

# HISTORY OF BENTON COUNTY IOWA

From Materials in the Public Archives, the Iowa Historical Society's Collection, the Newspapers and data of personal interviews; also containing sketches of representative men.

Compiled under the editorial supervision of Mr. Luther B. Hill, General Historian, and a corps of local editors.

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*W. P. Whipple*

WILLIAM P. WHIPPLE, for a number of years a prominent figure in the Iowa legislature, and by many regarded as the leading lawyer in the senate, is a native of the county he so ably represented—Benton county. He is a son of Cyrenius T. Whipple, whose sketch also appears in this history.

Senator Whipple was born on his father's farm near Vinton, in Benton county, Iowa, December 26, 1856, and here passed his boyhood and youth, receiving his early education in the public schools. In 1873 he entered the State University of Iowa, where he completed the full collegiate course in 1877 and graduated from the university law department in 1878. In August, 1878, he engaged in the practice of law in his home town, Vinton, where he has since continued, at present being associated with Judge E. F. Brown, under the firm name of Whipple & Brown. Judge Brown is a brother of Leon Brown of the *Register and Leader*, and of United States Senator Norris Brown of Nebraska. Mr. Whipple's first law partner was Hon. Cato Sells, now a resident of Texas; and for a number of years he was associated in practice with Judge G. M. Gilchrist under the firm name of Gilchrist & Whipple. An able advocate and a wise and safe counsellor, with years of experience and success, when he was honored with a seat in the state legislature he was prepared to give good service. He served as a member of the state senate during the Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth, Thirty-first, Thirty-second, and Thirty-third general assemblies, and many of the measures now on the statute books bear the impress of his strong personality. Throughout the whole of his senatorial career he was a member of the judiciary committee. In this connection we are pleased to quote from a recent copy of the *Vinton Eagle*.

“During his first session Senator Whipple was chairman of the laborious committee on penitentiaries and pardons. The committee gave careful and painstaking consideration to each case coming before it, including the disposal of the noted Wesley Elkins case.

“Senator Whipple was one of the two members of the senate appointed on the first supplement of the code commission in 1902. In the Thirtieth general assembly he was chairman of the senate insurance committee, a position he held in the succeeding general

assemblies. He has greatly assisted in the enactment of many important measures pertaining to insurance. The Twenty-seventh general assembly enacted a law placing the several charitable and penal institutions of the state under a single board of control. This law has proved so satisfactory that many have concluded that the three state educational institutions, the State University, the State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts and the State Normal School, could be more efficiently and economically administered under a single board of education than under separate boards for each of the three educational institutions. Senator Whipple was one of the first members of the legislature to advocate such a plan.

“The Thirtieth general assembly appointed a committee of six members, of which committee Senator Whipple was chairman, to inquire into the management and affairs of the three state educational institutions, their business management and educational policies, with power to investigate methods of similar institutions outside the state, and to make a report to the Thirty-first general assembly of its conclusions and findings. The committee after full investigation made an elaborate report to the Thirty-first general assembly, recommending a single board of control for the three state educational institutions. The drawing and tabulating of the report was largely the painstaking work of the chairman.

“In the Thirty-first and Thirty-second general assemblies Senator Whipple prepared and introduced a bill providing for a board of control to have full management of the State University, the State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts and the State Normal School. In both sessions this measure passed the senate but was defeated in the house. But Senator Whipple’s faith in the proposed measure was undaunted by defeats. He had the courage of his convictions and resolutely and confidently introduced a revised and perfected measure in the Thirty-third general assembly, providing for a board of education to have full control and management of the three state educational institutions, which measure, after due consideration, passed both houses of the legislature by an overwhelming vote. Thus after six years of earnest and persistent labor, success crowned the efforts of the Senator from Benton.”

Senator Whipple has been twice married. In September, 1881, he married Miss Katherine Joyce, assistant principal of the Vinton schools. Two sons were born to them: Cyrenius J., who met a tragic death by drowning in 1898, and Milo R., engaged in business in Vinton. After the death of his first wife, Mr.

Whipple married Miss Jennie Keith, a primary teacher in the Vinton schools, in October, 1887. They have one child, Virginia, six years of age.

Senator Whipple is still in the prime of life. In addition to his extensive law practice he supervises a large farm just west of Vinton, a portion of which was his father's old homestead. He and his family occupy a beautiful home in Vinton, where contentment and hospitality reign, and he enjoys without stint the confidence and esteem of the people of his home town and county.

CORNELIUS ELLIS died at Vinton, June 3, 1909. His death was the passing of one of the most notable of Benton county's pioneers. For fifty-three years he had lived in Vinton, and he had achieved a foremost place in business and citizenship. In business the Ellis Lumber Company, of which he was president at the time of his death, is one of the most important corporate enterprises in this section of Iowa.

Cornelius Ellis was born at Willston, Alabama, on the Cherokee Indian reservation, November 21, 1827. His father, Sylvester Ellis, was a Presbyterian missionary among the Cherokees at that time, and was married in Alabama to Sarah Hoyt. When Cornelius was five years old his parents moved to Ohio, and when he was about ten the family home was established in Indiana, near Indianapolis, where he was reared to manhood. Sylvester Ellis became one of the early residents of Benton county, having come here in 1855, but after several years returned and spent the rest of his life in Indiana.

Cornelius Ellis became a resident of Benton county in 1856. He made a homestead in the pioneer conditions of the time and was engaged in farming for a few years. He was a carpenter by trade, and was more or less actively engaged in contracting and building up to 1879, having put up many of the early buildings in town and country. In 1864 he and his brother (A. H. Ellis) established the Ellis lumber yard, the original enterprise from which the present corporation has been developed. It is the oldest business of the kind in the county, and Mr. Ellis continued its active head until his death. The business was incorporated January 1, 1898.

The late Mr. Ellis married, in Indiana, March 4, 1852, Miss Mary Colley. She was born in Virginia but was brought to Indiana in childhood, and died in 1894, aged sixty-seven. They were the parents of six children, three of whom are living: W. C. Ellis, Anna Taggart and Abbie Brown. Mr. Ellis was a member and elder of the Presbyterian church throughout his adult years,

was a liberal contributor to the Vinton church, and gave much of his means to church and charity.

W. C. ELLIS is the successor of his father, the late Cornelius Ellis, in the promotion of the extensive business affairs which were found and developed for so many years by the great energy of the latter. Besides being at the head of the Ellis Lumber Company, with which he began when he was thirteen years old, he has become prominently identified with other business and financial enterprises of this vicinity.

He is vice president of the Farmers National Bank of Vinton and president of the Vinton Savings Bank. He is vice president of the Iowa Canning Company, the largest corn-canning establishment in the world. This company was organized in 1892, with a capital of \$20,000, and the capital has since been increased to \$200,000 and the business expanded accordingly. Four plants are now operated, at Vinton, LaPorte City, Garrison, Shellsburg. Their output varies from year to year, ten million cans being the highest amount, and the average is perhaps eight million cans. This immense food product is distributed through jobbers all over the Mississippi valley and the Pacific coast. The officers of this company are: C. C. Griffin, president; W. C. Ellis, vice president; F. G. Ray, secretary, and George Knox, treasurer.

Mr. Ellis was born near Indianapolis, Indiana, July 4, 1853, at three years of age came to Benton county, and grew up in Vinton and obtained his education in the town schools. He began working in the Ellis lumber yard when thirteen years old, and after the retirement of his uncle in 1876 the firm became C. Ellis & Son, the latter being W. C. Ellis. Since the incorporation of the business in 1898, one of Mr. Ellis' sons, Robert C., was secretary until his death in 1904, and A. H. Ellis, another son, now holds that position.

Mr. W. C. Ellis, as a Republican in national politics, has taken a somewhat active interest in local public affairs, having served as city treasurer and in other minor offices.

He married, in Vinton, in 1875, Miss Gitty H. Young. She was born in Big Grove township, and is a daughter of the Benton county pioneer, Robert N. Young (whose history is given below.) Mr. and Mrs. Ellis' children are: Robert C., who died in 1904, at the age of twenty-seven, leaving a wife and one son, who are now residents of Omaha; A. H., secretary of the Ellis Lumber Company, who is married; Mattie, wife of T. J. Bracken, assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Tama; Hazel, at home, a graduate of the State Teachers College at Cedar Falls; Lawrence W., in his senior year at Tilford Academy.

ROBERT N. YOUNG, or "Uncle Bob" as he is affectionately known in Benton county, is a pioneer whose associations with this vicinity are for a longer continuous period than any other living citizen can claim. He first penetrated the region now known as Benton county in 1849. Vinton was not a town then, only two log cabins being on the site, one near the end of the present river bridge, and the other in what is the northeast part of town.

The little party of pioneers of which he was a member contained also his brother, J. F. Young, who had been in this vicinity the previous year, and a Mr. Doane. They had come overland with team and wagon through Danville and Bloomington, Illinois, and crossed the Mississippi at Muscatine. Arriving in Benton county they bought a quantity of timber land and also took claims on the prairie in Big Grove township. Their nearest market was at Cedar Rapids, twenty-five miles away.

Mr. Young built a cabin on his land, which adjoined the farms of two of his brothers, and he lived there until he had improved his land and developed a fine farm. After the war he sold out and moved to Vinton, where for twenty-five years he was in the boot, shoe and grocery business, and since then has lived retired.

Robert N. Young was born in Johnson county, Indiana, January 25, 1828. His parents were Joseph and Nancy (Gilchrist) Young. Mr. Young and Hon. G. M. Gilchrist are cousins. The parents moved into Benton county in the latter fifties, and after living several years on a farm in Taylor township, east of Vinton, moved to town. The mother passed away first, and the father, who spent the last two years of his life with his son Robert, was past ninety-three years when he died. Besides Robert, there is a son, B. D. Young, living in Waterloo, and a daughter, Mrs. Nancy Freeman, at Bentonville, Arkansas.

"Uncle Bob" has been a member of the Presbyterian church ever since he was a boy, and has voted Republican tickets since that party first came into existence.

He married, in Indiana in 1850, Miss Sarah J. Freeman. She was born in Union county, Indiana, October 26, 1830, and died April 15, 1909, when nearly seventy-nine years of age. She was likewise an active Presbyterian. Seven children were born of their marriage, two of them dying in infancy. The others are: Miss Sarah Belle, who manages her father's household; Mrs. W. C. Ellis, of Vinton; Miss Lulu, at home; E. F., an undertaker at Vinton; Mrs. Werner Stripple, of Vinton.

FRANK G. RAY, secretary of the Iowa Canning Company, has been identified with the business life of Vinton for the past thirty-six years, since January, 1873. Until recently he was chiefly interested in the implement and coal business, and on coming to Vinton became connected with that business with F. T. Verharen, and became the latter's partner in January, 1875, the firm being Verharen & Ray. Later Mr. Verharen went to Spencer as manager of the branch which they had opened there, while Mr. Ray continued at Vinton. In March, 1884, the partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Ray became owner of the Vinton business and continued its active management until January 4, 1909, when he sold it to Bryner & Bruner. However, he still owns the buildings, the coal yards, barns and other realty connected with the business, which is a large and progressive one. In 1886 he erected, for the purposes of his business, the building at the corner of Concord and Washington streets, this being the present postoffice building, and he still owns this and the building adjoining. He erected the implement house in 1896. Since retiring from the coal and implement business he has given his attention to the Iowa Canning Company.

Mr. Ray was born in Whiteside county, Illinois, December 31, 1851. His parents were Guy and Louisa (Pomeroy) Ray, who were residents of Vinton from 1876 until the time they died, the father in 1881, at the age of seventy-four, and the mother in 1894, aged seventy-five. Guy Ray was originally from Berkshire county, Massachusetts, of an old New England family, and both the Rays and Pomeroy were of English stock. The father moved to Illinois in 1835, and in 1836 located in Whiteside county, where he was the first county clerk. He had two daughters by a first marriage, Louisa Pomeroy being his second wife. Mrs. Isadore Shaw of Vinton, is a daughter by this second marriage.

Frank G. Ray was reared on his father's farm in Whiteside county, attended school there and in Geneseo, Illinois, and the Mount Morris Seminary, and later spent one winter in Oberlin College. He was teacher in his home district for one term, and at the age of twenty-two came to Vinton.

Mr. Ray shares with Dr. C. C. Griffin the honor of being the only thirty-third degree Mason of Benton county. He is a member of lodge, chapter and commandery at Vinton, and of the DeMolay Consistory at Clinton. In politics he is a Republican.

Mr. Ray was married in Ohio, in September, 1876, to Miss Emma Whiteside of Pomeroy, Ohio. She was a daughter of early residents of Meigs county, and she was educated in Ohio, taught school there, and for three years was a teacher in the schools at



Vinton, where she met Mr. Ray. She is a member of the Vinton Literary Society and of the Presbyterian church. Mr. and Mrs. Ray have two children: Earl K., is cashier of the Citizens Savings Bank of Anamosa, in which his father is interested, and is married and has a daughter aged seven; Miss Belle, at home, graduated from the Vinton high school and is also a graduate of Miss Mason's School at Castle-on-Hudson, New York.

THE IOWA CANNING COMPANY is the largest corporate enterprise of Benton county and is likewise the largest corn-canning business in the world. Several well known business men of the county have organized and developed this business, the present officials of the company being: C. C. Griffin, president; W. C. Ellis, vice president; George Knox, treasurer; Frank G. Ray, secretary; the other directors being: J. E. Marietta, M. W. Jones and A. H. Ellis.

The business was established in 1892 with W. C. Ellis and Frank G. Ray, respectively, president and vice president, while H. B. Kelley was secretary. At first it was called the Kelley Canning Company, but about 1895 there was a re-organization, and since then the officers have remained about the same and the name has been the Iowa Canning Company.

Soon after the re-organization the company bought the LaPorte City and Garrison canning plants. Later they erected a plant at Shellsburg, and thus had four plants under one management, their business being exclusively the canning of corn. The highest output of the business in a year has been ten million cans, and the average is about eight million. The company owns and operates for its purposes a thousand acres in the vicinity of Vinton, and each of the plants affords a market for produce and labor. During the packing season the Vinton and LaPorte City plants employ as many as two hundred and fifty persons, the other two plants being smaller. The business is thoroughly organized, the equipment of the plants comprises the most modern machinery and methods.

The original capital of the company was \$20,000. This has been increased to \$200,000, and a surplus of over \$100,000 indicates how successfully the business has been conducted.

GEORGE HORRIDGE, president of the Farmers National Bank of Vinton, is one of that prominent group of men who have founded and promoted the commercial prosperity of Vinton. That Vinton is a local metropolis and a community representative of the highest standards of American life and institutions, is the result of the

enterprise and character of such active leaders as Mr. Horridge. During the half century of his residence here he has laid the impress of his personality on many affairs and has contributed from his means to many movements that directly concern the welfare of the community.

With the financial institution of which he is president he has been associated since 1878, having become president of the old Farmers Loan & Trust Company in that year, and having continued to head the official management when the bank assumed its present national charter in 1898.

When the Carnegie Library was founded in Vinton Mr. Horridge was one of the principal local contributors, and is still a member of the board of trustees. He has also served in the city council and as member of the school board.

He was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, May 26, 1833. George and Mary (Hamlet) Horridge, his parents, were natives of England, who emigrated to America in 1831, and after two years' residence in New York city settled in Washington county. In 1852 they moved west and located near Mt. Vernon, Linn county, Iowa.

The father died at the age of eighty-two and the mother at seventy-eight. They were members of the Methodist church. Only two of their ten children grew to maturity.

George Horridge grew up and received his education in Washington county. In 1851, at the age of eighteen, he came to Linn county, Iowa, and in the following year apprenticed himself to the trade of tinsmith with the firm of Rock & Brother. He located at Vinton in 1858, and in 1860 commenced business here in partnership with Mrs. Elizabeth Rock (whom he afterwards married), the name being Rock & Horridge. The original business was augmented with a complete stock of hardware, and this was one of Vinton's most successful hardware firms of that period. G. T. Rock, a son of Mrs. Rock, later became a partner, and the firm for some years continued as George Horridge & Company. In 1885 Mr. Horridge retired from the hardware business to give his chief attention to the bank of which he had been president since 1878. Mr. Rock then continued the business, and for several years past has been a successful hardware merchant at Lake Charles, Louisiana. Mr. Horridge likewise has financial interests in Lake Charles, having formerly spent some winters in that climate. He has been connected with the Calcasieu National Bank there since 1892, and is its vice president.

Mr. Horridge is one of the oldest Republicans of Iowa. His first vote was for John C. Fremont, in 1856, and he has never missed a county, state or national election from that time.





*G. M. Gilchrist*

On October 29, 1863, Mr. Horridge married Mrs. Elizabeth Rock. She was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and died in 1900. By her marriage with A. H. Rock she had four children, two of them living: George T., previously mentioned and Mrs. N. D. Pope, wife of a wealthy lumberman and fence manufacturer at Lake Charles. The present Mrs. Horridge was before her marriage Miss Carrie Smythe, of Washington county, Iowa.

GEORGE M. GILCHRIST.—It has been given Judge Gilchrist to confer honor and dignity on the bench and bar of Iowa, and he is now one of the venerable representatives of his profession in the city of Vinton, where he has long maintained his home. He is a member of one of the honored pioneer families of Benton county and in all the relations of life he has shown the same loyalty that prompted him to go forth in defense of the Union when its integrity was menaced by armed rebellion. His sterling integrity, uniformly recognized, is not a matter of conventionality but is a part of the very fiber of his character, so that he has never been denied the fullest measure of popular confidence and esteem both as a man and as an able member of the legal profession.

Judge George M. Gilchrist claims the fine old Hoosier state as the place of his nativity, as he was born in the village of Franklin, Johnson county, Indiana, on the 15th of April, 1839. He is a son of Robert and Elizabeth (King) Gilchrist, both of whom were natives of Kentucky, whence the respective families removed to Johnson county, Indiana, in the pioneer epoch in the history of that commonwealth. In that county the marriage of the parents was solemnized. The King family was early founded in Virginia and was of English lineage. The name was prominent in the early annals of the Old Dominion state, whence representatives eventually removed into Kentucky as pioneers. Thus in various generations have members of this family, as well as of the Gilchrist family, been identified with development and constructive work in various parts of the United States. Robert Gilchrist was reared to the sturdy discipline of the pioneer farm, and he continued to be identified with agricultural pursuits during the earlier period of his independent career. Later he became a prosperous merchant in Franklin, Indiana, and there also he was finally made cashier of the first bank organized in Franklin. In 1856 he removed with his family to Benton county, Iowa, and here he continued to follow the vocation of a merchant during the residue of his active career. He was a man of impregnable integrity and honor, and his character was of such high order, that

he was well fitted for leadership and action. He passed the closing years of his life in Vinton, where he lived virtually retired for a considerable period prior to his death, which occurred in January, 1874. His devoted wife survived him by many years and attained the venerable age of eighty-one years. Her death occurred on the 6th of January, 1890, and her memory is revered by all who came within the sphere of her gracious influence. Both she and her husband were devout members of the Presbyterian church. They became the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this review was the third in order of birth. The only other survivor is Mary R., who is the wife of Rev. John S. Dunning, of Portland, Oregon. Eleanor J., became the wife of M. P. Adams and was a resident of Vinton, Iowa, at the time of her death; Nancy died in infancy.

Judge Gilchrist gained his early educational training in the common schools of Johnson county, Indiana, and then entered Hanover College, at Hanover, that state. In this institution he had just completed the work of the junior year when there came the call for volunteers to go forth in defense of the Union. His youthful loyalty and patriotism were roused to responsive protest, and in June, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company E, Third Indiana Volunteer Cavalry, with which gallant command and on detached duty he served three years and nine months, at the expiration of which, in February, 1865, he was mustered out, at Winchester, Virginia. He took part in many of the important engagements marking the progress of the great fratricidal conflict, having participated in both of the Fredericksburg campaigns and the Rappahannock campaigns. He was in action in the memorable engagements at Gettysburg, Petersburg, South Mountain, Antietam, and the Wilderness, besides which he took part in many skirmishes and other minor engagements. He was, at once upon enlistment, made a duty sergeant, the sergeant major of his regiment, then commissioned first lieutenant of his company. Almost as soon as his commission was received he was detailed as aide to Major General John Buford, and thereafter until mustered out served on his staff and that of Major Generals T. A. Torbet, Wesley Merritt and General George H. Chapman. While so serving he was made a captain.

After receiving his honorable discharge Judge Gilchrist returned to the parental home in Vinton, Iowa, and here he soon afterward began reading law in the office of the firm of Shane & McCarty. He made rapid progress in his absorption and assimilation of the science of jurisprudence and in December, 1867, he was admitted to the bar, to which he came with most excellent

technical equipment and natural ability. He forthwith engaged in the active practice of his profession in Vinton, and save for the period of service in official capacity he continued here the successful work of his profession until 1903, since which time he has lived virtually retired, in the enjoyment of that gracious repose that properly crowns a life of well directed toil and endeavor. He early gained prestige as a specially versatile and able trial lawyer, and the records of the local courts bear full assurance of many fine forensic contests won by him. Well fortified in the minutiae of the law and in wisdom born of wide experience, Judge Gilchrist has not only been known as a safe and conservative counsellor but he was specially well equipped also for the duties of the judicial office to which he was called in 1888. In 1867 he was elected county judge for a term of two years. At the expiration of one year the office was abolished. He was then ex-officio county auditor and of this office he continued to be incumbent until January, 1870. Thereafter he served several terms as city attorney, and for twelve years he was a valued and zealous member of the board of education of Vinton. About the beginning of the year 1888 he was appointed district judge of the Seventeenth judicial district of Iowa to succeed Judge L. C. Kinne who resigned but afterwards stood for re-election and succeeded. Judge Gilchrist afterward resumed the practice of his profession, in which he continued with success until his final retirement. He has ever shown a deep appreciation of the dignity of his profession, has been a scrupulous observer of its unwritten code of ethics and has added distinction to the history of the bench and bar of the state in which he has so long maintained his home and in which his name has ever been a synonym of insuperable integrity and honor. In politics Judge Gilchrist has ever given an unqualified allegiance to the Republican party, and both he and his wife are zealous members of the Presbyterian congregation in their home city, where they are held in affectionate regard by all who know them.

On the 20th of October, 1864, was solemnized the marriage of Judge Gilchrist to Miss Mary S. Gilpin, who was born at Padys Run, Ohio, and who is a daughter of Samuel N. and Mary (Thomas) Gilpin, who removed from the old Buckeye state to Indiana, where her marriage was celebrated. Concerning the four children of Judge and Mrs. Gilchrist the following brief data are entered: Ethelwyn is the wife of Judge B. Elwin F. Brown of Vinton; Robert M., is a railroad conductor and resides in Cedar Rapids, this state; Mary, is the wife of Augustus A. Barnum, editor of the *Mount Vernon Hawkeye*, at Mount Vernon, Iowa; and Emma is the wife of Dr. John E. Luckey, of Vinton.

CHARLES A. BLOSSOM, president of the Citizens' National Bank of Belle Plaine, has spent thirty years as a progressive factor in the finances of Iowa, and no one has a more intimate and practical knowledge of its history, condition and needs. When only eighteen years of age he started as a bookkeeper in the First National Bank of that city, and obtained a wide experience as a banker in other sections of the state before he returned to Belle Plaine as the organizer of the institution of which he is now the head. The Citizens' National Bank is a United States depository and fully covers all the departments of the business, being strong and up to date in every particular.

President Blossom was born in Rutland county, Vermont, on the 5th of August, 1861, and is a son of William and Mary J. (Lamb) Blossom, both also natives of that state. Three children were born to them, Mr. Blossom having one living sister, Ella, now Mrs. Miller, of Belle Plaine. The father left his Vermont farm for Iowa in 1870, first locating at Tama City for a short time and then moving to Belle Plaine, where for some years he conducted a hotel in connection with his farm. The father died in 1902, aged eighty-eight years, and the mother passed away in February, 1907, when seventy-three.

The early boyhood of Mr. Blossom was spent on the home farm near Belle Plaine, and he obtained his education at that place and the academy at Blairstown. After leaving the latter he spent a short time at home, and then (in 1882, when eighteen years of age) secured a position as bookkeeper in the First National Bank of Belle Plaine. Holding that position for ten months, he went to Hubbard, Iowa, and for three years filled a similar position in the bank of that city. In 1885 he established the Bank of Shaler in the Iowa town by that name, acted as its cashier for a year, and in 1886 purchased the Bank of Gladbrook, Tama county, and was president and cashier of that institution for six years. This brings Mr. Blossom to 1892, when he returned to Belle Plaine and assisted in the organization of the Citizens' National Bank, of which he was cashier for five years and has been president for the past twelve. Necessarily, its fine standing is due far more to his activities, ability and substantial influence than to any other personal force. His business and financial leadership has been strongly supplemented by his prominence as a Mason, as he has been identified for years with Hope Lodge, Mount Hobart Chapter, St. Bernard Commandery and the Shrine, at Cedar Rapids. Both he and his wife are members of the Congregational church of Belle Plaine. On September 1, 1885, his marriage occurred to Miss Clara B. Reed, a native of Illinois, but reared here



in Belle Plaine, born November 29, 1863, and who has become the mother of Warren R., living at home, teller in the Citizens' National Bank; Charles A., Jr., deceased; and Louisa, also with her parents.

JOHN H. ROZEMA was prominently identified for a number of years with the educational life of Benton county, and he is now serving as the cashier of the Farmers Savings Bank of Keystone. He was born in Ottawa county, Michigan, September 17, 1866, to the marriage union of Henry and Zwaantje (Nyenhuis), Rozema, both of whom were born in Holland, the father in 1822 and the mother in 1834. Henry Rozema came from his native Holland to Michigan when about thirty-five years of age, and he died at Fremont of that state at the advanced age of eighty-one years. Mrs. Rozema was one of the original settlers of the Dutch colony that located in Ottawa county, Michigan, in 1846. They settled amid the dense timber there, and had to cut down the trees to make room for their little log cabin homes. She is still living at Fremont.

John H. Rozema, one of their nine children, six of whom are living, was reared as a farmer lad, attending first the district schools, then Hope College at Holland, Michigan, and entering the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor he graduated from its law department in 1893. During the year following his graduation he taught school in Michigan and coming to Benton county in 1894 he taught at different points here until in 1901 he took charge of the Keystone school, a position he continued to fill until in March of 1906 he retired from educational work to become the cashier of the Farmers Savings Bank of Keystone. He is a stockholder in the Keystone Mercantile Company, and is serving as a justice of the peace.

On the 25th of September, 1909, Mr. Rozema married Miss Mae Stedman, who was born in Vinton, Iowa, a daughter of E. B. and Lucy Stedman. Mr. Rozema is a member of Keystone Lodge, No. 135, I. O. O. F., of Hope Lodge, No. 375, A. F. & A. M., at Belle Plaine, and in politics he has been a life-long Democrat, always taking an active part in political work, but always favoring the best man regardless of party ties.

PAUL CORRELL, president of the State Bank of Vinton, has been a prominent factor in the business affairs of Benton county, Iowa, since he established himself at the head of a general merchandise store in Vinton some fifty years ago.

Mr. Correll was born in 1828 in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, where he received a common school education and where

he spent the first twenty-five years of his life. When he started out for himself he left home with scant means, indeed, not sufficient for expense money. At Easton, Pennsylvania, he found work in a store, and clerked there five years, until 1853, when he came west as far as Chicago. There he was employed as clerk in Potter Palmer's store, and at the end of five years of service, when he resigned, he was at the head of the retail department. From Chicago he came in 1860 to Vinton, Iowa, to take possession of a general store which had already been rented for him. He carried a stock of dry goods, boots and shoes, and sold in one year no less than sixty-five thousand dollars worth of goods, which in those days in a small town and a new country was considered an immense business. Closing out the mercantile business, he turned his attention to farming and dealing in stock, buying, feeding and shipping. He had land in Big Grove and Taylor townships, at one time owning and operating about a thousand acres, and this business he continued for a number of years. Of late years, however, banking has claimed his attention, and he has disposed of his land holdings, also his real estate in Vinton, and has given a large amount of property to his nephews and nieces here and in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Correll has been a loyal Republican from the time he voted for John C. Fremont up to the present. He has never missed a national election and rarely has been absent from the polls at county and state elections. When a young man, in Pennsylvania, he joined the Reformed church. As showing something of the public spirit and generous nature of Mr. Correll, we record that the court house clock and bell, placed in their position at a cost of two thousand dollars, were a gift from him.

JOHN E. MARIETTA, head of the loans and insurance firm of Marietta & Bickel, is the dean of this business in Benton county, having been successfully established in the business long before any of his present competitors began business. He has been engaged in placing loans, chiefly on real estate, since October 1, 1875, and to the present writing the total volume of this business aggregates over twelve million dollars, all of which he has negotiated without a single foreclosure or the loss of a cent of principal or interest. This is a business record that speaks for itself. For the most part he represents the money of eastern investors, though he handles large amounts for relatives and friends. He also represents the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company. For the first five years he was in partnership with J. P. Johnson, under the name of Johnson & Marietta, was then in business alone

until June, 1899, when W. E. Bickel became his partner, and the firm has since been Marietta & Bickel.

Mr. Marietta is one of the directorates of or otherwise identified with various business enterprises of Benton county. He is a member of the board of trustees of the Vinton Public Library. He is secretary and treasurer of the Methodist church, having been secretary for about thirty years and treasurer also for a long time. In civic affairs he has likewise performed a large share of duties, always keeping political allegiance with the Republican party. At one time he was deputy county treasurer and auditor. During the ten years he was in the city council he was active in securing water works and other public improvements.

Mr. Marietta was born in Wayne county, Ohio, January 13, 1852. He belongs to an historic family of Ohio. His great-grandfather, Jacob Marietta, a native of Germany, was one of the first settlers of southeastern Ohio, and Marietta, the oldest town of the state, was named in his honor. The grandfather's name was John Marietta, and all the family were farmers on a large scale in that part of Ohio.

Mr. Marietta's parents were David and Anna (Ralphschneider) Marietta, both being of German lineage, and it is said that their parents were unable to speak the English language. David Marietta was one of the most esteemed citizens and business men of Benton county. He was a successful farmer in Wayne county, Ohio, for a number of years, and in January, 1869, moved to a farm near Vinton. Some years later he took up his residence in Vinton and was there engaged with his brother, J. H. Marietta, in the livery business. His tragic death by drowning, May 15, 1888, removed one of the ablest men of this community, and for the first time in the history of the town the business houses were closed during his funeral. He was then sixty-six years of age. He had been a member of the Methodist church all his active life, but never belonged to secret society nor accepted political office. His first wife, Anna Marietta, was a native of Stark county, Ohio, and she died when her son John E., was twelve years old. Of their children, two of the older daughters, Mary and Maria, both married, died in Ohio. Dr. George A., who was a graduate of the University of Michigan, died in Clarion, Iowa, May 14, 1899. The five children now living are: Mrs. E. J. Tillinghast, of Clarion; D. S., of Atwood, Kansas; H. R., of Oberlin, Kansas; W. H. of Hendley, Nebraska; and John E. David Marietta married for his second wife Anna R. Tryon, who still lives in Vinton. They had one daughter, now Mrs. Anna Barkdoll, of this county.

John E. Marietta was reared in Ohio and for two years was a

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the Iowa river, and the northern part is crossed diagonally by the valley of the Cedar. The county is rectangular in form, thirty miles in a north and south direction and twenty-four miles in width embracing an area of 720 square miles. It embraces twenty congressional, as well as twenty civil townships; fifteen of the latter are of the usual size, while the other five—Cedar, Harrison, Polk, Taylor and Benton—which are located towards the northeast corner, are more or less irregular in size and form, owing to the fact that their boundaries are in part determined by the winding channel of the Cedar river.

Benton county is pre-eminently an agricultural region. The



TYPICAL LAKE SCENE IN BENTON COUNTY.

larger portion of this beautiful area lies within the section covered by the Iowan ice sheet of Pleistocene time. The drift of this age has furnished a soil that is surpassed in depth, fertility and productiveness. The beautiful homes of the people, the large and commodious farm buildings, the herds of high grade cattle, hogs and horses, evidence the prosperity which springs from a productive soil.

Benton county lies outside of the main area of the Coal Meas-

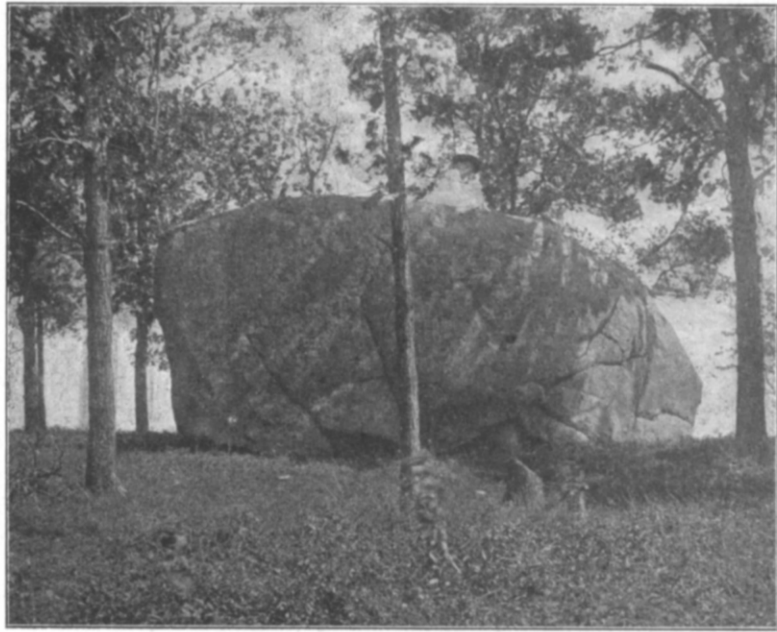


*A. J. Sweet*



Sidney S. Sweet was born near North Granville, Washington county, New York, on the 29th of August, 1848, and was a son of Charles Addison Sweet and Eliza (Slocum) Sweet, both of whom were likewise natives of the old Empire state of the Union, where they passed their entire lives and where the father followed the vocation of farming throughout his active career. Both families were of English extraction and were founded in America in the colonial era. The subject of this memoir was reared to the sturdy discipline of the home farm and his early educational advantages were such as were afforded in the common schools of the locality and period. Through active association with men and affairs in the later years of his life he rounded out his mental discipline and became a man of broad information and mature judgment. As a young man Mr. Sweet left the old home state and went to Texas, where he remained about one year, at the expiration of which he came to Iowa. He made his advent in Belle Plaine, Benton county, in 1869, and in this village, which was then one of but small population, he engaged in the banking business by purchasing the bank established about two years previously by Samuel L. Bardwell. This was the first financial institution in the town and Mr. Sweet individually continued the business for three years, at the expiration of which, in 1872, he became associated with other representative men of the county in the organization and incorporation of the First National Bank of Belle Plaine. He became cashier of this institution and held this position until 1877, when he was elected its president. He continued as chief executive of the bank thereafter until January, 1909, when he resigned the office, about five months prior to his death. In 1877 his brother, Lewis T., became cashier of the bank, and for twenty-four years thereafter the two were associated as the active executive managers of the business of the institution, which now stands as one of the substantial and representative banking concerns of this favored section of the Hawkeye state. Lewis T. Sweet continued as cashier until his death, in 1900, and he too was long numbered among the influential and honored business men of Benton county. The presidency of the institution was resigned by the subject of this memoir on the 1st of January, 1909, by his refusal to become a candidate for re-election. His ability as a financier was of high order and to his efforts more than all else is due the stability and popularity of the bank over whose affairs he so long and effectively held sway. For forty years he was identified with the banking business in the same location, where the present attractive and well appointed bank building was erected in 1871 and remodeled in 1894.

county. These large granite masses appear incongruous among the trees that still cover the steeper slopes. The timber groves of white oak and red oak, of elm, hickory, basswood, and butter-



SECTION OF BOWLDER-STREWN FIELD.

nut, seem to thrive not a whit less perfectly over this portion of the Iowan plain than on the clay ridges over the rougher portion of the Kansan.

#### PICTURESQUE BENTON COUNTY.

The area embraced between the bend of the Cedar river and the abandoned valley of Sand Prairie is pre-eminently the scenic portion of the county. For purposes of tillage the land cannot be compared with the deep, black soil of the wide prairie that surrounds it at some distance on every side. The steep hillslopes and sand covered crests should never be deforested, nor should the plow of the too enterprising farmer be allowed to convert these uniform slopes into angular trenches and rain washed gulleys. If the more densely wooded portion of this area, so convenient to the towns of Vinton, Shellsburg and Ur-



years ago. Mrs. Sweet died about a year after her marriage and is survived by no children. On the 17th of January, 1877, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Sweet to Miss Emma Richmond, who was born at Lyons, Wayne county, New York, and who survives him, as do also their two sons and one daughter, Sidney, Charles Addison and Eleanor. Charles A., the second son, is now cashier of the First National Bank of Belle Plaine and thus perpetuates the family connection with the institution of which his honored father was the founder, the while he is well upholding the high prestige of the name which he bears. Sidney is the owner of a box factory in the city of Denver, Colorado, and Miss Eleanor remains with her widowed mother in the attractive home in Belle plaine.

Until about a year prior to his death Mr. Sweet was a man of exceptional vigor and strength, and his decline was the result of a paralytic nature, affecting the arteries. He was able to be about town until the day preceding his death, the immediate cause of which was a hemorrhage of the brain. He was distinctively the architect of his own fortunes, and his success was won by worthy means. When he came to Benton county his financial resources were very limited, but he pressed forward to the goal of success and prosperity and was one of the substantial capitalists of the county at the time of his death. His life record offers both lesson and incentive and it is a matter of gratification to the publishers of this history to be able to offer this brief review of his career.

WILLIAM JEWITT and ISAAC PICKERING are two of the most substantial citizens and prosperous farmers of Van Horne and Benton county. They are cousins by blood, but grew up in all the intimacy and affection of true brothers, and since attaining manhood have always been associated in large and profitable ventures in agriculture and business. The latter, who is a few years the younger, lost his father at an early age, and was reared as an inmate of the Jewitt household. They are both Yorkshire men of sound abilities, have always been Republicans, and the only noteworthy difference in their lives is that Mr. Jewitt has remained single, while his life long associate is a married man and father of two honored citizens of Union township.

William Jewitt, who is president of the Farmers' Savings Bank of Van Horne, was born in Yorkshire, England, on the 12th of October, 1843, and is a son of George and Jane (Stubbs) Jewitt, both natives of that country. Of the seven children born to them only one other member of the family is now alive, Stephen Jewitt, a farmer of Big Grove township, this county. The father

died in England in 1865, aged sixty years, and soon afterward the widow emigrated to the United States with her children. The family first located in Chicago, were victims of the great fire of October, 1871, and in 1872 located on section 8, Union township, this county, and in the little house on the seventy-acre farm which then comprised the family homestead commenced a hard campaign against poverty, pluckily fought by the widow and her sons (including Isaac Pickering). It had been a struggle from the first, as the father of the family had been a common laborer in England, and when the widow and her children landed in New York the household treasury contained but five dollars. The Chicago fire almost wiped out the small savings of the succeeding six years, and when the farm in Union township was occupied, the outlook was dark indeed. But persistent and united efforts after a few years brought security and comparative comfort, and the brave and faithful mother lived to see bright days of prosperity. She died on the Union township homestead January 17, 1890, at the age of eighty-eight years.

Being the oldest of the children, Mr. Jewitt was always the mainstay at home, and his mother leaned upon him to the last. With his foster brother, Isaac Pickering, he gradually amassed large tracts of land and became engaged in large business ventures related to his agricultural pursuits. When they retired to Van Horne, in March, 1909, rented their lands and withdrew from active business and agriculture, they held seven hundred and fifty-six acres in Benton county and a quarter section in Brule county, South Dakota. They had also become such heavy feeders of livestock, and not only was all the grain raised on their land thus consumed, but they were buying from twelve to fourteen thousand bushels annually of outside parties.

Many years ago Mr. Jewitt assisted in the organization of the Farmers' Co-operative Lumber and Grain Company of Van Horne, of which he has remained a leading stockholder. He was also one of the founders of the Farmers' Savings Bank, of which he was elected vice president in 1902 and president in 1904. Mr. Jewitt has invariably conducted his business and financial ventures to a successful conclusion; has also served as assessor and clerk of Union township, and acquitted himself in every private and public relation as a man who knew not the meaning of unfaithfulness or loose management.

Isaac Pickering was born in Yorkshire, England, September 28, 1848, and is a son of Isaac and Ann (Stubbs) Pickering. His father left the mother country in 1847, before the son was born, but nothing was ever heard of him again, and the fatherless in-

fant was taken into the Jewitt family and reared as one of its own. When Mr. Jewitt died in 1865, as a youth of seventeen Isaac accompanied the widow and her own family to Chicago, and, as has been mentioned in the sketch of William Jewitt, was an active factor in advancing the fortunes of the struggling household and in forwarding the associated interests of himself and his life-long friend, Mr. Jewitt.

On May 1, 1882, Mr. Pickering married Miss Hannah Janss, born in Germany November 9, 1859, daughter of Peter and Margaretta (Francburg) Janss. The seven of the ten children born to them who are still living are as follows: Cornelius, a resident of Belle Plaine; Dr. John A. Janss, a practicing physician of Malcolm, Minnesota; Peter and Herman, who live in Los Angeles, California; Henry, a Missouri physician; Alvenia, now Mrs. Welch, of Joplin, that state; and Mrs. Pickering. Peter Janss came to the United States in 1870, and located at Belle Plaine to follow his profession as a musician. His wife joined him in 1872, and in the following year his daughter, then fourteen years of age, became the wife of Mr. Pickering. Subsequently the father moved to Grand Island, Nebraska, and Los Angeles, California, dying in the latter place in August, 1900, at the age of seventy years. His widow still survives, aged seventy-four. Mr. and Mrs. Pickering are the parents of two sons, William and George, both farmers of Union township.

CHRISTIAN A. HEINRICH.—An extensive land owner and a wealthy farmer, Christian A. Heinrich has also retired to his beautiful home in Blainstown with the record of a useful public service in the interests of Leroy township and Benton county. He is a German by birth, his native village being Tusheim, province of Magdeburg, Saxony, and his parents, Frederick William and Catherine (Krause) Heinrich, both also born in that kingdom. Eight children were born to them, of whom six are living. The father was a stonemason; moved to Australia with his family in 1849, and during the succeeding eighteen years followed his trade and engaged in farming. In 1867 he returned to Germany and two years afterward emigrated to the United States, settling on a farm near Milwaukee, whither his son, Christian A., had preceded him. After remaining in that locality for about a year the elder Mr. Heinrich returned to the fatherland to pass the remainder of his years, dying in 1888; his wife had died in 1880.

Christian A. Heinrich was born in the German village already mentioned September 4, 1849, shortly before the family moved to Australia. He was reared on a farm, received most of his

education in a private German school, and was eighteen years of age when his parents and other members of the household returned to Germany. In 1869 he was sent by his father to investigate the prospects for an improvement of circumstances in the northwest of the United States, and it was his favorable reports which brought the family to Wisconsin. In May, 1871, soon after his parents and three of the children returned to Germany, he located in Benton county, and for five years thereafter was employed as a farm hand in various localities. Then, with a thorough knowledge of the locality and a little capital, he purchased a quarter section in section 1, Leroy township. Upon his land was a rude shack of a house, the fences were broken and the entire place in the worst state of neglect conceivable; but the sturdy young German cleared up the farm, and straightened things out with a vim, and in 1878 erected a good residence on his place. He continued to cultivate the soil and improve all the surroundings until December, 1900, when he retired to Blirstown, the owner not only of a most desirable homestead, but of other property in both St. Clare and Leroy townships. Mr. Heinrich is now the proprietor of four hundred and forty acres of good land, most of it highly improved, and also owns his handsome home at Blirstown. He has served his school district as director and treasurer and otherwise been most useful to the community. In politics he is a Republican, and both he and his wife are active in their support of the Evangelical Association.

On December 20, 1877, Mr. Heinrich married Miss Susan Wolf, who was born near Buffalo, New York, January 28, 1855, and is a daughter of John and Susan (Stickenger) Wolf. The parents were of German nativity, and in 1851 emigrated to the United States, their sailing vessel being forty days upon the ocean. They located in New York state, but in 1855 drove through to Iowa and settled in Iowa county, three miles south of Watkins, later moving to Benton county. When Mrs. Heinrich's parents came to this country they possessed just five dollars, her father's first work in Iowa being in the stone quarries operated by the Dutch and German colonists in Iowa county. John Wolf, who was born in Germany February 14, 1822, lived in his later days with Mr. and Mrs. Heinrich, where his death occurred February 20, 1910, at eighty-eight years of age. The wife and mother, born November 3, 1824, died in April, 1901. Besides Mrs. Heinrich the following were members of the Wolf family: Valentine, now a resident of Iowa county, Iowa; Adam, who lives at Marengo, that state; John, of Van Horne, Iowa; and Mary, who married John Thorman, of St. Clare township, Benton county. The four

born to Mr. and Mrs. Heinrich are: Emma, now in the training school for nurses at Wesley Hospital, Chicago; Mary, who is a school teacher; Amanda, living at home; and George, a graduate in pharmacy at Iowa City, who is in the drug business at New Hampton, Iowa.

HENRY REISSER, a prominent farmer of section 3, Leroy township, was born near Frankfort, Germany, August 13, 1831, a son of Carl and Elizabeth (Reisser) Reisser. Carl Reisser and his wife had two children, Henry and Charles; the latter lives at Blairstown, Iowa. Mr. Reisser died in Germany and his widow married for her second husband Ernest Grunewald, by whom she had three children, of whom but one survives, W. J. Grunewald, of LeRoy township.

In 1851 Henry Reisser came to the United States, spending twenty-nine days on the ocean; he went from New York to Baltimore by rail, the trip taking a day and a half on the old wooden rails with a strip of iron on the top. He worked two years in Baltimore, and then with his brother, half-brother and mother, who had come to this country one year after his arrival, went into market gardening in New Jersey, remaining eleven years. In 1864 they all removed to Iowa, and after spending two months in Clayton county, located in Benton county. Here Henry Reisser purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres, at that time the country was sparsely settled and his farm was unimproved. Mr. Reisser could drive from his farm across the prairie to Vinton, with no fences to interfere with the journey. Mr. Reisser's farm now contains all modern improvements, and is in a high state of cultivation; he also owns three hundred and twenty acres in Charles Mix county, South Dakota, well improved. Mr. Reisser is one of the most successful and highly respected citizens of Benton county. He is independent in politics and takes an active interest in public affairs.

Mr. Reisser married (first) in 1857, Mrs. Mary Miller, born in Saxony, Germany, and who came to Wisconsin in 1848. She died in Clayton county, Iowa, in August, 1864, at 26 years of age. They were parents of two sons, of whom one survives, William, of St. Clair township. Mr. Reisser married on December 6, 1868, Margaret Rupp, born June 17, 1844, in Frankfort-on-the-Rhine, Germany, a daughter of John and Madgalena (Weber) Rupp. Mr. Rupp was born November 22, 1806, and died in 1883; he was a vineyard man in Germany. In 1849 he came to the United States and in 1850 his family joined him here. Mr. Rupp located in Canton, Ohio, where he lived twenty-three years, and came to

Benton county from there, locating in Eldorado township. He retired and settled in Blairstown, where he died at the age of seventy-six years. His wife, who was born in 1806, died in 1880. They had four children, of whom three survive, namely: John, of Ohio; Margaret, Mrs. Reisser; and Mary M., who married W. J. Grunewald, of Leroy township. By his second marriage Mr. Reisser had nine children, namely: Harry, living at home; Mary, wife of John Blahanvietz; Margaret, at home; Elinor, wife of Alfred L. Vogelgesang, of Charles Mix county, South Dakota; Arthur, also in South Dakota; Christian, living at home; Martha, a school teacher; Dak and Otto, farming the home farm.

U. S. Fry is a grain and stock dealer at Van Horne. He has spent nearly his entire life in this state, and his entire business career has been spent within the borders of Benton county, prominently identified with its interests and the upbuilding of Van Horne, which he has served three terms as mayor, as a member of its council, and is a justice of the peace at the present time. He was born in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, July 27, 1851, a son of Edward and Polly (Reinhard) Fry, who were also from that commonwealth, and the parents of ten children, eight of whom are living: Eliza, the wife of John Friese, of Nobles county, Minnesota; John, of Inwood, this state; Rebecca, widow of Mr. Grathe and residing in Van Horne; Daniel, whose home is in Garrison, this state; U. S., mentioned below; James M., also of Van Horne; William, of Big Grove township, Benton county; and Jennie, the wife of R. J. Moyer, of Van Horne. In 1854 Edward Fry and his family left Pennsylvania for the west journeying by water to Chicago, and thence by team and wagon to Jackson county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm, built a log dwelling and continued to work his land until he sold there in September of 1868 and came to Benton county, here buying the south half of section 12, an unimproved raw prairie tract. Again he set to work to hew out a farm from the wilderness, and the family lived there until 1881, moving then to a farm Mr. Fry had purchased in Big Grove township, and in 1886 he retired and moved to Van Horne, where he died in April of 1893, aged seventy-three years, his wife surviving him until 1906 and dying at the age of eighty-seven years. Their names are recorded among the early pioneer residents of Benton county.

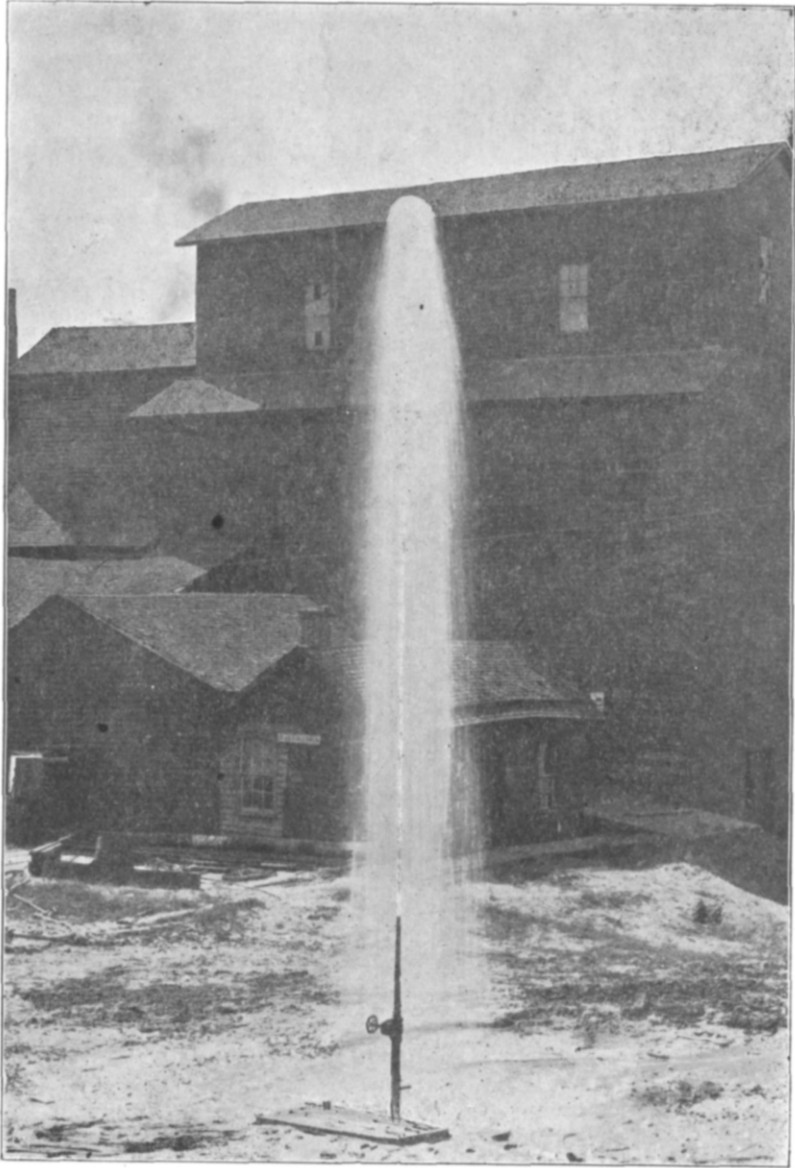
U. S. Fry was but four years old at the time of the removal of the family to Jackson county, where his boyhood days were spent and where he received a public school training. He was seventeen when he came to Benton county with his parents, and

remaining in the parental home until twenty-two years of age he then purchased eighty acres of land from his father in section 12, Union township, and farmed that place for nine years, coming then to Van Horne. The town was laid out in 1881, and selling his farm he came here in 1882, and for three years bought grain for A. K. Allen, of Marion. He then became associated with Mr. Allen in buying grain, stock and cream, the firm name being Allen, Davis and Company, and buying out his partners' interests in the business in 1888 Mr. Fry continued operations alone until 1901, when he sold the business and thereafter dealt in real estate until 1907, when he again purchased the elevator and is now engaged in its operation. The elevator has a capacity of fifteen thousand bushels of grain, and in addition he also deals quite extensively in live stock. As above stated he has served Van Horne in many public capacities, and his name is therefore prominently connected with both its business and official interests. He is a Republican in his political affiliations.

On the 4th of February, 1872, Mr. Fry was married to Miss Clara L. Dammann, born in Taswell county, Illinois, January 20, 1853, and they have five children: Mattie, at home with her parents; Ella, the wife of P. R. Smith, of Union township; Jennie, wife of Milo Whipple, of Vinton, this state; Nelda, a teacher in the schools of that city; and Bertha, also at home. Mr. Fry is associated with the fraternal order of Odd Fellows, and both he and his wife are members of its auxiliary, the Rebekahs, and of the Evangelical church.

ROMANZO E. BOWE, now living retired in Vinton, has achieved his principal material success in life from the vocation of agriculture, which he has followed throughout his active career. He was a farmer in Benton county when that occupation was subject to the pioneer limitations. He came to Benton county in 1854, with his parents, being then eight years old.

He was born in Geauga county, Ohio, in July, 1846. His parents were Russell and Rachel (Hollister) Bowe, natives of Ohio and New York states, respectively. Russell Bowe was a local preacher of the Methodist church, and followed farming as a means of livelihood. He traded a store, which he owned in Ohio, for a farm in Canton township, this county, and lived there a number of years and improved the place with good farm buildings. He afterwards moved to Beatrice, Nebraska, where he acquired a large tract of land and where he died. He is buried at Shellsburg in this county. For many years he was one of the most active local preachers in Benton county. He gave the tim-



ARTESIAN WELL AT BELLE PLAINE



her education there. She is a Methodist. Mr. and Mrs. Bowe have six children: Mina, is the wife of Sherman Robbins, of Canton township, and their daughter graduated in 1909 from the Shellsburg schools; Charles, a farmer of Bremer county, Iowa, married Emma Olson of Waverly; Mrs. Myrtle Beatty, of Vinton; Orra is the wife of Charles Grubb of Portland, Oregon, and has two children; Delia is the wife of Charles Hatfield of Canton township, and has two children; Edwin, at home.

JOHN KELLY was born on the farm which he now owns on April 3, 1860, a son of honored early pioneers of Benton county, Patrick and Mary (Ryan) Kelly, who are mentioned on other pages of this work. It was also upon this old homestead that John Kelly passed the days of his boyhood and youth, receiving in the meantime his education in the neighborhood school, and here he is now extensively engaged in general farming and stock raising. He remained under the parental roof until his marriage, then renting for two years, after which he returned and bought the homestead, a beautiful tract of three hundred and seventy acres, and its many valuable improvements have been placed there by him. He has a splendid modern home, and all buildings in keeping therewith. He is a representative citizen, a splendid business man, an active worker in the interests of Democracy, and he has served his community as a school director.

On the 26th of January, 1888, Mr. Kelly was married to Elizabeth Crelly, who was born in Iowa township of Benton county January 9, 1864, a daughter of Thomas and Mary (Burke) Crelly, who were born in Ireland. Leaving their native land for the United States in the fall of 1865 they landed at New Orleans, and coming up the river to St. Louis and thence to Muscatine, Iowa, they drove across to Benton county, where they both entered and bought land in Iowa township. They were among the very first to seek a home in Benton county, their advent antedating the railroads here, and markets were then long distances away. Seven of the nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Crelly are living, namely: Mrs. Ellen Harty, of Platte, South Dakota; Margaret, the wife of James Kelly, of Van Horne; N. J., a resident of Kennebec, South Dakota; Mrs. Katie Gibbon, whose home is in Kingsley, Iowa; Elizabeth, the wife of John Kelly; John, of Luzerne, this state; and Patrick, who is living at Larchwood, Iowa. Eight children have blessed the marriage union of John and Elizabeth Kelly,—Frank, Ray, Tresa, Leo, Helen, Blanche, Orin and Harlan. The family are members of the Van Horne Catholic church.

DR. MARION MEREDITH, who died at Vinton, Iowa, December 28, 1904, had been successfully engaged in the practice of medicine here for over forty years, during which time he was prominently identified with the best interests of the town and county.

Marion Meredith was born in Greensburg, Indiana, in 1831. The death of his parents left him an orphan before he was ten years of age, and in early life he had a struggle to obtain an education. He prepared himself for the practice of his profession at the Ohio Medical College, Cincinnati, Ohio, where he graduated about the time the Civil war was inaugurated. Tendering his service to the Union cause, he entered the army as surgeon of the Sixty-eighth Indiana Regiment, and remained on active duty until the war was over. Then he came west to Iowa and settled at Vinton, where he established a practice with which he was identified up to the close of his life. He had been in failing health for several years but was able to be in his office, and conducted his office practice until a short time before his death.

Dr. Meredith was an enterprising, public-spirited citizen, interested in various business enterprises. He helped to organize the Vinton Canning Company, the first institution of the kind here and one of the first in Iowa, and was its president until his death. He was also a stockholder in the canning factory at Waterloo, and he assisted in the organization of the Peoples Saving's Bank and was a stockholder in it.

For years Dr. Meredith was prominently connected with the Masonic Order at Vinton, belonging to the Blue Lodge, the Chapter and the Commandery, and participating in the work of each. He was a member of the Benton County Medical Society, and was for years its president. Politically he was a Republican, well posted in politics, and a conscientious voter; but he never in any sense was a politician, nor would he ever accept office for himself. While he was generous in contributing to the building and support of the various churches in the town, he was not a member of any church.

At Greensburg, Indiana, he married Miss Sarah F. Lathrop, a native of that place and a sister of Dr. W. P. Lathrop, who died at Glenwood, Iowa, when on a visit there in 1876. He was a graduate of the Ohio Medical College of Cincinnati, and had come to Vinton and engaged in practice about 1854. Mrs. Meredith's parents, Harvey and Louise Lathrop, when well advanced in life came from Indiana to Iowa, and died at Vinton soon after. In Indiana Mr. Lathrop was a dry goods merchant. To Doctor and Mrs. Meredith one child was born, Marion Harley, now the wife of E. F. Young of Vinton.



*W. Meredith*



HENRY C. HENKLE, known as "squire," is the owner and proprietor of Inglewood Stock Farm, of Jackson township. He has made the most of the improvements on his farm, and now has an entirely new and handsome residence. Mr. Henkle was born in Hardin county, Ohio, October 21, 1843, and is a son of Asa S. and Anna (Michaels) Henkle, both deceased. The father died in 1888, at the age of seventy-five years, and his widow died in 1906, aged nearly eighty-nine, both at their home in section 7, Jackson township, Benton county. Asa S. Henkle and his wife were both natives of Virginia, both born in Rockingham county; their respective families had removed to Ohio, and there they were married. They were farmers all their lives and very successful, as were their parents. Mrs. Henkle's mother was ninety-eight years old at her death; her stepfather, William Rogers, was a Kentuckian by birth, served in the Revolution and died in Ohio.

Asa Henkle and his wife came to Benton county, Iowa, with their six sons and six daughters in September, 1856, and located first on a farm in Taylor township, near Vinton, where they lived until 1860, and then moved to section 7, Jackson township. He had lived from 1844 until 1856 in Kankakee county, Illinois, and a part of the city of Kankakee is located on what was formerly his farm. Asa Henkle traded his eighty acres in Kankakee county, Illinois, for three hundred and twenty acres in section 7, Jackson township, Benton county, Iowa, which he had never seen. In 1860 he located on the farm now occupied by his son Henry, where he spent the remainder of his life. Asa Henkle filled many local offices in his township, and was first a Whig and later a Republican. He was a highly respected, public-spirited citizen, and his loss was keenly felt. Of his twelve children six sons and three daughters survive, namely: Jacob, of Jackson township; James, retired and living at Vinton; Henry C.; John, Merritt and Grant, of Jackson township; Rebecca, wife of Samuel Wilford, residing at Vinton; Belle, wife of John W. Robertson, of Garrison, Iowa; and Clara, wife of M. J. Lepley, of Ladysmith, Wisconsin. Those deceased are: Adeline, Lucinda and Ellen. Adeline died unmarried at the age of about sixty-five years, at Vinton; she had cared for her mother during her later years. Lucinda married O. J. Williams, who resides at Guthrie, Oklahoma; she died over twenty years ago. Ellen died when about one year old.

Henry C. Henkle was reared in Illinois and Iowa, and has been a resident of the latter state since 1856. He received a common school education, and in July, 1862, enlisted in Company D, Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry. He became ill while in camp before they left the state, and went to a hospital at Keokuk, Iowa,

where he remained until March, 1863, and then re-enlisted in the Mississippi Marine Brigade. He was able to do this on account of a special order of the War Department which authorized Brigadier-General A. W. Elliott to recruit a brigade, and authorized him to arm and equip a fleet designed to open and keep open the Mississippi river. They had seven boats which patrolled the river, subject to the orders of the commanding officer of the department. Mr. Henkle served until February, 1865, when by special order of the War Department they were discharged, although they had enlisted for three years. But one other man served from Benton county, George W. Black, now a physician in the state of Washington, and he was Mr. Henkle's bunkmate. Mr. Henkle was never injured seriously, although he had a bullet go through his cap and hair. At the close of the war he returned to Benton county and took up farming.

Mr. Henkle owns three hundred and fifty acres in sections 17 and 20, Jackson township, and some two hundred acres of this are under the direct management of his son Hays, who lives on the farm, in a fine home. Mr. Henkle made most of the improvements himself, and is an intelligent farmer. He has been very successful and enjoys the respect and confidence of his neighbors. He has always voted the Republican ticket, the first time for Lincoln in 1864, and he has, as an interesting souvenir, a duplicate of that ballot. He has served in all township offices, and for twenty-one years has held the office of justice of the peace. He is a member of P. M. Coder Post, No. 98, Grand Army of the Republic, of Vinton.

In 1876 Mr. Henkle married Rebecca Wilson, born May 14, 1854, in Pennsylvania; after her mother's death, May 16, 1868, she, with a brother James, now of Cass county, Iowa, came in February, 1869, to Benton county, Iowa, since her home. She is a daughter of Samuel and Mary (Douglass) Wilson; her father visited Benton county in 1870, but returned to Pennsylvania, where he remarried, and died about 1897. Mr. Henkle and his wife have two children, Hays W., and Blair Blaine. Hays married Doris McBride, daughter of Mrs. Mary McBride, now a resident of Garrison. Blair lives at home, and is unmarried.

Mrs. Henkle was one of fourteen children of two families having the same father; the others are: Miriam C., who married Harry Chamberlin, and resides in Pennsylvania; James E., now a resident of Cass county, formerly lived in Benton county a number of years; Julia M., who married Samuel Henderson and lives in Pennsylvania; Eliza J., who married John Stephens and lives in Pennsylvania; Salena M., who married Peter Hornish,

and died in Pennsylvania, July 9, 1909; Samuel S., who died several years ago; John M., a railroad man of Altoona, Pennsylvania; Isabella M., who married John Hicks, and died in 1906, in Pennsylvania; Ira D., a real estate dealer of Longmont, Colorado; Emma, who died young; Nancy E., who married Martin Hammon and lives in Pennsylvania; Caroline G., who married Charles Miller and resides in Vinton; and Lucetta J., who died in infancy.

JOHN M. BEATTY, one of the prominent men of affairs of Benton county, has been a resident of Vinton for the past seven years, where he owns what is known as "Watson Park" and where he has built a beautiful home.

Mr. Beatty was born in Linn county, Iowa, in 1861, son of Charles and Mary (McAllister) Beatty, both natives of the "Emerald Isle." Charles Beatty came with his father, Walter Beatty, from Coshocton county, Ohio, to Iowa in 1855, and settled north of Palo, in Linn county, on a farm which is still in the Beatty family, now being owned and occupied by an uncle of John M. Walter Beatty died there about 1876, at the age of eighty-one years, his wife's death occurring a year later. Charles Beatty farmed in Linn county and also near Atkins, in Fremont township, Benton county. He died at the latter place in May, 1907, at the age of seventy-six years. Both Walter and Charles Beatty were prominent and influential men in their day. The former was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, and both his life and his teachings told for good in the cause he espoused. Charles was active in local politics, affiliating with the Democrat party and serving efficiently in various township offices. Fraternally he was a Mason. He was twice married and had two sets of children, namely: John M. and C. E. Beatty, the latter a resident of near Shellsburg, Iowa, and two daughters, one in Benton county and the other at Laporte, Black Hawk county, Iowa. The children of the second marriage are W. J., residing at the old homestead near Atkins, and Joseph I., who lives near Palo, Iowa.

Since his early childhood John M. has been a resident of Benton county, and the greater part of his life has been devoted to farming and stock raising. From time to time, however, he has become interested in other enterprises and has made a financial success of almost everything he has undertaken. He is still actively engaged in operating his large farms in Canton and Benton townships. He is president of the Peoples' Savings Bank at Shellsburg, and is interested in the Farmers Telephone Company, of which he is an officer. Also he has made investments in the west including a section of land near Cheyenne, Wyoming.

In 1893 Mr. Beatty married Miss Myrtle Bowe, a native of Benton county and a daughter of R. E. and Eliza (Gates) Bowe, pioneers of Benton county and now residents of Vinton. This union has been blessed in the birth of one daughter, Zola, now six years of age.

Mr. Beatty was for many years a member of the United Brethren church, but there being no organization of this denomination at Vinton he and Mrs. Beatty have affiliated with the Presbyterian church, and for some years he has been superintendent of the Presbyterian Sabbath-school. Politically he is a Democrat; has always shown a commendable interest in local affairs, and has served Vinton as a member of its city council. Fraternally he is in good standing in both the Masonic Order and the Knights of Pythias.

PAUL CANTWELL is numbered among the early pioneers of Benton county, and he now owns a splendidly improved farm in sections 14 and 15, Union township. He was born in county Tipperary, Ireland, in 1827, a son of Patrick and Mary (Power) Cantwell, and the mother died in Ireland. Only two of their five children are now living, the younger being John Cantwell, whose home is in New York.

Paul Cantwell received a public school education in his native county of Tipperary, and in December, 1848, he arrived in the United States after an ocean voyage of six weeks. During his first four years in this country he remained in New York employed at railroad work, but during the winter months he went south. In 1857 he went to LaSalle county, Illinois, and during the memorable hard times which followed he was sent to Bloomington, that state, and found employment only after much difficulty. In 1861 he came to Iowa and assisted in the construction of the Northwestern Railroad from Cedar Rapids to Belle Plaine, and while at the latter place he attended a Fourth of July celebration at Patrick Kelly's home in Union township. In relating the incident Mr. Cantwell remarked that "although we were not all American citizens we celebrated the day in a very appropriate manner." It was at this time that Mr. Cantwell was induced to purchase land here, buying eighty acres of his present estate in section 15, Union township. But the land was then in its primitive state, and he purchased it for three dollars and a half an acre, but even at that small figure he many times afterward regretted his act, for he experienced great difficulty in paying for his little farm. He continued at railroad work east of Belle Plaine until 1866, and he then came to his farm and built a small house,



fourteen by eighteen feet, a most primitive dwelling, unplastered and unadorned, and for a time he was obliged to burn green wood during the winter and suffered greatly from the cold. But prosperity has blessed his earnest efforts, and he now owns two hundred acres of finely improved land, and the improvements which now adorn this splendid estate, even to the planting of the trees, have been placed there by him. He has served his township as a trustee, and in politics he is allied with the Democracy.

In January of 1862 Mr. Cantwell was married to Mary Hickey, who was born in Ireland, a daughter of John and Bridget (McMahon) Hickey, who came to the United States in 1852. They located first at Fairmont, Ohio, where the father worked at his trade of a stone mason, and in 1856 they moved to Columbus, Ohio, and in 1859 to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, locating at the latter place when the city contained but two store buildings. In 1869 they came from Cedar Rapids to Benton county, purchasing a farm in Union township, and they spent the remainder of their lives there. Of the twelve children which blessed the marriage union of Mr. and Mrs. Cantwell nine are living, namely: John, whose home is in California; Michael, of McGregor, Iowa; Thomas and Paul, Jr., both in Union township; Bridget, the wife of Robert A. Duncalf, also of Union township; Nellie, the wife of James Nolan, of the same place, and Patrick, William and Mary, at home with their parents. Mr. Cantwell is a well read man and an influential citizen, and he is revered as one of the early pioneers of Benton county.

W. L. THOMPSON, a successful farmer and stockman of Jackson township, Benton county, owns and operates a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres. He was born in Johnson county, in November, 1867, and is a son of John H. and Henrietta (Perrine) Thompson, the latter of whom died in October, 1907. John H. Thompson lives retired in Pasadena, California. He was a successful farmer. He came to Iowa from Ohio in 1854, and located in Johnson county. His brother, Carver Thompson, removed to Benton county and resided several years in Vinton. John Thompson and his wife had several children, only one of whom resides in Benton county.

W. L. Thompson was reared and educated in his native county, and came to Benton county in the spring of 1902, having previously purchased the farm of his uncle, Carver Thompson, where he now resides. He has been very successful as a farmer and raises a fine grade of stock. He is actively interested in public affairs, and is a Republican in politics. He is a public-spirited, useful

member of society and highly respected. He and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Thompson is a member of the Masonic Order.

Mr. Thompson married Loretta Wertzburgher, also a native of Iowa, born in Cedar county, daughter of J. W. Wertzburgher and his wife, early residents and pioneers of Iowa, now living at West Branch, Iowa. Mr. Thompson and his wife have one daughter, Mary Elizabeth, now eight years of age.

ELWYN F. BROWN, one of the prominent lawyers of the Benton county bar, is a member of the law firm of Whipple, Brown & Mossman, and is also the present county attorney, having been elected to this office November 3, 1908. He has practiced in Vinton since 1901, having come here from Kearney, Nebraska.

He is of a family which has produced other men prominent in public life and business. His brother, Norris Brown, is the present United States senator from Nebraska, and his other brother, Leon Brown, is managing editor of the Des Moines *Register & Leader*.

Elwyn F. Brown was born in Maquoketa, Jackson county, Iowa, July 29, 1866. His parents were William H. and Eliza (Phelps) Brown, both of early families of that section of Iowa. William H. Brown was born in 1840 and was brought to Iowa in 1845, was engaged in the mercantile business at Maquoketa with Mr. Goodenow until 1870, and has since resided in Polk county, for five years on a farm and since then in the city of Des Moines. His wife is also still living. They had three sons, Norris, Elwyn F. and Leon. Norris, the senator, graduated from the University of Iowa with the class of 1883, practiced law in Kearney, Nebraska, was elected and served six years as attorney general of the state, and was then elected to the United States senate, taking his seat March 4, 1907. Leon, the managing editor of the Des Moines *Register & Leader*, is a graduate of the University of Iowa in the class of 1890.

Elwyn F. Brown was four years old when the family moved to Polk county, and he received his early education in that county and Des Moines. After graduating with the class of 1887 from the University of Iowa, he began the study of law with Judge Church at Jefferson, Iowa, and later with Howard & Rose, and was admitted by examination before the supreme court of Nebraska, May 25, 1888. He then began practice with his brother Norris, and the firm of Brown & Brown continued until January 5, 1901. The election of the senior member to the office of attorney general caused his temporary residence in Lincoln, and Mr. Brown soon



*E. F. Brown*



after came to Vinton and bought the practice of Judge G. M. Gilchrist. He associated himself in practice with Senator Whipple, and they continued as Whipple & Brown until May 1, 1909, at which date the present firm was organized. Mr. Mossman was a student in Cornell College (Iowa) and is a graduate of the law department of the University of Missouri with the class of 1908. In the fall of that year he took examination before the supreme court of Iowa and was admitted to practice.

Mr. Brown has been a member of the Knights of Pythias order since he was twenty-one years old, and is also a member of the Masons at Vinton. His politics is Republican and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church. He married, at Vinton in 1889, Miss Ethelwyn Gilchrist. She is a daughter of Hon. G. M. Gilchrist, one of the most prominent members of the Benton county bench and bar. They have two children, Elwyn, aged sixteen, and Merle, fourteen, in 1909, both in the Vinton high school.

JOSIAH EATON died January 15, 1881, at his farm in section 12, Jackson township, Benton county. He was one of the pioneer residents of the county, having come here with his parents before 1860. Mr. Eaton was born in Westminster, Vermont, June 21, 1826, and was a son of Jeremiah and Olivia (Wright) Eaton. The Eaton family are descendants of Francis Eaton, a passenger of the Mayflower. Jeremiah Eaton and his wife moved to Illinois, locating at Wheaton, where they lived until their removal to Benton county, Iowa; they purchased land in Cedar township, where they lived until their deaths. They had four children, namely: Josiah, Romanzo, Cyreno and Lyveria. All are probably now deceased. Cyreno died at the age of thirty-two and Lyveria, at twenty-eight years.

