an advanced civilization is not exceeded by any other commonwealth in the union. Mr. Iliff was reared on the family homestead, which he helped clear and reduce to cultivation and as opportunities afforded attended the district schools until acquiring a knowledge of such branches as were then taught. On attaining his majority, he severed home ties and took a homestead at Spirit Lake, but the meanwhile (1868) went to Kansas, where he remained about one year attending Lane University.

Mr. Iliff's experience on his claim at Spirit Lake was by no means encouraging, the destruction of two successive crops by grasshoppers rendering the land practically worthless and inducing him to dispose of it in 1876 for what he could get. Returning to West Union that year, he has made this city his home ever since, but in the meantime he has given his attention to various lines of enterprise and met with success in his business affairs. For about sixteen years he operated a well-drilling outfit, in connection with which he also sold pumps and wind-mills and did a very extensive business in Fayette and adjoining counties. During the last fifteen years he has been engaged in farming and working insurance, building up a large and lucrative patronage in the latter and achieving a wide reputation as an enterprising and honorable business man. Each spring season for a number of years he has given his attention to the manufacture of maple sugar, which he makes and sells in large quantities and in the fall does a very successful business in the manufacture of sorghum molasses.

Mr. Iliff has a fine home in the southern part of West Union and is well situated to enjoy the many material comforts and blessings which he has provided for himself and family. He was married on the 28th of October, 1875, to Sarah Ellen Clark, daughter of Lookings and Mary (Kinney) Clark, who in an early day settled in Dover township, Fayette county, where they spent the remainder of their days, both dying a number of years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Iliff have eight living children and three dead; of the former, Royal C., who is the oldest, is in the rural mail service with headquarters at West Union. He is married and the father of two children, Eugene Royal and Frances Ellen, the latter deceased; the wife and mother, previous to her marriage, was Glenn M. Wolfe, of Fayette county. Benjamin Clark, the second in order of birth, is deputy state dairy commissioner and lives at Des Moines; he married Lila Strauss, of this county, the union being without issue. Ray R., the third of the family, married Mrs. Clara (Fitch) Howe, daughter of G. W. and R. A. Fitch, a union blessed with one child, George James. There

is also a son by the wife's previous union with Mr. Howe, Fitch Lyle Howe, now a student in the West Union high school; Jennette, the next in succession, is the wife of James C. Hayes, of Dubuque, and the mother of two offspring. Roscoe Allison, the fifth of the subject's children, is employed in the city of Des Moines; Earl A. is studying civil engineering with his uncle, J. N. Iliff; Myrtle Marie and Harry J., the youngest members of the family circle, are still under the parental roof and students of the city schools. The children deceased were Hazel, aged three years, Lyle, ten months, and one that died in infancy unnamed.

In his political faith Mr. Iliff is a Prohibitionist and an influential worker in the cause of temperance. He considers the saloon the plague spot upon the national escutcheon and believes the only true way to get rid of it is by prohibiting the manufacture and sale of all kinds of intoxicants. The family are members of the Wesleyan Methodist church and among the active workers of the local society to which they belong.

OSCAR W. HEISERMAN.

There could be no more comprehensive history written of a city or county or even of a state and its people, than that which deals with the life work of those who, by their own endeavor and indomitable energy, have placed themselves where they well deserve the title of "progressive," and in this sketch will be found the record of one who has outstripped many of the less active and less able plodders on the highway of life, one who has not been subdued by the many obstacles and failures that come to everyone, but who has made them stepping-stones to higher things, and at the same time that he was winning his way in the industrial affairs of life gained a reputation for uprightness and honor.

Oscar W. Heiserman, well known optician, jeweler and watchmaker of West Union, Fayette county, Iowa, is a native of this place, having been born here and spent his life in his home community. His father, William Heiserman, was born in Ohio, and his mother, who was Anna Cochrane before her marriage, was born at Albany, New York. The father was one of the pioneers in the manufacturing business at West Union and for many years he was well known and influential in this county. He engaged in the manufacture of wagons, which, owing to their superior quality and workmanship, were eagerly sought after and he enjoyed a very liberal patronage, the title of the firm being Peck & Heiserman, and Peck, Wimber & Heiserman.

Oscar W. Heiserman received his education in the West Union public and high schools, and he began his business career as student in the professions of watchmaking, engraving and optics, having in due course of time become expert in all. He is a graduate of Woodcock's Horological School, also Trawbridge's Watchmaking and Optical School at Winona, Minnesota. He opened his present store in 1896 and has a neat, well equipped, tastily arranged store and a well-established and extensive trade. He carries a large, valuable, carefully selected and up-to-date stock of goods. Because of the courteous and uniformly honest consideration each customer receives, they invariably remain his friends. He is one of the most expert workmen in the county or this part of the state, his reputation being second to none in this respect.

On September 11, 1905, Mr. Heiserman was married to Marie Newman, daughter of H. Newman, of Clarksville, Iowa, a well known citizen of that place. Mrs. Heiserman is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Heiserman is a Republican politically. In fraternal matters he belongs to West Union Lodge No. 69, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Unity Chapter No. 62, Royal Arch Masons, Elgin, Iowa; Langridge Commandery No. 47, Knights Templar; also the El Kahir Shrine, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

LEWIS A. FISHER.

One of the representative merchants of Fayette county is Lewis A. Fisher, of West Union, who is known as one of the progressive and successful business men of the county. He has not permitted himself to follow in a blind, apathetic way in his labors the rut in which many men eventually find themselves, but has studied to secure the maximum returns from his efforts, while he has so ordered his course at all times as to command the confidence and regard of the people of the community in which he lives, being a man of known honorable business methods and advocating whatever tends to promote the public welfare in any way. He is a native of Solon, Johnson county, Iowa, born there on October 13, 1861, and he is the son of James H. and Saloam (Hoffman) Fisher. The father, born in Pennsylvania, died when forty-five years old, in 1871. He was a druggist by profession. Mrs. Fisher was born at Strasburg, Alsace-Lorraine, formerly a part of France, now a province of Germany. Before emigrating to America she visited the famous clock which made her birthplace famous. Her death occurred in June, 1907, at the advanced age of seventy-eight years.

Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. James H. Fisher, all living and in mature life, Lewis A. of this review being the only one who ever made a home in this county. He was educated at Solon and at the Westbranch (Cedar county) high school. He began life by working on a farm, which he continued until of legal age. Deciding to become a druggist, he attended the pharmacy college at the State University of Iowa, in 1885-6, and in 1887 he came to West Union and opened a drug store, the building formerly used as a drug store being then empty, the title of the firm being Darnall & Fisher. After successfully operating the same for a period of eight years, he sold out and engaged in the drug business for three years at Hawkeye, this county. Disposing of his holdings there, he came to West Union in 1898 and engaged in the grocery business with his father-in-law, A. C. Gunsalus, and they continued successfully until 1906, when he purchased his partner's interest and has since been managing the store alone. He has built up quite an extensive patronage with the town and surrounding country. He carries at all seasons a large and complete line of groceries and provisions, and his customers receive such courteous and honest treatment that they invariably remain his friends.

Mr. Fisher was married on October 3, 1889, to Florence Gunsalus, daughter of A. C. and Margaret (Gruver) Gunsalus. Her father died on December 14, 1908; her mother is still living on the old homestead. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Fisher: Marguerite, now a young lady of much promise, who is attending the Upper Iowa University; Alfred is twelve years old.

Mr. Fisher has been a worthy member of the Masonic fraternity for twenty years. The church relations of the family are with the Presbyterian denomination. Politically, Mr. Fisher is a Republican, and is a supporter of all worthy measures looking to the betterment of local conditions.

ADRIAN J. GURNEY.

One of the many residents of Fayette county who came here from the Buckeye state is Adrian J. Gurney, assistant cashier of the State Bank of West Union. He was born at Chester, Geauga county, Ohio, August 1, 1860, and is the son of James R. and Matilda (Hulbert) Gurney, the father a native of Massachusetts and the mother of Ohio, the mother dying when Adrian J. was three years old; one other child was born to them, Meradon,

who died in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1874, at the age of twenty-one years. James R. Gurney's second wife was Sallie P. Rudd, a native of New York; no children were born to the last union. The elder Gurney, who is now a resident of West Union, Iowa, has devoted his life to farming, first in Ohio, coming to Iowa in 1878,

Adrian Gurney was educated in the public schools of Cleveland, Ohio, and in 1879 he came to Iowa and located on the parental farm near Manchester, Delaware county, assisting in developing a farm from the primitive state. He remained there until 1881, and went to Brush Creek (now known as Arlington) and entered the employ of Rawson & Rice, bankers and stock dealers, remaining with them three years, and he spent one year in a bank at Earlville, Iowa. He came from Arlington to West Union in 1885 and was bookkeeper in the Bank of West Union for about twenty years; he was also teller and for five years was assistant cashier.

Mr. Gurney married, on September 24, 1884, Allie O. Hayes, a native of Oregon, Wisconsin, where she was reared and educated. This union has been blessed by the birth of one son, Forrest H., born November 19, 1890, who graduated from the local high school with the class of 1910, and is now in the State University at Iowa City, Iowa.

Mr. Gurney is a member of West Union Lodge No. 69, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, also belongs to the Ansel Humphreys Chapter No. 80, Royal Arch Masons, and the Langridge Commandery No. 47, Knights Templar, also the Knights of Pythias. Politically, he is a Republican. He served as city treasurer of West Union for ten consecutive years, then after a time was re-elected and is at present serving in that capacity. He is a member of the board of education.

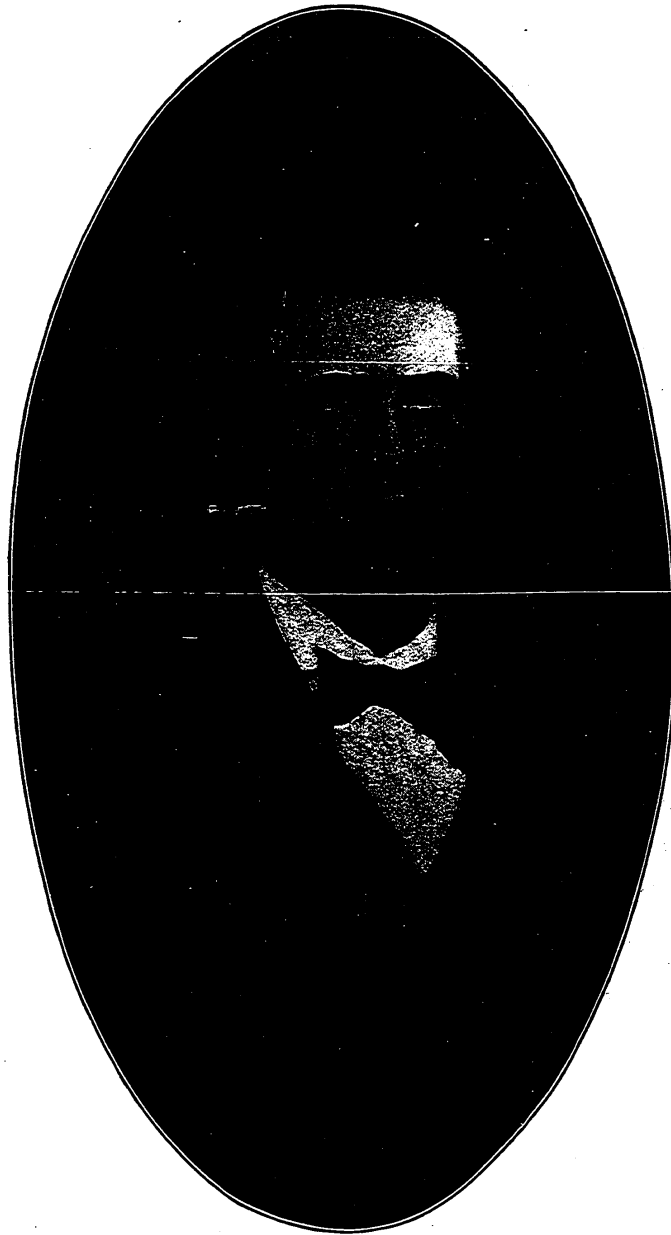
In 1907 Mr. Gurney's health failed for a number of months, and he was given a summer's vacation on full pay, a tangible recognition of his worth to the bank and one which he fully appreciated.

MILO LACY.

A well remembered and praiseworthy character, who for many years figured prominently in the life of Fayette county, was the late Milo Lacy, a man whom to know was to respect and admire owing to his many fine traits and his high ideals, which he sought to carry out in his everyday relations with his fellow men. He was born in Bainbridge, Geauga county, Ohio, October



MRS. JENNIE LACY.



MILO LACY.

14, 1841. He was the son of Jasper Brush and Anne Osborne (Henry) Lacy, the former born in Suffield, Connecticut, March 17, 1792, and the latter in Washington, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, on March 26, 1800.

Milo Lacy was educated in the common schools of West Union and he became a printer by trade, and was editor of the *Fayette County Union* until June, 1868, when he removed to Austin, Minnesota, and became editor of the *Austin Democrat*. He died June 25, 1869, in West Union, Iowa, where his children were born, and his widow still resides. At the time of his death he was a member of the Minnesota Editorial Association. He was a very able writer and as a local editor and condenser of news he had few superiors and he made his papers powers for good in their communities.

Mr. Lacy's war record is one of which his descendants might well be proud. In 1862 he enlisted in the navy for one year, and he was assigned to the gunboat "Genesee," then on blockade service off Charleston and afterwards in the first assault on Vicksburg and the siege of Port Hudson. After serving over one year and gaining promotion, he was discharged at the expiration of his service and returned to McGregor, Iowa. He re-enlisted in the Seventh Iowa Cavalry, volunteers, which was sent to the plains. This last enlistment was on March 5, 1864, and he was in the service until his regiment was disbanded. He was a member of Capt. Eugene F. Ware's company. He was discharged at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, May 17, 1866. During his service for the Union he distinguished himself by true soldierly qualities and was promoted to the rank of first sergeant, and he participated in a number of trying campaigns and battled with Indians. Politically, he was a Democrat.

On December 19, 1866, Mr. Lacy was married to Jennie E. Hines, daughter of Marshall Paul and Lucetta (Shields) Hines, an excellent family of West Union, Iowa. The father was born in Pennsylvania, March 23, 1818, and the mother in Nittany Valley, Center county, Pennsylvania, October 29, 1821. They were married in Nittany Valley, February 4, 1841, by the Rev. Samuel Cooper. The father died in West Union, Iowa, February 21, 1877, at the age of fifty-nine years, and the mother's death occurred here on October 24, 1898, at the advanced age of seventy-seven years. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Lacy are as follows: Clyde M. Lacy was born October 30, 1867, and died on November 2d following. Anna Hines Lacy was born May 20, 1869. Jennie E. (Hines) Lacy was born in Jacksonville, Center county, Pennsylvania, July 4, 1842. She received a good education and became a well known teacher, and was a member of the Fayette County Teachers' Association, also the Tourist Club of West Union. She moved with her

parents and four sisters from Howard, Center county, Pennsylvania, to West Union, Fayette county, Iowa, in August, 1857, and she began teaching school in the spring of 1858, at the age of sixteen years. She passed an oral examination and received her first teacher's certificate from County Superintendent S. W. Cole. For two or three years she attended school in West Union during the winter time and taught in the country in the summer months until the fall of 1860, when she began teaching in the West Union public schools. She continued to teach until she was married, December 19, 1866. In less than three years she was left a widow, with a little girl six weeks old. She resumed teaching in 1876 and was connected with the West Union schools until her health failed in 1897, making a total of thirty years' work in the city schools and thirty-five years in the county. She was one of the best known educators the county has ever known in connection with the public schools and her services were of a high order.

VINCENT ANDERSON.

The name of Vincent Anderson should certainly be included in the history of Fayette county owing to his long life of noble service to his family and the general public. His birth occurred in 1828 in Miami county, Ohio, and he was the son of Vincent and Mary (Mattics) Anderson, natives of Virginia and early settlers in Miami county, Ohio, having settled there about 1812 or 1815, locating on a farm of over one hundred acres on which they spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of eight children, Vincent, of this review, being the youngest in order of birth. He lived at home until he reached maturity and received his education in the district schools. In 1852 he moved to Fayette county, Iowa, where he remained but a short time when he and his brother came to Eldorado and established the first grist and saw-mill ever run there. In May, 1855, they returned to Eldorado to make their home there, and there Vincent and his brother James, who had come to Eldorado previously, continued in the milling business. Solomon Helmer, an uncle of Mrs. Vincent Anderson, came to Fayette county about 1855 and was associated with Mr. Anderson in the mill, and he remained in this county until his death. In 1856 Vincent Anderson traded the mill for the farm of two hundred acres and the Bloomerton saw-mill, southeast of Eldorado, and here he remained, with the exception of two years, until his death, on January 4, 1905, having been very successful as a general farmer and a hog and cattle raiser.

Mr. Anderson was married on July 21, 1853, to Hannah Bell, who was born in Clark county, Ohio, and who was the daughter of Thomas and Minerva (Helmer) Bell, who remained in Ohio until shortly before their deaths, finally moving to Indiana, where they died. They were early settlers in Clark county, Ohio, having moved there from Virginia about 1815. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Anderson enlisted as a soldier in the war of 1812, toward the close of the conflict. Mrs. Anderson's father was a cousin of the Mr. Bell that once made the race for President of the United States. Mr. Anderson also had a cousin who was at Fort Sumter when it was under siege. Mrs. Anderson's paternal grandfather brought a colored boy and girl with them when they came to Ohio from Virginia; another cousin of Mrs. Anderson was a color-bearer in the Civil war.

To Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Anderson five children were born, namely: Lincoln died in infancy; William Arthur is living near the old home in Fayette county; his sketch appears on another page of this work. John Wesley was drowned in the Columbia river when twenty-one years of age. Vincent Grant lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Robinson G. was once county attorney of Fayette county, Iowa, and he is now professor of law at a college in North Carolina.

Mrs. Vincent Anderson has always been a Baptist, and she is popular with a large circle of friends owing to her many admirable traits of character.

FRANK J. TAMBLYN.

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The subject of this sketch, a member of the firm of Dwyer & Tamblyn, lumber merchants, West Union, is a native of Page county, Iowa, where he was born on May 5, 1879. His father, Benjamin F. Tamblyn, is of English extraction and his mother, whose family name was Kate Van Duzor, was descended from Holland ancestors who were among the early settlers of New York in colonial times. Mrs. Tamblyn, whose birth occurred in the latter state, died in the year 1882, leaving besides her husband three children to mourn her loss, viz: Effie M., unmarried; Mary, wife of Dr. Charles E. Simpson, of Norway, Iowa, and Frank J., the subject of this review. Benjamin F. Tamblyn spent his early life in farming and in due time became quite an extensive land owner in Iowa and Minnesota, in both of which states he still has large possessions. Later he turned his attention to lumbering, in which he built up a very extensive trade, at one time operating lumber

yards in Norway, Fairfax, Grundy county, Walford, Zaneta and various other points, besides conducting for some years a regular business. In 1905 he came to West Union and purchased the interest of V. D. Kipple in the lumber yard at this place, the other partner being John W. Dwyer, with whom he still is associated. This is one of the oldest and best known business establishments in the city, having been successively owned and operated by C. M. Lockwood, Ward & Freeman, A. L. Colgrove, Colgrove & Barnes, Colgrove & Sylvester, Dwyer & Kipple and finally by Dwyer & Tamblyn, the present proprietors. These gentlemen carry a large and selected stock of all kinds of building material, excepting hardware, and their patronage, which is much more than local, extends throughout a large area of Fayette and adjacent counties. Both men are careful and eminently honorable in their business methods, stand high in the confidence of their customers and the general public and their establishment has done much to promote the material interests of the city and give it publicity in other parts of the state.

Frank J. Tamblyn was reared under the influence of excellent home training and received his preliminary education in the schools of Norway, after which he fitted himself for business life by taking a thorough course in a commercial college at Cedar Rapids. On being graduated from the latter institution, he engaged in the lumber business with his father and has ever since been identified with that line of industry, being at this time one of the leading lumber dealers in West Union, besides otherwise interested in the prosperity of the city. Possessing sound intelligence, well balanced judgment and the ability to forecast with remarkable accuracy the future outcome of his plans, he has proven a valuable addition to the firm and much of the business now rests upon his shoulders.