Josiah Eaton was reared in Vermont, secured a good academic education and taught some time in Benton county. During his later life he followed farming, and became specially interested in bee culture. He made a special study of this and wrote a number of articles on the subject. Politically he was a Republican, though he did not care for public honors for himself; however, he was deeply interested in the public welfare and a strong abolitionist, having assisted materially in the escape of slaves. In religious belief he was a Universalist; his widow was baptized in the Presbyterian church, but is now of the Universalist faith.

Mr. Eaton married, in 1861, Eliza Watson, born near Paris, Jefferson county, Indiana, January 22, 1833, daughter of James and Betsy Ann (Shillideay) Watson, of Scotch-Irish descent and

strict Presbyterians. The Watson family were originally from Virginia, and emigrated to Kentucky. Being abolitionists, they removed to Indiana, where James Watson and his wife died, he in 1855 and she in 1845. Mrs. Eaton came with her brothers and sisters to Benton county, Iowa, and they invested the proceeds of their father's estate in land in Benton county, in the vicinity of Mrs. Eaton's farm in Jackson township. Mr. Watson and his wife had nine children, of whom three died young, and six came to Benton county. Mrs. Eaton is the only one surviving. When they came to Benton county there were ten in the party who drove overland from Muscatine, Iowa, including two married couples and their children. The material for their first homes was also hauled from Muscatine. Mrs. Eaton is living with her son James in Idaho.

Mr. Eaton and his wife had three children, namely: Mrs. J. W. Keller, James and Ella. Mrs. J. W. Keller, of Prosser, Washington, living on a fruit farm, has two sons, aged twenty-nine and seven years. She attended a private school and was a teacher in Benton county. James, who attended Tilford Academy, is located near King Hill, Idaho, on a ranch. He married Della Long, and they have two children, aged fifteen and fourteen, respectively. Ella, who is a graduate of Tilford Academy and Drake University, has taught several years in the public schools of Iowa. She married R. E. Bywaters, of Scrabble, Virginia. Their home is near King Hill, Idaho, where they reside on a ranch. They have no children.

SAMUEL MCCOLLY CAMPBELL has been a permanent resident of Vinton since 1854 and has been almost continuously active in business affairs throughout that period except during the Civil war, when he was one of Benton county's quota at the front.

He was born at Zionsville, Boone county, Indiana, December 7, 1841, a son of William M. and Nancy (Bousenberg) Campbell. William M. Campbell was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, January 25, 1795, moved to Indiana when a young man and was there married, June 23, 1839, to Nancy Bousenberg. She was born in Indiana, September 27, 1815. They moved in 1854 to Vinton, where the father died March 7, 1874, and the mother on June 13, 1896. William M. Campbell was a farmer in Indiana, but after moving to Vinton kept a hotel, known as the Black Bear House, on the site now occupied by the postoffice. He finally sold this pioneer hotel. He and his wife were parents of: S. M.; Americas, mentioned elsewhere; and Mary E., now the wife of Alvin P. Rose of Vinton, and she was born in Indiana September 13, 1849.

Samuel M. Campbell, who was thirteen years old on moving to Vinton, began work when a boy in a meat market, and followed this line of occupation in all about fourteen years. This was interrupted, however, by his career as a soldier. He enlisted, in September, 1861, in Company G, Fifth Iowa Infantry, and served till discharged at St. Louis, January 14, 1864, on account of a wound. He participated in eight major engagements of the great campaigns in the Mississippi valley during the first two years of the war, including the battles of New Madrid, Iuka, Corinth (both battles), Jackson, Mississippi, Champion Hill, and the siege of Vicksburg. During the latter he received a gunshot wound in the right arm, and was sent to the hospital on May 22, 1863, where he remained until finally discharged from service. His wound has been a constant annoyance and trouble to him through the years since the war.

However, he has been an active business man. For eight years he was street commissioner of Vinton, and for a number of years has been a cement construction contractor. He has contracted for a great amount of grading work and has constructed many miles of Vinton streets and sidewalks. For the past two years he has been associated in business with George A. Biebesheimer, under the firm name of Campbell & Biebesheimer. Physically he is a finely proportioned man, and in his army discharge papers is described as being six feet two inches tall. In politics he is a Republican and is a member of P. M. Coder Post No. 98, G. A. R.

Mr. Campbell married Miss Mina Josephine Ellis. She was born in Clay county, Missouri, and in childhood was brought to Benton county by her parents, Benjamin F. and Mary E. (Myers) Ellis. Her father was killed in the battle of Champion's Hill, May 16, 1863, while a member of the Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry. The Ellis family lived for a time in Linn county, Iowa, but returned to Benton county in 1872. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell have three children: Margaret B., who was born June 18, 1881, and reared and educated in Vinton, married M. R. Minton, who is a cigar salesman and a merchant at Wichita, Kansas. Harold Harrison, who was born in 1888, is a graduate of Tilford Academy and is now teaching school in Walford, this county. Oscar Edgar, who was born in 1890, is a student of electrical engineering at the University of Iowa.

JOHN P. KROEHNKE has made for himself a name and place in the activities of life, and successfully surmounting many obstacles he has gained recognition for true worth of character. He is now well known as the cashier of the Van Horn Savings Bank. Mr.

Kroehnke was born in Calumet county, Wisconsin, July 11, 1864, a son of Henry and Margaretta (Mohrwinkel) Kroehnke, both of whom were born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. The father came to the United States when a young man, and locating first in Wisconsin he farmed there for a number of years and was then engaged in the grain business at Chilton, that state, until his death in March of 1903, when sixty-six years of age. His wife had died in 1880, at the age of thirty-eight years. They were the parents of five children: Anna, wife of Theodore Schulz, of Chilton, Wisconsin; Henry, who is living in California; Helen, wife of John Wanzer, of Keystone, Iowa; John P.; and Emily, wife of George Tangeman, also of Keystone.

John P. Kroehnke spent his early life on a farm in Wisconsin and in the town of Chilton, and he is a graduate of Chilton's High School with the class of 1882. Locating then in Keystone, Iowa, he worked for three years with a butcher, having attained then his twenty-first year. With the money he had saved while thus employed he purchased a half interest in a general mercantile store, the firm then becoming C. W. Waldeck and Company. He became a member of this firm in November, and in the following April their store was destroyed by fire, Mr. Kroehnke then being left with but ten dollars in money, and a judgment note against him, held by E. Hagerman, of Burlington, for twelve hundred dollars. His financial condition at this juncture was truly a serious one, but not disheartened he began that summer driving a cream wagon for a Belle Plaine creamery, receiving sixty-two and a half dollars a month, and during the night he operated the pump at Keystone for the Milwaukee Railroad Company, this bringing him forty dollars a month, and he slept in the pump house. In the following year he came to Van Horne and secured the position of bookkeeper at the Milwaukee Round House, which was then located there, while later he became associated with Burns and Kelly, general merchants and worked for them at different periods for twelve years. At the death of his father-in-law he returned to Keystone to take charge of the latter's furniture and hardware business, and following the closing out of that house he was made the cashier of the Van Horne Savings Bank, which was organized in March of 1908. In addition to discharging the duties of that office Mr. Kroehnke is also an insurance dealer and a notary public, and he has also served as a school director and as a member of the city council. He is a splendid business man, and his interests also include South Dakota farm land.

He has been twice married, wedding first, in May, 1888, Margaret Titus, who was born in Fairfield, Iowa, May 14, 1865,



and she died on the 16th of March, 1889, leaving twins, George and Pearl. On the 23d of December, 1891, Mr. Kroehnke married Lulu F. Illian, who was the first white child born in Kane township of Benton county, her birth occurring on the 5th of January, 1871. She is a daughter of Louis F. and Dora (Steffen) Illian, and her mother is now living at Keystone. A son, Frank L., has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kroehnke. Mr. Kroehnke is a member of the Democratic party, of the Modern Brotherhood of America and of the Lutheran church.

JAMES AUSTIN, who died at his home in Jackson township, June 7, 1899, had been engaged in farming in Benton county since 1866. He was born in County Down, Ireland, October 19, 1832; further mention is made of his parents in connection with the sketch of Samuel and Robert Austin, found elsewhere in this work. James Austin came to America in 1849, preceding the others of his family, and located in Dubuque county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming. He had received a good education in common school, being a school-mate of Hon. William B. Allison, former United States senator from Iowa. Under Abraham Lincoln's administration Mr. Austin served four years as postmaster in Dubuque county. He was a staunch Republican and took an active interest in public affairs. He became a successful farmer and stood high in the estimation of his fellow citizens. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church of Vinton, and at one time he belonged to the Knights of Honor. He had joined the church in his boyhood in Ireland, and gave liberally to the support of the faith.

Mr. Austin married, December 31, 1861, in Dubuque county, Iowa, Annie Graham, born September 13, 1838, probably the first white girl child born in Dubuque county. She is a daughter of John and Sarah (Mason) Graham, of Maryland, the father being of Scotch-Irish descent. They were married at St. Louis, where John Graham was for several years engaged in mercantile business; they came to Dubuque county in 1836 and entered land there, securing ultimately some four hundred and ten acres, recognized as the finest farm in that county. There John Graham died just before the Civil war, at the age of sixty-three years; his widow removed to Jones county, Iowa, where she died at the age of seventy-four. Mrs. Austin's brother, John, is now a resident of Eldora, Iowa; one brother, Robert, lives at Dubuque; one sister, Mrs. Mary Steele, now lives in Lawrence, Kansas. Mrs. Steele's husband was formerly a merchant at Vinton, and later engaged in farming near Lawrence, Kansas, where he died.

Mr. Austin and his wife became the parents of five sons and

five daughters, namely: Mary, Mrs. Crane, now of Sumner, Iowa; Jennie, Mrs. Sandhouse, of Monticello, Iowa; Anna, Mrs. Sloan, died in 1902, in Bruce township, Benton county, at the age of thirty-six years; Walter J., in the stock business at Anamosa, Iowa; William B. died February 21, 1910, at forty years of age; Robert C., of Everett, Washington, in the planing mill business; Charles A., operating the home farm in Jackson township, married Dot McQuilkin, of LaPorte City, Iowa; Martha E. and Jessie E., unmarried, living at home; and Roy L., in Everett, Washington. Mrs. Austin resides on the home farm.

GEORGE W. TANNEHILL, who died at his home in Vinton, Iowa, March 23, 1909, was professor of mathematics at the State College for the Blind for a period of nearly forty-four years, his service continuing close to the end of his life, he having resigned his position, on account of illness, only the month previous to his death.

Professor Tannehill was in many respects a remarkable man. Although blind from his twenty-second year, neither his ambition nor his mentality was impaired; indeed his affliction seemed to strengthen his ambition. His whole life was devoted to educating the blind, and his work met with signal success. At all times he had the high esteem of his pupils and fellow teachers and, indeed, of everybody in the town, for every boy and girl and man and woman in Vinton knew Professor Tannehill. He was honored by a place in the city council of Vinton, or, rather, the council was honored by having him as one of its members.

George W. Tannehill was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, October 13, 1838, near Springfield, and in his youth moved with his parents to Madison county, Iowa. It was soon after their removal to this state that he met with an accident which resulted in the loss of his eyesight, and this naturally changed his course in life. He was educated in blind schools, spending two years as a student in the institution at Vinton, in which the rest of his life was spent as an instructor. It was on February 3, 1863, that he entered this school, and, as already stated, he resigned in February, 1909, thus rounding out a period of nearly forty-four years in one institution.

On July 6, 1875, he married Miss Jennie Gale, who was his companion for over thirty-four years. For forty years he was a church member, six years identified with the Baptist church and thirty-four years with the Methodist Episcopal church, and for many years he was a member of the official board.

Mrs. Tannehill, who survives her husband, resides at the home on South Washington street, Vinton, where she came with the



GEORGE W. TANNEHILL



Professor from the college about two years after their marriage. She was born at Chittenango, Madison county, New York, where she spent her girlhood to the age of twelve years, when the family home was changed to Cleveland, New York. There she subsequently became a teacher, and taught for several years. She came to Vinton, Iowa, in 1874, and from that time until 1877 she was a teacher in the College for the Blind. Her father, William H. Gale, while in the East a contractor, came to Vinton and engaged in the carriage business with his son, E. M. Gale, but lived retired for some time before his death. He died here June 17, 1893, at the age of seventy-nine years. His wife, Elizabeth, nee Marks, died in November, 1900, at the age of seventy-six years.

WALTER B. VAN HORN is numbered among the founders, promoters and honored pioneers of Vinton, where he has lived retired from an active business life for about thirty years. He became a resident of this city in 1856, and was first engaged in the conduct of a general store in partnership with Philander Olmsted, but the relationship was soon dissolved, Mr. Van Horn taking over the hardware department, and later purchasing a drug store he consolidated the two and was prominently identified with the business life of this city for over a quarter of a century. Previous to coming to Vinton Mr. Van Horn had been in business in Cedar Rapids, whither he had moved in 1853, and he was associated there with the Daniel Brothers as a bookkeeper for three years. He was later in partnership with a Mr. Morrow in the grain business during a similar period.

He was born in Niagara county, New York, October 8, 1829, a son of Daniel and Harriet (Burchard) Van Horn. The father lived at Middleport, that state, during his later years, and died there at the age of eighty-seven years. He had been a farmer in his early life. Daniel was a son of James Van Horn, who moved from eastern to western New York, to Niagara county, and entered a large tract of land and was very successful, conducting a flouring, saw and fulling mill and manufacturing cloth. He was also judge of Niagara county during the early days of its history. James Van Horn's great grandfather was one of three brothers who came to this country from Holland, and they have left many descendants in the United States. An uncle of Walter B. Van Horn, the Hon. Burt Van Horn, was a prominent politician and was a congressman from the district including Niagara county. Another uncle was a state legislator. Mr. Van Horn has a brother, Theodore Van Horn, and a sister, Miss Harriet Van Horn, living at Lockport, New York.

Walter B. Van Horn was reared and educated in his native county of Niagara, and his home for years from the age of sixteen was at Lockport. He clerked in a store there for some time, but engaged in business for himself first at Vinton. He married at Lockport in 1856 Miss Eliza Rogers, who was born in that city in 1833, a daughter of N. B. and Lydia (Larned) Rogers. Nathan B. Rogers was in the dry goods business at Lockport for years. He was originally from Rhode Island, and his wife Lydia was from New Hampshire. John Rogers, the paternal grandfather of Mrs. Van Horn, also from Rhode Island, served as a member of General Washington's staff during the Revolutionary war. The Rogers are an old New England family. Mrs. Van Horn's brother, Captain (later breveted colonel) Edward Rogers, commanded the Nineteenth New York Battery, Heavy Artillery, during the Civil war. He is now a prominent manufacturer at Lockport, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Van Horn have had the following children: Mrs. C. J. Carlisle, of New Mexico; Mattie, of Vinton; Mrs. Walter L. Palmer, of Vinton; Edward Rogers, deceased; Mrs. James F. Traer, deceased; and Mrs. Martin H. Lybarger, of Kenton, South Dakota. Mr. Van Horn has always voted with the Democratic party, and he has served as a councilman, as a member of the board of education and for three years as a deputy county clerk. He is one of the honored pioneer residents of Vinton.

PROFESSOR THOMAS F. McCUNE, whose death at his home in Vinton, November 6, 1907, removed one of the most honored and useful citizens of the county, was for nearly thirty years identified, as teacher and superintendent, with the College for the Blind at Vinton. He gave the best of his life's efforts to that institution, and his career, though passed quietly and without vain glory, was as fruitful and as deserving of permanent honor as those spent in the more conspicuous affairs of the world. He had entered the college in 1877 as a teacher, while the Rev. Robert E. Carrothers was superintendent, and six years later was advanced to the position of principal and superintendent, which he held until his retirement on July 1, 1906.

The late Professor McCune was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, October 1, 1850. He was the oldest of the ten children of Joseph and Mary J. (Medill) McCune, and after his father's death assumed a large share of responsibility in the care of the family. He received his higher education in Washington and Jefferson College, at Washington, Pennsylvania, where he was graduated in June, 1876. He opened an academy at Frankfort Springs and conducted it until accepting a place in the faculty



*J. F. McCune*





at the Vinton institution, to which he was strongly recommended by President Hays of Washington and Jefferson College.

Professor McCune was a Republican though he had been reared to Democratic doctrines. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity, and he and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church. He married, March 28, 1883, Miss Etta Walker Wilson. She was born in Washington, Pennsylvania, but at the time of her marriage her home was at Le Loup, Kansas. She was a daughter of Dr. John R. and Charlotte (Walker) Wilson, the father a native of Washington county, and the mother of Berlin, Pennsylvania. Dr. Wilson was one of the prominent old physicians of Washington. Mr. and Mrs. McCune had two children: The daughter, Jessie Wilson, married A. B. Opfer. John Joseph, the son, was educated at Vinton and in a business college at Cedar Rapids, became connected with the Carmody Iron works at the latter place, later was with a similar line of industry at Pittsburg, and is now an employe in the war department at Washington, D. C., having entered the civil service by examination. Mrs. McCune still lives in Vinton, her residence being on East Jefferson street.

FRANK LEONARD, who is farming in section 2, Union township, was born at Marion, Ohio, October 4, 1857, a son of Lewis and Maria (Hilderbrandt) Leonard, both of whom were also born in that state. He was one of their ten children, and nine of the number are now living. Lewis Leonard was an old-time railroad engineer, running out of Massillon, Ohio, from 1860 to 1867, and then going to Marion, Missouri, thirty miles west of Quincy, Illinois, he turned his attention to farming and the operation of a portable saw mill engine. Coming to Benton county, Iowa, in 1870, he purchased a farm in Eldorado township, but in 1878 left there for St. Louis, Missouri, where he was engaged in saw mill work. He was killed in 1877, when forty-four years of age, while on a business trip to Texas. He was a natural mechanic, and was never content unless engaged in mechanical pursuits. His widow is now living at Chamberlain, Texas, at the age of seventy-three years.

The boyhood days of Frank Leonard were spent on a farm, receiving in the meantime a common school training, and agriculture has been his life-long vocation. Following his marriage he farmed on rented land until 1892, and then purchased his present homestead, but the land was then unimproved. With the passing years he has placed his farm under a valuable state of cultivation and has also added to its boundaries until it now contains two hundred



PRESENT BENTON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Park, resided in Benton county for a time and then removed to Colorado, where they now reside. Archibald was taken prisoner during his service and spent fourteen months in prison, being released at the close of the war. Later he reared a family, and died at his home in southeastern Nebraska some ten or twelve years ago.

David E. Martin was reared on a farm in Hancock county, Ohio, and when twenty-four years of age came to Benton county, Iowa, since which time he has lived in the vicinity of Vinton. He endured the hardships of pioneer life, and began with three hundred dollars in money and a horse as his capital. He had taught school in Ohio, and also taught four terms in Benton county. He first came here in May, 1854, and in June of that year entered land in Eden township, whose name was selected by his brother, Charles M. Martin, afterward confirmed by the vote of the inhabitants of the township. He now owns the farm where he resides, consisting of four hundred and sixty acres, in sections 12 and 13, Jackson township, and one hundred acres of which is located in Taylor township, although the land is in one piece; he also owns one hundred and seventy-one and a half acres in section 16, Jackson township, and one hundred and forty-eight acres in Taylor township.

Politically Mr. Martin is a life-long Democrat, and he has served in various local offices. He is well known in the community and stands high in the estimation of his fellow citizens. He has, as one of his valued possessions, the second issue printed of the *Vinton Eagle*, the oldest paper in Benton county, and is thus on the so-called "roll of honor" of old subscribers to this paper.

Mr. Martin married Rebecca H. Wallace, who was born in Virginia, partly reared in Ohio, and came to Benton county, Iowa, in 1857 with her father, Robert Wallace, now deceased. They became the parents of nine children, of whom four survive, namely: Morrill R., of Oberlin, Kansas, is a merchant and married; Alice, unmarried, living at home, has taught school eleven years; Robert E., a farmer of Jackson township, is married and has two children; and John L., living at home. Two children died in infancy, two others as children some fifteen years later, and Martha died as a young woman. Martha had taught school several terms in Benton county. Mrs. Martin died in 1899, aged sixty-three years; she had formerly been a member of the United Presbyterian church, but at the time of her death had joined with the Plymouth Brethren.

GEORGE BARR is one of the prosperous men of Benton county whose material success has come largely through farming, and he is now living retired after a long and active career in that occupation. He has been a resident of Benton county since 1892 and still owns a finely improved farm of one hundred and eighty acres near Vinton, which is valued at about one hundred and fifty dollars an acre. He retired to his home in Vinton about thirteen years ago, and for the first two years was engaged in the grocery business, but this store is now managed by his son-in-law, Mr. Burt Turner.

Mr. Barr was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, May 26, 1841. The family had lived for generations in the border provinces of what is now the German empire, and Mr. Barr has a copy of the coat of arms which distinguished the family, the figures of a bear and eagles being the distinctive features of the design. The parents were George and Salome (Busteter) Barr, both of whom were natives of the province of Alsace-Lorraine, formerly a French but now a German possession. They moved to Wurtemberg when young. George Barr, the elder, served for eighteen years as a member of the King's bodyguard in the German army, having twice re-enlisted. His wife died in 1847, when their son George was six years old. The record of their other six children is as follows: Henry, the only other son, who died at the age of nine years; Mrs. Lowerman, who is a resident of Germany; one daughter died in Germany and another in Wisconsin; Mrs. Mary Clockner lives in New York city; Mrs. Margaret Beard lives in Missouri.

George Barr was about eleven years old when he came to Wisconsin, having crossed the Atlantic a short time before. In 1859 he took up his residence in Bureau county, Illinois, which was to be his principal home until he came to Iowa. In the fall of 1860 he made a trip to Memphis, Tennessee, but returned to Bureau county, and in August, 1862, enlisted in Company B, of the Ninety-third Illinois Infantry. His service was for a little more than a year, during which he participated in the siege of Vicksburg, and after being seriously ill in the hospital for several months was discharged for disability and returned home. Until his health was quite restored he lived with a sister in Wisconsin several months, and then returned to Bureau county. He was one of the active farmers of that county for nearly thirty years after the war, and in connection with the usual occupations of the farm he operated a threshing outfit and corn-sheller for a number of years. From Bureau county he moved to Iowa in 1892 and bought a farm three miles southeast of Vinton, and after giving his personal supervision to this place for five years retired.

In politics Mr. Barr has always been Republican. While a resident of Bureau county he served as supervisor. He has held all the offices, including commander of the P. M. Coder Post No 98, G. A. R. He also affiliates with the Masonic lodge, chapter and commandery. He and his wife are members of the Methodist church of Vinton.

Mr. Barr married in the fall of 1867, Miss Rachel Martin. She was born in Warren county, New Jersey, October 14, 1840. Her parents, Henry and Mary (Brown) Martin, both natives of New Jersey, were early settlers of Bureau county, Illinois. Henry Martin died at Malden, Illinois, in April, 1879, and his widow made several visits to her daughter in Benton county, the last when she was ninety-two years old, and she died shortly after she arrived at her daughter's home. Mrs. Barr has two sisters living in Vinton, Mrs. H. Strong and Mrs. Maria Long. Mr. and Mrs. Barr have two children: Fleeda, who was born March 14, 1870, is the wife of Burt Turner, the grocer of Vinton already mentioned, and they have one daughter, Rachel, aged two years. Henry, who was born October 30, 1874, is a druggist at Clarion, Iowa.

MICHAEL KELLY was born in county Kilkenny, Ireland, in February, 1846, but nearly his entire life has been spent in the United States, for he was but eight years of age when he crossed the ocean with his parents, Patrick and Mary (Ryan) Kelly, also from county Kilkenny, to become American citizens. The father was born on the 27th of December, 1818, and died on the 17th of May, 1906, while the mother was born in 1822 and died February 25, 1904. They became the parents of thirteen children, but only the following are now living: Michael; Thomas, also a Union township agriculturist; James, of Van Horne; Patrick, Charles and John, also in Union township; Bridget, the wife of James Hickey, of the same place; Mary, wife of James Lawler, of Cedar Rapids; and Nellie, wife of Lawson Brain, state treasurer at Lincoln, Nebraska. In 1853 Mr. and Mrs. Kelly with their family set sail for the United States, landing on American shores after a voyage of seven weeks, and their first home was in Kane county, Illinois, near Geneva. But in the following year they again packed their goods, and with ox teams drove to Benton county, spending two weeks on the road and locating in section 26, Union township, Mr. Kelly entered one hundred acres of land in sections 26 and 35. He had no time at first to build a dwelling, for he was obliged at once to put in sod corn and potatoes; so they cooked for a time in a tent made by piling up their trunks and cover-

ing with a canvas, and they slept in the wagon. Mrs. Kelly was bitten by a rattlesnake while living in this primitive manner. Soon a log cabin, twenty by twenty-eight feet, was erected, which served as their home until a frame residence was erected in 1865. In 1894 they retired from farm work and moved to Van Horne, there to enjoy rest and peace after many years of toil and hardships. They were among the earliest of the pioneers of Union township, and they were loved and honored for their true worth of character. Mr. Kelly served his township as a treasurer for several years, and he became a wealthy man, owning at one time eleven hundred acres of land.

Michael Kelly, the first born son of these brave and hardy Benton county pioneers, received what schooling he was permitted to enjoy in the district schools of Union township, and leaving home at the time of his marriage he secured one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved prairie land in section 15, where he has erected a comfortable residence, and has since added to the boundaries of his first purchase until his farm now contains four hundred acres of splendidly improved land. He is quite extensively engaged in stock raising, breeding Short-horn cattle and Poland China hogs, and he was one of the organizers of the Farmers Bank of Van Horne, of which he is a stockholder and since 1907 its vice president. He has served Union township as a trustee, one term as assessor, and since 1875 has served continuously as secretary of its school board.

Mr. Kelly married on February 8, 1868, Bridget Ryan, who was born in county Clare, Ireland, in 1846, and she came to the United States in 1864. Ten children have been born of their marriage union, but only the following five are now living: Mary, wife of Patrick Crelly, of Larchwood, Iowa; Patrick, of the same place; Annie, wife of Thomas Burke, of Egan, South Dakota; John, at home with his parents; and George, living in Union township. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly are members of the Van Horne Catholic church.

JOSEPH S. BRUBAKER is the senior druggist of Vinton, having been in the business there since 1869 and in that period having seen all his competitors, at the time he began, retire from business. He is also the oldest active druggist in Benton county. His store has been in its present location for twenty-six years, and he also owns the building which he formerly occupied. Mr. Brubaker has been a resident of Vinton since 1863, and at first was a clerk in the Van Horne store, that being a general mercantile establishment, and he had charge of the drugs. Then for



*J. S. Brubaker*





three years he filled a similar place in the store of Mr. Loree, after which he began business for himself.

Mr. Brubaker was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, March 19, 1830. He spent his early years on a farm, and in the fall of 1848 came west to Stephenson county, Illinois. During the Pierce administration he was a clerk in the Freeport post-office, under Postmaster Frank Brawley. In 1853 he began learning the drug business at Freeport with Emmert & Burrell, who were also from Pennsylvania. Mr. Emmert, now deceased, went to Chicago and established the Emmert Proprietary Company, while Mr. Burrell is now living retired in Freeport. With this firm Mr. Brubaker became a skillful pharmacist, and in the fall of 1856 established a business in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He sold this in the fall of 1861, and after spending a year or two in the east about his native home he returned to Iowa and has since been identified with Vinton. In politics he has always been Democratic, as have his sons. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, and was formerly a member of the Odd Fellows. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Brubaker's parents were Samuel and Catherine (Stauffer) Brubaker. The Stauffers, originally from Switzerland, were one of the old Pennsylvania families, and Stauffer's Mills, a well known locality, was founded through the enterprise of the great-grandfather of Catherine Stauffer. She spent all her life in her native state. The Brubakers were also from Switzerland. Samuel Brubaker was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and followed the occupation of farmer, and died in Pennsylvania in 1862, at the age of sixty-five. In visiting his son he had at one time come as far west as the Mississippi, but he lived practically all his life in his native state. There were two sons and two daughters in their family, but Joseph S. is the only one now living.

The latter has gained success through his own efforts and has been dependent on himself since he was eighteen years old. The only schooling he had was obtained during winter months, and his practical education has been largely the result of studious reading carried on all his life.

Mr. Brubaker has been twice married, his first union being with Miss Hostetter. The three sons of this marriage are: Stauffer Joseph, of Cedar Rapids; Charles W., who was in his father's store six years and later graduated in pharmacy from the University of Iowa, and is now owner of a fruit and truck farm near Cedar Rapids; Frank, who is on the farm with his brother Charles. Charles W. also served two terms as county treasurer of Benton county. Mr. Brubaker married as his second

wife, in Warren county, Pennsylvania, Miss Susan Smith. She was born in that county, her father being a Frenchman and her mother (nee Schafer) of Holland descent. There is one child by this marriage, Miss Ella S. She is a teacher of the piano, violin and voice in the Vinton schools, being a graduate of the Philadelphia School of Music, both vocal and instrumental.

GEORGE JOHNSON, retired from active life, though still residing on his large estate comprising over seven hundred acres of land in Jackson township, has made his home in Benton county since 1867. He was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, October 20, 1842, and is a son of Zephaniah and Rachel (Ulery) Johnson, both natives of the Keystone state, where they lived on a farm. Both died at the old home in Greene county, Pennsylvania, she in 1851 and he in 1895, at the age of nearly eighty-three.

George Johnson has two brothers and a half-sister living, namely: Stephen, of Idaho; Silas, also of Idaho, and Miss Ellen, of Pennsylvania. He was reared in his native state and attended the public schools. He enlisted on August 30, 1862, first in Company E, Ringgold Battalion, which was later recruited in the Twenty-second Pennsylvania Cavalry, in which Mr. Johnson was a member of Company F. He served until the close of the war, serving nearly three years and participating in all the engagements with his company. They spent some time under Sheridan's command in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. Mr. Johnson was mustered out July 19, 1865, at New Creek Station, West Virginia. He took part in many battles but never received a wound.

At the close of the war Mr. Johnson visited a short time in Pennsylvania, and then moved to Benton county, where his aunt, Mrs. Edminster, was living. He was favorably impressed with the land and surroundings, and decided to remain permanently. He had little capital to begin with and worked ten years at the carpenter's trade, but for the past forty-two years has made his home in Jackson township. His first purchase of land consisted of one hundred and twenty acres, which has since been his home, and he has added to it as his capital increased. He has always carried on general farming, and latterly dealt largely in cattle and hogs, buying, selling, breeding and feeding them. He is one of the most successful, prominent and substantial farmers of Benton county, well known and universally esteemed. He earned his success by his industry and enterprise, and always paid close attention to his business interests. Politically Mr. Johnson is a supporter of the Democratic party.

Mr. Johnson married, in Benton county, Ellen Robertson, who died in November, 1904, in her fifty-fifth year, leaving three daughters and five sons, all born in Benton county and all living here with the exception of one. They are Silas W., a farmer of Jackson township, married; G. W., also married and residing in Jackson township; Sarah J., Mrs. Edminster, living on a farm in Jackson township; Etta, Mrs. Scott, of Jackson township; Pearl, Mrs. Bolenbaugh; Clark L., a farmer of Jackson township, unmarried; and John, who drew a claim in the reservation of South Dakota, also married. Mr. Johnson has eleven grandchildren.

WILLIAM KNUTH, who enjoys prosperous retirement at Vinton, had a successful career as farmer in this county and is owner of a fine homestead of three hundred and twenty acres in Eden township. His life deserves the highest esteem. He was born in Germany, came to America a boy of fourteen, served in the Civil war and permanently impaired his health and strength. After the war he was married and began life on eighty acres of land in Lee county, Illinois, and in 1874 sold out and moved to Benton county, where material prosperity continued to reward his efforts. He was born in Prussia, Germany, August 29, 1842, a son of Ludwig and Louisa (Dohnke) Knuth, who emigrated to America in 1857, settling first at Princeton, Illinois, and later moving to a farm in Lee county, where the father died in the fall of 1900 at the age of eighty-two and the mother on January 22, 1882, aged about sixty-one. William was the oldest of their eight children, two of whom are deceased, and the other five live in Bureau county, Illinois.

Mr. Knuth was reared to manhood in Bureau county, having laid a good foundation of education in his native land and also attended school in Illinois. In December, 1861, he enlisted, from Bureau county, in Company D, Fifty-seventh Illinois Infantry, and had a brief but strenuous military experience. His first battle was at Fort Donelson, with the army of the Tennessee, and he was then at Shiloh, at Philip's Creek, and the two engagements at Corinth. These were among the severest battles of the war, and he had many narrow escapes from death, and after the battle of Corinth was honorably discharged for disability, by an order of General Rosecrans.

Returning to Bureau county, he married, November 19, 1864, Miss Minnie Niederbroecker. She was born in Prussia June 12, 1846, a daughter of Carl and Annie (Schlattmann) Niederbroecker. Her mother died in Prussia at the age of forty-seven, and her father, in November, 1856, arrived in America, settling

in Franklin county, Missouri, where he continued to follow his trade of tailor. He died in 1858, at the age of fifty-seven. Mrs. Knuth's only brother was in Company K, Eighth Kansas Volunteers, serving with the Army of the Cumberland, and on September 19, 1863, in the battle of Chickamauga, received a wound from the effects of which he died in Atlanta, Georgia, November 7, 1863. She also has two sisters living, one in Missouri and the other in Council Bluffs, Iowa. When Mrs. Knuth was sixteen years old she went to live in the home of a sister in Illinois, and had supported herself from the time she was ten years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Knuth were the parents of nine children, four of whom were born in Lee county, Illinois, and the others in Benton county. The children are: Amelia, late wife of Charles D. Kretzer, died September 3, 1906, leaving one son, Clellan, who lives with his grandparents; Herman, a farmer on one of his father's farms in Eden township, is married and has two children; Lena lives at home; Charles is married and is a farmer of Eden township; William, farmer of Homer township, is married and has one daughter; Annie, wife of Henry Taschner, of Eden township, has two children; Emma, who lives at home, is employed in a store at Vinton; Edward is a farmer of Eden township; Mamie lives at home, and clerks in a store at Vinton.

Mr. Knuth is a member of P. M. Coder Post No. 98, G. A. R., and he and his wife are members of the Methodist church.

**WILLIAM BOISEN.**—During many years William Boisen has been prominently identified with the business interests of Benton county, and in this time has become recognized as one of the most valued and useful citizens of Van Horne. He is at the present time the proprietor of one of the best furniture stores in the county, is also prominently engaged in concrete work, is a stockholder in the Van Horne Savings Bank and the one to whom the credit of this organization is due, a stockholder in the Farmer's Savings Bank of Van Horne and was one of its organizers, and has served three terms as the mayor of Van Horne and in other public offices. Such in part are the achievements of William Boisen during his residence in this city.

He was born in Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, May 8, 1852, a son of Claus and Christine (Mason) Boisen, who spent their lives in that country. William was one of their eight children, and the eldest of the three now living, the two others being Fred and Crist, the former of Keystone, Iowa, and the latter of Luverne, Minnesota. The boyhood days of William Boisen were spent at his native Elensburg, receiving there a

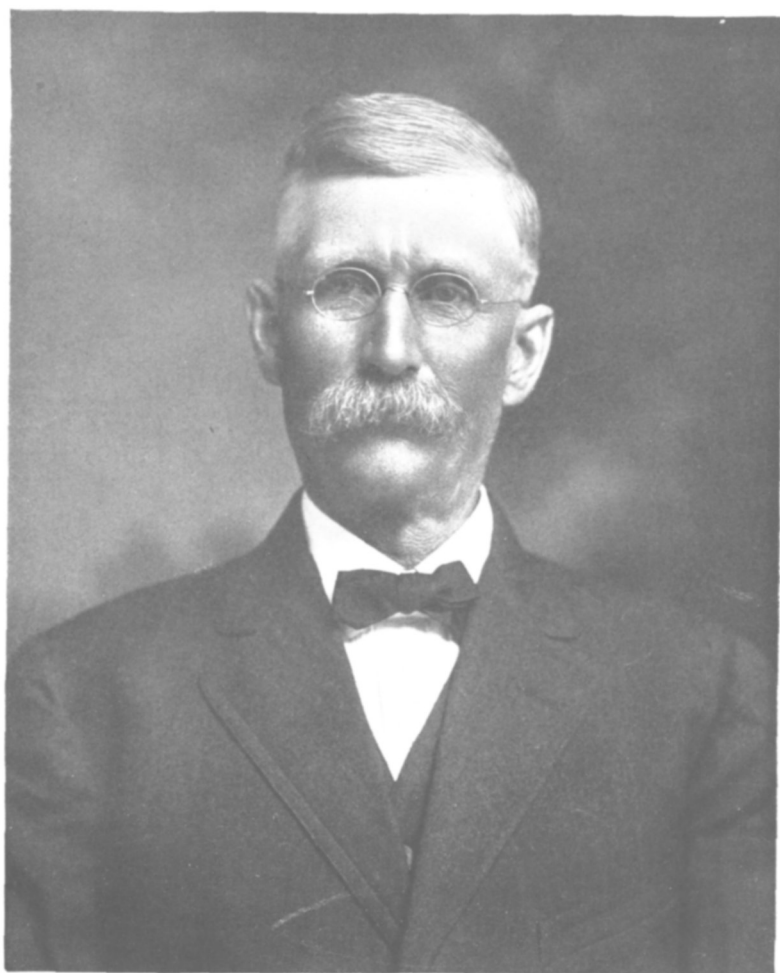
common school training, and beginning learning the carpenter and brick layer's trade at the age of sixteen. He served an apprenticeship of three years. On the 28th of August, 1872, he set sail for the United States, and arriving in the harbor of New York he made his way west as far as Barrington in Cook county, Illinois, where he followed his trade until the spring of 1873. Going then to Chicago, he worked there for nine months, when he returned to Barrington, and in the spring of 1874 came to Benton county, Iowa, and located at Blairstown. He worked at his trade there during the summer, and went south in the winter, to St. Louis, Vicksburg and New Orleans, returning to Blairstown in 1875. Then he began contracting, but in 1876 went to Luzerne in this state, erected a building and embarked in the furniture and undertaking business, but in 1879 disposed of those interests and returned to contracting. Next he purchased a farm in Big Grove township and worked his land in connection with his trade until 1887, when he came to Van Horne and worked exclusively as a contractor until 1894, when he returned to the farm for two years. Selling his land in 1896 he came again to Van Horne, and this time purchased a furniture stock, while in 1892 he erected a brick building, forty-six by eighty feet, doing most of the work himself, and he has now one of the best furniture stores in Benton county, and in connection therewith he has an undertaking department. He also owns another store, conducted by his daughter, where he handles china, tin and granite ware, paints, wall paper and kindred articles. In addition to all this Mr. Boisen is extensively engaged in concrete work, manufacturing cement blocks, doing considerable concrete bridge work and has built many miles of concrete sidewalk for private parties. He was elected the mayor of Van Horne in 1887, serving three terms in that office when the town was in its formative period, and he has also served as a member of its council and as a justice of the peace of Union township. He is perhaps one of the most progressive, far-sighted and public spirited citizens of the town, and he worked hard to secure for it the court house and failed in this only on account of insufficient support.

Mr. Boisen married on June 10, 1876, Mary Rostenmandt, born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, in 1856, and they have six children: John, a resident of Union township; William F., residing at Willow Lake, South Dakota; August, also of Willow Lake; Emma, the wife of John Hannemann, of Union township; and Lena and Eddie, at home with their parents. Mr. Boisen was one of the organizers of the fraternal order of Odd Fellows at Van Horne, and is now one of its charter members, and he is

also a member of Belle Plaine Canton 20, and is associated with the Modern Woodmen of America at Keystone. He is one of the representative citizens of Benton county.

ADAM H. WILSON is operating his splendidly improved farm of four hundred and eighty acres, four hundred acres of the estate, his homestead, lying in Jackson township and the remaining eighty acres in Monroe township. He came to Benton county in the spring of 1869, locating first in Homer township, and he is numbered among the self-made men who have achieved both wealth and position from the fertile lands of Benton county, for when he came here his capital did not exceed perhaps two hundred dollars. About two years after this he bought eighty acres in Homer township, and resided there for some years, in the meantime adding to his landed possessions until he owned a farm of two hundred and forty acres. In about the year of 1901 he moved from there to his present home in Jackson township, purchasing land in sections 30 and 31. He had improved his Homer township farm, and he has also improved his estate here and has been very successful in his operations. During the past twenty years or more Mr. Wilson has bred and raised Hereford cattle, and now has the largest herd of thoroughbred Herefords in Benton county, owning from one hundred to one hundred and fifty head, his market covering this community as well as territory outside of the state, shipping in car load lots. He has also been identified with other lines of business, including the operation, with others, of a cheese factory, and he is the president of the Peoples Savings Bank of Garrison.

Mr. Wilson was born in Grenville county, Ontario, Canada, June 9, 1850, a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Erratt) Wilson, the former of Scotch descent and the latter a native of Canada and a daughter of a Methodist Episcopal minister. They were married in St. Lawrence county, New York, and located then in Ontario, Canada. Samuel Wilson was by trade a brick layer, although he owned a farm, and in about 1873 or 1874 the family came to Benton county, Iowa, which continued as the parents' home until death, Samuel Wilson dying at his homestead in Homer township in the early '90s, aged about seventy-three years, and his wife died not long since at the age of seventy-four. She was several years younger than her husband. Adam H. was the first born of their eight children, seven sons and a daughter, and all are living. James C. Wilson, the second son, is now a resident of Corning, California. In former years he was a large farmer in Benton county, and he now owns a section of land in California



*A. H. Wilson*





and is extensively engaged in raising fruit. John Wilson, a resident of Reinbeck, Iowa, was the cashier of a bank there for twenty-eight years and is now the president of the Bank of Reinbeck. Mrs. N. Minish resides in Cedar Falls, where her husband is a retired farmer. Matthew Wilson is a farmer in Homer township, and he is also a mechanic and an inventor. Albert Wilson resides near Hudson, Iowa, a farmer. The Rev. Edward E. Wilson, a Methodist Episcopal minister, was a missionary for eight years to Chili, South America, and during the past five or six years he has been stationed at Porto Rico. Dr. William H. Wilson is a practicing physician and surgeon in Chicago, Illinois, a member of the faculty of the Hahnemann Medical College.

Adam H. Wilson was married in Illinois to Miss Mary J. Yalden, born in St. Lawrence county, New York, but she came to Illinois when a child with her parents, who were farming people. Six sons have blessed the marriage union of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson: Vernon H., the cashier of both the Grundy County National and the Grundy County Savings Banks at Grundy Center, Iowa, married Maude Butrick, of Benton county; William B., farming at home with his parents; Hillis R., attending the Ames Agricultural College; John H., assistant cashier of the Peoples Savings Bank at Garrison; and Ernest S and Walter I., both in school. Mr. Wilson is a Republican voter, and both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JONATHAN COKELY has retired from active life, but still resides on his well improved farm of eighty acres in section 14, Jackson township, Benton county, Iowa. He was born in Ritchie county, West Virginia, August 27, 1840, and is a son of Edmond Cokely, who died March 7, 1907. Edmond Cokely was born in Alleghany county, Maryland, November 3, 1815, of Irish and German parentage. He was a son of Elijah and Christina (Crofuss) Cokely. Elijah Cokely died when Edmond was but seven or eight years old, and his widow, who was left with one daughter and three sons, reared and educated the children. She was born in Germany, and came to America with her parents when two years of age. In her later life she came to Benton county, Iowa, where she died in 1864, at the age of seventy-six years. Elijah Cokely's grandfather served in the American Revolution from Carolina.

Edmond Cokely was the second of the four children of Elijah Cokely, and outlived the others by many years. He followed farming practically all his life. He worked a farm several years for his mother in the part of Virginia which is now West Vir-

ginia, and in 1860 he brought his family to Benton county, Iowa, where he resided until his death at which time he owned some four hundred acres of land. He served in minor offices in the township and was a Republican politically, always very strongly opposed to slavery. Edmond Cokely married, in Virginia, in 1838, Eliza Wagner, a native of that state, grand-daughter of a Revolutionary captain who was a very scholarly man. She accompanied her husband to Benton county and died here in 1882, aged about sixty-four years. They brought eight children to Benton county, of whom but three survive, namely: Jonathan; Mrs.. Margaret Winner, a widow residing near Garrison, Iowa; and Mrs. William Eick, residing at Flandreau, South Dakota.

Jonathan Cokely was reared in West Virginia until nineteen years of age, and there received a common school education. He has always successfully followed farming, and since coming to Benton county in 1860 with his parents he has been located near his present home. His farm is well improved, and until a few years ago, when he retired, he has followed farming and stock raising. He has a comfortable residence and modern conveniences. Politically he is a Republican, and he has served as school director and in other local offices. He has acquired success through his own efforts, having small capital to start with in this county, and is a self-made man.

Mr. Cokely married, at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in February, 1879, Melvina Cokely, who was born and reared in Ritchie county, West Virginia.

JAMES R. MITCHELL is one of the oldest continuous residents of Vinton, an honored pioneer and during many years one of the city's active business men, but during the past ten or twelve years he has lived quietly retired from an active life. During some twenty years or more he conducted a wood yard in Vinton, and during eight years he served the city as its marshal. His home has been in Vinton since 1854, with the exception of three years during the Civil war and two years at the county poor farm, but he is a native son of Kentucky, born in 1838 to the marriage union of William and Emily (Boyd) Mitchell, who were also from that state, but they moved from there to Jefferson county, Indiana, when their son James was an infant, later going to Scott county, that state, and they both spent the remainder of their lives there. They were farming people. All of their four sons served their country as Civil war soldiers, all save James enlisting from Indiana, and two were members of the Twenty-second Indiana. Lemuel was killed while serving under General

Sherman in the celebrated march to the sea. Elias and Alonzo returned to Indiana and resided there until their deaths. Of the two daughters, Permelia and Elizabeth, one is deceased and the other, Elizabeth, is living in Austin, Indiana.

James R. Mitchell was a young man of eighteen years when he came to Benton county, Iowa, the only one of his family to locate in this state, and as he was without capital he worked at different occupations and some three years later bought town property and still later considerable timbered land. He cut the timber from his land, and the property is now valuable for farming purposes. He also owns property in Taylor township. In 1862 he became a member of Company D, Twenty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, going out under Captain Van Etta for a month or two. He was succeeded in command by Captain Thompson, and at the latter's death Captain Henry Wilson took command. Mr. Mitchell participated in nearly all the engagements in which his regiment took part, and was twice slightly wounded. Among the engagements were Sabine Cross Road, Champion Hill, Siege of Vicksburg, Winchester, Fisher's Hill, Cedar Creek and many minor skirmishes and engagements. During his service he also contracted small pox and spent some time on a plantation near Algiers, Louisiana, just outside of the city of New Orleans. Being mustered out in 1865 he returned to Benton county and resumed farm work, having charge of the county farm for a couple of years, and then for eight years he was the city marshal of Vinton, continuing in the office until his retirement about twelve years ago.

Mr. Mitchell was married before the war, wedding at Vinton, Miss Laura Knapp, who died here in 1881. She bore him three children, but all died within a few years after their birth. He married for his second wife a Miss Culver, another of the early residents of Benton county, and she is also deceased, leaving a son, Edward Mitchell, a plumber in business in Des Moines. He is married and has a son. Mr. Mitchell married for his present wife the widow of William Westover, deceased, and she bore the maiden name of Miss Belle White. By her first marriage she had a daughter, Maud, who became the wife of a Mr. Elliott, now in the southwest, and she died at Vinton about ten years ago, leaving two daughters, Mary, aged fourteen, and Pauline, aged twelve, and they reside with Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell. Politically Mr. Mitchell has always been a supporter of Republican principles, and his public service has been a credit to himself and to his constituents. While in the army he served as a first sergeant, and he is now a member of Coder Post No. 98, G. A. R., at Vinton, one

of the charter members of the order. Mrs. Mitchell is a member of the Woman's Relief Corps. Both are church members, Mrs. Mitchell having her church home with the Methodists and Mr. Mitchell is a member of the Presbyterian denomination. They are honored pioneer citizens of Vinton and of Benton county.

SPENCER SMITH, the retired farmer and leading citizen of Van Horne, is of an old New York family, which, through his line, has been identified with the agricultural interests of the Empire state, of Illinois and Iowa. His parents were A. J. and Ann (Mabie) Smith, both natives of New York state, born in the year 1813. Five children were born to them, of whom Spencer was the first, the other four being as follows: Charles, who now resides in Kansas; Sarah Alger, of Kingsley, Iowa; Theodore, a resident of Denver, Colorado; and Mrs. Ellen Hart, of Boone, Iowa. Soon after their marriage in New York the young couple started for the new western country, in 1837 locating in Ogle county, Illinois. The farm there purchased became the birthplace of their first born, Spencer, on January 14, 1839, and it remained the family homestead until 1845, when the father sold his property, drove through to Clinton county, Iowa, and established another homestead in that locality. Later he moved to Adair county, and died in 1886, as a retired citizen of Boone, in his seventy-sixth year. He had been bereft of the earthly counsel and assistance of his good wife for twenty years.

Six years of age when his parents moved from Illinois to Iowa, Spencer Smith received a common school education in Clinton county, and was one of the thousands of hardy young farmers who composed the backbone of the Union armies of the west. On August 12, 1861, he enlisted at Dewitt in Company A, Eighth Iowa Infantry, and served within three months of five years, being honorably discharged May 7, 1866. Mr. Smith was a favored soldier of the Civil war; for, although he was a participant in the battles of Shiloh and Jackson and in the campaigns before Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Spanish Fort, Alabama; was with Price in all his Missouri operations, and exposed himself to all the dangers of battle and the hardships of the camp and march, he passed through the four years and nine months with only a slight wound and no serious sickness. Mr. Smith enlisted as a private soldier and was promoted to corporal and sergeant. In 1863, at Vicksburg he was commissioned second lieutenant, and at Spanish Fort, Alabama, he was breveted first lieutenant, for meritorious service in the capture of Mobile, Alabama, and its defense, as his commission reads. Later he was commissioned first

lieutenant, which rank he held at the time of his discharge. He enlisted for the second time after the expiration of his first term of service. After Lee's surrender Lieutenant Smith was detailed for service in the Freedman's Bureau at Opelika and Tuskegee, Alabama, and was with the Freedman's Bureau at the time of discharge. He was mustered out of the service April 20, 1866, formally discharged on the 7th of the following month, and returned to the home of his parents in Clinton county. In 1868 he purchased ninety acres of land in section 2, Union township, this county, which he improved, but did not occupy until his marriage two years later. This was the commencement and the basis of his agricultural operations, in which he met with uniform success. In 1901 Mr. Smith retired from the field as an active farmer and located in Van Horne, in whose city council he has served, being considered a representative member of that body. He had previously served for two terms as township trustee; had been an officer of the school board and acted as United States census enumerator in 1880. He was a Republican until 1884, but the vital importance of Prohibition had been growing in his mind and in that year he joined the party which held to that issue as its only plank. A quarter of a century of observation and thought has made him firmer than ever in his political faith.

On January 19, 1870, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Lottie P. Rutledge, who was born in Canada, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Foster) Rutledge. The father was a native of New York and the mother of Ireland, moving to the Dominion not long after their marriage. In 1854 they located at Oregon, Illinois, where they both died. Mrs. Spencer Smith died in Van Horne on October 4, 1908, aged sixty-three years. Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Smith became the parents of the following: Winnie, now the wife of J. L. Jenkins, of Hartley, Iowa; Paul R., a farmer of Union township; and Edith, Mrs. H. F. Schlarbaum, a resident of Van Horne.

WILLIAM J. GRUNEWALD, a successful farmer living in section 10, Leroy township, was born in Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany, April 20, 1838, son of Ernest and Julia (Reisser) Grunewald. Ernest Grunewald was born in 1802, and died in 1882; his wife died in 1849, aged forty-eight years. They were parents of three children, of whom William J. is the only one living. Ernest Grunewald married (second) Mrs. Elizabeth Reisser, who died in 1900, at the age of eighty-two years. The family came to the United States in 1853, and located in northern New Jersey, where they engaged in market gardening. They removed to Iowa in 1864,

locating first in Clayton county; two months later they came to Benton county, where Mr. Grunewald purchased the one hundred and sixty acre farm he now occupies.

When Mr. Grunewald purchased his farm it contained a seven room home a story and a half high, considered quite a mansion in those days, and known for miles around as the "Belle of the Prairie." The land was also improved, and he purchased the crop harvest and everything on the place for a sum of thirty-five hundred dollars. He now owns five hundred and twenty acres of land in Leroy township, and in 1894 retired from active life. In 1903 he removed to Cedar Rapids, and after living there four years returned to his farm and assists his son in conducting it. He is actively interested in public affairs, and politically is a Democrat. He has served as school director and township trustee. He has carried on his agricultural and financial affairs in a manner to insure success, and is highly esteemed for his honesty and integrity. Mr. Grunewald is a member of the Evangelical church. He received a common school education in his native country, and on coming to the United States set himself to master the English language; he has always made the most of his opportunities, and is an intelligent, well read man.

Mr. Grunewald married, December 7, 1868, Mary M. Rupp, born in Alsace-Lorraine, Germany, July 22, 1849, daughter of John and Magdalena (Weber) Rupp. Mr. Rupp was born in 1804, and died in 1883; his wife was born in 1806 and died in 1880. They were parents of four children, of whom the following three survive: John, of Ohio; Margaret, wife of Henry Reisser, and Mary M., Mrs. Grunewald. The Rupp family came to the United States in 1850, spending sixty-two days on the water; they located at Canton, Ohio, where they lived twenty-three years and then located in Benton county, Iowa. Mr. Grunewald and his wife became parents of six children, namely: William J., a graduate of the law school at Valparaiso, Indiana, now living at Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Charles E., also a graduate of the Valparaiso Law School, but he did not practice this profession and took up the profession of an architect, for which he had greater ability; Henry, died in infancy; Henry J., is living at home and conducting the home farm; Emma M., a graduate of Coe College of Cedar Rapids, and attended the Chicago University; and George E., attending Harvard University. Mrs. Grunewald did not have an opportunity for obtaining higher education for herself, and desired that her children should have every opportunity for education and improvement they desired, thus fitting themselves better for life's responsibilities. They have profited well by the generosity of their parents.

JOHN STRUVE, a prominent stockfarmer of Cedar township, Benton county, was born May 9, 1865, in Rock Island county, Illinois, and came to Benton county with his family, July 1, 1867. He is a son of Henry and Maria (Schroder) Struve. Henry Struve was born in Holstein, Germany, November 21, 1819, and was reared in his native country; he fought in the war between Germany and Denmark. He was married in Germany in 1848, and four years later came to the United States, settling first in Davenport, Iowa. He lived a short time in Moline and later removed to Rock Island county, Illinois, and there purchased a farm of eighty acres, upon which he made some improvements. April 25, 1867, he removed to Benton county, Iowa, selling his farm in Illinois. He purchased two hundred acres of raw unimproved prairie land in Cedar township, in a region that was very little settled. Part of his family followed, and he lived there until his death, March 26, 1898. He put up a good house and barn, hauling the lumber across the prairie from Waterloo, and until the house was erected the family lived in a wagon. He worked industriously to make improvements, and had four hundred and twenty acres at his death. He left the farm to his family. He took an active interest in public affairs, and became a useful, patriotic citizen. He came to the United States with very little capital, and at his death was possessed of a comfortable fortune, due to his own energetic labor. His wife, also reared in Germany, died in Benton county, March 2, 1892. Their children are: Carl, of Cedar township; Emma, wife of Theodore Holst, of Fulda, Minnesota; Mathilda, wife of Hans Miller, of Bruce township, Benton county; Annie, wife of John Kruse, of Bruce township; Caroline, wife of Robert Hill, of Cedar township; John; Theodore, deceased; and George also deceased. Three other children, older than these, died young, namely: Margaret, Lina and Jane.

John Struve has spent most of his life on the place he now occupies, and received his education in the district school. He now owns three hundred and twenty acres of land in sections 20 and 21, of Cedar township, and makes a specialty of high grade Poll-Angus stock and Poland China hogs. He is a hustling, wide-awake farmer, and has added substantial buildings to the other improvements on his farm. He has a fine house, with all modern comforts, and takes great pride in his home. Before settling down on the farm Mr. Struve spent some time in traveling. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Mount Auburn.

On March 7, 1894, Mr. Struve married Amelia Kahler, daughter of James Kahler, whose sketch appears on another page of this

work, and their children are: Frank, born January 16, 1895; Ella, born November 27, 1897; James, October 4, 1900; Harold, July 2, 1902; Raymond, January 26, 1907, and Helen born April 7, 1910.

THOMAS B. McCANDLESS, a successful farmer, stock raiser and breeder of Big Grove township, Benton county, is a native of this county, born August 14, 1857. He is a son of Thomas and Eliza McCandless, the latter of whom, now over eighty years old is a resident of Belle Plaine. Thomas McCandless, the father, was born in Londonderry, Ireland, in 1828, and died at Belle Plaine, Iowa, July 15, 1902. He was reared in his native country, and there received a good education; he was all his life a deep student and great reader in the line of history and the best literature. When twenty-two years of age, he came to America, and remained six years in Philadelphia, where he worked as a clerk in a store for an uncle, and in 1857 was married there, after which he emigrated to Iowa. He had a very small capital with which to begin, but worked at various things and later rented land several years; he finally purchased the farm now owned by his son, S. A. McCandless, in Iowa township, Benton county. Here he remained until his death. He was a staunch Republican, and served in various local offices; he was an officer in the Presbyterian church. He became a successful farmer and was able to give his children a good education. Thomas McCandless and his wife, who was born in the same part of Ireland as he, and was also reared in the Presbyterian faith, had three sons and two daughters, all living, and all except one born in Benton county. They are: T. B., born in the village of Irving, near the Benton-Tama county line; S. A., operating the home farm; J. R., a farmer of Linn county, south of Cedar Rapids; Sabina R. J., wife of L. Smith, of Keystone, Iowa; and Mary, of Belle Plaine, unmarried..

Thomas B. McCandless was reared on his father's farm in Benton county, remaining at home until thirty years of age; he attended the common school and also took a course at Tilford Academy. Mr. McCandless married, June 22, 1887, Minnie M. Greenlee, born in Benton county, March 2, 1866, daughter of Allen and Melissa (Kiler) Greenlee, early residents of the county. Allen Greenlee was born July 12, 1832, and died on his farm near Belle Plaine, Iowa, in July, 1901; his wife, who now lives at Belle Plaine, was born March 27, 1841. After their marriage, Thomas B. McCandless and his wife remained on the home farm one year, then for a year he worked by the month, after which he entered S. E. Keith's farm near Vinton, which he operated one year; he then purchased two hundred acres of the land he now owns, having





MR. AND MRS. THOMAS B. MCCANDLESS



small capital with which to buy machinery and equipment. He paid thirty-five dollars an acre for the land, which is now very valuable. He finished clearing the land and afterward purchased eighty acres of irrigated land in Colorado. He has made his present success through his own efforts and industry, and is well known and respected in the community. His farm is located in Jackson and Big Grove townships, but his residence is in the latter township; he has thoroughbred swine and cattle, and carries on general farming. He formerly had Poland China hogs and he and his brother, S. A., are the only farmers in the county to handle the Hampshire or Baltic breed. He has short-horn cattle, draft and coach horses, Shetland ponies and Oxford sheep.

Mr. McCandless and his wife have four children, all born on the home farm and all living at home, namely: David Wylie, born August 6, 1895; Leland D., January 18, 1898; Mary M., April 16, 1905; and Esther May, born October 14, 1907.

Mr. McCandless has made practically all the improvements on his farm, and has made a fine lawn and set out a fine grove of evergreens and other trees; he has named the place "Evergreen Hill Farm," and it is one of the handsome places of the county. Politically he is a Republican, and he has served several terms as township trustee. He is a member of the Highland Nobles, a fraternal insurance organization, and he and his wife belong to the Presbyterian church of Vinton.

The parents of Mrs. McCandless were from Ohio and Michigan, and were married January 3, 1860, at Belle Plaine, Iowa. Both were early residents of the county, where Mr. Greenlee for some time followed his trade of carpenter; he helped in the construction of the elevator and many other buildings of Belle Plaine. They had eight children, namely: Florence Ella, wife of J. A. Miles, of Cuba, where he is engaged in real estate and agricultural pursuits; William F., a carpenter of Wichita, Kansas; Mrs. T. B. McCandless; Elfie Ada, wife of George Stewart, of Blainstown, Benton county; Margaret J., wife of I. W. Van Nice, a farmer of Big Grove township; Carrie M., wife of Warren Crow, of Sheridan, Wyoming; Dora E., wife of Fred Hawley, a farmer living near Belle Plaine; and Homer D., of Sheridan, Wyoming, an electrician.

SAMUEL M. EDMOND, whose home in Vinton is at the corner of Ellis and Benton streets, is a veteran of the Civil war and a former successful farmer who has lived in retirement for a number of years in this town. He was born in New York city, February 3, 1836. His parents were John and Isabell (Nesbit) Edmond.

One of his mother's brothers was a quartermaster in the Mexican war.

John Edmond was born in county Tyrone, Ireland, and with three of his brothers emigrated to America when eighteen years old. In New York city he opened a large grocery store, and was successful until the panic of 1837. Meeting with heavy losses, John Edmond then moved to Pittsburg, and for three years was a salesman for McCauley Brothers. Having previously purchased a farm of two hundred acres near Titusville, on account of his wife's health he moved to this farm and cleared off the heavy timber and was engaged in cultivating the place about seven years. From injuries received in an accident he died in 1848.

At the time of this unfortunate event in the family Samuel M. Edmond was twelve years old, and the oldest of the six children that were thus left dependent on their mother. She retained her health and managed to support her children, and continued to live on her farm for seven years, when she married Benjamin Harrison. She died in 1874. All the children but one are living.

Mr. Edmond remained on the homestead farm with his mother and improved the estate and finally bought out the other heirs. In the meantime, in 1862, he enlisted at Titusville, in Company D, Eighteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, and saw long and arduous service in the Army of the Potomac. He served under the cavalry leader Kilpatrick during the Gettysburg campaign, and was behind Sheridan and Custer during the campaign up the Shenandoah valley. In the latter the regiment to which he belonged had been called up and were assisting in holding the center when General Sheridan made his famous return, and later this regiment charged and turned a Confederate regiment and was the first to take up the pursuit of the retreating Confederates. It assisted in the recapture of several Federal cannons and also took some forty Confederate guns. The following winter the regiment spent near Harper's Ferry, and then returned and scouted up and down the Shenandoah valley. Mr. Edmond was in the service until June 15, 1865. On January 3, 1864, he was captured between Bristow and Catlett's station on the Orange & Alexandria Railroad by six of Mosby's guerillas, and after being robbed was taken before Colonel Mosby, talked with that leader, and was then sent to the provost marshal of General Stuart's cavalry camp near Orange court house, Virginia. He was sent on to Richmond and before being confined in Libby he was searched and again robbed. He was turned into a pen called "Scott's prison" in the city of Richmond, and a day or two later was sent to Belle Island in the James river above Richmond, where he remained until the latter

part of February, 1864. Becoming ill and being sent to the hospital was the only thing that prevented his being transferred to Andersonville. Finally on May 2, 1864, he was paroled and was with the four hundred prisoners who reached Annapolis, almost dead from starvation, scurvy and other hardships of the rebel prisons. In an engagement with Jeb Stuart's cavalry at Hanover, Pennsylvania, Mr. Edmond was struck by a bullet which passed through the carbine and sabre belts where they crossed and broke his breast bone and finally lodged in a Testament which he carried in his pocket.

After discharge from the army Mr. Edmond returned to the farm in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, but it was a year before he was able to resume active work, and he had poor health for a number of years after that. It was on account of his health that he finally moved out to Benton county in 1876, buying a farm in Jackson township. He was engaged in farming until about twenty years ago, when he moved to Vinton and has since lived practically retired from active labor. He still owns a farm of one hundred and thirty-two acres in Jackson township. He and his wife have spent three winters in California.

Mr. Edmond married, in 1861, before going to war, Miss Rebecca St. Clair, of Crawford county. She died on the farm in Benton county, August 30, 1879, leaving three children: One son, William B., had died in Pennsylvania, February 12, 1873, aged six years and five months; Essabella died in 1886, in her sixteenth year; John A., who was born October 14, 1862, in Pennsylvania, lives at Vinton and is engaged in the U. S. mail service; Albert H., who was born in Benton county, November 28, 1877, conducts a shop for galvanized steel work at Long Beach. Both the sons are married and each has two children. On January 12, 1882, Mr. Edmond married for his second wife Miss Eliza B. Curry, a resident of Venango county, Pennsylvania, near Titusville, being a native of that state and of an old family.

In Pennsylvania Mr. Edmond served two terms of five years each as justice of the peace, being commissioned by Governors Gear and Hartranft. His fellow Republicans elected him to a similar office in this county, but he did not qualify. He is a member and has served as commander and in other offices of P. M. Coder Post, No. 98, G. A. R. Mrs. Edmond has served as president, secretary and treasurer of the Vinton Women's Relief Corps. They are both members of the Presbyterian church of Vinton.

WILLIAM BAUMGARDNER, is one of the substantial and honored retired farmers of Benton county, three times mayor of Van Horne and one of its standbys in the best sense of the word. He is a German by birth, born in Hanover, June 8, 1857, a son of William and Annie (Meyer) Baumgardner, both natives of that kingdom. They were the parents of two children—Jessie, now Mrs. Joseph Fix, residing in Nebraska, and William, of this sketch. In 1866, when the latter was but nine years of age, they located with their children in Jackson county, Iowa, where they purchased a farm. After some years this was sold and a homestead purchased on section 22, Eden township, Benton county. The property consisted of forty acres of raw land, which was well improved before a final move was made to Eldorado township, where the mother died in 1895, at the age of seventy-six years, and the father in December, 1902, when eighty-four.

Mr. Baumgardner, of this sketch, was reared on the home farms of Eden and Eldorado townships; received an average district school education; conducted the family place both before and after his marriage; and at his father's death in 1902 purchased the farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Eldorado township, rented it and retired to Van Horne. He had been not only a successful general farmer but a heavy stock raiser. Since becoming a resident of that place he has become active and prominent in all its important affairs. As stated, he has served for three terms as mayor; is a leading stockholder in the Van Horne Savings Bank; active in the fraternal work of Odd Fellows' Lodge No. 157, and, with his wife and older children, is closely identified with the German Lutheran church. On November 10, 1892, Mr. Baumgardner married Miss Margaret Wittern, who was born in Germany March 18, 1863, and came to the United States in 1891. Mr. and Mrs. Baumgardner are the parents of six children: John, who is farming in Eldorado township; Marie, Anna, Margaret, William, Jr., and Harry, who are living at home.

JAMES D. SHUCK, a successful farmer living in section 4, Leroy Township, was born in Center county, Pennsylvania, December 10, 1850, a son of John and Sabina (Climber) Shuck, both natives of Pennsylvania. Mr. Shuck died in 1886, aged seventy-two years, and his wife died in 1903, aged eighty-four. They were parents of eleven children, of whom five survive, namely: Sarah, widow of Randall Becket, of South Dakota; Caroline, widow of Andrew Wise, of Cedar county, Iowa; M. L., of Clarence, Iowa; James D., and John S., of Clarence, Iowa.

John Shuck was a farmer and came to Cedar county, Iowa, in 1862. Here he and his wife died.

James D. Shuck was reared on a farm, received a common school education and attended high school at Clarence, Iowa. In 1872 he engaged in the jewelry business in Blairstown, Iowa, and six years later sold his interests and rented his father-in-law's place, which he now owns. He and his wife own one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land, and they keep the place in fine condition. They have been very successful in their farming, and are well liked in the community. Politically Mr. Shuck is a Republican, and he takes an active interest in public affairs. He is now school director and has been president of the board; he has also served as justice of the peace and road superintendent. He and his wife are members of the Blairstown Presbyterian church.

Mr. Shuck married October 26, 1875, Carrie Sterling, born near Rockford, Illinois, September 11, 1855, daughter of James S. and Julietta (Pennock) Sterling. Mr. Sterling was born in Livingston county, New York, May 2, 1822, and died in May, 1909. His wife was also born in the state of New York, October 19, 1827, and died September 7, 1884. They had three children, of whom two survive, Mrs. Shuck and Frank P. of Washington. Mr. Sterling had a roving disposition, and at the age of sixteen years went away on a whaling expedition, being away four years. He went to Michigan when a mere boy and wandered around a few years, and in 1849 went from Illinois to California, where he remained a year and a half; he returned to Illinois and lived there on a farm until 1856, then came to Benton county, Iowa, locating in section 4, Leroy township, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land. In 1866 he sold out and started to Colorado with a threshing outfit, but returned to Benton county that fall, and on December 25th of that year rented his farm in Leroy township one year and during that time he purchased the one hundred and sixty acres that he and his wife now own. He was a hardy pioneer and made the trip first to Iowa with a wagon. He was at Pikes Peak at the time of the gold excitement. He went to Nebraska on a visit, when seventy-five years old, and when ready to return bought a bronco pony and rode it on the return journey. He was very active all his life, and well known, and he readily made friends and was a good neighbor. He was a Republican in his political affiliations. Mr. Shuck and his wife have three children, namely: Minnie, wife of George W. Goss, of Blairstown, Iowa; Hattie, wife of Lawrence W. Traer, of Vinton; and Grant S., of South Dakota.

GEORGE L. PALMER, partially retired, although still living on his farm in Big Grove township, was born in Ontario, Wayne county, New York, on the shore of Lake Ontario, November 12, 1832. He is a son of Rensselaer and Mary (Miller) Palmer, the former born at Granville, New York. Rensselaer Palmer came with his parents to Walworth, Wayne county, New York, when that section was a forest. His parents lived and died there, and Rensselaer also married in Wayne county, where he lived until his death in 1881, at the age of seventy-eight years. He served in various local offices and was a successful farmer. Mrs. Palmer was born in Russia, Herkimer county New York, and in her youth she removed with her parents to Wayne county, New York; she was married there, and they located in Ontario township. Mrs. Palmer died in 1890, at the age of eighty-four years. Rensselaer Palmer and his wife reared nine children, namely: Mary, who married Edward Pomeroy, resided in New York and died at Kansas City, November 9, 1899; George L.; Permelia, who married George Davis, and died February 21, 1892, at Valley Center, Kansas; Jonathan, a soldier in the Ninety-seventh New York Infantry, Company D, and was killed at the battle of the Wilderness, leaving a widow; Lorenzo, who died July 8, 1907, at Lakeside, New York; Oliver H., who died July 21, 1891, at Lakeside, New York; Oscar, of Union Hill, New York, served in the Eighth New York Cavalry, Company B; Addie died March 26, 1865, at the age of eighteen years, the first death among the children; and Frank, residing at Orange, California, is married and has a family. Oscar is a veteran of the Civil war, having served in the New York Cavalry, and was badly wounded at the evacuation of Richmond.

George L. Palmer was reared in the state of New York and received a liberal education. He taught school in New York and two terms in Benton county, Iowa. However, his life work has been farming, in which he has been very successful. He owns three hundred and sixty acres in sections 10, 11, 14 and 15, Big Grove township. He came to Benton county in the spring of 1855, and in the fall of that year brought his wife and began keeping house. He located first in sections 14 and 15, and first built a cabin home, a semi-dugout, with four feet under the ground, three logs high on the back and boarded in the front, with a shed roof, ten by fourteen feet. It was one of the first homes on the prairie, and was boarded up inside and floored. He and his wife had very meager fittings and furniture, and began life in true pioneer style. They had a little money and he made most of their first furniture. He bought out a claim holder, and





*George L. Palmer*



secured a quarter-section of prairie and a timber lot, to which he added as he was able. Their first market was Iowa City, although Cedar Rapids was quite a trading point. Grain and produce were floated down the river from Vinton to Cedar Rapids. Later in 1865, he sold out his land in Iowa and returned to New York state for a visit, just after the Civil war. He started again for the west, spent some time in Michigan, and then went to Kansas, where he spent one summer. He then decided to return to Benton county, Iowa, and purchased his present home. He has made many improvements, and has substantial buildings and modern conveniences. He is well known in the community, where he has a good standing among his fellow-citizens.

Politically Mr. Palmer has always been a Republican; he was the first supervisor elected from Big Grove township, and served one term.

Mr. Palmer married, January 7, 1855, in Wayne county, New York, Mary M. Smith, who was born in that county September 10, 1833; she died at the home farm in Benton county, Iowa, January 26, 1885. She was a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Herendean) Smith, old settlers at Walworth, where they died. She was of Quaker descent. During the winter of 1856-7 Mrs. Palmer taught a subscription school near their home, which was the second term of school taught in Big Grove township; there had then been no public fund for schools. She taught in the same district during the winter of 1858-9. Mr. Palmer and his wife became the parents of five children, of whom three survive, namely: Byron S., Willis W. and Jessie. Rensellaer, who was born in Benton county, was accidentally killed in Michigan when nearly eight years old. Byron S., who was born in Benton county, resides in the state of New York, although he has business interests in Chicago; he married Jennie Carman, and they have two children, George T. and Irene. Willis W. was born in Benton county and runs the home farm; he married Emma Huston, and they have one son living—Gerald, besides one son, Paul R., who died in infancy. W. W. Palmer owns a half-interest in the home farm in Big Grove township, where he makes his home. Jessie married Charles Sebern, for years a merchant of Vinton and now agent for a concert company; they reside in Vinton, and have three daughters, Mary Gail, Charlene and Jean Evelyn.