Politically, Mr. Tamblyn is a Democrat, but his business interests are such as to prevent his taking a very active part in public affairs. He holds membership with West Union Lodge No. 69. Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and in addition to his fraternal relations keeps in touch with the social life of the city and is ever ready to encourage worthy enterprises for the general good of the community.

In the year 1907, at Cedar Rapids, Mr. Tamblyn contracted a matrimonial alliance with Elsie Agnes Dellit, of Jones county, Iowa, her father, A. F. Dellit, having been an early settler of that part of the state and a pioneer lumber dealer in the town of Wyoming. After a long and successful career he disposed of his business and moved to Cedar Rapids, where he is now living in honorable retirement. They are the parents of a bright and interesting little son who answers to the name of Albert B. Tamblyn and who first saw the light of day on July 15, 1908.

RUDOLPH W. MOSER.

It was once remarked by a celebrated moralist and biographer that "there is scarcely a life of which a judicious and faithful narrative could not be made useful." Believing in the truth of this opinion, expressed by one of the greatest and best of men, the writer of this review herewith presents the leading facts in the career of a gentleman who, by industry, perseverance, temperance and integrity, has worked himself from a beginning none too auspicious to a successful business man and won an honorable position among the well known and highly esteemed men of the village in which he resides.

R. W. Moser, of Elgin, Pleasant Valley township, Fayette county, Iowa, known all through this locality as a wagon manufacturer second to none, was born in Ohio, March 11, 1858, the son of John and Maria (King) Moser, both born in Switzerland (canton of Bern). There they grew to maturity, were educated and married. They came to America in 1852. To them the following children were born: John, whose birth occurred before leaving Switzerland; Mary, Lida, Rudolph, Rosa and two died in infancy. They located at New Philadelphia, Ohio. In time the mother re-married, her second husband being Nicholas Sutter, and in 1869 they moved to Iowa and settled in Highland township, Clayton county, where Mr. Sutter took up farming. Later they moved to Illyria township, Fayette county, and farmed there one year, then came to Elgin and in 1872, the year the railroad was built to this place, Mr. Sutter started a draying business, having previous to that time teamed for Elgin merchants, hauling goods from McGregor, Iowa. Later he sold his business to Willis Lyons. In the spring of 1876 Mr. Sutter moved to Lagrange county, Indiana, where he farmed for one year, then went to Kansas and made his home there until 1879, when the mother of the subject died, and then the family scattered, Mr. Sutter moving to Indian Territory, thence to California, where he still resides. Two children were born to this marriage, Emma and Ida.

R. W. Moser, of this review, was educated in the common schools of Indiana and Iowa. On December 14, 1874, he became an apprentice to the wagonmaker's trade under Christ Lehmann in the shop which Mr. Moser now owns. After serving an apprenticeship of three years, he ran the shop on the "shares" for two years, then bought his stock and rented the shop, conducting the same in that manner until 1886, when he purchased the shop outright and has continued to manufacture wagons here, mostly for the home trade, which has always been very good; indeed, he has difficulty in supplying the

demand owing to the excellency of his workmanship and the high grade material he uses. He took his son, Philip, in as partner in the fall of 1895, and they have built up a very extensive and satisfactory business which is known throughout this part of the state.

Mr. Moser was married in 1880 to Mary Abby, who was born in Elgin, this county, and educated here. Five children have been born to this union: P. M., of Nunda, South Dakota, is a dealer in hardware and furniture; Philip, mentioned above, is living at home; three who died in infancy.

Politically, Mr. Moser is a Democrat and he has very ably and faithfully discharged the duties of constable for more than ten years. He also served the village of Elgin very creditably as councilman for a period of three years, his term being in the second council after the incorporation of the town. He has been one of the most active and influential men in the affairs of this place ever since he became established in business here, having ever been ready to do his full share in the general upbuilding of the town and vicinity. Fraternally, he is a member of the Yeoman lodge and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was baptized in the Lutheran church, and his life has been such as to merit the highest respect of his fellow citizens, which he enjoys without exception.

LEONARD WOLF.

The gentleman whose brief life story is outlined in the following paragraphs is an American by adoption, belonging to that large and eminently respectable class of citizens of German birth to whom this country is so greatly indebted not only for its material prosperity but also for progress along most every line of activity and thought. The family of which Leonard Wolf is an honorable representative had its origin in Wittenberg, Germany, and it was there that his parents, George and Kate (Brininger) Wolf, were born and reared. The father was a farmer and followed his vocation in his native land until August, 1873, when he emigrated to the United States and settled in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, where he remained a short time, removing thence to Fayette county, Iowa. Later he went to South Dakota, where his death occurred in September, 1886; his wife, who survived him two years, died in September, 1888. George and Kate Wolf were reputable members of the Lutheran church and inherited many of the sterling qualities for which their respective ancestors were noted. They had six children, whose names are as follows: Michael, of Wittenberg, Germany; Leonard, subject of this sketch;

Frederick, a farmer in Scott township, who died in 1906; John, who died in the fatherland; Lewis died in Wisconsin, and Jacob departed this life in September, 1904, in South Dakota.

Leonard Wolf was born February 6, 1845, and spent his early life in Wittenberg, receiving a good education in the Lutheran schools of his native place. He remained in Germany until attaining his majority, when he decided to seek his fortune in the great republic beyond the sea; accordingly, he sailed for America and on arriving at his destination proceeded as far west as Jefferson county, Wisconsin, where he secured employment for about five months as a farm laborer. At the expiration of that time he went to Wentworth county, in the same state, where he spent the ensuing six years on a farm, working for a certain sum per year. Severing his connection with his employer in 1872, he came to Fayette county, Iowa, and purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in sections 23 and 24, Scott township, and an eighty-acre tract in section 26, the only improvement on the land at that time being a small, illy-constructed house, about sixteen by sixteen feet in size and barely habitable.

With characteristic industry and thrift, Mr. Wolf went to work improving his land and in due time realized the results of his labors in one of the best farms and one of the finest country homes in Fayette county. He has made commendable progress as a farmer and stock-raiser and his improvements of all kinds bear witness to the interest he has taken in establishing a good home and providing comfortably for those dependent upon him. At the present time he owns three hundred and twenty acres of excellent land, the greater part under a high state of cultivation, a portion being devoted to livestock, for which it appears admirably adapted. Mr. Wolf has been unsparing of his means in the matter of improvements, his various buildings being modern and in first-class condition, and, as already indicated, they compare favorably with the best in the county. Some idea of the interest he takes in making his farm a model of its kind may be obtained from the fact of his having expended about four thousand dollars within less than two years on improvements, to say nothing of various other large sums, prior to and after the time referred to.

Mr. Wolf came to the New World with no capital save a sound mind in a sound body and an inborn determination to make the most of his opportunities. By diligent labor and the exercise of good judgment, he has succeeded in placing himself in independent circumstances, being at this time the owner of one of the most beautiful and desirable farms in Scott township. Aside from farming, Mr. Wolf has achieved a wide reputation as a breeder and

raiser of fine livestock, devoting special attention to Durham cattle, which he markets every year in large numbers, while his hogs of the Chester-White, Poland China and Duroc varieties are among the finest in this part of the state and the source of a large income. He is also an admirer of good horses and on his place may be seen quite a number of exceptionally fine animals, chiefly of the Norwegian-Norman and Belgian breeds and, like many of the enterprising men of his section of the country, he takes pride in poultry, making a specialty of the Brown Leghorns, which he raises on quite an extensive scale.

While living in Wisconsin, Mr. Wolf was united in marriage with Mrs. Barbara Weisner, widow of John Weisner, of Bavaria, Germany, and daughter of John Weisner, also a native of that country. Mrs. Wolf's parents came to the United States a number of years ago and settled in Wisconsin, where her father died at the age of seventy-eight.

Mr. and Mrs. Wolf are the parents of eight children, the oldest of whom, Henry, is unmarried; Annie, the second in order of birth, is the wife of William Falk and the mother of children as follows: Elva, Iva, Dortha, Lydia, Lewis, Helen and Otto. Frederick, the third of the subject's children, is a resident of Jefferson township and by occupation a dairyman; he married Millie Wagner, of this county, and is the father of a daughter, Mildred, and a son by the name of Laymond. Mary and Maggie, twins, are the next in succession, the former dying in 1906, the latter being still with her parents, as are also Lizzie, Willie and an infant.

Mr. Wolf is a Republican in politics and, with his family, holds membership with the Lutheran church. He is essentially a self-made man and one of the intelligent and influential citizens of his township, being a great reader, a close observer and always keeping well informed on the questions before the public.

WALTER B. INGERSOLL.

Iowa has always been distinguished for the high rank of her bench and bar. Perhaps none of the newer states can justly boast of abler attorneys and there is scarcely a town or city in the state but can boast of one or more lawyers capable of crossing swords in forensic combat with many of the distinguished legal lights of the country. While the growth and development of the state in the last half century has been most marvelous, viewed from any standpoint, yet of no one class of her citizenship has she greater reason for

just pride than her attorneys. In Mr. Ingersoll are found many of the rare qualities which go to make up the successful attorney. Years of conscientious work have brought with them not only increase of practice and reputation, but also that growth in legal knowledge and that wide and accurate judgment the possession of which constitutes excellence in the profession.

Walter B. Ingersoll was born in Oswego county, New York, in 1856, the paternal homestead having been on a farm near the town of Pulaski. He is the son of John H. and Margaret J. (Bowker) Ingersoll. The Ingersoll family first came from England, and John Ingersoll, the subject's great-grandfather, was a soldier in the war of the Revolution. He was an officer under General Washington at Valley Forge and his sword is still preserved as a family heirloom. It is stated that when this John Ingersoll moved from near Troy, New York, to Oswego county, that state, he was so far in advance of civilization that he traveled over forty miles without seeing any sign of habitation. His son Benjamin was the first white child born in Oswego county. This branch of the family is from the same ancestry as was Col. Robert G. Ingersoll. The Bowker branch of the family is descended from one of three brothers who came from Scotland to America in 1630, settling in New England, descendants of whom were also soldiers in the American war for independence. One house has been occupied by members of this family for over one hundred and fifty years.

In 1858 John H. Ingersoll brought his family to Iowa and bought land in Delaware county, but their stay was brief, as in the following year the father went to California and the other members of the family returned to their former home in New York. In 1863, however, he again brought the family to this state and made permanent settlement. The subject of this sketch was reared on the farm and received his elementary training in the public schools of the neighborhood, this being supplemented by two years' study in the Upper Iowa University. He next engaged in teaching school in Delaware county, but, having decided to take up the practice of law, he entered the law department of the University of Iowa, where he was graduated in 1878. He engaged in the active practice of his profession at Greeley, this state, where he remained two years, going then to Huron, South Dakota. After five years' practice there, Mr. Ingersoll located at Bird City, Kansas, where he practiced his profession during the following decade. In 1895 he returned to Iowa and in the spring of the following year he opened an office at Oelwein, where he has since remained. As a lawyer Mr. Ingersoll has evinced a familiarity with legal principles and a ready perception of facts, together with the ability to apply one to the other, which has won him the

reputation of a sound and safe practitioner. In discussions of the principles of law he is noted for clearness of statement and candor, and his zeal for a client never leads him to urge an argument which in his judgment is not in harmony with the law, and in all the important litigation with which he has been connected no one has ever charged him with anything calculated to bring discredit upon himself or cast a reflection upon his profession. Personally affable and approachable, he enjoys a large circle of acquaintances, among whom are many warm and loyal friends.

In 1877 Mr. Ingersoll married Iona M. Peet, of Clayton county, Iowa, and their union has been blessed in the birth of two children, Lee L. and Regina C. The family are members of the Presbyterian church. In politics Mr. Ingersoll is a staunch Republican, but he is not in any sense a politician, preferring to devote his entire attention to the practice of the law. Mrs. Ingersoll also is descended from old Revolutionary stock, her paternal grandmother having been a member of the noted Carpenter family, of whom another member was Lieutenant Carpenter, of New York, an officer in the Revolutionary army. The family chain can be traced back in an unbroken line to the year 1066, in the time of William the Conqueror, when a member of the family was clerk of the city of London. The Carpenters came from England to America in very early colonial days, and first made settlement in New England, though members of the family later went westward and settled in New York.

ALBERT J. GEHRING.

In the collection of material for the biographical department of this publication there has been a constant aim to use a wise discrimination in regard to the selection of subjects and to exclude none worthy of representation within its pages. Here will be found mention of worthy citizens of all vocations, and at this juncture we are permitted to offer a brief resume of the career of one of the most active and highly respected citizens of Illyria township, where he has maintained his home since babyhood, having achieved abundant success in his chosen field of endeavor, that of farming and stock raising, he having chosen to remain in his native community in Fayette county rather than seek uncertain fortune elsewhere.

The gentleman referred to in the preceding paragraph, Albert J. Gehring, was born in Illyria township, Fayette county, Iowa, November 5, 1862, the representative of a well known family here in the early days. He received

his education in the public schools and when merely a boy began working on the farm and continued agricultural pursuits ever since, having remained on the home place until 1903, when he moved to Elgin and in this neighborhood purchased forty acres of rich land which he has kept well tilled and which has yielded him a comfortable living from year to year. It is located about a mile from town, in one of the best sections of the county. While living on the home farm, Mr. Gehring dealt extensively in livestock, breeding road horses and shorthorn cattle, and he still handles some horses, both road and draft, and, understanding well the care and training of them, so that they always sell readily and at high prices, Mr. Gehring having long been known as one of the best judges of horses in the county.

In 1902 Mr. Gehring married Nancy Kimpson, who was born and reared in this county, where her parents are well and favorably known. This union has resulted in the birth of two children, namely: Amy Arleta, four years old at this writing, and Richard Albert, now two years of age.

Fraternally, Mr. Gehring is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and politically he is a Republican, but he takes no special interest in political matters and is not an office seeker. Mr. and Mrs. Gehring have a pleasant home and they have numerous friends throughout this section of the county.

PETER J. KALB.

The gentleman whose name introduces this sketch holds worthy prestige among the younger farmers of Fayette county, and as a public spirited man he occupies a conspicuous place in the community of his residence. Peter Kalb, who is one of Iowa's sterling German-American citizens, was born in the county of Dubuque on the 28th day of July, 1875. His parents, Peter and Anna (Weaber) Kalb, were born in Germany and came to America in 1852, before their marriage, making the voyage on the same sailing vessel and being on the ocean two months ere reaching their destination in the city of New Orleans. John Kalb, a brother of Peter, Sr., accompanied the latter to the new world and is now living in Dubuque, this state. In due time Peter Kalb and Anna Weaber were married, and came to Iowa, locating in Dubuque county, where Mr. Kalb purchased ninety acres of government land which he at once proceeded to improve and reduce to cultivation. Later he bought an additional eighty acres, which he subsequently increased by forty acres adjoining, the entire tract, consisting of two hundred and ten acres, becoming in

the course of a few years one of the finest farms and among the most beautiful and desirable country homes in the county. Peter Kalb was quite successful as a farmer and at his death left a very valuable estate. He was essentially a self-made man and as such was held in high esteem in his neighborhood and enjoyed to a marked degree the confidence of his fellow citizens. His first wife dying on the 12th of April, 1876, he subsequently married Margaret Younkers, who, with their four children, is still living. Mr. Kalb departed this life on the 8th day of May, 1887. By his marriage with Anna Weaber he had three children, John, Peter, of this review, and Joseph, the subject being the only survivor. The following are the names of the children born to the second marriage: Anna, wife of Peter Pitz, of Dubuque county; Margaret, who married Henry George, also a resident of that county; Paul and Bert, who are with their mother on the family homestead.

Peter Kalb, subject of this sketch, was reared to agricultural pursuits in his native county and received his educational discipline in the Catholic schools near his home and a similar school in the town of Centralia. At the early age of sixteen years he started out to make his own way and lay the foundation of his fortune, his first effort being as a farm laborer, in which capacity he continued for several years with the object in view of ultimately becoming something more than a worker for others. Animated by this laudable motive, he applied himself diligently to all he undertook, saved his earnings with scrupulous care, and in 1894 found himself in a position to carry out the resolutions made in his youth. Accordingly in that year he came to Fayette county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of new land in section 10, Scott township, to the improvement of which he at once addressed himself. By industry and thrift Mr. Kalb soon succeeded in reducing the greater part of his land to cultivation and it was not long until he added a series of improvements which made his farm one of the best as well as one of the most beautiful and attractive places of its kind in the township. In 1894 he erected his present comfortable modern dwelling, which, with other buildings in keeping therewith, adds very much to the appearance of the farm, to say nothing of its increase in value. Since coming to his present place of residence his career has been signally successful and, as indicated in a preceding paragraph, he is now in independent circumstances and occupies a leading and influential position among the men of his calling in the township honored by his citizenship. Mr. Kalb carried the mail for one year between the towns of Scott and Aurora and at the present time is treasurer of school district No. 1. He manifests an active interest in all that makes for the material advancement of his township and county and the advancement of the people, gives an un-

yielding support to the Democratic party and keeps in touch with the leading questions and issues of the times, on all of which he is well informed, being an independent thinker whose opinions command respect and carry weight.

With a desire to see and inform himself concerning the vast extent of our western domain, Mr. Kalb, in 1899, started on an extended trip through various states and territories, proceeding as far as the Pacific coast and visiting many interesting places in California and elsewhere. During this trip, which occupied the greater part of two years, he traveled several thousand miles and added greatly to his knowledge and practical experience to say nothing of the pleasure enjoyed ere returning to his home in June, 1901. Mr. Kalb is one of the popular men of Scott township, and has many friends elsewhere in the county, being well known and highly regarded by those with whom he has mingled. His character and integrity have ever been above reproach and his reputation as an honorable, high-minded gentleman and enterprising citizen entitles him to a worthy place among the progressive men of his day and generation in the county of Fayette.

Mr. Kalb, on October 23, 1902, was united in marriage with Matilda Liewer, of Carroll, Iowa, daughter of Wendell and Feronica Liewer, who came to this country from Germany. Four children have been born to this union, namely, Vita, born February 9, 1904; Cleopha, May 8, 1905; Norbert, June 12, 1908, and one who died in infancy. The living children represent many fond hopes which the parents indulge for their future.

Mr. and Mrs. Kalb were reared under the influence of the Catholic religion and have always remained loyal to the teachings and traditions of the mother church. They hold membership with the local church at Oelwein and are active in all good work under the auspices of the same.

BENONI W. FINCH.

There are many reasons why the life record of the late Benoni W. Finch, of West Union, should be given a conspicuous position in a history of Fayette county, partly because of his long residence here and his commendable work in the general development of the locality, and partly because of the exemplary life he led, setting the youth of the land a worthy example, which, if they would but follow, would doubtless be of great assistance to them in all walks of life. During the days of national peril in the early sixties Mr. Finch was one of those patriots of the North who proved his love and loyalty to the

government on the long and tiresome marches, on the tented field and amid the carnage of battle. To such men the country is under a debt of gratitude which it cannot pay, and in centuries yet to be, posterity will commemorate their chivalry in fitting eulogy and tell their knightly deeds in story and song. Like thousands of comrades equally as brave and self-sacrificing as himself, Mr. Finch did his duty nobly and well, as, indeed, he did in all walks of life, never betraying any trust reposed in him. Thus, for this and many another praiseworthy trait of character he deserved the eminent esteem in which he was held by a host of friends and acquaintances.

Mr. Finch was one of the pioneers of Fayette county and a native of Niles, Berrien county, Michigan, where his birth occurred on March 1, 1831, the son of Moses and Huldah (Gardner) Finch. According to tradition, three Finch brothers came to America from England just before the Revolutionary war, and from one of the trio was descended the subject. Family records show that Moses Finch was born in Genesee Flats, New York, in November, 1799, and died in November, 1848. His wife, a native of Ohio, died in 1837. In 1830 the Finch family moved to Michigan, where Moses and three brothers purchased an Indian reservation near Niles and settled thereon. The family moved to Jefferson county, Wisconsin, in 1845, and settled near Lake Koshonong, where the father died three years later, leaving two sons and four daughters. Hannah, the eldest, married Cyrus Hyde, of Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin, he being deceased at this writing; Gilbert B. is a farmer in Westfield township, Fayette county, Iowa, now living retired in Fayette.