JAMES W. BUNTON, an enterprising farmer, owning eighty acres of land in Harrison township, Benton county, was born in Indiana, November 19, 1853, and came to Benton county with

his parents, in 1865. He is a son of Samuel G. and Penelope (Burk) Bunten. Samuel Bunten was born in Kentucky, February 4, 1817, and died September 2, 1894; his wife was born March 9, 1820, and died November 2, 1885.

He was reared in Kentucky, and removed to Indiana, where he carried on a farm, and later settled in Benton county, Iowa. He went west in 1851, entered three hundred and twenty acres of land and returned to Indiana, and in 1865 removed with his family to the farm, on which he made all improvements possible. They lived on the farm until his death. His wife was also born in Kentucky, and before her marriage removed to Greensburg, Indiana. They had children as follows: Henry Clay, who enlisted in the Twenty-second Indiana Infantry, and died in the army; Elizabeth, wife of J. G. Warriner, of Polk township, Benton county; Mary Jane, wife of David Harper, of Kansas; Amazette, deceased wife of David Tague; Sarah, widow of Giles Hunt, of Mount Auburn; Amanda, wife of William Pemberton, of Vinton; James W.; Hugh Archie, deceased; John, of Mount Auburn; and O. P. M. Mr. Bunten was a Republican, held township offices, and was a member of the Christian church.

James W. Bunten was twelve years of age when the family removed to Benton county, and remained on the home farm until twenty-two years of age. He then went to live on the farm he now occupies and though the ground was broken, he has made most of the improvements now on the place. He has good buildings, and everything is kept in good order. He feeds a good many hogs and Short-horn cattle, and breeds Norman horses. In politics Mr. Bunten is a Republican, and takes an active interest in local affairs. He is an industrious and well-to-do farmer, and stands well with his fellows. He is a member of the Christian church and of the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Bunten has held several township offices, which he has filled satisfactorily to all.

When he attained his majority Mr. Bunten married Eliza, daughter of James H. and Hettie (Redington) Pemberton, of Benton county, who had come from Indiana at an early date. James H. Pemberton died in service in the Civil war. Mr. Bunten and his wife have three children, namely: Edith, wife of D. A. Salee,, of Harrison township; J. Harrison, living at home; and Lula, also living at home.

CAPTAIN E. H. COLCORD, who has been a resident of Vinton since May, 1866, has identified himself prominently with the city and for a number of years was a merchant and in later

years has attended to a large business in real estate and fire insurance, and also connected with pension claims. He represents the Norwich Union Fire Society.

He was born at Salem, Massachusetts, January 6, 1836, belonging to an old New England family of English descent which has resided in America since the seventeenth century. His parents, Edward H. and Sarah H. (Parsons) Colcord, were both born in Massachusetts. In 1843 the father brought his family out to Wisconsin, locating in the wilderness at the site of Southport, sixteen miles from Kenosha. In the fall of 1847 his wife returned to New Hampshire, and in the following spring the father and son also returned. For two years they lived at the old home at Salem, and then resided in Concord, New Hampshire, from 1850 until the spring of 1854. At the latter date Edward H. Colcord located in Geneseo, Illinois, where he and his wife died, his wife during the Civil war and the former a number of years later. The father was a veterinary surgeon and practiced his profession in connection with farming. Captain Colcord has a brother and sister living: Joseph is a county official at Huron, South Dakota, where for many years he was in the grocery business, and is a widower; Miss Esther A. P., who for a number of years was a dressmaker in Chicago, makes her home with her brother in Vinton.

Captain Colcord for a time attended a private school in Wisconsin, and afterwards was in school in New Hampshire. He learned the blacksmith trade at Concord and Exeter, New Hampshire, and remained in that state for several years after his father's family moved to Geneseo, Illinois. When he finally came to Illinois in 1857 he took up clerking, and later engaged by himself in the grocery business. Not long after the war broke out he sold his business and enlisted at Geneseo in August, 1862, in Company K, One hundred and twelfth Illinois Infantry. He was elected second lieutenant of his company, in January, 1863, was commissioned first lieutenant, and the following April became captain of the same company. During the greater part of his service he was in the Twenty-third Corps of the Army of the Ohio. He began his service with the battles at Knoxville and Richmond, Kentucky, then was through east Tennessee and in the Atlanta campaign, returned with General Thomas in pursuit of Hood and was in the battles of Franklin and Nashville. After that he was sent to Washington and from there to Fort Fisher, Wilmington, Roseborough and Raleigh, and after almost three years of service was mustered out in July, 1865, at Chicago. At Eutaw Creek he was severely wounded in the abdomen and re-

ceived other wounds, and still carries one bullet which the physicians feared to remove.

Captain Colcord remained in Chicago until the spring of 1866, being in poor health, and then became a permanent resident of Vinton. He was engaged in the dry-goods business until 1878, and since then has dealt in real estate and insurance and has attended to a number of pension clients.

The P. M. Coder Post No. 98, G. A. R., at Vinton, was organized by Captain Colcord, and he served as its adjutant for the first three years, was then commander for one year, and again as adjutant about seven years. In politics he has always been a Republican. He was elected and served two terms as a member of the Vinton city council, and has manifested public-spirited citizenship throughout his residence in this county.

Captain Colcord married, in Wayne county, Illinois, in January, 1868, Miss Ruth A. Perrine. Her sister was the wife of Mr. S. H. Watson, for many years a banker of Vinton, beginning before the war, who erected the building now occupied by the People's Savings Bank; also Watson's Opera House, a fine residence and other buildings. Mrs. Colcord, who was born in Ohio, met her husband while visiting in her brother-in-law's home at Vinton. She is a member of the Woman's Relief Corps.

DR. STEPHEN M. COOK.—The practice of more than forty years enjoyed by Dr. Stephen M. Cook at Belle Plaine, Benton county, has firmly fixed him in the class of honored and beloved veterans of the western profession. He still has a lively recollection of the times when it was nothing unusual to be aroused in the middle of the night by a breathless messenger on horseback who required his services for a sick one fifteen or twenty miles away. In those days storms of rain and sleet, blizzards of snow, roads stifled in dust or hip deep with mud—all such drawbacks were ignored, or patiently accepted as necessary phases of a country practice in a new country. Dr. Cook has lived through it all—"enjoyed" it, as a whole—and has long been gathering his harvest of comforts, wide respect and deep affection from the host he has soothed or succored.

The Doctor is a native of Ohio, born in Mansfield, June 14, 1835, a son of Jesse and Eleanor (Cochran) Cook, both also natives of that state. He is the oldest of three sons, Luther being now a resident of Wichita, Kansas, and James of Red Oak, Iowa. The father who for some years was a cabinet maker at Mansfield, in 1845 loaded his family and household goods into a wagon and drove through to Mount Pleasant, Henry county, Iowa. There

the family resided for a time, and later he purchased the farm in Henry county on which he died. On April 19, 1855, Dr. Cook married Miss Margaret J. Mitts, who became the mother of twelve children, the following six of whom are living: Eleanor N., wife of H. B. Gaskell, manager of the "Allison Hotel," Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Marquis, a resident of Alsaka; Margaret J., who married William Pedball, of Belle Plaine; Florence, wife of Frank Retzer, of St. Joe, Missouri; Luther, who is at home; and Jessie, now Mrs. Ernest B. Lathan, of Brooklyn, New York.

The Doctor commenced his primary education in his native town of Mansfield and completed it in Henry and Marshall counties, Iowa. He was then apprenticed to the plasterers' and bricklayers' trade, which he followed for three years, when he was obliged to abandon the work on account of a severe attack of rheumatism. It was at this period of his life that he commenced the study of medicine. In 1863 the young man of twenty-six enlisted in the Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry, was detailed as a hospital steward, and after six months of service in that capacity was discharged on account of ill health. He then took two courses of medical lectures at the Keokuk (Iowa) Hospital, and celebrated July 4, 1864, by visiting Belle Plaine for the first time. At that time the North-Western Railway was building through the place, which contained only a couple of residences and presented rather a forlorn outlook for a young physician about to commence practice. Dr. Cook soon passed on to Costa, six miles east, where he resided until 1872, when he located in Belle Plaine which has since been his home. In 1877 he returned to Keokuk and completed the course at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, which earned him his diploma. He then returned to Belle Plaine, which had been his residence since 1872. He has become widely known as a conscientious and skillful practitioner, and has kept abreast of the advancing times by careful reading and post-graduate work. He has served as health officer of Belle Plaine for fourteen years; has long been a member of Hope Lodge, A. F. and A. M., and his popularity has gone hand in hand with the universal respect of the community.

JOHN D. MOELLER.—A well-known, enterprising and progressive farmer of Leroy township, John D. Moeller is an able assistant in rendering this section of Benton county one of the finest agricultural regions of the Central West. A son of Henry D. Moeller, he was born, December 2, 1861, in Clayton county, Iowa, of substantial German ancestry. His grandfather Moeller emigrated with his family from Germany to the United States

in 1845, hoping that in this land of liberty and plenty that he might acquire a competency. He located near New Bremen, Ohio, and had scarcely got well started in his new life when he was stricken with cholera and died.

The birth of Henry D. Moeller occurred in the Fatherland July 29, 1839, and at the age of six years he was brought to this country. He remained in Ohio until 1853, when he came with an uncle to Clayton county, Iowa, where he completed his early education, and from the age of thirteen years until seventeen years served an apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade. Coming from there to Benton county in 1864, he spent a year in Kane township, after which he sold out and removed to Blainstown, where he followed his trade for a time, at the same time running a furniture store. In 1879 he bought a farm in Leroy township, and was here employed in tilling the soil until 1899. Removing then to Blainstown, he clerked a few years for Tangeman & Book, but is now living retired from active pursuits. He married first Catherine Buch, who was born March 17, 1844, and died in 1874. Six children were born of that union, two of whom are living, as follows: John D., the subject of this brief sketch; and Louisa, wife of Lemuel Case, of Tama county, Iowa. He married for his second wife Martha Mohrmann, who was born April 7, 1844, and to them five children have been born, of whom the following named are living: Mary, wife of Payson Snow, of Kane township; Minnie, wife of Charles Bruch, of Leroy township; Christopher, a resident of California; and Laura, wife of Ira Kimm of Watkins, Iowa.

A lad of six years when his parents moved to Blainstown, John D. Moeller was there educated, attending first the public schools and afterwards the old Blainstown Academy. Starting life for himself in 1883, he went to Omaha, Nebraska, where he was employed in a wholesale hardware house for a year. Returning then to the parental roof tree, he worked on the farm with his father for eleven years, and then resumed his old position in Omaha, remaining with his former employers two years. Coming back once more to Leroy township, Mr. Moeller married and began farming for himself on his father's farm. He has succeeded well in his operations, and now owns one hundred acres of choice land, and in addition to managing his own estate successfully has the supervision of one hundred and eighty acres of his father's farm.

Mr. Moeller has been twice married. He married first, April 5, 1899, Belle Carter, who was born September 29, 1878, and died March 19, 1900. Mr. Moeller married for his second wife, Jan-



uary 8, 1901, Mabel Hevener, who was born in Leroy township February 26, 1878, and they have one child, Bruce Moeller, who was born August 19, 1906. In politics Mr. Moeller is a steadfast Republican, uniformly casting his vote in support of the principles of that party. He was for two years township trustee, and for the past eight years has been secretary of the school board. Fraternally he is a member of Lincoln Lodge, No. 199, A. F. and A. M., of Blainstown.

ARCHIBALD ST. CLAIR, who conducts an elevator at Mount Auburn, was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, October 2, 1848, and came to Benton county in 1857, at the age of nine years. He is a son of Hugh and Margaret (Mack) St. Clair, the former born in the same place in Pennsylvania, June 5, 1808. Hugh St. Clair was reared in his native state, and was there married, October 1, 1829. He came to Iowa in 1856, and one year later located in Benton county. He was a farmer in Pennsylvania, and bought eighty acres of land in Benton county, which he improved, and here he lived until his death, November 19, 1877. His wife, a daughter of Robert and Margaret (Campbell) Mack, was born in Pennsylvania, January 26, 1811, and was there reared and married. She survived her husband fourteen years, and her death occurred June 12, 1891. Her father was a successful farmer in Pennsylvania, and owned two or three hundred acres of land. Hugh St. Clair and his wife were blessed with children as follows: Hugh, born April 12, 1840, who owns a farm in Cedar township; John M., living in Mount Auburn; Archibald; Rebecca, widow of L. M. Wallace, of Vinton; Robert, who died August 27, 1897, in Nebraska, his family living now in the west; Margaret, who died October 14, 1875, the wife of J. R. Wallace, of Vinton, Iowa; George, born in June, 1853, and died in Benton county, in September, 1868; Robert, who died in infancy, in November, 1833; and Samuel, born February 20, 1839, and died April 24, 1839.

Archibald St. Clair received his education in the public schools, and remained on his father's farm until he attained his majority, at which time he married. He then purchased eighty acres of land and lived one year at home before he removed to his farm. He soon had this under cultivation and purchased another forty acres; he sold the forty acres and purchased eighty acres adjoining his first eighty. He invested in land in Minnesota in 1907, moved to his second eighty acres and lived there until 1882. In 1882 Mr. St. Clair moved to Mount Auburn and embarked in the lumber and grain business in company with his brother Hugh, under the name of St. Clair Brothers, and kept

up this business until about four years ago, when he abandoned the lumber trade and now deals in grain only. For four or five years he and his brother were also engaged in mercantile business under the firm name of St. Clair & St. Clair. Mr. St. Clair still owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in sections 21 and 28 in Cedar township. He has been very successful in handling his elevator, and is considered one of the leading business men of Mount Auburn. He has paid close attention to his financial interests, and has made his business yield a good profit. In politics Mr. St. Clair is a Republican, and he has served in township offices. He is a member of the United Presbyterian church.

Mr. St. Clair married Isabella E., daughter of Robert Wallace, and their children are: Louise A., wife of S. R. Edmond, of Fort Dodge, Iowa; Margaret R., wife of C. H. Rawson, of Coleman, South Dakota; Robert H., living at home; William J., of Colorado; Harry A., of Vinton; and Iola Faye, at home.

RICHARD KIRK, deceased, was for nearly thirty years a respected citizen and prominent business man of Vinton, Iowa. He was born near Belfast, Ireland, in 1846, and there grew to manhood. Coming to this country in 1871, he settled in Chicago, where from 1871 to 1877 he was engaged in the wholesale linen business as buyer for one of the large firms of that city.

Believing it would be to his advantage to identify himself with a town still farther west, he came to Iowa and embarked in business under the firm name of Jervis & Kirk. That was in 1877, and Mr. Jervis came to Vinton with him from Chicago. They were associated together in the dry goods business until 1884 or '85, when the partnership was dissolved, after which each continued separately. Mr. Kirk was in active business up to the time of his death, December 6, 1903, and was succeeded by his son. In July, 1904, the business was incorporated as the Kirk Dry Goods Company, with officers as follows: Richard Kirk, Jr., president; Mrs. Richard Kirk, Sr., vice president, and Harry Kirk, secretary, and the store has since been conducted along the lines established by the senior Mr. Kirk.

In Chicago the subject of our sketch married Miss Josephine Reneud, a native of Montreal, Canada, who was reared in Chicago from her twelfth year. To them were born three children, two sons and a daughter, all of Vinton, namely: Richard, Jr., Harry and Mrs. A. H. Ellis. Harry also was for some time connected with the dry goods business above referred to, but now conducts a garage.

Politically Mr. Kirk was a Republican, at times independent

in local affairs but always a conscientious voter. He never sought nor accepted public office, his own private business wholly occupying his time. Fraternally he was a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America, and his religious faith was that of the Presbyterian church. His family also are Presbyterians.

HENRY POHLMANN, a prominent farmer living in section 17, Eldorado township, was born in Scott county, Iowa, June 4, 1857, a son of Carl and Charlotta Pohlman, both natives of Germany. Carl Pohlmann was born August 22, 1822, and died February 3, 1903; his wife was born February 22, 1823, and now resides at Van Horne, Iowa. They were the parents of four children, all surviving, namely: Henry; Etta, wife of Frank Yakish, of Van Horne, Iowa; Fred, of O'Brien county, Iowa; and Minnie, widow of William Stoll, of Des Moines, Iowa. Mr. Pohlmann was a stonemason, and came to the United States in 1853; he landed at New Orleans, and as he had heard very promising stories of the work offered in Texas he located in that state, remaining two years. He spent a year in St. Louis, spent a short time in Davenport, and then settled in Buffalo, Scott county, Iowa, where he engaged in the butcher business, which he continued until 1873. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 17, Eldorado township, Benton county, and later added another eighty acres. In 1891 Mr. Pohlmann retired to live in Van Horne, where he died.

Henry Pohlmann was reared in Buffalo, Iowa, and there received a common school education. He came with his parents to Benton county when sixteen years of age, and he remained at home, working on the farm. Upon his marriage he was given one hundred and twenty acres of land by his father, and on this has made all improvements, having erected a fine modern house, with all possible conveniences. Mr. Pohlmann makes a specialty of stock raising, in which branch of farming he is very successful. He is a public-spirited, enterprising citizen, and takes an active interest in public affairs. He has served as a school director. In politics he is a Democrat, and he belongs to the German Lutheran church.

On March 26, 1885, Mr. Pohlmann married Minnie Johnke, born in Germany June 4, 1861, and they have six children, all living at home, namely: Alma, Cora, William, Lilly, Edna and Gertrude.

FRED TIEDEMANN.—An extensive and well-to-do agriculturist of Benton county, Fred Tiedemann is prosperously engaged in his



COURT HOUSE OF 1856.

vote in favor of the best men and measures, regardless of party prejudices. Religiously he and his family are members of the German Lutheran church at Luzerne.

ORR A. WALLACE, a prominent farmer, owner of one hundred and seventy acres of land in Cedar township, Benton county, was born in La Porte, Iowa, November 24, 1858, and moved to the country with his parents at the age of two years. He is a son of James and Eliza Aulls (Wheeler) Wallace. James Wallace was born in Steuben county, New York, in 1819, reared in his native state, and there married, September 9, 1839; in 1844 he removed to Indiana, where he owned a farm of one hundred and twenty acres for some years, which he had cleared. After twelve years in Indiana he removed to the city of LaPorte, Iowa, and in 1859, after living in Black Hawk county two years, he located in Benton county. Here he purchased eighty acres of wild prairie land. In 1861 he moved on to the farm and remained there until 1872, when he bought the place now occupied by his son Orr. Here he remained until his death, March 20, 1876. He acquired unusual success for the pioneer days of the region. At first his nearest market was Dubuque or Iowa City. His wife, born in Steuben county, New York, in 1820, was reared and married in her native state. She was a daughter of Seth and Polly Wheeler, who had come from Maine in an early day. Mr. Wallace and his wife had children as follows: Bruce, who lives in Cedar township; Margaret Letitia, deceased; Antoinette, wife of A. B. Forester, of Vinton, deceased; Cleora, wife of Nathan Rogers, (deceased), who lives on the home farm with her brother; Jay, who lives in Linn county, Iowa; Adeline, deceased, wife of William Clark, of Waterloo, Iowa; Alice Adele, deceased wife of J. F. Butler (deceased), of Beatrice, Nebraska; Orr A.; and Dora Effie, wife of George R. Winegar, living near Brandon, Iowa.

Orr A. Wallace always lived at home, and at the death of his father continued to carry on the place. He is unmarried, and his sister, Mrs. Rogers, lives with him. He has spent a large part of his life on the present farm, although for six years he was engaged in traveling, traversing the country from end to end. After receiving a common school education he attended Telford College two years and later took a general business course at the normal school at Valparaiso, Indiana. He taught school one year and worked a few years for a Chicago firm. He is a hustling and energetic farmer, and has met with great success, making a specialty of thoroughbred Duroc Jersey hogs and high-grade cattle. He takes considerable interest in local politics, and has held the

office of township trustee and school officer. He is an adherent of the Democratic party, and fraternally is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of LaPorte.

JAMES MADISON HILL, who died at his home in Vinton, May 1, 1907, was one of the men whose industry transformed the virgin landscape of Benton county into one great productive farm. He also was a citizen who gave character and stability to the community in which he lived. He had been a resident of the county since 1865, and for the last fifteen years of his life had made his home in Vinton, where his widow now lives.

He was born in LaPorte county, Indiana, December 5, 1841. In 1844 his parents moved to a farm near the town of Lena, in Stephenson county, Illinois, which was their home until they came to Vinton in 1866. The father was John W. Hill, who was born in Schenectady, New York, in 1804, being the oldest of a family of twelve children, all of whom attained ripe age, and he died at his son's homestead in Eden township, in November, 1886. The mother was Lorena (Reynolds) Hill, who died in Stephenson county about 1860.

James M. Hill was reared in Stephenson county, Illinois, attended public school there, and later took a course in Bryant & Stratton's Business College in Chicago. For the latter part of his education he worked and saved the necessary money, and in this and his subsequent career he was largely a self-made man. He taught school for a time in Illinois, and in 1865 came to Benton county. He purchased two hundred and forty acres of raw and unimproved land in the center of Eden township, and with an industry which stamped him as a real pioneer began preparing the land for regular agriculture and improved it with farm buildings, which in time made it one of the best country homesteads in the township. He bought and sold several tracts of land, at one time owning three hundred and twenty acres in all. As part of his farming he engaged in the raising of high-grade stock. In politics he was a stanch Republican and one of the public-spirited citizens of his community.

Mrs. James M. Hill was before her marriage Miss Mary A. Goodell. She was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, in 1842, and they were married at Rockton, Illinois, October 19, 1863. Her parents were Arad and Nancy (Gamble) Goodell. The former was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, April 26, 1813, moved to Carroll county, Illinois, about 1855, thence to Linn county, Iowa, near Fairfax, where he died in 1873. Nancy Goodell was born in Xenia, Ohio, December 25, 1812, and died



*J. M. Hill*

fenders against the laws. The first recorded action of the county authorities relative to the erection of a jail was on the 15th of October, 1861, but the recommendation of James Rice, made in the following January, to provide a similar structure to the one he had visited at Independence, was laid on the table.



BENTON COUNTY JAIL.

Thereafter, for many years, the subject was in the state of innocuous desuetude described by Cleveland in relation to certain national affairs. But in 1878, with the apprehension of Fred Al-  
lers, a farmer of Kane township, for the murder of his uncle, Carl, four year previous, and the recurrence of various crimes in the vicinity of old Benton City and Shellsburg, the subject of a substantial county jail was revived. The so called "Egypt" of Benton county, the timbered region near those points which had



May 18, 1896, at the age of eighty-three years and five months, having spent the last few years of her life in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hill. The Goodell family was of English stock on the paternal and of Scotch-Irish on the maternal side. Mrs. Hill had two brothers and three sisters: C. M. Goodell is a resident of Eden township and Rufus S., of St. Joseph, Michigan. The sisters are, Mrs. Addie Weston, of Florence township, Benton county, Mrs. Lois V. Sebern, of Boise City, Idaho, and Mrs. Frances Heath, who died in Florence township in the fall of 1905.

Mr. and Mrs. Hill had three children: Clyde S., Frank M. and Della May. Frank M. was born in Eden township, April 2, 1868, and died at the age of four years. Della May, who was born in Eden township, April 27, 1874, is the wife of Dr. Robert Park, of Fort Morgan, Colorado, and they have two daughters, Vera Annabel, born April 12, 1904, and Genevieve Hill, born September 19, 1909.

Clyde S. Hill was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, September 9, 1864. He married, in Linn county, February 15, 1888, Miss Bertha Terry. She was born in Norwalk, Ohio, February 20, 1867, and her parents, John M. and Mary E. (Howe) Terry, came to Linn county, Iowa, in October, 1868, owning land in that county and in Benton county, and are now residents of Cedar Rapids. Mr. C. S. Hill and wife have one son, Jay Terry, born December 30, 1889, and now in business at Cedar Rapids; and one daughter, Jessie Lucile, born February 20, 1894, and now a student in the Vinton high school. Mr. Hill affiliates with the Knights of Pythias, and the family are Presbyterians.

JAMES Y. GILCHRIST, a retired farmer, for the past twenty years a resident of Vinton, Iowa, came to Benton county in 1856 and settled in Taylor township. He made the journey here by team from south of Indianapolis, Indiana, and crossed the Mississippi river at Davenport. His wife came by rail to Iowa City, and thence by stage to Vinton. On this over-land journey he was accompanied by his brother, William Gilchrist, now a resident of Vinton, and eighty-one years of age. Together they bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, which they subsequently divided, and to his portion James Y. added another eighty and a forty-acre tract, making a farm of two hundred acres in Taylor township, about three miles from Vinton, which he improved and where he lived and carried on general farming and stock raising until he removed to Vinton. He has since sold his farm to his son, James Albert.

Mr. Gilchrist was born August 25, 1830, in southern Indiana,



BENTON COUNTY HOME NEAR VINTON.

Like his father, Mr. A. J. Gilchrist, is a Democrat. He has for years taken an active interest in local politics, and was at one time the candidate of his party for the office of sheriff of Benton county. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Knights of Pythias, and Mrs. Gilchrist is a Pythian Sister and a member of the Royal Neighbors. They attend the Presbyterian church, of which his mother is a member.

HENRY L. GROTE, an enterprising farmer of section 7, Eldorado township, Benton county, is a native of the county, born in Union township on December 14, 1873. He is a son of Henry A. and Rebecca (Fry) Grote, the father a native of Germany and the mother of Pennsylvania. The father died in 1898, aged sixty-seven years, and the mother now resides in Van Horne, having reached the age of sixty-four. They were the parents of ten children, of whom six are living, namely: Sarah, wife of Charles Lutz, of Perry, Iowa; Henry L.; Clara, living at Sheldon; John, of Marion, Iowa; Hattie, unmarried and living at Sheldon; and Emma, living with her mother. Henry A. Grote came to the United States about 1858 and located at Davenport, Iowa, from where he enlisted to serve in the Civil war; he served until the close of the struggle, and was once wounded. He returned to Davenport and worked in Scott county until 1872, when he came to Benton county and located in Union township. He rented a farm for three years and in 1875 purchased three hundred and twenty acres in section 18, Eldorado township, which he improved and put into fine condition. He continued to carry on this farm until 1893, and then retired to live in Van Horne, Iowa, where he died.

Henry L. Grote spent his boyhood on a farm and received a common school education; in 1893 he began working by the month on a farm, and after his marriage in 1896 he rented his father's farm, which he carried on until 1904, when he purchased his present farm of one hundred and thirty-eight acres. He is an ambitious and industrious farmer, and carries on his work in an intelligent and business-like manner. He has met with much success, and is well liked in the community, being a good neighbor and trustworthy friend. He is a member of the Evangelical church of Van Horne, and in politics is a Republican.

On February 26, 1896, Mr. Grote married Emma, daughter of Henry Werner, born in Will county, Illinois, March 31, 1875. Mr. Grote and his wife have four children, all at home, namely: Carrie, Ralph, Ethel and Lucille.

HENRY WEHRMAN.—Having by persevering industry, enterprise and thrift acquired a fair share of this world's goods, Henry Wehrman, for many years identified with the agricultural prosperity of Benton county, is now living retired from active pursuits in Luzerne, where he is held in high esteem as a man and a citizen. A son of the late Hans Wehrman, he was born, November 23, 1833, in Hanover, Germany, where the days of his youth and early manhood were spent.

Born in Germany in 1805, Hans Wehrman was brought up to habits of industry and economy. He married soon after attaining his majority, and remained in the Fatherland until 1851, when he decided to emigrate to the United States, a land full of promise to the poor and needy man. He embarked with his family on a sailing vessel, and after an ocean voyage of nine weeks and three days landed in New York city. From there he proceeded to Chicago, Illinois, going by way of the Erie canal and the Great Lakes, and being four weeks on the way. Locating in Kendall county, he rented land near Yorkville, and was there employed in general farming for nearly four years. In March, 1855, he migrated to the frontier, making the first part of the trip in the box car in which he had loaded his household goods. When near Peoria, Illinois, the car jumped the track, rolled down an embankment, and in the wreck his wife was so severely injured that she died soon after. From Rock Island, Illinois, he came with his family overland, being obliged to camp out the first and last nights of the journey, but securing shelter the other nights. Arriving in Benton county, Hans Wehrman entered one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 14, Iowa township, erected a log house, putting it together with wooden pins, and was there employed in agricultural pursuits the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1865. To him and his wife, whose maiden name was Emeline Kaster, twelve children were born, five of whom survive namely: Henry, the special subject of this brief sketch; Sophia, wife of William Kollermann, of Yorkville, Illinois; Mrs. Luiza Mohl, of Clay Center, Kansas; Mrs. Susanna Grummer, of Luzerne, Iowa; and August, of Iowa township.

Brought up on a farm in his native country, Henry Wehrman was there educated. Coming with his parents to the United States in 1851, he remained at home until his marriage, ably assisting his father in his pioneer labors of establishing a home both in Illinois and in Iowa. In 1859 he entered one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government in section 14, Iowa township, and there, with the counsel and assistance of his young wife, set to work in earnest to build up a home. He was never satis-

fied with less than the highest possible results in his agricultural labors, and the three hundred and twenty acres of land that he now owns in that township are all under a good state of cultivation and finely improved, his estate comparing favorably with any in the neighborhood. In 1890 Mr. Wehrman retired from active labor, and has since been numbered among the valued and esteemed citizens of Luzerne.

Mr. Wehrman has been twice married. He married first, September 9, 1858, Sarah Elder, who was born, March 4, 1834, in Ohio. She died in 1865, leaving three children, namely: Matilda, wife of Fred Reike, of Iowa township; John W., of Minnesota; and Emma J., wife of Christian Reike, of Minnesota. Mr. Wehrman married for his second wife, February 9, 1866, Caroline Budde, who was born in Germany, March 4, 1834, and to them four children have been born, as follows: Elizabeth, wife of Hugo Pischke, of South Bend, Indiana; W. A., of Luzerne; Solomon, of Clark county, South Dakota; and Anna, wife of W. C. Fearer, of Dubuque, Iowa. Politically Mr. Wehrman is a sound Democrat, and has been active in local affairs, having served most acceptably as constable, school director, township trustee, and was elected a justice of the peace but never served. Religiously he and his good wife are consistent members of the German Lutheran church, and have reared their children in the same faith.

C. O. HARRINGTON, cashier of the Farmers' National Bank of Vinton, Iowa, came to this place in 1870, and with the exception of a few brief intervals has lived here ever since. Mr. Harrington is a native of the "Empire State." He was born at Norwich, Chenango county, New York, October 14, 1843, son of Fordus and Angeline (Chapman) Harrington, and when quite small was taken by his parents to Piqua, Ohio, where his mother subsequently died. Afterward the family went over into Indiana, and at Camden, that state, his father, who was by trade a tinner, engaged in the hardware and grocery business. In 1859 they moved to Iowa county, Iowa, and settled on a farm, where the father continued his residence during the rest of his life. He died at Vinton while there on a visit.

At the time the Harringtons came to Iowa the subject of this sketch was a youth of seventeen; they made the journey by wagon and he drove one of the teams. Before they were fairly well established in their new home the Civil war was inaugurated and young Harrington, not yet out of his teens, was among the first to enlist in the Union cause. In October, 1861, he joined Company E, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, and went to the front. He had

four years of army life, during which time he was a participant in numerous engagements, fortunately, however, never receiving a serious injury. On August 25, 1865, he was mustered out of the service and returned home. In the fall of that year he entered the State University of Iowa, where in 1870 he graduated with the degree of Ph. B. Soon after his graduation he accepted a position as instructor in the Institution for the Blind at Vinton, and was a teacher there for two years. This experience was merely a stepping stone to his life work, banking, in which he has since been engaged. However, his connection with the College for the Blind did not end when he ceased to be a teacher in it. For sixteen years he was one of its trustees. In addition to his work in the Farmers' National Bank he is secretary of the Southern Real Estate, Loan & Investment Company of Vinton, doing business in Louisiana.

On August 24, 1876, Mr. Harrington married Miss Anna L. Hughes, daughter of Daniel L. and Elmira Hughes. She died, leaving one son, Clinton O. Jr., a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and now a resident of Boston. Mr. Harrington's present wife was formerly Miss Ella C. Morrow, of Tyrone, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Harrington reached his majority while a soldier in the Union army, and his first presidential vote helped in the second election of Abraham Lincoln. He was one of the charter members of P. M. Coder Post, No. 98, G. A. R., of which he is a past commander, having filled all the offices of the post. Both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church.

SAMUEL E. KEITH is one of the earliest pioneers and oldest business men of Vinton and Benton county, his investments and interests having spread into several states of the middle west. As he is now in 1910, in his eighty-third year, his natural activities are on the wane, although he still keeps his widely extended interests well in hand and his mind is strong and clear. With his cultured and beloved wife, he resides in a comfortable home in Vinton, in which city he owns other real estate, as well as farming property in the county. He is also interested in the Iowa Canning Company and other local enterprises; is president of the First National Bank of Colman, South Dakota, and at the head of a land company at Crook, Colorado; and is connected with the Creamery Supply Company of Chicago, as well as a property owner in that city. It is noteworthy in this connection that all his property has one feature in common; it is free of incumbrance. With all his success and prominence in business and



SAMUEL E. KEITH





with all his public spirit, his best friends say that he "will hold an office only long enough to get rid of it."

Mr. Keith was born in Huntington county, Pennsylvania, on March 28, 1828, and is a son of Jacob and Mary (McPheran) Keith. His father, who was born in 1775, died in 1848, and was interested in various mining and iron industries of the state. An able business man, he was still a Scotch gentleman of the old school, and was a worthy descendant of Lord George Keith, the polished and cultured founder of Aberdeen College. The American ancestors of the Keith family were five brothers who emigrated from Scotland and at an early day were instrumental in founding the characteristic industries of Pennsylvania. Samuel Keith, of this sketch, had resided in his native state for twenty-seven years when he entered the period of his western life. On April 15, 1856, while his face was still turned in that direction, he stopped at Iowa City, which was then the terminus of Iowa's first railroad. There he met Harvey Gay, John A. McDaniel, William Loree and Silas Osgood, who, like himself, were bound for the little village of Vinton. They were all young men seeking their places in the untried west, and the subsequent progress of Benton county was much indebted to their various abilities; but of this sturdy, ambitious band only Mr. Keith is now living.

The first three years of Mr. Keith's residence in Vinton were passed as a store clerk, when, having become posted as to the general conditions of western trade and the special features of local business, he founded a general mercantile establishment as well as a furniture store, and became one of the leading men of the locality. He also entered three quarter sections of land in Benton county, and it was only at quite a recent date that he disposed of his farm near Vinton. The large and varied enterprises in which he has become interested outside of Benton county and Iowa have already been mentioned.

On October 1, 1857, Mr. Keith married Miss Adelia Beck, daughter of Dr. O. E. Beck of Vinton. She died November 21, 1866, the mother of three daughters, as follows: Missouri, who died in infancy, and Cora and Mollie, who reached womanhood and married. Cora became the wife of Thomas Pierce on August 31, 1882, and died February 19, 1885, leaving a daughter, who now resides at Long Beach, California, wife of James Heartwell, a leading banker of that place. Mollie married George W. Farmer, October 12, 1892, and resides in Chicago, where her husband is engaged in the erection and sale of apartment buildings. On February 24, 1869, Mr. Keith married as his second wife, Miss Emma Whitlock, formerly of New York, but then residing in

Vinton. The two sons born to them were: Karl, who is a jeweler and a prominent Mason of Eagle Grove, Iowa, and Victor W. Keith, who is engaged in the newspaper business at Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mrs. Emma Keith died April 14, 1879, and in February, 1883, Mr. Keith married Miss Mina J. Briggs, of Albany, New York, the ceremony occurring in Vinton, at the home of the bride's sister, now Mrs. A. Briggs, of New York city. Two children have been born to this third union, as follows: Leo B. Keith, May 22, 1885, who is cashier of the First National Bank of Colman, South Dakota, and married Mary Shreeves of Blirstown, April 16, 1908; and Genevieve Keith, born April 13, 1889, who was married October 20, 1909, to Dr. G. E. Funston, of Waterloo. Both parents and daughter are active members of the Presbyterian church, and Mr. Keith has long been identified with Masonry, the brotherhood of that order and the fraternity inculcated by the religion of Christ being the brightest guiding stars of his life. Mr. Keith is the only survivor of nine children, the last one, a sister dying in 1909, aged ninety-one years.

JOHN W. HITE, an able auctioneer of real estate and live stock, and senior member of the firm of J. W. Hite & Son, has for the past thirty-five years been a resident of Benton township. He was born in Blair county, Pennsylvania, March 3, 1846, and is a son of David and Margaret (Stephens) Hite, who came to Benton county with a family of eleven children, one child being born later. Of these twelve children all are living save one, and the youngest is sixty years of age. The child that died was a son, Nicholas Hite, a veteran of the Civil war, who passed away August 25, 1908, at his home in Idaho. David Hite, who was born in 1800, died January 1, 1868; his widow died in 1894, in her eighty-seventh year. They reached Benton county May 4, 1850, at which time there were but three houses at the present site of Vinton, then called Fremont. David Hite settled seven miles southeast of Vinton, two and one-half miles south of the Cedar, on the prairie, on the farm now owned by William Fry and family, in section 6, Canton township. He became a successful general and stock farmer, coming here from the hills of Pennsylvania, with practically no capital. He and his wife were earnest members of the United Brethren church, and many services of the society were held at their log house.

David was a staunch Republican, but never held political office. He was born in Pennsylvania, but his father, a native of Germany, served through the American Revolution; his mother was a native of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. David Hite and

his wife had children as follows: Samuel, for many years past an invalid, living at Lake Park, Iowa; Henry, of Dysart, Tama county, Iowa; Mary, who married George Sanders, and lives in Greenfield, Iowa; Jacob, of Vinton; Nicholas, mentioned above, a soldier in Company D; Twenty-eighth Iowa Volunteers, now deceased; David, a wealthy farmer and stockman of central Nebraska; Rachel, who married John T. Danner, and lives at Vinton; Margaret, who married Benjamin Sanders, and lives in Warren county, Iowa; John W.; Catherine, who married Stephen Yerkes, and lives in Taylor township, Benton county; Ellen, who married Joseph Butterfield, of Vinton; and Jane, who married L. W. Latham, a merchant of Vinton.

John W. Hite was reared in Benton county and educated in the public schools, since which he has spent his life on a farm. For the last thirty years he has followed the calling of auctioneer, and during the fall and winter of 1906-7 he and his son, L. S. Hite, cried one hundred and sixty-three sales, between September 1 and April 1. Their business is not confined to Benton county, but they conduct sales in Tama, Buchanan, Linn, Black Hawk and Greene counties, in Iowa. In July, 1909, Mr. Hite sold his farm in Benton township, and is now a resident of Vinton. Since selling the farm Mr. Hite and his son have purchased eight hundred acres in Kittson county, Minnesota. They also own one hundred and sixty acres in Cass county, Minnesota. A stock company of which Mr. Hite and his son are members recently purchased six thousand six hundred acres in Marshall county, Minnesota, and they also own a farm of seven hundred and ninety-one and one-third acres of irrigated land in Colorado and an interest in a nine hundred acre ranch and they own town lots in Thermopolis, Wyoming, and Crook, Colorado. Politically Mr. Hite is a Republican and he has held the offices of township clerk, assessor, trustee, justice of the peace, and others, although not at present holding any office. During 1895 and '96 he was superintendent of the Benton county poor farm. He belongs to the Modern Brotherhood and Modern Woodmen of America, of Vinton, and to Benton City Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of Shellsburg No. 83. He is considered a representative and public-spirited citizen, and has attained the friendship and respect of a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. He is a man of considerable ability along the line of his chosen work, and is fairly well known throughout this section of the state.

On December 24, 1868, Mr. Hite married Eliza Donels, who came to Benton county at the age of ten years, with her parents, William and Jane (Mefferd) Donels, who settled in what is now

a part of Cedar Rapids; they were farmers, and later moved to Benton, where they spent the closing years of their lives. Mr. Hite and his wife have one son, Loren S., who married Mary Pickering, whose parents reside at Vinton, retired; they were early residents of the county, where she was reared. Loren Hite and his wife have three children—Helen, aged seven; Fay, aged six; and Charles nearly five years of age (in 1909).

HAYS H. McELROY became postmaster of Vinton, February 8, 1909, by appointment from President Roosevelt. He has been an active business man and resident of Vinton for nearly half a century, having located here in May, 1861, and with the exception of the time spent in the army has lived here ever since.

He was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, April 13, 1841. His father, James McElroy, was a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, for many years was manager and book-keeper at an iron works in that state, and died in 1888, at the age of eighty-four. The mother was Rebecca (Keith) McElroy, a native of Huntingdon county, where she died September 17, 1909, at the age of ninety-one. They had eleven children in all, and three sons and three daughters are living, Hays H. being the only one in Benton county.

Mr. McElroy spent the first twenty years of his life in Pennsylvania, and received a common school education there. On coming to Vinton to begin his active business career, he was first a clerk in Paul Correll's dry-goods store from May to September, 1861. He then enlisted in Company G, of the Thirteenth Iowa Infantry, and after twenty months' service was discharged on account of illness and disability. He was in the battle of Shiloh, and also in the fighting with guerillas at Henderson, Kentucky. On returning from the war he became a clerk in the drug store of W. B. Van Horn, and then for eighteen or twenty years was identified with the hardware business of George Horridge, after which he was a clerk for a while in F. D. Tonney's hardware business. With George Gale and S. F. Parzybok he then bought the latter business, and the firm continued that way five years, when it became McElroy & Lorenz, and later McElroy & Zollinger. Two years later the business was consolidated with the Iowa Hardware Company. Mr. McElroy was in the furniture business for a time until accepting the place of postmaster.

Mr. McElroy is a staunch Republican. For two terms he served in the city council of Vinton. He is a member of P. M. Coder Post No. 98, G. A. R., and formerly was affiliated with other orders. He and his wife are members of the Methodist church.

He married, after returning from the war, Miss Sarah M. Redfield. Her parents came from Cazenovia, New York, to Benton county about 1856, and her father, Stephen D. Redfield, who was a shoemaker by trade, died in Vinton in 1881, at the age of eighty-seven. He had served as first lieutenant of Company A, Thirty-seventh Iowa Infantry, this being the noted "Graybeard" regiment. Mrs. McElroy was a student in Cazenovia Seminary, and taught a term of school after coming to Benton county. Mr. and Mrs. McElroy have two children, Winnifred and George Dexter, the latter being mentioned below. Winnifred is the wife of D. C. Main, a banker of Wayne, Nebraska. They have three children, Hays M., Helen Marie and Winnifred Louise.

GEORGE DEXTER McELROY, son of Hays H. McElroy, has been identified with the Farmers National Bank of Vinton since May 1, 1889, being assistant cashier of that institution. He was born in Vinton, July 1, 1868, and has lived here all his life except for one year when he was foreman in the printing office of the *Independent* at Hastings, Nebraska. He received his education in the Vinton schools and also in a business college at Hastings. The trade of printer he acquired in the office of the *Vinton Eagle*, where he spent three years before going to Hastings, and later was with the *Vinton Observer* until he entered the employ of the bank.

Mr. McElroy is one of the active citizens of Vinton. He has been a member of the city council since 1904, and has served several years on the school board. Fraternally he is affiliated with the various bodies of Masonry at Vinton, and is also a member of the Knights of Pythias at Vinton and the B. P. O. Elks at Waterloo. His wife belongs to the Rathbone Sisters, and their church connections are Methodist.

His wife before her marriage was Miss Sara McFarland, of Omaha, Nebraska. Both of their children were born at Vinton, their names being Kathryn Winnifred and Mary Josephine.

JOHN M. BLUE, a prosperous farmer of section 19, Eldorado township, Benton county, was born in Holland, July 2, 1834, a son of Levi and Catherine (Ball) Blue. Levi Blue died in 1887, aged eighty-two years, and his wife died in 1859, at the age of fifty-nine. They were parents of seven children, of whom three are living, namely: Martin, of Cleveland, Ohio; Jan, also of Cleveland; and John M. The family came to the United States in 1857, leaving Holland the 22nd of May, and they landed in New York, July 4; they located in Cleveland, where Mr. Blue and his wife remained until their deaths.

John M. Blue was reared on a farm in his native country, and received a common school education. He was twenty-three years of age when he came to America with his parents, and began working on a farm in a German settlement in Wayne county, Ohio. Having a desire to learn the language of his native country, he attended first a German and later an English Sunday school. During the first three or four years of his stay in this country he worked on a farm for ten dollars a month, out of which he was able to save money to begin farming for himself after his marriage. At first he rented from his father-in-law until 1866, and then came to Benton county, Iowa, where he bought eighty acres in Union township, improved; he purchased the crop that was on the land for sixteen hundred dollars. Mr. Blue remained on this farm until 1874, when he sold out and bought his present farm of two hundred and eighty acres. He made many improvements, and brought the land to the best possible condition. In 1890 he rented his farm and retired, removing to Van Horne, but two years later he returned to his farm, with the intention of remaining there the rest of his life. He has served twelve years as justice of the peace and six years as township clerk. He is a member of the Evangelical Association church in Van Horne, and in politics is a Republican. Mr. Blue is an intelligent farmer, and is a well-read man, keeping himself well informed on all current topics. He is well known and respected in the community.

On February 23, 1860, Mr. Blue married Esther Bentz, born in Wayne county, Ohio, November 16, 1837, and she died May 4, 1889. They became the parents of ten children, of whom six are living, namely: John F., of Van Horne, Iowa; W. C., of Cherokee county, Iowa; Austin A., on the home farm; Irvin E., of South Dakota; Laverna L., wife of Charles Young, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and Elsie M., wife of Earl M. Bardo, of Vinton, Iowa.

HENRY A. RADEKE.—A man of sound judgment, possessing excellent executive and financial ability, Henry A. Radeke, of Iowa township, holds a position of note among the well-to-do agriculturists and substantial citizens of this part of Benton county. He was born in Iowa City, Iowa, June 18, 1856, a son of Ferdinand and Wilhelmina (Schmidt) Radeke, pioneer settlers of Iowa.

Born near Berlin, Germany, in 1807, Ferdinand Radeke spent his early life in the Fatherland, living there until 1854, when he came with his family to this country, crossing the ocean in a sailing vessel, and being fourteen weeks on the water. He subsequently followed his trade of a harness maker in Iowa City for four years, and then, in 1858, bought two hundred and forty acres

of land in York township, Tama county. Dealing with a dishonest real estate agent, he subsequently had to give up the land, thus losing all of the money he had invested. He afterwards bought sixty-five acres of the same land, and was there engaged in general farming until 1866, enduring with fortitude all of the trials and discomforts of pioneer life. Locating in Iowa township, Benton county, in 1866, he bought eighty acres of land, and subsequently purchased an eighty-acre tract adjoining his first purchase. He met with unquestioned success as a farmer, both in Iowa township and in Leroy township, where he afterwards bought a farm, which he managed for awhile. Having by earnest and judicious toil and wise investments acquired a competency, he took up his residence in Luzerne, and there lived retired from active pursuits until his death, in 1888.

By his first marriage Ferdinand Radeke had three children, of whom Frank, a resident of Louisiana, is the only survivor. He married for his second wife Louisa T. Schmidt, a life-long resident of Germany, who was born April 10, 1813, and died in 1848. She bore him one child, who died in early life. He married for his third wife, in 1854, Wilhelmina Schmidt, who was born in the Fatherland, November 20, 1824, and died near Luzerne, Iowa, March 11, 1904. Of this union four children were born, namely: Henry A., the special subject of this brief sketch; William A., of Iowa township; O. L., of Leroy township; and Gustave, a resident of Oklahoma.

Brought up on the home farm, Henry A. Radeke attended the common schools, obtaining a good knowledge of English, and while at home he was taught the German language. In 1881 he began life for himself as an agriculturist, his father presenting him with eighty acres of his present farm, on section 24, Iowa township. He has subsequently bought eighty acres of adjoining land, having in his home farm one hundred and sixty acres of choice land, on which he has put all of the improvements. In the management of his agricultural interests Mr. Radeke shows marked ability, his land being in a good state of cultivation, while he has plenty of machinery of the most approved kinds to successfully carry on his work. He has also made other investments of profit, owning two hundred and forty acres of valuable land in Red Lake county, Minnesota, and being a stockholder in two of the leading financial institutions of Benton county, the First National Bank of Belle Plaine and of the Luzerne Savings Bank, of which he was one of the organizers, and is now the vice president. Mr. Radeke is also president of the Iowa Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of Benton county, Iowa, which was organized by

the farmers in 1872, and at the present time is serving as township assessor.

On October 6, 1881, Mr. Radeke married Catherine Dietrich, who was born in Wilton, Muscatine county, Iowa, September 19, 1862, a daughter of Martin Dietrich. A native of Germany, Martin Dietrich emigrated with his family to America in 1857, landing at New Orleans after an ocean voyage of nine weeks and three days. Sailing up the Mississippi river to Muscatine, he there disembarked, and having located near Wilton worked for the railroad company, and was there employed until his death, in 1863, when but thirty-three years of age. He married, in Germany, Annie E. Wiesbrod, who was born June 13, 1831, and is now living in Iowa township, with Mr. and Mrs. Radeke. She has three children, namely: Martin C. Dietrich, of Rock county, Minnesota; Andrew Dietrich, of Union township; and Mrs. Radeke. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Radeke has been brightened by the birth of eight children, namely: Anna M.; Ida, deceased; Edward, assistant cashier of the bank at Bryant, South Dakota; George; Alma; Warren, deceased; Hilda, deceased; and Esther. Politically Mr. Radeke is identified with the Republican party, and religiously he and his wife are members of the German Lutheran church.

JOHN SCHILD.—The late John Schild, who was one of the honored residents of Benton county, was a native of Germany. He was born October 1, 1835, in Detmold, Lippe, and in 1845, when he was ten years of age, he was brought by his parents to America. They settled near Freeport, Illinois, where they remained seven years, at the end of which time a desire for a home further west brought them to Iowa. They made the journey across the country with ox teams, Benton county their objective point, and here on section 5, Iowa township, John Schild, Sr., the father of the subject of this sketch, entered one hundred and sixty acres of land. On this place, which he assisted his father in improving and cultivation, John Schild, Jr. grew to manhood. He received eighty acres of land from his father and in time owned five hundred and twenty acres which he developed into a fine farm and on which he erected a modern home and other substantial buildings. In the early days he was one of a party of men who erected the first log house on the present site of Belle Plaine. At that time Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, and Muscatine were the nearest market points.

Here in this pioneer settlement he met and married Miss Dorothy Body, who was a native of the town in which he was born,





MR. AND MRS. JOHN SCHILD



the date of her birth being September 15, 1835. To John Schild and his wife were given ten children, eight of whom are now living. In the rearing of their large family, they experienced many of the privations incident to life in a newly settled district. These various difficulties, however, they bravely met and surmounted, and in time well earned success was theirs. Here Mr. Schild died January 18, 1909, and in his death the community sustained the loss of a worthy and honored citizen. He was a member of the Evangelical church, and, politically, was an Independent. His widow is still living on the home farm, which her son, Henry J., conducts. Henry J. Schild was born February 28, 1863, on the farm where he now lives. He has one hundred and twenty acres in his own name, which he has farmed for fifteen years, and for a number of years has also had charge of the home place, his modern methods and successful handling of the farm being evidenced by its general appearance of thrift. Politically, Mr. Schild is a Republican.

JONATHAN L. URMY is one of the largest land owners of Monroe township, and he has been distinctively the architect of his own fortunes. He today ranks among the leading farmers of Benton county, and his creditable life work has won him the respect and commendation of all who are familiar with his history. He started out in life without capital save his willing hands and perseverance, and he now owns a splendid farm of two hundred and forty acres in Monroe township, another farm of one hundred and forty-six acres in section 22 of the same township, one hundred and sixty acres in section 24 and eighty acres in Cedar township, the result of patient effort, unflagging industry and self reliance.

He was born in Washington county, Indiana, November 8, 1839, a son of Jacob and Mary (Phillips) Urmey, who moved to Jackson county, Indiana, during the infancy of their son Jonathan, and spent several years there. Driving overland to Linn county, Iowa, they spent the winter of 1851-2 in that county, and in the following spring located in Monroe township, Benton county, at the present home of their son in section 14. Five of their children accompanied them to their new home here, the remaining four joining them later, and the grandmother also accompanied them on the journey and she lived to almost the age of ninety-nine years. The father continued as a Benton county farmer until his death in 1862, when sixty-four years of age. Both he and his wife were members of the Christian church. One of their sons, Willis, is now living at Dysart, a retired farmer, and another son, John, is living in Missouri. The remaining members of this once large family are deceased.

Jonathan L. Urmey has spent the greater part of his life in Benton county, although as a young man he traveled considerably. His school privileges in his early life were extremely limited, but in spite of this he has become a well educated and well informed man. He married many years ago Miss Harriet Turner, born in Kane county, Illinois, in 1839, a daughter of C. S. and Matilda Turner, who came to Benton county during the early womanhood of their daughter Harriet. They farmed near Mount Auburn for a time, and later moved from there to Algona, Iowa, where both died years ago. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Urmey: Charles, who owns a farm in Missouri but resides in Vinton; Arthur, a land owner and farmer in Monroe township; Nettie Schlarbaum, who lives near Mount Auburn; Belle, Aggie and Harvey, all at home; and four who died in infancy. The family are members of the Christian church. Mr. Urmey is allied with the Democracy in politics, and he has served for years as a justice of the peace.

SAMUEL F. PARZYBOK, manager of the Iowa Hardware Company of Vinton, Iowa, came to Vinton in 1887 and entered the employ of F. T. Touney, with whom he remained two years. Then he went with the firm of McElroy & Company (including H. H. McElroy and George Gale), and after he had been with them five years he and Mr. Gale bought out Mr. McElroy's interest. Seven years later Mr. Gale sold to C. R. Fagan and the firm became Parzybok & Fagan and continued as such two years. Mr. Gale started the fourth hardware store of the town. Four, however, were too many to make it profitable for the hardware business in Vinton, and the other three, including Messrs. McElroy, Fagan, Zollinger, Allen and Hooligan, decided to consolidate, the result being the Iowa Hardware Company of Vinton, which was incorporated in 1904, and of which Mr. Parzybok has since been manager.

Mr. Parzybok was born in Posen, Germany, May 7, 1867, son of C. and Rosalie (Lubyusky) Parzybok, who emigrated to this country and settled in Iowa in 1881. They first stopped at Chelsea, where they remained a year, and from there came to Van Horne, Benton county, and the subject of this sketch has been a resident of Benton county since his fourteenth year. The senior Mr. Parzybok and wife are Poles by birth. In Germany he was a tile maker, but since coming to Iowa he has been in the employ of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company. In his family were six children at the time they left Germany, and since coming to this country two others were born to them. Two of the

sons identified themselves with railroading, Simon being a conductor on the Illinois Central road, running between Chicago and Champaign, Illinois, and John, was a conductor on the Great Northern and was killed in the great avalanche in Washington in March, 1910. Miss Agnes is a stenographer in the office of the county superintendent at Marion, and three daughters are in Alaska—Stacia, Mary and Addie. Stacia is the wife of Paul Rickard, who is engaged in the greenhouse business; Addie married Horace Leech, a broker of Cordovia, and Miss Mary is in the employ of the telephone company at Fairbanks. One daughter, Josephine, died shortly after her marriage, about two years ago.

S. F. Parzybok received his early education in Germany, attending school there from the time he was seven until he was fourteen, and he went to school a short time after coming to this country. With this as a foundation and by careful reading and close observation he has acquired a good education. At sixteen he began learning the tinner's trade. Later he took up the plumbing business, and with these trades as stepping stones he has worked his way up to the management of a prosperous, up-to-date business.

With his wife and two children he resides in the beautiful home at the corner of Beckett and Ellis streets which he built and where they were married. Mrs. Parzybok was formerly Miss Anna Isgren. She was born in Sweden and when six years old came with her parents to this country and settled at Moline, Illinois. Their children are Frances Maurine, born April 13, 1904; Grace May, February 14, 1907; and Horace I. and Helen S. (twins), born December 21, 1909. Politically Mr. Parzybok is a Republican, fraternally, a Knight of Pythias, and both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church.

E. H. MORROW, the pioneer merchant of Newhall, was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, June 1, 1860, and is a son of William and Mary Ann (Burns) Morrow, both natives of Ireland. William Morrow died in 1872, at the age of sixty-two, and his widow died in 1878, at the age of sixty-one years. They were parents of nine children, four of whom survive, namely: John, of Miller, South Dakota; Anna, wife of Samuel McGrahanan, of Newhall; William, of Omaha, Nebraska, and E. H., of Newhall, Iowa. William Morrow came to the United States in 1844, and first made his home in Belmont county, Ohio, where he was joined by his wife in 1846; they removed to Guernsey county, Ohio, and in 1866 came to Linn county, Iowa, where both he and his wife died. He was a farmer all his life.

E. H. Morrow was reared on a farm and received a common

school education. His father died when he was twelve years old, and his mother when he was eighteen. He began working on a farm, and in the fall of 1881, having reached his majority, he went into the lumber business at Newhall, this being the first business started in the town; the railroad was then being built. He had several different partners, and at one time conducted the lumber, grain, live stock, coal, hardware and implement business of the town. In 1900, after the death of Mr. Morrow's partner, the business was divided, and he retained the lumber and hardware business. He afterwards sold the lumber business, and in 1905 sold his entire business, but in 1907 he repurchased the hardware and implement business, which he now carries on with profit.

For a number of years Mr. Morrow owned and operated the tile factory at Newhall; he still owns it, but for the past two years has rented it. He owns his store buildings, besides a beautiful modern house in Newhall, and also owns two hundred and forty acres of improved land in Madison county, Iowa. Politically Mr. Morrow is a Democrat, and he served as township clerk several years, also in various other offices. He is a progressive and energetic business man and a public-spirited, useful citizen. He is actively interested in public affairs, and has the confidence of his fellow townsmen. He and his family attend the Presbyterian church, and he is a member of Valentine Lodge, Knights of Pythias.

Besides his other business interests Mr. Morrow is vice president of the Newhall Savings Bank, which office he has held since its organization in 1894. He has been very successful in all his business enterprises.

Mr. Morrow married, December 23, 1884, Jennie E. Wilson, who was born in Eden township, Benton county, Iowa, April 2, 1861, and is a daughter of Robert M. and Isabella (Evans) Wilson. Mr. Wilson was born in Hancock county, Ohio, November 9, 1827, and died September 8, 1891. Mrs. Wilson was born in Brown county, Ohio, January 5, 1835, and now lives in Pueblo, Colorado, with a daughter. They were parents of thirteen children, eight of whom are living, namely: Elmer E., of Huron, South Dakota; Mrs. Morrow; James P., of Oklahoma; Margaret, wife of R. M. Baldridge, of Jackson township, Benton county; Frank, of South Dakota; Rose, wife of W. Y. Worrell, of South Dakota; Della, wife of Frank Parkwell, of Eads, Colorado; and Sadie, wife of Frank Downley, of Pueblo. Mr. Wilson was married in Indiana, and in 1857 came to Iowa, driving a wagon; they located in Eden township, Benton county, where they entered one hundred and

sixty acres of land. They improved the land, and cultivated it until 1888, and then removed to South Dakota, where the father died. Mrs. Wilson returned to Benton county, where she lived three years before removing to Pueblo.

Mr. Morrow and his wife have three children, as follows: Merrill, of Cedar Rapids; Hazel E., attending college at Cedar Rapids; and Wilson E., at home.

AUGUST WEHRMAN, actively engaged in the free and independent occupation that of recent years has proved so remunerative, August Wehrman, of Iowa township, materially assists in maintaining the reputation of Benton county as one of the most productive agricultural regions of the state, his well stocked and well managed farm being a credit to his industry and good judgment and an ornament to the community. One of the twelve children born to Hans and Emeline (Kaster) Wehrman, five of whom are now living, he was born in Hanover, Germany, September 28, 1849.

Hans Wehrman was born in Germany in 1805, and died in Iowa township, Benton county, Iowa, in 1865. He emigrated with his family to this country in 1851, and for nearly four years resided near Yorkville, Kendall county, Illinois, being employed in agricultural pursuits. In March, 1855, loading his family and his household goods in a box car, he started for Iowa. When near Peoria, Illinois, the car jumped the track, and his wife received injuries that caused her death. At Rock Island, Illinois, he loaded his goods in wagons and drove the remainder of the distance to Benton county. Taking up one hundred and sixty acres of land in Iowa township, on section 14, he built a log house, and was here engaged in mixed husbandry the remainder of his years. Further parental history may be found on another page of this work, in connection with the sketch of Henry Wehrman, a brother of August Wehrman.

But a year old when he was brought by his parents to the United States, August Wehrman remembered nothing of the ocean voyage or of the subsequent journey across the prairies from Illinois to Iowa. He remained in Iowa township until eight years of age, when he was sent back to Kendall county, Illinois, where he lived a number of years with an uncle, attending school and assisting on the farm. In 1868, ready to begin the battle of life for himself, he rented land in Illinois, and carried on general farming for two years. Returning in 1870 to Iowa township, Mr. Wehrman assumed charge of the parental homestead, and has since been prosperously employed in tilling the soil. He owns two

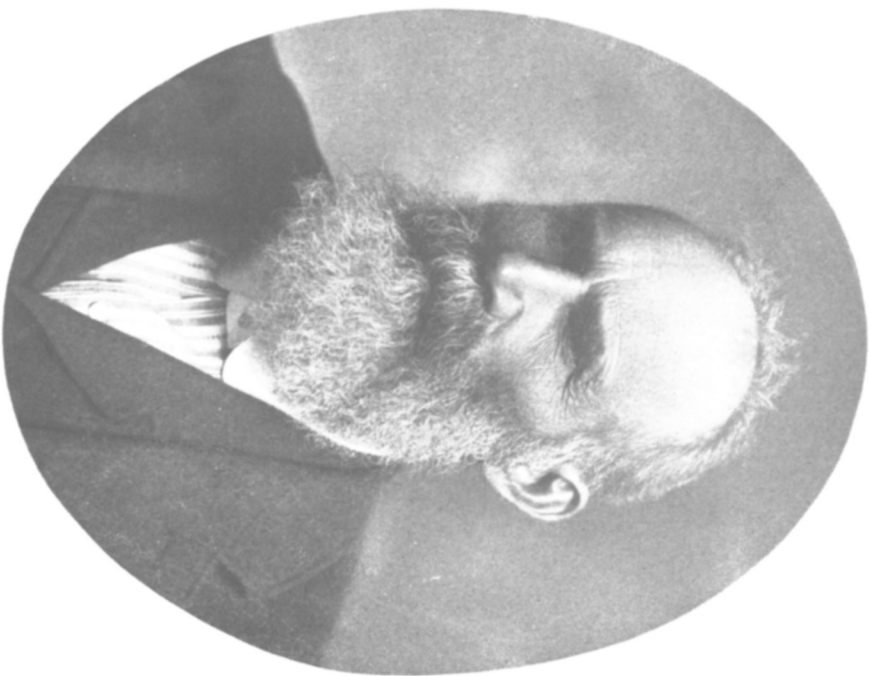
hundred and ninety acres of fine land, on which he has practically made all of the improvements. A skilful and progressive agriculturist, systematic and thorough in his methods, Mr. Wehrman takes advantage of the more modern ways of producing crops, and is meeting with eminent success in his operations. He is a representative man in every respect, well versed in current events, and takes a warm interest in local affairs. He has rendered excellent service as school director; as assessor; as treasurer of Iowa township, a position that he held eight years; and in other offices of minor importance. He is a director of the Luzerne Savings Bank, and since 1877 has been connected with the Iowa Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company, which he has served as vice president and treasurer. He is a staunch Democrat in politics, and a valued member of the German Lutheran church.

Mr. Wehrman married first, January 19, 1869, Caroline Ebrecht, who was born in Germany, and died in 1883, at the age of thirty-five years. She bore him six children, five of whom are living, as follows: Mary, wife of August Steinfert, of Leroy township; August, of Mississippi; Henry J., of Iowa township; Rosa, wife of Henry Janke, of Iowa Township; and Emma, living at home. Mr. Wehrman married for his second wife, September 20, 1885, Charlotte Pettler, who was born, June 26, 1863, in Prussia, Germany, and came to the United States in 1879. Three children have been born of this union, namely: William, Edward and Annie.

JOSEPH ALDEN, who has for several years been retired from active life, has been a resident of Benton county for forty-four years in the fall of 1910. He was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, February 13, 1840, a son of Nathaniel and Hepzibah (Dolbier) Alden. His father, a native of Vermont, was descended from John Alden of Mayflower fame. The family association of Aldens now numbers some thirty thousand. Nathaniel Alden moved to New York in 1828, after his marriage, and settled in St. Lawrence county, where he followed farming chiefly. He later removed to Ohio, about 1844, locating in Holmes county, where he worked some years as a wagon maker. In 1859 he removed to Missouri, and in 1876 he and his wife came to Benton county, Iowa, and spent their declining years with their son Joseph. Nathaniel Alden was born in 1802 and died in 1888; his wife was born in 1806 and died in 1892. They were members of the Methodist church.

Nathaniel Alden and his wife had nine children, seven of whom reached maturity. There were six sons and three daughters





*Joseph Allen and wife*



namely: Milo, deceased; Cyrus, who died in 1850, at the age of nineteen; Samuel, who served in the Civil war from Illinois, and died in Kentucky, in 1908; Sophia, who married Mr. Drushe, also a soldier, who is buried at Vicksburg, and she is also dead; Henry L., who married in Benton county, in September, 1859, served in the Eighth Iowa Infantry during the Civil war, and now living in Shelton, Washington; Joseph; and Willard, who served in the Civil war, and lived in Benton county afterward until his death, about eleven years ago. Two unnamed daughters (twins) died in infancy.

Joseph Alden was nineteen years of age when he came to Missouri with the family; in his youth he learned the trade of a stone mason, but his chief occupation has been farming. He made practically all the improvements on his farm, which he always kept in fine condition. He has always been industrious and energetic, and now owns four hundred and eighty acres, operated by his sons, Joseph and John N. and his son-in-law, I. L. Case. At first he purchased eighty acres, which he cultivated, added more land as he was able; he was possessed of but a few hundred dollars when he came to Benton county in 1866, and has made the most of his fortune since making this his residence.

Politically Mr. Alden is a Republican; most of the time since 1867 he has served as school director, and he has also held the offices of trustee, township clerk and justice of the peace. He holds broad and liberal views in matters of religion, and is charitable and kindly in his disposition towards all sects. He has a large acquaintance, and is universally liked and respected.

Mr. Alden married (first), in Missouri, Eleanor Jones, who died in Benton county in 1868, leaving two children, Eleanor, who died in childhood, and Mrs. Jane Case, of Canton township. He married (second), in Illinois, in 1869, Elizabeth Meek, who was reared in Ohio, and came to Illinois when twenty years old. They have three children, namely: Lucy Ann, who died unmarried, at the age of twenty-five years; and Joseph and John, who carry on the farm.

ALLEN J. BUDD, a large stock buyer and owner of the stockyards at Shellsburg, was born on a farm in Canton township, Benton county, November 4, 1862, the son of Joseph L. and Sarah (Breed) Budd, who came from New York to Benton county, Iowa, in 1856, locating in Canton township, where they purchased land and carried on a nursery business. The father rented out his farm most of the time, devoting his entire attention to horticulture, but the family resided on the farm until 1872 or 1873, at which time

Mr. Budd was given the chair of professor of horticulture at the agricultural college of Ames, where he remained some twenty-two years; ill health made necessary his resignation, and he retired from active life, spending most of his time traveling through the south. He died at Phoenix, Arizona, December 22, 1905, at the age of seventy years. He was born and reared in Monticello, Sullivan county, New York, was largely self-educated, and was an unusually intelligent and gifted man, taking great pleasure in his study and practical application of a knowledge of horticulture. Mrs. Budd was born and reared at Crown Point, New York, on Lake Champlain, and she accompanied her husband on his later trips; she now resides with a daughter, Etta M., at Ames, Iowa. She and her husband joined the Episcopal church at Ames.

Allen J. Budd was reared in Benton county until he was seventeen years of age, and then went with the family to Ames. He spent four years at the college, from which he graduated, and in the spring of 1882 he returned to Shellsburg and engaged in the nursery business with Roderick Royce. Four years later he removed to his father's farm, where he lived until the fall of 1905, when he again located in Shellsburg, and soon after purchased his present business. The stock-yards were built and the business organized by the late John E. Heath, who carried it on some six years. Mr. Budd devotes his entire attention to his interests in the stock business, making a specialty of buying hogs, although he deals also in cattle. He handles probably about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars worth of the former per annum. He still owns his farm in Canton township, two hundred and eighteen acres of well-improved land, where he feeds some stock.

Mr. Budd owns the A. M. Herbert property in Shellsburg, where he resides. He is also interested in the Shellsburg Grain & Lumber Company, and has other business interests in the community. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has taken the Thirty-second Degree in Masonry, being a member of the Consistory at Cedar Rapids. Politically he is a Republican and the family attends the Baptist church.

Mr. Budd married Nellie McBeth, born and reared in Jones county, Iowa, where her father was an early settler, a farmer, who died many years ago. She came to Benton county with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Cameron, who resided on a farm in Canton township. She received her education at Shellsburg. Mr. Budd and his wife have seven children, viz: Arthur, June Etta, Leila M., Vera, Myron Allen, Alfred A. and Sarah M. Arthur married Miss Ruth Greaser, daughter of John Greaser, of Canton township, and they live on his father's farm; they have one daughter,

Dorothy M., aged in 1910 about three years. June Etta recently married Harold M. Case, and they live at Malvern, Iowa. Leila M., is a graduate of Shellsburg, and spent a year at Cornell College, but is now at home and studying instrumental music and fitting herself to teach it. Vera, Myron A., Alfred A. and Sarah are at home and attend school.

J. T. RAVENSCROFT, a retired farmer living at Vinton, Benton county, Iowa, has been identified with this county for half a century. He first came to Iowa in 1856, remaining in Washington county during the winter and in the spring of the following year moved to Benton county, where he has since lived, with the exception of three years spent in Mahaska county, this state.

Mr. Ravenscroft is a native of West Virginia. He was born in Hampshire (now Mineral) county, September 30, 1830, son of J. D. and Maria (Culp) Ravenscroft, both natives of Virginia, where they passed their lives and died. The mother died in 1843, at the age of thirty-seven years, and the father some years later. They were the parents of eight children, of whom J. T. is the only survivor. One son, J. E., was for many years a prominent and highly respected citizen of Vinton, Iowa, where he settled in the spring of 1860. Previous to that date he had for a short time been a resident of Marion and Wapello counties, this state. In Vinton he became associated with Mr. H. Watson in the grocery business, in which he was engaged for many years; eight years he served as a member of the city council. He died here May 26, 1907. A younger brother, R. H., was killed in the Civil war.

J. T. Ravenscroft was reared in his native state, in Monongahala and Preston counties, and in Hampshire county, same state, December 28, 1854, he married Miss Martha Mott, who accompanied him to Iowa and for nearly fifty years was the partner of his joys and sorrows. She was born in Hampshire county, West Virginia, September 11, 1836, and died in Big Grove township, Benton county, Iowa, June 28, 1902. Six children were born to them, namely: Mary Virginia, born in West Virginia, September 2, 1856, is the wife of W. C. Uttley and the mother of three children. They reside near Garrison, in Benton county. The other children are all natives of Benton county, Iowa: Rachel A. (Mrs. Luther), born in January, 1860; J. Henry, born in 1862, is a widower with six children, and has a fine modern home on his farm of two hundred and thirty-six acres in Jackson township, Benton county; J. M., a brickmason, of Clarks, Nebraska, is married and has two children; T. E., engaged in the real estate business at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has a wife and three children. He studied law and

was admitted to the bar. The youngest child, Robert, died at Valparaiso, Indiana, August 24, 1896, in his twenty-third year. He had taught school several terms, and at the time of his death was studying law.

Politically the subject of this sketch has been a Republican since the party was organized. He served four terms as assessor of Big Grove township and one term in Jackson township; also in Big Grove township he filled the office of supervisor one term. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as also was his wife. When Mr. Ravenscroft came to Benton county there were no railroads in the county, the nearest one being at Iowa City. His first purchase was forty acres of wild land. He added to his first holdings until he at one time owned two hundred and sixty-six acres, which has since been divided among his children. Vinton was only a small place when he came, and all or nearly all of the pioneers who were here at that time are now gone.

GUSTAV HEINRICH, a substantial and successful farmer in section 32, Eldorado township, Benton county, Iowa, was born May 7, 1854, in South Australia. He is a son of Frederick William and Friederike (Krause) Heinrich, both natives of Germany. Frederick W. Heinrich was born in 1823 in the providence of Saxony, and died in Germany at the age of sixty-five years. Mrs. Heinrich was born in 1825, and died at the age of fifty-five years. They were parents of eight children, six of whom are living, namely: August, of Blairstown, Iowa; Fred, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Gustav, of Eldorado township, Benton county; Friederike, in Germany; Paulina, in Germany; and William, also in Germany. Mr. Heinrich, Sr., was by trade a stonemason, and moved to Australia in 1849. He worked at his trade and at farming, and in 1867 returned to Germany. In 1869 he came to the United States and located at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. After remaining there one year he returned to Germany and died there.

Gustav Heinrich received a common school education in Australia, and when thirteen years of age went with his parents to Germany and after two years to Milwaukee. He remained in Wisconsin until his parents returned to Germany, and then began working on a farm. In 1873 he came to Benton county, Iowa, where he worked at farming by the month until the time of his marriage. He then purchased eighty acres of land in Union township, which was partly improved, and in 1882 he traded in this eighty acres towards two hundred and forty acres in section 32, Eldorado township, to which he moved, and he has since made this his home. He now owns six hundred and thirty acres of land, his

farm being well improved and fitted with modern conveniences, and he has a beautiful home. He has rented his farms to his sons and removed to Vinton, Iowa, to retire from active life. He is considered a representative, useful citizen, and stands well in the community. He has the confidence and esteem of his neighbors, and is actively interested in public affairs.

Mr. Heinrich married, January 8, 1878, Matilda Becker, born in Lyon county, Ohio, February 22, 1860, daughter of Charles and Sabina (Druschel) Becker. Her father died when she was eight months old, in 1860, and her mother subsequently married Charles Kropf, who died in 1904. Mrs. Heinrich is one of a family of four daughters by her mother's first marriage; by her second marriage the mother had six sons. In 1862 Mr. Kropf and his wife came to Illinois from Ohio, and in 1870 they located in Benton county, Iowa, on the farm now owned by Mr. Heinrich; they rented it two years and then removed to Calhoun county, Iowa, where Mrs. Kropf now lives, at the age of seventy-seven years. Mr. Heinrich and his wife became parents of eleven children, all living at home except the two oldest and one deceased. They are: Arthur, Lawrence, Frank, Jennie, Elsie, Charley; Laura, Myrtle, Raymond, Edith and Ida (deceased). Arthur and Lawrence live in Eldorado township.

DAVID BELLER, died at his home in Vinton, Iowa, December 30, 1906, leaving a widow and four sons. He was born in Fayette county, Ohio, January 13, 1834, and at the age of sixteen years removed with his parents, Robert Beller and his wife, to Peoria, Illinois, where they lived some seven years and then removed to Benton county, Iowa. In 1857 he married Rachel Barton, who has lived in Vinton until recently when she went to live with a son in Boise, Idaho; she is now in her sixty-eighth year. David Beller and his wife lived on their farm in section 19, Eden township, until 1899, and then were able to retire and live in Vinton. He was a very successful farmer and at one time owned three hundred and twenty acres, incorporated in two farms in Eden township, and one of eighty acres near Mount Auburn. He was a charter member of the Second Eden Methodist Episcopal church for which donated the site, and he assisted materially in raising the building fund; the church was erected in 1874, and was commonly called the "Beller church."

David Beller and his wife reared six sons, of whom four survive, namely: A. M., of Boise City, Idaho, where he is in business; E. A., a farmer of Sheldon, Iowa; Dr. O. B., formerly of Vinton, now of Nampa, Idaho; and M. B., who owns and operates part

of the home farm in Eden township. Two sons, Albert and Monte, died in infancy.

M. B. Beller was born July 12, 1875, in Benton county, as were all his brothers; he attended the Academy at Vinton, and has since followed farming and stock-raising, with good success. He has made all possible improvements on his place, and is an enterprising and up-to-date farmer. Politically he is a Republican, and he is a member of the Knights of Pythias, of Vinton.

M. B. Beller married, in Benton county, Fannie, daughter of L. C. Eggleston, given mention at length elsewhere in this work, and they became parents of four children, as follows: Leland, deceased at the age of three years; Carrol, now five years of age; Lawrence, four; and Leone, three.

JOHN RICHART, now retired from active life, although still residing on his farm in section 32, Benton township, was born in Scioto county, Ohio, April 16, 1833, a son of William and Maria (Clingman) Richart. His mother, a native of Pennsylvania, died when he was but five or six years of age. William Richart was a native of Ohio, and carried on a farm in that state many years. He came to Benton county, Iowa, in 1855, and located in the timber in Benton township, which was his home until his death, at the age of about sixty-five years. He was an industrious farmer and a staunch Republican. He was married four times, and his fourth wife survived him, although she is now deceased.

John Richart was one of the four children of his mother, two sons and two daughters, namely: Sarah J., widow living in Kansas; Mariah, wife of Horace Hayward, of Vinton, mentioned elsewhere in this work; Hiram, who died in Ohio; and John.

John Richart was reared and educated in Ohio, and has since been a very successful farmer. He came to Benton county with his father in 1855, spending three years in Benton township, after which he returned to Ohio and lived there ten years. In 1868 he returned to Benton county, and since then has made his home continuously in Benton township. In 1856-7 he had five yoke of oxen and worked at teaming and breaking prairie; the winters were then very cold, and the woods abounded in Indians and wild game. Mr. Richart secured two hundred acres of fine land and made all improvements from the beginning, clearing the land and cultivating it, transforming it from the virgin state to high fertility. He has been highly successful, and has attained his success through untiring labor and enterprise. At the time of his settling in the county Benton City was considered quite a town and a good market. He hauled flour to Cedar Falls, which had been ground at





John Richard & Wife



the Graham & Root Mill at Benton City. For a number of years the chief crops were wheat, corn and oats, though in later years general farming was carried on and more attention paid every year to the raising of good stock. Mr. Richart had small capital to make his start in life, but has achieved his success almost wholly within the county. He still owns a well improved farm of forty-five acres, having recently sold over one hundred and fifty acres. He is a member of the Masonic Order in Ohio, and his wife belongs to the United Brethren church. In political views Mr. Richart is a staunch Republican, and is much interested in public affairs.

Mr. Richart married, in Ohio, Maria Thompson, born in Scioto county, Ohio, December 26, 1840, daughter of John Thompson and his wife, who lived and died in the Buckeye state. They reared seven children, namely William, residing at home; Edward, of Shellsburg, married Leo Gingrey and has three children, Elsie, Alta and Violet; Voris, wife of David Lamer, of Benton township, has two children, Lester and John D.; Laura, of Oregon; Pearl, wife of Albert Yerkes, of Taylor township, has one child, Reese; Charles C., at home, married Ethel Williams and has one son, William Allen. When Mr. Richart came to Benton county the country was practically undeveloped, except along the timber, and it then seemed impossible that the county would ever be developed to the extent it **has**.

FREDERICK G. WALTHER, a dairy and stock farmer of Cedar township, Benton county, was born in Saxony, Germany, June 30, 1843, and came to Benton county in 1877. He is a son of Goddlot and Caroline Walther; his father, also a native of Saxony, died when he was seventy-four years old. He was a farmer, and owned land; his wife, also born and reared in Germany, lived there all her life, and died some years before her husband. Their children were: Frederick G.; Charles, who lives in Rock Island, Illinois; Earnest, of Henry county, Illinois; and Clara, who lives in Germany, the wife of Puno Amanda.

Frederick Walther came to the United States in April, 1865, and located first in Henry county, Illinois, where he remained nine years. Upon removing to Benton county, Iowa, he purchased land that was in its wild state, which he has diligently worked to clear and bring under cultivation, making all improvements in the way of buildings and orchards. Here he has lived ever since, and now makes a specialty of Norman horses and fine hogs and cattle. He owns one hundred acres in section 17, and is a prominent man in the community. Though he has but a common school education,

he has kept himself well informed on the questions of the day, and he is an enterprising farmer. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the German Lutheran church. Mr. Walther married, in 1867, in the United States, Christina Kahler, who was born in Saxony, Germany, February 13, 1847, and came to the United States in 1866. Her parents both died in Germany. They have been blessed with children as follows: Adeline, wife of William Sims, of Newhall, Iowa; Lena, wife of Wesley Preston, of Mount Auburn, Iowa; and Frederick, who lives with his parents.

Frederick Walther, Jr., born in Henry county, Illinois, in 1873, came when a small boy with his parents to Benton county, and has spent most of his life on his father's farm. He left home for five years at one time, but returned and has remained there since. He received a common school education, and has made a careful study of farming methods, so that he is able to co-operate with his father intelligently in the management of the farm. He is a Republican, like his father, and a member of the German Lutheran church. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, and to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Frederick Walther, Jr., married, in 1901, Ida, daughter of John Kahler, and their children are: Augusta, aged seven, and Harold, one year and eight months old.

JOHN YOUNG, president of the People's Savings Bank of Vinton, Benton county, Iowa, has been identified with this county since 1855, having come here that year with his brother, Thomas Young. Thomas went back east for their parents, returned with them the following year, and all became well-known citizens of Benton county, largely interested in farming and stock raising and successful in whatever they undertook. At the time of his death, in 1893, Thomas Young was the owner of no less than two thousand, three hundred acres of land in Benton and Linn counties. He left a large family, all of whom, with one exception, reside in Benton county.

John Young, on his arrival in Iowa, entered three eighty-acre tracts of land in Canton township, Benton county, paying for the same one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, and to his original purchase he subsequently added until he is now the owner of eight hundred acres. And here for many years, until 1893, he carried on farming and stock raising. Since 1893 he has lived in Vinton, practically retired, and since August, 1903, he has occupied his present modern and commodious home, which he built that year and which is situated one block east of the East school building. He also owns another residence near the East school.

Mr. Young was one of the incorporators of the People's Savings Bank of Vinton in 1900, and has been its president since January, 1901, succeeding in that capacity Mr. Chadbourne, who was president from the organization until his death, six months later; and for five years Mr. Young devoted his active attention to the bank. For the past three years, however, he has been practically retired from duty at the bank as well as at the farm.

Mr. Young was born in Oneida county, New York, in January, 1837, a son of C. T. and Catherine (Hall) Young. The family had moved from New York to Indiana the year previous to their coming to Iowa, and it was from La Porte county, that state, that Thomas Young brought his parents in 1856. The father was engaged in farming all his life. He died in Canton township, Benton county, in 1886, at the ripe age of ninety years. The mother died in 1876. They had an only daughter, who died some years since in Indiana.

On August 9, 1858, Mr. Young married, in Benton county, Miss Christiann Webb, who was born in a log cabin in Richland county, Ohio, and who came with her mother and other members of the family to Iowa in 1854 and settled in Benton township, Benton county, her father, William Webb, having died in Ohio in 1844. After residing in Benton county for twenty-three years her mother went to Kansas and made her home with a son until her death, which occurred in 1889, at an advanced age. Mrs. Young had two brothers who came west from Ohio, one is now in Kansas and the other in Oklahoma. A sister died in Kansas some years ago. Three daughters and a son were born to Mr. and Mrs. Young, all in Benton county, namely: Mary, born December 21, 1859, is the widow of A. F. Dake, deceased, and has four sons and a daughter, now grown and scattered; Annie M., born January 20, 1863, died at the age of seventeen months; John Dempster, born December 8, 1868, resides on a farm adjoining his father's. He married Miss Laura Narber, and has four children; Minnie Bell, born November 14, 1870, is the wife of Lewis Richart of Vinton, and has one child.

While not in any sense a politician, Mr. Young has always been a staunch supporter of the Republican party, and at one time served as county supervisor. He is a member of the Masonic Order.

THE PEOPLE'S SAVINGS BANK, of Vinton, opened its doors for business July 24, 1900, and the organizers and incorporators were: A. S. Chadbourne, J. W. Hayward, John Lorenz, C. W. Miller, W. H. Hanna, Joseph S. Brubaker, Hugh St. Clair and Arthur White.

The first officers were: A. S. Chadbourne (deceased), president; Joseph Brubaker, vice president; and John Lorenz, cashier. The first board of directors included these officers and the other incorporators.

The present officers of the bank are: John Young, president; John Lorenz, vice president; and A. B. Allen, cashier. Besides these officers, the board of directors includes: J. W. Hayward, Arthur White, Joseph S. Brubaker, C. W. Miller, W. H. Hanna and George Barr. The institution has a capitalization of fifty thousand dollars, and a surplus of twenty-five thousand dollars, and has met with great success and confidence from the first. The building now owned and occupied by the enterprise is located at the corner of Beckett and Jefferson streets. The main floor is occupied by the bank, there are office rooms above, and a printing establishment in the basement of the building. The average deposits of the bank, on which is paid an interest of four per cent, amount to about three hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars. The officers and board of directors of the bank include some of the most prominent and successful business men of the county, who carry on the business in an able and efficient manner, and the bank has won a reputation throughout the county as a sound institution.

WILLIAM L. MEYER, a substantial and successful farmer of Eldorado township, in section 20, was born on the farm he now occupies, January 28, 1875. He is a son of Ernest and Eliza (Strankman) Meyer, the father born in Hanover, Germany, February 3, 1843. Ernest Meyer received a common school education in his native country, and in 1852 came to the United States with an uncle, locating in Guttenburg, Clayton county, Iowa, where he grew up and worked on a farm. He was married on May 20, 1865, and then began farming on his own account, renting in Clayton county. In 1869 he came to Benton county and located in Eldorado township, purchasing eighty acres of raw prairie land. There was then but one house between his farm and Vinton. He improved his land and added to it from time to time, and now owns three hundred and sixty acres in Eldorado township, besides six hundred and forty acres in Minnesota. In 1900 Mr. Meyer and his wife removed to Van Horne and retired from active life. Mrs. Meyer was born in September, 1846. They became the parents of fourteen children, of whom twelve survive, namely: Henry, Anna, Ida, Ernest, William L., Herman, Clara, Matilda, John, Bertha, Emma, and Elizabeth.

William L. Meyer grew up on his father's farm and received a common school education. Upon the retirement of his father,

in 1900, he took charge of two hundred acres of the farm, and has since successfully operated the same. He is a progressive, ambitious farmer, and a public-spirited citizen. In politics he is a Democrat, has served four years as constable and is now road superintendent. He is a member of the German Lutheran church, and takes an active interest in any good cause.

Mr. Meyer married, January 18, 1900, Clara Warkenthien, born in Dubuque county, Iowa, in 1880, and daughter of Theodore and Dorothea (Bobzien) Warkenthien, both natives of Germany. Mr. Warkenthien died in Van Horne, Iowa, in 1904, aged sixty-four years, and his widow still resides in Van Horne, having reached the age of sixty-eight. They came to the United States in 1874 and located first in Cook county, Illinois, later they removed to Iowa county, and later to Dubuque county, from where they came to Benton county in 1882. They lived in St. Clair township, and finally retired to Van Horne in 1902. Mr. Meyer and his wife have two children, Glen T. and Mabel L.

ROBERT N. DOWNS, who died at his farm in Eden township, August 2, 1882, was one of the early residents of the county, where he carried on farming on an extensive scale. He was born in Kent county, Delaware, November 12, 1822, and was a son of Henry and Mary (Nixon) Downs, farmers, who lived and died in Kent county.

Robert N. Downs was one of eight children, and one brother, Nathan Downs, came with him to Benton county, Iowa, in the fall of 1854. Nathan was drowned in Cedar River, near Vinton, in the early sixties. Robert N. Downs was very fond of hunting, and on his first coming to Vinton game was plentiful. He was a successful farmer, and also raised considerable stock. He had small capital when he came west, but became the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of well improved land in Eden township. Politically he was a Democrat, and served in various school offices. He was a member of the Masonic Order, and he and his wife belonged to the Methodist church.

Mr. Downs married, March 12, 1857, in Virginia, Mary, daughter of James and Mary (Wilson) Mahood, who was born in Tazewell county, Virginia, April 18, 1835. Her father was operator of a saw and flour mill, and later followed farming. Her parents lived and died in the Old Dominion. Mrs. Downs was the eighth of nine children, of whom two others survive, James and Stephen, who both reside in Virginia. Those deceased are: Cynthia A., Elizabeth, Angeline, Matilda, Alexander and John. Mr. Downs and his wife became parents of eight children, namely: James H., Curtis Leroy, Mary Ann, Eugene, George, Sarah, William and

John. James H. carries on a farm in Eden township; he married Molly Mahood and they have three children, Roy, Harland and Bernice. Curtis L. died in 1893, when a young man. Mary Ann married S. S. Sweeley, and they have two children, Jessie and Lloyd. Eugene, a machinist of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, married Jennie Detrick, and they have one daughter, Cecil. George M. has for several years been foreman of a ranch near San Francisco, California, and for some time he managed Mrs. Stanford's famous ranch in that state. He has traveled all over the world, and has been to the African diamond mines. He married Agnes Heron. Sarah married E. E. Detrick, of Eden township, and they have three children, Hazel, Carl and Glen. William lives at home. John, of McHenry county, North Dakota, married Alice Mahood and they have four children, Lee, Lucile, Glen and Loren. Mr. Downs came immediately after his marriage to Benton county, Iowa, where his wife still resides. Immediately after marriage Mr. and Mrs. Downs came by rail to Dubuque, Iowa, from which place they drove by stage the balance of the journey. At that time there were only two houses in sight of the present home. The land was nearly all wild. Mr. and Mrs. Downs broke and improved the farm before the former's death, and anything they had to sell was taken to Cedar Rapids, twenty miles away. They commenced keeping house in a two room building in which they lived until 1871. All the children were born in it.

NELSON B. CASE, retired, but still residing on his farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 9, Canton township, has been a continuous resident of Benton county since 1854. He was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, April 24, 1825, and when he was about one year old the family moved to Medina county, Ohio, where he was reared and educated and lived until he reached the age of twenty-nine years. He is a son of Reuben and Margaret (Gallaher) Case, both of whom died in Medina county, Ohio. Reuben Case, probably a native of New Jersey, was a farmer all his life, and died when about sixty-seven years of age; his wife died at the age of seventy-three years. They were devout Methodists. Nelson was the sixth child of a family of four sons and three daughters, and is the only one now surviving. He received only a common school education in the district schools, and is self-made in every way, having improved his opportunities for advancement and learning to the best of his ability.

Mr. Case secured his present farm in the early fifties, by purchasing a land warrant from a veteran returning from the Mexican war, for the sum of one hundred and twenty-five dollars. Poli-





*N. B. Case*



MRS. N. B. CASE



tically he is a Democrat, and has served many years as trustee. He is a prominent and influential citizen, and well liked and respected. He is one of the pioneers, having improved his land and brought it to a high state of cultivation and fertility from the wilderness.

In 1854 Mr. Case married, in Medina county, Ohio, Melinda Miller, born in 1829, in New York, and a daughter of Jacob and Amy (Dieks) Miller, early residents of Medina county, Ohio, where they died. Mr. Case and his wife spent their honeymoon on the trip overland in a typical "prairie schooner," to the new country in Benton county. Mrs. Case died there in 1872. They had three children, of whom one son died about 1891, leaving a widow and two children. This son, Medwin, married Annie R. Zeul, who now resides with Mr. Case. Her children are Benjamin B., operating eighty acres of Mr. Case's farm, and Bertner A., teaching school in the county. The other children of Mr. Case are Ernest D. and Arabella. Ernest operates a part of his father's farm; he married Lottie Montgomery, and they have five children. Arabella married W. E. Soden, of Canton township.

When Mr. Case came to this county he did most of his trading at Cedar Rapids, twenty miles away. There were no fences south of him. Mr. and Mrs. Case commenced keeping house in a one room log house which Mr. Case built after his arrival. Their children were all born in that room except the youngest, who was born in Ohio, and Mrs. Case died there. Since her death an upright frame has been added to the original building. When Mr. Case came to this county there were Indians here, and wild game of all kinds was abundant.

WILLIAM ARNOLD, who has been retired from active business since 1893, is a highly respected and intelligent citizen of Vinton who, for many years, was engaged in the stone business in the vicinity. Long before entering business as a quarryman he followed his trade as a stonemason and a brick layer, and his unsullied record is therefore particularly identified with the actual upbuilding of the community in which he has resided for more than fifty-two years.

Mr. Arnold is a native of England, born in Langby, Monmouthshire, on the 10th of December, 1826, son of James and Rachel (Edwards) Arnold, who both died in the mother country. His father was a well-to-do citizen, and spent a long period of his life as care taker of a large estate owned by a member of the British parliament. The boy's education was limited, but his natural thirst for knowledge and his early ambition for general self-improvement have been constant forces in his long life; so

that, despite his lack of boyhood advantages, his persistent reading of history and other substantial literature has given him a wide range of information. He has a fine library of his favorite works; is a subscriber to standard magazines, and is remarkably well posted both on current and historical topics. In 1847, when of age, he married Miss Hannah Robbins, the daughter of a modest but thrifty couple, William and Nancy Robbins. She was born on the 21st of August, 1826, and was therefore a few months his senior. Ten years after his marriage, on the 31st of May, 1857, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold came to Vinton, with scant means but sturdy purpose, and lived together in harmony and love until the death of the faithful wife on March 13, 1909. No children had been born to contribute to their happiness, although their adopted daughter Florence, whom they fostered in their household from the age of ten years until she married, was ever a blessing to them. She is now the wife of a Mr. Heal, resides at Fort Scott, Kansas, and is the mother of several children.

When Mr. Arnold settled at Vinton he was thirty-one years of age. As stated, he first followed his trade as stonemason and brick layer for many years, and then commenced to operate a stone quarry just east of the cemetery, employing several men and shipping his product to various neighboring towns. He was long associated with Leonard Reed and Michael Donlin, skilled mechanics, and the business, which continued until 1893, was a decided success. Mr. Arnold lives in a comfortable residence on South Main street which has been his home for more than thirty years. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, having faithfully supported the local society since 1858. As to his politics, on the whole he may be called an old-time Republican, although the broad and liberal tendency of his mind has often prompted him to independence in views and action..

WILLIAM E. BICKEL, of the firm of Marietta & Bickel, real estate, loans and general insurance, Vinton, Iowa, is one of the prominent and highly respected young business men of the town.

He was born, in 1873, at Mechanicsville, Monroe county, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia, of Holland-Swiss descent, and belongs to the fifth generation of Bickels in the United States. By trade, the Bickels may be called a family of millers, generation after generation having its representatives in this line of work—all useful and respected citizens. A flouring mill built by them at Germantown, Pennsylvania, was for many years operated by members of the family. John Bickel, the great-grandfather of William E., was honored by election to the office of state treasurer of Pennsylvania, about 1848 or '49, and served one term.

Mr. Bickel's father, William H. Bickel, also a resident of Vinton, Iowa, was born October 16, 1849, in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, son of Jeremiah and Rebecca (Hevener) Bickel, natives of Montgomery county, as also was John Bickel, Jeremiah's father. William H. was reared in his native state, in Lehigh county, and may be termed a self-made man. He did not attend school a day after he was eleven years of age, and it was not until after he was eighteen that he had an opportunity to learn to speak the English language. Like his father before him, he learned the miller's trade. He served an apprenticeship of three years, and was employed in milling while he remained in Pennsylvania and for some years after coming west. In 1878 he came to Benton county, Iowa, stopping first at Blairstown, where he spent a brief time. From that place he went to Norway, where he followed milling until 1884. That year he became interested in the grain business and associated himself with Mr. C. P. Christianson, under the firm name of W. H. Bickel & Company, which continued until 1896, when Mr. Bickel was elected auditor of Benton county. This office he filled two terms, having been re-elected in 1898. On retiring from office in 1900 he again engaged in the grain business, this time at Vinton, and in 1904 The Bickel Grain Company was incorporated by W. H. and W. E. Bickel and L. W. Latham, with an authorized capital stock of ten thousand dollars; Mr. Latham, president; M. E. Bickel, vice president, and W. E. Bickel, secretary and treasurer. This company has two grain elevators, one at LeGrand, Iowa, and one at Vinton, the latter having been built by the company. In addition to dealing in various kinds of grain The Bickel Grain Company handles fuel, coal, etc.

On June 24, 1870, in Monroe county, Pennsylvania, William H. Bickel married Miss Sarah Werkheiser, who was born in that county June 26, 1852, daughter of Adam and Mary (Arnold) Werkheiser, natives of that county and of Holland descent. Of the six children of this union four are living: Cora F., William E., George H. and Harry T. The last named is a commercial traveler, with headquarters at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and George H. is a clerk in the post office at Vinton.

At the time the Bickel family removed to Iowa William E. was five years of age. Since then he has resided in Benton county. His education, begun in the common schools, has been continued in the practical school of business experience. For three and one-half years he was a clerk under J. G. Mallory in the office of county treasurer, and for one year he served under his father, who, as above stated, filled that office two terms. Resigning his

position in the court house in 1898 young Bickel associated himself with Mr. J. E. Marietta, and has since been engaged in the real estate and insurance business. Also he is interested in other enterprises, being a director and the secretary and treasurer of The Bickel Grain Company, and secretary and director of The Vinton Savings, Loan and Building Association.

Mr. Bickel resides with his family on East Concord street. He married, in 1901, Miss Margaret E. Jervis, daughter of William Jervis, a merchant of Vinton; and to them have been born two children: Dorothy and William J. The son died February 9, 1910.

For a number of years Mr. Bickel was a member of the National Guard, and in 1898 he enlisted in Company G, Forty-ninth (not the Fifty-third) Regiment, under Colonel William G. Dows, and was in the Cuban campaign about fourteen months. Politically he has always affiliated with the Republicans, and has been prominent and active in promoting the local interests of his party. His father was a Democrat up to 1880, when he espoused the Republican cause and has since given it his support, in both state and national issues. Both father and son are members of the Masonic Lodge of Vinton, and the son has advanced in Masonry through the degrees of the Chapter, the Commandery and the Mystic Shrine, and is also a member of the Knights of Pythias. Both, with their families, are identified with the Presbyterian church.

L. A. KOLSTO, owner of two hundred and forty acres in section 26, Eldorado township, was born in the village of Kopervik on the Isle of Karms, on Norway's western coast, July 4, 1868. He is a son of Lars and Martha Iverson (Skaar) Kolsto. His father was born in 1832 and is now living at seventy-eight years of age; his wife died in 1882, aged forty-eight years. They were parents of seven children, all living and mentioned in connection with the sketch of Iver C. Kolsto, found elsewhere in this work.

L. A. Kolsto was reared in his native village, and there received a good education. In 1883 when but fourteen years of age, he came to the United States in company with his brother, Iver C., and they located first in Eldorado township, Benton county, near Newhall, Iowa, where for seven years L. A. Kolsto continued to work on a farm by the month. While he was working for T. C. Tanner, Mrs. Tanner gave him lessons at the same time as her own children; she had formerly been a school teacher, and in this way Mr. Kolsto received a good education in English. In 1888 he and his brother rented a farm in Fremont township, in

partnership, where they remained several years; they then removed to Lyon county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres at twenty-seven dollars and a half an acre; after cultivating it three years they sold it for thirty-five and one-half dollars an acre and returned to Benton county. While in Lyon county they sold their wheat for thirty-four cents a bushel.

L. A. Kolsto purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 25 and 36, Eldorado township, and began farming by himself. He put up new buildings, subsequently purchased another eighty acres, and now owns his present farm of two hundred and forty acres; he rents one hundred and sixty acres and takes care of the remaining eighty acres more for pastime and occupation than for profit. He has always taken great interest in stock raising, and has made considerable money breeding horses, also raising Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. He is an excellent judge of horses, and still deals largely in them.

Mr. Kolsto is a great reader of good literature, and is well informed on the general topics of the day. He is a member of Valentine Lodge, No. 76, Knights of Pythias, of Newhall. He has held the office of school director. He is a member of the Lutheran church, and active in working for its interest. Mr. Kolsto is unmarried. In the fall of 1908 Mr. Kolsto, in company with his three brothers, including I. C. Kolsto's wife and two children, returned to Norway for a visit, and they spent about three months there.

ROBERT B. AUSTIN, proprietor of Elm Grove Stock Farm, of Jackson township, was born near Belfast, in the north of Ireland, June 20, 1843, and is a son of John Austin, born in 1798, now deceased, mentioned elsewhere in this work.

Mr. Austin came to America in the fall of 1850 with his parents, locating first in Dubuque county, Iowa; he was reared and educated in that section and learned the fullest details of farming and stock raising, which he has followed all his life. He left Dubuque county in 1867, made a trip to Idaho and other western states in the gold region, and came to Benton county, Iowa, later in the same year. He has improved three farms in Jackson township, and now operates four hundred acres of fine fertile land. Mr. Austin is a most industrious and progressive farmer, and has met with flattering success. He is a public-spirited citizen, and actively interested in the public welfare. Politically he has always been a Republican. Mr. Austin married in 1871, in Dubuque county.

E. A. BUXTON, D. V. S., mayor of the town of Vinton, Benton county, Iowa, was born in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, May 20, 1861, son of R. A. and Lucy J. (Scotfield) Buxton. R. A. Buxton was one of the early residents of Fond du Lac county, where he was engaged in farming for many years, but subsequently moved to Stockbridge, that state, and died in 1902, at the age of sixty-seven years; his widow still resides there.

Dr. E. A. Buxton, in his youth, had limited educational advantages. At the age of seventeen he left home and went to Illinois, where he hired out by the month at farm work, and was thus occupied for several years, meanwhile becoming interested in stock to the extent that he decided to prepare himself for the practice of veterinary surgery. From 1888 to 1890 he attended the Chicago Veterinary College, where he graduated with honors. Then followed one year in which he practiced his profession at Sycamore, Illinois, after which he came to Iowa and settled at Vinton. Here he has conducted a successful practice and has figured prominently in the affairs of the town, for the past eighteen years being active in politics. After serving six years as a member of the city council he was honored by election to the office of mayor, and he is now filling his third term in that office. Also he is assistant state veterinary, to which office he has been appointed by three successive executives, Governors Shaw, Cummings and Carroll, and is now in his fifth year in that office.

During the years of his successful practice here Dr. Buxton has accumulated considerable property, his investments, however, being chiefly in other states. He is the owner of two hundred and forty acres in Minnesota, one hundred and sixty acres in South Dakota, and eighty acres in Oklahoma. He resides with his family on South Main street.

Mrs. Buxton, formerly Miss Louisa M. Stark, is a daughter of H. M. Stark, of Sycamore, Illinois, and a representative of one of the pioneer families of that place. Doctor and Mrs. Buxton have two sons, Howard and Henry, natives of Vinton and aged respectively, seven and four years. Mrs. Buxton affiliates with the Methodist Episcopal church.

Fraternally the Doctor is identified with the Masonic Order, in which for years he has been prominent and active, having filled the offices of worshipful master of Vinton Lodge No. 62, and eminent commander of Cypress. Also he is a Knight of Pythias.

MATHIAS KUEN, a retired farmer living in Norway, Benton county, Iowa, has been identified with this state for more than half a century. He was born in Alsace, France, March 6, 1818,





*Mr. Kuen*

By February 6, 1856, the cash on hand of the new bank had reached the total of \$2838, and Benton county finances were fairly under way.

The last entry in the old Traer bank book is dated October 15, 1856 (Wednesday), and after it, is made the annotation with perhaps an air of satisfaction, if not of pride: "J. C. Traer today elected Republican candidate for delegate to the constitutional convention, to meet the third Monday in January, 1857, to revise the state constitution." From the organization of the Republican party in that year until his death July 1, 1898, Dr. Traer was a stalwart Republican, and, as such, served in the constitutional convention noted, and as postmaster, alderman and mayor of the city of Vinton.

#### JAMES C. TRAER.

James C. Traer was born in Knox county, Ohio, on the 7th of September, 1825; received a common school education and



JAMES C. TRAER.

mastered the tanner's trade before he moved to West-Liberty, Muscatine county, Iowa, in 1845. There he commenced to read medicine with Dr. Henry Meredith, and in 1848 located in Cedar Rapids. His marriage to Miss Marcia W. Ferguson occurred in that place November 4, 1849, and his advent to Vinton dates from August 19, 1851. He practiced medicine both in Cedar Rapids and Vinton, being, in fact, the first resident physician in the latter place. Upon coming to Vinton he purchased a small frame building for a family residence, but in 1855 built the brick house in

which he lived for the remainder of his life, and which at the time of its erection was considered quite imposing. In 1858, two years after the establishment of the bank, he was admitted to the bar,

a son of John Kuen, a representative of an old French family. John Kuen was a large land owner and by trade was a shoemaker. He was born in 1781 and died in 1841. He married Mary Ann Butz, an only child, who belonged to a family of long standing in France. Both John Kuen and his wife were well educated, and their religion was that of the Catholic church. They were the parents of ten children, five of whom came to the United States, and of this large family Mathias is the only survivor.

Mathias Kuen received his early training in the public schools of his native land. Later, feeling the need of more advanced education, he attended night school. Until his father's death he worked with him. In 1847, leaving his old home in France, he emigrated to the United States, and that same year took up his residence near Tiffin, Ohio, where for awhile he was engaged in farm work. Subsequently he rented and ran a sawmill. In September, 1852, he came to Iowa, and in Iowa county bought a tract of land consisting of one hundred and sixty acres and settled down to farming, in which he was successfully occupied for many years. About 1880, having rented his farm to good advantage, he came to Norway, Benton county, where he has since lived retired, enjoying a hale and hearty old age.

Politically Mr. Kuen's vote and influence have always been cast with the Democratic party. For a number of years he was township trustee of Lennox township, Iowa county, in which office he rendered valued service, always taking a deep interest in educational matters, urging the erection of school buildings and the maintenance of good schools. True to the faith in which he was reared, he is a good Catholic, and he took no small part in building the Catholic church of Norway. Generous and free handed, his kindly acts and substantial aid have helped many an unfortunate one over the rough places on the pathway of life. Mr. Kuen has never married.

When he came to Iowa county there were only two houses between his place and Cedar Rapids, twenty miles away. Wolves, deer, prairie chickens and wild turkeys were very numerous. A part of the land which he purchased was from the government at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre and the remainder was school land, which he purchased at five dollars an acre. Cedar Rapids, when Mr. Kuen came to Iowa had only three houses and one store. Mr. Kuen first built a log house, and in 1864 he built a two story sand stone house. He sold his farm to his nephew, George Hasley, whose mother was Mr. Kuen's sister, and he lives on the place.

JOHN A. MILLER, who owns one hundred and fifty-four acres of well-improved land in section 13, Eldorado township, was born in Linn county, Iowa, August 31, 1863. He is a son of John and Elizabeth (Maurer) Miller. John Miller was born in Hesse, Germany, in 1819, and died at the age of eighty-two years; his wife was a native of Bavaria, Germany, born in 1833, and died at the age of sixty-eight years. They were parents of eight children, four of whom are living, namely: Catherine, wife of John Busmann, of Bryant, South Dakota; John A.; Emma, wife of Joseph Hensing, of Newhall, Iowa; and Carrie, wife of A. L. Lowe, of Missouri. Mr. Miller came to the United States when he was about thirty years of age and located at Sandusky, Ohio, where he lived but a short time, and then purchased a farm in Linn county, Iowa. He sold out in 1868 and in 1869 purchased the farm in Eldorado township where his son now resides; at first this was raw prairie, which he worked to clear and improve, and here he and his wife died.

John A. Miller spent his boyhood on a farm, and received his education in the public schools. His father was an invalid for many years, and in 1890 John began farming on his own account on his father's farm. Most of the buildings on this place were erected by its present owner. Besides general farming he raises some graded stock, and has been very successful. He has served as school director, justice of the peace and township trustee. He helped organize the Newhall Savings Bank, in which he has since been a director, and since 1904 has also been president. He is one of the substantial and representative farmers of the county, and universally respected. He has always been a Democrat.

On January 1, 1890, Mr. Miller married Luiza J., daughter of William and Catherine (Heiber) Vornholt, who was born in Linn county, Iowa, October 28, 1867. Her parents were both born in Germany and came to the United States in their youth, locating in Johnson county, Iowa; they were married in Iowa City, making the trip there with oxen to be married. They then located in Linn county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They had eleven children, eight of whom survive. Mr. Miller and his wife have two children, Henry W. and Clara E., both at home; they also lost one child, Clarence G., who died when two years and two months old.

ORVILLE INMAN, a retired farmer, still resides on his farm in Eden township. He was born in Delaware county, New York, April 24, 1836, and is a son of Ashville and Sallie A. (DeMoney), Inman, who came west in 1849, locating on a farm in Stephenson

county, Illinois, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They had three sons and two daughters, of whom two sons and both daughters still survive, namely: John, of Stephenson county, Illinois; Orville; Mrs. Mary E. Stoner, of Prescott, Iowa; and Mrs. Catherine Andrews, of Franklin county, Iowa. One son, Austin, died in Libby Prison; he had enlisted and served in the Forty-seventh Illinois Infantry, until his capture and incarceration.

Orville Inman lived until fourteen years of age in New York and then went to Illinois with the family. He received a common school education, and has since followed farming. He came to Benton county, Iowa, in 1860, and has since made this his home. In 1862 he enlisted in Company A, Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry, and served until 1865, within seven days of three years. He participated in all the engagements in which his regiment had a part, and was never wounded or captured. The following were the engagements: Fort Gibson, Champion Hill, Siege of Vicksburg, Jackson, Cedar Creek, Winchester, and several other battles and skirmishes. He was also present at the surrender of Lee. After his return to Benton he resumed farming, and soon married. He started with very little capital, but has been very successful, and by his industry and thrift has become the owner of two hundred and forty acres of well improved land. He carries on general farming and raises graded stock. He is a member of P. M. Coder Post No. 98, Grand Army of the Republic, to which he has belonged almost since its organization.

In 1865 Mr. Inman married, in Livingston county, Illinois, Henrietta McCormick, born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, August 8, 1841, and daughter of Seth and Mary (Hill) McCormick, who came to Illinois in 1854, locating in Stephenson county, where Mr. McCormick died. Later the mother and one daughter removed to Nebraska, where the former died. Mr. McCormick was all his life a wagon-maker. He and his wife had eleven children, of whom six are living, namely: Mrs. Margaret Brown, of St. Louis; Mrs. Nancy Lee, of Beatrice, Nebraska; Robert, of Nora Springs, Iowa; John, of Sumner county, Kansas; Mrs. Inman, and Daniel, of Colorado. The others are deceased, most of them in childhood. Mrs. Inman was sixteen years of age when she came with her family to Illinois.

Mr. Inman and his wife have three children, all born in Benton county. Mrs. O. E. Bogle, of Eden township, has six children, Henrietta, Seth B., Olive, Lawrence, Orville and John; Ashley, operating the home farm, married Flora Hite and has one daughter, Verna; and Charles, a farmer in Eden township, married Maud Phillipe, and they have three children, Myron, Florence and Gerald. Mr. Inman is a supporter of the Republican party.

PETER WALTER, a retired farmer of Norway, Benton county, Iowa, is a worthy representative of that class of staunch citizens known as German-Americans.

Mr. Walter was born in what is now Prussia, but was then Alsace, Germany, December 25, 1832, a son of George and Magdalene (Houre) Walter, member of respected German families. George Walter was a blacksmith and farmer. He died in his native land in 1847. Subsequently his widow came to this country and settled in Ohio, where she died in 1874. Both were devout Catholics.

In his youth Mr. Walter received such schooling as was then obtainable in the vicinity in which they lived, and at the age of twenty-four years emigrated to the United States, stopping first in Ohio and spending one year in that state. In 1858 he came to Iowa. For five years he was in the employ of Governor Kirkwood, in Johnson county, and at the end of that time went to Iowa county and purchased two hundred and twenty-five acres of land. There he pioneered. He cleared his land and cultivated the soil, and contributed his part toward the development of a rich country. As the years passed prosperity rewarded his efforts, and in 1895, having accumulated a competency, he retired from active work. He has since lived in Norway, Benton county, where he has a comfortable home and where he and his wife are rounding out the closing years of a half century of happy married life, enjoying the respect and esteem of the people of the community.

Mr. Walter married, in 1862, Miss Anna Frick, daughter of Michael and Anna Frick, nee Kuen, of Iowa county. Sons and daughters to the number of ten have come to bless their home, and have grown up and scattered and are settled in homes of their own. Their names in order of birth are as follows: Magdalena, wife of Charles Trojovsky, of Norway, Iowa; Catherine, wife of Benjamin Salber of Boone county, Nebraska; Mary, wife of Charles Preusser, of Boone county, Nebraska; Anna, wife of John Miller, Benton county, Iowa; Peter, George and John, farmers, Peter in Iowa county, and George and John in Benton county; Joseph, a dealer in agricultural implements, Watkins, Iowa; William, a merchant, Dyersville, Iowa; and Frances, wife of Joseph Schulte, Benton county, Iowa.

While in Lennox township, Iowa county, Mr. Walter filled such offices as member of school board and road supervisor, but he has never sought official position nor has he ever been in any sense a public man. He has always been a conscientious voter, however, and has cast his ballot with the Democratic party. Religiously he is a Catholic. He was one of the first members of the



*Robert Walter Swinton*





Catholic church in Iowa county, and helped to build the church there, and since coming to Norway he has been a liberal contributor to the support of the church and to the building of the new school.

EVERETT TILSON, a stockman and farmer in section 12, Jackson township, owns and operates a well improved farm of one hundred and ninety-six acres. Mr. Tilson was born on the farm where he now resides, January 6, 1858, and is a son of David and Elizabeth (Glass) Tilson. David Tilson died May 16, 1900, at the age of about seventy-seven years, at his home in Vinton, where he had lived retired during the last seventeen years of his life. He came to Benton county in 1855, and located on the farm now owned by his son Everett. David Tilson was a very successful stock farmer, a staunch Democrat, and highly respected by his fellow citizens. His wife was a native of Kentucky and died at Vinton in 1899. They were the parents of six sons and four daughters, of whom two daughters are deceased. Their children are: Clara, who married John Benson, and both are dead; W. A., a farmer of Taylor township; Jane, who married Rev. J. D. Pegg, formerly an Adventist preacher in Benton county, and she is now deceased, leaving seven daughters; Kate, widow of a Mr. Whatley, living at Fort Collins, Colorado; S. B., of Taylor township; Everett; John, of Colorado; Charles, of Independence, Iowa; Anna N., widow of a Mr. Pierce, residing at Vinton, Iowa; and Ora, residing at Eaton, Colorado.

Everett Tilson was reared on his present farm, received a common school education, and has always followed farming. He has always been interested in stock raising, and now has over three hundred head of stock. He purchased the old home in September, 1900.

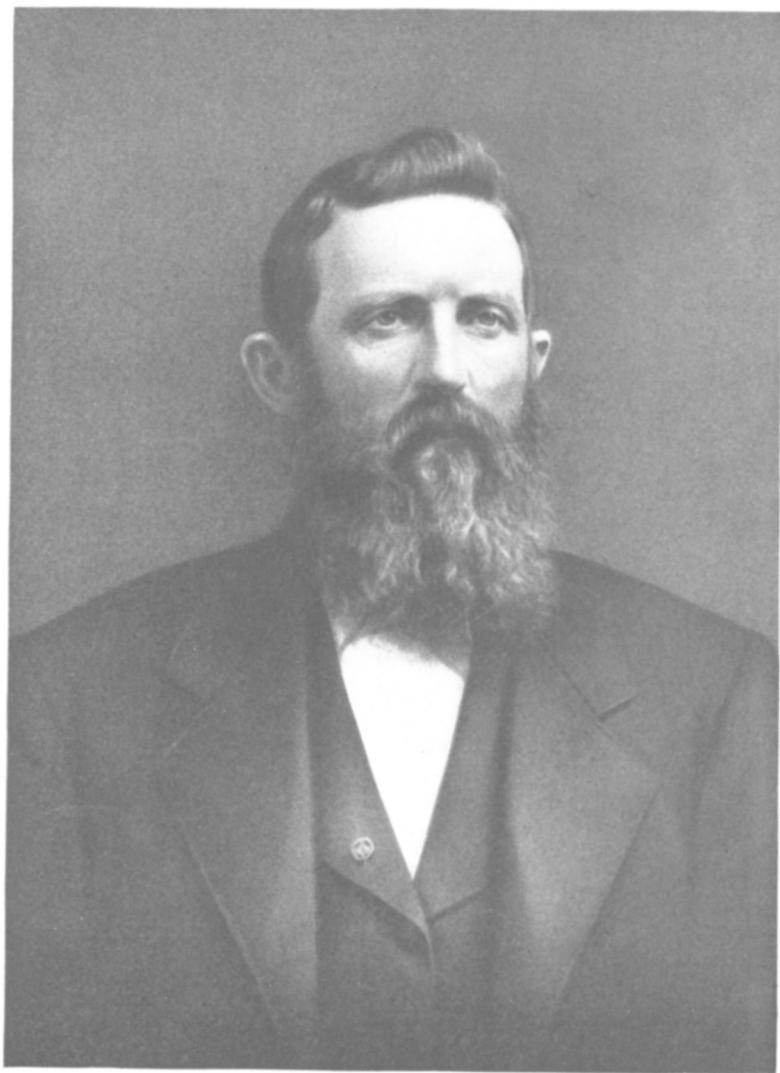
Politically Mr. Tilson is a Republican, and he is a progressive, enterprising citizen who enjoys the respect of his fellows. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Vinton.

Mr. Tilson married, in Benton county, Lettie Moore, who was born and reared in Illinois; she died on March 2, 1904, at the age of forty-seven years. Mrs. Tilson was a member of the Baptist church. They became the parents of three children, of whom two survive, Beulah and Gail M. Beulah married Charles Fowler, of Taylor township, and they have one daughter, Myrtle Lavonne, aged two. Gail M., born July 5, 1888, is unmarried and lives at home.

GEORGE W. ROBINSON, of Garrison, Iowa, who has practically retired from active life, was born in Warren township, Jennings county, Indiana, February 6, 1836, and is a son of H. M. and Martha (Brandon) Robinson, both probably born in Kentucky. His paternal grandfather emigrated from Scotland. The Brandon family had lived many years in Pennsylvania, but moved to Kentucky and later to Indiana; George Robinson's maternal grandmother was a cousin of the famous Kit Carson.

H. M. Robinson died when George was seven years of age, on June 18, 1843, aged about thirty-three years, and his mother married (second) in October 1848, John Buckles; they removed to a farm just west of South Bend, and later went to southern Michigan, where Mr. Buckles died in January, about 1891. Mrs. Buckles died in Smyrna, Nebraska, October 21, 1891, in her eighty-fourth year. H. M. Robinson and his wife had one son and three daughters; two daughters are deceased, and the youngest one now lives in Los Angeles, California. By her second marriage, Mrs. Buckles had but one child, who died in infancy.

George W. Robinson was reared in Indiana. He was seven years old when his father died; his mother married again when he was about twelve years of age, but as he couldn't get along with his step father he in the fall at the age of fifteen left home and worked on a farm for his board during the winter and attended country school. In the following spring he hired to work on a farm for seven dollars a month, the next year receiving nine dollars a month and the third year he got ten dollars. He saved his money and after he married rented land in Indiana for about three years, and then came to Benton county, Iowa, September 18, 1863; his guardian had previously on October 30, 1855, secured four hundred and eighty acres of land for him and his two sisters and this land remained in their possession until 1887, when one-half of it was sold to George Reiss. But the guardian had failed and neglected paying the taxes on the land in this county and it had been sold for taxes. Mr. Robinson paid them and only had three dollars and fifty cents left after redeeming the land. He chopped wood, husked corn and did anything to make a living. Mr. Robinson has followed farming most of his life, although he spent one year in a mill in Vinton when a young man, and spent two years, 1878-80, in Colorado. For several years he has leased his farm, and formerly raised fine graded stock; he was one of the first farmers of the vicinity to tile his land, and now has some four thousand rods of tiling. He has resided in Garrison some twelve years past, but still owns two fine farms in Big Grove township, one of two hundred and eighty acres and one of one hundred and



*G. W. Robinson*





INTERIOR VIEWS "VINTON EAGLE" OFFICE.

On the 20th of the following June, Mr. Stoughton dropped out and was succeeded by Thomas Drummond, so brilliant and popular as a legislator, an editor, an officer and a man, and also long to be remembered as the founder of the College for the Blind at Vinton. The partnership continued until October 10, 1860, when Mr. Hanford became sole proprietor and Joseph Dysart political editor. The former continued in control until May 9, 1866, when the firm became D. H. Frost and Company, with Mr. Hanford as silent partner, but in March of the following year the style was changed to Hanford and Frost. In October, 1868, A. C. Holt was associated with Mr. Hanford as Hanford and Holt, and two years thereafter the former became sole owner.



“VINTON EAGLE” PLANT.

#### BERNARD MURPHY COMES IN.

On January 4, 1871, J. W. Rich purchased a half interest, and Hanford and Rich conducted the paper until August 3, 1876, when Bernard Murphy, who had served his apprenticeship in the *Eagle* office, bought Mr. Hanford's interest, and Rich and Murphy came

John Lemmons, of Guthrie, Oklahoma. Samuel, the eldest, also died in Iowa.

Frederick Lowe, Jr., came with his family to Franklin, Johnson county, Indiana, about 1843, and removed to Iowa soon after 1850. In 1860 he married, at Portsmouth, Ohio, Mary Chaffin, born in Scioto county, Ohio, April 26, 1834, daughter of Shedrick and Sarah (Salarda) Chaffin, who lived during their married life in Scioto county, Ohio; Shedrick Chaffin died there at the age of eighty-seven years, and his wife died in 1840. He was twice married, and had fourteen children of whom seven came to Iowa, and at one time six lived in Benton county. A brother and a half brother live in California; a half-sister lives in Ohio. Samuel S. Chaffin lived many years in Eden township, Benton county, and died in 1909 in Missouri. David Chaffin, formerly a resident of Benton county, now lives in California, as previously mentioned. Mrs. Lowe was reared in Ohio, and in 1857 went to Benton county, Iowa; two years later she returned home and was there married, since which she has resided on the farm in Eden township. Frederick Lowe and his wife were parents of six children, all born on the old home in Benton county, and all living: A. L., Emma, Frank, Charles, Lovina and George. A. L. Lowe, a farmer and stock raiser, of Chillicothe, Missouri, married Clara Miller, and they have four children. Emma married Reverend F. P. Shaffer, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, of Osage, Iowa, and they have three children, Vera, Lloyd and Lysle. Charles, a fruit grower living near San Jose, California, married Minnie Pritchard, of Tipton, Iowa. Lovina, married G. W. Searles, a farmer of Minnesota, and they have four children, Waldo, Bessie, Rosemary and Mildred. George lives in Chicago, where he has for years been employed as a railroad stenographer. Politically Mr. Lowe was a Republican, and he served in various local offices. Mrs. Lowe is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Eden township.

Frank Lowe was reared in Benton county, and there attended Blairstown Academy and Walker High School. He has since followed farming most of the time, although he was temporarily employed in other business. He resided some ten years in Benton township, and served several years as justice of the peace. Like his father, he is a Republican, and he has served in township offices. He is an energetic and successful farmer, and well known in the community, where the family have been located since 1861.

Mr. Lowe married Mabel, daughter of John H. Detrick, an old resident of the county, and they have three children, Bernice, Harold Wayne and Jessie Lucile.

HORACE HAYWARD, of Vinton, is a retired farmer and a Civil war veteran who came to Canton township from Ohio in the spring of 1855, being then a sturdy, ambitious young man with a comely young wife whom he had married in the preceding fall. The later years, which were full of hard labors, careful planning and wise execution, as well as of soldierly service for the Union, yielded him substantial prosperity and high honor.

Mr. Hayward was born in Scioto county, Ohio, on the 2nd of May, 1833, and is a son of Moses and Julia (Reynolds) Hayward, old residents of that state. The father was a farmer—also a teamster employed at an iron manufactory—who died in 1838; while the mother passed away about twenty years ago, more than eighty-four years of age. Horace is the only one of the six children who is now living. On October 7, 1854, Mr. Hayward married Miss Caroline M. Richart, born in Scioto county, August 3, 1835, daughter of William and Ann Maria (Clingman) Richart, also of an old family well known in that section of Ohio. The mother died in the Buckeye state when Mrs. Hayward was less than a year old, and the father moved to Benton county to occupy the four hundred acre farm which he had purchased the year before. Mr. Richart resided on that homestead until his death in the fall of 1868.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Hayward became the parents of seven children, of whom two are deceased, all being born in Benton county. Martha married a Mr. Stone, of Cedar township, this county, and is the mother of Ray and Arthur. Orange, of Hitchcock county, Nebraska, is the father of two children, Reece and Grace. Mary and Sophia are deceased, the former dying young and the latter in womanhood. W. R. Hayward resides in Passaic, New Jersey, is a teacher in New York City, and has a daughter, Katherine E. J. L. is a teacher in the town of Auburn, Rhode Island; is married and the father of two sons, Horace and John B.; while S. Clark Hayward, of Vinton, is also a married man and the father of Helen M.

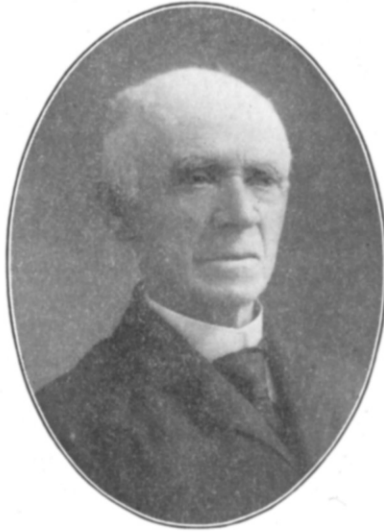
When Mr. Hayward located in Canton township with his young wife on the first of April, 1855, he occupied a farm of forty acres, which he operated for sixteen years. He then moved to Bruce township, rented land for three years and finally bought a quarter section, upon which he erected a house of "Quaker poles," twelve feet high and sixteen by twenty feet on the ground. This was considered a great improvement over the first family house built of logs. Later, a large kitchen was added to the pole house, and a cave was also provided for the storing of the family provisions. These household accommodations were in force until Mr.





MR. AND MRS. HORACE HAYWARD

the venture. But the judge finally gravitated to the *Eagle*; only about forty of the two hundred subscribers on paper actually



D. B. PYNE.

cashed in; the *Democrat* collapsed in the early winter and revived the following spring; was sold by Mr. Pyne to James Fowler and Henry Price, and, on May 21, 1859, to John Alexander and I. Van Metre. Under that management it was conducted with ability, not to say brilliancy (editorially speaking); but it was the song of the dying swan, for, although Mr. Pyne re-entered the business and worked hard to revive it, the paper was forced to suspend after the October election, which went against the Democrats.

#### VAN METRE VS. DRUMMOND.

The most exciting local event in the campaign was the fistic encounter which occurred between Editor Van Metre and Editor Tom Drummond, the dashing young Republican and pride of the *Eagle*. It is said that although on his last financial legs the Democratic champion got rather the best of that kind of an argument, albeit Drummond became so gallant an officer in the Civil war. The files of the defunct journal have for years reposed peacefully with those of its old-time enemy, still "alive and kicking."

#### "EVERY OTHER DAILY UNION," BELLE PLAINE.

The Belle Plaine *Every Other Daily Union*, of which C. A. Noble was editor and proprietor, from November, 1907, until his death in 1910, had its origin in the *Belle Plaine Transcript*, which was established about the middle of December, 1866, by N. C. Weiting. It was a folio, seven columns, and Republican in politics. On February 14, 1867, Mr. Weiting sold the office to W. W. Yarhan and William Nixon, and a few months thereafter the

Hayward erected the comfortable and commodious residence which he now occupies. Both he and his wife are members of the Baptist church. In the fall of 1861, while still living on the little farm in Canton township, he enlisted in Company D, Twenty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, his active service commencing in 1862 and continuing until the conclusion of the war. Two years of that period were spent as a government teamster, and he participated in both the first and the last battle (Cedar Creek) of his regiment. He took part in several wearing campaigns and not a few important engagements, but was never seriously injured and, on the whole, enjoyed good health; so that on the Civil war score he has much for which to be thankful.

At the time Mr. Hayward purchased the quarter section in Bruce township (in 1871) he paid an average of twenty dollars an acre, the land being raw prairie covered with "nigger head" bowlders. As an illustration of the increase of values in that part of the county, it may be stated that the same grade of land now sells for one hundred and twelve dollars per acre. Such advancement in land values is due to the agricultural labors of such men as Mr. Hayward, who both bring the soil to its full productiveness and maintain their implements and improvements at the highest standard. His successes have included both general farming and stock raising, and besides his valuable property in Bruce township he owns a fine eighty-acre farm near LaPorte, Iowa. As of old, his politics are Republican, and he has served the public well as trustee of Bruce township. He still revives the memory of his Civil war days by his connection with P. M. Coder Post No. 98, G. A. R., although the reminiscences of that period come with less and less frequency as his comrades drop from the ranks of the living, and those who remain have the greater honor.

CORNELIUS P. LONG, who died at his home in Taylor township, Benton county, Iowa, March 7, 1905, was a highly successful and substantial farmer. Mr. Long was born at Greensburg, Decatur county, Indiana, January 9, 1859, and was son of W. P. and Annie (Waddell) Long, natives of Kentucky. W. P. Long and his wife were married in Decatur county, Indiana, and there carried on a farm until 1855, when they moved to Harrison township, Benton county, Iowa. Later he purchased a farm in Taylor township, and during the Civil war he moved to Polk township, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, the family home for many years. Mr. Long died at the age of eighty-four years at Urbana, where he spent the last years of his life; his wife died about 1895, aged seventy-one years. Cornelius P. was the second

of their eight children who reached maturity and besides these two died in infancy. The following survive: Mrs. John Glendye, of Vinton; William, of Harrison township; Albert, of Vinton, and O. E., of Denver.

C. P. Long was reared from childhood in Benton county, and there received a common school education. He was very successful as a farmer and stock raiser, and always raised Short-horn cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs. He owned two hundred and sixty-seven acres in Taylor township, in sections 6 and 31. This farm was at first unimproved and had to be cleared and cultivated to bring it to its present high state of cultivation. Mr. Long was an industrious farmer, a kind husband and father, and universally esteemed. Politically he was always a Republican, and he and his wife belonged to the Prairie Creek Christian church.

Mr. Long married, May 24, 1873, Mrs. Delia A. Sammons, widow of N. J. Sammons and daughter of Michael and Ann D. (Ferris) Snell, natives of Albany, New York, and Horseshoe Bend, Connecticut, respectively. Delia A. Snell was born in Jennings county, Indiana, December 6, 1844. Her parents were children when they came with their respective families to Indiana; they were married at Brookville, Franklin county, Indiana. Mr. Snell was a farmer and also a miller, and they lived and died on the old farm, he dying in August, 1872, aged seventy-five years, and she died in July, 1893, aged eighty-nine. They had several children, of whom five died in infancy. Mrs. Long is the youngest, the others are: Mrs. Jack Long, of Urbana; Mrs. Mary Stagg, who died October 21, 1909; Mrs. Martha Stagg and Mrs. Catherine G. Gnose, all of Indiana; and Henry C., of Greensburg, Indiana. Mrs. Long came to Benton county October 17, 1861, but was married in Indiana to N. J. Sammons, who was born at Greensburg, Indiana, and died at Ottumwa, Iowa, in 1872, at the age of thirty years, leaving two children, Kittie M. and James Henry. Kittie M. Sammons is now the wife of William Bassett, of Vinton, and they have one daughter, Mrs. Ethel Johnson, of Polk township. James Henry Sammons, of Alberta, Canada, married Jennie Rarey, and they have four children, Vernie, Bernice, Floyd and Selma. Mr. and Mrs. Long became the parents of two children, Frank and Ruth. Frank Long, of Missoula, Montana, is engaged in mercantile business, he married Ella Calkins, formerly of Mount Auburn, Iowa, who died in December, 1905, leaving one son, Chester, aged six, born June 27, 1903. Ruth Long married Clifford Bunten, a farmer of Taylor township, Benton county, and they have two sons, Paul, born June 29, 1903, and Frank L., born January 17, 1909.

CHARLES F. STOOKEY, an attorney of Shellsburg, dealer in real estate and loans, and also for some twenty-three years proprietor and publisher of the *Shellsburg Call*, was born March 21, 1856, at Warsaw, Indiana. He is a son of Abraham and Sarah B. (Lightfoot) Stookey; the latter, born in 1812, died in 1903, when nearly ninety-one years of age, on the old homestead east of Shellsburg, in Linn county. She had lived there since 1863, when she and her husband settled there. They were from Ohio, and came to Iowa in 1857, locating in Linn county. Abraham Stookey died there in 1884, in his sixty-ninth year; he was a farmer and stockman all his life. They had a large family of children, five of whom grew to maturity, of whom Charles F. is the youngest. The others are: Nelson H., living on the old homestead in Linn county; Marion F., a lawyer in Leon, Iowa, proprietor of the *Leon Journal*, who represented in the state senate his district of Decatur, Ringgold and Union counties; Mrs. Margaret E. Lightfoot, of Fayette township, Linn county; and Maria A., Mrs. MeVey, who died in 1907.

Charles F. Stookey was reared on a farm and attended Western (now Leander Clark) College, of Toledo, after which he took up the study of law at home. Later he began reading law with his brother, Marion F., and was admitted to the bar in Decatur county, Iowa, January 14, 1881. He had previously spent a short time teaching school. Mr. Stookey located in Shellsburg April 26, 1881, and has continued there in the successful practice of his profession. He also has other business interests, and is a thoroughly enterprising and wide-awake business man, paying close attention to his interests.

Mr. Stookey is a director of the People's Savings Bank, of Shellsburg, and of the Altoona (Kansas) Portland Cement Company, capitalized at six hundred thousand dollars. Politically he is a Republican; in 1894 he was elected to the office of county attorney. Mr. Stookey is a member of Benton City Lodge, No. 81 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and of Ola Lodge, No. 120, Knights of Pythias, of Shellsburg. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

On April 20, 1882, Mr. Stookey married Lucy A., daughter of W. J. and Sarah A. White, pioneers of Benton county, who lived near Shellsburg; Mr. White entered land and lived there until his death, April 10, 1895, when nearly eighty-one years of age. Mr. Stookey and his wife have children as follows: Charles Owen, Pearl L. and Sarah Marie. Charles O. was born October 18, 1883, and is now serving in the reclamation service for the United States government at North Yakima, Washington; he is

a graduate of Shellsburg High School, and took a business\*course, later passing the government civil service examination. Pearl L., the second son, was born October 3, 1889, and is in the employ of Frick-Russell-Stearns Company, of Cedar Rapids. Sarah Marie, born December 24, 1895, lives at home and is attending high school.

SAMUEL B. AUSTIN, is one of the most practical farmers and stockmen of Benton county. His principal farm consists of one hundred and eighty-six acres in section 18, Taylor township, but he also owns two hundred and fifty-two acres of pasture land in sections 9 and 10. He raises graded stock and usually ships about a hundred head annually.

When he came to Benton county in 1872 his first location was five miles northwest of Vinton, in Jackson township. This place is now a landmark in the county because of its beautiful grove of Norway spruce, said to be the finest woodland of this kind in the entire state. Mr. Austin set out these trees, a thousand of them, over thirty years ago, and the fine grove is a monument to the effort of which any man might be proud. In all departments he is a progressive and thoroughly modern farmer and stockman, believes in well graded stock, and the conduct of farming on business principles. From a modest beginning his industry and able management have brought a good competence, and he is one of the most influential citizens of his vicinity.

He was born in county Down, Ireland, June 1, 1847, and in 1849 came to America with his parents, John and Mary (Brown) Austin. They located west of Dubuque in Dubuque county, where the parents lived till death. They were of the Presbyterian church. The father was a substantial farmer and assisted his children when they began independently. The three children now living are: Samuel B., Robert B., of Jackson township; and Mrs. Martha Burrell, of LaMars, Iowa.

Samuel B. Austin grew up in Dubuque county, receiving a good common-school education. In politics he has always voted Republican. He was formerly affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was baptized and reared in the faith of the Presbyterian church, while his wife is a member of the United Brethren church at Vinton.

He married, in Grundy county, Iowa, Mrs. Nellie Reed. She was born in Jackson township, Benton county, in March, 1856, being a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Brallier) Baum, early settlers of this county, who died when the daughter Nellie, was a child. Their original home was at Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where many relatives still live, and Johnstown was named in



MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL B. AUSTIN





honor of a great-grandfather of Mrs. Austin. The family were for the most part of the Dunkard or Mennonite religious faith. Mrs. Austin was reared in Iowa. She has a sister, Mrs. Eva Pavey, who was born in Vinton and now lives in Kansas, and a half-sister, Mrs. David Patterson, also born in Vinton, who lives at Maple Creek, in the Northwest Territory, Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Austin, having no children of their own, have adopted and reared several orphans and prepared them for useful citizenship. They are: Harry, who now lives in Salt Lake, Utah; John W., at home; Beulah Axie, living in North Dakota; Lillian Ellen, wife of Roy Epperson, of Taylor township. They also reared a boy, Eddie, from infancy to twelve years, and he now lives with Mrs. Austin's sister in Kansas.

THE BIXBY BROTHERS, Clarence and Clayton Bixby, of Cedar township, Benton county, own and operate one hundred and sixty acres in sections 18 and 19. Clayton Bixby was born in 1850, in Illinois, and came to Benton county in 1864, with his parents and the other children, the journey being made by team. Clarence Bixby was born in 1859, in Illinois, and came to Benton county with the others. They are sons of Warren and Marcia (Hawkins) Bixby. The father, a son of Loren and Sarah Bixby, was born in Vermont, where his parents were both born and reared. He also lived in his native state until he was twenty years of age, and had worked away from home several years. At the age of twenty-one he went to Ohio, where he learned the cooper's trade working there about fifteen years, and in the meantime marrying. On April 8, 1843, he removed to Illinois, and after remaining there twelve years he settled in Benton county, Iowa, where he rented a farm four years and then purchased eighty acres of unimproved land. He had no near neighbors, and set out to improve his wilderness farm. He later purchased another eighty acres near the first, and carried on farming the remainder of his life. He died March 12, 1901.

Warren Bixby was a man of great ambition and high purpose, and became very successful. He was a capable and industrious farmer, and was held in high esteem by his associates. His wife was a daughter of Samuel and Matilda (White) Hawkins; her parents came from New York and Vermont, respectively, as pioneers of Ohio, and in a day when the state was heavily timbered, cleared their land and brought it from a wild state to one of cultivation. Mercia Hawkins was born in Vermont, July 18, 1820, and reared in her native state. She removed to Ohio with her parents, and there married. She died February 16, 1904, on the old home-

stead. Warren Bixby and his wife had children as follows: Emma, born June 23, 1844, and died in 1884, who married (first) Rufus Worthen, who died in Andersonville Prison, in the Civil war, and (second) James Maxfield; Ellen Maria, wife of Thomas Brown, who died in 1880; Clayton Aurelius; Gertrude M., wife of Edward Irons, who died in 1901; Marcia M., who died in infancy; and Clarence M.

The Bixby Brothers have spent all their time on the home farm since first removing there and are considered enterprising and successful farmers. They make a specialty of fine horses, and are the owners of two full-blooded imported Percheron stallions and two of the same breed imported Percheron brood mares, besides a number of other horses. They also have fine hogs and other stock. They have put their farm into fine condition, and take great pride in their work. Both of them are adherents of the Republican party, and are public-spirited, useful citizens. Their farm is located near LaPorte.

ELMER E. DETRICK, a stock farmer of Eden township, owns a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in section 22, where he has lived for the past sixteen years. He was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, March 30, 1865, and is a son of John H. Detrick; he was only five years of age when the family removed to Clinton, Iowa, and thence, in 1875, to Benton county.

John H. Detrick, for the past three years retired and living at his home farm of eighty acres, in section 11, Eden township, has been a resident of Benton county since 1875, and then located on the farm where he still resides. He has followed general farming and stock raising, and has made all possible improvements. He was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, in 1835, and is a son of Frederick and Elizabeth (Hileman) Detrick, who were farmers in Pennsylvania, where both died; they were natives of that state. They had twelve children, all of whom lived to maturity, but John H. is the only one who came to Benton county, Iowa; one brother settled in Muscatine but the rest of the family remained in Pennsylvania. Mr. Detrick was reared and educated in his native state, and there married Kate McCormick, who was also a native of Pennsylvania, and died in Benton county, Iowa, in 1903, in her sixty-first year. Four children were born to them in Pennsylvania. In 1868 they removed to Clinton county, Iowa, where they remained six or seven years; in 1875 they sold out and came to the present home. They reared six children, all of whom survive, namely: Robert M., a successful farmer of Eden township; Elmer E.; Rollie, a farmer of Canton township; Jennie, wife of R. E.

Downs, of Cedar Rapids; Mabel, wife of Frank Lowe, a farmer of Eden township, mentioned elsewhere in this work; and Jessie, who lives at home and is housekeeper for her father. Mr. Detrick is a Democrat, and though he has never cared for public office, he has served as school director. He formerly belonged to the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and his wife was a Presbyterian.

Elmer E. Detrick moved to his present home in 1892, and has since made many improvements. He has built new fences, which he has made proof against hogs throughout his farm, and has a fine new residence, as well as substantial outbuildings. He purchased the farm in 1901. He is an extensive feeder of cattle and hogs and in 1908 fed eight loads of stock. He now (1909) has six loads of cattle and about five of hogs. Ever since he occupied this farm he has been raising stock for the market, and has been very successful in his enterprise. He received his education in the country schools, and has ever since followed farming; although he had almost nothing at his start in life, he has made his success in the stock business through his own untiring efforts.

Mr. Detrick has always been a Democrat, and has held various public offices, serving six years as trustee, and now serving his second term as assessor, while for three or four terms he was school director; he is at present treasurer of the district. Although the township is nominally Republican, Mr. Detrick has been many times honored by his fellow-citizens in the way of public office, and is universally respected and esteemed. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias of Vinton.

In 1889 Mr. Detrick married Sarah, daughter of Robert Downs, given mention at length elsewhere in this work. They are parents of three children, Hazel, Carl and Glen.

DAVID D. DICKSON, who has partially retired, although he still resides on his fine farm of two hundred and twenty-six acres, now operated by his son, was born in county Tyrone, Ireland, April 15, 1834, and is a son of David and Mary (Mullen) Dickson, both natives of Ireland. His father followed the trade of saddler, though he owned a farm and raised good horses. David D. Dickson managed his father's farm several years before coming to America in 1868. His mother died when he was two years old, and his father, who was married twice afterwards, died in 1872, in Ireland, at an advanced age. David Dickson is the youngest of nine children. One sister, a widow, lives at Burlington, Iowa. Two other sisters, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Hagan, came to Benton county soon after 1860; David made his home with them and worked for them two years. One brother died in Nebraska, and the oldest brother died some years since in Indiana.

David D. Dickson was reared and educated in his native country, and when he came to Boston, in 1868, he owned but a few dollars after paying his passage. He worked in a brickyard until coming to Iowa in the fall of that year. He located just south of Atkins, where for two years he worked for a brother-in-law. Afterwards he bought one hundred and sixty acres, part of which is now the site of the German Lutheran church. He purchased the land, which was then unimproved, for eighteen dollars per acre, and in 1892 sold out for sixty-five dollars per acre. He purchased his present farm for forty dollars per acre; he has a three thousand dollar residence, and suitable outbuildings, and has put in more than a mile of tiling. This is one of the finest farms in the county, in the quality and condition of the soil, and the improvements. He has followed general farming and raising stock, having several fine bred Belgian horses. While living in Ireland he was what is known as an Orangeman, and in religious belief is a Presbyterian. Politically he is a Democrat, and has filled various township offices.

In 1873 Mr. Dickson married, in Benton county, Iowa, Sarah Johnson, who was born and reared in Coshocton county, Ohio, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Black) Johnson, who came to Benton county soon after 1850, and settled in Fremont township. Mrs. Dickson died on the home farm in Eden township, July 1, 1903, aged fifty years. Mr. and Mrs. Dickson became parents of four sons and two daughters. Iner D., a farmer in Canton township, married Cora Weir and has two children, Ralph and Mary; Edith M., is the wife of C. A. Wickman, a farmer of Fremont township; Vivian, is unmarried and living at home; Joseph J., living three miles south of Vinton, married Nellie, daughter of George Fry, of Vinton, and has one son, Howard; John C., died in 1907, at the age of twenty-one years; and Roy E., unmarried, operates the home farm, leasing it on shares.

J. W. JONES.—County Superintendent of Schools J. W. Jones, of Vinton, has enjoyed a literary and business training which makes him an ideal incumbent of this office. He is a native of Adams county, Ohio, and was born in February, 1862, but has been a resident of Benton county since 1892, when he came to the west.

Mr. Jones is of pure Welsh descent, but his paternal grandfather, Ephraim Jones, was a New York farmer who moved to Ohio at an early day. Ephraim Jones married Miss Roxy A. Tracy, of Adams county, Ohio, and died on his Ohio farm about 1856, his widow surviving him until 1880, her last years being spent in Illinois. The offspring of this union were as follows:



*J. D. Jones*



William, a pioneer school teacher, who became a large land owner in Illinois and died unmarried in his twenty-eighth year; John M., who inherited the property of his brother William in Douglas county, Illinois, and married Miss Hannah H. Fields; Noah T., father of J. W. Jones, born in 1835, was a farmer in Adams county, Ohio, married Miss Palmyra Easter in 1861, and soon afterward enlisted in the Seventieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, dying at Memphis, Tennessee, while in the Union army; Mary Ann, who was the wife of Crawford Ralston, of Adams county; Rebecca, who became Mrs. James Caraskadon, and resided in Indianapolis; Margaret who married John Cook, of Newman, Illinois; America Jane, who is Mrs. Robert Nelson, of Allerton, Illinois. Of these children all have passed away except Mrs. Nelson. The maternal grandfather of Superintendent Jones was of German descent, a son of Nicholas and Margaret Easter.

At the time of his father's death, J. W. Jones was an infant, and being an only child was reared by his maternal grandfather. The mother of Mr. Jones died in 1897, at Mount Auburn, where she made her home with her son. Mr. Jones obtained his early education in the common schools of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, and taught for two years before he completed his course in the North Liberty Academy, at Cherry Fork, Ohio. He taught three years in the rural schools of Ohio, two years in the rural schools of Coles county, Illinois, and for the same length of time was principal of the graded school at Humboldt. In the meantime he had taken a special course in higher mathematics, penmanship and the sciences at Valparaiso, Indiana, and then finished a course in the Commercial College of the Kentucky University at Lexington, Kentucky. From Illinois he returned to Ohio in 1888, and for the succeeding four years was a merchant. On November 7, 1892, Mr. Jones arrived in Mount Auburn, Iowa, and during the following fourteen years served much of the time as principal of the village schools. He was elected to the superintendency of the Benton county schools in 1906, and is now in the second term of an energetic and progressive administration. Mr. Jones is a thorough scholar and teacher. He is a Republican and connected with the Methodist Protestant church.