Benoni W. Finch came to Fayette county, Iowa, on June 18, 1857, and located at Albany, Westfield township, where he taught school during the winter season, spending the summer months in a cabinet shop. While still living in Westfield township, October 31, 1861, he married Mary E. Butler, a native of Muskingum county, Ohio, born February 15, 1843, and a daughter of Harrison Butler and wife. To this union five children were born: Eugene, born November 21, 1862, died in February, 1863; Gilbert Benoni, born August 3, 1866; William H., born December 29, 1868, died March 3, 1885; Margaret G., born July 9, 1870, married Earl B. Branch, of West Union; and Ella, born July 12, 1872, lives in West Union, and is the wife of M. O. Musser. The oldest living child, Gilbert B., is a resident of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He was educated in the West Union schools, and for some time he was a traveling salesman. He is a very successful business man.

On August 11, 1862, Benoni W. Finch enlisted in Company G, Thirty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and he participated in the siege of Vicksburg, the siege and capture of Fort Morgan, Alabama, the siege, charge and capture

of Fort Blakely, the defense of Mobile and the charge against the stronghold on April 9, 1865. He made seven voyages with his regiment on the gulf of Mexico and also traveled thousands of miles by rail and steamship, crossing the gulf to Texas, was in the garrison on the border of Mexico from November, 1863, to July, 1864, thence went to Fort Morgan, Alabama, thence to Donaldsonville, Louisiana, where he did garrison duty two months, thence to Morganza, Mississippi, December 12, 1864, where his regiment was consolidated with the Thirty-fourth Iowa Infantry. The troops were then sent to Kenner Station, eight miles above New Orleans, thence to Barrancas, Florida, later to Pensacola, then to Fort Blakely, Alabama, and Mobile, then to Selma, that state, then again to Mobile, where it witnessed the explosion of the magazine, hundreds being killed. The regiment was sent to Houston, Texas, and mustered out at that place on August 15, 1865, being finally discharged at Davenport, Iowa, September 6th following. Mr. Finch served three years and twenty-five days, during which time he was never off duty except when sick, proving a very gallant soldier. Although his health was permanently impaired during the service, he never regretted that he had been of some use to his country.

Mr. Finch returned to Fayette county after the war, and, in company with his brother, purchased a farm near Fayette where he remained actively engaged in work on the same until October, 1872, at which time he came to West Union, where he was employed as clerk in a grocery store. He and Frank Ward embarked in the grocery business in 1874. Later Joseph Butler bought Mr. Ward's interest and subsequently sold to A. C. Gunsalus, whose interest Mr. Finch purchased in 1882. He conducted the business alone for two years, then sold out, having enjoyed a very satisfactory patronage all the while. He subsequently had to take back the realty and in July, 1889, again resumed the grocery business, selling out the following November. In April, 1887, Mr. Finch was appointed justice of the peace, serving out an unexpired term, and was elected to that office the following November and he continued to serve in that capacity until his death, giving eminent satisfaction, his decisions always being considered as fair and according to the law governing such. During the latter part of his life he represented a number of first-class fire insurance companies. He was a Republican in politics and for many years he served in the city council of West Union. He was an active member of Abernathy Post No. 48, Grand Army of the Republic, and of West Union Lodge No. 25, Ancient Order of United Workmen, and was recorder for some time of the same.

The death of this excellent citizen occurred on June 25, 1909. His

health had been failing rapidly for some years, and he spent the winter of 1904 and 1905 in California and the winter of 1908 and 1909 in Florida. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of West Union. He was a fine type of the self-made man, growing up in a frontier country as an orphan, securing his education under most adverse circumstances, but he became an intelligent and refined man. In an active life in West Union of over thirty years no one could say aught against him in any way, his character always being strong and courageous. In his private life his character shone with peculiar luster, and as a public spirited citizen and patriot he was well known and admired by all classes for his many praiseworthy attributes.

REV. CORNELIUS STEPHEN REGAN.

The popular young pastor of West Union parish of the Roman Catholic churches under his jurisdiction, is a native of Lycurgus, Allamakee county, Iowa, and was born on the 10th of June, 1864. He is a worthy son of Daniel and Mary (Devine) Regan, early pioneers of Allamakee county, and both recently deceased on their old pioneer homestead at Lycurgus. These were people highly esteemed in the community in which most of their married lives were spent, and where their large family of children was born and reared to promising manhood and womanhood. Daniel Regan is characterized in the obituary notice in the *Allamakee Journal* as "the grand old man," which shows the estimation in which he was held by those who knew him best. From this notice we are pleased to copy sufficient details to give a comprehensive understanding as to his life career: He was born at the townland of Derlis, near Castle Donovan, parish of Drimoleague, county Clark, Ireland, his birth occurring on the 1st of November, 1819. He left his native land on the 20th of June, 1848, and landed at Quebec, Canada, August 15th following. After a three months' sojourn in that northern city, he went to Vermont, and remained in that state until July 1, 1850, when he located at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. There, on January 6, 1853, he wedded Mary Devine, a native of his own country, born near Dingle, in county Kerry, in 1838. The young couple at once sought a home in the West and on the 17th of May, 1853, settled on the old homestead in Center township, Allamakee county, Iowa, which was their home ever afterward, until both were called to their final reward. There they shared together the trials and hardships of pioneer life, grew prosperous, enjoying the love and confidence of many

devoted friends and neighbors, reared a family of loving and appreciative children, and after a sojourn of more than half a century together, surrendered to the inevitable within the short space of eighteen months.

Daniel Regan was a man liberally educated, having received a collegiate training in his native country, and throughout his entire lifetime he took an active interest in public affairs, was a deep reader and thoroughly well informed upon current literature and the general topics of the day. He was a patient and trusting sufferer for many months and finally passed away on the 5th of June, 1907. He bore his suffering with true Christian fortitude and such resignation to the will of God as to be characterized as sublime and ennobling. No murmur or word of complaint ever escaped his lips, and he peacefully fell asleep in the arms of Jesus. The cause of his death was probably mostly due to old age, combined with asthmatic trouble which hastened the end. Being in his eighty-eighth year, his physical constitution was simply worn out with the trials and vicissitudes of a long and active life. The funeral was held at St. Mary's church at Lycurgus, the religious home which he had cherished as sacredly as life itself, and had sustained and supported throughout all the years of its existence, and in which his children had received the ordinance of holy baptism, and from whose walls they had gone out into the world to become worthy men and women in the land. The gathering of the people was the largest ever assembled there on a funeral occasion, thus evincing the high esteem in which this venerable citizen was held. Six of his grandsons, Charles E., Peter J. and Daniel Regan, and Daniel, James and William Whalen, tenderly bore the precious clay to its final resting place. The priests who took part in the office of the dead, and solemn high mass, were Father C. S. Regan, of West Union, celebrant; Father Gallahue, of Dubuque, deacon; Father Vaughn, of Lycurgus, sub-deacon; Father Ryan, of New Albin, Iowa, master of ceremonies; Fathers McCullough, of Dorchester, and Garland, of West Ridge, chanters. Father Walsh, of Waukon, delivered a most consoling and eloquent funeral discourse. The solemn requiem mass was sung by the little girls of the Lansing choir, assisted by D. A. Holmes, under the able leadership of Miss Lizzie Schach. Mr. Holmes, at the request of the deceased, sang as a solo "The Holy City," during the offertory, rendering the beautiful and soul-inspiring ballad "with the spirit and understanding also." This selection was an especial favorite of the departed.

On the 16th of December, 1908, "Grandma Regan" rested from her labors. Her death was very peaceful, like one going to sleep. Some months previous to her death she had suffered from a severe attack of bronchitis, from

which she never fully recovered, though able to be about the house. She came to America in her youth and resided at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, at the time of her marriage to Daniel Regan, as previously intimated. The union of these early pioneers in northern Iowa was blessed with ten children, three of whom, Daniel, Katherine and Michael, died in infancy or childhood and seven of the family lived to years of maturity. Those left to mourn the loss of their cherished parents were Charles, and Mrs. Patrick Whalen, of Lycurgus, Iowa; Eleanor, at home; Peter J., of Great Falls, Montana; Rev. Cornelius S., of West Union, Iowa; James, who passed to his reward on the old homestead since the deaths of his parents, and Mrs. D. A. Holmes, of Lansing, Iowa. In addition to these sorrowing sons and daughters, this venerable couple had thirty-two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. As in the case of the grandfather, six grandsons acted as pall bearers at the burial of their grandmother. All of her children were at her bedside when the final summons came. The funeral services were conducted at the same place as that of her husband and under very similar circumstances and conditions. The priests who were present to assist in the sad rites were Rev. Father C. S. Regan, celebrant; Rev. Father G. L. Haxmeier, deacon; Rev. Father Campbell, sub-deacon; the latter also delivering a most excellent and consoling sermon. The solemn requiem mass was sung by the Lansing young ladies' choir, with Miss Lizzie Schach as director and D. A. Holmes, chorister. Mr. Holmes sang the favorite hymn of the deceased—"Ave Maria!"

Rev. Cornelius S. Regan, whose name introduces this sketch, was reared to the age of seventeen on the parental homestead at Lycurgus. At that age—in the summer of 1882—he had finished his studies in the common schools and entered upon a course of higher studies in the fall of the same year at the Waukon Normal School. This was his first absence from the parental roof, and a young man of his temperament and filial affection must surely have suffered much by the radical change from home environments to the cold formality of strangers. After spending several terms in attendance at the normal school, he began teaching in the public schools of the county, and the succeeding five years of his life were spent in teaching and attending school. His school attendance was divided between the Waukon high school, the normal school at that place, the Allamakee County Teachers' Institute and the Decorah Normal and Business schools. After completing his preliminary educational work, and closing his teaching career,—the latter covering many terms in Allamakee county public schools,—he entered upon a course of study in preparation for the ministry of the Catholic church. Ten days after completing his last term of teaching, he bade adieu to family and friends, and

on the 22d of March, 1888, he was enrolled as a student at St. Joseph's College, Dubuque, Iowa. He was graduated from this well known institution, after six years of continuous study, with the class of June, 1893. The young man then took a much needed vacation of a few months amid the loved scenes of his boyhood years, when the archbishop under whose jurisdiction he had been pursuing his studies at St. Joseph, sent him to Montreal, Canada, to pursue his theological course. On the 20th of September, 1893, he began a four years' course in the Grand Seminary. He was graduated and received the minor orders and was ordained, on the 19th of September, 1896, in the imposing St. James Cathedral at Montreal. The thoughts of the young clergyman naturally turned to his early home and its loved environments. He thought of the unpretentious little church at Lycurgus, where so many years before he had received the sacrament of baptism, and first holy communion and confirmation and he came home and made arrangements to say his first holy mass in the little church which was so dear to the family, as well as himself. In St. Mary's church at Lycurgus he said his first holy mass on the 23d of December, 1896. He received his first appointment to pastoral labors as assistant pastor of St. Mary's church in Manchester, Iowa, February 7, 1897, and remained there in that capacity until October 16, 1898, when he was placed in charge of the parish of which Bryant, Iowa, is the center. He remained there in successful work for four years, when the larger field was opened to him at West Union. Father Regan has served the congregations at Fayette, Hawkeye and West Union since January 1, 1903, and has endeared himself, both to his parishioners and the people at large, by his unostentatious yet earnest Christian life. Nearly eight years have been spent profitably and pleasantly in the West Union field where everybody honors and respects Rev. Father Regan.

CHRISTIAN L. FREIBURGHHAUS.

No more substantial citizens ever connected themselves with a community than the family of this name, which has been connected with Fayette county for over forty years. They are of the best known Switzerland stock, with a natural turn for all branches of the mechanical arts and invariably successful as artisans. Christian Freiburghaus married Rosina Bigler in his native land and by her had several children, but she died when the latter were young and the father determined to seek a betterment of his condition on distant

shores. Gathering his young family around him, he set sail for the United States in 1867 and in due time reached the gates that open upon the land of promise. He had picked out Iowa as his destination and lost no time in making his way to that growing state. He located in Clayton county and, though a cabinetmaker by trade, he turned his attention temporarily to carpentry. In 1869 he changed his place of operations to Fayette county, located at Elgin and opened up a lively trade as carpenter. This he kept up mainly until 1875, but the year previous he took up cabinet work in a furniture store established by his son. He died in May, 1892, after an industrious and useful life.

Christian L. Freiburghaus, son of the old cabinetmaker, was born in Switzerland, November 19, 1855, and was consequently only twelve years old when he crossed the ocean with his father. He was able to obtain a limited education as his fate was that of the "hired boy," overworked all the time. During the summer, when there were no schools, he was pushed hard by his employers in the thousand and one jobs that boys can do on a farm. In winter he had to work for farmers to pay his board and as his hours were long and his tasks exacting, he had little time left for school or private study. The result was that he grew up practically without the kind of education that is obtained in school houses, but he made up the deficiency later by his good sense, faculty of observation and the keeping in touch with affairs around him. In 1873 he came to Elgin to make his home and learned the carpenter's trade under his father. In 1874 the latter started a furniture store at Elgin and his son worked for him until his death in 1881. Since that time he has conducted the business alone and made it one of the prosperous houses of Elgin. In 1893 he built the large store and residence structure which he has since occupied. He also conducts an undertaking business, having received his professional education at Howenshoe and the embalming school at Des Moines, Iowa. In 1881 he married to Rosa Hiltbrunner, a native of Switzerland. Her parents were John and Elizabeth Hiltbrunner, who came over on the same boat that brought Mr. Freiburghaus to America. By a singular coincidence they proceeded at once to Iowa and located in Elgin on the very spot where Mr. Freiburghaus has his furniture store and residence. The father of Mrs. Freiburghaus, who was a tinsmith, died in 1894. Mr. and Mrs. Freiburghaus have had eight children; Emilia, Marie, Ella, Julius, Lillie, Carrie, Katie (died in infancy) and Frieda.

Mr. Freiburghaus is a Republican and always takes an interest in local politics. For fifteen years he has been a member of the school board and during that time has been able to do much for the cause of education. He also

takes much interest in religious affairs as a member of the Baptist church. For thirty years he has taught the infant class in Sunday school, has been treasurer of the church since 1884, and one of the trustees for five or six years.

WILLIAM ALVA SCHNEIDER.

An enumeration of those men who have won honor and public recognition for themselves, and at the same time have honored the locality where they belong, would be incomplete were there failure to make specific mention of the one whose name forms the caption to this sketch. A life of earnest and persistent endeavor has placed Mr. Schneider in fairly comfortable circumstances, and his life has been so ordered as to win the earnest esteem of all who know him. He has on at least one occasion demonstrated personal bravery of the highest order—an incident which will be referred to in a later paragraph.

William A. Schneider is a native of the township in which he now resides, his birth occurring on November 2, 1867. He is the son of Michael and Elizabeth (Burch) Schneider, the latter having been a daughter of Elder Burch, the first settler at Oelwein. The subject's father was born in Alsace-Lorraine, which now belongs to Germany, though at that time it was a part of France. He came to the United States and here followed the pursuit of farming. The subject was reared on the paternal farmstead and was early inured to hard work. The family sometime later moved to Harlan township, this county, where the father had bought a farm. The subject attended the common schools, which in his early days were in session but about three months each year. After completing his education he was variously employed for some years, but at the age of twenty-three years he engaged in the livery business on his own account at Oelwein, but did not long continue in that line. After his marriage, which occurred in 1899, he located on a farm which he had bought and which was located near Oelwein, and during the following four years he was engaged in its operation. At the end of the period noted he sold his farm and moved into Oelwein, where he was engaged in the dairy business for two and a half years. He and his family then went to California on an extended trip, and remained there about six months, at the end of which time he returned to Oelwein and entered the employ of the Chicago Great Western railroad, being employed in the shops for about fourteen months. In March, 1908, Mr. Schneider entered a homestead of one

hundred and sixty acres in Stanley county, South Dakota, to which he now has a clear title. In June, 1909, Mr. and Mrs. Schneider returned from their residence on this homestead and now make their home in Oelwein. Mr. Schneider owns a total of five hundred and sixty acres of land in South Dakota, and is extensively engaged in the business of buying and selling land, in which he has met with splendid success. He is a good judge of land values and is a shrewd and successful trader. He is also the owner of some valuable real estate in Oelwein.

On January 4, 1899, Mr. Schneider married Hattie May Powers, the daughter of Henry and Livonia (McDougall) Powers. The latter was born in New York state, but in her young girlhood she accompanied her parents on their removal to Canada, where she was reared. Henry Powers is numbered among the honored pioneers of Fayette county, having located in Scott township in the spring of 1856. He was postmaster of Scott Center for twelve consecutive years, or from the founding of the office until its abolishment. His descendants are numerous in Scott township. He was the eldest of eleven children born to John L. and Melissa Ann (Farr) Powers, and John L. was the eldest of seven sons born to David and Hannah Powers, who lived near Meadville, Crawford county, Pennsylvania, about the beginning of the last century. The Farr family were also numbered among the pioneer settlers in Fayette county. To the subject and his wife has been born one son, Paul A.

Fraternally, Mr. Schneider is a member of that great fraternal insurance order, the Modern Woodmen of America, and Mrs. Schneider is a member of the auxiliary order, the Royal Neighbors. They are both active in their respective orders and are popular among their acquaintances.

Mr. Schneider is the holder of a bronze medal given to him by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission as a reward for an act of the greatest bravery and calling for personal courage and presence of mind of a high order. The inscription on the medal reads as follows: "Awarded to William A. Schneider, who saved Marian Sturgis from drowning, Hazleton, Iowa, July 24, 1906." The young lady referred to is the daughter of Hon. Lew I. Sturgis, postmaster at Oelwein, and the incident, as related in the report of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, award No. 177, was that Miss Sturgis was bathing in Otter creek, twenty feet from the bank, and in water ten feet deep, when she became panic stricken and helpless. She was struggling and about to sink for the third time when Mr. Schneider went to her rescue. In her excitement and semi-consciousness she grabbed him around the neck and head and pulled him under the water, but by presence of mind and herculean efforts he succeeded in getting her to shallow water. In addition to the award

of the medal, Mr. Schneider was also given eleven hundred dollars in cash from the hero fund in further recognition of his courage and character, and in this connection it may be noted that an award of money is only made after the most rigid investigation by special agents as to the personal character and worth of the recipient. While modest in his reference to this event, Mr. Schneider is deservedly proud of his membership in this list of publicly-recognized heroes.

HANS JACOBSEN.

Although Denmark is a small kingdom and far remote from Fayette county, Iowa, she has sent a fair representative of her best citizenship to this and other localities of our great republic, and wherever the Danes have settled they have become integral parts of our great body politic, being law-abiding, progressive, honest, as a rule, and in every respect welcomed to the protection of the stars and stripes to which they have ever been loyal. One of the most conspicuous representatives of this class in Fayette county is Hans Jacobsen, one of the leading farmers and stock raisers of the county, his highly improved and valuable landed estate lying near the city of West Union.

Mr. Jacobsen was born in Denmark in 1845, and he is the son of Lewis and Mary (McGrater) Jacobsen, both natives of Denmark and each representing excellent old families there. The parents of the subject spent their lives in their home country on a farm and died there. Their son, Hans, assisted with the farm duties on the home place when a boy and received his education in the common schools. His imagination had been fired by the wonderful stories of opportunities in the western republic and he early in life began to plan to come here, believing that he would be enabled to carve out a fortune for himself if given a fair opportunity, and, judging from the eminent success that has attended his efforts, one would conclude that he was wise in reaching and carrying out this early decision. It was in 1879 that he set sail for our shores. He remained in the state of New York, settling near Utica for a period of eight years, working on different farms until he got a start. He was economical, saved his money and, believing that the West offered advantages for securing land that were superior to any thing the East had to offer, he came to Windsor township, Fayette county, Iowa, and purchased eighty acres and lived on it for a period of four years, making a good living and adding to his competence. He then purchased one hundred and forty acres in Union township, where he now lives, engaged in diversified farming

in a most successful manner. He has a cozy and substantial dwelling and good outbuildings.