On April 8, 1888, he married Miss Enna Black, and their two sons, David T. and Paul G., are both attending school at Vinton. The parents of Mrs. Jones, David S. and Sarah (Foster) Black, were natives of Ohio and came to Benton county in 1853. They entered two hundred and forty acres of land near Mount Auburn, and eighty-six acres in Taylor township, northwest of Vinton. They remained in the county but a few weeks, returning

to Ohio, where Mr. Black died in the early seventies. Mrs. Black died in Vinton January 4, 1908. An incident worthy of notice is the fact that when they left Benton county for Ohio in June, 1853, they traveled through a snow storm all the way to Cedar Rapids.

ISBAND NOBLE, who died December 27, 1900, was a pioneer and highly respected citizen of Benton county. He left a widow, four sons and a daughter, all of whom live in the immediate vicinity of the old home in Taylor township. Mr. Noble was born in Elgin county, in part of the section now known as Ontario, Canada, April 16, 1827, and was a son of Isband and Sarah (Brooks) Noble, natives of Massachusetts. Isband Noble, Sr., emigrated to Canada with his family, and they lived there until their deaths; she died in 1831, when Isband was only four years of age, and her husband survived until October 2, 1864. He served in the war of 1812, on the British side, having been drafted into the army.

Isband Noble, the son, remained at home until twenty-six years of age, and in November, 1850, started westward; he purchased a quarter section of land in Benton county, Iowa, where he lived until his death. He came in company with his brother John, and as they did not have money to pay for the land they persuaded a man to enter a half section of land for them and allow them time to pay him for the same. In the spring of 1851 Mr. Noble went to Minnesota, and for eighteen months worked on a farm, about eighty miles from St. Paul. He returned to Canada, and on October 27, 1852, married Hannah P., daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth (Carless) Geddes, of Scotch parentage; she was also a native of Scotland, born in Edinburgh, October 13, 1829. Immediately after his marriage Mr. Noble brought his young wife to Benton county and settled on the farm on section 4, Taylor township, which he had entered in 1850. He became a very successful farmer, and added to his purchase from time to time until at the time of his death he owned over six hundred acres of valuable land in one body. He was one of the most substantial farmers of the vicinity, and by his industry, sterling honesty and high character made many friends. He held the office of township trustee and was prominent in all matters pertaining to the interest and welfare of the public. At one time Mr. Noble had a fine herd of seventy-five or eighty head of thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, and exhibited some of the finest animals to be found in the state.

Mr. Noble and his wife became the parents of children as follows: James A., William I., Sarah E., Andrew and Charles G.

James A. Noble was born October 16, 1853, and lives on a



farm near the old homestead of his father. Besides his share of the timber land of the estate he owns one hundred and forty acres. Mr. Noble married Emma Coutts, born in Vinton, Iowa, July 23, 1858, and they have two daughters, Hannah, aged twenty-nine years, the wife of Roscoe McMillan, and has one child; and Bessie May, aged twenty-four. James A. Noble carries on general farming and stock raising, and in politics is a Republican. The entire family are members of the Prairie Creek Christian church.

William I. Noble was born February 16, 1856, and was educated in the common schools of Taylor township. He is a successful stock farmer and has cattle and sheep. He operates two hundred and thirty-three acres of his own, besides his share of his father's estate. Politically Mr. Noble is a Republican. He married, March 19, 1891, Ella Wright, who was reared on a farm in Vinton and Big Grove townships from the time she was ten years old. She is a daughter of Thomas and Martha E. (Gray) Wright; Mrs. Wright is deceased, and Mr. Wright now lives at Lowmoor, Iowa. Mr. Noble and his wife have one son and three daughters, namely: Leon L., aged sixteen; Patricia Elsie, aged fourteen; Nellie May, aged twelve; and Anna Elizabeth, aged four, all at home. Mr. Noble and his wife are members of the Prairie Creek Christian church.

Sarah E. Noble was born April 22, 1858; she married Taylor Cook, of a family of pioneers in Benton county, and he died in 1886. Mrs. Cook resides with her mother near her brother James A.

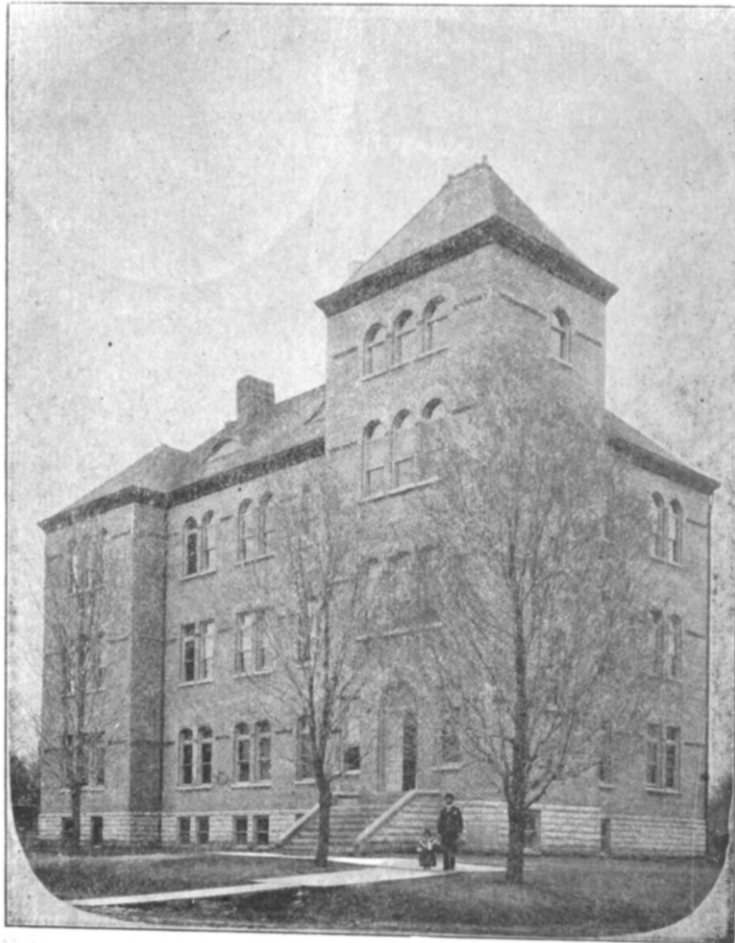
Andrew L. Noble is a farmer and buys and sells stock. He owns eighty acres, which he operates in connection with a portion of his father's estate, and also owns ninety acres on the south side of the Cedar River on the edge of Vinton. He was born October 11, 1863, and was reared in Benton county, where he has spent his entire life. He was educated in the common schools, and worked at home for his father until twenty-seven years of age, at which time he was married. Politically he is a Republican, and is now a trustee of Taylor township. He and his wife are members of the Prairie Creek Christian church in Harrison township. Mr. Noble married Ida, a niece of Paul Correll, mentioned elsewhere in this work.

Charles G. Noble is a farmer and stockman and owns eighty acres of land. He operates his share of the old homestead. He was born April 13, 1868, on the place which is his present home. He attended the public schools and has followed farming, breeding and handling stock all his life. He favors Durham cattle and Chester White hogs, having a large number of each. Politically he

secretary; A. F. Allen, treasurer; other directors, M. A. Heck, W. E. Davis, M. F. Bruch and G. W. Goss, Jr.

#### TILFORD COLLEGIATE ACADEMY, VINTON.

In the late fifties earnest efforts were made by leading citizens of Vinton to secure an institution of learning in their midst. As the Presbytery of Iowa was looking for a site for a college, it was considered rather a favorable time to agitate the project. Cedar Rapids, however, best met the requirements of that body, and



TILFORD COLLEGIATE ACADEMY, VINTON.

expecting there to have enough work to keep him comfortably busy and at the same time have leisure in which to enjoy life. For twelve years he lived there and, according to his statement, worked just as hard as if he had been on the farm. Then he moved to Cedar Rapids, and lived three years in quiet retirement. The farm, however, had its attractions, and in 1902 a longing to return to it compelled him to build a cottage there. In his pretty country home he and his wife expect to spend their last days.

Mrs. Gongwer's maiden name was Martha Smyth. She was born near Evansville, Indiana, March 22, 1852, daughter of John and Sarah (Mitchell) Smyth; and she became the wife of Mr. Gongwer on May 10, 1870. Her parents were Scotch-Irish. They came from Ireland to this country in 1851 and settled in Indiana, where her father died the following year. In 1865 the rest of the family came to Iowa and established their home in Fremont township, Benton county. The mother died in Marion, Iowa, in 1891, at the age of seventy-seven years. Of her six children three are living: William H. and John of Chariton, Iowa, and Martha. Those deceased were Mrs. Anna Jane Short, who died in Blue Rapids, Kansas, in 1893. Jeremiah died and was buried at sea when the family was enroute to the United States. Thomas M. Smyth died in Flint, Michigan. He served as lieutenant in the Fifty-first Indiana Volunteer Infantry during the Civil war. To Mr. and Mrs. Gongwer were given two children, Ira J. and Archie W. The latter died at the age of sixteen years, and the former conducts the operations of the home farm, he having had charge since 1902.

Politically Mr. Gongwer has always affiliated with the Republican party. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

NICHOLAS SCHNOOR, living in Mount Auburn, retired from active life, was born in Holstein, Germany, July 7, 1840. He emigrated to the United States and located in Rock Island county, Illinois, in 1855. He remained there until 1867 and then located in Benton county, Iowa. He is a son of James and Cecilia (Schwartz) Schnoor, the former born in Germany, in 1808. James Schnoor, a farmer and laboring man in Germany, was reared in his native country, and in 1855 came to the United States. He was married in 1834, and had children as follows: Katrina, deceased, wife of Herr Gersten Korn, of Germany; Margaret, deceased, married in Davenport, Iowa, to Carl Burmeister; and Nicholas. They owned land in Illinois, and in 1867 sold this and located in Benton county. Mrs. Schnoor died in the spring of 1855, in Germany, and after coming to Benton county James Schnoor lived with his son until his death in 1876.

Nicholas Schnoor came with his father to Illinois in 1855, a half brother, Paul Gottsche, having preceded him, and became owner of some land in that state. In 1866 he sold his interests in Illinois and came to Benton county. He bought one hundred and sixty acres in Cedar township, consisting of raw prairie, and moved on to the farm, making all possible improvements. He added eighty acres, sold a part of his holdings, and finally became owner of two hundred and forty acres in section 28. He remained on this farm until 1888 and then located in Mount Auburn, where for some time he conducted a meat market. He served four years as postmaster, and has been engaged in various lines of business such as creamery, insurance, etc. He is a Democrat and has served in various school and township offices; he is now justice of the peace. He is a member of the Lutheran church, and also of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. Schnoor is a prominent citizen of Mount Auburn, and has been successful in a business way through his energy and thrift. He takes an active interest in public affairs.

In 1862 Mr. Schnoor married Bertha Stoltenberg, who came from Germany in 1860, and they had children as follows: George W., on the farm in Cedar township; Annie, who died in infancy; Charles, living on a farm in O'Brien county, Iowa, for nine years a railroad agent; Annie, wife of Herman Rung, of Moline, Illinois; John, a commercial traveler, living at Wichita, Kansas; Rebecca, wife of E. E. Louis, of Glendive, Montana; Edward, living in Wichita, Kansas; William who died at the age of eighteen years, shot in March, 1897; Philip, a railroad employe, living at Wellington, Kansas; and Cecilia, of Glendive, Montana. Mrs. Schnoor died February 15, 1886, and Mr. Schnoor married (second) September 22, 1888, Mary Hauberg, nee Messer, daughter of Rymer and Telsia (Herman) Messer; Mrs. Messer died in Germany and her husband came to the United States and settled at Rock Island, county, Illinois. By his second marriage Mr. Schnoor had two children. Clarence, employed in a store in Algona, Iowa, was drowned August, 1909, at the age of eighteen, and Stella, lives at home. By her previous marriage Mrs. Schnoor had eight children, four of whom survive; they were: John, of Glendive, Montana; Margaret; George; Minnie; and Maud (all deceased); Herman, of Algona, Iowa; Lou, government land detective in Montana; and George, studying medicine in Chicago in the Northwestern Medical College.

JOHN DEKLOTZ.—The late John Deklotz was born June 24, 1828, at Thalheim, Germany, and was accidentally killed at Norway, Benton county, on his way to town by a fast train of the

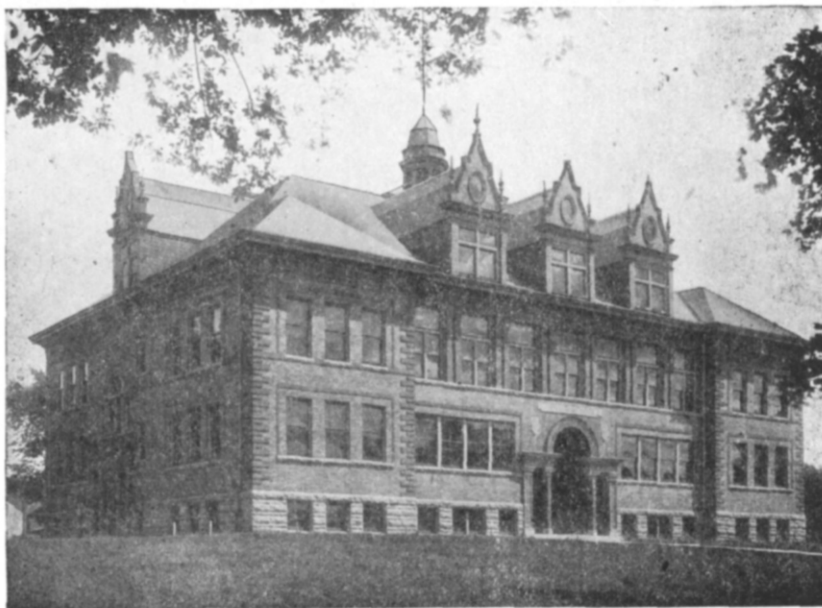


*Levi Oakley*



Warner, assistant; Alice M. Bingham, Mrs. N. E. Pierce, Mary E. Marine, Ada Voris, Mattie Voris, Clare R. Van Horn, Ora M. Ketchum, Verona Marcellus, Etta A. Palmer, Miss C. S. Hall and Miss W. A. Burr.

What is known as the East school of Vinton was destroyed by fire November 24, 1897, and the building which replaced it (completed in December, 1898) accommodates both high and grammar grades. It is a fine structure, two stories and basement, built of brick with cut-stone trimmings; slate roof and dormer windows; hard maple floors; steel ceilings; ventilated, both direct and indirect, the circulation of air being forced by a fan in the basement



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, VINTON.

run by a small steam engine; lighted by electricity, and supplied with every other convenience known to the modern school. The building and grounds are valued at \$40,000. On the first floor are seven class rooms for the grammar grades, and on the second floor are one class room and four recitation rooms for the high school, with laboratories, library and principal's office.

The present attendance at the high school is about 140, the

Mr. Deklotz was an earnest member of the German Catholic church, and reared his family in this faith. He was a man of quiet nature, and loved his home and family devotedly.

LEWIS DEKLOTZ, a prominent banker of Newhall, Iowa, was born in Cedar county, Iowa, March 19, 1862, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Petter) Deklotz, who are mentioned at length elsewhere in this work.

Mr. Deklotz received his early education in the public schools of Benton county, where he grew to manhood on his father's farm. He later attended Tilford Academy at Vinton five terms and taught school four winters, two in St. Clair township and two in Florence township, spending the summers in farming for himself. The year 1885-6 he spent in Pocahontas county, Iowa, where he owned a piece of land which he afterward sold, and, returning to Benton county, carried on his father's farm. In the fall of 1888 Mr. Deklotz bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Eldorado township, which he cultivated until May, 1904, at which time he accepted the position of cashier of the Newhall Savings Bank, which position he still fills, residing on his farm. He has proven himself a good business manager and banker, and in 1905 he purchased an additional eighty acres of land, which he looks after in addition to his other duties. The bank was organized in 1894, with a capital of fifteen thousand dollars, and fifteen years later had acquired a surplus of fifteen thousand dollars. Mr. Deklotz has been a director in the bank since its organization. This institution has won the confidence and patronage of the most prosperous men of the community, and does a constantly increasing business. Mr. Deklotz is a stockholder in the Atlas Insurance Company, of Des Moines, Iowa. In politics he is a strong adherent of the Democratic party, and though he has never aspired to office he served six years as township clerk and twelve years as secretary of the school board. He was reared in the German Catholic faith, but has recently not been very active in the church, owing to the absence of opportunity in his vicinity. However, he gives freely to religious, charitable and educational causes. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias, St. Valentine Lodge No. 67, of Newhall, of which he has served as master of exchequer since its organization. Mr. Deklotz is a patriotic and useful citizen, and is an enterprising, hustling man of business. He is a great lover of home and family, and takes great pride in his children.

On May 22, 1888, Mr. Deklotz married Lena, daughter of Henry and Louisa Davis, farmers of Benton county. Her father,



given mention at length elsewhere in this volume, located in Benton county, in 1862. Mrs. Deklotz received her education in the district schools. They became the parents of children as follows: Mabel, Edward J., Ralph R., Gilbert G., Roy and Merrill. Mabel is the wife of John Seeman, of Benton county. The two elder sons are farmers living in Benton county, and the remainder of the children are at home.

DANIEL S. ROSENBERG, a substantial farmer of section 18, Eden township, owns one hundred and sixty acres of fine land, on which he has made all improvements. He was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, July 2, 1856, and is a son of John E. and Mary C. (Sanger) Rosenberg, who came to Benton county in 1865, stopping a few months at Vinton, a year in Bruce township, and then located in Jackson township, which was their home for many years. John E. Rosenberg was born in York county, Pennsylvania, in 1820, and removed to Franklin county, the same state, in 1865. He was a silversmith and worked at his trade in the east, but in his later life ill health compelled his retirement from active life. He died at the home of his son Daniel S. in 1890. He and his wife were members of the German Baptist church. His wife, Mary C. Sanger, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, where she lived until her marriage; she died at Vinton, in 1901, in her seventy-first year. They had five sons and five daughters, of whom several died young. The following are the surviving children: Daniel S.; David, in real estate business at Long Beach, California; Joseph, a coal miner of Colorado; John, connected with the Corn Belt Telephone Company, installing switch boards, etc.; Mrs. J. B. Schuplin, of Vinton; Mrs. U. Fink, of Garrison, Iowa.

Daniel S. Rosenberg was reared partly in Benton county, and received a common school education. He has spent most of his life on a farm, and has lived in his present location, in Eden township sixteen years except four years spent in Vinton.

Mr. Rosenberg has always been a staunch Republican, and has served in various township offices. In 1898 he was elected for a term of two years to the office of recorder of Benton county, and at the end of his term was re-elected. He then resumed farming; he had previously owned eighty acres, which he traded for eighty acres of his present farm, and purchased another eighty acres. He carries on general farming, and has made all modern improvements.

Mr. Rosenberg married, in Benton county, Charlotte A. Marr, who was born in Michigan, and came as a child with her parents

to Benton county. She is a daughter of Charles and Sarah (Waite) Marr, both now deceased. They came to Benton county in the spring of 1868, and after living in Jackson township several years removed to Madison county, Nebraska, where they died. Mr. Marr was a staunch Republican and was always active in county affairs while living here. He and his wife removed to Nebraska in 1884; he died June 23, 1899, and his widow May 10, 1902, at the age of sixty-four years. Mr. Rosenberg and his wife have one son, Herman E., of Minneapolis, where he is employed as bookkeeper for a roofing manufacturing company; he married Miss Rebecca Hirschfield, of Cedar Rapids, and they have one son.

WALTER E. CUMMINGS, lives on his well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in section 20, Eden township. He came to Benton county in 1884, with his mother and the rest of the family, including a brother and sister. He was born in Ogle county, Illinois, March 31, 1863, and is a son of Benjamin F. and Elizabeth (Yates) Cummings.

Benjamin F. Cummings was born in Vergennes, Vermont, September 17, 1816, and came to Ogle county, Illinois, when a boy; his father died in Vermont, and he was accompanied by his mother and sister. He secured a farm in Ogle county, where he remained until the early sixties; then he removed to Coffey county, Kansas, and about a year later moved to Johnson county, Missouri, near Holden, where he secured a farm. He went to Kansas City for an operation to remove a limb, which caused his death there, May 6, 1873. He was a Republican, a member of the Christian church, and worked at his trade of carpenter as well as carrying on a farm. B. F. Cummings married, September 17, 1846, at Dixon, Illinois, Elizabeth Yates, who was born September 22, 1824, in Frederick county, Maryland, daughter of Charles and Catherine (Minnick) Yates. Charles Yates, a mason by trade, died in Maryland, and in the early thirties his widow, with six children, removed to Illinois. They made their permanent home in Illinois, where the mother died in her eighty-third year. B. F. Cummings and his wife lived in Ogle county, Illinois, on a farm, until their removal to Kansas. Of their ten children, all born in Illinois, seven survive. Josephine, born in 1847, is a widow and makes her home with her brother, Walter E.; Alice, born March 11, 1849, died in her youth, in Kansas; Manzella, born December 8, 1850, is a widow and resides in the west; Aquilla F., born August 11, 1853, is married and lives in Ogle county, Illinois; Edwin S., born April 7, 1855, was for twenty-five years a resident of

Albuquerque, New Mexico, and still lives in the west; James B., born June 24, 1857, died in Illinois when a young man; Charles L., born February 13, 1859, has been a resident of the west since boyhood; George W., born January 23, 1861, lives in Idaho; Walter E., is the ninth in order of birth; and Katie E., born May 16, 1866, is a widow and lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Cumming's mother who was eighty-six years old in September, 1910, is a remarkably well preserved old lady. While she is unable to walk, she possesses all of her mental faculties. She has thirteen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren. She is a member of the Christian church.

After the death of B. F. Cummings the family returned from Missouri to Ogle county, Illinois, and lived there until the mother, with her two sons and one daughter, came to Benton county and located in Eden township. Walter E. Cummings has expended a great deal of time and energy getting the farm into its present condition, and has been enterprising and successful. His mother and sister reside with him. He is one of the most progressive farmers of the county, and his standing in the community is one of respect and esteem. He is unmarried, and politically is a Republican.

AUGUST L. FRITZ, one of the leading citizens of Fremont township, Benton county, Iowa, was born and has always lived in this township. He dates his birth April 20, 1864, and is a son of Peter and Anna B. (Kahl) Fritz, both natives of Germany, the former born in Hessen, August 15, 1824, the latter, in 1830. They came to the United States in 1852, being eighty-seven days in crossing the ocean, and were married soon after their arrival in this country. From New York they went to Ohio, in the stone quarries of which state Peter Fritz found employment. They remained in Ohio, however, only a short time, and that same year came on to Iowa and settled in Fremont township, Benton county. At that time all of section 16 could have been bought at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, but Peter Fritz bought only eighty acres. On this tract, six miles from the nearest neighbor, he erected a log house, the flooring for which he paid at the rate of sixty-five dollars a thousand feet in Iowa City. Often he went to Muscatine to market, the round trip requiring several days. The journey from Ohio to Iowa they made with ox teams and walked most of the way. Here they reared their family and passed the rest of their lives, and here the mother died February 3, 1884, the father, January 6, 1902. Of their five children four are still living, namely: Henry, of Fremont township, Benton county,

Iowa; Caroline, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Amelia, wife of Jacob Gerber, of Linn county, Iowa; and August L., the subject of this sketch.

August L. Fritz grew up on his father's pioneer farm, having the advantage only of a common school education, and when he married, in 1884, he settled on his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in section 22, which he has since improved with good buildings, and where he carries on general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of Hereford cattle. In addition to this property he owns real estate in Atkins.

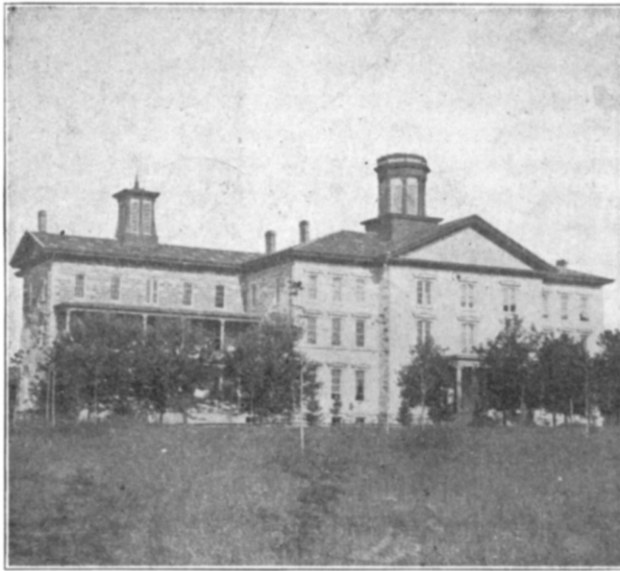
On September 27, 1884, Mr. Fritz married Miss Anna Fox, a native of Linn county, Iowa, born March 10, 1867, daughter of Lewis and Magdalena (Annan) Fox, natives of Switzerland, the former born in 1836, the latter in 1830. They came to America in 1852, the same year Mr. Fritz's parents landed here; their ocean voyage covering a period of eighty days. Coming direct to Iowa, they settled in a one-room house in Cedar Rapids. A year later they moved to Clinton township, Linn county, where the father died in 1870. The mother subsequently became the wife of Jacob Fritz, and moved to Benton county, where her death occurred in 1902. Lewis and Magdalena Fox had five children, all living at this writing: Mary, of Atkins, Iowa; Lewis, of Oklahoma; John, of Linn county, Iowa; Anna, wife of the subject of this sketch; and Magdalena, wife of Jacob Fritz, of Cedar Rapids. Mr. and Mrs. August L. Fritz have six children: Marie, Matilda, John, Lena, Emma, and Augusta, all at home except the eldest daughter, who is a teacher in Chicago.

For ten years Mr. Fritz served as school director of his township, and at this date is in his third term as township trustee, having been elected to office on the Democratic ticket, which has always received his staunch support. He and his family are members of New Jerusalem church.

HENRY C. KRAMER, was during many years one of the most prominent agriculturists of Benton county, a progressive and honored citizen and a self-made man. He was born in Jacobstown, Germany, February 14, 1861, and died in Benton county, Iowa, February 15, 1909, and the community then mourned the loss of a true and honored citizen. Gotfried and Marie Kramer, his parents, came to the United States in 1890 and located near Norway in Benton county, Iowa, spending the remainder of their lives there. The father was a shepherd and butcher in his native land, but followed farming after coming to Benton county. There were six children in their family, and the five now living are:

## TWO WINGS ADDED.

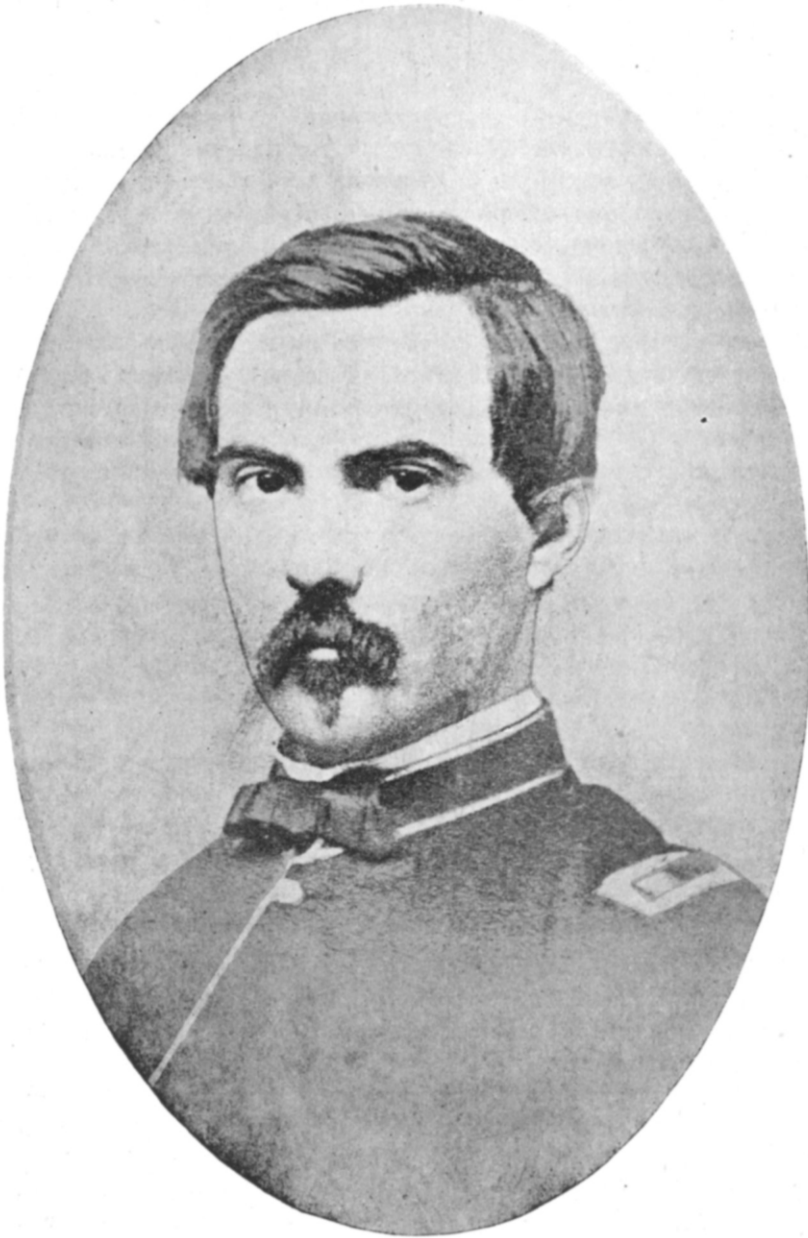
In the succeeding month the south wing of the main building was completed, and in November, 1873, the north wing was finished. Professor Knapp, who is considered one of the ablest principals who ever presided over the active affairs of the institution, resigned his position July 1, 1875, after which Rev. Orlando Clarke returned to the superintendency, but died while in office, April 2,



IOWA COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND  
(BEFORE ADDING OF WINGS)

1876. John B. Parmalee, who had been assistant principal, succeeded, but resigned in July, 1877, and was followed by Rev. Robert Carothers. At that time the institution had one hundred and thirty-five pupils, as against twenty-three when it was first opened at Vinton. Mr. Carothers was followed by T. F. McCune, who was superintendent, or principal, for a period of thirty years, and was followed by Professor J. E. Vance, who resigned as superintendent of the Linn county schools in July, 1906, in order to accept his call to the College for the Blind. George D. Eaton, the present incumbent, succeeded Mr. Vance in August, 1908.





CAPTAIN THOMAS DRUMMOND.

John I. Williams lived with his father until after his marriage, and then started farming on his own account. He was one of seven children, and came with his parents to Benton county in 1855. They were both of Welsh descent and lived on a farm before removing to Indiana, where they were among the early settlers; they lived in Randolph county, Indiana, until their removal to Iowa. In religious belief they were Quakers. Stephen Williams died about 1886, at the age of sixty-six years, and his wife died in 1882, also at Vinton, at the age of sixty-three. Their children were: John I.; Joanna, wife of W. A. Wallace, of Vinton; George W., a prospector, living in Alaska; Thornton, also of Alaska; William, who died in Wyoming about 1900, a ranchman; Stephen, of Dakota; and Nannie, wife of C. W. Odell, of Forest-grove, Oregon.

John I. Williams was still a boy when he came to Benton county, and has spent most of his life here. He has lived forty-three years on his present farm, and owns two hundred and sixty acres of well improved, fertile land; the farm is now operated by his two sons, S. D. and W. I. Williams. He has always paid close attention to the conduct of his farm, and has reaped success as a result of his energy and industry. He started with very small capital, and became one of the substantial farmers of the county. Politically Mr. Williams is a Republican, and both he and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church at Vinton.

In 1864 Mr. Williams married, in this county, Lennie M. Coutts, born in Jefferson county, Ohio, July 31, 1839, daughter of Jacob and Eleanor (Johnson) Coutts, both natives of Pennsylvania, where they were married. Jacob Coutts was a millwright by trade, and in 1849 went to California, where he spent five years and was financially very successful. He afterward located in Eldorado township, Benton county, Iowa, and named that township. He was born in 1800 and died at the age of eighty-eight years, having spent the last three years of his life in Vinton. His wife died in Ohio about 1846, leaving six living children, namely: Rev. Jacob, a Presbyterian minister who died in Ohio; Manuel, a farmer who died at Vinton; Melissa, widow of David Calkins, now a resident of Nebraska; Matilda, wife of Levi Weaver, of Concordia, Kansas; and Martha, wife of Thomas Sherman, of California; and Lennie M., Mrs. Williams, the fourth child. Mrs. Williams was reared in Ohio to the age of sixteen years, and then came to Benton county with her father. Mr. Williams and his wife have four children, as follows: Mary Ellen, who married Hiram Torrence, who owns a farm in Buchanan county, Iowa; Stephen D., born May 29, 1869, is a farmer of Taylor township;



William I., born November 11, 1871, lives in Taylor township; and Annie, wife of Robert Jamieson, of Buchanan county. Stephen D. married Minnie Waterstradt, and they have two children, Esther and Harold; he has just built a handsome home. William I. married Edna Henderson, and they have one child, Lura. Mr. Jamieson and his wife became the parents of five children, namely: Ruth, Mary, Walter, George (deceased) and Marlin.

WILLIAM NEHEMIAH VANSKIKE, son of Nehemiah and Sarah (Thompson) VanSkiye, was born in Harrison township, Benton county, Iowa, October 19, 1866, and there received a common school education; later he attended school some time in Mount Vernon.

Nehemiah VanSkiye, son of David VanSkiye, and his wife, was born in Ohio, in 1825, and reared in his native state. When sixteen years of age he moved to Indiana, where he remained until reaching manhood, and in 1858 came to Benton county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres, which had a few improvements. He made further improvements, and lived there until 1884, when he removed to Vinton, where he died June 15, 1893. He married, in 1863, Sarah, daughter of Hiram and Nancy (Wynn) Thompson. Hiram Thompson, who was a son of Robert and Susan (Montgomery) Thompson, was born in Pennsylvania, November 2, 1810, reared in Pennsylvania, moved to Ohio, later to Indiana, where he married, and in 1851 located in Benton county, Iowa, where he purchased five hundred acres of land, and lived here until his decease in November, 1872. His wife was a daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Wynn, who came from Pennsylvania in an early day; they were married in Pennsylvania, and died in Ohio, where Mrs. VanSkiye's mother was reared. Hiram Thompson and his wife had children as follows: Robert H., who lives in Vinton, Iowa; Susan, wife of Arthur Buttrick, of Harrison township; Calvin R., and Clinton C., (twins), the former living at Brandon, and the latter at Vinton, Iowa; Alice, wife of Nehemiah VanSkiye, of Brandon; George, of Brandon; Sarah; and other children, deceased. Mrs. VanSkiye was born in 1847, in Greensburg, Indiana, and came to Iowa when a child; she was reared in Benton county, and still resides in Vinton.

Nehemiah VanSkiye served two terms as county supervisor of Benton county, and also held township offices. He was a Republican and a member of the Methodist church. He was highly respected, and became quite prominent in local affairs. He and his wife had two sons, namely: Akbar, who lives on the old home farm, in Harrison township; and William N.

William N. VanSkiye moved to his present farm in Harrison

township after his marriage, and has continued to reside there with the exception of four years spent in livery business in Vinton. He has been very successful in the conduct of his farm, and is an enterprising, thriving man of affairs. He takes an active interest in local affairs, and has served as township trustee, school officer, etc. He is a Republican in politics. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias, and to the Independent Order of Foresters.

At the age of twenty-three years, Mr. VanSike married Josephine, daughter of Samuel and Mary Ann (Freeman) Lowe. Samuel Lowe was born near Lexington, Kentucky, March 3, 1825, and at the age of sixteen years moved to Johnson county, Indiana, where he grew to manhood. He removed to Benton county, Iowa, and in 1859 entered one hundred and sixty acres, where he resided ten or twelve years. He also lived on other farms, and spent seven years as superintendent of the Benton county poor farm. Later he purchased land southeast of Vinton, and remained there until the death of his wife, November 6, 1900, when he removed to LaPorte and resided there till his death, November 4, 1907. He was a staunch Republican. His wife was born in Johnson county, Indiana, March 31, 1826, was reared there and married, December 25, 1850. She was a daughter of Moses and Martha Freeman, both devout Presbyterians. Mr. VanSike and his wife have two children, both at home, Nehemiah, born in June, 1894, and Wayne, born in April, 1899.

A. T. EDWARDS, now retired from active life and residing at Vinton, is a veteran of the Civil war. He was born in Brown county, Ohio, September 2, 1840, and is a son of James and Nancy (Richmond) Edwards. James Edwards was born January 6, 1800, near Maysville, Kentucky, and moved with his parents to Ohio when a boy. His father, George Edwards, had been a colonel of militia in Ohio, and owned some two thousand acres of land in Brown county. He was an extensive dealer in race horses. George Edwards was born in Virginia, and was a son of Jonathan Edwards, who was kidnapped and brought to this country from Scotland; he served twenty-one years, and on obtaining his freedom revisited his native country, but soon afterward returned to Virginia. George Edwards lived in Brown county, Ohio, until his death, at the age of a little over ninety-nine years and nine months. He served three terms in the Ohio legislature. James Edwards lived on his farm of two hundred and forty acres for some time, but later sold it and invested in a tanyard, which he conducted until his death, August 3, 1882. His wife was born, July 27, 1802, in Clermont county, Ohio, and her parents were farmers; she



MAIN BUILDING IOWA COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND.

ing in Tama county, Iowa; Jennie M., wife of Earl Race, of Dixon, Illinois; and Walter A., employed in Vinton and living at home. James Ernest died in infancy, and Everett, the oldest child, died at the age of seven years.

CHRISTIAN A. WEICHMAN, is one of the enterprising and up-to-date young farmers of Fremont township, Benton county, Iowa, where he was born July 31, 1872, son of Henry and Mary (Schultz) Weichman, who were born and reared in Germany. His mother landed in this country in 1854, after an ocean voyage of forty-three days, and took up her residence in Pennsylvania, where, in 1855, she was united in marriage to Henry Weichman who had emigrated to the United States in 1854 and was at that time employed in a coal mine of the "Keystone State." In 1857 they came to Iowa and settled in Marion, Linn county, where they remained until 1866. In January of that year they moved to Benton county, where he bought wild prairie land in sections 6 and 7 of Fremont township. Here he improved a farm and lived until two years before his death, when he moved to Newhall and retired. At the time he retired he owned nine hundred and twenty acres of land in Fremont township. He died July 29, 1894, at the age of sixty-four years, six months and nine days. His wife born at New Caliss, Mecklenburg, Germany, September 20, 1831, died March 14, 1898. Of their eight children five are now living: Mary W., John, Charles, Frank and Christian A., all residents of Benton county. Mary W. is the wife of Jacob Schlotterbeck, of Newhall. The deceased members of the family are Henry, Josephine and Wihelmina.

Christian A. began life for himself at the age of twenty-one, equipped with a district school education, a training on the farm, and eighty acres of land given him by his father. He now owns two hundred and forty-three acres, improved with first-class buildings, etc., including a new and modern home, all built under his own supervision. He carries on general farming and stock raising, each year fattening a number of cattle and hogs for market. He is a director in the Atkins Savings Bank. Politically he is a Democrat, and he is now serving his second term as township trustee.

On November 26, 1908, Mr. Weichman married Miss Edith Dickson, who was born in Fremont township, Benton county, August 20, 1877, daughter of David D. Dickson, one of the respected citizens of this county, of whom a sketch is given on another page of this volume. Mrs. Weichman is a member of the Presbyterian church.

ASA B. FORRESTER, a resident of Vinton for the past forty years, there followed the trade of cooper many years, and has now retired from active life. He was born in Lockport, New York, December 13, 1837, and is a son of Nathaniel and Susanna (Starkweather) Forrester. The former was a native of Canada and the mother was a native of New York who died in 1843 when her son Asa was a child. The grandfather, John Forrester, emigrated from England to America and there founded the family. Nathaniel Forrester and his wife had three children, Asa B., Edgar and Julia. Edgar died in Jones county, and Julia married D. S. Barnet, and died in Cedar township, this county. Nathaniel brought his children to Iowa and located first in Cedar township, Benton county, on a farm. He was a farmer and also followed his trade of cooper until his death, in February, 1887, in his eighty-seventh year.

Asa B. Forrester had received a common school education and learned the trade of cooper of his father, and was seventeen years of age at the time they came to Benton county. He helped his father on the farm, and at the first call for troops in 1861 he enlisted for three months at Peoria, Illinois, in Company E, Eighth Illinois Infantry, and at the end of his term he returned to Illinois. He spent a few years working in various points in Illinois and Iowa, and in 1864 returned to Benton county. He purchased a farm in Cedar township and operated on it from 1864 until 1869, and then located in Vinton, where he bought a shop and followed his trade until he retired. He was a successful business man, and became a prominent citizen of Vinton. He owns city property. Mr. Forrester is a member of P. M. Coder Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and is independent in politics. He is a member of the Masonic orders of Vinton, including the Commandery, and also belongs to the El-Kahir Temple of the Mystic Shrine of Cedar Rapids. He and his wife belong to the Order of the Eastern Star, and she is a member of the Women's Relief Corps. She belongs to the N. G. O. (Never Grow Old) Society, and also to the Christian church.

Mr. Forrester has been married twice, first, in 1864, in Cedar township, to Antoinette Wallace, who died in 1899, leaving four children, all living, namely: Francis, of Vinton; Edith, wife of Arthur Jones, a Chicago banker; Bessie, a teacher in the Chicago schools; and Jay, a travelling salesman, residing at Austin, Texas. Mr. Forrester married (second), January 16, 1907, Mrs. Mary A., widow of Jefferson L. Taylor. She was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1837, the daughter of Josiah S. and Lucretia W. (King) Doan, who came to Vinton in 1864. Mr. Doan was for some years a

photographer in Vinton, and died in 1868, aged fifty-two years; his wife died in 1882. He was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, and learned the trade of cabinet-maker in his youth. His wife, Lucretia King, was from New York, a daughter of Elam and Sarah King, old settlers there. Mary Doan married (first), in 1864, in Covington, Kentucky, Jefferson Taylor, of Newport, Kentucky, and in 1866 they removed to Vinton, Iowa, where he spent a short time in the harness business and later followed the trade of carpenter for many years. He died suddenly, in 1897, at Vinton, at the age of sixty-nine years. Their only child died in infancy.

Mr. Forrester's youngest son, Jay, was a member of Company G, Forty-ninth Iowa, serving throughout the Spanish-American war.

WILLIAM MILLER, treasurer of the Cedar Valley Land and Investment Company of Vinton, Iowa, the important real estate business which is described elsewhere in these pages, dates his birth in Bureau county, Illinois, June 13, 1860.

His father, Leslie Miller, was a native of the north of Ireland, and his mother, Caroline (McKee) Miller, was born in Poughkeepsie county, New York. They were married in Pennsylvania, and soon afterward moved to Illinois and settled in Bureau county, where he engaged in farming. In Pennsylvania he was a merchant. He farmed successfully in Illinois until 1880, when he came over into Iowa and took up his abode three miles southwest of Vinton. Here he owned and operated a farm until his death, which occurred in 1900, at the age of seventy-eight years. His wife died in November, 1898, at the age of seventy-four. They were the parents of seven sons and three daughters, all of whom are living except one, Alexander, who died at Vinton in the spring of 1906.

William Miller was reared and educated in his native county, and when a young man started out, unaided, to make his own way in the world. He began as a farmer and stock raiser in Benton county, having come here in 1880 with his parents. In time his stock business increased to such an extent that he operated throughout central and eastern Iowa, buying and selling in large quantities. His headquarters during this time were at his home farm in Cedar township, Benton county. Later he turned his attention to the real estate business, and since the organization of the Cedar Valley Land Company has closed out his farming and stock business, and now resides in Vinton, having erected his present residence on South Washington street in 1907. He is now treasurer of



*Wm. Miller.*





four land companies, the one above referred to and associate companies, and is president of The Iowa Land & Live Stock Company of Cooke, Logan county, Colorado, in connection with which he handles large tracts of land in Colorado, Wyoming and Canada.

Mr. Miller married, in Vinton, Miss Alberta Stanger, a native of Ogle county, Illinois, and a daughter of Albert Stanger, now of Vinton. To them have been given five children, all born in Vinton, namely: Lucile, Harold, William and Dore, (twins), and Alberta.

Politically Mr. Miller has always been a staunch Republican, and for several years past has been an active party worker. He has served on the city council for seven years. Fraternally he is identified with the Knights of Pythias. Mrs. Miller and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

W. G. BRYSON, a substantial farmer of Harrison township, Benton county, was born January 27, 1854, in Urbana, Iowa, and is a son of Joseph and Jane (Remington) Bryson. Joseph Bryson was born near Nashville, Tennessee, in 1825, and reared in his native state. When twenty-one years of age he removed to Iowa, and settled near McGregor. His father, Fielding Bryson, had entered land in Benton county, Iowa, in 1841. Joseph Bryson entered land in Polk township, Benton county, and lived there for a while, but bought and sold land from time to time, moving around from one place to another, as he saw opportunities to better himself, and died in Kansas in February, 1905. His wife was a daughter of Joseph and Mary Remington, who came from Indiana and settled near Urbana, Iowa, in 1842; Mrs. Bryson died in 1906. Joseph Bryson and his wife were married in 1847, and their children were: Louis, William, John, W. G., Charlotte, Frank, Nathaniel, Lovina and Mary.

W. G. Bryson remained with his parents, and moved to Kansas with them in 1873, returning to Benton county, Iowa, in 1897. He took a Kansas homestead, and was there married, after which he spent a short time in Missouri. Upon returning to Iowa in 1897 he rented a farm one year and then purchased eighty acres, where he has lived since. He has made all modern improvements, and now owns eighty acres in section 2 of Harrison township, where he has fine horses, cattle and other stock. His land is good standard soil and he has been very successful. In politics he is a Republican, and he has held local offices. He is a member of the Christian church, and a patriotic, public-spirited citizen.

In 1875 Mr. Bryson married Lydia Ann Riggs, and their children are: Eli J., a plumber, living at Missoula, Montana;

Joseph Elver, a dairyman of Anaconda, Montana; George, of Montana, member of the Kalispell Lumber Company; John G., of Harrison, Iowa; Effie, living with an aunt in Kansas; W. Richard, a farmer of Harrison township; and Grace A. and Corris M., living at home. The first Mrs. Bryson died in 1893 and in 1894 Mr. Bryson was married to Corris A. Gates who was a school teacher in Benton county where she had taught eighty-four terms. The last mentioned daughter was by the second marriage. Both the Bryson and Remington families were among the pioneers of Benton county and numbered among its earliest settlers.

S. T. WHIPPLE, a successful stock farmer of Taylor township, Benton county, Iowa, was born August 20, 1861, in the same township, on the old homestead in section 20. He is a son of Cyrenius Whipple, mentioned at length elsewhere in this work. Mr. Whipple received his education in the common schools and Tilford Collegiate Academy, and has followed farming as an occupation all his life. He began farming on his own account in the early eighties, and now owns a fine farm of ninety-five acres of well improved land in section 18, where he resides. He does general farming and raises considerable stock. He built the handsome residence they occupy in 1906, and they enjoy modern conveniences and comforts. Politically Mr. Whipple is a Republican, and he has served as township assessor. He is an enterprising, progressive citizen, and is considered one of the substantial farmers of the county.

Mr. Whipple married, January 8, 1884, Anna C. Edwards, born in Taylor township October 27, 1866, daughter of A. T. and Martha J. (Brewer) Edwards, both early residents of the county, now residing at Vinton. Mrs. Whipple was reared in this county, and here received her education. Mr. Whipple and his wife became the parents of twelve children, as follows: Carl T., Callie C., Selmon T. Jr., William W., Frankie (died in infancy), Harrison L., Edward C., Anna Bessie, Eugene H., Martha J., Clara A. and Cyrenius A. Carl T., married Esther Mosseman, of Benton county, and resides near Mount Auburn, Iowa; they have one son, Frankie Thomas. Callie C., married Howard Catlin, a farmer of Taylor township.

C. W. ELLIOTT.—Vice president of the Cedar Valley Land & Investment Company of Vinton, the important real estate business which is described elsewhere in these pages, C. W. Elliott had an experience of over ten years in farming and stock raising before he embarked in those business pursuits for which his



*C. W. Elliott*



natural abilities and his long residence in Benton county so thoroughly qualified him. Mr. Elliott first located in Bruce township, in 1890, where he purchased land and extensively engaged in the raising, buying, feeding and shipping of stock. He was therefore widely known when he moved to Vinton in 1901, and conducted a growing business in real estate and fire insurance until the organization of the Cedar Valley Land Company. Although he has since given that enterprise his chief attention, he has various other business interests in the city and county, and is acknowledged to be a citizen of broad and superior abilities. He is a Republican, and a member of the Knights of Pythias and the B. P. O. E. of Cedar Rapids.

Mr. Elliott is a native of Lee county, Illinois, born near Amboy in March, 1869, his parents having located in that locality in the forties. They are both living in Amboy, where the father, at the age of eighty-six years, is a retired pioneer farmer and stockman. The two other sons, also residents of Benton county, are J. R. and F. M. Elliott of Bruce township. C. W., of this sketch, was reared in Lee county until he was nineteen years of age, where he obtained his early education, afterward attending the academy at Dixon, Illinois. Then, at the age of twenty-one, he moved to Benton county, where, as stated, he engaged with success both in farming and business. His wife was formerly Miss Mary E. Long, also a native of Lee county, Illinois, and they have become the parents of a daughter, Drusey, and two sons, Earl and William, all of whom are attending school.

FRANK WEICHMAN.—The subject of this sketch is a representative of one of the prominent and highly respected families of Fremont township, Benton county, Iowa. The father of this family, Henry Weichman, when a young man came from his native land, Germany, to this country, and in Benton county, Iowa, acquired a competency and reared a family of sons and daughters, eight in number, of whom five are living and occupying prominent and useful positions in the community. More extended reference to the early history of the family will be found in this work in connection with the biographies of John and Christian A. Weichman, brothers of Frank.

Frank Weichman grew up on his father's farm in Benton county, receiving a good, common school education and early acquiring the thrifty habits of his prosperous father. When he married he rented land from his father, and subsequently received as his inheritance eighty acres of the home place, which he cultivated and to which, later he added by purchase the farm upon

which his present home is situated. This home, modern and beautiful, furnished and equipped better than the average city home, he has occupied since 1902, and he is the owner of three hundred broad acres, devoted to general farming and stock raising, cattle and hogs being his specialty. In addition to this farm Mr. Weichman owns a tract of land in Hartley county, Texas, and he is a director of the Newhall Savings Bank.

On April 30, 1890, Mr. Weichman married Miss Pauline Schlotterback, a native of Fremont township, born November 23, 1867, daughter of Gotleib and Christena (Schlotterback) Schlotterback. Her father was born in Reichenburg, Germany, November 26, 1832, and died in this county January 20, 1893; her mother born April 4, 1832, is now a resident of Atkins, Iowa. They had twelve children, of whom nine are living, namely: Jacob, William, Charles, Albert, Mary, wife of Charles Weichman; Caroline, wife of Fred Mathis; Pauline, Mrs. Frank Weichman; Elizabeth, wife of Henry Schuchmann, and Frank; all of Benton county. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Weichman have four children: Clarence, Harry, Victor, and Irene, all at home.

Politically Mr. Weichman is a Democrat, always taking a commendable interest in public affairs, and having served as school director, not, however, in any sense of the word being a politician.

JAMES KAHLER, a successful German-American farmer of Cedar township, was born September 18, 1840, in Holstein, Germany, and came to the United States in 1852 and settled in Rock Island county, Illinois, where he worked by the day for a time. He came to Benton county in 1869. He is a son of Matheis and Lena (Struve) Kahler. His father was born and reared in Germany, and there married and settled on a farm, which he worked. He came to the United States about 1850, and spent one winter in Davenport, Iowa, after which he removed to Moline, Illinois, and stayed there two years. He next located in Rock Island county, Illinois, where he purchased a farm and remained twenty years. In 1870 he sold his farm and located in Benton county, Iowa, and lived with his son James until his death February 9, 1886, aged seventy-eight years. His wife was a daughter of James Struve, born in Germany; her people were farmers. She was reared and married in Germany, and died December 30, 1874, aged sixty, at the home of her son John, in Benton county, Iowa. Their children are: Henry, who lives in Waterloo, Iowa, a retired blacksmith; James; John, who lives in North Dakota; and Katrina, the wife of Henry Weiss, of Davenport, Iowa.



MR. AND MRS. JAMES KAHLER





James Kahler remained with his father on the farm in Rock Island county, Illinois, until after his marriage, in 1867, and the second year removed to Iowa and to Benton county. He purchased eighty acres of raw prairie, cleared and improved the land, erected a house, and soon added another eighty acres. He added to his land as he was able, from time to time, and now owns and operates four hundred and forty acres in sections 19 and 30, Cedar township. He is a self-made man and very successful. He has comfortable buildings, fine trees and an orchard, and has lived on this place ever since first purchasing it, spending all his time and energy towards the building up of a good home with pleasant surroundings. In political views he is a Democrat, but aims to vote for the best man for an office, regardless of party affiliations. He and his wife belong to the German Lutheran church, and he is interested in all movements for the welfare or prosperity of the community.

On January 31, 1867, Mr. Kahler married Lena, daughter of Henry and Bertha Stoultzenberg, of Germany; her father died in his native country, and the mother came with her daughter to the United States in 1866 and settled in Rock Island county, Illinois, where the former died in 1871. Mr. and Mrs. Kahler have been blessed with children as follows: Katrina, wife of Dave Dutler, of Cedar township; Dora, wife of John Brody, who resides in Nebraska; Amelia, wife of John Struve, of Cedar township; Mathilda, wife of Otto Wandschneider, of Cedar township; Sophia, wife of Charles Wandschneider, of Cedar township; and Rebecca, Grover and John, living at home. Besides these, there were a pair of twins who died in infancy, as did also one daughter, Augusta.

VICTOR G. SPENCER, who operates a stock farm in Polk township, was born June 30, 1866, at Spencer's Grove, Iowa. He is a son of Charles H. and Mary (Rice) Spencer, farmers of Benton county. Charles H. Spencer was born January 3, 1828, in Orange county, Vermont, and was a son of William and Martha Spencer. William Spencer was a lawyer, judge and postmaster of Corinth; he was a member of the firm of Spencer & Vilas, the latter being the father of the Vilas who held the office of postmaster-general under President Cleveland.

Charles H. Spencer was reared in Corinth, Vermont, and came to Benton county, Iowa, when twenty-one years of age and entered two hundred acres of land. In 1852 he went to California with an ox team, and returned across the Isthmus. He worked on a farm for his brother until his marriage in 1855 and was a

farmer until the time of his death, January 9, 1904. His wife was a daughter of James and Mary (Hunt) Rice, born in Danville, Virginia, June 12, 1835; she came to Benton county, Iowa, by stage and steamboat, with her parents, when fourteen years of age. Mr. Rice was a tailor, but became a farmer after settling in Iowa. One of his sons Fielding, fought side by side with former President McKinley at Cedar Creek, during the Civil war, and another son, Nathan, was killed at Pea Ridge. One son, Roy, lives in Urbana, and William and Harry live in Vinton. There are also two daughters living, Mrs. Sallie A. Gaylor of Glendive, Montana, and Mrs. Lucinda Pauley, of Vinton, Iowa.

Charles H. Spencer and his wife had nine children, namely: Emma, wife of John T. Robinson, of Grant City, Missouri; Ashbel D., of Lake Benton, Minnesota; Harriet, killed in an accident while at play; Edwin N., killed in a runaway accident; Charles F., a banker, in Lexington, Nebraska; Victor G.; Minnie, deceased, wife of James D. Hoffman; Louis H., who died in infancy; and James W., secretary and treasurer of the Banner Lumber Company, of St. Louis. Mrs. Spencer died February 7, 1907.

Victor G. Spencer attended the common school and spent one year at Tilford Collegiate Academy. Later he completed a course at Northern Illinois College, of Fulton, Illinois. After teaching school six terms he attended the American Institute of Phrenology, of New York city, and then took up farming, which he has since continued, on the old homestead. He owns two hundred and eleven acres of land in Polk township, and has made many improvements in the way of buildings, etc., and is an energetic, up-to-date farmer. He breeds several varieties of hogs, Hereford cattle, and owns sixteen head of Norman horses, among them a thorough-bred stallion known as "Young Brilliant."

Mr. Spencer is a bright newspaper correspondent, and writes for the *Commoner* and other papers. He is a great admirer of William J. Bryan, and an ardent Democrat. He is quite prominent in local public affairs, and is serving as treasurer of the school district. He has traveled extensively, and is well informed on the leading topics of the day. He is a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church. After the death of his mother Mr. Spencer married Mrs. Lilla M. (Francis) Kelso, daughter of Almon I. and Elizabeth (Girton) Francis, the former born in New York, and the latter in Pennsylvania. Mr. Francis came to Buchanan county, Iowa, about 1859, and Mrs. Francis came with her parents when young. They were married about 1860. Mr. Francis enlisted in Company E, Fifth Iowa Volunteer Infantry and served three years. He was wounded at Iuka, Mississippi, came home on

furlough and later rejoined his regiment, but was discharged because of his disability. Shortly after the war he began farming in Buchanan county, Iowa, where he remained until about 1888 when he sold his farm and removed to Polk township, Benton county, and bought one hundred and ninety-seven acres in section 11 and continued to reside there until his death.

JOHN B. SANDERS, a prosperous farmer of Eden township, is a native son of the township, his birth having occurred here December 11, 1865. He is a son of William B. and Isabel (Butcher) Sanders, the latter a resident of Vinton, now aged about seventy years. William B. Sanders came to Benton county in 1852, from Indiana, and his wife came in 1854. In 1863 they were married on the farm where their son John now resides. William Sanders was born December 15, 1835, and died May 7, 1907; he left some two hundred and fifty acres of land, this consisting of ten acres of timber in Benton township, and the remainder prairie in Eden township. The father came to Iowa with the grandfather, known as Booker Sanders, a Virginian by birth, and they located in Taylor township, near Cedar River, where Booker Sanders lived until his death, in December, 1872, at the age of about seventy-five years; he was one of the pioneers.

William B. Sanders was a Republican, and served in various local offices. He had two children, John and Cora the latter dying at the age of ten months and twenty-seven days. They also reared a niece to womanhood. Mr. Sanders served in Company G, Thirteenth Iowa Regiment having enlisted in 1863, and was later discharged on account of sickness and disability.

John B. Sanders has spent his life in his native township, receiving a common school education, and has followed farming with great success; he raises stock and also buys for the market to some extent. He operates two hundred and ninty-nine acres of well improved land, in Eden and Benton townships, and has recently purchased two hundred and forty acres near Brookings, South Dakota. His entire South Dakota holdings consist of about four hundred acres. He has always been a firm Republican, although in local matters he is independent.

Mr. Sanders married Flossie Luton, of Benton county, daughter of Frank and Eliza (Bordwell) Luton, the former from Pennsylvania and the latter a native of Iowa. Lyman D. Bordwell was an early pioneer of Iowa, and two of his sons were soldiers in the Civil war; one was a flag-bearer and was killed, and the other, William Bordwell, is a resident of Vinton. Mrs. Sanders

is the only child of her parents. Mr. Sanders and his wife have four children, namely: Ivan William F., Audrey Irene, John Arthur and Eunice; all are small and at home.

LEON S. LOIZEAUX, president of the Cedar Valley Land & Investment Company, the important real estate business which is described elsewhere in these pages, and of four other land companies and also president of the bank of Crook, Colorado, is the prominent representative of a family which has been identified with Benton county affairs from the time when the lands of the county belonged to the government. His father was the late J. J. Loizeaux, an emigrant from France who entered government land in Jackson township, Benton county, in 1854, and improved his land and lived on the homestead until his death in 1887, at the age of sixty-seven. In France he had been a silk dealer on a large scale, and as a result of failure in business had come to America to find better opportunities for his family. The mother, whose maiden name was Susan Duce, died in this county in 1892, aged seventy-three.

They were the parents of eight children, namely: Paul, an evangelist living in New York City, and associated in business with his brother Timothy; Timothy is head of the firm of Loizeaux Brothers, on Fourth avenue, New York, publishers of tracts and religious literature; Louise Jennings, wife of a retired tea broker of New York City; Dr. C. J., a physician and surgeon of Des Moines, and a graduate of the University of Iowa; Leon S., of Vinton; Mrs. Lydia Keehie, of Chicago, a widow, whose husband was in the dry-goods business there; Mrs. Mattie Acomb, of Minneapolis, widow of the late Rev. E. Acomb, an evangelist; and J. D., in the lumber and real estate business at Plainfield, New Jersey.

Leon S. Loizeaux was born in De Lane, France, in 1850, and was brought to America and the homestead in Benton county in 1854. After he had attended the country schools he had to begin life without any special equipment and without capital. He began farming and stock raising, then had considerable success in the buying, feeding and handling of stock, and with the capital secured from this enterprise he engaged in the real estate, banking and other business. For some years he has been identified with the public-spirited citizenship of the county. In politics he is a Republican.

He married, in Benton county, Miss Wilhelmina Geddes. She was born in Canada, and her father, Alexander was originally from Scotland, spent a few years in Canada, and moved to Ben-



*Léon S. Loizeaux*



ton county before the Civil war, where he and his wife resided until they died during the seventies. One of the children of Alexander Geddes was the late Gen. James L. Geddes, U. S. A., who was Queen's Guardsman in Canada and came from there to the United States just prior to the Civil war, enlisted, formed a company at Vinton and served as its captain. He died in 1888, being identified at that time with the Ames Agricultural College. Four of his brothers also served in the Civil war, all enlisting from Benton county. One was Colonel Andrew Geddes, now on the retired roll and residing at Washington. Another was William Geddes, who was a second lieutenant and now resides in Florida; Charles Geddes is a resident of Nebraska; while John, the remaining brother of this military family, died in the army.

Mr. and Mrs. Loizeaux have four children: Louise, now at home, attended school in Washington, D. C.; Harry G., assistant cashier of the People's Savings Bank at Shellsburg; and William L. and Paul A., both in the Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois.

THE CEDAR VALLEY LAND COMPANY of Vinton comprises as its officers four of the most enterprising land dealers and financiers of this vicinity. The president of the company is Leon S. Loizeaux, vice president, C. W. Elliott, treasurer, William Miller and secretary John Lorenz.

The scope of the company's business is mainly the purchase of large tracts of vacant land and the colonizing and development of these lands. They began operations in 1902, in Saskatchewan, Canada, where they bought a large amount of land. They have concentrated the attention of homeseekers on this land, have sold most of it in small farms, and have advanced the acre value of the land much beyond what they originally paid. The company has since acquired large tracts in Wyoming, Colorado and Minnesota, and have for their disposal from 25,000 to 30,000 acres. Several landseekers' excursions have been conducted to these lands under the auspices of the Cedar Valley Land Company.

The following are the companies of which the above named are officers, with the acreage of each company: The Cedar Valley Land & Investment Company owned 25,000 acres all in Canada, which have been disposed of; Vinton Land Company, 15,000 acres, also in Canada, all sold; Cedar Valley Land Company, 40,000 acres in Wyoming, which have all been sold; Cedar Valley Land and Irrigation Company, 10,500 acres of irrigated land in Logan county, Colorado, all being sold but about 2,000 acres. This company laid out the town of Crook, about 100 acres being

in the townsite, which is now a thriving little town; and the Florida Indian River Land Company, which has 95,000 acres, John Lorenz being secretary of all the companies but the latter, of which S. S. Lichty is secretary.

DAVID A. SANDERS, farmer and stockman, whose home for the past thirty-one years has been on section 23, Taylor township, was born in Vermilion county, Indiana, December 24, 1851, and represents a family which has been actively identified with the progress and development of Benton county from its pioneer history.

His parents were Leonard and Mary (Beauchamp) Sanders. The father, whose chief occupation through his active life was farming, was born in Kentucky of English descent, was reared in Indiana and married there, and in 1856 came to Benton county, bringing his wife and four children. His father, Booker Sanders, who had been in Benton county during the early fifties and afterwards settled here permanently and lived till his death about 1873, had purchased land of the government, and it was on this that Leonard Sanders settled, this place being a mile east of where David A. Sanders now lives. Leonard Sanders spent two years in Colorado following the gold discoveries at Pike's Peak, and after his father's death bought his farm and lived on it until his death in March, 1901, at the age of seventy-four. He was a Republican in later years and he and his wife were members of the United Brethern church. He served his locality as school director, and was a useful citizen who is still well remembered in that community. His wife, who died in Taylor township about 1898, aged sixty-nine was born in Indiana, a daughter of Rev. David Beauchamp, who for many years was a circuit-rider in Indiana.

Leonard and Mary Sanders were parents of the following children: Lettie, who married John Coon and died about 1882 in this county; David A.; Hattie, who married Levi Eggleston and died in Eden township in 1899; Emeline B., who died in Taylor township at the age of twenty-three; Isabel, who died at the age of twenty-two; Sherman, who died when two years old; Eddie, who died when two years old; Jacob, now residing with his brother David; Grant, who is living on the old homestead; Susan, who died in infancy; Harry, a railroad man with the Northwestern Railroad at Council Bluffs; and Frances, wife of Harley Crew, formerly of Marion, Iowa, and now of Tacoma, Washington. The first four children were born in Indiana, and the others in Benton county. Jacob has lived with his brother since the death of his wife (who was Miss Carrie Sterling), their four children being, Belle, Clifford, Earl and Harley.



David A. Sanders was four years old when the family moved to Benton county, and this has been his home for over fifty years. Farming has been his regular vocation, and for two years he was in that business in Adair county. For three years he and a partner took the contracts for working road taxes in Eden and Taylor townships. In politics he is an independent Democrat. His wife is a member of the United Brethern church.

He married, in 1871, in Taylor township, Miss Elmira J. Roberts. She was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, in May, 1852, and was reared at the home of a brother in Kansas from the age of ten to fifteen. Her parents were Thomas and Sarah Roberts. Her father became a resident of Taylor township, this county, in 1854, and died here in 1870, aged fifty-five. His first wife died here in 1856, and he then married her sister, who lived to advanced age, dying in January, 1890.

The five children of Mr. and Mrs. Sanders are all living: Clarence, who is in the employ of the Great Northern Railroad Company, lives at Minot, North Dakota, and has a wife and one child; Harvey O., who has a farm of two hundred and seventeen acres in Taylor township, is married and has four children; May married Richard Hite, son of Jacob Hite of Vinton, and has three children; Ruth E., is the wife of Charles Fry of Taylor township, and they have two children; Gertrude is the wife of Chester Munson, of Berthold, North Dakota, and they have three children. Mr. Sanders owns forty acres where he resides.

LOUIS C. GARDEMANN, a farmer on section 8, Fremont township, Benton county, Iowa, was born in the township in which he now lives, March 4, 1861, a son of German parents. His father, Frederick F. Gardemann, was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, March 9, 1819, and spent the first fifteen years of his life there. He came to the United States about 1834 and located at Davenport, Iowa, where on February 7, 1860, he married Christine Schnekloth, and from whence in March of the same year he came to Fremont township, Benton county, where he died October 29, 1864. His widow subsequently became the wife of Jacob Fix, who was born in Germany, October 18, 1830, and died in Newhall, Iowa, November 5, 1901, they having moved to Newhall in 1897. She is still living in Newhall. She was born in Holstein, Germany, November 30, 1839. By her first husband she had three children, Louis C., William and August, and by her second husband she had eight, of whom five are living, namely: John, of Fremont township, Benton county, Iowa; Philip, of Shellsburg, Iowa; Oliver, of Garretson, South Dakota; Bertha, wife of Jacob Krumm, of Newhall; and Elizabeth, at home.

Louis C. was reared on a farm in his native township, attending public school in winter and assisting with the farm work in summer; and one winter he was a student at Tilford Academy, Vinton. Thus he passed his time up to the age of eighteen, when he began to work at the carpenter's trade, a trade he followed for three years. Soon after he reached his majority he married and settled down to farming on the place he now owns, and which for three years he rented of his father-in-law. Then he moved to Newhall, where he and his brother William established a general merchandise store, which they conducted eight years. At the end of that time Louis C. sold out and returned to the farm, which he rented another year. In July, 1901, he bought the farm, one hundred and fifty acres, and has since devoted his energies to its cultivation and improvement, building barns, out buildings, etc. He has since purchased ten acres more, making in all one hundred and sixty acres.

On November 28, 1883, Mr. Gardemann married Miss Marie Doebel, who was born on the farm on which they now live, May 4, 1864, daughter of Christian and Marie (Busacker) Doebel, both natives of Germany. Her father, born May 5, 1821, died July 18, 1881; her mother, born in Mecklenburg, February 2, 1837, died February 8, 1901. They were the parents of nine children, of whom six are living, as follows: Marie; Annie, wife of C. H. Schlotterback, of Fremont township; Elizabeth, wife of Andy Lloyd, of Hooper, Nebraska; Charles, of Dubuque, Iowa; George, of Norway, Iowa; and Frank, of California. Mr. Doebel came to this country in 1852, landing at New Orleans, where he stopped for a short time, and from whence he came north to Iowa, first to Davenport and afterward to Dubuque. At the former named place he spent one winter chopping cord wood and splitting rails. The next four months he worked on the Illinois Central Railroad. After this he returned to Louisiana, and in the swamps of that state floated timber, this work netting him four hundred dollars in gold, with which he made his start in life. In 1854, returning to Iowa, he entered three hundred and twenty acres of land in section 8, Fremont township, Benton county, acquired title to this tract in due time, and in 1857 established his home on it. Here he lived an active, useful life and died at the age of sixty-two years. His first home he built of split rails, set up and down, and covered it with a straw roof. During the early days here he held several local offices, for three years being postmaster at Summer and having the post office in his house.

Mr. and Mrs. Gardemann have nine children, namely: Fred W., John C., Frances A., Charles A., Harry L., George F., Irvin

A., Louise H., and Marie C., all at the parental home except the two eldest, Fred W. and John C., who are residents of South Dakota.

Mr. Gardemann has filled the office of school director in his township, and has always evidenced a commendable interest in the general welfare of the community. Politically he is a Democrat and religiously he and his family attend the German Lutheran church at Atkins.

MARTIN JOHN COLLINS, cashier of the Farmers' Savings Bank, of Garrison, Iowa, and one of the representative business men of Garrison, was born September 10, 1874, in Homer township, Benton county, and is a son of Thomas and Mary (Donnelly) Collins. Thomas Collins was born in county Galway, Ireland, in 1835, was reared in his native country, and at the age of seventeen years came to New Orleans, where he worked some time on the levee; later he removed to Louisville, Kentucky, and found work. He next located in Iowa City, Iowa, and worked on the railroad, and then in the spring of 1857 removed to Homer township, Benton county, in an ox wagon. He was married in 1850, in Louisville, to Mary Donnelly, and bought land in Homer township, consisting of forty acres; he lived on another farm at first, after which he built a log cabin and kept adding land until he owned five hundred and sixty acres. He made all possible improvements on his farm, erected two houses, and barns accordingly, as well as other necessary buildings, and lived in his home until his death, April 7, 1892. He was able to save money, and was very successful in all his undertakings, being a self-made man. Before the coming of the railroad, it was necessary for him to haul his produce by team to Cedar Rapids or Blainstown. His wife was born May 22, 1831, in county Galway, also, and lived in her native country until nine years of age; she came with her brothers to New Orleans, spending thirteen weeks on the water. Later she removed to Louisville, Kentucky, where she was married, and at the time of settling in Homer township she had one child. She lived on the farm until the April prior to her death, which occurred December 11, 1904. They had children as follows: Ellen, wife of Dan McGraw, of Rock Rapids, Iowa; Mary, wife of William Muns, at Rock Rapids; Delia, who died in 1897; Thomas F., who married Adda Donelan, and lives at Rock Rapids; Samuel, who married Margaret Casey, and lives near LaPorte; Peter, living in Garrison, Iowa; William, who married Ella Scurry, of Eldora, Iowa, and now resides at Lake Park Iowa; Kate, who died February 26, 1891; and Martin J.

Martin J. Collins was reared on the farm which was his birthplace, and lived there until 1905, when he entered into business in Garrison which has since been his residence. He has a natural aptitude for business life, and is well educated, having attended the State Normal School some time, and has made the most of his opportunities for improvement. He is a member of the Catholic church of Vinton, and also of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Columbus. In politics he is a Democrat, though not radical. The history of the Farmers' Savings Bank, of which Mr. Collins is cashier, will be found in connection with the general history of the county. The directors of the bank include some of the most influential and conservative citizens of Garrison and vicinity, and the institution is erected on a sure foundation, having fine prospects for the future.

On June 19, 1906, Mr. Collins married, Alice Elizabeth, daughter of P. J. and Anna (Fallan) Donelan; they have no children. P. J. Donelan was born February 8, 1834, in county Clare, Ireland, and came to New York in 1848; he settled in Chawtauqua county, New York, and later removed with a brother to Portage county, Ohio. He was a son of James and Elizabeth (McMahan) Donelan the father a farmer, who remained in Ireland, and died when P. J. Donelan was a small boy. His mother was a daughter of Patrick and Mary (Holmes) McMahan, and reared in county Clare; she came to America by the same route as her sons, and died about ten years ago. Later the family came to Ohio. The children of James Donelan and his wife were: Michael, of Vinton; Mary, deceased, wife of Patrick Joyce, also deceased, of Benton, Iowa; Anna, wife of William Coughlin, of Benton, Iowa; and P. J. Mrs. Donelan married (second) Dennis Gleason, from county Clare, Ireland, who died there, and they had two children, Kate and Elizabeth. Kate married W. J. Dunn, of Buchanan, Iowa, and is now deceased; Elizabeth married D. Steadman, of Vinton.

P. J. Donelan was the fourth and youngest child of his mother's first marriage. He arrived in Benton county early enough to be able to enter land from the government, and his brother also took up land there. They hauled supplies from Davenport and Muscatine for two or three years, and later from Iowa City, Cedar Rapids and Blainstown, until the coming of the railroad removed the need of this teaming. Mr. Donelan purchased eighty acres of land to which he added as able and became the owner of two hundred and forty acres. He invested in land and bought horses and cattle and some years ago moved to Vinton, Iowa, where for a time he dealt in city real estate, but afterward retired from active life. In politics he is a Republican, and belongs to the Catholic church of Vinton.

In 1864 Mr. Donelan married Anna M., daughter of John and Margaret (McCune) Fallan, of Ireland; she was born in Buffalo. They had issue as follows: Adda M., wife of Thomas Collins, of Lyon county, Iowa; Ella G., who died about the age of twenty-one years; Theresa M., wife of Walter Goodhue, of Vinton, Iowa; Florence, wife of Henry Bell, of Des Moines, Iowa; Alice Elizabeth wife of M. J. Collins, of Garrison, Iowa; Michael Francis, who died at the age of six years; and Jay, of Waverly, Iowa.

HENRY J. DAVIS, one of the successful farmers and substantial citizens of Fremont township, Benton county, Iowa, dates his birth in Linn county, this state, May 30, 1862. His parents, Henry and Louisa (Baker) Davis, were born in Baden, Germany, and Prussia, respectively; the father, born December 1, 1837, died in August, 1891; the mother, born February 17, 1838, is now a resident of Norway, Iowa. Their family consisted of six children, of whom Henry J. is the eldest, the others in order of birth being as follows: Mary, wife of John Weichman, of Fremont township; Lena, wife of Lewis Deklotz, of Newhall, Iowa; Bertha, wife of William Means, of Vinton, Iowa; Louisa, wife of John T. Smith, of Norway, Iowa; and Elizabeth, wife of Ferman Lucas, of California.

It was in 1853 that Henry Davis, a young man without a dollar, landed in this country. His first stop was in DeKalb county, Illinois, where he spent about one year, and from whence he came to Iowa and took up his abode in Linn county. He married while in Linn county. In 1863 he came to Benton county and rented land, which he cultivated for several years, subsequently buying a farm in section 19 of Fremont township, and there passing the rest of his life. At the time of his death he was the owner of six hundred acres in Fremont township. He died in 1902. He had acceptably filled several local offices, including those of county supervisor, justice of the peace and township clerk, and he was held in high esteem by all who knew him.

Henry J. Davis, being the only son in the family, was his father's dependence on the farm. He remained at home until after his father's death. Then he settled on his present farm, one hundred and sixty acres of fine land well improved in section 30, Fremont township.

On June 26, 1906, Mr. Davis married Mrs. Lena (Ockenfels) Wianans, widow of Edward J. Wianans. She was born in Germany, October 28, 1883, and in 1893 came to this country with her mother, Mrs. Margaret Ockenfels, now a resident of Norway, Iowa. By her first husband Mrs. Davis had one child, David

Edward, and by Mr. Davis she had two, John H. and Ferdinand C.

Politically Mr. Davis is a Republican, and fraternally he is identified with the Order of Foresters at Norway. He and his family are Catholics.

GEORGE M. COX, better known as Mell Cox, an enterprising stock farmer of Eden township, was born in Wells county, Indiana, March 16, 1860, and is a son of Thomas and Julia Ann (Leonard) Cox, the latter from Grand Junction, Iowa. Thomas Cox was born in Delaware, and as a young man removed to Ohio, where he married and then settled in Wells county, Indiana, his home until 1877. He followed farming in Benton county, Iowa, several years and then located in Greene county, Iowa. He died in Grand Junction, Iowa, which had been his home for seventeen years, in February, 1908, in his eightieth year. His wife was born near Chillicothe, Ohio, and is now about seventy-three years of age. They were parents of eight children, three of whom were born in Ohio and five in Indiana. All resided in Benton county some time, and all survive.

George M. Cox was reared in Indiana, and received a good education. He came to Benton county, Iowa, with his parents, in October, 1877, and has since followed farming and stock raising. He began working for himself when very young, and is a self-made man, his present success having been attained through his own efforts. The farm he now occupies, two hundred acres of well improved land, he purchased in May, 1901; it is known as the Strong Farm, and is located in section 4 of Eden township. Before settling in this place he carried on a farm in Big Grove township twenty-four years. Mr. Cox is a Republican and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Cox married Belle, daughter of John and Lizzie King, who was born in Muscatine, Iowa, but came to Benton county with her parents when two years old, and has since resided there. Her father died some years since, aged seventy years, and her mother died about nine years ago, at the age of fifty-six. They had two children, Belle and George. The latter now lives at Covina, California, although he still owns a farm in Benton county. Mr. Cox and his wife have two children, both now attending school in Vinton, Delbert L., aged eighteen and Letta F., sixteen years of age.

CARL STRUVE, a successful and prominent stock farmer of Cedar township, was born January 13, 1854, in Rock Island county, Illinois, and left there when thirteen years of age to come to



MR. AND MRS. CARL STRUVE





Benton county, Iowa, where he arrived May 1, 1867. He was reared on his father's farm, and received a common school education. He located on his present farm after his marriage, and has continued to carry it on ever since, with excellent success. He has made all modern improvements, and has planted shade trees which are now a valuable addition to the place.

Mr. Struve is an ambitious, enterprising man, and has made the most of his opportunities. He owns one hundred and forty acres in section 17 and forty acres in section 21, of Cedar township, all of which he carries on himself. He makes a specialty of Duroc Jersey hogs, Polled Angus stock and Norman horses. He has served district No. 9 as director and secretary of the school board, and in political views is a Republican, although he tries to vote for the best interests of the public, regardless of the party affiliations of the candidate. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Mount Auburn Lodge No. 244, of Mount Auburn. He is public spirited and useful as a citizen, and greatly esteemed by his neighbors.

Mr. Struve married, in 1883, Sophia, daughter of Christian Schlotfeldt, and their children are: Laura May, Clad Henry, Rena, Maria and Ralph Christian, all living at home. Mr. and Mrs. Struve were reared in the Lutheran faith, but all of their children are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

HENRY KUHN, owner and operator of a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 12, Eden township, is a native of Benton county, born here January 27, 1855. He is a son of Peter and Elizabeth (Sweet) Kuhn, the former a native of Maryland, who removed to Ohio when a young man and there married. He accompanied the Boggs family to Benton county, Iowa, about 1853 and stopped with them in Benton township for the winter. Peter Kuhn subsequently entered eighty acres of land in section 1, and built a log house, which was occupied the next spring and summer. He spent the remainder of his life on this farm, although he secured other land. He was very industrious and thrifty, and through his untiring energy and economy acquired a competence. He was a stanch Republican and served in several local offices, and he was a member of the Grange; he and his wife were members of the United Brethern church. Peter Kuhn died October 13, 1885, aged sixty-eight years, three months and twenty-one days, and his wife, who was born in Scioto county, Ohio, where she was married, died in Eden township, in February, 1891, in her seventy-second year. They had four sons and two daughters, of whom two sons and one daughter survive, and all

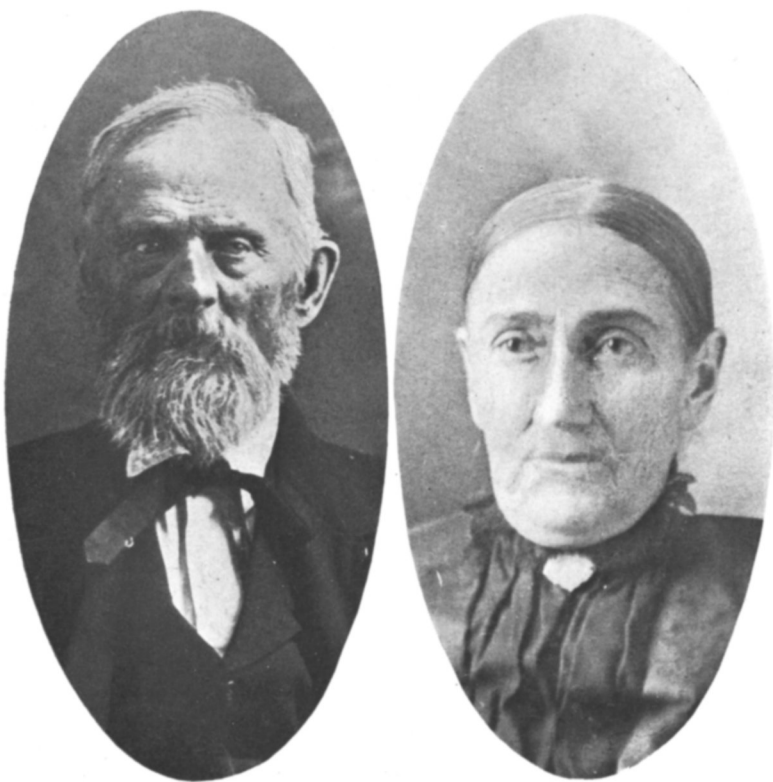
resided some time in Benton county. Mary Ann, died in this county, at the age of eighteen years; John, died in Calhoun county, Iowa, a young man, in 1886-7; Emeline, married R. J. Gillespie, living near Vinton, Iowa; Henry; G. W., is a farmer in Minnesota; and the eldest son died in infancy in Ohio. When Mr. Kuhn and his family first lived in Benton county their nearest market was Iowa City or Muscatine.

Henry Kuhn was reared in Benton county, and received a common school education. He has successfully followed farming and stock raising all his life. He owned the home farm several years and then purchased the farm he now occupies, which is one of the best in the county and kept in fine condition. He is a firm Republican and has filled the offices of township clerk, trustee, etc. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, of Vinton, and he and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Kuhn married July 15, 1883, Susan A., daughter of Daniel and Jane (Yerkes) Williamson, who was born in November, 1867, in Indiana, and came to Benton county with her parents in 1869. The parents still live in Taylor township, aged about eighty-five and seventy-five, respectively. They had eleven children, all except one now living in Benton county, one son recently having removed to Seattle, Washington. Mr. Kuhn and his wife have one daughter, Mrs. Raymond Culp, and she has one son, Oliver Dell.

**JAMES W. ATHEY.**—Hale and hearty, bearing with great ease and dignity his burden of eighty years, James W. Athey, of Leroy township, is a typical representative of the hardy and courageous pioneers of Benton county, and has the distinction of having been the first man to locate in the township of which he is now a resident. For nearly three score years he has occupied his present farm, on section 24, and during that time has been an active and prominent factor in the development of this part of the county and in the advancement of its material welfare. The son of Judson W. Athey, an early settler of Iowa, he was born October 26, 1829, in Parke county, Indiana, on the banks of the beautiful Wabash.

Locating in Parke county, Indiana, when a young man, Judson W. Athey took up a tract of timbered land and began the improvement of a farm, living and laboring there a number of years. In 1846, following the tide of emigration westward, he drove across the country to Iowa county, Iowa, being three weeks in making the long trip. Locating in Como township, he took up one hundred



*Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Athey*



and sixty acres of raw prairie land, and having erected a log cabin began the improvement of a homestead. Settlers were then few and far between, Muscatine being the nearest marketing place, while Cedar Rapids was a mere hamlet, with few houses and one grist mill. He carried on general farming for a number of years on his homestead, but spent his last days in Marengo, Iowa, dying December 23, 1862, at the age of sixty-two years, his birth having occurred June 23, 1800, in old Virginia. He married Susanna Justus, who was born in Ohio, March 10, 1809, and died on the home farm, in Como township, February 14, 1851. Of the eleven children born of their union, three are living, namely: James W., the subject of this sketch; Howard, of Los Angeles, California; and Milton J., of Belle Plaine, Iowa.

Brought up on a farm, James W. Athey had very limited educational advantages, attending school but six weeks while living in Indiana, and but a short time in Iowa. On attaining his majority, four years after coming to this state, he purchased a small claim on Walnut creek, near Belle Plaine, and lived on it two years, carrying on mixed husbandry. Selling out at that time he came to Benton county, in November, 1852, and at once assumed possession of the eighty acres of land in section twenty-four, Leroy township, 80 acres in section 25, and 45 acres in section 2, Iowa county, which his father had entered for him sometime before, receiving a deed of the land from the government, this sheepskin being now in the possession of Mr. Athey. This part of the county was then thinly populated, his nearest neighbors being seven miles away, there being a few settlers at Big Grove, north of his farm. Mr. Athey was exceedingly fortunate in his operations, in course of time becoming an extensive landholder, having title to six hundred and forty acres of land in Benton county. He has divided generously with his children, giving them an excellent start in life, and now owns and manages only two hundred and forty-five acres. For forty or more years Mr. Athey was prosperously engaged in buying and shipping stock, but in 1904 turned this branch of business over to two of his sons, who are carrying it on with characteristic enterprise and success.

Mr. Athey married first, July 14, 1853, Sarah Catherine Brown, who was born in Richland county, Ohio, May 13, 1833, and died on the home farm in Leroy township in November, 1865. She bore him six children, of whom three are living, as follows: Alexander, born October 28, 1857, resides at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin; Judson W., born March 13, 1862, lives in Atchison, Kansas; and John M., of Leroy township, born May 9, 1864. Three have passed to the higher life, Emma, Mary A. and Elizabeth.

Mr. Athey married on May 31, 1866, Minerva Merrifield, who was born in Greene county, Ohio, April 3, 1838, a daughter of Francis and Barbara (Meyer) Merrifield, both natives of Virginia. She came with her parents to Iowa county, Iowa, in 1851, driving across the intervening county, and on the farm which her father bought in Como township both he and his wife spent their remaining years. Of the ten children born to Mr. and Mrs. Merrifield three survive, namely: Mrs. Athey; Isaac, of Kensington, Kansas; and Matilda, widow of Samuel Smith, late of Iowa county. Mr. and Mrs. Athey are the parents of four children, namely: James M., of Poweshiek county, Iowa; Clinton, of Blairstown, Iowa; Cora E., wife of William Smith, of Leroy township; and Roy, of Leroy township.

Politically Mr. Athey has been a life long Republican, and cast his first presidential vote in 1850 for Millard Fillmore, the president that signed the deeds to his land. Religiously he and his wife are conscientious and valued members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and contribute liberally towards its support.

J. A. ELLIOTT, is superintendent of the Benton County Home, elsewhere described in this history. He has filled this office continuously since 1897, during which time the large main building of the institution was built, and to his management is chiefly due the prosperity of the Home.

He was born in Delaware county, New York, in 1844, a son of Robert and Jane (Salton) Elliott. The parents moved to Poweshiek county, Iowa, in 1869, and in 1881 to Belle Plaine, where the father died in 1901, at the age of ninety, and the mother a little before, aged eighty-five. Robert Elliott was a farmer through his active career, in politics a Republican and he and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church. The record of their sons and daughters, besides J. A., is as follows: William, a former resident of Benton county, was a locomotive engineer for the Northwestern Railroad, and was killed in service July 17, 1907. George is a resident of Nebraska. David was a soldier of the Third New York Cavalry during the Civil war, and was captured in the "Wilson Raid" near Petersburg, on June 16, 1864, and held prisoner for a term in Andersonville. Mrs. Mary McArthur, one of the daughters, resides in Belle Plaine, while Jane died in New York in 1860.

J. A. Elliott was reared in his native state, and at the age of eighteen, on August 12, 1862, enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Forty-fourth New York Infantry, being with the Sixth and Eleventh corps of the Army of the Potomac. In the

winter of 1863 he was sent through Virginia, the Carolinas and Florida, where he remained till the close of the war. He was mustered out in 1865 and was never injured, although he was troubled for a number of years with the rheumatism, induced by his army experience. After the war he lived two years in Wisconsin, then moved to Iowa with his parents in 1869, and in 1881 to Benton county. He followed farming for a number of years, and at Belle Plaine conducted a meat market and also engaged in the buying and shipping of stock for six or eight years. He has been an active Republican for a number of years, and while in Poweshiek county served as justice of the peace about ten years, and for about the same period held that office at Belle Plaine, where he also served as mayor for four years. He is a member of P. M. Coder Post, No. 98, G. A. R., at Vinton, and affiliates with the blue lodge and chapter Masonry at Vinton and with Belle Plaine Lodge No. 151, I. O. O. F.

Mr. Elliott was first married while living in Wisconsin, to Miss Margaret Carey. She died at Belle Plaine in 1885, leaving four daughters: Mrs. Mary Bardwell, who lives near Belle Plaine; Nancy, wife of E. D. Hickey, of Belle Paine; Margaret, wife of Otis Baxter, an engineer of the Northwestern Railroad; and Alice, wife of Dr. R. H. Hancock, a dentist of Belle Plaine. The present Mrs. Elliott was before her marriage Miss Christine Salton, of Delaware county, New York.

THE BENTON COUNTY HOME, is one of the most important of the county's public institutions, and represents the most modern methods of caring for the public poor and dependent in an agricultural county like Benton. The farm comprises two hundred acres of land in Taylor township, lying on the corners of the three sections, 22, 23, and 27.

The excellent building which houses the inmates was erected in 1902, at a cost of about \$20,000. The institution is practically self-supporting, owing largely to the able management of the present steward, Mr. J. A. Elliott, who has held that office since 1897. The Home provides quarters for one hundred persons. It is indicative of the prosperity, the wholesomeness and independence of this county's population that on an average only forty individuals are cared for in the Home. Mr. Elliott has direct management of the institution, with the help of one or two employes besides the female employes inside. The building of the County Home was paid for by a direct tax, and all in one year.

HENRY SCHIRM, one of the prosperous farmers of Fremont township, Benton county, Iowa, was born in Baden, Germany, June 27, 1863, son of Martin and Mary (Gerber) Schirm, and when six years of age he came with his parents to this country.

On the arrival of the Schirm family in the United States in 1869 they came direct to Iowa, and in Linn county the father purchased forty acres of unimproved land. There they made their home until 1876, when they moved to Benton county and settled in Fremont township. Here Martin Schirm bought one hundred acres of land in section 20, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted his energies, and here he passed the rest of his life and died. He was born in Germany in 1821, and died in March, 1893. His wife, born in Germany in 1830, died in February, 1907. They were the parents of ten children, all living, as follows: Martin; Anna, wife of Adam Schueler; George; Katie, wife of Jacob Krumm; Fred; William; Mathew; Henry; Jacob; and Christena, wife of Lewis Ahrens. Four are residents of Adair, Iowa; Mrs. Schueler, Fred and Jacob, of Atkins, Iowa; William, of Linn county; and Mrs. Ahrens, of Boone, Iowa.

Henry Schirm grew up on his father's farm, receiving a district school education and a training in the thrifty habits characteristic of his forefathers. As soon as he was old enough he went to work as a farm hand and worked by the month for three years. Then he rented a farm. Prosperity attended his efforts, he saved his earnings, and it was not long before he had a farm of his own. His first purchase was a hundred acres in section 17 of Fremont township, which he subsequently sold and afterward bought one hundred and twenty acres adjoining his father's land. He cultivated both his own land and his father's, renting the latter until 1900, when he bought it; now he owns three hundred acres in one tract, well improved and under a high state of cultivation.

In March, 1890, Mr. Schirm married Miss Katie Rinderknecht who was born in Fremont township, in 1870, daughter of William Rinderknecht, a resident of Atkins, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Schirm have eight children, namely: William, Lewis, Otto, Bertha, Lawrence, Fredrick, Hilda and Herman. Politically Mr. Schirm is a Democrat.

JOHN B. CULP, operating his well-improved farm of eighty acres in section 3, Eden township, Benton county, has been a resident of the county since 1857, when he was ten or eleven years of age. He was born in Hampshire county, West Virginia, March 19, 1846, and is a son of Edward and Catherine (Grayson) Culp,



both natives of West Virginia. The Culps are probably of English descent, and the Graysons are of German descent. Edward Culp and his family came to Iowa in 1857, locating for one year in Washington county, and then came to Big Grove township, Benton county, which was the family home for many years. They afterwards sold the farm and retired to live in Garrison, where the father died about 1900 and the mother about 1898. Edward Culp served in various township offices, and he and his wife were members of the United Brethern church in West Virginia, joining the Methodist Episcopal church in Iowa. They had fourteen children, of whom eight now survive; three sons live in O'Brien county and three daughters in Benton county.

John B. Culp was reared in Benton county, and there received his education in the common schools. He learned the trade of carpenter with his father, and has followed it for the past thirty-seven years, although he has always made his home on a farm. He has erected many buildings in Benton county, and is a first-class workman. He lived some time in Big Grove and some time in Garrison, and about 1891 he removed to Eden township and purchased one hundred and sixty acres, which he later sold and purchased the fine home he now occupies. He has all modern conveniences and improvements, and keeps the place in fine condition. Mr. Culp is a prominent and public-spirited citizen, and has served in various township offices, now being a trustee of Eden township. He is a Republican and he and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church.

In December, 1869, Mr. Culp married Emma L. Russell, a native of New York, who came to Benton county when eighteen years of age and was married the ensuing year. To them twelve children have been born, and all survive save one who died at the age of seven months. Cora B., wife of Enos Barton, living in Wyoming, has two children; James F., a carpenter who owns a fruit ranch in Oregon near which he resides, is married and has three children; Charles, engaged in produce business in Oklahoma, is married; Theodore, a farmer of Colorado, is married and has one son; Lillie, wife of Bert H. Blocher, of Eden township, has two sons and one daughter; Nettie, wife of Verne Spencer, of Montana, has one son and lost two children in infancy; Ora B., wife of Herbert Cantonwine, of Benton township, has two sons and one daughter; Arcelia, wife of Clyde Dillon, of Eden township, has four sons; Ray E. and Roy E., were twins, the former at present residing in Eden township and the latter dying in infancy, aged seven months; Leslie G., is in Oklahoma in produce business; and John E., lives at home.

JOHN D. YOUNG, a prominent farmer of Canton township, is a son of John Young, who is given mention at length elsewhere in this work. Mr. Young was born in Vinton, Iowa, December 8, 1868, and received his education in the district schools and the academy at Vinton. Since leaving school he has followed stock farming, and keeps horses, cattle and hogs; he owns a farm of two hundred and sixty-four and one-half acres in section 5 and 8 of Canton township, which is well improved and carried on in an able and efficient way. Politically Mr. Young is a Republican and he has served in several local offices. He is a member of the Masonic Order of Shellsburg, and is well known in the community. Mr. Young has lived in Benton county all his life, takes an active interest in public affairs, and is an influential, public-spirited citizen.

In 1889 Mr. Young married Laura Narber, also born near Shellsburg, July 27, 1872, daughter of Ellis and Ester (Phillips) Narber, now retired and living at Vinton. She was reared and educated in this county, where all her life has been spent. Mr. Young and his wife are parents of four children, all born in Canton township, namely: Lura, aged eighteen, a student of the academy at Vinton; Glen, aged sixteen, also attending the academy; Vera, aged fourteen, at school; and Milo, aged eleven, also attending school.

OTTO L. RADEKE, one of the most successful and highly respected men of Benton county, was born in Tama county, Iowa, August 13, 1860. He is a son of Ferdinand and Wilhelmina (Schmidt) Radeke. In the sketch of his brother, Henry A., is given full mention of his parents' history.

O. L. Radeke was reared on a farm in Tama county, and there received a common school education. He remained at home until his marriage, in 1885, and then settled on a farm of eighty acres in section 10, Leroy township, which he received from his father, at the same time assuming the mortgage of fifteen hundred dollars, and he borrowed one hundred dollars on the eighty acres. He has put ten thousand dollars worth of improvements on his place having now a beautiful home with all modern conveniences. He owns altogether four hundred and forty acres of land and his farm is known throughout the county as the "Enterprise Stock and Dairy Farm." He has been one of the most successful farmers of the county, beginning with small capital. He is well liked for his honest dealings, and high character, and is a good neighbor. He has served as township trustee and school treasurer, and politically is a strong Republican, although previous to 1896 he was



Mr & Mrs. O. L. Radetke



a Democrat. Mr. Radeke is president of the Farmers' Telephone Company and trustee of the Leroy Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He and his wife are members of Blairstown Presbyterian church, of which he is a trustee. He is well known throughout the county, where the most of his life has been spent, and is one of its representative citizens.

Mr. Radeke married, September 6, 1885, Emma Kern, born in Kendall county, Illinois, July 20, 1865, daughter of Christopher and Margaret (Burkhart) Kern. Mr. Kern was born in Baden, Germany, September 6, 1832, and is now living with a son in Leroy township; his wife died in 1905, at the age of sixty-two years. They were the parents of seven children, of whom the following six survive: Joseph, of Leroy township; Emma, Mrs. Radeke; William, of Leroy township; J. Fred, also of Leroy township; Frank, of Iowa township; and Otto living at home. Mr. Kern came to the United States in 1853, spending forty-four days in crossing; and he located in Paterson, New Jersey, where for two years he followed the trade of a butcher, and then removed to Illinois. He married in Illinois and there followed farming until 1868, when he moved to Benton county, Iowa, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 19, Leroy township, where he has since remained. Mr. Radeke and his wife became the parents of six children, namely: Lydia, wife of Herbert Hartz, of St. Clair township; and the others, William, Wallace, Ruth, Merle and Alice, are living at home.

ANDREW W. SCHILD, a representative of one of the pioneer families of Benton county, Iowa, dates his birth March 25, 1861, in Iowa township, where he has always made his home.

John Schild, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Lippe Detmold, Germany, October 1, 1835, and when ten years old was brought by his parents to America, their settlement being near Freeport, Illinois, where they made their home about seven years. In the spring of 1852 they came west to Iowa, and grandfather Schild entered land in section 5, Iowa township, where he built a log house and established himself in primitive pioneer style. Their journey from Freeport, Illinois, to Benton county, Iowa, was made with ox teams. At Cedar Rapids, where they forded Cedar river, their wagon containing household goods and supplies was drawn by six yoke of oxen; the river was high and the current swift, and the leaders started to swim down stream off the ford. John, then a youth of seventeen, jumped on a saddle pony and plunged into the stream to try to get them back on the ford. The pony, too, became unmanageable, and he jumped from

it to one of the lead steers, and finally succeeded in getting the wagon safely across and thus saved their outfit. John Schild grew to manhood on his father's farm in Iowa township. There he met and married Dorothy Body, a native of the same town in Germany in which he was born, the date of her birth being September 15, 1835. After their marriage they settled on a farm of eighty acres given him by his father. As the years passed and he prospered he acquired other lands until at one time he was the owner of five hundred and forty acres. For a number of years Muscatine and Iowa City were his nearest markets, and he was one of a party of men who helped to erect the first log house on the present site of Belle Plaine. He died January 19, 1909. His widow still lives at the home place in Iowa township. Of the nine children which comprised their family, seven are living, namely: Lydia, wife of Adolph Gavake; Annie, wife of John Werhman; Amanda, wife of Otto Morris, all of Minnesota; Jane, wife of Allen Ditzler, Belle Plaine, Iowa; Alta, wife of Fred Nolte, of Waverly, Iowa; Andrew W., whose name introduces this sketch; and Henry J., who has charge of the old home place.

Andrew W. Schild grew up on his father's farm and received his early training in the district school. Later he spent two winters attending Tilford Academy. After his marriage he engaged in farming on forty acres, a portion of his present farm, which now comprises four hundred and twenty acres, in section 16, Iowa township. Also he has three hundred and fifty acres of improved land in Kansas. On his home farm is a modern residence, large barn and other buildings, all placed there by him, and everything about the premises is indicative of prosperity, from the buildings to the well cultivated fields and broad pastures with their fine cattle and fat hogs, Short-horn cattle being a specialty with him.

Mr. Schild has been twice married. His first marriage was January 13, 1887, to Caroline Dinzler, who died in January, 1907, at the age of forty-eight years, leaving four children: John, a resident of Nebraska; Frana, Lulu and Cora, all at home. On September 23, 1909, he wedded Miss Katie Hieleman, a native of Indiana.

Politically Mr. Schild is a Democrat. He has served efficiently in several local offices, including those of justice of the peace, township clerk and school director.

WALLACE BIXBY, an enterprising farmer of Canton township, who owns and operates a well-improved and fertile farm of one hundred and ninety-six acres, in sections 9 and 10, was born in

Dodge county, Wisconsin, January 14, 1851, and is a son of Anson P. and Electa (Bruce) Bixby, who also came to Benton county and lived there the remainder of their lives, as did his maternal grandparents. A. P. Bixby was born in Champlain county, New York, in 1814, and was a son of Joel Bixby, a veteran of the war of 1812; Champlain county was the old family home. Anson P. Bixby emigrated to Wisconsin in 1844, a year before his marriage, and made that state his home until 1869, when he came to Iowa and located on the farm now owned by his son Wallace. He died September 13, 1893; he had served in various offices in Wisconsin, and was a member of the Baptist church, as was also his wife. Electa Bruce was born in Vermont, September 30, 1829, and died in Benton county, Iowa, August 31, 1903. She was a daughter of David and Cynthia (Smith) Bruce, who came to Wisconsin in 1844, and in later life removed to Benton county, Iowa, where they spent their declining years. David Bruce died July 4, 1889, aged eighty-eight, and his wife died July 1, 1889, aged eighty-two.

Anson P. Bixby and his wife had four children, of whom two died in Wisconsin. One son, Albert, lives at Vinton, Iowa.

Wallace Bixby attended the public schools of Wisconsin, and was nineteen years of age when he removed to Benton county. He has since then followed successfully the occupations of farming and stock raising; since his first reaching Benton county, in 1869, he has lived on the farm which is his present home. Politically he is a Republican and has served more or less in school and township offices for the past twenty-five years, although at present he is not holding office. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Modern Brotherhood of America, of Shellsburg, and his wife belongs to the order of Rebekah. The family are regular attendants and members of the Presbyterian church at Shellsburg.

Mr. Bixby married, in Benton county, Abi J., daughter of Daniel and Nancy (Parker) Perry, who came from Indiana to this county when she was an infant, in 1857, and located in Canton township, near Mrs. Bixby's present home. Mr. Perry was accidentally killed in the fall of 1879, at the age of forty-eight years; he was a farmer and a native of Indiana. His widow now resides at Shellsburg, at an advanced age. Mrs. Bixby has one brother, J. W. Perry, living in Shellsburg. Mr. Bixby and his wife have four children, viz: Jesse A., Florence, J. Gordon and Cecil. Jesse married Lena, daughter of E. V. Wilson, postmaster, at Shellsburg, who settled in Linn county soon after 1850; he has two children, Wallace E. Jr., and Claire. Jesse Bixby is operating

the farm in partnership with his father. Florence is the wife of Frank Hatfield, and lives in Canton township; they have two children, Hollis E. and Lloyd D., and live on a farm. J. Gordon married Ida, daughter of D. K. Johnson, of Canton township, he lives on a farm near Shellsburg, and they have three daughters, Helen May, Lucile Margaret and Bernadene Marie. Cecil E., eleven years of age, lives at home and attends school in Shellsburg.

WILLIAM A. RADEKE.—Inheriting in no small measure the habits of industry, honesty and thrift, characteristic of his German ancestors, William A. Radeke, of Iowa township, is widely known as one of the most intelligent and prosperous agriculturists of Benton county, being an extensive landholder and a citizen of worth and prominence. A son of Ferdinand Radeke, he was born April 5, 1858, in Tama county, Iowa.

A native of Germany, Ferdinand Radeke was born, in 1807, near Berlin, and there lived for more than forty years. Emigrating to the United States in 1854, he was fourteen weeks in crossing the broad Atlantic. From New York city he came directly to Iowa, and the following four years worked at his trade of a harness maker in Iowa City. Driving to Tama county in 1858, he invested a large part of his savings in land, buying one hundred and sixty acres in York township. The real estate dealer of whom he bought the land was a veritable land shark, with no right whatever to dispose of the tract, and Mr. Radeke eventually lost all title to it. He subsequently made a bona fide purchase of eighty acres of the same farm, and was there employed in tilling the soil several seasons. In common with the early settlers of the place he lived in a frugal manner, corn bread made from meal ground by hand being a large part of the living at first. But little machinery was then used in farming, wheat, the staple product, being cut with a hand sickle and threshed with a flail. Coming from there to Benton county in 1866, he settled in Iowa township, buying the eighty acres of land on section 24 that are now owned and occupied by his son William. A part of the land had been previously broken, and a log house had been erected. He was successful as a farmer, and subsequently bought eighty acres of adjoining land. He also bought land in Leroy township, where he afterwards pursued his independent vocation for awhile. From there he removed to Luzerne, there living retired until his death, in 1888.

Ferdinand Radeke was three times married. By his first wife, who was a life-long resident of Germany, he had three children, of whom one survives, Frank, now a resident of Welsh,





*Mrs. & Mord. Wm. A. Radtke*



Louisana. He married second, in Germany, April 2, 1832, Louisa T. Schmidt, who was born April 10, 1813, and died in the Fatherland in 1848. The only child born of that union has passed to the life beyond. He married for his third wife, in 1854, Wilhelmina Schmidt, who was born November 20, 1824, and died March 11, 1904, leaving four children, namely: Henry A., of Iowa township; William A., the subject of this brief sketch; O. L., of Leroy township; and Gustave, of Oklahoma.

Reared to manhood under the parental roof-tree, William, A. Radeke received a limited education in the rural schools of his district, and subsequently began life on his own account on eighty acres of land deeded to him by his father in 1881, it being the original homestead property on section 24, Iowa township. Toiling wisely and well, he met with eminent success in his agricultural labors, and now owns valuable farming lands, having one hundred and twenty acres of rich and fertile land in Benton county, and six hundred and sixty-seven acres of well improved land in Pipestone and Lincoln counties, Minnesota. Mr. Radeke has made other investments of importance, being a stockholder in the Luzerne Savings Bank, and holding stock in several banking institutions in South Dakota.

Mr. Radeke has been twice married. He married first, in February, 1883, Louisa Kern, who was born in Kendall county, Illinois, and died in Iowa township, Benton county, October 18, 1892, aged twenty-nine years. She bore him six children, of whom five are living, namely: Minnie, wife of Edwin Anderson, of Chicago, Illinois; Clara, wife of Henry Meyermann, of Belle Plaine, Iowa; Mary, wife of A. F. Landsmann, of Lyons, Iowa; Amelia, of Belle Plaine, and Albert, living at home. Mr. Radeke married for his second wife Annie Schultz, who was born in LeRoy township, Benton county, September 28, 1871, a daughter of John Schultz, and to them seven children have been born, namely: Martha, August, Clarence, Elmer, John, Richard and Arnold. Politically Mr. Radeke is a Republican, and is now serving as a justice of the peace. Religiously he is a member of the German Lutheran church.

PETER WARNER is one of the successful farmers and stock-raisers who have worked out their career in Benton county, and he has attained a fair degree of material wealth and a position of influence in his home community. He resides with his sister, Mrs. H. M. Scott, on farm of one hundred and sixty acres which they own in partnership, and which is conducted by Mr. Warner and Mr. Scott.

Mr. Warner was born in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, March 31, 1858, being a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Correll) Warner. Jacob, whose grandfather came over from Germany, was born in 1817, in Warren county, New Jersey, and at the age of five moved with the family to Northampton county Pennsylvania, where he was reared and lived until 1872, when he came to Benton county, Iowa. He was a miller by trade, but was engaged in farming after he came to Benton county, and he acquired the excellent farm on which his son and daughter now live in Taylor township. He died October 12, 1897. He was a member of the Lutheran church. His wife, Elizabeth Correll, was born in Pennsylvania, October 16, 1819, and died at the home in Benton county November 1, 1886. They were the parents of six children: Ellen W., wife of Frank S. Bender, of Vinton; Howard, who died at the age of eleven months; Erwin, a farmer of Taylor township, married Becky Stewart; Catherine A. is the wife of Henry Steinmetz, a farmer near Vinton; Peter; and Gertrude A., who married H. M. Scott.

Mr. Scott is a native of Benton county, and his mother and brothers reside in Vinton. In the Spanish-American war he served as first sergeant of Company G, of the Forty-ninth Iowa. He has since continued in the national guard service, and is now first lieutenant and commanding officer of the local company. He is also assessor of Taylor township, being a Republican in politics.

Mr. Warner is independent in politics. Both he and Mr. Scott affiliate with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America at Vinton, and Mrs. Scott is a member of the Pythian Sisters, the Royal Neighbors and the M. B. A., also of the Presbyterian church.

FREDERICK H. KLUSS.—The substantial, progressive and influential citizens of Benton county have no better representative than Frederick H. Kluss, who holds high rank among the keen-witted, practical and progressive men who are so skillfully and successfully conducting the extensive agricultural interests of this part of Iowa. He owns and occupies a well-kept farm on section 13, Iowa township, and is actively identified with the best interests of the community in which he resides. A son of the late Frederick Kluss, he was born, October 4, 1856, in Mecklenburg, Germany, where the first four years of his life were passed.

Emigrating with his family to the United States in 1861, Frederick Kluss lived for six years in Clayton county, Iowa. Locating in Benton county in 1867, he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in LeRoy township, and from the raw prairie



*A. H. Kline* AND WIFE



land began the pioneer task of improving a homestead. From that time until his death, July 4, 1905, at the age of eighty-two years, he was employed principally as a tiller of the soil. He married Dotheria Boetefeur, who died in September, 1901, aged seventy-five years. They were the parents of three children, of whom two survive, namely: Frederick H., with whom this sketch is chiefly concerned, and Minnie, wife of Julius Studt, of Luzerne.

Growing to manhood on the home farm, Frederick H. Kluss received a good common school education, after which he remained at home until twenty-six years of age, in the meantime assisting his father on the homestead and obtaining a practical insight into the various branches of agriculture. Beginning his independent career on the parental farm, he subsequently purchased the entire estate to which he now holds title, it being one of the best improved places in LeRoy township. In 1891 Mr. Kluss removed to Iowa township, assuming possession of his present farm of two hundred and forty acres and in adding to its improvement has found both pleasure and profit. He has bought other land of much value, owning now nine hundred and ninety-one acres of the choicest land to be found in Benton county. He is widely recognized as one of the most intelligent, wide-awake and prosperous farmers of the state, possessing as he does a good understanding of the way in which to secure the best returns for the energy, time and money that he expends. In addition to general farming he has been extensively engaged in buying and shipping stock since 1903.

Mr. Kluss has accumulated a good property aside from his farming lands, and is one of the stockholders in the Luzerne Savings Bank, and likewise in the Corn Belt Savings Bank of Belle Plaine, of which he was formerly a director. He is prominently identified with the Democratic party, and is very popular in political circles. He was honored with the election to the office of mayor of Luzerne immediately after the city was incorporated, and held the position four consecutive years. He has also served as a justice of the peace. Religiously, true to the faith in which he was reared, he is a member of the German Lutheran church.

On February 4, 1883, Mr. Kluss was united in marriage with Emma Tatge, who was born in Luzerne, Benton county, Iowa, November 29, 1863, a daughter of Conrad and Mary (Steege) Tatge. Mr. and Mrs. Tatge, of whom a sketch appears elsewhere in this volume, emigrated to this country in 1852, and for three years lived in Illinois, near Oswego. In 1855 they came by wagons to Benton county, locating on government land on section 19, LeRoy township, where the death of Mr. Tatge occurred in November, 1884. Mrs. Tatge survived him many years, passing away

on June 9, 1901. They had five children, four of whom are living, as follows: Henry W., of Keystone, Iowa; August T., of Luzerne; Mary, wife of Henry Studt, of Evanston, Illinois; and Mrs. Kluss. Ten children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kluss, namely: Johanna, born June 15, 1884, wife of William Niebuhr, of LeRoy township; Minnie, born December 19, 1885, wife of Fred Kettler, of Union township; Mary Dorathy, born April 10, 1887, wife of J. H. Rieck, of Iowa township; Emma J. M., born February 2, 1890; Ida A. L., born June 2, 1891; Frederick J., born June 8, 1893; Selma W., born February 9, 1895; August H. K., born March 1897; Martin F. G., born August 29, 1899; and Katie L., born November 23, 1901.

HAMILTON B. EDWARDS, owner and proprietor of a fine farm in section 19, Iowa township, Benton county, Iowa, was the first white child born in New Hampton, Chickasaw county, Iowa, his birth taking place September 7, 1857. He is a son of David and Rebecca P. (Lambourne) Edwards, the former born in Marietta, Ohio, September 13, 1815, and died in July, 1888, and the latter, who was born in Westchester county, Pennsylvania, January 18, 1822, died July 13, 1903. They were married February 2, 1841, and were parents of nine children, of whom the following four survive: Fidelia, widow of F. R. Coe, of Pueblo, Colorado; Lauretta, wife of L. J. Button, of Sheldon, Iowa; May E., wife of Theodore Prill, of Sheldon, Iowa; and Hamilton B.

David Edwards was a man of superior intelligence and attainments, was well read and kept himself well informed on all the issues and topics of the day. He was a great student of the Bible, being familiar with its every page. He was a great worker in the interests of the church and also became greatly interested in the cause of education, giving one thousand dollars from his own pocket to help in building the first college ever erected west of the Mississippi river, which was established six miles south of Cedar Rapids, and became known as the Western College. Later it was moved to Toledo, Iowa, and is now known as the Leander Clarke College. Mr. Edwards was a very devout member of the United Brethren church, and helped every good cause in which he had an opportunity to become interested.

The Lambourne family (of which Mrs. David Edwards was a member) trace their ancestry back to 1103, and the first one to emigrate to America was Robert Lambourne, born in 1697, in East Hampstead, Berkshire, England, one of the six children of Josiah Lambourne; the baptismal records show the parents to have been of the Episcopalian faith. Although no record is to be found of his early childhood or school days, it is apparent that Robert Lam-



bourne was of an impressionable nature, as at the age of seventeen years he fell deeply in love with Sarah, daughter of Francis Swayne of Berkshire. Although advised by his parents against setting his heart on this marriage, the parents of both objecting to the attachment on the grounds of the extreme youth of both young people, his fervor was only increased by the news that the Swayne family intended emigrating to America, which they did, in 1711. Although he was not advised of their place of destination, and was unable to write to the young lady of his choice, he determined that at the first opportunity he would set sail for America and spend his time looking for her until he found her. He sought the permission of his parents to take this long journey, and though at first they would not listen, pleadings and tears prevailed in the end, and bidding a last farewell to his home and dear ones he set out in search of his sweetheart, who had by no means forgotten him. He reached America in 1717, traveled overland to Philadelphia, and in that city was overjoyed to catch sight of Francis Swayne in a store; he waited outside for the older man to come out, and was overwhelmed to receive a pleasant greeting, which showed that his presence was welcome to his old friend. He was invited to the home of the Swaynes, located in what is now London Grove, his host remarking, "I have but one horse, but we will ride and hitch." Robert would gladly have walked the entire distance, but found the journey conducted in a novel manner. One rode the horse until several miles in front of the other, who was afoot, would then tie the horse and proceed on foot himself; the other, coming up to the horse, would mount and ride until he was several miles past the one who was walking, in turn would hitch the horse and take his turn at walking. In this way the men were not overtired, and the beast, also, enjoyed respite now and again. Mr. Swayne managed to be the last one to ride, and on reaching home sent his daughter on to meet her lover. An affecting meeting took place between these two, and the objections of her parents were withdrawn, as both had grown older since their last meeting, and their youth had been the cause for the objections to their union. They were soon afterward married, by the ceremony of Friends, whose religion and customs the young man adopted. From the marriage of these two, who had had so romantic a courtship, there came a long line of Lambournes, many of whom have distinguished themselves.

The following is an extract from a letter written by Mrs. David Edwards, mother of Hamilton B.: "In June, 1855, we left to make a prospecting tour west, tarried a while in Illinois to view the country, passed farther west, crossed the Mississippi

and went one hundred miles farther west, when he set his stakes in Chickasaw county, purchased 1,360 acres of land, knowing or thinking that in the near future the county seat would be removed to the center of the county, as Bradford, the county seat, on the Big Cedar river, was in the extreme southwest corner of the county, a beautiful location and a town of 1,300 inhabitants. He soon erected a small barn and house. He started on his homeward trip, part of the time on horseback, left a man, who with his family was living in their wagon, to put a door and two windows in, batten it up some, gave him the privilege of staying in it and pay him until our arrival in the coming fall; and he stayed as long as he wished, bought him a farm and left the little house just as it was. In September, 1855, we left home with my three daughters and wended our way over hills and glens, prairies, wide streams and rivers, many times deep and wide, having a covered wagon and carriage. After thirty-five days of weary traveling, both worn and tired, on the last day of October, drove up to the little house, expecting to see a door and windows. David jumped out and raised the quilt and said 'Ho, ho, hard at it!' The reply was, 'Hurrah, are you the man that owns this ranch?' David answered 'I guess I am.' But there was little show for us tired mortals; there was seventeen in the house, containing a mother, who lay on a bed with an infant a few days old. The man, in David's absence, had bought in a steam sawmill, and had gone in the little house with his work hands, also there had been a little log house put up to entertain land viewers, speculators, and so on. We got out and went in, sat down to some cold fried potatoes, cold fat meat and muddy coffee, unpacked our beds and laid them on the dirty floor of the kitchen (there being but two rooms, one above the other, entered by a ladder) and laid our tired bodies down to rest as well as we could. In about a week they had sawed lumber and made a temporary place to go into. A number of families had come in, some in hay shanties, some in board shanties. We went to our house and though it was poor indeed, we felt thankful to get into my hut, for we had no washing done since we left home. In about a week after we got in David returned to McGregor, one hundred miles, on the Mississippi river, for provisions. A few days after he started, it being so cold I took my girls into the log tavern to warm, for we would be near freezing, the thermometer down to 28 and 30 below zero, but quite comfortable in the log house, and while there a woman came in crying; I said to her, 'I am alone with my children, no door, no windows, no upper floor, and a loose lower floor, can see out between the boards, but you are welcome to come and share with me my hardships if any better than what thee

has got.' Her husband worked in the sawmill, so through the blizzard snowstorm he brought their beds and laid them down beside mine, I lying on the outer side, my three girls next, their four children next, then the woman and her husband. The quilts at the door and two windows would tear from the nails as fast as nailed down. My sufferings I could not describe. After David's absence of ten days, as he was storm-stayed by a snow blizzard, wading rivers and streams as there were no bridges at that time, and breaking through the ice sometimes, he got home to find me near death's door. After Christmas we procured a door, two windows and boards to put overhead. We had a loose floor but nothing to batten the cracks, not even rags; got some poles to make bedsteads the length of the bedsteads being the width of the shanty, and many a morning my girls were banked over with snow and froze their ears and noses different times in bed, but David would get up and dress in the snow, shovel out the stove and start a fire. We bought two fat pigs at an exorbitant price, but having no warm place or building one froze to death, the other we skinned. We would chop it off with an ax, sit or stand around the stove, cook and eat it with pancakes made of flour and meal and water, as we had no milk, nor could we raise bread or keep yeast. But spring came once more and David went to work, secured help, as the prairies were growing white with covered wagons, so great the immigration. They blasted boulders scattered over the prairie, walled a cellar, hauled lumber a great ways and built a large house. David had a town laid out, sold one lot and gave one away, and by the next fall the county books were removed from Bradford to our town, New Hampton. The large safe, books (officers' and all) went into our large front room, so I had them and the public to entertain till a court house could be built. We have had seven fat deer in our cellar at once. After seeing our town grow to a flourishing village, we moved ten miles west, purchased a farm, on it a large and flourishing sawmill. On it was forty acres of as beautiful a sugar maple grove as I ever saw; here David started an apiary."

As mentioned in the above letter, the family returned to Ohio, but were not satisfied, and again located in Iowa, in 1873. Mr. Edwards later removed to Tama county, settling in Salt Creek township, where he died. He was a well known and prominent citizen and one of the most highly honored men of his section of the state. His wife was an estimable lady, a woman of rare accomplishments, who bore the hardships and privations of pioneer existence with great fortitude, and became an influence for good in her community. She was a devout Quakeress, a well-educated

woman, and the author of several poems which her son treasures as among his dearest possessions.

Hamilton B. Edwards was reared on a farm, received his early education in the district schools, and also attended Irving Academy. When seventeen years of age he began work on his own account, and engaged in buying cattle. When twenty-one he owned forty acres in Salt Creek township, Tama county, adjoining his father's land, and this he began working; when his father died he owned four hundred and eighty acres. In 1893 he sold out and purchased two hundred and forty acres of his present farm in Benton county, where he now owns three hundred acres, two hundred acres inside the corporation of Belle Plaine. He has a well improved farm, is an intelligent and progressive farmer, and has met with gratifying success. He is actively interested in public affairs and politically is a progressive Republican; he has served as a justice of the peace. He is affiliated with the Odd Fellows of Belle Plaine. Mr. Edwards is well read, and keeps informed on the issues of the day. He is much interested in history and literature, and has himself composed some excellent poems.

On January 21, 1880, Mr. Edwards married Ollie A. Coats, born in Iowa county, August 30, 1860, a daughter of John W. and Elizabeth (Adair) Coats, the former a native of Darke county, Ohio, and the latter of Mercer county, same state. To this union have been born children as follows: Florence, wife of James F. Hensel, of Elborn, Iowa; Lambourne A., of Marion, North Dakota; Minnie K., wife of M. C. Hedley, of Kewanee, Illinois; David M., of California; John H., Ralph N., William D., Mary, Elsie and Amy, at home; and three children who died young.

HOMER NARBER owns and operates his well improved farm of six hundred and eighty acres, in sections 17 and 18, Canton township. He is a native of the township, born August 20, 1860, to George and Nancy (Gordner) Narber, early residents of the county, now deceased. The former came to Benton county in 1857 and died in 1893, aged about seventy-three years; he was born in Pennsylvania, October 23, 1820, and was married in Williamsport, where his first two children were born. His wife was also a native of Pennsylvania. They had a good-sized family of children, as follows: Ellis, who died in February, 1910 at Vinton; Bartley, of Shellsburg; Luther, of Minnesota, a stock buyer; Emanuel, a farmer of Benton county; Irving, a farmer living near Vinton, and Homer. Amanda died in childhood.

Homer Narber was reared in Benton county; he received a

common school education and has always followed farming as an occupation. He started on his own account when a young man, and by his energy, ambition and industry has attained unusual success. Politically he is a Democrat, and he has served as township trustee. He is a member of the Masonic Order of Shellsburg, and of the United Brethren church.

Mr. Narber married Anna, sister of John M. Beatty, given further mention elsewhere in this work. He and his wife have three children, all at home, Elsie, Grace and Helen Louise.

J. F. TRAER, cashier of the Vinton Savings Bank, was born April 30, 1867, at his present residence, at the corner of Whipple and Beckett streets; this place, one of the landmarks of the town, was occupied by his father for forty years and by his mother for fifty years. The parents, J. C. and Marcia (Ferguson) Traer, were both natives of Ohio, married in Linn county, in 1849. They came to Vinton in August, 1851, where J. C. Traer practised medicine and law for forty years. He organized the first bank in Benton county, a private enterprise, and was associated with a number of men in business, among them Greene Brothers, of Cedar Rapids. After doing business in Vinton some twenty-six years, the bank was liquidated. Mr. Traer took an active interest in politics all his life, and was a member of the Constitutional convention of Iowa, in 1857. In early days in Vinton he served as postmaster, also as district clerk. Under the administration of President Harrison he again served as postmaster of Vinton. He was well known throughout the region, and was a prominent and influential man of affairs. He and his wife were Presbyterians, she being one of the charter members of the church of Vinton, two only of whom survive. J. C. Traer died July 1, 1898, in his seventy-third year, and his widow died May 18, 1906, in her seventy-ninth year. They were parents of eight children, all born in Vinton, namely: William M., now of Chicago; Florence, wife of L. Perrine, of Chariton, Iowa; George E., of California; Glenn W., in coal business in Chicago, of the firm of the Illinois Colliers Company; Jessie F., died about twenty-two years ago, at the age of twenty-four years; Mary, married W. L. Rammage, of Cedar Rapids, and died in 1895; James F., Clifford A., of the state of Washington.

James F. Traer was reared in Vinton, and graduated from the High School, after which he read law with his father, and was admitted to the bar in 1888, at the age of twenty-one years. After spending several years in the practice of his profession, and five years in the abstract office with Mr. Knapp, he accepted his pre-

sent position in the Vinton Savings Bank. He has proven his fitness and ability for a position of trust, and is universally esteemed and respected. Mr. Traer has taken a fairly active part in local politics, and like his father before him, served the interests of the Republican party. He is a member of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Traer married (first) Jennie, daughter of W. B. Van Horn, who died June 1, 1905; her family were early residents of Benton county. Mr. Traer married (second) Esther, daughter of Judge Kinne, late of the State Board of Control; he died some three years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Traer have one child, James Kinne, born August 20, 1909.

WILLIAM FRY, of Canton township, who has lived retired during the last twelve years, has been a resident of Benton county since the spring of 1850, where he spent two years with his uncle, Joseph Onstott. Mr. Fry was born in Blair county, Pennsylvania, May 5, 1833, and is a son of Conrad and Maria (Onstott) Fry, natives of Germany and Berks county, Pennsylvania, respectively. Conrad Fry came to America when a young man, and was married in Pennsylvania. He died in 1835 and his widow, who came to Benton county in 1851, died in 1889, in her eighty-fourth year. She lived with a step-daughter in Benton county at the time of her death. The only child of Conrad Fry and his wife was William.

When seventeen years of age William Fry was one of a party of fifty-six emigrants to Iowa, who came by way of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to Muscatine, and from there to Benton county, then in a state of wilderness. There was but one house at Shellburg, and two between there and Vinton. Mr. Fry left Pennsylvania with but fifteen dollars in his possession, and when he reached his destination had but twenty-five cents left. He spent two years with his uncle, Joseph Onstott, a little west of Shellsburg, and in 1854 located in section 6, Canton township, which has been his home most of the time since. He entered forty acres of timber and forty acres of prairie land, and on the latter built a log cabin. He was very hard working and industrious, and invested his savings in land until he had acquired two hundred and eighty acres of well-improved land.

At the same time he carried on his farm Mr. Fry followed carpenter work and building for some forty years, and was associated with John A. Dilling, mentioned at length elsewhere in this work. Not long since Mr. Fry divided his farm among his sons and for the past two years has lived on the homestead, though for seven years previous to this he resided in Vinton.



*William Jay and Wife*





Mr. Fry married, in 1854, Anna Lane, who died June 2, 1900, at the age of sixty-six years, at Vinton. They reared five children, all living, namely: J. Henry, of Vinton; George, of Vinton; W. Ellis, of Benton township; and Grant and John, residing on the home place.

Politically Mr. Fry is a Republican, and he cast his first presidential vote of John C. Fremont. He has in 1909 been a member of the United Brethren church fifty-six years, and his wife also belonged to that church. Mr. Fry has been a continuous resident of Benton county since his arrival in 1850, and has never returned to the place of his birth, even to visit.

John H. Fry, youngest son of William Fry, was born on the home farm in Canton township, July 6, 1873, and was reared on the farm. He attended the country schools and also Tilford Academy, and has since followed farming and stock raising with remarkable success. He married, in Cedar township, Elizabeth, daughter of John Frank, an early resident of Benton county. He and his wife have one child, Lucile Gertrude, now aged seven years, attending school. He is a Republican and is now serving as township trustee. He belongs to the Highland Nobles, of Vinton. He and his brother Grant have operated the home farm sixteen years.

Grant Fry was born March 30, 1866, and has been associated with his brother many years in operating the home farm, although for the past eight years they have worked independently. He is a member also of the Highland Nobles, of Vinton. Both brothers attend the United Brethren church, as do the rest of the family. They are considered among the substantial and leading citizens of the county, and are well known in the community.

EUGENE W. McCULLEY, recently elected supervisor of Benton county, owns and operates a well-improved farm of two hundred acres in Benton township, and also leases additional land. He was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and came to Benton county with his parents in 1865; they located in Urbana, Polk township, where the father practised medicine until 1894, after which he retired until his death two years later. Mr. McCulley is a son of Dr. James McCulley, who was well known in Benton county.

Dr. James McCulley was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, December 12, 1818, son of John and Catherine McCulley, and died at his farm in Polk township, Benton county, Iowa, August 21, 1896. He was educated at Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, Pennsylvania, being twenty-two years of age when he completed his course; he was well educated and a

fine scholar in Greek and Latin. After leaving school he removed to Steubenville, Ohio, where in 1840 he began the practice of medicine. In 1865 he removed with his family to Benton county, Iowa, locating first in Urbana, and three years later on his farm about three miles from there which was his home until his death.

When only eleven years of age Dr. McCulley was converted and joined the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he was a devout member thirty years, being for twenty years a minister of that church. In 1860 he united with the Baptist church, and after settling at Urbana he became a member of a church organized by Reverend J. L. Coppoc, known as the Baptist church of Urbana. The first meeting was held in a school house located on Dr. McCulley's farm. At a call of the council convened by the church Dr. McCulley was ordained to the ministry in the Baptist church, and served as pastor there many years; in later years, when this church was abandoned Dr. McCulley and his wife joined the Vinton Baptist church.

Dr. McCulley was twice married, first to Mary Ann McCulley, by whom he had six children (she was not related to him, though bearing the same surname); and second to Sarah J. Ward, born in Belmont county, Ohio, August 19, 1830. The latter was a daughter of Jacob and Ann S. (Moore) Ward, farmers and early settlers in the "Western Reserve," of Ohio.

By his first marriage Dr. McCulley's children were: Eliza M., living in Jackson county, Missouri; John M., a veteran of the Civil war, residing near Longmont, Kansas; Mary C., Mrs. Swem, living in Salt Lake City, Utah; James A., a veteran of the Civil war, living in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; William who died when about two year old; Olinthus A., who died August 27, 1895, at Denver, Colorado, aged about forty years.

By his second marriage Dr. McCulley had children as follows: Eugene W.; Florence L., who married Dow L. Burrell and died February 6, 1896; Elmira, who married Matt Gaasch and lives in Cowlitz county, Washington; Carrie A., married George D. Hawley and lives near Urbana; and Jessie V., wife of Henry E. Jones, of Adams county, Iowa. Dr. McCulley was for many years affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and with the Masons.

Eugene W. McCulley was reared in Benton county from the time he was five years of age, and since the age of twelve has done a man's work on a farm. He is self-made, energetic, industrious and has achieved unusual success in the conduct of his affairs. He has made a specialty of stock raising, besides general farming, and now owns one hundred head of fine stock.

Politically Mr. McCulley is a Republican, and has always taken an active interest in public affairs; he has filled many township offices, and is now serving as supervisor of the county, having been elected in the fall of 1908. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he and his wife belong to the Order of Rebekah. Although his parents were earnest Baptists, Mr. McCulley and his family attend the Christian church, of which they are members.

In the spring of 1905 Mr. McCulley married Clara Rambo, for years a teacher of Benton county, and they have one son two and one-half years of age, Eugene Donald. Mr. McCulley's mother is now living with him, and is in her eightieth year.

CHARLES M. GOODELL, formerly of Eden township, came to Iowa in 1865, locating first near Walford, Linn county, near the Benton county line, where he lived five years before he removed to Eden township, Benton county. He was born in Broome county, New York, August 10, 1850, and is a son of Arad and Nancy (Gamble) Goodell, who came to Illinois when Charles was a child; in 1865 they came to Linn county, Iowa, and lived there until about 1870, when the father died. Mrs. Goodell lived with her son Charles until her death, some fifteen years since. After the death of his father he operated the farm four or five years and then his brother came from Michigan and carried on the farm four years, after which Mr. Goodell returned to Michigan, where he now owns a fine fruit farm across the lake from Chicago. Arad Goodell and his wife had two sons and four daughters, namely: Rufus, formerly living in Linn county, Iowa, now a resident of Michigan; Charles M.; Frances Heath, who died in Iowa; Mrs. Mary Hill, of Vinton, widow of J. M. Hill, mentioned elsewhere in this work; Addie, Mrs. Weston, living near Walford, Iowa; and Mrs. Lois Sebern, of Idaho.

Charles M. Goodell was reared in Carroll county, Illinois, and in Iowa, and upon first coming to Benton county went into debt for the purchase of eighty acres of land in section 21; later he sold this and bought one hundred acres in section 20, which four years ago he sold, and purchased the J. A. Clarke farm in section 10, which was his home until November, 1909, when he removed to Vinton where he now resides. He has added land, and made many repairs and improvements, and his place is now in fine condition. His son, A. M. Goodell, manages the farm, and they own in partnership, two hundred and forty acres. They carry on general farming, and have met with success.

Mr. Goodell married, in Iowa, Mary Beals, who was born

in Indiana, but had been in Oregon, and returned and afterwards located in Benton county, Iowa. She died in December, 1902, at the age of about forty-one, leaving four children, Arthur M., who operates the farm in Eden township, married Lizzie, daughter of George Humphrey, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work, and they have four children, Harold G., Paul, Floyd M. and George R.; Alta, is the wife of Reverend L. R. Babbitt, a Baptist minister, of Webster City, Iowa; Nellie, died in July, 1901, at the home in Eden township, at the age of twenty-two years; and Charles H., a farmer of South Dakota, married Eleanor, daughter of William Fry, living at Blainstown, and they have two children, Ralph and Forrest.

Mr. Goodell has always been a Republican, and he and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He has recently purchased a home in Vinton, where he resides. On February 16, 1909, Mr. Goodell married Mrs. Nelia Norris, widow of J. L. Norris of Indiana. Mrs. Goodell has two children by her former marriage.

ALONZO S. KELLOGG, retired and living at Shellsburg, has been a resident of the vicinity some forty-four years. He was born in New Albany, Indiana, April 3, 1832, a son of Alonzo S. and Octavia (Smith) Kellogg. The father was born near Rochester, New York; the Kellogg family have been residents of America since Mayflower times, and came originally from England. The mother was reared in Clark county, Indiana, her birthplace. Alonzo S. Kellogg, Sr., moved to Linn county, Iowa, in the spring of 1852, and located at Marion; he was a physician and surgeon and also preached a good deal as minister of the gospel. He died in 1854, at the age of fifty years. He was a member of the Christian church. His first wife died in Indiana, and Dr. Kellogg married again before coming to Iowa; his second wife died in California, in 1907, at the age of a little over eighty. Mr. Kellogg had thirteen children, four of whom were by his second marriage, and six are living, namely: Ormon, of Oklahoma; Ira, of Oberlin, Kansas; Edgar, of Missouri; Mrs. Alice Murphy, wife of a minister of the Christian church, of Lodi, California; Mrs. Anna M. Snyder, of Marysville, Missouri, and Alonzo.

Alonzo S. Kellogg, the son, was reared in Indiana to the age of eighteen years, and then came to Marion, Iowa, where he learned the trade of plasterer and mason, which was his vocation until he retired. Mr. Kellogg recently sold his farm of one hundred and twenty acres near Shellsburg, which was the family home for thirty-two years, though Mr. Kellogg never carried it on himself.



Henry Kellogg and wife



He has lived in Shellsburg the past seven years, and has retired from active life. He was always successful in his affairs and a good workman, giving his best attention to the work he had in hand at all times. Politically he is a Prohibitionist, and he was formerly a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He and his wife are members of the Christian church, as are the other members of the family.

In August, 1861, Mr. Kellogg married, in Marion, Iowa, Hulda A. Duncklee, born in Amherst, New Hampshire, April 22, 1840, daughter of Curtiss and Rebecca Duncklee, of an old New Hampshire family, of Scotch descent. Her father was of the Wesleyan Methodist, and her mother of the Methodist Episcopal church; they came to Iowa in 1856, locating at Palo, and bought a farm south of Shellsburg, the family home for many years. Curtiss Duncklee, a cooper by trade, died September 26, 1857, at the age of fifty-two, and his widow died June 3, 1882, at the age of eighty. They had eight children, seven of whom grew to maturity, and of these but two survive, Mrs. Kellogg, and one brother, C. E., of Shellsburg. She was two years of age when the family moved to Warren county, New York, and fifteen when they settled in Benton county, Iowa; she attended school at Marion and taught school in Linn and Benton counties. She taught the first school in Florence township, this county.

Mr. Kellogg and his wife have four children, namely: Orison Alonzo, a farmer of Fall River, Kansas, married to Susan Cathrine Beam, of Kentucky, and has four children; William I., a farmer of Oberlin, Kansas, married Chlora Shaw, formerly of Vinton, Iowa, and they had two children, both of whom are deceased; Alice Rebecca, wife of Samuel H. Blazer, of Sumner county, Kansas, and they have one son; and Charles Jefferson, a machinist of Shellsburg, married Ida Bell Soden, and has one daughter. A twin sister of the last named, Mary A., died at the age of three months. All were born in Shellsburg or near there.

WILLIAM C. BOGGS, who is one of the oldest residents of Vinton, was for many years engaged in a grocery business which had flourishing branches in the chief trade centers of Iowa, but for some time has been an extensive dealer in real estate and farm lands in the Hawkeye state and other sections of the west. He was born on Ground Hog Day of 1853, and was the youngest of the three children of Annesley W. and Cornelia (Chaffin) Boggs, being brought from Ohio to Iowa when he was eight months old and having since that time enjoyed an almost continuous residence in Benton county. Mr. Boggs is therefore a Buckeye by

birth and a Hawkeye by almost life-long residence. He is a man of two "eyes," both figuratively and literally, and his many friends are enthusiastic in their assertion that since the first day of his arrival in Benton county he has kept them wide open on the lookout for opportunities coming his way; also that he has never failed to take full advantage of the latter in a legitimate and an honest way. His activity, keen observation and retentive memory, with his long residence, have made him a very interesting and valuable writer on subjects connected with the early history of business and the general progress of Vinton and Benton county. His only extended absence from the county since he was brought to Vinton as an infant was the one year which he and his family spent in California, his visit covering the great earthquake in San Francisco of April 18, 1906.

In his earlier days Mr. Boggs attended the Agricultural College at Ames, Iowa, and taught three terms of school at Mount Auburn, that state. In 1868 his father and uncle started a store on Washington street, Vinton, under the firm name of Boggs & Chaffin. After this association had continued for about two years A. W. Boggs purchased the interest of his partner in behalf of his brother (Alvin C.), after which the style of the firm became, successively, A. W. Boggs and Sons and Boggs Brothers, the last two marking the entrance of William C. Boggs into the business. At this time the goods of the firm were purchased in Chicago, Dubuque and Cedar Rapids, and the great fire of 1871 wiped out a large bill of merchandise which was awaiting shipment. It should also be stated that prior to the extension of the railroad to Vinton, in 1869, the firm was somewhat identified with the steamboat business of the Cedar river.

In the early seventies the firm of Boggs Brothers established branch stores at Laporte City, Reinbeck, Shellsburg, Waterloo, Spencer, Rock Valley and Dysart, Iowa. They were all managed by experienced men, who were interested in the business, and the enterprise was therefore a continuous and expanding success for many years. The main store and headquarters of this large and substantial business were at Vinton, and its leading partners, besides the Boggs Brothers, were as follows: W. E. Conner, of Vinton; W. M. Traer, now of Chicago; W. A. Buchanan, of Cedar Rapids; W. A. and A. L. Walker, brothers, of Waterloo, as well as George Lichty, of that city; Mack Voris and Jacob Hollabaugh (deceased), of Marion; Isaac Large of Rock Valley and Carl Delfs, also a resident of Vinton.

Mr. Boggs was one of the most active promoters of this noteworthy mercantile venture, and has also been engaged in farming,



building and stock enterprises, which have brought him both profit and high business reputation. His land dealings include farm and city property not only in Iowa, but in Kansas, South Dakota, Missouri, California and Washington, and he is recognized as one of the most safe and substantial real estate men in this section of the county and state. He has held the office of city councilman for the past four years and no one stands higher as a supporter and a promoter of sound civic measures.

On October 18, 1877, Mr. Boggs married Miss Mary Preston, of Vinton, who is also a native of Ohio, and the four children of their union were as follows: Earl Dexter, who was born February 17, 1880, and is now a resident of California; Clayton Preston, born May 6, 1881, who lives in Chicago; Nira Elizabeth, born September 25, 1882, and living in St. Louis; and Corliss Ferris, who was born January 30, 1893, and is at home, attending school. Both Mr. and Mrs. Boggs are active members of the Presbyterian church, and he himself is a high-degree Mason, member of the Blue Lodge (having filled various chairs), Chapter, Council and Commandery of Vinton.

LEVI C. EGGLESTON, who owns and operates a good farm of two hundred and twelve acres in Eden and Big Grove townships, was born in Potsdam, St. Lawrence county, New York, September 1, 1849; he is a son of Walter and Sarah Ann (Goodrich) Eggleston. Walter Eggleston traded for fifty-two acres in section 18, Eden township, now owned by his son L. C. For some time he was practically retired from active life on account of poor health, and the farm was carried on by his two sons, L. C. and O. F. Walter Eggleston was born in Vermont, on the shores of Lake Champlain, October 13, 1802, and died December 9, 1890, at his farm in Benton county, Iowa. He was reared in the state of New York and followed farming until compelled by ill health to retire, many years prior to his decease. He married, June 8, 1830, in New York, Sarah A. Goodrich, born September 30, 1811, at Charlotte, Vermont, and died June 19, 1901; she was a member of the Presbyterian church. In 1858 Mr. Eggleston and his wife removed to Cook county, Illinois, where they remained until 1864, the date of their location in Benton county. They had eight children, of whom but two survive, L. C. and O. F.

O. F. Eggleston served two years in Company I, of the Ninth Iowa Infantry, in the Civil war, being discharged on account of disability. He has followed the trade of carpenter most of his life, and now makes his home with his brother.

L. C. Eggleston came to Benton county with his parents in

1864, and he has made practically all the present fine improvements on the home farm, and has added one hundred and sixty acres to the original farm. He takes a keen interest in the conduct of the place, and has been very successful. For many years he has taken an active part in political affairs, and has served three years as bridge commissioner of the county, as well as in several township and school offices. Since attaining his majority he has always held some public office. Mr. Eggleston is a member of the Knights of Pythias of Vinton, and of the Pythian Sisters.

Mr. Eggleston married (first) November 23, 1873, Hattie L. Sanders, who died August 15, 1899, aged forty-six years. She was born in Indiana and accompanied her family in childhood to Benton county. They had eight children. Edward G., born August 31, 1874, has until recently served as deputy treasurer of Benton county; Leonard LeRoy, born November 30, 1875, is now in California; Fannie May, born May 17, 1877, is the wife of Marshall Beller, of Eden township, and has four children; Bertha Ann, born December 23, 1878, is the wife of Morris McNie, of Polk township, and has one daughter; Ruth D., born April 20, 1881, is the wife of Paul Ward, of Big Grove township, and has two children; Della L., born August 14, 1882, is the wife of Glen Van Nice, of Jackson township, and has three children; Dora Ett, born December 11, 1883, became the wife of Wilbur Robinson and is deceased; and Lewis Earl, born December 4, 1888, lives at home. Mr. Eggleston married (second), June 4, 1902, Irene, daughter of George Leverich, deceased. She is a member of the Presbyterian church.

DR. CHARLES B. CHENOWETH has been long identified with the medical profession at Newhall, and he has been very successful as a physician. He was born in Eden township of Benton county April 23, 1857, a member of one of the early pioneer families and a son of Isaac N. and Rebecca (Handsicker) Chenoweth, the father born in Vermilion county, Indiana, March 15, 1827, and the mother was born in Frederick county, Virginia, on October 9, 1828. Isaac N. Chenoweth learned the cooper's trade when a boy, and he worked both at that and farming in Indiana, and while living in that state he in 1851 made a trip to Benton county, Iowa, and entered the north half of section 2, Eden township, returning home in the following year of 1852 for his wife and family. They drove through with horses and wagons. This was before the establishment of Vinton, but there was a small settlement at that time at Benton City, although settlers were very scarce throughout the county. Mr. Chenoweth built the second house in Eden

township, and he lived there until 1886, retiring in that year and moving to Vinton, and there he died on the 19th of September, 1902. His wife survived him until March 31, 1910, when her death occurred at Cedar Rapids. She was buried at Vinton. He was a successful man financially, well read and he was ever ready to further any movement for the betterment of his community at large. He served Benton county as a supervisor from 1868 until 1878, was county treasurer two years, and he held all the township offices with the exception of justice of the peace. He voted with the Republican party. Eleven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Chenoweth, but only the following five are now living: Aurella B. Chenoweth, living in San Diego, California; Charles B., the Newhall physician; J. H., living in Davenport; E. H., of Chicago, Illinois; and Mrs. Ida M. Bryner, of Vinton.