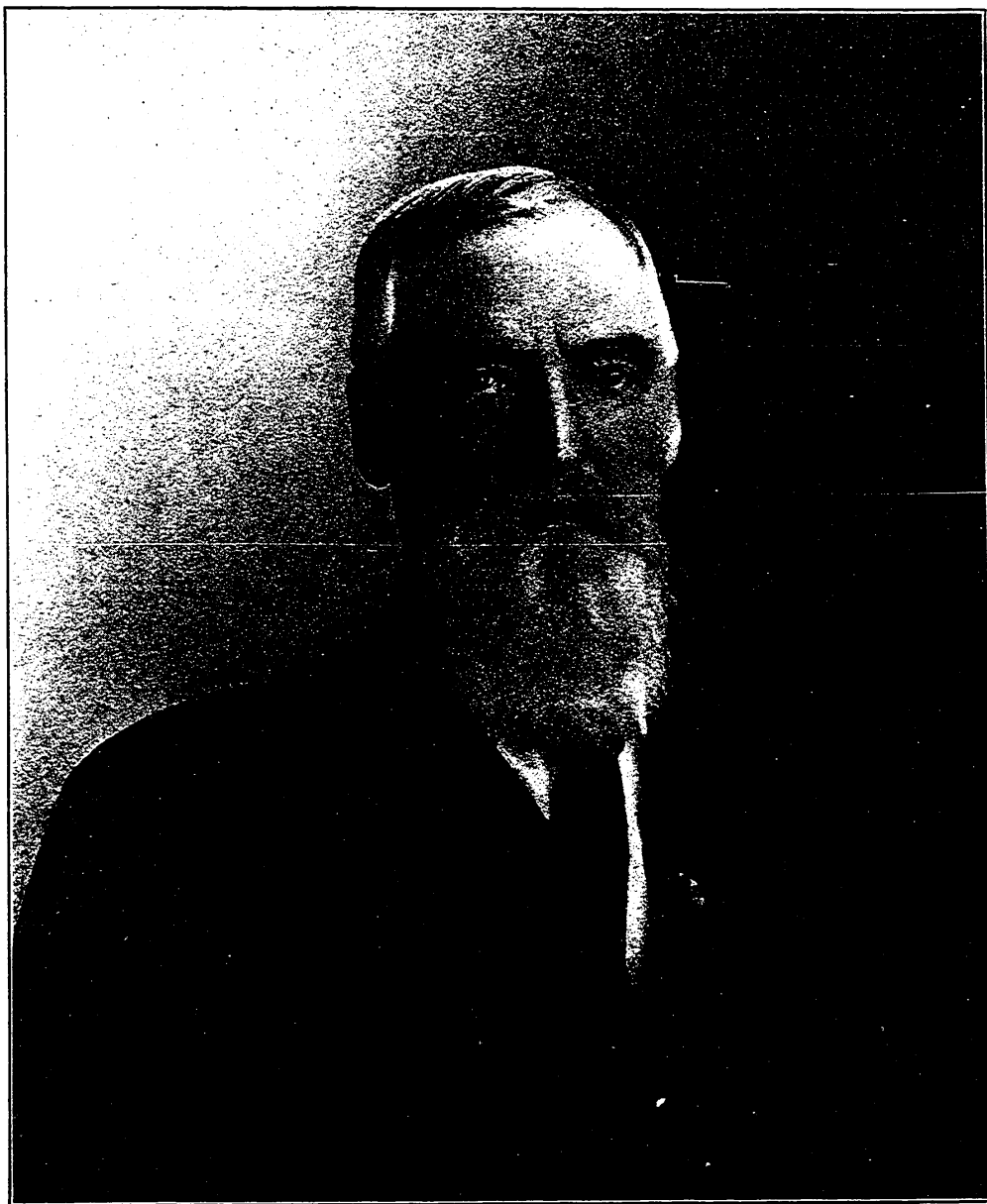
Mr. Jacobsen was married in 1887, while living at Utica, New York, to Elena Marie Jensen, the daughter of an industrious and highly honored family, and this union resulted in the birth of the following children: Laura, Jensena, James, Alie and Lena. Laura married George Alcorn, and Jensena married Charley Bartels, who is living in South Dakota on a farm of four hundred and eighty acres. Mrs. Jacobsen died September 4, 1894, and about a year later Mr. Jacobsen married her sister, Jensine Jensen, at Cedar Falls, Black Hawk county.

Politically, Mr. Jacobsen is a Republican and while he has not found time to take much interest in political matters he has served as school director. He is a Presbyterian in religious matters.

WILLIAM SARGENT.

The subject of this biographical review is one of the surviving early settlers of Illyria township, without whose history the annals of the township, and particularly the town of Wadena, would be very incomplete. There are few people in Fayette county who do not personally know "Billie" Sargent. He was one of the writer's earliest friends in the west, and it is a pleasure to him to record these few details in the life history of one of Fayette county's most worthy citizens. William Sargent is an Englishman by birth. He was born in Dorsetshire, February 13, 1843. His parents were William and Emma (Young) Sargent, natives of the same locality as himself. His father was superintendent of Lord Bigby's estate at Dorsetshire for thirty-five years.

The first eleven years of the subject's life were spent in his native country, and he there began his educational career in the common schools of England. In the fall of 1854 the family emigrated to America and came at once to Illyria township, Fayette county, Iowa, and selected a home near the southwest corner of the township. The parental home was continued here during the remainder of the lives of his parents, and is still referred to as one of the pioneer landmarks in the township. The father, William Sargent, Sr., was a quiet, unassuming man, at peace with himself and all the world. He never aspired to public honors nor mingled greatly with the people outside of his own family. And this reticence seems to be a family characteristic, in that none of the children were ever loudly outspoken, even on subjects that deeply interested



WILLIAM SARGENT.

them. The subject of this sketch is noted for his quiet, unobtrusive manner and carefully guarded and well-controlled temper. No one ever saw "Billie" Sargent in great anger, except, possibly, the family of five grown men and boys who once undertook to "pick his bones," as he facetiously termed a "neighborly bout" when he was young. But on that occasion the father and his four sons, though all of "fighting stock," had to take to the woods!

On arriving at Illyria, Mr. Sargent entered the pioneer school in the neighborhood and pursued his studies for about three years, when he was apprenticed to the blacksmith trade and completed the full course of instruction in that department, as was customary in early days. No one was considered either a carpenter or a blacksmith who did not serve an apprenticeship of at least three years, and it may not be amiss to mention the shop in which Mr. Sargent learned his trade. It was located in the extreme northwest corner of Illyria township, in the country, and on the well known Gilson farm, and was operated by Gilson & Johnson. Their specialty was plow making, for all the plows then in use were made by hand, and the fame of the Gilson plow reached far and wide over Fayette county. But they were also general blacksmiths, and while the subject was specially qualified to make or repair plows, he was also a good general mechanic in iron or steel work. But after completing his apprenticeship, "Billie" decided to re-enter school for a while, and was enrolled as a student at the Upper Iowa University, where he pursued his general studies for about three years. He has always been successful as a business man, and any endeavor in a business way invariably brought him good results.

The nucleus to a nice little income, which was always well invested, resulted from horse breeding in early days, before the country was out of the "ox team" stage. But soon after leaving school, Mr. Sargent engaged in business at Taylorsville, which was then one of the most prosperous towns of the county. He operated a shop there for two years, when he sold out, and when he again opened a shop he chose the village of Wadena, a most profitable venture, for his was the only blacksmith's shop in the place for several years. His old shop there is now worked over into a residence, and the telephone exchange is located there. After about ten years in the hardest labor of any of the mechanical trades, Mr. Sargent retired, and, barring a few years that he served as justice of the peace, he has been retired for about twenty-five years. But this is really not a retirement at all, in that Mr. Sargent owns two good farms, aggregating two hundred and fifty acres of good Fayette county soil, and the superintendence of these requires considerable of his time. Just outside of the corporation of Wadena is his home farm of ninety acres, where he

and his wife have a pleasant residence. The other farm, of one hundred and sixty acres, is located in Scott township, some fifteen miles distant.

William Sargent and Miriam M. Mitchell were married December 31, 1873. Miss Mitchell, daughter of Joseph and Ida L. Mitchell, was born in Clayton county, Iowa, August 9, 1853. Her parents were very early settlers in Fayette county, and her father was one of the first blacksmiths in Wadena and was also a very early postmaster there.

Mr. Sargent has been a member of the Masonic fraternity for many years, having been initiated into York lodge, No. 202, at Taylorsville, before its removal to "Brush Creek," now Arlington. On the organization of a lodge of Odd Fellows at Wadena, he was one of the early initiates, in order to help a worthy cause along. Himself and wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star at Arlington.

Though a moral and upright man, and a ready contributor to churches, Sunday schools, etc., Mr. Sargent has never connected himself with any religious organization. His views are liberal, inclining towards Universalism. And the doctrines of this sect, if properly observed and followed through life, will not lead its adherents far astray.

ADOLPH GARNIER.

As the name implies, the Garnier family is of French origin, but Adolph Garnier, of this sketch, was born in Bavaria, Germany, his birth occurring there December 14, 1854, but the greater part of his useful and honorable life has been spent in America. He is the son of William and Johanna (Suess) Garnier, the former born in France, of fine old Huguenot stock; the mother was born in Germany. William Garnier was educated in France, from which country he moved with his parents to Germany when a young man, where he farmed; he belonged to the Dutch Reformed church and was an honest and honored citizen of the fatherland. He and his wife were the parents of six children named as follows: Louis, a gardner at Bloomfield, New Jersey, came to America when young and served as a Union soldier in the Army of the Potomac; John is farming in Germany; Annie, who remained in the old country, died there; William is interested in a soap factory at Dubuque, Iowa; Adolph, of this review, was the youngest child.

Adolph Garnier attended the public schools and later the Latin schools of his home country and he spent three years learning the confectioner's trade,

for which he paid the sum of two hundred dollars. Believing that greater opportunities existed for him in free America, he set sail for our shores in 1872 and penetrated to the interior, locating at Dubuque, Iowa, where his brother had settled in 1868. After remaining with his brother there for a time, he went to New Jersey with another brother, with whom he remained one year, working at his trade, then he came back to Dubuque and took up farming in order to improve his health which at that time was not particularly robust. After one year he went to Maynard, Fayette county, this state, in 1878.

On June 4, 1879, Mr. Garnier married Lina Meyer, of Dubuque, daughter of Henry and Mary Meyer, of Germany, who came to America in 1862 and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 32, Harlan township, Fayette county. He was thrifty and added considerably more land to his original purchase. He was a farmer, which vocation he followed until his death in 1893, his wife dying in 1903. They were the parents of four children, namely: Johanna married George Struthof, of Maynard, Iowa; John H., of Oelwein, Iowa; Lina, wife of Adolph Garnier, of this review; Charles is deceased.

The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Garnier: Henry John married Anna Suess and he is farming on his father's old place in Harlan township and he and his wife are the parents of one child, Etta; Amelia married Fred Schroeder, of Harlan township, and they have one son, Elmer; Walter, single, is farming in Harlan township; Julia married Otto Wilson, of Oelwein, Iowa, and they have one daughter, Virginia; Johanna is living on the home farm with her brother, Walter.

Mr. Garnier owns a half section of high grade land in section 29, Harlan township. When he first came to this county he worked for J. H. Meyer for one year, then bought one hundred and sixty acres. It was new land and he made all the improvements on the same, being a hard worker and a good manager. He added to his original purchase from time to time and farmed successfully until 1905, when he moved to Maynard, Iowa, where he has since lived retired. He not only carried on general farming in a most successful manner, but also stock raising, handling Durham cattle, draft horses and Chester White hogs. He always found a ready market for his stock owing to their high quality.

Mr. Garnier has long taken considerable interest in local politics; he was trustee of Harlan township for a period of twelve years, also was school director and has held many other local offices, always discharging his duties in a faithful and conscientious manner. He is an uncompromising Republi-

can. Mrs. Garnier is a member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Garnier is a Mason, being a member of Sunny Side Lodge No. 510 at Maynard. He is a director of the Fayette County Mutual Fire-Insurance Company of this county. He is a director and stockholder in the Maynard Bank. For his deep interest in the affairs of his locality, his honesty and industry, Mr. Garnier is one of the best known and most highly esteemed man of the southern part of Fayette county.

JAMES J. KIERON.

Standing out distinctly as one of the central figures in the business history of Waucoma, the subject of this review stamped his individuality upon the minds of all with whom he came into contact for a number of years, took a leading part in directing the commercial interests of the town along lines greatly to the profit of those who have imitated his example. Successful in all of his undertakings and above the suspicion of dishonor in his dealings, his life was filled with good to his fellow men and, though dead, he still speaks in the timely counsel and beneficial influence which he left behind.

James J. Kieron, whose birth occurred in New York City, May 28, 1859, was a son of Patrick and Mary (Dolan) Kieron. When he was five years old his parents moved to Iowa and settled on a farm in Fayette county, where they lived for a number of years, finally retiring to Waucoma, where their respective deaths subsequently occurred. Mrs. Kieron survived her husband about eighteen years. James J. Kieron was reared to agricultural pursuits, receiving his educational discipline in the district schools and after the death of his father remained on the farm, which he cultivated jointly with a younger brother until his twenty-fifth year. This brother, Edward Kieron, is still on the place and his two sisters, Anna, wife of Fred McKay, and Mary, who married James McDonald, live at Waucoma and Dubuque, respectively.

About the year 1884 the subject accepted a clerkship in a mercantile house at Waucoma and later, with his cousin, Ed Kieron, now of St. Paul, Minnesota, started a general store in the town, which they conducted jointly for one year, when Fred McKay purchased his partner's interest, forming the firm of Kieron & McKay, under which name the business was continued until 1894. In that year Ed Kieron, the subject's brother, succeeded McKay and the firm of Kieron Brothers, as thus constituted, lasted until the senior members' death, some time after which the stock was sold to another party.

The Kieron Brothers built up a large and lucrative trade and in due time

forged to the front among the leading commercial firms in Waucoma. Their fine store building, the third floor of which was used for a hotel, was destroyed by fire in January, 1906, entailing a heavy loss, including their entire stock of goods, but, with characteristic energy, they immediately rebuilt and started business upon a much larger scale than formerly. The firm became widely known and as long as it lasted stood in the front rank of Fayette county's successful commercial establishments, both members earning creditable reputations as sagacious, far-sighted and eminently honorable business men. Since the younger brother disposed of the stock sometime after the death of the subject, C. Webster, the purchaser, has carried on the business, and under his management and care the high reputation of the house has been maintained.

In connection with merchandising, James J. Kieron was also largely interested in the breeding and raising of fine livestock, making a specialty of the Polled Angus cattle, of which he had a large number, including some of the most valuable animals of the kind ever seen in that part of the state. He called his farm the "Riverside farm" under which name it became widely known among stock men, and the sales which he held at regular intervals were largely attended. He manifested great pride in his livestock and at the time of his death was planning to enlarge the business upon quite an extensive scale.

Mr. Kieron was a politician of much more than local repute and for years was not only the recognized Democratic leader of Fayette county, but became quite widely known throughout the state as an energetic and successful campaigner. He stood high in the councils of his party and had few equals on the hustings, where his abilities as a public speaker shone with a peculiar luster. A natural orator and a master of assemblages, he became very popular in campaign years and could respond to but comparatively few of the many demands for his services. For a number of years he was known as "The Merchant Stump Orator," and right well did he sustain the reputation before the public, for where he once appeared efforts were invariably put forth to induce him to repeat the visit. Mr. Kieron was a gentleman of pleasing address, easily accessible and a general favorite in the social circles. He was a natural leader and as a politician he exercised a strong influence in directing the policies of his party, as well as in moulding public opinion on matters of general interest. His popularity was by no means confined to his party, as he made friends wherever he went and those who knew him best were loudest in their praise. Religiously, he was born and reared a Catholic, and always remained loyal and devoted to the mother church, contributing liberally of his means to its various interests and taking active part in the affairs of the

local parish to which he belonged. He was largely instrumental in securing the erection of St. Mary's church at Waucoma, and while the building was in progress he gave it much of his attention, besides subscribing liberally to meet the expenses of the enterprise.

On December 4, 1906, Mr. Kieron was married to Mrs. Allada Schanck, of Sumner, Iowa, but who at the time referred to was living in Waucoma, where for three years she had been proprietress of the Palace Hotel, which popular hostlery she conducted very successfully until its destruction by fire at the expiration of that period. Mr. and Mrs. Kieron had no children of their own, but by a previous marriage she is the mother of three daughters, viz: Maud, wife of Lloyd Farnum, of Mason City; Hazel, unmarried and at home, and Maida, widow of De Witt Schanck, of Fredericksburg, this state.

Mr. Kieron's death resulted from a brain tumor, which caused him much suffering, notwithstanding which he continued to give personal attention to his business until seven months before the end came. In the hope of being benefited by an operation he went to Dubuque and died at Mercy Hospital, that city, a short time after the surgeon had finished his work, this sad event occurring on the 7th of May, 1909.

TOFIELD LEHMAN.

Among the representative farmers and progressive citizens of Pleasant Valley township, Fayette county, Iowa, none occupies a more enviable position than the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch. A native of this county, his long residence here has only served to gain for him a marked prestige among his fellow citizens, and, though one of the younger generation of agriculturists, he is accounted a shrewd and practical man of affairs.

Tofield Lehman was born in Fayette county, Iowa, in 1874, and is a son of Jacob and Rosa (Hess) Lehman, the former of whom was a native of Switzerland, from which country he came to the United States in about 1852. His wife was born in Canton, Ohio. They came to Fayette county, Iowa, and located on a fine and fertile farm of one hundred and twenty acres, where the father still lives. The subject of this sketch was one of three children born to his parents, by whom he was reared. He secured his early education in the district schools and he remained on the home farm with his father until his marriage, in 1903, though prior to that time he had conducted some busi-

ness enterprises on his own account. He is now the owner of twenty acres of land and devotes much of his attention to the care of bees and the production of honey, in which he has met with the most pronounced success, the honey which he puts on the market being considered of a very superior quality and giving him a widespread reputation. Since 1898 Mr. Lehman has supplied large quantities of honey to Walter S. Pouder, a leading merchant of Indianapolis, Indiana, who always speaks in the highest terms of Mr. Lehman's product. At one time Mr. Pouder desired to make an exhibit at the famous Indiana State Fair and wrote Mr. Lehman for some honey for the exhibit. The following is a quotation from a letter received by the subject from Mr. Pouder after the fair: "I won second premium at our state fair. The judge came to me and said that my extracted honey was the finest he had ever tasted, but one of my competitors had a lot of granulated honey and I had none, and on this account he gave first to the other fellow." Mr. Lehman also ships large quantities of honey to various other dealers, among them C. H. W. Weber, of Cincinnati, and the Fred W. Muth Company, of the same city, all of whom compliment the honey very highly. Mr. Lehman started in the business in 1892 with two swarms of bees, and has steadily increased his apiary until now he has eighty swarms, keeping his stock down to that number that he may give his personal attention to every detail of the business.

On February 17, 1903, Mr. Lehman was united in marriage to Emma Butikofer, who was born in Clayton county, this state, and they have become the parents of the following children: Adeline, Jacob and Walter. Mr. Lehman is public spirited in his attitude towards all movements for the public good and is held in high regard throughout the community. Of pleasing address, good business ability and unquestioned integrity, he enjoys the unbounded confidence of all who have had dealings with him and he is numbered among the sterling citizens of Pleasant Valley township.

A. E. SMITH.

Civilization's progress is shown more in the care given to human weaklings, to the insane and other unfortunates, than in any other way. Not long ago, even in this enlightened country, they were accorded a treatment not fit for brutes. Now they are given the best of care and medical attention, their surroundings are the ones which sanitary science approves, and while not all

recover from their unfortunate condition, at least their sufferings are palliated as much as possible. In men of the character of Mr. Smith, placed at the head of a county home, a man whose training gives ample security of his fitness for the position, we have indeed a contrast to some of the poor overseers of past times. We may be assured that any unfortunates committed to his care will receive their due share of attention and care, and will have no cause to complain of bad treatment.