Dr. Charles B. Chenoweth was reared to farm life, attending first the country schools, then the Tilford Academy at Vinton, next the Blainstown Academy, and in 1881 he matriculated in Rush Medical College at Chicago and graduated on the 19th of February, 1884. Coming at once to Newhall he has practiced here during the intervening years, and has gained a splendid reputation as a skilled physician. He is the present health physician and notary public of Newhall, and was appointed the postmaster in 1889, holding that office until 1894, and from 1898 until 1905 he again served as postmaster. He is one of the stockholders and organizers of the Newhall Savings Bank, which was organized in 1894, and he served until 1905 as its president. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres of improved land in South Dakota. He is a member of Florence Lodge, No. 362, A. F. & A. M., at Norway, and of Adoniram Chapter, No. 15, and of the Commandery at Vinton. In politics he votes with the Republican party.

Dr. Chenoweth married on November 12, 1884, Rachel McGranahan, who was born in Eldorado township March 27, 1866, a daughter of Samuel McGranahan. The two children of this union are Charles and Earl. Both sons are attending Coe College at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Dr. Chenoweth and his family are members of the Presbyterian church.

ELMER E. WALLACE, a retired farmer of Cedar township, was born August 6, 1861, in Hamilton, Illinois, and came to Benton county in 1868 with his family. He is a son of John and Elizabeth (Crabb) Wallace, the former a native of West Virginia, where he was reared. John Wallace removed in early manhood to Ohio, where he spent a short time, and was there married, in 1857, after which he settled in Hamilton county, Illinois, and in 1862

society; its real founding being dated from the time when it rented Templar's Hall for religious services. Upon this occasion Bishop McCabe, who dedicated the church in 1889, was present as the chief speaker. Perhaps one of the greatest causes of rejoicing upon this occasion was the fact that the debt of the church had been finally liquidated.

#### WHITE ELEPHANT SLAUGHTERED.

One of the events of the jubilee was also the preparation of a complete and interesting historical sketch of the church, prepared



PIPE ORGAN, VINTON METHODIST CHURCH.

and read by J. E. Marietta, secretary of the board of trustees, from whose paper the following is extracted as a fitting conclusion of this article: " The records of the trustees and official boards of



*Mathias Hoag and Family*



tion to the rising generation of the material success to be obtained by diligence, perseverance and a wise system of economy. Mr. Maag was born, June 15, 1855, in Switzerland, which was likewise the birthplace of his parents, David and Barbara (Schad) Maag.

In 1858 David Maag emigrated to the United States in search of profitable employment. He was of a roving disposition, and visited many parts of the central west, and was variously employed. He freighted across the plains for awhile, and afterwards, while buying horses for the St. Louis market, traveled through this section of the country. He died in Wisconsin, in 1865. His wife, whose maiden name was Barbara Schad, was left with three children, which she had brought to Iowa in 1864, when she came here to join her husband. They were David, now living in Watkins, Iowa; Mathias, the subject of this sketch; and Samuel, living in Anderson, Indiana. After the death of her husband she went with her little family to live with an uncle named Miller, in Florence township, near Norway, Benton county. This uncle treated the boys shamefully, being cruel and seemingly inhuman. He would get them out of bed long before daylight to set quail traps, and Mr. Maag can well remember the time when he, his brothers and uncle, would get a top box wagon load of prairie chickens, which would be hauled to Cedar Rapids, weighed as the farmers now weigh corn, and sold.

When a lad of thirteen years, Mathias Maag, and his brother David, two years older, ran away from their uncle's, going over into Iowa county. Mathias worked the following two years for his board, finding a home with a good man, Emanuel Brecht. The following year, 1870, he received sixty-four dollars for his labors, and of this he saved fifty dollars which he loaned at ten per cent. interest. In 1871 he saved sixty of the eighty dollars he earned; in 1872 he received one hundred and twelve dollars, and saved one hundred dollars; in 1873 he earned one hundred and thirty-five dollars wages, but earned enough more by trapping, hunting and doing odd jobs to save one hundred and fifty dollars; in 1874 his wages were increased to one hundred and seventy-five dollars; in 1875 they were two hundred dollars. In 1876 he was given twenty-five acres of land on which to raise wheat, his share to be one-third of the crop. Having practically put all of his earnings at interest, he had at the close of that year a goodly bank account for one dependent entirely upon his own resources. He then wisely invested his money in land, buying one hundred and sixty acres of wild prairie land in Audubon county, Iowa, paying ten dollars an acre for the tract, paying two years interest on the sum in advance.

Beginning farming for himself in 1878, Mr. Maag rented land in Iowa county for two years. In 1880 he sold his Audubon county property, and bought eighty acres of the land included in his present farm, in Saint Clair township, Benton county. With characteristic energy and hopefulness he began its improvement, and in the course of time added to his original purchase, his homestead now containing two hundred and forty acres of choice land, on which he has made all the improvements, which are many and valuable. He also owns two hundred and forty acres of good land in Brule county, South Dakota. He now rents his farm to his son, who is carrying on general farming with the same good results that fortune showered upon his father.

Mr. Maag married, February 1, 1878, Matilda Gossman, who was born in Morgan county, Ohio, in 1859, a daughter of Solomon and Bridget (Rothenberger) Gossman. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Maag, namely: David, of Florence township, Benton county; Charles, of Saint Clair township; Callie, living at home; Mary, wife of John Schmidt, of St. Clair township, and Annie, wife of John Boddicker of St. Clair township. Politically Mr. Maag supports the principles of the Republican party by voice and vote, and has served as road supervisor of his township. Religiously he and his family belong to the Catholic church at Norway.

When Mr. Maag ran away from his uncle he took up his residence with Emanuel Brecht, who was his wife's uncle. In 1895 Mr. and Mrs. Brecht, who were both in poor health, Mrs. Brecht suffering with a cancer of the tongue, came to make their home with Mr. and Mrs. Maag. Mr. Brecht died four months later, but Mrs. Brecht, who was cured of the cancer, is still living at the Maag home and in her old age is now being repaid for the kindness shown Mr. Maag as a small boy. Mrs. Brecht is now eighty-nine years old. Mr. Maag is administrator of the Brecht estate.

ROBERT FAGAN, president of the Iowa Hardware Company of Vinton, before he entered the field of merchandise was one of the farmers of the central west who operated on a broad-guage plan and realized corresponding successes. His earlier career in agriculture was in Illinois, his coming to Benton county dating from 1882, when he located three and a half miles southwest of Mount Auburn, where for five years he operated what was known as the Peters Farm. He then rented the Dr. C. C. Griffin farm of eight hundred acres in Cedar township, which he conducted for twenty-two years, making it one of the leading stock farms in the county. He not only raised cattle and hogs, but bought and fed them for



the market, his annual shipments averaging about two hundred head of cattle and two hundred and fifty hogs. The farm is now in the capable hands of his son, Harry H. Fagan. In December, 1908, the senior Mr. Fagan located in Vinton, purchasing a fine family residence just south of the depot, since which time he has given most of his attention to the management and the promotion of the large interests of the Iowa Hardware Company. Although his time has been chiefly engrossed in pushing his agricultural and business enterprises, he has always been so firm and earnest in his Democracy that he has actively participated in various campaigns, and has an enviable record for devotion to the principles which he believes to be most beneficial to the masses. Fraternally he is a member of the I. O. O. F., and is altogether a man who can always be depended upon to be in the front ranks of the useful and moral workers of the community.

Mr. Fagan is a Canadian by nativity, born in Ontario January 1, 1847, son of James and Mary (Daley) Fagan, both natives of Ireland who came to the Dominion as children and married there. In 1850 the family moved to Bureau county, Illinois, locating on a farm in LaMoille township. There the parents spent the remainder of their lives, the father dying in 1863, aged sixty-three years, and the mother some time later, at seventy-four. Mr. and Mrs. James Fagan, who were faithful members of the Catholic church, became the parents of ten children, of whom the following eight are alive: Edward, a successful and retired farmer, now residing in Butte county, California; M. Fagan, a stockman of Bureau county, Illinois, who has also conducted a meat market for thirty-five years; John, a retired farmer residing at Arlington, that county; Mrs. Stevenson, of Boone, Iowa; Mrs. Baker, wife of a druggist of Britton, South Dakota; Mrs. McIntosh, of Boone county, Iowa; and William, of Iroquois county, Illinois.

Robert Fagan was reared in Bureau county, Illinois, obtained but a very limited education, and started life with no capital except a sound knowledge of farming, a sound body, determination, integrity and a large fund of common sense, which, in the final analysis, is the best and largest capital with which to supply any ambitious young man. Mr. Fagan made a splendid use of his endowments, having forged along to success himself, and, at the same time, reared a fine family of sons and daughters.

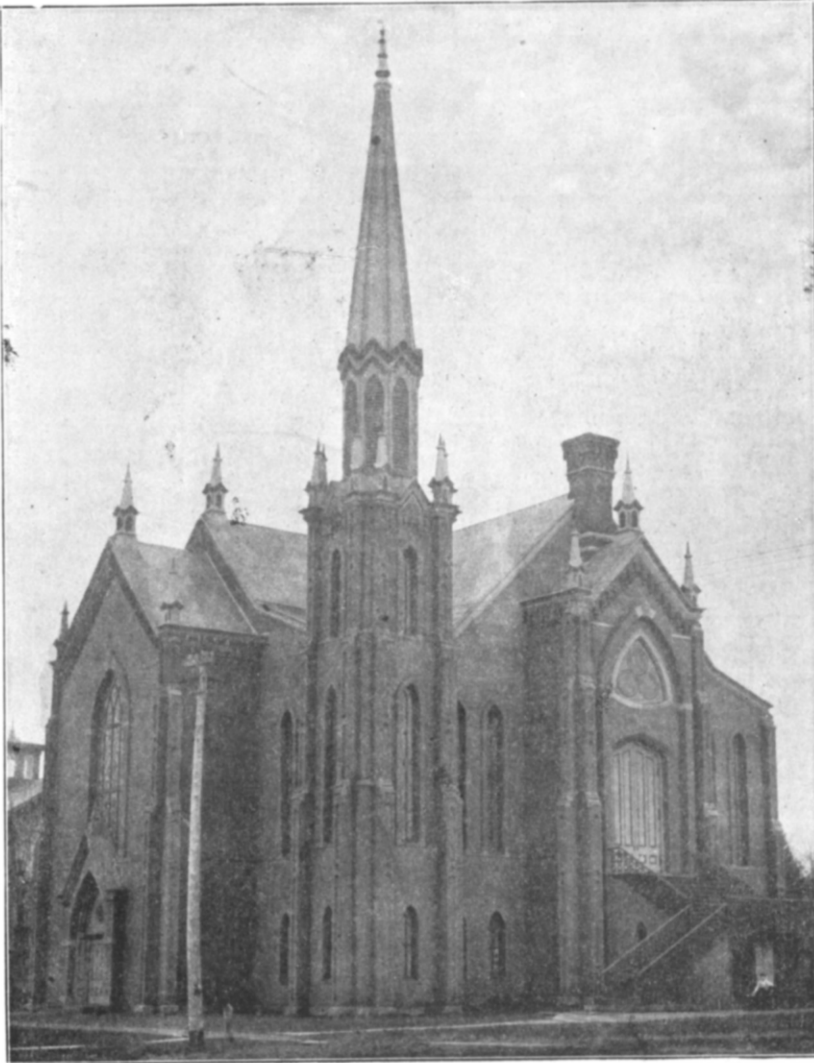
Mr. Fagan was married in Illinois to Miss Martha E. Chad-dock, who was born in Ohio, but moved to Illinois in the early sixties and resided at LaMoille, Bureau county, until the decease of her parents. Their eight children who reached maturity were as follows: Edward, who is now a farmer of Saskatchewan,

Canada; Charles, of the Iowa Hardware Company, Vinton; Harry H., of Cedar township, already mentioned as superintending the farm; Ollie, also a Saskatchewan farmer; Hal, who is engaged in the grocery business at Vinton; Mabel, wife of Delbert Loveland, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, where he is operating a canning factory; Maud, wife of Seth Witten, a general merchant of Saskatchewan; and Lorena, who married W. E. Brown, also a farmer of Saskatchewan.

HENRY SCHROEDER, a successful farmer and stockraiser of Big Grove township, came to Benton county in the fall of 1870, from Holstein, Germany, where he was born January 29, 1857. He is a son of Frederick Schroeder, who died in 1901, at the age of seventy-one years. Frederick Schroeder came to Albany, New York, in 1858, and lived there some years; later he removed to Davenport, Iowa, and conducted an elevator there. In the fall of 1870 he removed to Benton county, and purchased two hundred acres of land in Big Grove township. He brought his wife and three children from Germany with him, and two more children were born in the United States. His wife was Annie Seevis, a native of Germany. At the time they located in Benton county they were possessed of only about one thousand dollars, but through industry and thrift they accumulated a competence, and Mr. Schroeder retired to live in comfort and leisure. At first they had to endure the hardships and privations incident of pioneer life, but as they were able made improvements and secured conveniences. They were members of the Lutheran church. Frederick Schroeder and his wife had children as follows: Henry; John, living in South Dakota; Peter, who has traveled extensively through the United states; Margaret, wife of Jacob H. Rupp, of Iola, Kansas; and Mary, wife of Andrew Holt, residing at Kansas City, Missouri.

Henry Schroeder was reared principally in Iowa, and when old enough assisted with the work of the farm; he now owns the old homestead, which he carries on with good profit. He keeps the buildings and fences in good repair, and takes pride in the fine condition of his possessions. Politically Mr. Schroeder is a Republican and he has served in school and other local offices. He and his wife are of the Lutheran faith.

Mr. Schroeder married, January 4, 1882, Hettie, daughter of Jacob and Johanna (Herggezell) Kuaack, who came to Benton county in the fall of 1870, locating in Big Grove township. Jacob Kuaack was from Hamburg, Germany, and came to America in 1866, locating at once in Davenport, Iowa. He died at Van Horne,



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, VINTON.

daughter of Hon. Alexander Runyon. Mr. Runyon died on August 2, 1903. Ethel, one of the daughters, formerly a teacher at Des Moines College, married B. P. Larson, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and Lucile, the second, is attending Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, both being young ladies of culture and social popularity. The family are identified with the activities and faith of the Baptist church, and Mr. Conner's fraternal connections are with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Both he and his family are influential factors in the highest progress of the community.

JOHN A. HOUGHTON, who died at his comfortable and widely known homestead in Florence township on the 31st of January, 1904, had then passed fifty years of his useful life in that locality. Still a hale, intelligent and beloved old man, he was so suddenly cut off by apoplexy that his relatives and friends could scarcely realize that his cheerful, helpful and inspiring earthly presence had gone from them forever. Up to the time of his death he was known as one of the four surviving charter members of the old Masonic lodge known as St. Clair No. 164, of Florence township, and, in the conduct of his daily life, was a credit to the highest standard of the order. While never a constant church attendant, he was liberal in his donations to local charities and offered the warm hand of friendship and timely assistance to those in trouble, without knowledge of their religious creed. He was also a liberal patron of magazines and newspapers, and widely read on social, political and religious topics. A stalwart Republican, he was simply a firm believer in the principles of his party, never using it as a personal leverage. He did employ it to advance the public interest of the township which he assisted in organizing, but during the half century of his residence therein neither sought nor held office. He was a remarkably intelligent man, an unusually disinterested citizen and a Christian in practice, if there ever was one in this world.

Mr. Houghton was born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, July 21, 1832, and was a son of Frederick and Lois Ann (Hampton) Houghton. His father was of old Massachusetts stock—a shrewd, intelligent, popular Yankee—who long conducted a hotel near Buffalo, New York, before he came west to Benton county in 1865. By his first wife (nee Hampton) he had one son and three daughters, his second wife being Miss Mary Whittington. His brother settled in Michigan during the early days and was one of the pioneer traders in the present locality of Houghton. A good father and citizen, a Mason of high degree, and a man who inspired general respect, Frederick Houghton passed away in 1867, his second wife dying eleven years later.



*Lahn A. Houghton      Mary Houghton.*



The son, John A., migrated from Pennsylvania to Michigan when he was a very young man, his first employment in that state being to cut timber for the pioneer railway which was built through the southern peninsular to Chicago. When the line was pronounced in working order he boarded the first train for the Illinois town which pulled out of Detroit. It was a trip teeming with thrills and hardships, as the train ran off the track half a dozen times and the brave adventurers were obliged to go without food for thirty-six hours. But the muddy city at the foot of the lake did not appeal to Mr. Houghton, and he went to work for a farmer in DeKalb county, Illinois, by the name of Ben Darnell. In 1854 his employer started with his family, household goods and cattle, for the wild prairies of Benton county, and his useful "farm hand" was one of the party. Mr. Houghton took up a quarter section himself and, after working for Mr. Darnell for some time, married Miss Mary Bower and set up his own household. This move in his life marked the commencement of his career of permanent prosperity and advancement. He afterward purchased forty acres more. His wife (the present widow) had been born in Yorkshire, daughter of John and Hannah Bower, also of that English county; had emigrated to Canada in her girlhood and to Benton county in the fall of 1854. As her father was a highly educated man and considerate as well, the daughter received a good education, and Mrs. Houghton is considered a remarkably intelligent lady, both highly respected and beloved. She is the mother of five children, of whom four survive as honored men and women. Hannah Lois, has been a teacher in the Benton county schools for several years; William Anthony, is now conducting the home farm for his mother and sister; John Frederick Houghton, the third born, who is the only one of the children to leave Benton county, is now a merchant in the south; Martha Jane, the youngest, has been a teacher in the Benton county schools but is now looking after home duties.

MRS. IDA M. (KRAMHOFT) GRAVENHORST, who was born in Germany, January 11, 1850, was brought by her parents to the United States in 1852, and settled in Rock Island county, Illinois, as a child. She is a daughter of C. and Ida (Moose) Kramhoft. The father was born in Germany in 1805, and reared in his native country where he became a farmer. He married in 1835, and seventeen years later came to the United States. After spending some time in Rock Island county, Illinois, he spent two years in Nebraska, and then located in Benton county, Iowa, whence his daughter had preceded him. His wife had died on the

journey to this county, and he lived with his daughter until his death, December 24, 1888. His children were: Ida M. and Christina, the latter deceased.

Ida M. Kramhoft was married, in Rock Island county, Illinois, October 14, 1864, to Joseph Gravenhorst, from whom she has now separated. She came to Benton county in 1875 and located on the farm which her father afterwards purchased. The land was wild and unimproved at the time they began to cultivate it, and it is largely due to the efforts of Mrs. Gravenhorst that it has been brought to its present excellent condition. There are now fine barns and outbuildings, a comfortable house and many comforts of modern life. She is a woman of intelligence and judgment, and has made the most of the natural advantages of the farm. She owns two hundred and thirty acres in sections 30 and 31 in Cedar township.

Mrs. Gravenhorst had three children, namely: Annie, wife of Jerry Frahm, of Bruce township, Benton county; Louisa, wife of John Sanny, of Plymouth county, Iowa; and Frank C., who lives with his mother. Frank Gravenhorst married Lizzie, daughter of Conrad and Katrina (Bahr) Fehr; her parents were born in Germany, and came to the United States in 1893. He has three children, as follows: Ida C., born December 1, 1899; Alice A. M., born January 27, 1902; and Kermit J. C., born September 17, 1907. Mr. Gravenhorst is an enterprising, industrious farmer, and in politics is a Republican. He is actively interested in public affairs, and stands well in the community.

PETER SHUTTS, who died in 1905, at the age of ninety-three years, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. LaRue, in Big Grove township, he came to Benton county in 1858 and there spent the remainder of his life. He was born in Otsego county, New York, August 26, 1811, a son of Simon Shutts, who was also a native of New York, where he lived and died. Simon Shutts was a farmer and was of Dutch descent.

Peter Shutts was reared in his native town, and followed farming all his life. In 1858 he removed to Iowa and purchased a farm in Big Grove township, where he lived many years. He retired and lived on his farm except two years spent in Vinton. Mr. Shutts was a stanch Republican, although he never held public office. He was well known in the community, and was universally liked and respected.

Peter Shutts married, in New York, Orpha A. Rose, also a native of New York, who died in 1861, on the old home farm, leaving four children, namely: Mrs. Mary E. Coppoc, of Holt



county, Nebraska; Mrs. LaRue, of Big Grove township; Lewis E., and Harvey L., a travelling man, now living in northwestern Iowa. Mr. Shutts married (second) Mrs. Crumet, also now deceased.

Lewis E., the older of the two sons of Peter Shutts, was born October 19, 1847, in Potter county, Pennsylvania, the family home for some twenty years. He was ten years of age at the time the family located in Benton county, and there received his education in the public schools. He has since followed farming and stock raising, and owns two hundred acres of land, which he has himself improved; his home is on section 33 of Big Grove township, where he has lived since his marriage in 1876, with the exception of two years when he lived retired in Vinton. He now carries on his farm, with the assistance of his son.

In 1862 L. E. Shutts enlisted in Company G, Thirteenth Iowa Regiment, under Colonel Shane, and served about two years. He was in the Seventeenth Army Corps, in the Western Army, and was wounded, spending five months in a hospital at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Upon his return he resumed farming, and has met with good success for he is an ambitious, enterprising farmer. Mr. Shutts is a member of P. M. Coder Post No. 98, Grand Army of the Republic, of Vinton, in which he has filled several offices. His wife is a member of the Baptist church.

In April, 1876, L. E. Shutts married Catherine Smith, born in Canada, in 1854, but reared in Maine; she is a daughter of William and Naomi (Elliott) Smith, the former a native of England and the latter of Maine. William Smith died in Maine before 1860, having been engaged there in railroad construction, and his widow afterward married Isaac Jacobs, who brought the family to Muscatine, Iowa; later they located in Big Grove township, Benton county, where both died. William Smith and his wife had one son, J. W., of Cedar Rapids, and besides Mrs. Shutts, one other daughter, Mrs. George Fry, of Marengo, Iowa. Mrs. Shutts received her later education in Iowa, where she attended the public schools. Mr. Shutts and his wife have three children, namely: James E., Mabel and Ray, the last named living at home. James is a pharmacist and lives in the state of Washington; he married Orella Courrier and they have one son, James Lewis. Mabel is the wife of L. E. Healy, of Waterloo, Iowa, where he is employed at the Litchfield Manufacturing Plant.

GEORGE HUMPHREY, a substantial farmer of Big Grove township, Benton county, where he owns one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land, in section 35, has lived here since February,

work was begun toward building a new church, which was completed and dedicated March 12, 1882.

Rev. F. N. Eldridge served as pastor for three years. He was followed by Mr. Fuller, who remained until 1889.

Rev. J. B. Edmundson held the pastorate for four years. When Rev. D. Rogers accepted the call in May, 1894, it was to leave his work among the Indians, to which he returned at the end of



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

the second year.

Rev. E. M. Jones came to the church in 1896. During his pastorate the Williams and Alexander meetings were held and over sixty were added to the membership. The new parsonage was also built.

Rev. H. C. Leland began his work in 1900 and served as pastor



*John Weichman  
and Family*



At that time they took up their residence in Benton county, on a tract of raw prairie land in section 6, Fremont township, which he improved, and for a number of years successfully carried on agricultural pursuits. He was the owner of nine hundred and twenty acres of land. The last two years of his life were passed in retirement at Newhall, and he died July 29, 1894, at the age of sixty-four years, six months and nine days. His wife, born in Meeklinburg, September 20, 1831, died March 14, 1898. They were the parents of eight children, three of whom are deceased: Henry, Josephine, and Wilhelmina. Those living are: Mary W. Schlotterback, of Newhall, Iowa; John, the subject of this sketch; and Charles, Frank and Christian A. of Fremont township.

John Weichman was reared on his father's farm, and in 1882 engaged in farming for himself, on eighty acres which now form a portion of his present holdings. Here he has developed a fine farm, improved with substantial and attractive buildings; and is carrying on diversified farming. He is a stock-holder in both the Newhall Savings Bank and the Atkins Grain Company, and is interested generally in whatever tends to advance the welfare of his community. He has filled various local offices, including that of township trustee, in which he served six years. Politically he is a Democrat.

On March 29, 1883, Mr. Weichman married Miss Mary Davis, a native of Florence township, Benton county, daughter of Henry and Louisa (Baker) Davis, the former now deceased, the latter a resident of Norway, Iowa. Further mention of the Davis family will be found on another page of this work, under the name of Henry J. Davis. Mr. and Mrs. Weichman have nine children: Carrie, Louisa, Amelia, Elma, Henry, Firmin, Irvin, Emery and Leo, all at home except the eldest daughter, Carrie, who is the wife of Albert J. Boddicker and resides in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

JOHN CLIFTON.—During many years John Clifton was numbered among the farmers of Benton county, but a few years ago he retired from an active business life and since March of 1906 has lived in Vinton. He first came to Benton county in 1855, and in December of the same year he returned to Fayette county, Ohio, and in September of 1856 brought his family with him to his new home and bought a farm and located in Big Grove township, which continued as his home until about five years ago, moving then to Jackson township, and after two years there he came to Vinton. He has recently disposed of a portion of his estate, but yet owns one hundred and twenty acres of rich and valuable farming land in Big Grove township. His city home in Vinton is

located on Whipple street. Mr. Clifton started for himself in Benton county practically without capital, and he has won his own way to success and at the same time has proved a worthy and valued citizen. He was a farmer and stock raiser throughout his entire active life.

Born in Fayette county, Ohio, September 14, 1837, he is a son of Bennona and Jane (Anders) Clifton. Bennona Clifton was a native of Delaware, both he and his father, John Clifton, being planters and slave owners there, and he brought four slaves with him to Ohio. He bought a farm there and operated it until his death, August 12, 1851, then forty-four years of age, his death resulting from scarlet fever. He was a successful man financially, becoming a prominent farmer and stock man in Fayette county, his estate having been located in Green township. He was a Methodist class leader for many years and a member of the Masonic fraternity. John Clifton, his father, died in Delaware. Bennona Clifton married Jane Anders, who was born in Scotland and who died in Ohio in the '40s, when a young woman. She had moved to Ohio with her parents in her early girlhood days. Her mother lived to the age of one hundred and two years and died in that state. Of the four sons and five daughters born to Bennona and Jane Clifton only two are living, and F. C. Clifton is a resident of Madison county, Iowa.

John Clifton was reared in Fayette county, Ohio, receiving rather limited educational advantages in his youth, and starting out in life for himself he received four dollars a month for his services, this being paid him by his uncle, Andrew Allen, for whom he worked. During the next year he received seven dollars a month, this being increased in the following year to eight dollars and so on up the ladder of success to his present high position. His next employer was a Quaker blacksmith, who paid him ten dollars a month and with whom he remained for a year, and from that on until 1855 he worked for John Barger at thirteen dollars a month. Since leaving his employ Mr. Clifton has been in business for himself. He married on the 5th of September, 1856, Miss Nancy Rosebrough, who was born in Fayette county, Ohio, in August, 1841, a daughter of H. K. and Hannah (Davis) Rosebrough, who came to Benton county in 1855. Mr. Rosebrough bought a farm in Big Grove township, now the property of Mr. Clifton, and he died there in June of 1907, when eighty-four years of age, his wife having passed away in the spring of 1895, at the age of sixty. There were two daughters in their family, Nancy and Mary, and the latter is now living in St. Louis, Missouri. Mrs. Clifton died at their farm home on the 5th of March, 1896. A

son, Sylvester Clifton, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Clifton, and he now resides in Floyd county, this state, near the Butler county line. He married Miss Belle Hollenbeck, from Benton county, and they have four daughters and a son, Cecil, Merle, Bessie, Mabel and Mildred. Mr. Clifton spends much time in their home. Politically he has been a Republican since the organization of the party, voting for Lincoln's first term, and he has been able to cast a vote for each successive Republican presidential candidate, and has held some of the minor local offices. Mrs. Clifton was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JOHN THOMPSON, is a large land owner and one of the prominent farmers of Eldorado township. He was born in Richland county, Ohio, October 20, 1854, but in 1856 his parents, William and Nancy (Tarris) Thompson, left that state for the west, driving through to Benton county, Iowa, and locating in section 30, Eldorado township, where William Thompson bought eighty acres of the then raw prairie land. The family were among the earliest settlers of this part of Benton county, and in those early days their nearest markets were Cedar Rapids and Iowa City. Mr. Thompson was a successful man in business, and before his death owned three hundred and sixty acres of fine farming land. He was known and honored for his splendid traits of character, and he gave freely to all good and religious purposes. In his early life he was a member of the Evangelical church, and later became a member of the United Evangelical church. He was born in Ohio on the 20th of September, 1821, and died in Benton county on December 2, 1902, while his wife, born in Tennessee May 30, 1823, died on the 8th of June, 1866. They became the parents of ten children, but only the following four are now living: John; I. N., residing in Vancouver, Washington; E. S., in Eldorado township, Benton county; and Mrs. Mary Mosher, of Marcus, Iowa.

John Thompson remained with his parents on the farm until his marriage, and he then farmed as a renter for two years. In 1881 he bought one hundred and forty acres in Eldorado township, which he improved and farmed until 1890, selling there then and buying one hundred and sixty acres of his present farm, to which he has since added until it now numbers three hundred and twenty acres, all splendidly improved and adorned with good farm buildings and a modern home. Mr. Thompson also owns one hundred and sixty acres in Pipestone county, Minnesota, and a similar tract in Nobles county of the same state, both farms being well improved and devoted to general agricultural pursuits. He is engaged quite extensively in feeding Hereford cattle and Poland

China hogs. At the present time he is serving his first term as the trustee of Eldorado township, but he has filled the offices of justice of the peace and constable. His politics are Republican.

On the 6th of February, 1879, Mr. Thompson was married to Sarah M. Henney, who was born March 11, 1858, in Whitley county, Indiana, a daughter of Jacob and Susanna (Bentz) Henney, the father born in Ohio and the mother in Pennsylvania. They came to Iowa in 1856, locating in Jasper county, and they died respectively in the years of 1868 and 1875. Nine children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Thompson: Jesse, living in Minnesota; Walter, farming in Eldorado township; Merle, Nettie, Ray, Orrin, Harry and Myrtle, at home with their parents; and Irma, deceased. The family are members of Olive Branch United Evangelical church.

JOHN D. BRANDT, of Big Grove township, now retired from active farming, has gained financial success in Benton county from a very modest start in life. He was born in Hanover, Germany, December 12, 1845, and is a son of Dietrich and Annie (Bischel) Brandt, who came to America in 1853, and located in Lake county, Indiana, on a farm. There Dietrich Brandt died in 1876, aged seventy-three years, and his widow died August 29, 1893, aged seventy-two years. They had nine children, of whom eight are now living, namely: Mrs. Casper C. Gross, of Garrison; Mrs. William Bahr, William and Herman F. both living in Lyon county, Iowa; Mrs. D. W. Locker; Mrs. George Sautter, of Greeley county, Nebraska; Henry, living on the old home farm in Lake county, Indiana; and Margaret, born in 1847, married Fred Mussman and died in Benton county, in 1886.

John D. Brandt accompanied his parents to America at the age of seven years, and lived at home until June, 1869, when he came to Benton county, Iowa. Here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Big Grove township, which he still owns, and which is operated by his son John. He has several times added to his land and now owns farms in Homer, Big Grove, Monroe and Jackson townships, aggregating about one thousand three hundred and twenty-eight acres. For about fourteen years he also owned and operated a threshing machine. He is one of the most successful farmers of the county, and has paid close attention to his business interests at all times.

In 1869 Mr. Brandt returned to Indiana and two years later drove back to Benton county, where he worked at clearing and breaking some of his land and then again returned to Lake county, Indiana, where in February, 1872, he married Margaret Meyer,



who was born April 11, 1845, and was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Meyer. Her mother died in Germany and the rest of the family came, in 1869, to the United States, locating in Lake county, Indiana; Mr. Meyer spent his last years in Benton county, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Brandt, and died in 1887, aged about sixty-six years. Mrs. Brandt died August 28, 1893. Mr. Brandt and his wife had children as follows: William D., Anna S., John H., Marie G., Elizabeth E. and Ellen M. William D., of Homer township, married Christina Albrecht and they have one son and one daughter, Lucile and Walter. Anna S. married John F. Reiss, of Big Grove township, and they have four children, Harry, Ernest, Leola and Ivan. John H. married Minnie M. Gross, daughter of N. Gross, and they have three children, Floyd, Inez and Kenneth. Marie G. married William C. Heineman, of Monroe township, and they have three children, Irene, Fern and Richard. Elizabeth E. married William J. Knuth, of Homer township, and they have one daughter, Margaret M. Ellen M. died in 1886, in her second year.

Politically Mr. Brandt is a Republican, and he is a member of the Evangelical church, of Homer township. He belongs also to the Iowa Legion of Honor.

NICKLAS GROSS, a successful farmer and stockman, owning three hundred and thirty acres of well improved land in Big Grove and Homer townships, has met with most of his success in Benton county. He was born in Hesse Province, Germany, near the City of Cassel, August 22, 1854, and is the son of John and Thora (Wenner) Gross, also natives of the same province. They came to America in 1864, bringing their two sons and two daughters, and located in Lee county, Illinois. In 1873 they removed to Benton county, Iowa, where both spent the remainder of their lives. John Gross died in November, 1893, at the age of nearly sixty-eight years, and his wife died in 1890, in her sixty-third year. They were members of the Evangelical church, where he was a trustee, steward, class leader, and an active worker in the interests of the society. He became owner of a good farmer, and at the time of his death was in comfortable circumstances.

John Gross and his wife had children as follows: Annie K., married Henry C. Messer, of Dysart, Iowa, and they have four daughters; Marguerite, twin of Annie K., married John Gresey, of Iowa, and died in 1875, aged about twenty-four years, leaving one daughter; Nicklas; and Casper C., proprietor of the brick yards at Garrison.

Nicklas Gross received his education in Lee county, Illinois,

where he attended school winters until eighteen years of age, and since then has made his own way in the world. He had a small capital to start with, having worked for others in Illinois and also in Benton county, and his first purchase of land was made in Big Grove township, about 1879; this is his present home, although he has since added land from time to time. He is one of the most successful and prominent farmers in the county, and has made all possible improvements on his land.

Besides his farming interests Mr. Gross is a stockholder in Garrison Savings Bank, and also in Garrison Grain & Lumber Company. He feeds cattle and hogs for the market, and has some fine horses. Politically he is a Republican and has served as township trustee. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Modern Woodmen of America, of Garrison, and he and his wife, as well as part of the children, are members of the Evangelical church located near the farm.

In 1876 Mr. Gross married, in Benton county, Elizabeth, daughter of Louis and Elizabeth (Weley) Schadle, who came to Big Grove township in 1870. She was born in Indiana, where her parents located about 1850. They had a farm in Indiana, which they disposed of before moving to Iowa, and both died in Benton county. Mr. Gross and his wife have ten children, all living, and all born on the home farm, namely: Henry C.; Annie C.; Minnie M.; John; Emma, at home; Frank, at home; and Josie, Clara, Arthur and Earl, also living at home. Henry C. who lives in Homer township married Annie Heineman and they have three children, Gladys, Lloyd and Vernon. Annie C. married John C. Messer, living near Dysart on a farm, and they have two sons, LeRoy and Wesley. Minnie M. married John H. Brandt and lives in Big Grove township; their children are: Floyd, Inez and Kenneth. John married Elfreda Zimmer and lives in Homer township.

JOSEPH DREXLER, priest of St. Michael's parish, Norway, Iowa, was born in Delaware county, this state, January 27, 1856.

John Drexler, his father, was a native of Bavaria, Germany, where many generations of the family lived and died, and from whence he came to this country, in 1852, and settled on a farm in Delaware county, Iowa. There he carried on agricultural pursuits for many years, until his death in 1898. He possessed the sterling qualities characteristic of the pioneer and was a factor for good in the community in which he lived. Especially was he interested and active in the building of Dyersville and the establishment of the Catholic church at that place, of which he and his fam-



*Rev. Jos. Dreyler.*



ily were worthy members. His wife, Mary (Hausler) Drexler, like himself, was a native of Bavaria, and a member of a family of farmers who had lived there for centuries. She remained on the farm for a few years after her husband's death, and then moved to Dyersville, Iowa, where she died in 1909. They were the parents of ten children, namely: John, a farmer of Delaware county, Iowa; Joseph, the subject of this sketch; George, a merchant of St. Louis, Missouri; August, a priest in charge of a parish at Neola, Iowa; Mathias, deceased; Anton, a merchant of Dyersville; Frank, also engaged in merchandising at Dyersville; Kate, wife of Charles Kramer, of Dubuque county, Iowa; Annie, known as Sister Evangelista, of St. Francis Convent, La Crosse, Wisconsin, died October 5, 1881, and is buried at Carroll, Iowa; Mary, wife of Nicholas Iekel, of Independence, Iowa.

At an early age, while on his father's farm and attending district school, Joseph Drexler developed an inclination for the priesthood, and in 1872 he entered St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he spent four years. In 1876 he attended one term at St. John's College, Collegeville, Stearns county, Minnesota, and that same year matriculated at St. Joseph's College, Dubuque, Iowa, where he graduated August 9, 1881. The year of his graduation he went to Independence as assistant priest in St. John's parish, and remained there two years in that capacity. Then he conceived the plan of building a German Catholic church in Independence, so that those who did not understand the English language could have the benefit of divine teachings in their own tongue. As a result of his zeal and activity the church was built, and January 30, 1884, was dedicated. He was in charge of the parish until 1903, and was instrumental in having a Catholic school built, which was a very great help to the parish. In 1903 he came to Norway, Iowa, and took charge of St. Michael's parish, and here he has since labored, with most gratifying results. Among other things accomplished by him is the building of a ten-thousand-dollar Catholic school. Physically, he is a fine specimen of manhood. His high intellectual attainments, together with his keen insight into human nature and his love for the great work in which he is engaged, make him a power for good in the community.

Father Drexler is a member of the Roman Catholic Mutual Protective Society of Iowa and of the Catholic Order of Foresters, and is Chaplain of the latter.

FRED HAMANN is one of the prominent agriculturists of Kane township, farming in section 13. He was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, November 21, 1866, the only child born to William and

Maria (Niemann) Hamann, both of whom were also born in that country, the father on the 9th of June, 1833, and the mother on the 2d of October, 1836. The family came to the United States in 1868, locating in Scott county, Iowa, and in the spring of 1869 they came from there to Benton county and rented a farm in section 12, Kane township, for four years. Later Mr. William Hamann bought the farm now owned and occupied by his son, a valuable estate of two hundred and eighty acres, and as it joins the town of Keystone on the north a part of the tract has been platted and sold for lots. Mr. Hamann had but fifty dollars as his capital when he arrived on American shores, and he was a splendid type of the progressive German business man. He died on the 16th of January, 1901, but his wife still survives him and is living in Keystone.

Fred Hamann has spent the greater part of his life at his present home. At the time of his marriage in 1890 his parents moved to Keystone and he began farming the homestead for himself, and he has since remained there. He has erected all of the present buildings, and is the owner of a valuable and splendidly improved estate. In 1906 he was elected the treasurer of the Iowa Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company and is still filling that office. He has also served as a school director. He is both a stockholder and director in the Farmers Savings Bank at Keystone and of the Keystone Mercantile Company.

Mr. Hamann married on December 10, 1890, Albena Schluntz, who was born in Kane township December 23, 1865, a daughter of Carl Schluntz, whose family history is given at some length in the sketch of his son, Ferdinand Schluntz. The four children born of this union are William, Elnora, Edna and Arthur. Mr. Hamann is a member of the Democratic party, of Keystone Lodge No. 135, I. O. O. F., and of the German Lutheran church at Keystone.

HENRY E. WELTON, a prominent stock farmer of Benton county, was born in Iowa City, Iowa, January 28, 1864, and remained in his native town until he reached the age of eighteen years, when he located in Benton county. He is a son of Henry S. and Julia (Paulina) Welton.

Henry S. Welton was born in New York, and after attending public school, went to Hamilton College. After finishing his course he became professor of Latin and Greek at Hamilton College, and in 1854 removed to Davenport, Iowa. Here he became a shoe dealer, and later removed to Iowa City, where he also had a shoe store. He was the first president of the state university at Iowa City, and held the position a number of years. He contin-





G. Whipple



ued in the shoe business until 1881, when he sold out and located in Mount Auburn, where he retired and became a justice of the peace. He taught a few years in the county normal school at Vinton, and later retired also from teaching. He held the office of justice of the peace until his death, July 5, 1902. Mr. Welton was a very well educated man, and met with unusual success in all his undertakings. He was very well liked by all who knew him, and was widely mourned. His wife, a daughter of Eugene Grinnell, was born in Providence, Rhode Island, July 11, 1831, and later came to New York, where she was married. She died April 9, 1909. Their children were: Orlo D., foreman of a jewelry firm in Iowa City, Iowa; Kate E., wife of Dr. S. A. Oren, of Lewiston, Illinois; Etta G., wife of William Jadwin, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Henry E., of Mt. Auburn; Westel S., of Traer, Iowa; Ernest, of Mt. Auburn, Iowa; and Mae, wife of Frank Lormor, of Mt. Auburn.

After leaving Iowa City, Henry E. Welton spent a short time in Rock Island and Davenport, and became clerk in a shoe store in Moline, Iowa. In 1881 he settled in Mount Auburn, where he spent a number of years, and then went on a farm with his father-in-law. Ten years later he bought the place, where he has remained ever since, about twenty-five years. He has two hundred and forty acres of land in sections 23 and 26, Cedar township, and makes a specialty of breeding Norman horses, thorough-bred short-horn cattle and fine hogs. He is an enterprising and industrious farmer, of high character, and stands well in the community. He takes an active interest in public affairs, and has served eight years as township trustee. Politically he is a Republican and he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Welton married Emma L., daughter of Oscar B. and Lorence (Boyd) Whitcomb, who came from New Hampshire in 1854 and settled on the farm now occupied by Mr. Welton. Here Mr. Whitcomb remained until his death, June 3, 1903; his wife died December 18, 1892. Mr. Welton and his wife have four children, namely: Bernice Merle, Helen Leona, Ruth Adelma, and Audrey Mildred. In March, 1910, Mr. Welton sold his farm in Cedar township and removed to Vinton, Iowa, and he has since been dealing in real estate. He owns three hundred and twenty acres in Canada and one hundred and sixty in Kansas.

CYRENIUS T. WHIPPLE, the honored and venerable pioneer of Benton county who died at his home in Vinton December 7, 1900, had but just passed the seventy-third year of an active, useful and manly life, in which earnest and persistent struggles to overcome

early disadvantages and later obstacles had brought that high success in which moral character had not been sacrificed to ambition. He was born in Licking county, Ohio, on the 11th of October, 1827, son of Enoch and Catherine (Shaw) Whipple, respectively of Vermont and New York. The family is of English stock, and the maternal ancestors were so closely related to Commodore Perry that Mr. Whipple's mother was a first cousin to the brave leader of the American navy. The parents came to Benton county in 1854, and located on a farm which Cyrenius had located for them—one hundred and sixty acres in section 27, two miles southeast of Vinton. There the father farmed until his death October 10, 1857, and the mother followed him in November, 1865.

Tracing more in detail the movements of C. T. Whipple, the son, it is learned that when about eleven years of age he was brought by his parents from Ohio to Indiana, the family locating at Eugene, Vermilion county, where the father engaged at his trade as a cooper. The boy worked by the month until the commencement of the "pork season," when he entered the employ of Groonendyke and Thompson, who were engaged in sending meat down the river on flatboats to New Orleans. He worked for that firm every winter until 1850, when he entered two hundred and ten acres of land in Taylor township, this county, and remained on his claim for nearly three months. The young man, then twenty-three years of age, returned to Indiana and took a trip to Benton county in 1851; but, with that exception, remained in the Hoosier state until 1854. In August of that year, with his parents (for whom he had entered land in 1851), he loaded two wagons and started for the new home in Benton county. Arriving about the middle of the month, the men at once built a two-room house of hewn logs, with slab flooring, and there the father died.

On March 6, 1856, Cyrenius T. Whipple was united in marriage with Miss Nancy J. Cline, born in Johnson county, Indiana, on the 2d of January, 1838, daughter of William and Elizabeth A. (Young) Cline, of Kentucky and Indiana, respectively. The father, who was born September 29, 1812, was a farmer and a soldier in the Blackhawk war, and died April 26, 1901, while his wife, who was born October 26, 1819, died on the 3d of September, 1847. Mrs. C. T. Whipple came to Benton county with her father and two sisters in 1850, her other sister (now Mrs. Henry M. Wilson) remaining in Indiana. The father had entered his claim in the vicinity of Vinton two years before, and when the family arrived a solitary log house stood on the site of the present city. Since that time, nearly sixty years ago, Mrs. Whipple has resided in the

locality. Four of her five children developed into men and women, with families of their own, and the mother witnessed a wonderful transformation of her home community and the surrounding country. The children who came to bless and sustain her life were as follows: William P., who is mentioned elsewhere in this work; Milo E., who was born September 16, 1858, married Lottie Barr, and now resides in Taylor township; Selmon T., who was born August 20, 1861, and married Miss Anna Edwards; Callie, who was born September 4, 1868, and died August 28, 1878; and Cora J., who was born March 27, 1874, is now the widow of Lieutenant Guy Kellogg (for whose biography, see elsewhere in this work), and resides with her widowed mother.

The deceased father of this family came to be the owner of a fine estate in Taylor township, embracing nine hundred acres of finely improved land and a comfortable homestead. He had possessed those qualities of energy, intelligence and uprightness which had wrestled worldly success from unpromising circumstances, and at the same time maintained his character in its early strength and virtue. From whatever point of view he is considered, he won success in its substantial and high form.

LIEUTENANT GUY KELLOGG, a bright and progressive young lawyer, with many warm friends in Benton county, was a victim of the Spanish-American war, dying of typhoid fever at Camp Cuba Libre, Jacksonville, Florida, on the 21st of August, 1898. He was born near Vinton, May 7, 1875, son of George and Helen (Baird) Kellogg, who are both respected residents of that place. The father is a retired farmer, one of the most substantial citizens of the community.

After graduating from Tilford Academy, Lieutenant Kellogg studied law with Senator W. P. Whipple, and was admitted to the bar in May, 1896, when a few days past his majority. He was first employed in the office of Gilchrist and Whipple, and in December following the commencement of his practice married Miss Cora J. Whipple, daughter of Cyrenius T. and Nancy J. (Cline) Whipple—fitting biographies of whom appear in other pages of this history.

At the out-break of the Spanish-American war, Mr. Kellogg had just been promoted to a first lieutenancy in the Iowa National Guard, with which he had been identified since October 26, 1891. He became a corporal August 9, 1892; sergeant, September 19th of that year; first sergeant in May, 1897; second lieutenant, March 14, 1898, and first lieutenant on the following 12th of May. His regiment was incorporated into the military service of the Spanish-

American war as the Forty-ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, but while in camp at Jacksonville he was prostrated by typhoid fever, and his death was the first fatality suffered by the command. At the time of his death Lieutenant Kellogg was acting as judge advocate of general court martial for the Second Division, Seventh Army Corps. Ever since his enlistment in the National Guard of Iowa he had taken an active part in its affairs, and no minor officer was more popular or highly honored. For three weeks previous to the call toward the active field of hostilities he had been stationed at Waterloo, Iowa, as recruiting officer for the second Iowa battalion, and his strenuous and incessant labors there are thought to have so exhausted and weakened his system as to make him an easy victim for the disease which brought low his ambitious, useful and upright life. His faithful young wife and sorrowing widow now resides with her aged mother, who since the death of her daughter's husband has herself been called to mourn the passing of one who walked by her side for four and forty years.

FERDINAND SCHLUNTZ is prominently numbered among the progressive and influential residents of Kane township, a business man and agriculturist of well known ability. He owns a fine farm of two hundred and twenty acres, all splendidly improved and adorned with a modern home and large and convenient farm buildings, and he is also quite extensively engaged in the raising of a fine grade of stock. For four years from 1892 Mr. Schluntz served Kane township as its clerk, and since 1897 he has served in the office of township trustee. With the exception of one year he has served as a school director continuously since 1889, has served in the office of assessor, and is township president of the Iowa Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company, one of the organizers of the Farmers Savings Bank of Keystone and twice its president and at present a director, was one of the organizers and is now the president of the Keystone Mercantile Company, and is a director and one of the organizers of the Irving Mercantile Company.

Mr. Schluntz was born in Hickory township of Scott county, Iowa, February 3, 1862, a son of Carl and Margaret (Strohbeen) Schluntz, the father born in Holstein, Germany, October 6, 1833, and the mother was born in that country in 1823. Carl Schluntz came to the United States in 1857, and landing in New Orleans after an ocean voyage of three months he worked his way up the river to Davenport, Iowa, where he married and farmed in Scott county until the fall of 1865, coming then to Benton county and locating in section 32, Kane township. He purchased there eighty

acres of land for twenty-three hundred dollars, and only about one-half of the soil had been broken and an old house and a straw barn constituted the sole improvements of the place. This was considered a very high price for the land at that time. In 1887 Mr. Schluntz retired from active labor and moved to Belle Plaine, but after the death of his wife there in July of 1900 he returned to the farm and has since lived with a son there. He owned at one time four hundred and forty acres of land, and he served his township as a road supervisor and as a school director. The three children of Mr. and Mrs. Schluntz are: Ferdinand; Edward, also living in Kane township; and Alvina, the wife of Fred Hamann of Kane township.

Ferdinand Schluntz was reared on the farm and he attended first the district schools, then the old academy at Irving, Iowa, and later the International Business College at Davenport, graduating from the latter institution in May of 1888. During the five months following his graduation he worked as a bookkeeper for an insurance firm, was then in a clerical position for a year, for a similar period was engaged in buying corn for the Davenport-Glencoe Company at Casey, and he returned then to the farm and gave up mercantile pursuits on account of failing health. During a few years following his return he operated a threshing machine and corn sheller, also working at the carpenter's trade and in a logging camp in Minnesota, and in 1889 he began farming for himself, renting the place he now owns from his father, and he has worked his way up to a leading place in the industrial life of his community.

In February of 1890 Mr. Schluntz married Geschen Junge, born in Holstein, Germany, December 24, 1865, and she died on the 3d of March, 1902. She bore her husband seven children, five now living, namely: Mary, born in 1892 and at home with her father; Carl, born January 20, 1894, also at home; John, born December 14, 1895, died on February 8, 1896; Alfred, born April 24, 1897; Emma, born February 4, 1899; Herman, born March 24, 1900, died April 17, 1901; and George, born October 17, 1901. Mr. Schluntz is a member of the Democratic party. He is also a member of the Modern Brotherhood of America, Lodge No. 763, at Irving, and with the exception of one year he has served as president of the order since its formation. He is a progressive and up-to-date business man, public spirited and alert, and Kane township numbers him among its influential residents.

GEORGE REISS, who has practically retired from active life, but still resides in his fine residence in Big Grove township, owns

four hundred acres of well improved land. He was born in Lee county, Illinois, October 8, 1848, son of Jacob and Julia (Aschenburner) Reiss, both deceased; Jacob Reiss died of cholera, in 1850, aged about thirty-five, and his widow died in 1871, aged sixty-three. They came from Chrieseschway, Germany, where they were married, after which they emigrated to America. They came to Chicago by water, and thence by ox team to Lee county, which was then very sparsely settled. He worked one year, and in payment received an eighty-acre tract of land, on which he built a home. He died the same fall, leaving a widow and six small children, three being sons and three daughters. The family resided on this farm until George was about twelve years old, the children working and caring for themselves as soon as old enough. Of the six children but three survive, namely: George; Mrs. Martha Krug, of Lee county, Illinois; and Jacob H., of Guthrie county, Iowa.

George Reiss received a very limited education, and has earned his own living since twelve years of age. In his youth and early manhood he studied during his leisure hours, and to such good advantage that he became a well-informed man. When twenty-three years old he began farming on his own account, having by that time saved up some fifteen hundred dollars. After carrying on a farm in Lee county, Illinois, he sold out to good advantage and decided to move farther west. After looking through Nebraska and Iowa, he decided to locate in Benton county, and purchased two hundred and forty acres in Big Grove township, to which he has since added as he was able. He has erected substantial buildings on his farm, and it is well tiled, containing some four thousand rods of tiling. He is a self-made man, and has been very successful in all his enterprises.

Politically Mr. Reiss is a Republican, and has filled various local offices. He is a member of the Modern Brotherhood of America, and he and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Garrison.

Mr. Reiss married, in Lee county, Illinois, Minnie Anthes, born in Henry county, Illinois, but reared in Bureau county, that state, daughter of Reverend J. C. and Louisa (Just) Anthes, who were early residents in Illinois. J. C. Anthes died in 1884, in Illinois, and his widow died in Nebraska, where the family had resided several years, in 1907, in her eighty-first year. Mr. Reiss and his wife have seven children, as follows: Anna and Emma, twins, the former the wife of W. F. Cline and the latter of S. E. Robinson; John F., who married Miss Brandt, operates a valuable farm of two hundred and forty acres in Big Grove township; Martha, wife of C. H. Martin, of Des Moines, Iowa; Mary, living at

home; Ezra C., who married Miss Baumer, and lives on the home farm; and Josephine, wife of Earl Mariette, living on a farm in Big Grove township.

JACKSON DONALD, retired and living in Garrison for several years, was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, October 19, 1826; he is a son of Moses and Rachel Donald, old residents of Pennsylvania, who went to Ohio when Jackson was a small boy, locating first in Wayne county. Moses Donald and his wife lived for a time in Ashland county, and later removed to Holmes county, Ohio, where they emigrated to Iowa in 1856. They secured a farm in Jackson township, where both passed away, Moses Donald dying prior to the Civil war and his widow in the early seventies, at an advanced age. He was a miller by trade. He and his wife had eight children, of whom three survive, namely: Jackson, and two sisters, Mrs. Joyce and Mrs. Ferguson. Mrs. Joyce, of Cedar Rapids, is in her ninety-fourth year; Mrs. Elizabeth Ferguson, of Missouri, now aged seventy-three, is the youngest of the family.

Jackson Donald was reared in Ohio and was over thirty years of age when he came to Benton county, Iowa, with his parents who located in Jackson township with others from Ohio. Mr. Donald owned a large and well-improved farm in Jackson township, near Garrison, which he has now sold. He has lived in Garrison the past ten years, and has a pleasant home there. He was very successful in his farming operations, and has high standing in the community. He has always been a Democrat in politics, and takes an active interest in public affairs. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Donald married, in 1870, in Jackson township, Benton county, Lovina Ridge, born in Ashland county, Ohio, April 28, 1839. She is the daughter of Thomas and Magdalena (Smith) Ridge, who came to Benton county, Iowa, in September, 1854, driving overland. The Ridge family located two miles north of the present town of Garrison. They bought forty acres of timber, and Mr. Ridge entered eighty acres, their home the remainder of their lives. He died in 1875, aged seventy-three, and his wife died in the fall of 1870, aged sixty-six. They had ten children, of whom four survive, Mrs. Donald; Thomas, of Vinton; Mrs. Delilah Butler, living near Estherville, Iowa; and Mrs. Sarah Hardinger, of Garrison. Mrs. Donald was one of a party of twenty-eight who drove through from Ohio, in 1854, with five teams and those of her family are now the only survivors of that trip. Mr. Donald and his wife have four children, namely: Blanche, wife of J. E. Forsyth, of Vinton; Frank, a farmer of Jackson

township, who married Nettie Eick; Arthur, cashier of the Peoples Bank of Garrison, who married Nellie Voorhies; and Bertha, wife of Roy C. Mease, a farmer of Jackson township.

JOHN LORENZ is secretary of the Cedar Valley Land & Investment Company, the important real estate business which is described elsewhere in these pages. He gives all his attention to the management of the affairs of this company. He has been identified with Benton county practically all his life and was formerly associated with the banking and financial business of Vinton.

He was born in Kane township, Benton county, September 26, 1866. His parents, John H. and Anna (Detlef) Lorenz, were both natives of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, but came to America before their marriage, the former about 1860 and the latter in 1863. The mother still lives in Kane township, being seventy-seven years old. John H. Lorenz was actively identified with farming in Benton county until some fifteen years before his death, which occurred in December, 1907, when he was nearly seventy-eight years old. He was a substantial citizen, well informed on political and other affairs, and made a good business success in Benton county, where he had lived since 1865. After reaching America he had spent a short time in Indiana and then lived a couple of years in Scott county, Iowa. The children of these parents are as follows: Henry, who owns and conducts the home farm in Kane township; Mrs. W. A. Mall, of Belle Plaine; John; Herman, manager of the Co-operative Grain & Lumber Company at Luzerne; and Mrs. Harry Typper, whose husband is an attorney at Polo, Illinois.

John Lorenz spent his youth in Kane township, attended public school there and was also a student in the academy at Vinton. From the farm he became a grocery clerk in Sioux City, spent three years there, was located at Belle Plaine for a time, and then became deputy auditor under County Auditor S. P. Van Dyke of Belle Plaine, serving three years. For two years he was cashier of the Benton County Savings Bank at Blairstown (now the Benton County State Bank), was then elected on the Democratic ticket and served a two-year term as clerk of the district court, and following that was in the hardware business with H. H. McElroy. When the People's Bank was organized at Vinton in 1900 he became cashier, and was with that institution until 1907 as cashier, and since then has been vice president. He left the bank to give his entire time to the real estate business.

In politics he has always been a Democrat. He is a member





*John Henry*



of the blue lodge of Masons at Vinton and of the Knights of Pythias, and attends the Presbyterian church. He married Miss Roberta Brown, of Brimfield, Illinois. They have four children, Paul, Eleanor, Theodore and Roberta.

BRUCE WALLACE, owner of a quarter section of section 7, Cedar township, Benton county, was born in Steuben county, New York, November 17, 1840. He is a son of James and Eliza Aulls (Wheeler) Wallace, given further mention in this work, in connection with the sketch of Orr A. Wallace. He removed with his parents to Indiana, and later to Iowa, and remained at home until he was twenty-eight years of age. He worked out a few years, and in 1872 purchased eighty acres of land of his father, on which he has lived ever since. Later he was able to add another eighty acres, and successfully carried on his farm until 1892, making all improvements possible. For some years his sisters Cleora and Margaret kept house for him, but since the death of Margaret he has kept house alone. In 1892 Mr. Wallace became a severe sufferer from rheumatism, and since that time the farm has been carried on by tenants.

Mr. Wallace is an intelligent, well-read man, and has made the most of his opportunities. He is a good farmer, and success has amply rewarded his efforts. He has never married. In politics he is a Democrat, and he takes a commendable interest in local interests and affairs. He has served as school treasurer.

J. H. FRY, who in partnership with his son operates his well improved farm of three hundred and twenty-five acres in sections 25 and 36, of Taylor township, was born in Canton township, Benton county, April 20, 1856. He is a son of William and Anna (Lane) Fry; the father still lives in Canton township, and is seventy-six years of age; his wife died some nine years since, at the age of sixty-six. William Fry is a native of Blair county, Pennsylvania, and came to Benton county with a party in 1850; he secured forty acres of timber and forty of prairie land in Canton township, to which he added as he was able, and now owns a half-section. During his sixtieth year he retired from active work and lived in Vinton some years, but later returned to the farm. He and his wife joined the United Brethren church. She was born near Indianapolis and came to Benton county with her parents soon after Mr. Fry. She was a daughter of Isaac Lane and his wife, who lived on a farm in Canton township until their deaths.

William Fry and his wife became parents of six children, all of whom survive, namely: May (Mrs. Burnham), living in

Kansas; J. H.; G. W., of Vinton; W. E., of Benton township; Grant, living on the old home farm in Canton township; and John, also living on the home farm, which he helps to operate.

J. H. Fry was reared on a farm and received his education in the public schools. He has since successfully followed farming and stock-raising, and handles fine cattle, hogs and Percheron horses. He lived on his farm until about three years ago when he moved to Vinton and erected the handsome residence on South Main street, which is now his home. He is president of the Eden Fire Insurance Company, and a keen man of business. Politically Mr. Fry is a Republican, and he has served as township trustee twelve years. He and his family, while residents of Taylor township, were members of the United Brethren church there, but since coming to Vinton have united with the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Fry married, in Benton county, Maggie Stevenson, a native of Ohio, who was reared chiefly in Benton county; her father died when she was a child, and her mother spent her declining years in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Fry have three children, namely: W. C., married and in the furniture business in Vinton; Charles, operating the home farm, in partnership with his father, also married; and Ethel, living at home. Ethel attended Tilford Academy and took a special course in music, and is now a teacher in the Benton county schools.

JOHN P. MEASE is numbered among the honored, early residents of Benton county, and during the past fifty-two years his home has been in Benton county. He was born in Lebanon county Pennsylvania, August 27, 1830, a son of Philip M. and Sallie (Weaver) Mease. Henry Weaver, the maternal grandfather, came to the United States from Germany during the Revolution, and en route met his future wife. Reaching this country he entered the American army and fought through the remainder of the war, the young lady in the meantime assisting her patriotic sisters in raising provisions for the soldiers. They were married after his return home, and lived and farmed in Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, until their deaths, he at the age of ninety-four and she at the age of eighty-four. Mrs. Mease was one of their large family of children. Philip M. Mease's early home was along the banks of the Susquehanna river in Pennsylvania, and he learned and followed the blacksmith's trade until injured by a horse, from that time on being a teamster. Coming to Benton county, Iowa, in 1860 he bought eighty acres of land and made his home with his son John until his death at the age of eighty-one years. He was a stanch Whig, and both he and his wife were Lutherans.

John P. Mease was the second born of their six children, but he now has only two brothers living, the younger, Jacob, living in Pennsylvania, and Henry Mease resides at Dysart, Iowa. The former was a Civil war soldier. John P. Mease was reared in Pennsylvania, and that commonwealth continued as his home until he was twenty-three. Going then to Ohio and Indiana he spent some two years in those states, and coming to Benton county, Iowa, in 1855, he located first in Big Grove township and secured forty acres of land there, farming and at the same time following his trade of cabinet making. He came to this county during the memorable panic of those days, but in the face of all difficulties he won his way to success and has recently sold his one hundred and twenty acres of the fine farming land of Jackson township, the place being located between Vinton and Garrison. He owns a comfortable home at Vinton.

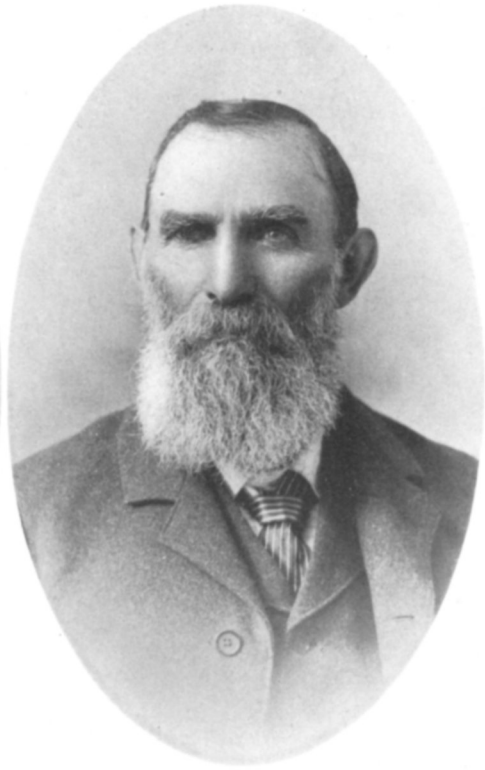
Mr. Mease married in Big Grove in 1859 Miss Cassandra Page, born in New Hampshire, and at her death in 1870 she left two children. The elder, Frank Mease, is the editor and proprietor of the *Madison Sentinel* at Madison, South Dakota, and he is married and has two sons. Minnie is now in California. Mrs. Mease was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Joseph and Christena (Bergman) Page. Joseph Page was of German parentage but a native of Pennsylvania, and he died in that state in about the year of 1855. Mrs. Page afterward married Father Kelly and moved to Iowa City, Iowa, where Mr. Kelly died. Mrs. Kelly moved to the home of her son, Samuel, where she died. On the 21st of January, 1871, Mr. Mease married Miss Elizabeth Hayman, and they have four sons and two daughters, namely: J. Clarence, conducting his farm in Big Grove township, and he is married and has three children; Roy, a Jackson township farmer, is married and has two children; Bey D. has traveled extensively and is now employed in Aberdeen, South Dakota; Lucy married Ed. Thompson, and has a son, Howard; Elsie married Earl H. Davenport and is living in Toledo; and Edward, attending the commercial college at Waterloo. Mr. Mease has in politics been a life-long Republican, casting his first vote in 1856 and his first presidential vote was cast for John C. Fremont. Since those early days he has been an active campaign worker. He has membership relations with the fraternal order of Odd Fellows at Vinton, and in 1850 he was confirmed in the Lutheran church, but his religious home has been with the Presbyterians. He is one of the revered pioneer residents of Vinton.

DAVID M. JOHNSON.—Prominent among the land owners and agriculturists of Kane township is numbered D. M. Johnson, whose well improved farm is located in section 17. He was born in Otsego county, New York, July 21, 1846, a son of Silas and Roxey (Hartwell) Johnson. The father was also a native of Otsego county, born in 1809, and he died there at the age of fifty-six years. The mother was born in Connecticut in 1804, and died in Pottawatomie county, Iowa, at the age of sixty-eight years. They were the parents of five children, but only two are now living, James Johnson, the elder, living in Worcester, New York.

David M. Johnson is the younger of these two surviving sons, and leaving his parents home when nineteen years of age he came to Iowa, arriving in the city of Belle Plaine in 1865. For a time he worked on a farm in Homer township, but in the spring of 1866 returned to Belle Plaine and secured employment as a fireman with the Northwestern Railroad Company for one year.. In 1869 he bought a farm in Homer township. The land was in its natural state, raw and unimproved, and he improved it and farmed there until 1876, selling it then and buying eighty acres in section 20, Kane township. In 1881 he left that place and bought his present homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, which he has improved in a splendid manner, and he also owns six hundred and forty acres of improved land in Hand county, South Dakota. There are two sets of buildings on his Dakota property.

Mr. Johnson was married on the 3d of June, 1869, to Eliza A. Harlan, who was born near Elkhart, Indiana, on July 11, 1848, and she died on the 7th of April, 1908. Ten children were born of their union, namely: James M., in South Dakota; Frank, at home with his father; Freddie, who died in infancy; David W., also in South Dakota; Effie, wife of T. J. Mason, of Tama county, Iowa; Carrie, wife of Bert Stout, of Belle Plaine, Iowa; George, Edith Myrtle and Irv, all at home; and Cora, deceased. Mrs. Johnson during her life time was a member of the Restitution church. Mr. Johnson is identified with Elberon Lodge No. 283, I. O. O. F., and he is a member of the Republican party. He has served as township committeeman and as chairman of the same for several years.

CHAMBERS C. LARUE, who died October 6, 1899, at his home in Big Grove township, came to Benton county, Iowa, with his parents in 1856. He was born in Ohio, November 18, 1835, and was a son of Aaron and Asenath (Harris) LaRue, who upon coming to Benton county located in the southern part of Big Grove township where they both died. They became the parents of eleven children,



MR. AND MRS. C. C. LARUE







FRANK A. NOVAK

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Good for One Passage as Indicated.  
PACIFIC COAST STEAMSHIP CO.  
Good properly signed and witnessed.

SENT NOVAK TO PRISON

& Lumber Company, whose offices and elevators are located at Garrison; the company was organized and incorporated in 1909 as a stock company, having a large number of stockholders, all residents of Benton county, and a capital of twenty-five thousand dollars. They handle grain, lumber and live stock, have begun operations successfully, and have a promising future before them.

Mr. Thompson has been a Republican all his life, and served in various local offices; in the fall of 1908 he was elected a representative from Benton county to the state legislature. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Thompson stands well in the community, and is well known all over the county. In business he is associated with some of the most enterprising and substantial men of affairs in the county, and he is well fitted to fill the position of responsibility and trust now held by him. He is actively interested in public affairs, and is a public-spirited citizen. He now makes his home at Vinton, Iowa.

AUGUST F. TATGE.—A gentleman in the prime of life, active and energetic, with a clear head for business, August F. Tatge has for many years been a prominent factor in developing and advancing the agricultural, mercantile and financial interests of Benton county, and is now widely and favorably known as president of the Luzerne Savings Bank. He is a fine representative of the native-born citizens of this section of Iowa, his birth having occurred February 20, 1858, in Luzerne, a son of Conrad Tatge.

Conrad Tatge was born, April 18, 1822, in Hessen, Germany, and was there bred and educated. Soon after his marriage he started with his young wife for America, and after a tedious voyage of seventeen weeks landed in New York city. Proceeding westward, he located in Kendall county, Illinois, and the following three years was engaged in farming near Oswego. In 1855 he drove across the country to Iowa, and shortly after bought eighty acres of land on section 19, LeRoy township, Benton county, on which the only improvements of consequence were a small log house and a log stable shingled with slabs. He met with success from the start, by his own exertions accumulating a handsome competence. He came to this country a poor man, and by means of industry and thrift became owner of much valuable land, owning three hundred and twenty acres in LeRoy township, and another tract of three hundred and twenty acres in Carroll county, Iowa. In 1882 he moved to Luzerne and retired and there his death occurred in November, 1884. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary Steege, was born in Germany September 14, 1818, and died



*August F. Tatge + wife.*



in Luzerne, Iowa, June 9, 1901. Their children, five in number, are as follows: Sophie, deceased; Henry W., of Keystone, Iowa; August F., the subject of this sketch; Mary, wife of Henry Studt, of Evanston, Illinois; and Emma, wife of F. H. Kluss, of Iowa township. Both parents were members of the German Lutheran church, and the father was for several terms one of the trustees of LeRoy township.

Brought up on the home farm near Luzerne, August F. Tatge was educated in Benton county, attending first the common schools and afterwards the Tilford Academy at Vinton. Under his father's instruction he early acquired a practical knowledge of the many branches of agriculture, and after his marriage began life for himself on the land which his father had previously purchased in Carroll county. When he moved on to it in 1880 the land was in a primitive condition. He upturned the prairie sod, placed all of it under culture, and resided there four years. Returning to the parental homestead in 1884, he managed it successfully until 1899, becoming known as an expert agriculturist. Retiring from agricultural labors Mr. Tatge purchased the elevator at Luzerne, also buying a lumber, coal and implement business, and for eight years carried on an extensive and profitable mercantile business. Selling out in 1907, he with others organized the Luzerne Savings Bank, which was opened for business October 14, 1908. This institution, although comparatively young, is one of the strongest of the kind in the county, and under the supervision of Mr. Tatge, who is its president, is carrying on a substantial business.

On January 17, 1880, Mr. Tatge married Minnie Kollmann, who was born in Kendall county, Illinois, near Yorkville, August 24, 1858, a daughter of William and Sophia (Wehrman) Kollmann, who are still living in Kendall county, Illinois, Mr. Kollmann being now seventy-four years of age, while Mrs. Kollmann is four years younger. Politically Mr. Tatge has the courage of his convictions, voting for the candidates he thinks best qualified for office, independent of party restrictions. He served as township assessor several terms, and was for a number of years township trustee. Religiously he and his estimable wife are faithful members of the German Lutheran church. A man of undoubted ability and integrity, Mr. Tatge is in every way worthy of the esteem so cordially accorded him by his fellow-townsmen, with whom he is popular and influential.

ROBERT F. McMILLAN, a stock farmer of Harrison township, was born in Madison, Jefferson county, Indiana, February 11, 1850, and is a son of John F. and Nancy (Miller) McMillan. John

F. McMillan was born in 1822, in Delaware, and came west to Pennsylvania and later to Indiana as a young man with his parents. John F. McMillan's parents were both natives of Scotland, who came to the United States about 1815 and the father's name was Robert McMillan. John F. McMillan was married in Madison, Indiana, in 1846; his wife, Nancy Miller, was a daughter of Daniel and Agnes (Allen) Miller, natives of Scotland, who came to Indiana where later the mother died. Daniel Miller married (second) Kate Anderson. Besides Nancy, he had a daughter, Mrs. J. W. Harper, of Benton county, Iowa. Mrs. McMillan, (Nancy) died in September, 1902, at the age of seventy-seven years. She and her husband had children as follows: Agnes, wife of J. C. Cline, of Harrison township; Robert F.; Charles W., of Vinton, Iowa; John E., of Harrison township; and A. Miller, of Howard, South Dakota.

Robert F. McMillan was taken to a farm by his parents when a year and a half old, and to Benton county when seven years old. He stayed on his father's farm until he reached his majority, and then spent two years as traveling representative of a publishing house, and taught school four terms. After his marriage he purchased eighty acres of land in Polk township, where he lived seven years and then sold this farm and purchased one hundred acres of land in Harrison township, with some improvements, where he has since lived. He kept adding to his farm as he was able, and now owns three hundred and sixty acres in sections 2 of Taylor township and 25 and 26 of Harrison township, where he makes a specialty of Short Horn cattle and Poland China hogs. He is an enterprising and experienced farmer, and has met with gratifying success. Mr. McMillan is a member of the Disciple church. He takes an active interest in local public affairs, and has held various offices, among them, township clerk and trustee, and for about eighteen years he served as school treasurer.

Mr. McMillan married (first) Electa Johnson, who died in 1902 and six years later he married Mary Raleigh. By the first marriage he had children as follows: Roscoe, of Buffalo, who married Hannah Noble, of Benton county; J. Gifford, a student, at Ames, Iowa; Dana, deceased; Archibald L., living at home; and Harry S., at home. Mr. McMillan has a good home, with modern improvements and conveniences, and is a prominent representative farmer of the community, paying close attention to his financial interests.