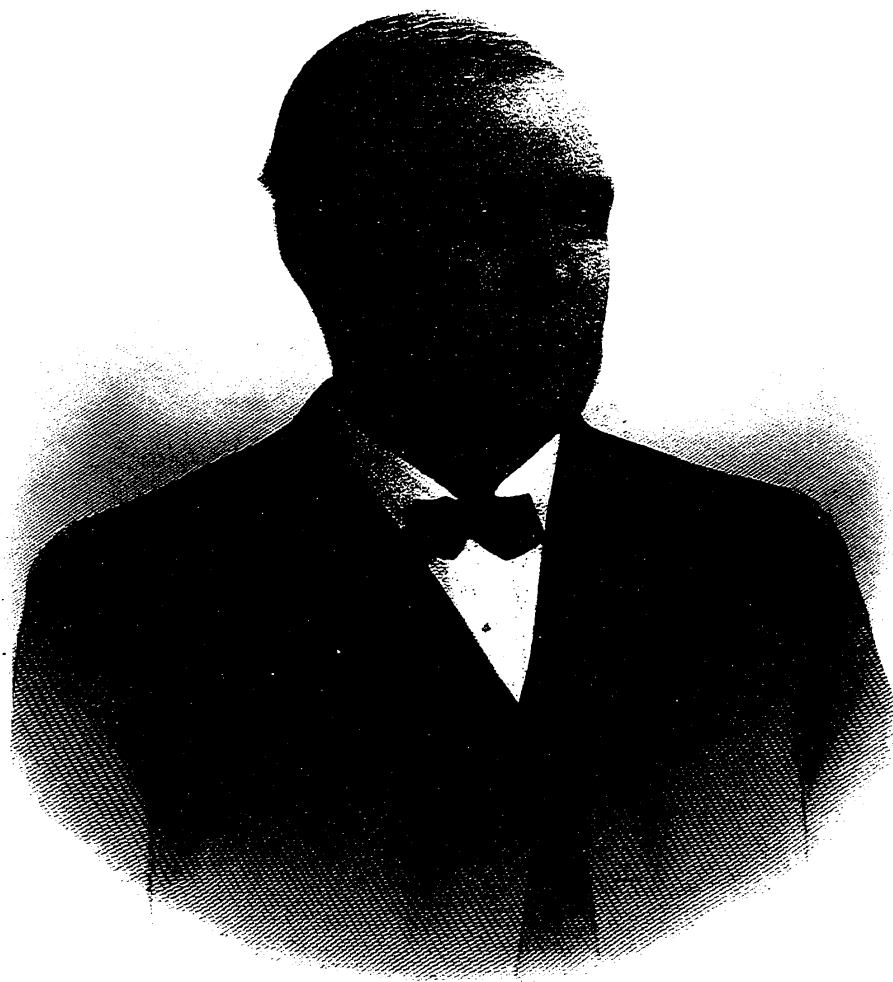
A. E. Smith was born in Fayette county, Iowa, May 23, 1876, the son of J. E. and Hannah (Harper) Smith, he born in Fayette county, she in Indiana. His paternal grandparents were John and Mary (Hicks) Smith, both born in England, who came to America, locating first near Whitewater, Wisconsin, as pioneers, Mr. Smith farming. Later they came to Fayette county and continued farming. His maternal grandparents were William and Mary Elizabeth (Cruesan) Harper, he born in Ohio, she in Indiana. They came from Indiana to West Union where he farmed. J. E. Smith was a farmer and is now a resident of Maynard. He reared two children.

A. E. Smith was educated in the public schools. As a young man he farmed, carrying on general farming on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Harlan township. In 1892 he entered the employ of the State Hospital at Independence as a nurse, and continued there for seven years. In 1906 he took the position of superintendent of the Fayette county insane hospital and home. He is still interested in farming.

On March 1, 1902, Mr. Smith was married to Myrtle Robinson, who was born in Clayton county. His discharge of his duties in his present position leaves nothing to be desired by way of improvement. Mr. Smith is a young man of great promise, which will be realized if he continues in his present ways.

WILBUR FISK BOYCE.

The financial and commercial history of Fayette county would be incomplete and unsatisfactory without personal mention of those whose lives are interwoven so closely with the industrial and financial development of this portion of the state. When a man, or a number of men, set in motion the machinery of business, which materializes into many forms of practical utility, or where they have carved out a fortune or a name from the common possibilities, open for competition to all, there is a natural public desire, which should be gratified to see them as nearly as a word artist can paint them. The



WILBUR F. BOYCE .

examples they furnish of patient purpose and steadfast integrity strongly illustrate what it is in the power of each to accomplish. Some men belong to no exclusive class in life; apparently insurmountable obstacles have in many instances awakened their faculties and served as a stimulus to carry them to ultimate success. The gentleman whose life history is here outlined lived to a good purpose and achieved a much greater degree of success than falls to the lot of the average individual. By a straightforward and commendable course he made his way to a respectable position in the business world, winning the hearty admiration of the people of his county and earning a reputation as an enterprising, progressive man of affairs, which the public was not slow to recognize and appreciate.

Wilbur Fisk Boyce was born on the 21st day of June, 1846, in Kendall county, Illinois, and was a son of Joseph Boyce, an early merchant and for many years a prominent citizen of Fayette, having retired in later life. In 1857 Mr. Boyce accompanied his parents on their removal to near Waterloo, Iowa, and in 1861 accompanied them to Fayette and from that time up to the date of his death, which occurred on January 18, 1906, he was closely identified with Fayette county. At Fayette he passed from youth to manhood and became the clerk of his father, who was then carrying on a general store. When his father sold out, the subject remained as clerk for four years. He then, in 1876, entered business for himself, purchasing a lumber yard, which he continued to operate until his death, a period of about twenty-eight years. If you would know the history of his dealings in the lumber business, ask the hundreds of men who were his customers. He was a man of keen discernment and could generally calculate successfully the outcome of a transaction, his judgment being highly valued by his business associates and others with whom he had dealings. Shrewd and sagacious, he gave careful attention to every detail of his business affairs, and this was the keynote to his success. Honorable in his dealings with others, he earned and retained a high position in the esteem of all who knew him. Public spirited and progressive, he gave unstintedly his support and influence to every measure which had for its object the advancement of the best interests of the community, and much of the success of the Upper Iowa University was attributed to his valued services as a member of the board of trustees of that institution, in the welfare of which he was particularly interested.

Politically, Mr. Boyce was a Republican and he took an intelligent and active interest in the success of his party. He was converted when about twenty years of age and was ever after faithful to his religious duties. As time passed he was given positions of trust in the church, having served many

years as chairman of the board of stewards and also as a trustee. For twelve years he served as a member of the town council and on the school board for a number of years. He was a good citizen in all the term implies and his death was deplored in all circles of society. His geniality was greater than the average and in his home life he was a model, and loved best of all the quiet of his own fireside. In all relations with his fellow beings he was an example worthy of emulation.

On October 19, 1869, Mr. Boyce was married to Julia Ann Robertson, daughter of James E. and Elizabeth (Alexander) Robertson, and to this union were born two children, Eva Louise, deceased, and George Edmond, an optician at Waterloo. Aside from his wife and son, Mr. Boyce left a sister, Mrs. Mattie Scobey, and a brother, J. H. Boyce, both of Fayette.

JAMES COONEY.

The subject of this sketch holds worthy prestige at a bar long noted for a high order of legal talent and is one of the oldest practitioners in Fayette county, also occupying a prominent place among the leading members of his profession in the northeastern part of the state. James Cooney is a native of county Clare, Ireland, where his birth occurred December 28, 1851, being a son of Thomas and Mary (Cusic) Cooney, the mother dying in the old country, the father subsequently coming to the United States and spending the remainder of his life in Cincinnati, Ohio. Of the four children of these parents, three were older than the subject.

James Cooney spent the first nine years of his life in his native land and then, unaccompanied by relatives or friends, crossed the ocean to America and for some time thereafter made his home with an aunt, Margaret Ivory, who lived in Clayton county, Iowa. About two years after coming to this state his aunt died, following which he rejoined his two brothers at Albany, New York, going thence about one year later to Independence, Kentucky. He there attended until eighteen years of age a private school taught by Prof. William P. Jones, living in the meantime with James Y. Wayman, of the vicinity, where by working at intervals he secured sufficient means to defray his expenses and prosecute his studies.

When eighteen years old Mr. Cooney began teaching, but after devoting some years to the work discontinued it for the purpose of taking a business course in the Hollingsworth Commercial College at Covington, Kentucky.

Before finishing his studies in that institution he was hired to teach and ere resigning his position his salary was advanced to one hundred dollars per month, certainly a gratifying compliment to his ability as an instructor. Later he finished a course of bookkeeping at Parshall's Commercial School, Cincinnati, after which he went to Kansas, and from that state, in the fall of 1871, returned to Iowa to accept the position of teacher in the public schools of Elkader. In the meantime, 1870, Mr. Cooney began to read law with Judge Shaw, of Independence, Kentucky, and in 1872 entered the law department of the Iowa State University, where he prosecuted his studies until his admission to the bar at Elkader on September 16th of the year following. After practicing in that city as a member of the firm of King & Cooney until 1874, he located at Brush Creek, Fayette county, where, in due time, he built up a large and lucrative legal business and forged to the front among the rising attorneys of the county bar. He was admitted to practice in the federal courts of the United States and the supreme court of Iowa, before which high tribunals he has appeared from time to time in connection with important and far-reaching litigation. Desiring a large field for the exercise of his talents, Mr. Cooney, in 1902, removed to Oelwein, and, in 1906, while a resident of that city was elected county attorney, which office he filled with signal ability for one term, failing of re-election by reason of the overwhelming normal Republican majority. His success at the polls was achieved after he had been five times nominated by the Democratic party, of which he is an ardent supporter, and in all of his six campaigns he carried his home township, Fairland, by good majorities, despite the fact that it has long been considered a Republican stronghold. The year in which he was elected he received in the above township forty-nine votes in excess of those cast for his competitor, while the congressman for this district, a Republican, carried it by a majority of sixty-one.

As already indicated, Mr. Cooney displayed marked ability as county attorney and during his incumbency had charge of many important state and county cases, in nearly all of which he was successful. Indefatigable and untiring in the discharge of his duties, his name became a terror to criminals and offenders, fourteen of whom he sent to the penitentiary, two for murder, one in the first degree, one for assault with intent to commit manslaughter and the others for various grave offenses which called down upon them the rigors of the law. Among the more noted cases with which he was connected was *Culver vs. Fayette County*, in which the sheriff sought to collect deputy fees—known as deputy sheriff salary case. This was fought with great tenacity through the lower court and finally taken to the supreme court, which, in an

opinion handed down in 1908 made the county victor in the suit, at a saving of many thousand dollars. A case which won for the subject more than local repute as an able, judicious and far-seeing prosecutor, was that of the State vs. Mrs. Martha Gibbons (abortionist), in 1907, of Oelwein, in which both sides were represented by the best legal talent obtainable.

Mr. Cooney changed his residence in the fall of 1902 from Arlington to Oelwein, since which time he has been actively engaged in the practice of law in the latter city, advancing steadily to the front among the leading members of the bar and building up an extensive business which has been as successful financially as professionally. He keeps abreast of the times in all matters relating to his chosen calling, is always faithful to the interests of his clients, enjoys the confidence of his professional brethren, and stands high in the esteem of the public. He was appointed trustee for the Iowa College for the Blind at Vinton, when the state board of control was established, which bill he favored and it was during his incumbency that the laundry department of the institution, the best in Iowa, was built, the work having been carried through at his suggestion and under his direction. While a resident of Arlington, he served on the school board and town council and was mayor of the town when the present efficient waterworks system was constructed.

On the 25th of October, 1877, Mr. Cooney was united in the bonds of wedlock with Ellen Newton, who was born in Fayette county, April 27, 1859, being a daughter of Palmer F. and Harriet (Seeley) Newton, natives respectively of New York and Pennsylvania. These parents emigrated to Boone county, Illinois, shortly after their marriage and four years later became residents of Rock county, Wisconsin, removing thence, in November, 1847, to Fayette county, Iowa, of which they were early pioneers. Mr. Newton was a thrifty farmer and highly respected citizen. Of the nine children, five sons and four daughters, Mrs. Cooney is the sixth in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Cooney are the parents of the following children: Thomas, who died at the age of eighteen years; Earl; Bessie married, in the fall of 1909, W. L. Sullivan, who attends to the insurance and collecting business in office of Mr. Cooney; Maggie; James D., who graduated from the Oelwein high school in the summer of 1910; Martin, born in 1902, and Paul, whose birth occurred in 1905.

Fraternally, Mr. Cooney belongs to the order of Modern Woodmen in the camp at Arlington, where he holds his membership. In all of his relations, professional, political and otherwise, he has ever been actuated by motives of honor and his influence has always been on the right as he sees and understands the right. Financially, his success has kept pace with his ad-

vancement in his chosen field of endeavor, and he is now one of the well-to-do men of the city in which he resides, owning three hundred and five acres of fine farming lands in Fairfield and Illyria townships, ten acres of out land near Oelwein and a handsome Oelwein residence and other houses in Oelwein and a brick business block in the town of Arlington. He is essentially a self-made man who from a modest beginning has, step by step, mounted upward to his present high position in worldly interests and ranks with the representative citizens of his adopted county and state.

MARATON WING.

One of the prominent and honored old settlers of Fayette county is the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch. He is a practical, thoroughgoing farmer, understanding every department of the work connected with the proper supervision of a country home, and success has abundantly rewarded his labors. Now, in the golden sunset of his life, he may look backward over the pathway he has traversed and truly feel that his efforts have been blessed, while he can have few regrets for idle days and wasted moments.

Mr. Wing is a Yankee by birth, having been born near Montpelier, Vermont, on January 25, 1833, and is the son of David and Cynthia (Demmick) Wing. When the subject was about three years old the family moved to St. Lawrence county, New York, where the father engaged in farming, being also an extensive dealer in livestock. When the subject was about nine years old he was doubly bereaved in the death of both his parents, who died within a month of each other, probably of diphtheria, though at that time it was pronounced putrid sore throat. After the death of his parents Mr. Wing, with his brother and two sisters, lived with relatives. When he was about fifteen years old, the children returned to the home farm in St. Lawrence county and there they lived until the subject was about thirty years old. He then went west, locating in Kane county, Illinois, where he remained about ten years, meeting with fair success. He then moved to Fairbank, Buchanan county, Iowa, where he lived until the Burlington railroad was constructed through Oelwein. He then came here and bought of Alva Smith one hundred and eleven acres of land, the most of which is now included within the city of Oelwein, and this land he platted into lots, many of which he has sold. Other land which he bought of Minor Paine is also within the city. Mr.

Wing has during the most of his life followed the pursuit of agriculture and has been uniformly successful, owing to his indefatigable industry and his good management. Besides the property heretofore mentioned, he owns two hundred and eighty acres a mile and a quarter northeast of Oelwein, a tract of one hundred and twenty acres and another one of eighty acres west of Maynard, two hundred and seventy-two acres near Bryantsburg, Buchanan county, besides extensive holdings in Illinois, Arkansas, Nebraska and in the South. He has bought and sold much land and has been successful to a remarkable degree in realizing handsome profits in these deals. For a number of years he was engaged in the dairy business on an extensive scale, but has abandoned that enterprise. He is wide-awake to the best interests of the community in which he lives and can always be counted on to give his support to every movement for the advancement of the best interests of the locality in which he lives.

In March, 1854, Mr. Wing married Azuba Minkler, who was born November 24, 1832, in St. Andrews, Canada, and to them have been born two children, as follows: Lettie, who died at the age of six years; Retta, the wife of William A. Wachtel of Oelwein.

Politically Mr. Wing gives an earnest support to the Republican party, but has never sought office, though he keeps in close touch with local public affairs. Mrs. Wing is a faithful member of the Free Baptist church, to which she gives a liberal support. Mr. Wing is widely known throughout the county and is everywhere admired because of his sterling qualities of character. He has ever stood for the best there is in life and he has himself gotten much out of life—not the least being the unbounded confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens.

JESSE B. COLE.

After a life of honest, consecutive endeavor, his efforts having been rewarded with a fair meed of success, the subject of this sketch is now living in the beautiful city of Oelwein, enjoying that rest to which his former years of toil entitled him. He demonstrated his loyalty to the national government in the hour of its greatest need and on the field of battle he exhibited those qualities which made the American soldier the marvel of the civilized world. His sterling qualities of manhood have gained for him the honest respect of all who know him and he and his good wife have a host of warm personal friends.

Jesse B. Cole was born March 15, 1834, in Ripley county, Indiana, and is the son of Charles Crawford and Sarah (Brown) Cole, both families having originally come from Kentucky. The remote ancestors are supposed to have been Scotch on the paternal side and Welsh on the maternal. The subject is one of ten children born to his parents. He was reared on the Indiana farmstead and secured his education in the public schools. At the age of nineteen years he practically started out on his own account, having married and thereafter giving his attention to farming operations. At the outbreak of the southern rebellion Mr. Cole signified his loyalty and patriotism by enlisting in Company E, Thirteenth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He enlisted for three years and was assigned to the army operating in western Virginia. In the battle of Rich Mountain Mr. Cole was shot through both arms, his right arm being badly shattered near the shoulder. He received the injury on the 13th of December, 1861, and he was confined in the army hospital until September, 1862, when he was discharged because of disability. He was still so far from well, however, that he was compelled to remain in a hospital a year after his discharge. When able to work again he took up farming, though for three years he was able to do but little actual work. In 1852 he had located in Howard county, Indiana, and in the fall of 1865 he moved to Buchanan county, Iowa, where he bought a small farm near the north line of the county. He operated this farm about four years, when he bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Oran township, Fayette county, and there he made his home for nearly twenty-five years. He also later bought an additional tract of eighty acres, but subsequently sold that. He devoted his entire attention to the operation of his fine farm, and made many permanent and substantial improvements on it, raising it to a high standard of efficiency. He was progressive and practical in his methods and met with excellent success. In 1895 he sold this farm and moved to Oelwein, where he bought an acre of ground fronting on Fifth street west, on which was a comfortable and attractive residence. He made a number of improvements on the place and has since made it his home.

On the 27th of March, 1852, Mr. Cole was married to Lucinda Griffiths, of Jennings county, Indiana, and they became the parents of three children: America, Rosetta and Orinda. America died in childhood. Rosetta became the wife of William Bowdish, of Iowa Falls, and they have five children, Edith, Jesse, Pearl, Nellie and Lloyd. Of these, Edith is married and lives on a farm about ten miles from Iowa Falls. Jesse is a conductor on the Rock Island railroad. Nellie died in February, 1909. Pearl is a stenographer in a law office in Eldora, Hardin county, this state. Lloyd is attending college.

Orinda, who now lives in the east part of Oelwein, married Elton Wilson, who died in November, 1896, and she is the mother of six children, Leford, Florence, Jesse, Howard, Kyle and Griffith. Of these, Leford, who lives in Waterloo, is married and has one child. Florence and Griffith live on farms in Alberta, Canada. The former is married and has two children. Jesse, who is married and has two children, lives at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Howard and Kyle remain with their mother in Oelwein.

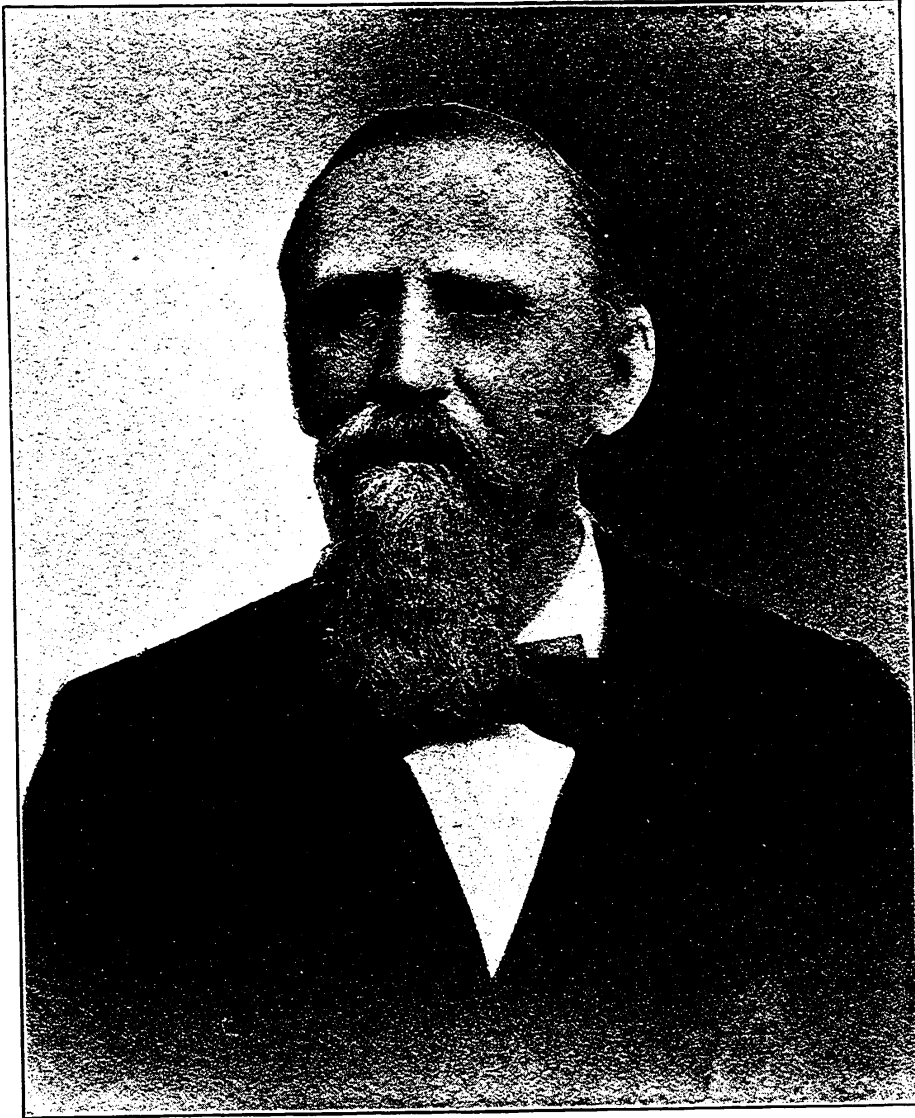
Mr. and Mrs. Cole are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church in Oelwein, to which they give a generous support. Though both are well advanced in years, they retain their physical activity to a remarkable degree and are as alert mentally as they ever were. They are people of genuine worth and their home evidences the hospitable and friendly traits of its occupants. Mr. and Mrs. Cole ever extend a hearty and cordial welcome to their friends.

HON. L. L. AINSWORTH.

Lucian Lester Ainsworth, the eldest child of Parmenas and Keziah Webber Ainsworth, was born in New Woodstock, Madison county, New York, June 21, 1831. His ancestors were of English descent, having settled in America in the early colonial days. His grandfather moved to New York, where the father of Mr. Ainsworth was born, and where he continued to reside until his death, March 3, 1901. Mr. Ainsworth's great-grandfather served in the Revolutionary war and died as a prisoner on an English ship, a martyr to the colonial cause.

Young Ainsworth received his early education in the public schools of his native state and subsequently attended Oneida Conference Seminary at Cazenovia, New York. At intervals during his course at the seminary he taught school and was said to be a very popular teacher and educator. After finishing his course at the seminary he commenced the study of the law in the office of Miner & Sloan, then the leading attorneys at De Ruyter, New York, and was afterwards admitted to the bar in Madison county in 1854. Shortly after his admission to the bar he removed to Belvidere, Illinois, where for one year he practiced law with J. R. Beckwith, under the firm name of Beckwith & Ainsworth.

Thinking the newer West offered greater advantages to young men than those afforded in Illinois, he came to Fayette county, Iowa, in August, 1855, locating at West Union, and shortly afterwards commenced the practice of



HON. LUCIAN L. AINSWORTH.

law. The country was then new and sparsely settled, the law unsettled and practice crude. Lawyers then traveled the circuit, following the court from place to place—a practice long followed, but now obsolete, as the growth of the counties in population and wealth has produced in each county its local bar, now equal to all usual requirements of the profession. Many of the earlier lawyers of the state became eminent locally through the practice here referred to, and none certainly in a greater degree than the subject of this sketch, who had an extensive acquaintance throughout northeastern Iowa, and the state as well.

Mr. Ainsworth at once acquired a large and profitable business and from his first appearance in Iowa was recognized as a lawyer of unusual strength, a position which he has ever since retained. He was engaged in general practice and his name was connected with many important cases in which legal principles of great importance have been settled. Well grounded in the fundamental principles of jurisprudence, a close student of the law, learned in the technical rules and practice, precise in his application of legal principles, a natural advocate, quick to perceive the point in issue and adapt himself to the situation, he was a lawyer of unusual strength and cleverness as a practitioner, and did by years of practice justify the estimate of his friends that he was one of the most successful advocates his portion of the state had ever produced.

A prudent and careful counselor, conscientious in the discharge of his duties as an attorney, advising against litigation when it could be avoided, Mr. Ainsworth possessed in a peculiar degree the confidence of the people among whom he lived and practiced. Possessed of unusual talent as a jury lawyer, a thorough tactician, full of resources, with an unusual knowledge of apt Scriptural quotations and appropriate illustrations culled from his extensive experience and reading, with an active vein of wit and humor, he proved himself always a formidable opponent.

Mr. Ainsworth early evinced an interest in politics and in the fall of 1856 was a candidate for county attorney, but the county was overwhelmingly Republican, he a stranger, and was defeated as a matter of course. His defeat was expected from the start, but his candidacy gave him an opportunity to become acquainted with the people of his county and educated him in campaign work, which at a later date did him good service.

In the fall of 1859 he was nominated for state senator in the district then comprising Fayette and Bremer counties, and was elected over Hon. Aaron Brown, who had then served one term in the Senate and who was afterwards prominent as colonel of the Third Iowa Infantry in the war of the Rebellion,

and subsequently as a member of the House of Representatives in the Iowa Legislature, and as register of the land office.

Mr. Ainsworth served during two regular sessions and also during two special sessions of that body. During this early legislative experience he served as a member of the committee on judiciary and railways, and was a very efficient member of each, but particularly the former, which then had charge of the revision of the laws of Iowa and the fruits of which labor was the revision of 1860.

In the meantime the strife of civil war spread over the land and Hon. Samuel J. Kirkwood, the war governor, gave him—Mr. Ainsworth—commission as captain in the Third Iowa Infantry, which was then forming in Iowa. But as a special session of the Legislature had then been called he felt that he could be of greater use to his constituents by serving out his term in the Senate than by entering the army, so declined the appointment, but gave the commission to his former law partner, Hon. C. A. Newcomb, late of St. Louis, now deceased, who accepted the position and went to the war as captain of Company F. Afterwards, in the fall of 1862, Mr. Ainsworth recruited a company for the Sixth Iowa Cavalry, then forming, and on January 31, 1863, he was commissioned as captain of Company C, Sixth Iowa Cavalry, under command of the late Col. D. S. Wilson. The regiment was ordered to the west to engage in the campaign against the Indians, and was for some months stationed at Ft. Randall, Dakota. On August 21, 1863, the command left the Big Cheyenne and on September 3d encountered the enemy at White Stone Hill, at or near the present site of Frederick, South Dakota. A sharp engagement followed. Captain Ainsworth was in command of Company C, and this company, with three others, were detailed as a scouting party. The troops, some two hundred and sixty in number, advanced and discovered a large body of Indians at White Stone Hill. The Indians were engaged in parley until the main body of troops were notified and had an opportunity to advance. Upon the arrival of the balance of the command the Indians fired upon the troops and then retreated. The fire of the enemy was returned with effect. Under the cover of night the Indians retreated and the prairie was strewn with provisions, packs, tents and ponies, and the Indians speedily placed themselves beyond the reach of the soldiers.

The Sixth Iowa Cavalry in this encounter was detailed to surround the Indians and drive them in and the regiment received a flattering report of its action in the campaign. The regiment took part in several other engagements, among others that of Tah Ka Kohuta, on July 28, 1864, and was finally mustered out of the service at Sioux City, Iowa, October 17, 1865.

Service on the frontier was largely confined to garrison duty, and only occasionally were the troops permitted to engage in conflict. The soldiers were just as brave and patriotic as those engaged in Southern service, but opportunity was lacking to most of them to distinguish themselves on the field of battle; but their service, while lacking these opportunities, was just as essential to the welfare of the nation, and was full of hardships and privation and fraught with dangers as great as other branches of the service. After leaving the army, Mr. Ainsworth returned to West Union and re-engaged in the practice of law with Capt. C. H. Millar, which engagement continued until July, 1873.

In the fall of 1871 Mr. Ainsworth was elected to the fourteenth General Assembly as a member of the House of Representatives, and served during the sessions of 1872 and 1873, and was, during his term of service, a member of the judiciary committee, rendering valuable service in the formation of the code of 1873.

In 1874 Mr. Ainsworth was elected to the forty-fourth Congress to represent the fourth district of Iowa, and served as a member of the committee on post-offices, post-roads and private land claims. At the succeeding election he declined a renomination, and enjoyed the distinction of being the first Democrat to represent Iowa in the Congress of the United States in a period of twenty years.

Since his retirement from Congress, he devoted his entire time to his profession, and held no other office except that of school director, a position to which he was elected for several successive terms. Mr. Ainsworth took an active interest in all matters relating to education, and for a number of years was a member of the school board of West Union, and gave this position the same thoughtful care that he did the greater offices held by him, and his work received the commendation of his neighbors by repeated elections to the position.

In addition to his work in behalf of the public schools he also took an interest in higher education, and served for several terms as one of the trustees of the Upper Iowa University at Fayette, Iowa.

Mr. Ainsworth was considerable of a student, kept abreast of the times in general reading, and had one of the largest and best selected private libraries in the county. In addition to his legal studies he, as a branch thereof, made a special study of the subject of insanity, and with the exception of two terms, occupied the position of a member of the commission of insanity in the county from the time of its organization to the time of his death.

Mr. Ainsworth was married on December 8, 1859, to Margaret McCool,

who was born in Louisburg, Pennsylvania, November 20, 1833, and is a daughter of Joseph and Eleanor (Nerius) McCool. She came with her parents to Freeport, Illinois, in 1839, and subsequently came to West Union on a visit to her sister, and it was on this occasion she met Mr. Ainsworth. She is a woman of unusual force of character and energy and modest and retiring withal. Of superior natural ability, extensive reading, liberally educated, herself always a student, she was a fitting helpmeet to the subject of this sketch. Six children, five sons and one daughter, were born to Mr. and Mrs. Ainsworth.

Mr. Ainsworth was a member of the Masonic order, and a charter member of the West Union Lodge No. 69, and Langridge Commandery No. 47, Knights Templar. Prominent in social circles, always welcome at the social gatherings of his neighbors and friends, always active in all questions incident to the development of a new country, he was a prominent character in the life of the county. He died on April 19, 1902, leaving his widow; James W. Ainsworth, now of Princeton, West Virginia; Lester Ainsworth, now of Mason City, Iowa; Mrs. F. W. White, late a resident of Seattle, Washington; W. J. Ainsworth, who is engaged in the practice of law in this city; and Fred L. Ainsworth, who died at Newport, Washington, December 12, 1906.

—BY JUDGE A. N. HOBSON.

JOHN H. SHEEHY.

This section of the county is remarkable for the number of men who, beginning with nothing, have reached affluence by cultivating the soil. This is true of more persons than is the case in most regions of our country, and is a double tribute to the character and ability of the men themselves, for no combination of outward circumstances can give to a man money and keep it in his hands, and to the productive quality of the soil here, which responds so bounteously to well-directed work placed upon it, in such a way that its tiller cannot complain.

John H. Sheehy was born in Tarrytown, New York, January 1, 1851, the son of James and Elizabeth (Moriarity) Sheehy, both born in Ireland, but who came to New York at an early age. His father died at Galena, Illinois, in 1854. John is the survivor of two children born to their marriage. Later his mother married Patrick Malone, and bore to him four children, three of whom are living. She now resides in Clermont.

John Sheehy came to Clermont in 1859, then moved to Springfield near Postville, then lived at Postville for five years, then worked on farm and began railroading, at the age of twenty-one. For twenty-one years he worked for one company, nine months with a shovel, nine years as section foreman, twelve years as roadmaster. From his earnings he saved enough to buy the farm of two hundred eleven acres which he now owns and on which he resides. Here he carries on general farming in a very profitable manner.

On February 9, 1875, Mr. Sheehy was united in marriage to Johanna Sullivan, of Clermont, the daughter of Michael Sullivan, an early settler of Clermont. Thirteen children were born to this union, whose names are: Elizabeth, James (dead), Michael (dead), Catharine, two who died as infants, William, Mamie, Nellie, Anna, Thensa and John H., Jr.

Mr. Sheehy and his family are Catholics. Mr. Sheehy is independent in politics, and the confidence which his fellow citizens have in him is shown by the fact that he has been school director and township trustee for some years, and is chairman of the board. He is much interested in the public welfare and is a man of progressive ideas. It is justly a matter of satisfaction to him that he can point to all of his property and say that he made it all himself, that none of it was received by inheritance or gift, but that it is all the product of honest toil and thrift, while many of those who started out when he did, at the same work, with the same opportunities, the same outside aids, are still laboring with pick and shovel, having risen no higher in all these years. It is not opportunities that are lacking, for they are always plentiful; it is the man to seize the opportunity.

RICHARD FRANKLIN DEWEY.

The well known and successful auctioneer and deputy sheriff of Fayette county, Richard Franklin Dewey, is eminently deserving of a place in his county's history, as a resume of his past record will readily attest. He was born March 18, 1866, in this county, and is the son of William and Lucy (Ropes) Dewey, the father a native of western Indiana, who came to Dover township, Fayette county, Iowa, among the early settlers, when this country was practically a wilderness, and here he bought a farm upon which the family lived for many years; it was mostly unimproved timber land, one hundred and forty acres in Turkey river valley. Selling that farm, he bought another a mile east of West Union which he improved and on which he ended his

days; however, his death occurred in West Union in 1906 at a ripe old age. The mother died on the farm east of here. They were excellent people of the rugged, honest pioneer type.

The Ropes family, as represented by Mrs. Dewey, came from New England and located in Dover township, Fayette county, Iowa, prior to the Deweys. B. H. Ropes was a merchant of Eldorado in the early days and he served several times as a member of the county board of supervisors. His brother, Charles F. Ropes, was the grandfather of Richard F. Dewey of this review.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. William Dewey, five of whom are now living, namely: George and John died in infancy, the former born in 1862 and the latter in 1864; Richard F. of this review and Charles G. were twins; the latter is located at LeRoy, Kansas, married Minnie Bradley, of Buchanan county, Iowa, and they became the parents of four children, two sons and one daughter, living, and Minnie E., who died when eighteen years of age, unmarried, she having been born in 1868; Anna May is the wife of E. C. Grimes and lives on a farm in Union township; James Baker died when twenty-seven years of age, unmarried; he was a graduate of the Iowa State Dental College, and was a demonstrator in the university when stricken with his fatal illness, thus cutting short a life of much promise; Addie I. is a resident of Cochran, California; however, her home is in Los Angeles; she is a stenographer by profession; Alta C. is with her sister in California.

"Frank" Dewey, as he is familiarly called, was educated in the public schools and the Upper Iowa University at Fayette. He followed farming with his father until he was twenty-four years of age, later farmed on his own account until 1900. On April 3, 1890, he married Kittie L. Ordway, a native of Janesville, Wisconsin, and a daughter of Alva Ordway, who located in Fayette county, Iowa, in an early day and died in the town of Fayette. Prior to her marriage Mrs. Dewey was a teacher.

Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Dewey, namely: Glenn L., born January, 1891, is living on the old homestead in Dover township; he is a graduate of the West Union high school, is a member of the high school brass band, and he is a vocalist of more than ordinary attainments for one of his years. He is now a student of electrical engineering in the Iowa State College at Ames. Lloyd C. Dewey, born in April, 1895, is attending the local high school; William Earl and Eva M. are also in school.

Mr. Dewey has been an auctioneer since 1894, and has attained an enviable record as a salesman, his reputation having long since transcended the borders of his own county, and his services are in great demand. He has successfully handled five hundred sales during the past five and one-half years.

On March 4, 1904, he was graduated from the Graham Auction School, at Des Moines. This is an institution designed to fully qualify its students for practical work on the auction block. He has sold a vast quantity of goods, almost entirely general farm sales and blooded stock. He is one of the best judges of live stock that could be found, not only of horses, but also mules, cattle and hogs, and he has been a very successful breeder of Poland-China hogs, and he holds a certificate as an expert judge of all kinds of blooded stock; this was granted by the Expert Judge Association of the United States.

Fraternally, Mr. Dewey is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, West Union Lodge No. 69, of which he is senior warden, and he is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and he also belongs to the Knights of Pythias; he has filled nearly all of the official stations in the Masonic order. Politically, he is a Republican, and the Dewey family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Dewey is a fine example of the successful self-made man and is deserving of the high esteem in which he is held.

JENS HAUGE.

That America still means opportunity, is evinced in the case of Mr. Hauge, a young man, in this country only fourteen years, coming over with no fortune save his own clear brain and the inheritance of good Norwegian blood from that race of powerful men, the modern Northmen, whose capabilities and whose fearless independence are marked above those of other European nations. With nothing save this equipment, he has, in a foreign land and solely by his own exertions, raised himself to the position of one of the foremost business men in his county.

Jens Hauge was born in Norway, March 8, 1876, the son of Iver and Gunhilde Hauge, both natives of the country. His widowed mother came to this country to Leroy, Minnesota, in 1896, and now resides in Clermont. His only sister, Mrs. Margaret Anderson, lives at Leroy now. Jens was educated in Norway and at Valder Business College of Decorah, Iowa, where he graduated in 1900. He came to Leroy, Minnesota, in 1893, and began working as a clerk, staying with one firm for six years. In 1906 he came to Clermont and entered business as a partner in the firm of Tongiun & Hauge. In 1909 this partnership was dissolved and the firm is now Hauge & Brorby. They have by far the largest mercantile establishment in Clermont and have built the business up themselves. Mr. Hauge's push and energy

have been remarkable. In politics he is a Republican, and is a member of the council of Clermont. His religious affiliations are with the Lutheran church.

Mr. Hauge's marriage to Carrie Larson took place on November 3, 1904. She, like himself, is of Norse stock, and was born at Leroy, Minnesota, the daughter of Emil and Anna Larson, natives of Norway, who came to Leroy in 1870, where Mrs. Larson died. Mr. Larson is a farmer and has kept fully abreast of the wave of prosperity which has lately passed over the agricultural communities. Mr. and Mrs. Hauge are proud to be the parents of two very bright and interesting children, Esther Amelia and Glenn Marion. Mr. Hauge's career, though short, is both interesting, instructive and inspiring. No young man can witness his success without feeling that there is indeed a place for the man who makes that place for himself and that a man can make that place if he has the will and ability to do so. If he has accomplished so much in so short a time, we certainly have the best of foundation to say that his future career will bring him into much greater note and to higher rewards.

JAMES E. ROBERTSON.

In the death of the honored subject of this sketch, which occurred at Fayette, Iowa, on May 22, 1904, there passed away another member of that group of distinctively representative pioneers, who were the leaders in inaugurating and building up the agricultural and commercial interests of Fayette county, Iowa. His name is familiar, not only to the residents of the immediate section of the development of which he contributed so conspicuously, but to all who have been informed in regard to the history of this particular section of the Hawkeye state. He was identified with the growth of Fayette county for over a half century and contributed to its progress and prosperity to an extent equaled by few of his contemporaries. He early had the sagacity and prescience to discern the eminence which the future had in store for this great and growing section of the commonwealth, and, acting in accordance with the dictates of faith and judgment, he reaped, in the fullness of time, the generous benefits which are the just recompense of indomitable industry, spotless integrity and progressive enterprise.

The antecedents of the subject are traced back to English origin, the family having come to America late in the seventeenth or early in the eighteenth century. The subject's great-grandfather, Drury Robertson, was a native of Virginia, but removed to North Carolina, where his death occurred. His son,



ELIZABETH ALEXANDER



ELIZABETH J. ROBERTSON



JAMES E. ROBERTSON

William Robertson, who was born in Virginia on February 2, 1754, was a patriot soldier during the war of the Revolution and in that struggle he suffered the loss of an arm. After the war he took up the pursuit of agriculture, in which he was prospered. In religion he was a Methodist. On December 25, 1774, he married Rebecca House, and among their children was John H. Robertson, who was born January 10, 1784. He married Anna Burton in 1804 and in 1812 they moved to Bath county, Kentucky. In 1835 they located in Benton county, Indiana, where his death occurred on October 9, 1878, at the advanced age of ninety-four years. He and his wife were devoted members of the Methodist church. John H. and Anna (Burton) Robertson were the parents of James E. Robertson, the immediate subject of this sketch.

James E. Robertson was born April 19, 1821, at Sharpsburg, Bath county, Kentucky, one of a large family of children. He spent his boyhood days in the parental home and secured his elementary education in the schools of that day, which were primitive in both method and equipment. When he was fourteen years of age the family moved to Indiana, where on attaining manhood's years he became a tiller of the soil. Two of the most important events of his life occurred in Indiana, namely, his marriage and his religious conversion, both having an inestimable effect on his future career. He was energetic and a good manager and he was prospered in his farming, but, believing that the West offered unlimited opportunities for the man who was willing to hustle, he, with his wife and family, and other relatives, in 1849, came to Fayette county, Iowa, arriving here on the 13th of September. Their first home here was established in a little two-room log cabin, on the west bank of Spring creek, about two miles south of where Fayette now stands. As some one has aptly said, "This was historic ground, as that house was the very earliest permanent home of civilization in Fayette county." There the winter of 1849-50 was spent, but in the following spring the family settled permanently on the homestead which they have occupied continuously since, a period embracing six decades. Mr. Robertson entered at once on the task—and task it was—of establishing the new home, getting the land in shape for cultivation and making his family comfortable, and as the years passed he was able to realize the fruition of his hopes. He was intelligent and progressive in his methods and gave diligent attention to every detail of his work, and the general appearance of his place gave evidence of the good taste, energetic habits and sound judgment of the owner. Here he continued to reside until his death, which occurred when he was aged eighty-three years, one month and three days.

In addition to his agricultural interests, Mr. Robertson engaged in the mercantile business in Fayette during the early sixties and he was numbered among the leading merchants of that place. He owned considerable valuable real estate and two additions to the town of Fayette now bear his name.

In religion, Mr. Robertson was an ardent and devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church and his life, though devoid of display or ostentation, was singularly pure and characterized by an earnestness and zeal which told of his faith better than words could have done. The family altar was ever maintained in his home and the true Christian spirit was always there in evidence. He had a prominent part in the founding of Methodism in Fayette county, his name appearing as a member of the first quarterly conference of the Otter Creek mission circuit. Mr. Robertson was a class-leader and his home was for some time the regular preaching place for that point of the circuit. During the long period of fifty-four years Mr. Robertson was retained as class-leader and the church was honored in his leadership. His position among the early Methodists was recognized, and it is a matter of record that the first Methodist sermon delivered in this county was in his home on January 9, 1850, and at this meeting, Mr. Robertson, his wife, mother-in-law and two sisters-in-law formed the first class which was organized in this valley.

When the Upper Iowa University was founded, Mr. Robertson took a deep interest in its welfare and gave several thousand dollars to the institution, besides doing much in other ways to advance its interests. He was a member of the board of trustees of the university from 1855, the time of its building, until about 1895, when, feeling the weight of years, he withdrew from the board and relinquished his labor to younger hands, though he never withdrew his interest in the institution. During a considerable part of this time Mr. Robertson served efficiently as treasurer of the board of trustees, and he also served as treasurer of the board of trustees of his church. He was a faithful attendant on the church services and gave generously of his means to its support.

On February 9, 1842, Mr. Robertson was married to Elizabeth Jane Alexander, a native of Indiana, and to them were born ten children, six of whom are now living, namely: Mrs. Evalyn Comstock, of Fayette county; Elizabeth Ann Caroline, the deceased wife of Rev. C. W. Burgess; Julia Ann, of Fayette, widow of Wilbur F. Boyce, deceased; Mrs. Florence Hulse, of Colorado; Ellert J., of Monona, Iowa; William Henry, who died at the age of fifty-eight years; Edward S., also deceased; Amos M., of Waterloo, this state; Mary J., deceased; Anna M., of Memphis, Tennessee.

JOSEPH BRORBY.

A man who has lived but twenty-two years naturally has not so large a number of events in his life for the biographer to record as an older man has. His life is mainly in the future and the major portion of his biography cannot be written until his life is lived. But one thing can be said, that this young man has made a splendid start in life and at his early age has gained a position many older men might envy. Mr. Brorby is descended from the same Norse race as his partner, and seems to have inherited a like share of the racial characteristics which make for success. Active, energetic, intensely interested in his business, Mr. Brorby is doing much in the line of its extension. No young man in his county seems to have a future more promising.

Joseph Brorby was born in Clayton, Clayton county, Iowa, January 7, 1888, the son of James and Martha (Kjorven) Brorby, both born in Norway. James Brorby came to Clayton county in 1853. His wife came to Clermont with her parents in 1869, and they moved to Minnesota later, where her mother died in 1886, and her father died in North Dakota in 1892.

James Brorby was a farmer. He was the father of nine children, of whom Joseph was the youngest and the only son. He died in June, 1898. He was a Republican, and he and his wife were strong supporters of the Lutheran church. He was a man the memory of whom can only serve as a stimulant to his children.

Joseph Brorby grew up on the farm and received his education in the country schools and in the Clermont public schools. He entered active life as a clerk for Tongiun & Hauge, served two years in that capacity, and then became a member of the firm, now known as Hauge & Brorby, in 1909. In the short continuance of this partnership he has demonstrated himself to be an extremely valuable member of the firm. He has cast his political lot with the Republican party, and was brought up in the Lutheran faith, to which he still clings. His achievements and ability give notice to the world that here is a man who will make his life in every way a success.

FRANK PRINGLE.

For a town of its size, Clermont has exceptional facilities in the line of restaurants, for the men who own and operate its restaurants are above the average of restaurant keepers, men whose skill and wisdom applied to their

business have shown them how to please the people and to make money. Mr. Pringle has, by careful attention to his business, by making it his first and most important care, established his restaurant as second to none in his part of the state. In this, as in every other business, trade or profession, it takes brains and perseverance to win, and that they do win, Mr. Pringle has demonstrated.

Frank Pringle was born in Clermont, Fayette county, Iowa, on February 20, 1871, the son of George Pringle and Jane (Lumberner) Pringle, who came to Clermont and settled in the village. His father was a wagon and carriagemaker, and also a carpenter by trade. While at Clermont he was known as an exceptionally good workman. He was a faithful Republican, one of those rank and file workers who does not aspire to office. Mrs. Pringle, who was a member of the Methodist church and a very pious woman, died at Clermont in 1908. They were the parents of seven children, five of whom survived their mother. Mr. Pringle is now living in San Francisco.

Frank Pringle grew up in Clermont, attended its common and high schools, and was engaged in various occupations, including three years of farming, before opening up a restaurant in 1903, in which he has prospered so much that he wishes he had gone into the business sooner. He is a Republican, was constable for six years, and is a member of the present council, on which he has served for six years.

On December 17, 1892, Mr. Pringle led to the matrimonial altar Anna Hendershott, a daughter of John Hendershott, mentioned in this work. Since they have lived happily and have had five children to enter their home, all bright, healthy and promising young people.

The biographer is always pleased when it falls to him to record the history of an enterprising business man like the present subject, for on men like him the prosperity of our country depends.

FRED C. HENDERSHOTT.

A member of that worthy guild of tavern-keepers, whose occupation began when men began to travel, and has ever since been a responsible occupation, giving employment to many, and, we are sorry to say, one in which not all purveyors of food have learned the lesson which accounts for this man's success, that of serving good and wholesome food in a neat and cleanly manner amid comfortable surroundings. Such are the ideal conditions of

the restaurant business, but are met with far too rarely. Let some of the restaurant men who are unable to make their business prosper come to Clermont and take note of Mr. Hendershott's methods.

Fred C. Hendershott was born in Fayette county, Iowa, April 18, 1884, the son of William M. and Flora (Shaffer) Hendershott, both natives of the county. His paternal grandparents were John and Eliza Hendershott, who came to Fayette county in about 1851, and lived here until their death. William M. Hendershott was a hotel man for many years and now lives at Lavina, Montana. He was the father of thirteen children, all living. In politics he is a Democrat, and was a member of the school board and town council of Clermont. It was in his well-ordered hotel that his son acquired the principles of the business in which he has been so prosperous. Mrs. Hendershott was a very faithful member of the Methodist church.

Fred Hendershott grew up in Clermont and attended the public and high schools there. In 1907 he engaged in the restaurant business, believing that in that there was a good opening and a bright future, and his belief has been so far realized. In March, 1906, he entered into matrimony with Harriet Garrison, who was born in Fayette county, the daughter of the Rev. J. and Sarah Garrison, of Fayette, where her father died and her mother is still living. Mr. Garrison was a man who did a great deal of good during the course of his ministry, and who was much loved for his Christian character. Mr. and Mrs. Hendershott are the parents of two children, Sarah and Catherine, as bright and lovable children as any one would wish to see.

Mr. Hendershott is a Democrat, and he and his wife are both reckoned among the supporters of the Methodist church. Young as he is, he has already made a strong start in life, and is justly popular in the community on account of his many good qualities.

CHARLES FOX.

The subject of this sketch is another man who has shown what industry and indefatigable effort will accomplish, for they have raised him from a position where he had nothing to that of owner of one of the largest and most prosperous farms in his county and made him one of its leading citizens. His career shows also that the farmer's occupation is not unprofitable, and that diligence in its pursuit brings a degree of success which may well be envied by those who have followed other professions.

Charles Fox was born in Northamptonshire, England, October 6, 1846, the son of John and Mary (Walden) Fox, both born in England, where he died in 1872, and his widow, with a family of five children, came to Fayette county, Iowa, and lived there until her death in West Union, July 2, 1893. John Fox was a farmer and overseer of a farm and worked for the same man for forty years, giving constant satisfaction and faithful service. He was the father of twelve children, of whom six are now living. Charles was reared on the farm and worked in the oil mills from the age of twelve to seventeen years. In 1864 he came to New York, and in 1866 to Fayette county, Iowa, and for thirty-four years has lived on the farm which he now owns in Clermont township.

In 1870 Mr. Fox married Nora N. Mercer, who was born in Van Buren county, Iowa, January 8, 1848, the daughter of James F. and Mary (Sweet) Mercer. Her father was born in Ohio, her mother in Missouri. They married in Missouri, and came to Van Buren county, where his wife died in 1851. Mr. Mercer was the father of six children by his first wife, of whom Mrs. Fox is the only one living. He married again and was the father of six children by his second wife, all of whom died in infancy. He enlisted in the army, was a reliable soldier, and lost his life at Pea Ridge. Mr. and Mrs. Fox are the parents of seven children: John James, Mary Bell, Charles Reuben, Delbert William, Benjamin Franklin, Lottie Luella and Grover Cleveland. Mr. Fox has followed general farming and has found it extremely profitable. When he landed in New York he had a shilling, twenty-five cents in our money, and no more. Now he is the owner of three hundred acres of land in this highly productive region of Iowa, all of which is in a good state of cultivation and is well-improved. In politics he is a Democrat and was elected by that party to the office of township trustee, in which position he gave great satisfaction. No man in the township stands higher in the regard of his neighbors, and his farm is pointed out as one of the best around.

JOHN R. COOK.

Energy, sound judgment and persistency of effort, properly applied, will always win the goal sought in the sphere of human endeavor, no matter what the environment may be or what obstacles are met with, for they who are endowed with such characteristics make of their adversities stepping stones to higher things. These reflections are suggested by the career of

John R. Cook, who has forged his way to the front ranks and stands today among the representative men of Fayette county.

Mr. Cook was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1843, the son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Surran) Cook, both natives of Dayton, Ohio, of which city the paternal grandparents of John R. Cook were pioneers. Daniel Cook was born February 27, 1818, and his death occurred October 10, 1854; his wife was born December 11, 1817, and died February 28, 1895. The father was a pioneer farmer in Wisconsin. On October 1, 1852, he came to West Union, Iowa, first locating on the Hoyer farm, which he purchased for four hundred dollars and a yoke of oxen, the place consisting of two hundred and forty acres, where he lived a few months. He erected or bought a building where the Stam building now stands. It was a one-story, rude affair. The season prior to that the ground where the court house now stands was in corn. In the above mentioned building he established a grocery business in 1853 and in the following year branched into a general merchandise business, being the first merchant in West Union, and in a short time he worked up an extensive trade, customers coming as far as one hundred miles west to patronize him, for his reputation as an honest and conscientious merchant, who handled a large stock of goods at all seasons, had spread abroad. Mr. Cook, Sr., was a Whig politically and he and his wife were the parents of the following children: Rhoda R., John R. (of this review), David and Peter L.

John R. Cook was educated in the common schools of West Union and when a young man devoted his attention to farming, which he followed until August 11, 1862, when he decided to cast his lot with the Union army in the field and do what he could toward saving the national honor, so he became a member of Company F, Thirty-eighth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served very gallantly as a private for a period of three years. At the siege of Vicksburg he was transferred to the First Missouri Battery. After the capitulation of that stronghold, he returned to his original company and regiment. He took part in the fight at Beakley, just outside of Mobile, Alabama, also fought at Union City, Tennessee. After the war he returned to West Union and for some time followed farming. He then formed a partnership with John Owens and they dealt in grain and livestock for a period of twenty-six years, during which time they built up a very extensive and lucrative business. Mr. Cook also did a commission business for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company. In 1902 Mr. Cook became special excursion agent for that road in the state of Iowa and he still holds this position, giving the company entire satisfaction and a high grade service, for he seems to be well adapted for this line of work.

Mr. Cook is an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and he has not missed attending a national reunion of this organization for twenty-four years. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

Mr. Cook was married to Virginia McClintock, a native of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, where her family was long prominent. This union resulted in the birth of one child, Belle, now the wife of E. E. Brewer, living in Chicago.

Personally, Mr. Cook is a good mixer, genial, jolly, always ready to do some one a kindness, and therefore he is popular with all classes.

JOHN JAMISON.

It is not an easy task to describe adequately a man who has led an eminently active and useful life and who has attained a position of relative distinction in the community with which his interests are allied. It is with a full appreciation of all that is demanded, and yet with a feeling of satisfaction, that the writer essays the task of touching briefly upon the details of such a record as has been that of the honored subject whose life now comes under review, John Jamison, one of the most prominent and influential citizens of Oelwein, Fayette county.

Mr. Jamison was born in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, September 20, 1844, and is a son of James and Jane (Boale) Jamison. Both of these parents were natives of county Down, Ireland, and both were of Scotch descent. James Jamison was born in 1806 and at an early age he was left to make his own way in the world. While quite young he learned the carpenter's trade and before he attained manhood he came to the United States, settling in Mercer county, Pennsylvania. He was an expert mechanic and among other works in which he was engaged was the erection of one of the best bridges crossing the Allegheny river, of which work he was the superintendent. He was married April 18, 1843, and in 1846 he gave up his trade and for a time followed farming in Mercer county. His wife, Jane, was a daughter of John and Grace (McWha) Boale, and came from county Down, Ireland, with her parents in 1839. They located on a farm in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, but in May, 1852, they came to Fayette county, Iowa, and settled two and one-half miles northwest of West Union. James Jamison brought his family to this county at the same time and located at Auburn, where he and his wife's brother, James Boale, engaged in mer-



JOHN JAMISON.

chandising. Two years later Mr. Jamison sold out his interests in the store and bought a farm of three hundred and twenty acres near West Union, on which he made his home during the remainder of his life, his death occurring March 3, 1881. After his death his wife moved from the farm into West Union, where she resided until her death, September 17, 1903. These parents had six children, of whom John, the immediate subject of this sketch, is the eldest. Grace M. became the wife of William Colby and lives at West Union. Sarah is the wife of J. Q. Adams, also of West Union. George W. is a banker at Oelwein. Thomas, now deceased, was a hardware merchant at Oelwein. Samuel B. is engaged in farming in southern Minnesota.

John Jamison was reared on the farm from the time he was ten years old and he received his preliminary education in the public schools of West Union. Subsequently he was a student at the Upper Iowa University, of the board of trustees of which institution he has been a member for the past twenty years, having been chosen first in 1889. His first business experience was in the mercantile business at Auburn, in partnership with Hull Hoagland. In July, 1875, they removed their stock of goods to Oelwein, where they continued as partners until 1881, when Mr. Hoagland was succeeded by Samuel Jamison. In the summer of 1875, Messrs. Jamison and Hoagland established the Bank of Oelwein, the first and for many years the only banking house of that city. They also associated with them John Irvine and together they dealt extensively in livestock, realizing handsome profits from their transactions. Soon after coming to Oelwein, and without interruption to his other business interests, the subject and his brother, Thomas, formed a partnership in the hardware business, which they continued about two years. In 1884 Mr. Jamison assisted in the organization of the State Bank of West Union, of which he has been the president continuously since its inception. In 1886 Hull Hoagland severed his connection with the Bank of Oelwein, and the subject's brother, George, succeeded him, the firm becoming Jamison Brothers & Company. Besides their interests in Oelwein, the Jamison brothers both own extensive farming interests.

In the banking business of Fayette county Mr. Jamison is believed to have been engaged continuously longer than any man now living, having been so engaged since the summer of 1875. He has at all times enjoyed the unbounded confidence of the public and has been influential in many ways in advancing the interests of the community at large. Unpretentious in style, direct in manner, concise in speech, approachable, kind and generous, Mr. Jamison has the happy faculty of easily winning friends and he enjoys a large acquaintance throughout the county.

In politics Mr. Jamison has been a life long Democrat, and for a number of years took an active interest in political matters, though not an aspirant for public office. However, in 1883, he was nominated by his party for the office of treasurer of Fayette county. The county had a normal Republican majority of about four hundred, and his election to the office was a marked testimonial of his popularity and the confidence of his fellow citizens in his integrity and ability. Fraternally, Mr. Jamison belongs to the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. Religiously, he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church, to which they give an earnest and generous support.

September 8, 1875, Mr. Jamison was married to Florence Hoagland, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hull Hoagland, she being a native of Mercer county, Pennsylvania. Four children have been born to this union, namely: Two who died in early youth; Ray B., cashier in the Bank of Oelwein; and Fred H., who is bookkeeper in the same institution. The latter was married, June 26, 1907, to Blanche Flannegan, the daughter of H. W. Flannegan, of Oelwein, and they have a son, Harry. Ray B. was married November 17, 1910, to Letha Bonner, of Des Moines, Iowa.

HANS KEISER.

Hans Keiser, who, like many of the enterprising citizens of this locality, is an American by adoption only, was born in Gelterkinden, Switzerland, June 16, 1868, the son of Jacob and Mary (Luescher) Keiser. The father was a well known educator, having taught in the public schools for a period of fifty-four years, he being well educated and by nature qualified for this special line of work. He received his education at the Peach Seminary, Beuggen, Germany. He and his wife were the parents of seven children.

Hans Keiser was educated in Schiers College, Switzerland. Owing to ill health he left that institution and came to America in 1887, coming direct to a farm in Fayette county, Iowa, on which he worked for one year, then worked in a furniture store and the postoffice in Elgin, Pleasant Valley township, the postoffice being kept at that time in a grocery store. Mr. Keiser worked at this for about four years, then he entered the insurance business in connection with music teaching, having received his musical education in Switzerland and being naturally gifted he made a success of this line of work. His services were in demand and he followed that until 1898, when

he was appointed postmaster and has since held the office to his credit and the entire satisfaction of the department at Washington and all concerned. He is obliging, courteous and prompt in his duties and is popular with all classes here. He also still continues to do a good business in insurance and music teaching, thus being kept very busy, but he never slights any part of his many duties.

Mr. Keiser was married in 1894 to Mary Falb, a native of Switzerland and the daughter of John and Katherine (Waelti) Falb, who came to America, direct to Fayette county, Iowa, the father being a miller by trade and he operated a mill about two miles from Elgin.

The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Keiser: Edith, Katherine, Harry, Jacob and Julius, the last named dying when thirteen months old.

Mr. Keiser is a member of the German Baptist church and politically he is a Republican. He is a member of the school board and also teaches the choir of the Baptist church. He takes considerable interest in party affairs and is always ready to do his part in furthering any movement that is calculated to improve the condition of Fayette county. He is well liked in all circles, and he numbers his friends only by the limits of his acquaintance.

JOHN W. FROST.

The subject of this sketch, a former prominent citizen of Fayette county, Iowa, but for some years an honored resident of Eureka, Montana, is a native of Illinois, and the third child and oldest son of William and Prudence (Seward) Frost, natives respectively of England and the state of New York. William Frost was born January 1, 1816, at Longbuckby, near Rugby, in Northamptonshire, came to the United States in 1827 and later took up his residence in Warren county, Illinois, where he made his home until his removal to Iowa, in 1851. The year prior to that date he made a tour of observation through various parts of this state and, being pleased with the appearance of Fayette county, purchased a tract of government land in section 24, in what is now Illyria township, to which he brought his family the following year and which in due time he cleared and converted into a fine farm. Subsequently he purchased other lands in Clayton county, to which he changed his residence about 1864, but after spending a few years there he returned to Fayette county, locating on a farm in Westfield township, where

his wife died on the 23d day of February, 1894. Later he went to Montana, where he still resides, having reached a ripe old age.

The oldest child of William and Prudence Frost, Mrs. Sarah Jane Wennich, widow of Rev. David Wennich, lives at West Union, Iowa, where her two sons and one daughter also reside. Her sister, Mrs. Polly Ann Robb, a widow living at St. Paul, Minnesota, has three sons and four daughters, all grown to maturity. John W., of this review, as already indicated, is the third in order of birth and the oldest son.

William Frost, or "Uncle Bill," as he was familiarly known, is remembered by all the early settlers of Fayette county as a self-reliant, active, energetic pioneer, who wielded a wide influence among his fellow citizens and took a leading part in the development of the section of country in which he located. He has outlived most of his neighbors of the early day, but there are still a few who remember him in his prime, when as a typical pioneer of a period long past he acted well his part in life and did much to lay broad and deep the foundation upon which rests the prosperity of a county which is now one of the most advanced and prosperous in the state. "Uncle Bill" was a kind husband and father, a good neighbor and a faithful friend. He early manifested special interest in the cause of education and some of his children excelled those of other pioneer families in the matter of intellectual training and general culture. Like the majority of early settlers, he was fond of the cup that exhilarates, but did not indulge his taste to excess, as did so many whose downfall in those times was attributable to too frequently resorting to the flowing bowl. He was an expert horseman and had animals so trained that if for any cause he happened to fall to the ground, they would stand close and patiently wait until he was able to rise, remount and pursue his way; if, however, he saw fit to remain in a recumbent posture longer than usual the faithful animal stayed close by and awaited the pleasure of its master. Mr. Frost lived to see Fayette county transformed from a wilderness to a very garden of plenty and beauty, and going farther west, has also witnessed many marvelous changes that of recent years have taken place in the new and rapidly growing state of Montana. Although nearing the century mark, he retains to a remarkable degree the possession of his faculties and nothing pleases him better than to recount his many experiences of the early days when he was in his prime and the great future before him bright with promise.

John W. Frost, to a brief review of whom the remainder of this sketch is devoted, was born in Warren county, Illinois, February 12, 1848, and when about three years old was brought to Fayette county, Iowa, where he grew to maturity and laid the foundation for what has since proven a career of

signal usefulness and honor. After receiving his preliminary discipline in the public schools, he took a business course in a commercial college and on attaining his majority turned his attention to agriculture, which he followed for some years first in Clayton county and subsequently in the counties of Audubon and Dickinson. Later he removed to Flathead, now Lincoln county, Montana, where he has been located for the last ten years, devoting his attention the meanwhile to real estate, insurance and public loans, in which he has built up a large and lucrative business, his land deals, mostly in British Columbia, being very extensive and returning him a handsome income. His holdings in that country at the present time amount to ninety-two hundred acres of excellent land, which is rapidly increasing in value, in addition to which he owns a fine homestead at Eureka, Montana, which under his able management has been highly improved and brought to an excellent state of cultivation.

In his business affairs Mr. Frost is associated with his son, William M. Frost, a rising lawyer of Eureka, and one of the influential citizens of the community, the firm thus constituted being widely and favorably known and its patronage growing in magnitude and importance with each succeeding year. In all of his undertakings, Mr. Frost has been more than ordinarily successful, and he is today one of the solid men of the community in which he resides and a factor of considerable influence in his adopted county. In politics he has always voted with the Democratic party and from time to time has been elected to various local offices, including those of assessor, clerk, justice of the peace and alderman, having served in the last named capacity in Eureka, where he was instrumental in bringing about much important municipal legislation. He was made a Mason in 1873, and since that time has been an active and influential worker in the order, besides being honored at intervals with positions of responsibility and trust.

Mr. Frost, on January 13, 1876, was united in marriage with Marie J. McMullen, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Hershaw) McMullen, natives respectively of Venango county, Pennsylvania, and county Armagh, Ireland, the father of Scotch ancestry, the mother of English parentage. After the death of Mr. McMullen, which occurred in Fayette county in the year 1860, his widow married Milton Grow, an early pioneer in Illyria township and a most exemplary Christian gentleman who proved a father indeed to the McMullen children, of whom there were three: William, who died in this county at the age of thirty, leaving a wife and six children, his death resulting from an accident; Maria and Mrs. E. J. Fenton, of Eureka, Montana, who is married and the mother of two offspring.

To Mr. and Mrs. Frost have been born seven children, of whom Prudence, Alma and Florence Ethel are deceased, the first at the age of eight months, the latter when eleven years old. The surviving members of the family are Sarah F., wife of Morgan Thomas, of Eureka, Montana; William M., who married Frances Thornburg and has one son and one daughter; Henrietta, whose marriage with Harvey Morgan has been blessed with two sons and one daughter; Anson J. married Pearl Reedy, and lives at Swift Current, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and Vernie Irena, an intelligent young miss of twelve years of age.

FRED S. ROBINSON.

Only those who come in personal contact with the gentleman whose name forms the caption of this biographical review, the well-known editor and proprietor of the *Oelwein Register*, daily and weekly, can understand how thoroughly nature and training, habits of thought and action, have enabled him to accomplish his life work, exhibiting pronounced talent in two professions, having been successful as a superintendent of schools and as a journalist, being in every respect a fit representative of the enterprising class of professional people to which he belongs, a man who unites a high order of ability with courage, patriotism, clean morality, and sound common sense, doing thoroughly and well the work that he finds to do and asking praise of no man for the performance of what he conceives to be his simple duty.

Fred S. Robinson was born near Skowhegan, Maine, of sturdy New England stock, his antecedents having been prominent in various walks of life in the old Pine Tree state for many generations. He was reared on the old family homestead where he was born, which has been owned and occupied by the family for more than a century. This branch of the Robinson family is of Puritan origin, the first representative of the family coming to America from England in 1630, locating in Massachusetts, where the family remained for many years. Removing to Exeter, New Hampshire, in the early part of the eighteenth century, they resided in that section until 1795, when they emigrated to Somerset county, Maine, where the old farm home was purchased by Rev. John Robinson, great-grandfather of Fred S. Robinson, of this review.

Mr. Robinson was educated in the public schools, the Coburn Classical Institute and Colby College, Waterville, Maine, and he was a student for a year in Shurtleff College, Upper Alton, Illinois. Thus well equipped

for what the poets are pleased to call "the battle of life," Mr. Robinson came to Iowa in 1886, and for a period of six years he was superintendent of the Eldon public schools, during which time the cause of education there received quite an impetus, for he thoroughly systematized and raised the standard of the schools under his care, for which he received unstinted praise from the press, pupils, patrons and board of education. In the spring of 1892 he resigned his position there for the purpose of accepting a similar one at Brooklyn, where he had charge of the schools for a period of seven years, giving his usual high-grade service. During the last five years of this period he was also principal owner and much of the time editor of the *Brooklyn Chronicle*. While there he established an excellent school library, placed the high school in the highest rank of the accredited schools of the State University and other leading colleges, and interested the young men in educational affairs, and they were a majority in the last four graduating classes. During the last years of his supervision and following it, a majority of the teachers in the Brooklyn schools were his graduates.

In order to devote his attention exclusively to journalism, which he believed he was best suited to his tastes, Mr. Robinson notified the board of education in January, 1899, of his intention to retire from school work the following June. At the close of the scholastic year the board placed upon its records resolutions highly commending Mr. Robinson as "an able superintendent, a competent instructor, a man who inspires educational life in the schools, and one who commands the respect and confidence of patrons, pupils and teachers." He was a prominent factor in making the *Brooklyn Chronicle* one of the leading papers of central Iowa from an editorial and business standpoint.

Desiring a wider field for the exercise of his talents, he sold his interest in that paper and at once purchased a half interest in the *Oelwein Register*, an official county and city paper of large circulation in the growing city of Oelwein, Fayette county, and in June, 1899, he began his editorial work on that paper and, infusing new life into its pages, it grew rapidly. Within three months from the date of his connection with the paper a larger news press was purchased, and the paper enlarged to a full-sized seven-column quarto, all home print. In July, 1906, the issue of the *Oelwein Daily Register* was begun, together with the weekly, and both editions have grown rapidly in circulation, now covering an extensive territory. The *Register* is easily the leading paper in Fayette county, having the largest circulation and best equipped office, including a standard model No. 5 linotype, and the mechanical appearance of the paper is first-class in every respect, system be-

ing maintained throughout, and as an advertising medium it ranks among the best in northern Iowa. Editorially, the *Register* wields a wide influence, Mr. Robinson being a lucid, forceful and trenchant writer, conversant with all problems and advanced ideas of the present day, being at all times a student and fearless in advocating the truth and what he believes to be for the best interests of his readers.

Mr. Robinson has always been an ardent Republican and he has been a regular attendant at the various conventions of his party for many years, where his counsel is often sought by party leaders. Although he is a worker in the ranks and has done very commendable work as a stump speaker in many campaigns, he has never been a candidate for public office. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and he is a Knight Templar, having held the highest offices in each of the former lodges.

Personally, Mr. Robinson is a man of magnetic presence, in whom confidence is readily reposed by all who know him, being a good mixer, sociable and gentlemanly.

Mr. Robinson married Rebecca Irving, a native of Boston, Massachusetts, a woman of talent and culture. She was educated in the public schools, and completed a classical course in Waterville, Maine, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Literature. She has been a very successful teacher and was principal of the Eldon high school for five years. She is prominent in secret societies, having been at the head of the grand temple of Pythian Sisters of Iowa and has been presiding officer of local chapters of the P. E. O. and Eastern Star. She has a wide acquaintance in the literary club circles of the state, having served for several years on the official board of the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs, is a pleasing writer and speaker and influential in all circles in which she is interested.

FREDERICK OELWEIN.

Frederick Oelwein, a German pioneer of Fayette county, Iowa, was born in Saxony, Germany, on the 2d day of September, 1808. He was reared to manhood in his native land, and there learned the trade of silversmith. In 1832 he was married to Cecelia Schmidt, a daughter of William Schmidt, and five years later, in 1837, emigrated with his family to America, and settled in Baltimore, Maryland, where he secured work at his trade, con-

tinuing operations in that line until 1848. Mr. Oelwein then determined to try his fortune in the West and resuming his travels, continued his journey until he reached Dubuque, Iowa, where he again worked at his trade for four years. At the expiration of that time he removed to a farm in the township of New Vienna, Dubuque county, where he resided until 1855, which year witnessed his arrival in Fayette county. Purchasing a farm in Jefferson township, situated three miles north and a mile and a half west of the site of the city of Oelwein, he began preparations for a home and removed his family to his farm, where he resided until 1857, when he bought the land on which the city of Oelwein is now located, from James Burch, and removed his family to this place. In 1866 he sold this land to his son, Gustav A., who still owns a portion of the original purchase.

The only surviving child of the family is a son, Gustav A., whose sketch is given elsewhere in this work. The mother died in March, 1866. Mr. Oelwein died September 12, 1900.

CHARLIE B. DICKENS.

The gentleman whose name introduces this sketch is a well known farmer and respected citizen of Eden township, a native of Walworth county, Wisconsin, and one of nine children, whose parents were Thomas and Mary Jane Dickens, the former born in England, the latter in the state of New York. Thomas Dickens was brought to America at the age of one and a half years and grew to manhood in New York. He later came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he was united in marriage to Mary Jane Ives. Her parents moved from New York to Rockford, Illinois, and later to Walworth county, Wisconsin, of which they were early settlers and from there, in the fall of 1867, came to Fayette county, Iowa, purchasing a farm in Bethel township, on which he lived for a number of years, then, after renting land in Fayette county for a few more years, retired from active life, they changing their residence to the village of Alpha. Mr. Dickens died at that town some years ago and his widow, who survives him, makes her home at this time in Hawkeye. Thomas and Mary Jane Dickens reared a family of nine children, all of whom were living in the year 1909, four of the number being residents of Fayette county, namely: Frank S., a farmer near Randalia; Norman, of Eden township; Fanny, wife of R. D. Smith, of Hawk-

eye, and C. B., of this review; another daughter, Henrietta, wife of W. Davis, living a short distance across the line in Chickasaw county.

Charlie Byron Dickens was born March 8, 1856, and spent his childhood on the home farm in Walworth county, Wisconsin, being a lad of eleven years growth when the family moved to Iowa. He was reared to agricultural pursuits, received his educational training in the public schools and remained at home assisting in the cultivation of the farm and contributing to the interest and comfort of his parents until his marriage, which took place in his twenty-ninth year. Mr. Dickens chose for his wife and companion, Mrs. Almida Abbott Tone, daughter of P. G. Abbott, an early settler of Bethel township and widely and popularly known throughout the same. For seven years following his marriage Mr. Dickens farmed on rented land in Fayette and Chickasaw counties, but in 1893 he purchased his present place in the southern part of Eden township, six miles northwest of Hawkeye, where he has since lived and prospered, bringing his farm to a high state of cultivation the meanwhile and achieving marked success as an industrious and progressive tiller of the soil.

Mr. Dickens' farm is not as large as some of his neighbors, consisting of forty-eight acres, but what it lacks in size is more than made up for in the superior manner of its cultivation. By a careful study of the natural conditions of the soils, and their adaptation to the different crops, also by judicious rotation of the latter, he has been enabled to enhance the original fertility of his land, which now yields ample returns for the time and labor expended upon it. He has made a number of good improvements and by industry, thrift and excellent management has succeeded in placing himself in the comfortable circumstances which he now enjoys. In all that pertains to the prosperity of the community he manifests a lively interest and to the extent of his ability is ever ready to assist his fellowmen and promote the common welfare. He stands high as a neighbor and citizen and belongs to that large and eminently respectable class of yeoman who by deeds rather than words add stability to the body politic and make the world better by their presence and influence.

In his political views Mr. Dickens is staunchly and uncompromisingly Republican, though not a politician in the sense the term is usually accepted; nevertheless he keeps in touch with the questions of the day and has decided opinions upon issues concerning which men and parties divide.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Dickens consists of three children, Emily Tone Stokes, married and living in South Dakota, and two daughters, still at home, Achsah and Bertha, to the rearing and educating of whom the parents are devoting much interest.

WILLIAM A. CLARK.

One of the leading citizens of West Union and the representative of an old and influential Fayette county family is William A. Clark, who was born in Eldorado, this county, in 1857, the son of Lookings and Mary (Kinney) Clark, both natives of Pennsylvania. His paternal grandfather, William Clark, was also born in Pennsylvania, while his wife hailed from the state of New Jersey. In the early days they all figured prominently in their respective communities. Lookings Clark grew to maturity in the old Keystone state and received his education in the early-day schools. In 1849 he came to Galena, Illinois, by rail and the remainder of the way to Eldorado on foot. There he helped build the first dam in that place. After a year or two there he returned to Pennsylvania and there married, after which event he came back to Eldorado, Iowa, and bought sixty acres of land near that town. He prospered, being a hard worker and a man who looked carefully to small details, and he eventually became the owner of one hundred and ten acres of good land. He operated the same until a few years before his death, when he sold his farm and moved to West Union, spending his declining years in retirement; however, he purchased eighty acres south of that city, which he looked after. He was a successful farmer, and religiously he was an ardent Wesleyan Methodist. The maternal grandparents of W. A. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Kinney, were natives of New Jersey. To Mr. and Mrs. Lookings Clark the following children were born: Orpha J. married I. H. Hazlett; Mrs. James A. Iliff, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work; Adie, deceased; Maggie, deceased; William A., of this review.

William A. Clark was reared on the home farm and for a period of twenty years he conducted very successfully his father's eighty acres, south of West Union. Since that time he has resided in West Union, with the exception of two years spent on a farm near this city. He has various real estate interests in West Union which claim his attention. While on his father's farm he conducted a dairy and a milk route for twelve years and no small part of his nice competency was gained in this way. He finally purchased this farm, but sold it when he moved to town. He was regarded as one of the leading farmers and dairy men in the county; in fact, he has been successful at whatever he has turned his attention.

Mr. Clark was married in 1881 to Carrie Fox, of Elgin, this county, the daughter of a well-known family there. The father of Mrs. William A. Clark was Charles N. Fox, who came to Alamakee county, Iowa, in 1855, then removed to Fayette county in 1858. This union resulted in the birth

of the following children: Blanche, now living in South Dakota; Edna, deceased. The mother of these children was called to her rest in 1884. In 1886 Mr. Clark married Melissa Wolf, a woman of genial personality, and to this second union the following children have been born: Alfred, Susie, Russell, Lenora, all living at this writing. The maternal grandparents of these children are Henry and Amandy (Pitcher) Wolf, the former born in Columbus, Ohio. In 1866 they came to Fayette county, Iowa, and purchased a saw-mill at Eldorado, which Mr. Wolf operated until 1877, when he moved to Kansas. Later he returned to West Union and now lives here retired, having been very successful in his business career.

Mr. Clark is regarded as one of the upright and scrupulously honest men of this vicinity, always ready to do what he can in promoting the moral, spiritual and civic welfare of the county. He is an active Wesleyan Methodist and a Prohibitionist.

C. J. COONEY, M. D.

There is no class to whom greater credit is due from the world at large than those self-sacrificing, sympathetic, noble-minded men whose life work has been the alleviation of human suffering. There is no known standard by which their beneficent influence can be adequately measured; their helpfulness is as broad as the universe and their power goes hand in hand with the wonderful laws of nature that emanate from the very source of life itself. Some one has aptly said, "He serves God best who helps humanity most." If the veracity of the statement is not to be questioned, the earnest and conscientious physician surely is entitled to a place of high honor among the professions and vocations which characterize what some are pleased to term modern civilization. Among the physicians and surgeons of Fayette county who have risen to eminence in their noble calling is the subject of this sketch, whose career has been that of the true worker in ministering to suffering humanity and who today stands at the head of his profession in the city of his residence.

Dr. C. J. Cooney is a native of Iowa and was born January 16, 1873, in Buchanan county, where his parents, Patrick and Honora (Costello) Cooney, settled as early as the year 1857. Both Patrick Cooney and wife were natives of county Clare, Ireland, and possessed many of the sterling qualities for which their nationality has ever been distinguished. The former came to America in 1846 and located first in Vermont, where he worked for