HENRY WERNER owns a valuable estate in section 1, Union township, and he is one of the influential residents of his community. He was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, February 22,

1846, a son of John and Elizabeth (Shade) Werner.. The father died in Germany, and his widow afterward came to the United States and died in Carroll county, Iowa. Of the seven children in their family the following five are now living: Mary, wife of Henry Frolich, of Cook county, Illinois; Henry, of this review; Andrew, living at Peotone, Illinois; Kate, wife of Peter Heisner, of Will county, Illinois; and Frances, the wife of Fred Sporlader, living in Carroll county, Iowa.

When a lad of thirteen years Henry Werner left his parents' farm and went to Frankfort-on-the-Main, there learning the upholsterer's trade and attending night school. In November of 1866, a short time before his twenty-first birthday, he left his native country for the United States to escape service in the German army, and landing in New York he made his way west to Chicago, where he arrived with seven large copper pennies in his pocket, this representing his entire wealth. On the following Saturday afternoon he bought a loaf of bread, and this was all the food he had until the following Monday afternoon, when he reached friends and relatives in Will county, Illinois. There he remained for eleven years, working at farm labor, and coming to Benton county, Iowa, in 1877, he bought eighty acres of land in Eldorado township, paying six hundred dollars for the tract. He farmed that place for ten years and then sold it for two thousand dollars. He next bought two hundred acres in Eden township, and selling that place in 1892 he moved to his present farm in section 1, Union township, purchasing first three hundred and twenty acres, but his estate now contains four hundred acres in sections 1 and 12, all of the finest land and improved with a beautiful home and farm buildings. For years he was a heavy cattle feeder, but he is now living retired from active work, his sons having charge of the farm. Mr. Werner is a splendid type of the sturdy German-American farmer. He is self-made in the truest sense of the word, but he is a well read man and an influential and public spirited citizen. He has served Union township nine years as a trustee, and for several years he was a school officer and treasurer in Eden township.

On the 28th of February, 1874, Mr. Werner was married to Christine Mausehund, born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, September 15, 1853, and she came to the United States in 1872. Eight children have been born of this marriage union, namely: Emma, wife of Henry Grote, of Eldorado township; Mary, wife of Will Fry, of Union township; and August, William, Edna, Annie, Fred and Nelda. The family are members of the German Lutheran church at Van Horne.

HENRY J. MEYER is one of the representative citizens of Benton county and one of the prominent business men of Keystone, a retired farmer, president of the Farmers Savings Bank and a stockholder and director of the Keystone Mercantile Company. He was born in Holstein, Germany, November 14, 1841, a son of Henry and Annie (Fremke) Meyer, and on the 1st of April, 1865, the family left their native Fatherland for the United States, landing in the harbor of New York on the 19th of May of the same year. Locating first in Davenport, Iowa, they farmed for three years on rented land in Scott county, and coming from there to Benton county in 1868 they purchased eighty acres of the virgin soil of Homer township, in section 26, but subsequently selling that tract they bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. After the death of his wife in 1872, when fifty-six years of age, Mr. Meyer lived with his children until he too passed away, dying at the age of fifty-nine years. Of the nine children that blessed their marriage union the five now living are: Henry J.; J. Herman, living in Luzerne, Iowa; Margaretta, the wife of Joachin Struck, of Keystone; Sophia, the widow of Fritz Jammer and living in Dysart, this state; and Christena, the wife of P. M. Seeck, of Keystone.

Henry J. Meyer spent the early years of his life on a farm in his native country, receiving in the meantime a common school training, and coming with his parents to the United States he remained in the parental home until his marriage. Following this event he was a Kane township farmer for two years on rented land, and he then purchased one hundred and sixty-acres of the wild and unimproved land of Homer township, paying six dollars an acre, and at the time of his purchase he had saved the sum of three hundred dollars. For the last farm he purchased in Benton county he paid one hundred and fifty dollars an acre, showing the wonderful increase in property values in Iowa during recent years. Mr. Meyer now owns an estate of seven hundred and twenty acres in Homer township and two hundred and forty acres in Kane township, and while actively engaged in agricultural pursuits he was also a heavy stock feeder. But in 1905 he retired from the work of the farm and built the beautiful modern home in Keystone where he now resides. He assisted in the organization of the Farmers Savings Bank of Keystone in 1905, and has since been the president of the institution, and he is both a stockholder and director in the Keystone Mercantile Company. During a number of years he gave his political allegiance to the Republican party, but in 1882 he transferred his membership to the Democracy. During thirty years he held the office of school director, for ten years was the assessor of Homer township, during eight years the





*Henry J. Meyer*



clerk of that township, and he is now serving as the school treasurer.

On the 11th of September, 1868, Mr. Meyer was married to Elsabea Peters, born in Holstein, Germany, November 7, 1842, a daughter of M. and Emma (Behmke) Peters, who came to the United States in 1868 and located in Kane township, Benton county, Iowa, spending the remainder of their lives there. Mrs. Meyers was their only child, and she died on the 10th of September, 1887, the mother of eight children, namely: Henry N., living in Dickerson county, Iowa; Annie M., wife of Henry G. Hansen, of Homer township; Emma M., deceased; Herman H., also in Homer township; Mary R., the wife of George Knowles, of the same place; John A., living in Union township; Rosa, wife of Herman Sculdt, of Homer township; and F. William, a farmer in Union township. On the 25th of June, 1893, Mr. Meyer was married to Catherine Mansfield, born in Schleswig, Germany, June 12, 1845, and she came to Benton county in 1888. Mr. Meyer is a member of the German Lutheran church, and he is numbered among the successful men of this section of Benton county, well read and leal and loyal to the duties of citizenship.

MERRITT C. HENKLE, a progressive stock farmer of Jackson township, was born in Kankakee county, Illinois, August 19, 1852, and is a son of Asa S. and Anna (Michaels) Henkle, given mention at length elsewhere in this work, in connection with Henry C. Henkle. He accompanied his parents and the rest of the family to Benton county, Iowa, in 1856, and since has been a resident of the county. He received his education in the common schools and remained at home until twenty-three years of age; since then he has farmed for himself. He first purchased a farm of eighty acres in section 36, Bruce township, which he operated twelve years. He traded for his present home in March, 1895. He paid for this farm fifty dollars per acre, the highest price which had then been paid for land in that section; the farm had previously changed hands for the consideration of six dollars per acre, and is now worth one hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre. He has made many improvements, including a deep well, a large hay and cattle barn, and a hog house. He makes a specialty of horses, and for the past twenty-five years has been raising the Norman horse, owning now some fourteen head. He owns one hundred and sixty acres in section 6, Jackson township, which has been his home since 1895. He has been very successful, is industrious and energetic, and is considered one of the representative, substantial farmers of the community. Politically Mr. Henkle has always been a staunch Republican, and is now township trustee. He is



VINTON LOOKING WEST FROM HIGH SCHOOL.

ment into one of the prettiest and best towns in Iowa, and, keeping in mind an avoidance of repetition, an attempt will be made to briefly present them.

#### PASSING OF THE RED CEDAR.

Several years before Fremont was platted the site of the town is said to have been covered by a grove of red cedar, which was cut down by one Thompson and rafted to the St. Louis market. Somewhat later "Cedar" Johnson had a logging camp further up the stream and in 1845 James Newell cut a raft in Black Hawk county, which is believed to have about exhausted the timber in



WASHINGTON STREET LOOKING SOUTH, VINTON.

this region which gave the river its name. Tradition even pictures as the pioneer logger long antedating Thompson, a creature named Dyer—"a misshapen, hump-backed creature who could neither read nor write."

#### RATHER "SHADY" FIRST SETTLER.

In 1845, after the site of Fremont had been cleared of its cedar grove, Chauncey Leverich built a cabin near the river, within the present limits of Vinton, but after about a year sold his claim

spring of 1854, when he removed to Benton county, Iowa, and located in Jackson township, where he entered three eighty-acre pieces of land in Section 20, where he lived until his death. He also bought four forty-acre pieces, which he later sold. He was a successful farmer and stock raiser, a Republican in politics, and served in local offices. He was a member of the United Presbyterian church, as was also his wife. She was born in 1810, and died in Benton county, June 27, 1892. They had seven children, all of whom lived to maturity, namely: David, who was a soldier in the Thirteenth Iowa Regiment, and died in Andersonville prison, after spending several months there; William and Andrew, twins, the former accidentally killed by a horse when twenty-one years old; Jane, who married Elias Goom, now deceased, and resides at LaPorte, Iowa; John W., of Garrison; Robert, who was accidentally killed in Nebraska, a few years after the war; and Ellen who married George Johnson, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. Robert served in the Ninth Iowa Cavalry during the war.

Andrew Robertson was fifteen years of age when the family arrived in Benton county, in 1854, and he and his father drove overland with ox teams. He attended the public schools of Illinois and Iowa, and remained at home, with the exception of one year spent in Illinois, just prior to his enlistment, in 1862, in Company K, Fortieth Iowa Infantry, with which he served three years. He was in the Western Army, at the Siege of Vicksburg, Little Rock, Arkansas, and engagements at many other places, and was never seriously wounded. Mr. Robertson was mustered out at Fort Gibson, Arkansas, and discharged in Iowa, after he returned home. He resumed farming, and was married, December 26, 1866, to Martha Pollock, born in Nova Scotia, October 20, 1848, daughter of Samuel and Mary Ann (Russell) Pollock. Her mother born in August, 1824, died in Benton county, Iowa, in April, 1893, and her father was born in Nova Scotia in May, 1823, and died in April, 1892. They moved to Canada in 1851, and after spending a few years there located in Mercer county, Illinois, their home for five years. In January, 1865, they settled in Jackson township, Benton county, Iowa, and bought a farm at five dollars per acre, which the father improved and they lived there until their decease. Samuel Pollock and his wife had eight children, of whom six are living, namely: James H., who served in an Illinois Regiment from Illinois, and died in the army; Mrs. Robertson; Mary Ann, who married William Fitch, and lives in Worth county, Iowa; J. George, who died July 5, 1907, in Monroe township, this county; Florenzo, wife of W. J. Urice, residing at

Garrison; Samuel, a farmer of Jackson township; Elizabeth Jane, wife of Frank Raymond, of Pipestone, Minnesota; and Isabel, wife of Tunis LaGrange, of Vinton.

Mr. Robertson and his wife have five children, all born at the present home, namely: S. Henry; John A., born September 3, 1870, died October 25, 1888; George W., born November 15, 1874, married Bertha Ridenour and lives in Jackson township; A. Carl, born March 16, 1882, at home; and Clifford J., born September 28, 1884, married Neta C. Ridenour, and lives at home. S. Henry, born December 1, 1867, married Anna Stewart, and they have four children, Mabel, Josephine, Harry and Janet; he is a farmer and lives in Jackson township.

Andrew Robertson owns three farms in Jackson township, comprising some four hundred and eighty acres, twelve acres of which is timberland. He is a breeder of Shorthorn cattle, and has been interested in this line for twenty years past. He is an intelligent and energetic farmer, and has been very successful. Politically Mr. Robertson has always been a Republican, and has served many years as school director; he is a member of P. M. Coder Post, No. 98, of Vinton; and of the Grand Army of the Republic, and he and his wife are members of the United Presbyterian church.

NEWTON G. ARMSTRONG, the prosperous farmer and worthy citizen who resides on section 5, Fremont township, was born not far from his present home on the 6th of March, 1869; so that this prosperity and his worthy record are virtually in their early stages. He is a son of Thomas G. and Sarah (Fawcett) Armstrong; his father, who was born in Ireland in March, 1829, dying in 1895; the mother, who is living in Cedar Rapids, was born in Belmont county, Ohio, March 27, 1842. Thomas G. Armstrong emigrated to the United States when only nineteen years of age, and thereafter was a hard-working and eventually a leading Iowa farmer and citizen of affairs. He commenced farming on a quarter section in Fremont township, and at the time of his death owned nearly three thousand acres within its bounds. In general business and finances he had also evinced strong abilities, having been one of the organizers of the Atkins Savings Bank and its only president until his death. The son, Newton G., has also been a director in that reliable institution for a number of years.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas G. Armstrong became the parents of twelve children, of whom the following nine are alive: John William and Hattie, all residents of Fremont township, the last being the wife of Albert Schlotterback; Newton G., of this sketch; Mary, who married A. Rammelsberg of Canton township, this county; Lewis who is a resident of Canada; Mina, the wife of

Charles Meek, of California; and Fred and Chester, both of Cedar Rapids.

Newton G. Armstrong obtained only a district school education, was trained to farming pursuits, and in 1893 commenced operating and improving the fine place which he now occupies. He now owns three hundred and sixty acres in the township, and is a well-to-do citizen whose character is as substantial as his material standing. On September 3, 1892, Mr. Armstrong married Miss Christine Roths, who was born in Baden, Germany, and is a daughter of Martin and Barbara Roths, both residents of Linn county, Iowa. The five Armstrong children are Clare, Goldie, Fern, Madeline and Verne.

ELEAZER W. STOCKER.—The name of E. W. Stocker is deeply engraved on the pages of the history of Benton county, which has been his home almost continuously from the earliest epoch of its record to the present time. He was born at Bath in Grafton county, New Hampshire, February 29, 1824, a son of Amos and Louisa (Snow) Stocker. His father was born in Lynn, Massachusetts, in 1784, and died at the age of seventy-eight years, and the mother, born at Bath, New Hampshire, in 1794, died in the year of 1837. Amos Stocker by a previous marriage had four children, but all are now deceased, and E. W. Stocker is one of the four children by his second marriage to Louisa Snow and the only one now living. He descends from the Scotch on the paternal side and from the English on the maternal. His maternal grandfather was a lieutenant in the Revolutionary war and a graduate of Dartmouth College. Both Amos and Louisa Stocker died in Ohio, near Cleveland.

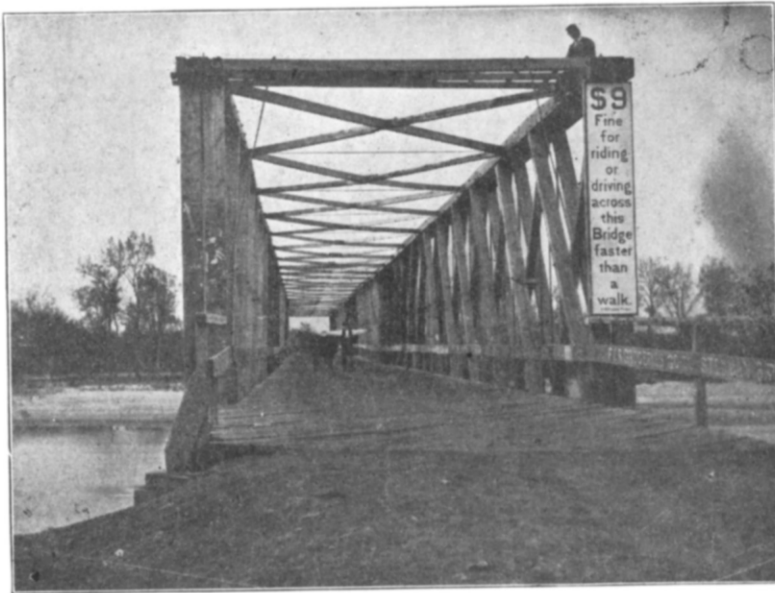
During the winter of 1833 E. W. Stocker was taken by his father to Piscataquis county, Maine, and there in the woods the senior Mr. Stocker began to carve out a home from the wilderness. In the fall of 1835 he moved to Cuyahoga county, Ohio, and that county continued as the home of E. W. Stocker until the spring of 1846, when he accepted Horace Greeley's advice to go west and located in Ogle county, Illinois. There in company with A. J. Snow he rented a farm with eleven hundred sheep, but two years later found him financially ruined, and in the fall of 1848 he continued his westward journey to New Diggings, Wisconsin, where he worked during a part of that winter in the lead mines at Schullsburg. In the spring of 1849 with three companions he had managed after laborious effort to get together a wagon and four yoke of oxen, with provisions to last a year, and on the 28th of March they started overland for California. They reached Nevada coun-



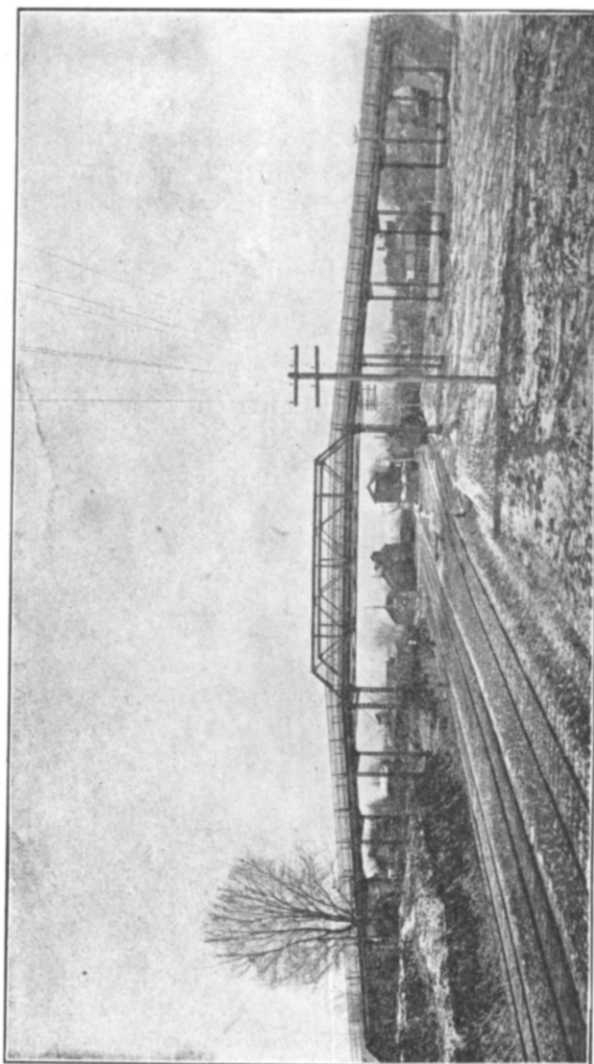
426 are males and 340 females. Of the aggregate 260 are from Ohio; 96 from Indiana; 70 from New York; 56 from Pennsylvania; 19 from New England and the balance from various other localities. The town, by this showing, has increased in population 100 per cent the past year.

April 9, 1856.—Winter is now fairly over and spring has brought with it the usual amount of busy preparation for the improvements of the coming summer. We have no rival town in the county; there are other towns which are improving rapidly but Vinton seems to be the center of attraction. Unlike our neighbors who are quarreling about the location of their county seats, we are able to bring all our energies to bear in pushing our place forward.

November 13, 1858.—Town lots in Vinton range from \$100 upward and farming lands in the immediate vicinity are valued at from \$50 to \$100 an acre. Timber lands exclusively, across the river, bear almost any price from \$100 down. The best lands a mile or so from town, can be had for \$4 cash or \$5 on time. We have seen fine corn in the valley of Genesee, on the Western Re-



OLD WOODEN BRIDGE, FOOT OF MAIN STREET.  
(WASHED AWAY BY HIGH WATER).



JAY STREET VIADUCT, VINTON.

ty of that state on the 5th of September, without provisions and with only two yoke of oxen and their wagon. In the following December Mr. Stocker went to Big Bar, on the middle fork of the American River, California, there having been twenty men at that camp during that winter from almost as many different states. Gold was plentiful there, but provisions high, for they were brought on pack mules from Sacramento City, seventy miles away. Flour was sold as high as a dollar and a half a pound, bacon at two dollars and a half a pound, potatoes at two dollars and a half a pound, molasses at sixteen dollars a gallon and eight penny nails for twenty-five cents a piece.. Mr. Stocker paid twelve dollars and fifty cents for fifty-eight nails. There was but one merchant at the camp, and he sold mostly whiskey at a dollar a drink. In honor of Washington's birthday this merchant served a dinner at eight dollars a place, the menu consisting of boiled potatoes, fried ham, bread, butter, pickles, a boiled pudding, New Orleans molasses and dried apple pie.

In the spring of 1854 Mr. Stocker with five others and with pack mules journeyed from Placerville, California, to West Point, now Kansas City, in sixty-five days, and in September of 1854, he arrived in Iowa. After riding for four weeks over the state in company with W. S. and A. J. Snow, Mr. Stocker located in what is now Kane township, then a part of Iowa township, Benton county, and entered four hundred and eighty acres of land on sections 36 and 25. But going to Carroll county, Illinois, they spent the winter there, and in the spring of 1855, with W. S. Snow, he started for Iowa with a breaking team of four yoke of oxen, two horses and a wagon to open a Benton county farm. At Savannah, Illinois, they purchased one thousand feet of lumber with which to build a house, and this they loaded on their wagon, and their house was the second one built in Kane township. Mrs. Snow and Mr. Stocker's sister accompanied them, riding on the top of the lumber, and they camped out on the way, sleeping in or under the wagon. Mr. Snow built the house while Mr. Stocker put in some sod corn; but the crop proved almost a failure, owing to the fact that a neighbor four miles distant owned a drove of colts which ate the greater part of the corn. In the summer of 1856 their house burned to the ground, Mr. Stocker being left with comparatively nothing except a little money found in the ruins. Going to Ohio he borrowed money at ten per cent interest, built him a second home and moved into the dwelling in the following October, the lumber having been hauled from Davenport and Iowa City. Their nearest flouring mill was then in Cedar Rapids.

In the following year of 1857 Mr. Stocker was commissioned by Judge Douglass to organize and name the township. An election was called, there being then ten voters in the township, nine Republicans and one Democrat, and it was necessary to favor the one Democrat with office, as it required the entire number to fill the positions. Mr. Stocker named the political organization after the Arctic explorer Kane. In the spring of 1859 he was seized with the gold fever and started for Pike's Peak, but soon turned back owing to unfavorable reports. In company with a Mr. Bliss and James Sterling he in the spring of 1864 started for the gold fields of Montana, but hunting the precious metal there did not prove like the old California days and he returned after two months paying twenty-five dollars in gold for the privilege of riding in a freight wagon. On his return journey he witnessed a battle between the Blackfoot and Flat Head Indians one hundred miles north of Snake river. Their train consisted of thirty men and seven wagons, and they experienced no trouble from the Indians until they reached the Platte river, fifty miles below Julesburg. There one evening just after dark they were surrounded by the red skins, who attempted to stampede their mules, but failed owing to the fact that the party had taken the precaution to make a corral of the wagons, and the Indians did not attempt to take the train, although a small emigrant train three miles away did not fare so well, the Indians driving off their stock, killed one of the party and wounded three others. At Fort Kearney Mr. Stocker took passage on the overland stage to Omaha and thence to Nevada in Storey county, Iowa, and from there over the Northwestern railroad to his home in Benton county.

At the first regular election held in Kane township he was elected to the office of clerk, and he has also served as a road supervisor, as a trustee and as a justice of the peace. In 1860 he was elected a member of the Benton county board of supervisors, and was three times re-elected to that office. In 1858 he joined the Blue Lodge of Masons, in 1863 was made a member of its chapter, in 1867 of the Commandery and in 1872 was made a member of DeMolay Consistory at Lyons, and he is now the only charter member of Hope Lodge, A. F. & A. M., at Belle Plaine now living. He is one of the few real pioneers left in Benton county, and although he has traveled life's journey for eighty-six years he is hale and hearty, and yet lives an active life. He has always enjoyed the life on the frontier, and he has enjoyed many of the thrilling experiences which is the common lot of the pioneers. During his residence in California Mr. Stocker owned a half interest in a claim which he sold in 1854 for fifteen hundred dollars, and while so-

journing in the Golden state in 1896 he found that five million dollars worth of gold had been taken from the mine and it was still being worked. He now owns a large estate of Benton county land, three hundred and twenty acres lying in Kane township and two hundred and forty in Union township. In 1892 he rented his farm and took up his residence in Blairstown, but growing tired of city life he returned to his homestead in 1905. He has just completed the erection of a corn crib there in which the seventeen thousand feet of lumber used was sawed from trees of his own planting many years ago.

Mr. Stocker married on January 21, 1858, Mary E. Van Metre, born in Pickaway county, Ohio, May 21, 1841, a daughter of John and Anna (Albertus) Van Metre. Her father was born in Berkeley county, Virginia, and died in 1842 in Ohio, when a young man, and the mother born in that county in 1815, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Stocker, at the age of seventy-four years. Mrs. Stocker was their only child, and the three children which have blessed her marriage union are: Mary L., the widow of George Kirk, of Montana, and the mother of four children, Eva Laraine, George, John and Clara Louise; Anna S., who married Edwin Wilson, but she is now living with her parents, and she has five children, Wheelock, Mary, Margery, Douglas and Donald; and Jacob P., whose home is in Oakland, California. The name of E. W. Stocker is ineffaceably traced on the pages of the history of Benton county from its earliest days to the present time, and it is a name that has stood for the deepest appreciation of the rights and privileges of citizenship and a name that is honored wherever known.

MARKS HENRY ZORNIG, the most successful farmer, probably, of Benton county, was born January 22, 1843, at Holstein, Germany, and there received his education in the district schools. He is a son of Marks and Mary (Wesser) Zornig, and their only child. Marks Zornig, who was born in Germany, June 2, 1818, came to the United States in 1865, and located first in Scott county, Iowa; three years later he removed to Benton county, where he took up one hundred and sixty acres. He was a man of simple habit, industrious and enterprising, and met with success in his farming, acquiring a comfortable fortune. He died in Benton county, May 6, 1898, and was deeply mourned by all who knew him. Both he and his wife were educated in Germany, and were quiet, home-loving people.

Marks H. Zornig grew to manhood on his father's farm in his native country, and there acquired the habits of industry and

thrift which have won for him success in life. In 1864 he emigrated to the United States, and worked on a farm in Scott county, Iowa. He appreciated the prospects and possibilities of a good farm in this region, and induced his parents to join him. When they came across they spent three years in Scott county, and one year (1868) in Cedar county. In 1871 Mr. Zornig joined with his father in the purchase, first, of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Benton county and here they met with such success that in 1880 they purchased three eighty-acre places, which they also found profitable, so that three years later they added one hundred and sixty acres more. In 1896 two hundred acres more were added, and Mr. Zornig now owns seven hundred and sixty acres all in Eldorado township, sections 21, 22, and 28. His work was carried on with such vigor and skill that he was able to retire in 1900, with a large assured income. Mr. Zornig made a specialty of raising, feeding and shipping Short-horn cattle, in which he came to handle quite an extensive business.. He resides in Newhall, where he has erected the finest residence in the city, and rents his farm lands to good advantage.

Mr. Zornig is a self-made man, and proud of his achievements, as he has reason to be. He fully enjoys the fruits of his toil, and is a devoted husband and father. He is a director and stockholder in the Newhall Savings Bank, and takes great interest in local affairs. Politically he is a Democrat, and for six years held the office of township trustee. He belongs to the German Lutheran church, and though not active in church affairs, gives freely toward the cause of charity and worthy objects. He belongs to Scott Lodge No. 37, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Davenport which he joined in 1866.

October 21, 1871, Mr. Zornig married Anna, daughter of Fred and Catherina Haupt, of Benton county, who came from Holstein, Germany, in 1866; they were successful farmers, and are both now deceased. Mrs. Zornig was educated in Germany, and is a woman of fine character and natural gifts, being of a genial, pleasant disposition, which commends her to everyone she meets. The union has been blessed with five children, namely: Alvina, who married Fred Bobzien, a farmer of Benton county; Emma, wife of August Seeman, a farmer of Benton county: Fred, died in infancy; Adele, attended the academy at Vinton, Iowa, now lives at home; and Herman, who has recently removed to Schenectady, New York, to assume a position as electrical engineer. Herman Zornig, after graduating from high school, attended the State Agricultural College, at Ames, Iowa, from which he graduated in 1909, with honor, and his future in his chosen field of labor is

very promising. He has always been of a deep studious nature, and is also energetic and practical. He is a great lover of music, and is able to perform creditably on several instruments.

CHARLES RIEKE, a retired farmer of Blairstown who has been especially prominent in the care and extension of the public highways of Leroy township, is a native of Cook county, Illinois, where he was born December 9, 1865. His father, who was born in Lippe-Detmold, Germany, February 2, 1832, in 1850 emigrated to the United States and settled near Barrington, Cook county, Illinois. There he joined the Evangelical Association, and during the remainder of his life was active in the work of that denomination. In 1874 he moved to Benton county, selecting for the family homestead one hundred and sixty acres on section 12, Leroy township, and there he died March 27, 1909. The deceased was married three times, and by his first wife (nee Charlotta Pulse), who died in 1860, he had three children, of whom one—Lena, now Mrs. Elfrink of Selby, South Dakota—is living. The second wife was Adelaide Lagueschulte, who died in 1869, aged twenty-seven, mother of the following: William, now residing in Big Grove township; Samuel, of Union township; Minnie, now Mrs. Scherger, of Nora Springs, Iowa; and Charles Rieke, of this review. Mr. Rieke's third wife was Wilhelmina Schlue, and of this union nine children were born, one of whom died in infancy and the eight living are as follows: Mrs. Mathilda Fry of Wilmont, Minnesota; Ella, Fred, Jennie and Herbert, of Blairstown, Iowa; Mrs. Ida Smith, of Selby, South Dakota; Arthur of Oregon; and John Edward, of Seattle, Washington. The father of Charles Rieke when he landed in the United States was in debt for his passage money, but after several years of hard work and careful management saved enough money with which to purchase a modest farm. Determination, agricultural skill and good business management gradually improved his circumstances, and his quarter of a century's residence in Cook county, Illinois, netted him a comfortable capital, which he invested in Benton county, Iowa.

Charles Rieke was nine years of age when the family located in Leroy township, and the inherited traits of his father's strong and honest character went far toward insuring him success as a farmer and standing as a citizen. In 1887, when he was twenty-two years of age, he began farming for himself in Leroy township, purchasing land at that time and the year after establishing his own household as a married man. He was married the same year that he bought the land and began to farm. In 1899 he had reached such a position that he retired from active work and took up his

residence at Blairstown. During that period he served for seven years as road supervisor of Leroy township, having charge of all the roads therein for six years of his service. Although it is no longer necessary for Mr. Rieke to be an active farmer, he owns a valuable place of two hundred and eighty acres, whose cultivation he supervises, and is a citizen who is highly respected for his useful services in the advancement of local interests. He is a staunch worker in the church of the Evangelical Association, his wife also being an active member of that organization. In politics he is a Republican.

On March 8, 1888, Mr. Rieke married Miss Rozetta Scherger, a daughter of German parents, Jacob and Albertina (Seidle) Scherger, but herself born in Butler county, Pennsylvania, on the 22nd of November, 1864. When the family migrated from Pennsylvania to Benton county, in 1866, they located on a farm in Leroy township, but later moved to the homestead in St. Clair township upon which the mother died in 1898, aged seventy-four, and the father died in Blairstown in April, 1905, when eighty-one years old. Three children were born to this good couple, of whom Frank, now a citizen of Nora Springs, Iowa, and Mrs. Rieke are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Rieke have had no children.

ROBERT BERRY, a retired farmer of Urbana, was born in Ohio, December 30, 1827, and is a son of Joshua and Anna (Thorpe) Berry, of Galena, Ohio, the former a native of North Carolina and his wife of South Carolina.

Robert Berry had but a smattering of education, and left Ohio with his parents when very young, spending his childhood in Boone county, Indiana, until twenty years of age. In 1852 he came to Benton county, Iowa, and there entered one hundred and twenty acres of land. He traded part of it for other land, and here made his home for a number of years. In 1862 he went to Pike's Peak and other parts of the Rocky Mountains in search of gold, and was successful; returning home, he sold his land and returned to the mountains for some time. He went west again in 1880, but in his last two trips did not meet with success, and he again took up farming on his place of one hundred and twenty acres in Polk township which he continued until he retired from active life. He takes an active interest in public affairs, and is a Democrat in his political views. He is supervisor of roads and a member of the city council, of Urbana. He is a prominent and useful citizen, and well known in the community, where he enjoys universal esteem. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church of Urbana.

In 1856 Mr. Berry married Annie, daughter of David Jewel,



1910—E. A. Buxton, mayor; Clarence Nichols, city attorney; W. E. Klingaman, clerk; John Young, treasurer; A. M. Rose, assessor; Frank E. Boyden, marshal. Forty-second Council—Harry Allen, B. F. Schwartz, W. Stripple, J. C. Downs, George D. McElroy, C. W. Miller.

#### OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OF GOOD MEN.

The special committee of the Vinton city council which reused the municipal ordinances and published them in 1906, also compiled a list of those who have served the corporation since its creation in 1869. Their comments upon it are so applicable that they are reproduced: "Elsewhere in this volume we publish a list of the officers of the city of Vinton, from the date of its incorporation to



ROCK ISLAND DEPOT, VINTON.

the present time. By referring to the same it will be seen that the first mayor of Vinton was James Wood. The other city officers were: Judge G. M. Gilchrist, city solicitor; W. F. Kirkpatrick, city clerk; Levi S. Miller, assessor; Wm. H. Hanford, treasurer; and W. W. Means, marshal. The city council consisted of Paul Correll, M. Donelan, Cornelius Ellis, John Gilmore, Nathan Hayes J. A. McDaniel, D. Stick and H. H. Sterling.

"The lives and attainments of this imposing group, lie before

town treasurer for six years and as school treasurer for many more.

Mr. Pickart is a native of Benton county, born May 3, 1864, and is a son of John and Angela (Becker) Pickart, his parents having been born in Germany where their marriage occurred. John Pickart, the elder, emigrated to the United States in 1858 and for a time worked in Buffalo, New York, but in the same year came to Benton county, Iowa, to investigate the country. In the fall of 1858 he returned to Germany and sold his holdings there and with his wife and three children returned again to the United States and at once located in Benton county. Here he purchased one hundred acres and engaged in farming. As he prospered from year to year and his savings accumulated, he added more than five hundred acres to his original purchase, besides becoming the owner of three hundred and twenty acres in Pocahontas county, Iowa. He died on the home farm January 17, 1885, his widow surviving him until several years ago.

John H. Pickart was educated in the district schools of Florence township, and lived on the old homestead until after his father's death in 1885. He then moved to the village of Norway, where he engaged in merchandise until December 1, 1892. The personal results of this period was to establish his unusual ability and absolute integrity as a business man, and to bring from the management of the Benton County Savings Bank the offer of its cashiership. As the bank had been organized in 1881, was capitalized at \$15,000, had a surplus of \$15,000, and was one of the most reliable financial institutions of this part of Iowa, the honor was high to be conferred, especially, on a young man of twenty-eight. But, from the first, the position which sought the man has been found perfectly adapted to his executive and business talents and his individual popularity.

On November 24, 1889, Mr. Pickart married Miss Louisa Brecht, daughter of Lorenz Brecht, who is a wealthy farmer of Florence township, a large owner of land in Iowa county, and vice president of the Benton County Savings Bank. Mrs. Pickart was educated in the schools of Lennox township, Iowa county, and is a woman of domestic tastes and high character. Ten children have come to the Pickart household, Wilma being deceased. Edward J., the eldest, is a late graduate of St. Joseph's College, Dubuque, Iowa, and is now living at home with his brothers and sisters. The others are: Oscar F., Rosie, Hilda, Lorenz, Alvin, Leah, Paul and Max.

J. WILSON HARPER, a prosperous farmer of Harrison township, was born in Switzerland county, Indiana, in 1846, and is a son of John and Janette (Miller) Harper, the former a native of Scot-

land. The parents are mentioned at length in connection with the sketch of Robert A. Harper, found elsewhere in this work. J. W. Harper came with the family to Benton county in 1854, and there received a common school education. He remained on the home farm until twenty-three years of age. After his marriage he bought eighty acres of land, and has since lived on this farm continually, except for three years spent in Vinton; he has added land from time to time as he was able, and now owns two hundred and sixty acres in sections 22 and 23, Harrison township, having two hundred and twenty acres under cultivation. The improvements and conveniences enjoyed by the family have been due to his own efforts, and the residence now has a fine surrounding of shade trees; the buildings on the farm are kept in good shape. Mr. Harper has retired from active life, but still resides on his farm, and controls the land, having it worked on shares. He is an old resident of the community, in which he has many friends, and he takes an active interest in public affairs. Mr. Harper is a Republican in political views, but votes independently on local questions. He has filled several township offices, and gives his support to any worthy cause. He belongs to the Christian church.

Mr. Harper married (first) Annie, daughter of David and Grace McNie, and they became parents of two children, namely: Albert S., a dentist of Oelwein, Iowa, and Wilson Foreman, assistant clerk of court at Vinton. Mrs. Harper died in 1884, and for five years Mr. Harper's mother kept house for him. Later he married Jiles, daughter of Robert and Jane (McAuley) Armstrong, of Brooklyn, born and reared in New York City.

A. B. ALLEN, cashier of the People's Savings Bank of Vinton, has been a resident of the county since October, 1870. He was born in Will county, Illinois, March 10, 1870, and is a son of Robert and Adeline (Bartlett) Allen, the latter a native also of Will county. Robert Allen, a native of Canada, came to Illinois in 1853, and became a farmer; he also engaged in mercantile business in Plainfield, Illinois, which he continued until he removed to Benton county, in 1870. He first located on a farm in Jackson township, which he operated until his death, in December, 1897, at the age of sixty-two years. He became a successful and prominent farmer in Benton county, and his widow still resides on the homestead in Jackson township. They had four children, namely: Mrs. J. E. Bachman, living near Garrison, Iowa; E. R. and M. F., operating the home farm; and A. B.

A. B. Allen spent his childhood on a farm, and was educated at Tilford Academy, graduating with the class of 1892. He took

a course at Cedar Rapids Business College, and taught school one year in that institution. After spending four years in the railway mail service he served four years as clerk of the district court of Benton county, being elected on the Republican ticket. He then took the position in the bank which he now holds. He is a man of good business training, earnest and industrious in demeanor. He is a devoted Republican, and takes an active interest in public affairs. Mr. Allen lives on South Main street. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias of Vinton, and has a large circle of friends.

Mr. Allen married Grace Haskell, of Benton county, and they have two children, namely: Robert B., a pupil in the Vinton school, and Lucile, aged four. Mrs. Allen is a member of the Order of Eastern Star, her father being affiliated with the Masonic Order.

HIRAM W. KEARNS, a leading farmer and stock raiser occupying a fine place of two hundred and sixty-five acres in section 6, Taylor township, is the worthy representative of a stanch Scotch family which was established in Virginia in the days of the Revolutionary war. The grandfather was a native of Scotland, who resided for some years in Ireland, where he joined the British army. As a British soldier he came to America to fight against the rebellious colonists, but instead became such a warm sympathizer with their cause that he deserted the ranks of the royalists and joined those of the patriots. He was an educated and a brave man, and, after fully maintaining both traits in the war for independence, settled in Virginia as a loyal American and founder of this branch of the family. His son, Archibald Kearns, was born in the old Dominion, where he became a well-to-do planter and married a Miss Farmer. They moved to Indiana and there the wife died, mother of the following: Phoebe, who now resides in Kansas; Sarah J., who married J. W. Sanders and died at Vinton, aged about fifty-eight years; John V., who lives at Webster City, Iowa; and Thomas M., a Civil war soldier, who enlisted under Captain Shields of Vinton and died on his way home after he had completed his one hundred days' service. The second marriage of Archibald Kearns was to Eliza R. Whipple, sister of Cyrenius Whipple (whose biography is elsewhere published), but at the time of this union the widow of Mr. Gardner with two daughters. By her marriage to Mr. Kearns she had five children, as follows: One who died in infancy; Hiram W., of this personal review; Philena E., who died at the age of thirteen; Dr. Archibald J. Kearns, who is practicing at Loup City, Nebraska; and Perry N.,

presented the books on United States history; Mrs. Virginia Gay, who specialized on literature, and the Smithsonian Institution which donated zoological specimens.

The Vinton library has now more than 7,000 well selected volumes, as well as all the standard periodicals of current literature. The rooms are open week days, afternoon and evening, and



FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, VINTON.

Sundays from 2:30 to 4:30 P. M. The librarian is Miss Mae E. Williams, daughter of one of Vinton's most prominent pioneer bankers, business men and citizens.

#### THE TELEPHONE COMPANIES.

In 1884 the Iowa Telephone Company, whose headquarters were at Des Moines, established a branch office at Vinton. Its business was absorbed by the Bell interests in 1905 and in October, 1907, its lines were completely abandoned.

In the meantime (January, 1899), S. S. Lichty, of Waterloo, Iowa, had looked over the Vinton telephone field with the idea of determining the feasibility of opening a second exchange. In

financial man in New York for E. G. Lampson, Goodnow & Company, at that time the largest manufacturers of cutlery in the United States and also manufacturers of arms for the south. In 1868 he was sent by them to Chicago to take charge of one of their branch houses, and the following year he came farther west and engaged in business for himself. On July 8, 1869, he landed in Belle Plaine, and soon afterward established the S. L. Bardwell Bank, the first bank in that town. This he conducted until the spring of 1877, when he sold his paper to Hutton & Moholm and later was one of the organizers of what is now the Citizens National Bank. It was on account of ill health that Mr. Bardwell retired from banking, and from that time on until his death he devoted his attention to the management of his farm and his stock interests, retaining his residence in town and each day paying a visit to the farm. He was one of the first men in this part of Benton county to raise full blooded cattle and hogs. Politically he was a stanch Republican, and for years he served as a justice of the peace in Belle Plaine. While in the east he was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, but after coming to Iowa never attended the lodge. He possessed many sterling qualities of heart and mind, was held in high esteem by the citizens of Belle Plaine, and in his death the town and surrounding country suffered a deep loss.

After completing his studies in the Belle Plaine schools, Frank J. Bardwell went to work on his father's farm, which was conducted from 1888 to 1893 under the firm name of S. L. Bardwell & Son, and since his father's death he has owned the one hundred and ninety acres upon which he lives and where he continues the raising of Shorthorn cattle and Jersey hogs.

Mr. Bardwell married, August 26, 1886, Miss Mary J. Elliott, a native of Iowa county, Iowa, born January 31, 1870, daughter of John A. Elliott, and they have three children: Laura M., Frank J., and John E. Miss Laura is a graduate of the Belle Plaine high school, has had some experience as a teacher, and is now attending the State Teachers College at Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Like his father, Mr. Bardwell is a Republican. Fraternally he is identified with both the Odd Fellows and the Masons, having membership at Belle Plaine in the Odd Fellows Lodge No. 151, and Hope Lodge No. 175, A. F. and A. M. Mrs. Bardwell and daughters are members of the Order of Eastern Star.

WILLIAM G. ROSE, a very prosperous and successful farmer of Florence township, Benton county, was born October 18, 1856, in DeKalb county, Illinois. His father, George Rose, a native of

Vermont, came to Illinois as a young man and settled on a farm. He married, in Vermont, Lucy Stickle, of that state, and William was their only child. The father died when but thirty-three years of age of pneumonia, and his widow removed to Iowa after her husband's death, and married again. She died in 1899, in Marengo, Iowa.

William G. Rose spent his childhood in Benton county on a farm, and there received his early education. Later he attended Iowa State College at Ames, Iowa, and then took a business course at Keokuk. He taught school one year and at the age of twenty-one years purchased eighty acres of land, where he now resides, and lately added seventy acres to his farm, making in all one hundred and fifty acres.

Mr. Rose has always paid close attention to his farming, and is a shrewd, practical man of business, making the most of his opportunities. He is also interested in other enterprises, is secretary of the Farmers' Elevator Company, of Norway, and stockholder in the First National Bank of Norway. He has made many improvements in his farm, and has a comfortable, modern residence. He is courteous and genial, keeps well informed on general topics, and has a large circle of friends. He is an ardent Republican and actively interested in public affairs. He served seven years as justice of the peace, twelve years as assessor, six years as treasurer of the township school board and six years as its secretary, and is now serving his second term as township clerk. Mr. Rose belongs to Florence Lodge No. 404, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and to the Modern Brotherhood of America, Lodge No. 285, both at Norway.

June 5, 1884, Mr. Rose married Mary, daughter of Alexander and Hannah Montague, of Benton county, and to this union six children have been born, namely: John, a farmer of Benton county; William G., also of Benton county; Marian A., at home; Porter L., of Benton county; and Rena G. and Howard A. at home.

Mr. Rose sold his farm March 1, 1910, and purposes to remove to a farm which he owns in Polk county, Wisconsin.

WELLINGTON TOWN, a retired farmer living on his farm in Harrison township, was born in Niagara county, New York, in 1828, and came to Benton county in 1867, buying part of his present farm, to which he has since added. He is a son of Nathan and Judith (Pease) Town. Nathan Town was born in Keene, New Hampshire, in 1790, and when twenty-two years of age removed to New York; he served as captain in the war of 1812, and was wounded in the engagement at Sackett's Harbor. He was a

mason, and worked in the city of Buffalo on many of the large buildings of the city. He married (first) Judith Pease, (second) Orea Brown, (third) Mary Douglas and (fourth) Elizabeth Roe; the last-named died in 1908. When Wellington was ten years old his father moved from New York to Illinois where he worked at his trade until his death; he also worked his farm, and died in 1876, having attained a fair degree of success. His first wife's parents were from New York and died in that state, where she was reared and married. They had two children, Herbert, who died in 1909 and Wellington.

Wellington Town left Illinois when twenty-six years of age. He was married in Illinois, and soon after located in Buchanan county; he taught school in Buchanan and Benton counties, and also rented a farm and carried it on. He lived in Buchanan county when bears abounded there, and helped kill one near his home. When he located in Benton county he bought eighty acres, all timber, which he cleared and improved, and they now own about two hundred acres in sections 3 and 4 of Harrison township. He retired some twenty years ago. Mr. Town is an earnest Republican and takes a strong interest in local public affairs. He has served as member of the school board.

Wellington Town married (first) Emily, daughter of Eli and Sally Knox, who came from New York among the early settlers. He married (second) Caroline Johnson, who died in 1907. His children are: Ida, wife of J. A. Stainbrook, of Brandon, Iowa; Dallas; Addie, wife of J. Stainbrook, of Harrison township; Frank N. and Bert.

Frank N. Town was born in Buchanan county in 1867, and remained at home until he was of age, after which he spent some time in Nebraska. He also worked some time for his father. After his marriage he rented land, and then bought sixty acres in Harrison township. He now owns one hundred acres of land, and has been a successful farmer. At present he lives in Cedar Falls in order to offer better educational advantages to his children. He is a member of the Methodist church and in politics is a Republican. In 1891 he married, in Colorado, Annie, daughter of Alonzo and Martha (Condell) Bagley, her father having been born in Pennsylvania and her mother in New York. They moved to New York, where Mrs. Town was born, and in 1868 came west to Benton county. Mr. Town and his wife have two children, Pearl, eleven years of age and Inez, ten. He works at the trade of carpenter.

Bert W. Town owns and operates eighty acres of land in Harrison township, in section 4. He was born February 20, 1871,



in Harrison township, and was reared on a farm. He went to California when nineteen years old and stayed one year, after which he returned home and stayed with his parents two or three years, before his marriage. Since then he has remained on the home farm, and always worked land for his father until one year ago, when he purchased his present farm. He is a Republican in politics, and takes an interest in local affairs. Mr. Town married Margaret, daughter of J. E. and Anna (Green) Haynes, who came from Ohio about twenty-seven years ago and settled in Linn; they lived at Urbana for a time, and now live at Brandon and are retired. Mr. Town and his wife have three children, Georgianna, Virgil and Ila.

JEROME CORBIN, a substantial farmer of Benton county, was born in Knox county, Ohio, June 24, 1859. His father, also named Jerome, was also a native of Knox county, born in 1830, reared and educated in his native county, and in 1854 united in marriage to Caroline McMertrie, whose father was a native of New York and became a pioneer in Green county, Wisconsin. The father, Jerome Corbin, came to Benton county, Iowa, in 1865, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres. He became a successful farmer, and later added to his land until he had five hundred acres. He was a Republican in politics, but did not care for political honors for himself. Of his six children four survive. The surviving children are Miss Addie Tanner of Linn county, Iowa; Jerome; Mrs. Katie Schlueter, Dallas county, Iowa; and Luella W. The two deceased are William, who died in 1889 aged thirty-two years, and an unnamed twin brother of Jerome. Mr. Corbin's father was a native of Pennsylvania, who became an Ohio pioneer. He died in 1900 on his farm, aged seventy-one years, mourned and respected by all, and his widow died in 1909 aged seventy-one years leaving behind a memory cherished by her children and friends.

Jerome Corbin, Jr., received his education in the country schools of Benton county, and grew to manhood on his father's farm, learning the principals of all branches of farming, of which he has made a thorough study. He bought one hundred and sixty acres of land from his father and later acquired two hundred and forty acres, and is now the owner of a fine farm, with modern improvements, and pays close attention to its cultivation. Mr. Corbin belongs to no societies, and though a staunch Republican has never aspired to public office. He is a man of energy and executive ability, and takes pardonable pride in his achievements.

February 26, 1896, Mr. Corbin married Emma, daughter of

Aaron and Maria (Boldt) Braue, of Holstein, Germany. Her father was a cabinet-maker in Germany, and she was educated in her native country, coming to the United States in 1886. With the exception of one brother, William, of Oklahoma, Mrs. Corbin is the only member of her family to come to the United States. Her father died when she was eleven years old and her mother is still living in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Corbin have three children, all living at home, namely: Ray L., May Helen and Bernard J., all bright and healthy children.

JOHN P. COBURN is a prominent and well known agriculturist residing in section 8, Kane township, where the greater part of his business life has been passed, and he has in the meantime been actively identified with its public affairs. He was born at Lewiston in Androscoggin county, Maine, May 16, 1847, a son of Albert and Elizabeth (Harris) Coburn, both of whom were also born in that state, the father in 1816 and the mother in 1826. There were five children in their family, and three are yet living: John P.; Mrs. Marshie E. Crocker, of Wyanet, Illinois; and Mary A. Coburn, of Cherokee county, Iowa. In 1856 the family left Maine for the west, and while stopping in the state of New York for a visit the father died in 1856, and the mother and children continued the journey to Belvidere, Illinois. The mother lived there until about 1863, moving then to Wyanet in the same state, and she died there on the 26th of January, 1909.

John P. Coburn was nine years of age when the family left their native state of Maine for the west, and he received his educational training in the Belvidere, Illinois, high school. At the age of twenty he came to Benton county, Iowa, and he purchased the south half of section 8 in Kane township for six dollars and twenty-five cents an acre. The land was then in its virgin state, wild and unimproved, but he performed the arduous work of placing it under cultivation, and all the improvements on this now valuable homestead were placed there by him, he having raised the trees from the seed. For some years he has also been a stock feeder. In 1900 Mr. Coburn was elected a county supervisor and the chairman of the board, and it was during his two years of office that the court house for Benton county was erected as well as the county home. He served seven years in that position, and has also served for many years as a school director.

On the 18th of September, 1884, Mr. Coburn was married to Isabelle Barr, who was born in Belvidere, Illinois, in 1857, and a son Carl has been born to them. Mr. Coburn is allied with the Republicans in politics, and he is one of the representative men of Benton county.

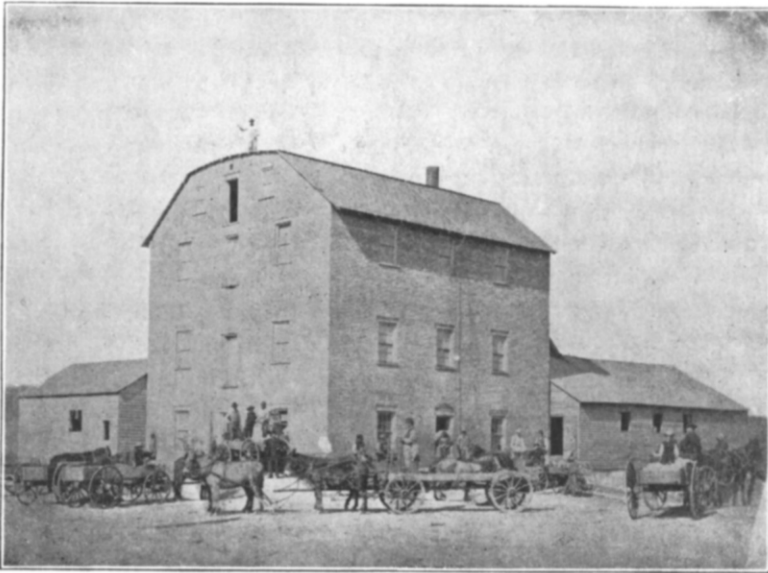


*John P. Hoburn*



In the summer of 1848, when Mr. Young came to Benton county from his Indiana home, he entered sixty acres of land in Round Grove and one hundred and sixty in Big Grove. The next summer he returned to Indiana on horseback; was married to Mary Bergen, and with his bride came to this new country in a lumber wagon and settled in Round Grove in a log cabin. Two

After the death of his first wife in 1855 he left his farm and came to town. At the earnest request of many citizens and with the promise of financial aid, he commenced in 1856 the erection of a



YOUNG'S OLD FLOUR MILL, VINTON.

three-story flouring mill at the north end of Benton street. The hard times coming on prevented much of the promised help materializing. With one exception this was the only mill this side of Cedar Rapids. A large business in grain and flour was carried on. Later he added a saw mill, where many thousand feet of oak, black walnut and some red cedar were sawed. Mr. Young built the first elevator and when the railroad was completed to this place the company was furnished room in it for station free of cost until a depot could be built. In 1873 he bought a half interest in the furniture business of G. W. Freeman. He remodeled the store and added a steam manufacturing plant, where the lumber from

ing the subject of this sketch, who was then eight years old, left Richland county, Ohio, with a wagon and team of horses en route to Iowa City, Iowa, where they arrived in the following September, having made the journey across a roadless and bridgeless country, many times where the streams were high swimming the horses and floating the wagon. For a short time Mr. Stuckenbruck worked in Iowa City for thirty-three and a third cents a day and received his pay in "wild-cat" money. Soon they settled in Iowa City where they made their home for seven years, and from whence, in the fall of 1860, they moved to Benton county, purchased forty acres of land on section 32, and there erected a log house. In this home the father died.

Alexander H. Little passed his boyhood in Iowa City and on the farm in Benton county, and at an early age was enthused with patriotism and eager to go out and fight for his country. Accordingly, in 1863, he enlisted in the Union army, but at that time was not allowed by his parents to go to the front. On January 4, 1864, he again enlisted, and this time entered the ranks as a member of Company G, Twenty-eighth Iowa Regiment, the fortunes of which he shared until his honorable discharge, July 31, 1865, at Savannah, Georgia. During his service he was in thirteen skirmishes and a number of battles, including Fisher Hill, Sabine Cross Roads, Cane River, Middle Bayou, Cedar Creek, Yellow Bayou and Winchester; and while he had holes shot in his clothes and a lock of hair cut from his head by a bullet he never received a wound.

After receiving his discharge Mr. Little returned to Benton county, and that same year purchased eighty acres of his present farm in section 25, Iowa township, which was then covered with bushes and timber. These he grubbed out and hued down and in time erected buildings and placed his land under cultivation. He had learned the carpenter's trade of his father-in-law and worked at it at intervals, and the buildings on his farm are all his own handiwork. He now owns one hundred and fifteen acres of fine land, well improved, and farmed by Mr. Little's son.

On December 4, 1871, Mr. Little married Miss Mary A. Schuchert, who was born in New York state November 10, 1853, daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Standt) Schuchert. Her father, born in Saxony, Germany, in 1820, died July 3, 1903; her mother, born in Baden, Germany, in 1828, died March 27, 1875. They were the parents of ten children, of whom seven are now living, namely: Charles, Mary A. and George, all of Iowa township, Benton county; Rosa, wife of W. K. Dodd, of Iowa county, Iowa; Sophia, wife of John Brown, also of Iowa county; Loueza,

wife of S. T. Carter, of Minnesota; and Jacob, of Iowa. Jacob Schuchert on coming to this country first stopped in Rochester, New York, where he worked at the trade of cabinet maker. In 1850 he moved to Iowa, making the journey by team from New York, Iowa City his objective point. There he worked at his trade until 1862, when he moved to Tama county, where he lived until 1865, that year moving to Iowa township, Benton county, and later to LeRoy township. Finally he returned to Luzerne, where he died. While a resident of Tama county, he made many of the coffins used in that locality. Mr. and Mrs. Little have four children: Cecelia, wife of Sylvester Layman, of LeRoy township; Amie, wife of Carlos Tippie, of Iowa township; Iona, wife of James Miner, also of Iowa township; and Alexander C., on the home farm.

Politically Mr. Little has been a life long Republican. But he has never desired office and he is a self-made man.

JOHN M. ST. CLAIR, of Mount Auburn, now retired from active business life, was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, in April, 1845, and came to Benton county in 1857, with the rest of the family. He is a son of Hugh and Margaret (Mack) St. Clair, mentioned at length in connection with the article on Archibald St. Clair, found elsewhere in this work. He lived in his native state until ten or eleven years of age, and remained on his father's farm except when away at school, until about ten years since. He went to college at Iowa City, although he did not graduate, and then read law in the office of Shane & McCartney; he was admitted to the bar of Iowa, in October, 1867, but his poor health forbade the practice of law soon after, so he returned to the farm in 1869, remaining there until January, 1899. He then went into mercantile business in Mount Auburn, under the name of St. Clair & St. Clair, and continued in this business eight and one-half years, since which he has closed out his stock of goods and retired.

Mr. St. Clair has a natural gift for business, and has prospered well, considering the fact that much of the time he has been in poor health. He was a successful farmer, and now owns a quarter section in Cedar township. He is a member of the United Presbyterian church, and politically is a Republican. Mr. St. Clair has the entire confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens, who have elected him to fill several township offices, and he represented Benton county in the nineteenth assembly of the state legislature.

December 22, 1877, Mr. St. Clair married Sarah, daughter of John and Mary White, who came from Ireland to Ohio, and later

to Iowa. Mr. St. Clair and his wife became the parents of children as follows: Margaret Mary, wife of Victor N. Valgren, of Minneapolis; Frank H., also living in Minneapolis; Bessie A., at home; and Fred J., employed in a store in Mount Auburn.

W. E. Fry, owns and operates a well-improved farm of two hundred and forty acres, lying in Eden, Benton and Conton townships, the residence being built in Benton township. He was born on the home farm in Canton township, September 22, 1859, son of William Fry, given mention at length elsewhere in this work.

Mr. Fry was reared and has always resided at or near his birthplace. He attended the public school, the Vinton high school, Blairstown Academy and the Normal Business College at Valparaiso, Indiana. Afterward he learned the trade of carpenter from his father, which he has followed in connection with farming. He first purchased one hundred and sixty acres, which he was able to pay for in less than twenty-five years, and has added to it as circumstances would permit. He has made all modern improvements on the farm, and keeps it in first-class condition. He has achieved success by his energy and thrift, and is well known and respected in the community. Politically Mr. Fry is a Republican, as are all his family; he has served as clerk, assessor and trustee of his township, and is now trustee. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, of Vinton.

Mr. Fry was married to Martha Ellen, daughter of D. Leamer, also a pioneer of Benton county; she was also born in Benton county, where she has lived all her life, in the same vicinity as her husband. They have four children, namely: Bertha L., graduate of Tilford Academy, a teacher and residing at home; Murl D., a graduate of Tilford Academy, now attending business college in Cedar Rapids; Esther B., attending high school in Vinton; and Leland A., at home.

WILLIAM A. MALL.—A leading business man and banker of Belle Plaine, William A. Mall has specially devoted himself for a number of years past to the interests of the Belle Plaine Electric and Power Company, of which he is manager. He is a native of Iowa township, this county, born November 21, 1861, and is a son of William and Catherine (Stemmer) Mall. His parents were both born in Germany, but came to Benton county at an early day, the father dying at Belle Plaine in 1905, aged sixty-nine, and the mother is still a resident of that place, at sixty-eight. Besides William A., two sons were born to them—Samuel and Charles B., both farmers of Iowa township.





*W. A. Mall*



William A. Mall received a common school education and remained on the home farm until he was twenty-four years of age, when he established a lumber yard at Keystone, this county, which he conducted for seven years. In December, 1892, he sold his business and in the following month purchased a lumber and grain concern at Luzerne. On the 1st of January, 1901, he sold the latter business and located at Belle Plaine as assistant cashier of the First National Bank and manager of the electric light and power plant. Since 1907 he has maintained a separate office and, although he retains his bank position, he has devoted most of his time to the electric light business. He is also an active member of the school board and belongs to the Odd Fellows and Modern Woodmen.

On November 2, 1887, Mr. Mall married Miss Hattie Lorenz, born in Scott county, Iowa, July 31, 1864, daughter of John H. and Anna (Detlef) Lorenz. Both parents were born in Germany, but emigrated to this country comparatively early in life and were residents of Kane township for forty-five years. In 1902 they retired to Belle Plaine, where the father died in 1907, aged sixty-nine years, and where the mother still resides at the age of seventy. Mr. and Mrs. William A. Mall are the parents of four children, all living at home. William L., Frank, Ralph W. and Helen. Mr. Mall is politically a Democrat and been quite active in the local work of the party, serving as a committeeman, as a justice of the peace, as postmaster for two years at Luzerne, Iowa. He resigned that position at the expiration of that period.

HONORABLE JOHN D. NICHOLS, a prominent attorney of Vinton, Iowa, and senior partner of the firm of J. D. & C. Nichols, attorneys, was born in Leeds county, Canada, July 22, 1834. He is a son of Hugh and Avis (Schofield) Nichols, the former a Baptist minister, who died in Canada.

John D. Nichols spent his boyhood in Canada, and came to Henry county, Iowa, in 1856, and in 1863 located in Benton county. He was formerly a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church and preached a number of years in Iowa. In 1871 he was admitted to the bar, and has since continued in the practice of this profession. Since 1892 his son Clarence has been his partner. Mr. Nichols has distinguished himself as a criminal lawyer, and has defended twenty-two persons accused of murder, of whom all were acquitted save one. His reputation as an able lawyer has traveled outside of the state, and he has always had a large practice.

In 1878 Mr. Nichols was elected state senator, and served three sessions. He served as chairman of the Committee on In-

surance and was the author of the present insurance laws, as well as of many other important bills, including the law for bidding for the printing of law books. He opposed the Prohibition Amendment, on a legal technicality, and made his influence felt during his service in the Senate. He has always been very prominent in local affairs, and served four years as mayor of Vinton, and has also been a member of the school board. He is a prominent member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and was formerly Grand Master of the State of Iowa.

In 1854 Mr. Nichols married Sarah Stephens, also of Leeds, Canada, who died December 1, 1870, aged thirty-four years, leaving two sons, M. E., a lawyer of St. Paul, and Clarence Nichols, of Vinton, Iowa. Mr. Nichols married (second) Phoebe J. Brennan, who died in 1881, and they had children as follows: G. C., of Cedar Rapids, and B. F., of Chicago. They are engaged in the railway service, and run on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway.

Clarence Nichols was born July 16, 1870, in Taylor township; he received his early education at Vinton, afterward attended Tilford Academy and the University of Iowa, and was admitted to the bar May 11, 1892, since which he has been a member of the firm. He is a bright lawyer, and has the promise of a successful future. He is a prominent member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and belongs to Vinton Blue Lodge, Chapter, Commandery, Consistory and Shrine (Thirty-second Degree). He married Alice, daughter of John and Margaret (Hall) Meakins, from England, who came to the United States in 1875, and they have two children, John D., Jr. and Sarah Margaret.

JOHN H. SCHROEDER.—Among the prominent and well known land owners and farmers of Monroe township is numbered John H. Schroeder, who was born in Hesse Cassel, Germany, August 23, 1861, a son of John and Dorothy (Biersebenk) Schroeder. The mother died in Germany, but the father came to Benton county, Iowa, in 1885, and died at the home of his son John on the 26th of December, 1903, when past seventy-seven years of age. He was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church, as was also his wife, and he had lived retired after coming to the United States. John H. Schroeder is one of the five children born to John and Dorothy Schroeder, all of whom came to this country, namely: J. H.; Reinhardt, who resides at Paton in Greene county, Iowa; Mrs. Julius Bachman, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mrs. Anderson Tirnupseed, who died on the 24th of December, 1900, at her home in Wellmann, Washington county, Iowa; and J. W., a Monroe township

farmer. One sister named Dorothea died when but one year old in Germany as did also an infant brother Wilhelm.

John H. Schroeder was eighteen years of age when he sailed from Germany to the United States on the 6th of May, 1880, and he landed in the harbor of New York on the 2nd of the following June. His uncle had sent him his passage money, and the young lad worked for him for a year, afterward working five years in Eden township for Mr. Ed. Kirkman and others. He then married and bought eighty acres of land, the nucleus of his present estate of three hundred and sixty acres located in sections 21 and 28, and he operates two hundred and forty acres of the tract. He has improved his land in a splendid manner, and his present beautiful home was erected in 1908. He married Louisa Muhlhaue, a daughter of Justus Muhlhaue, residing at Dysart, but he is one of the large land owners of Benton county, owning an estate of seven hundred and twenty acres in Monroe township. Mrs. Schroeder was born near Sterling, Illinois, November 3, 1871, but she was reared in Benton county. They have five children: Ida, Amanda, Elma, Gertrude and Herbert. Mr. Schroeder votes with the Republican party on national issues, and he is a member of the Evangelical church at Dysart.

WILLIAM ALGERNON RILEY, a prominent stock farmer of Benton county, was born in Iowa county, Iowa, April 26, 1864. His father, Tarlton Riley, was born in Ross county, Ohio, and came to Iowa county, in 1851, and there married Nancy McRoberts, by whom he had nine children. Talton Riley's father, fought gallantly in the war of 1812.

William A. Riley was reared on a farm and received his education in his native county, in the district schools. A part of the farm he now occupies formerly belonged to his paternal grandfather Alexander Riley who settled in Iowa in pioneer days. Tarlton Riley died on the home farm quite suddenly, in 1896, and his wife died in 1888. On reaching his majority Wm. A. Riley worked out as farm laborer three years and then purchased eighty acres of land, which he carried on for himself. He has been very successful and has been able to add to his land, now being the owner of one hundred and sixty acres. He feeds a good many cattle for market every year, and is a man of good business judgment in the conduct of his affairs. He is of a cheerful, optimistic disposition, and is generous and broad-minded in his views. He has always paid close attention to his financial interests, and is energetic and industrious. He displays great enterprise in the conduct of his farm, and has made many improvements. Politically he is not closely

affiliated with any party, but holds himself free to vote for the best man to fill an office. He has never aspired to office for himself, but lends his support to persons he considers worthy. Besides his farming interests Mr. Riley is trustee of the Lennox Mutual Fire Insurance Company and stockholder in the First National Bank, of Norway, Iowa. He belongs to Florence Lodge No. 404, Independent Order of Odd Fellow.

June 7, 1894, Mr. Riley married Elizabeth, daughter of William and Elizabeth Buchan, of Canada; she died June 16, 1902, leaving three children, all living at home, Chester, Lucille and Wallace.

FRANK LORMOR, a large land holder of Benton county, was born September 1, 1857, in Kendall county, Illinois. He was brought by his parents to Benton county, Iowa, when eighteen months old, the journey having been made by team. He is a son of John W. and Sarah J. (Boyer) Lormor. The father, who was one of a family of twelve children, was born in Dryden, Tompkins county, New York, October 31, 1826, and spent his youth in his native state. When a young man he moved to Illinois, and there married. In 1859 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of his brother in Iowa, and removed with his family to that state. This land was in Benton county, and at first he lived on another farm and improved his own land and later occupied it. He remained there until 1874, when he removed to a farm west of the city of Mount Auburn. Here he carried on farming successfully until 1892 when he retired and lived in Mount Auburn until his death, which occurred February 25, 1907. He had added to his possessions as he was able to do so until he owned seventeen hundred and fifty acres of land, and had good business sense and foresight. He had his own way to make in life, and though in his youth he encountered many hardships and much ill luck he always kept his courage and ambition. He married Sarah J., daughter of John and Elizabeth (Krouse) Boyer; both her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, where they grew up, and they settled on a farm in Illinois, where they both remained until their death. Mrs. Lormor survives her husband. They had children as follows: Frank; Lizzie, wife of M. Schany, of Waterloo, Iowa; Norah, wife of E. C. Wilton, of Cedar township, Benton county; Mary, wife of J. M. Calkin, of Baird, Nebraska; and George, a resident of Mount Auburn.

Frank Lormor remained on his father's farm until he reached the age of twenty-three years, and then took a trip to Colorado, after which he returned and remained on his father's farm until



*Frank Lormor,*

of Belle Plaine, and a Mr. Crider and H. H. Smith arranged their little stocks of goods therein. They were its first merchants. About the same time George Lowe completed a grain warehouse, but did not put anything into it, as there was a wrangle between the Construction Company and the Railroad Company over the best location for the town. The latter wanted it at Belle Plaine; the Construction Company insisted the best location was three miles east, and there they laid some switch tracks and called their



MAIN BUSINESS STREET, BELLE PLAINE.

child Buckeye. The fight went on for several years, and it was not until 1867 that Buckeye went really out of existence in favor of Luzerne, the station midway between Belle Plaine and Blairstown.

#### THE RAILROAD PLAT.

The certainty that the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company was solidly behind Belle Plaine gave it an early prestige and inspired confidence, and there appears to have been a second platting of the town in March, 1862, by John I. Blair (the capitalist and Chicago & Northwestern railway magnate). Mr. White, who had built a store in the previous fall, erected the first dwelling house on the new site, and D. C. Forbes, Mr. Crider's clerk, followed his example. Shortly afterward a house was removed from



the latter retired. In 1893 he removed to the farm he now occupies, where besides carrying on general farming he handles a good grade of stock. He owns three hundred acres, of which he operates one hundred acres in Cedar township, in sections 12, 13 and 15. He has studied the best methods of farming all his life, and is a first class, ambitious farmer. After finishing school he taught one term. He takes an active interest in local affairs, and is an adherent of the Republican party. He has served as township assessor, trustee, justice of the peace and school officer to the satisfaction of all. Mr. Lormor and family attend the Methodist Episcopal church, and fraternally he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He married, in 1893, Grace May, daughter of H. S. and Julia P. Welton, of Cedar township, Benton county.

J. H. BOYDEN.—Benton county, has been the home of J. H. Boyden since September of 1855, and he was born in Onondaga county, now the site of Syracuse, in 1836, a son of William Boyden, born in Massachusetts in 1800, and of Sallie (Smith) Boyden, his wife, born in Upham, Vermont, in 1805, both being of English descent. Mrs. Boyden's father was a soldier in the war of 1812, and he died in Jefferson county, New York, and the paternal grandfather of J. H. Boyden died in Stephenson county, Illinois, at the age of eighty-seven years. William Boyden left the state of New York in 1843 and drove overland to Illinois, arriving at his destination in August of that year, and he afterward farmed in Kane county. He died in Stephenson county, that state, of cholera in 1851, and his widow afterward married Benjamin Butterfield, then a resident of Stephenson county, and he died there in the spring of 1856. With her family she then came to Benton county, Iowa, and during the last eighteen years of her life she was tenderly cared for by her son, J. H. Boyden. She was ninety-two years of age at the time of her death, and for five years she had been a cripple and for three years had been blind.

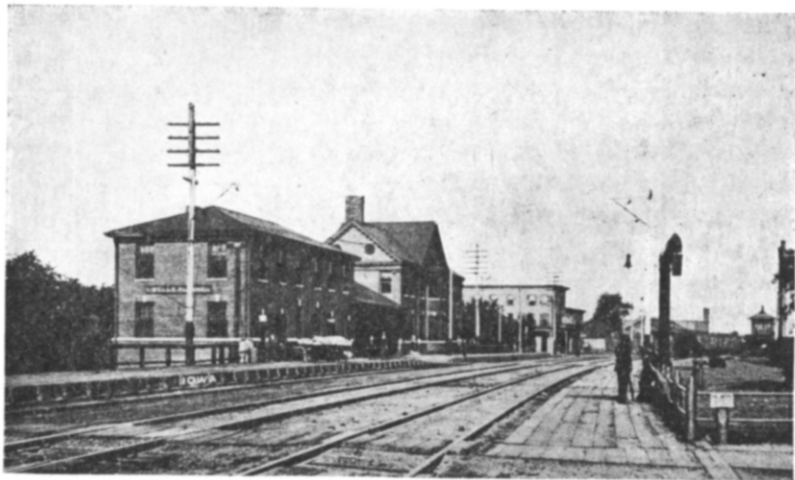
J. H. Boyden was the only son in the family of William and Sallie Boyden, but there were five daughters, and he is now the only surviving member of this once large family, while all but two lie buried in Benton county. He received but a limited educational training in his youth, and has made his own way through life, a farmer during his active business career and a successful man. On coming to Benton county in 1855 he located five miles south of Vinton in Eden township, in section 15, where his mother bought forty acres of land. At the time of the Civil war he owned eighty acres of land in Linn county, this state, near Fairfax Sta-

## FIRST FOUNDRIES.

There were four blacksmith shops at Belle Plaine in 1869, but no establishments up to that year which could be dignified as foundries. Messrs. Chase, Fletcher, Hale and Palmer (Albert) started the first foundry in that year, and in 1877 the firm of A. Palmer & Son was formed—the son being Eugene Palmer, of Palmer Brothers, Belle Plaine foundrymen of today. C. J. Palmer came to Vinton in 1884 and soon afterward became a partner of Eugene. The present foundry of Palmer Brothers, employing fifteen or twenty men, is the only establishment of the kind in Belle Plaine, its specialties being radiation boilers and heating apparatus (steam and hot water).

## CHICAGO &amp; NORTHWESTERN PLANTS.

The round house of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company at Belle Plaine was completed in 1884. It has thirty locomotive stalls, and one hundred and twenty workmen are em-



CHICAGO AND NORTHWESTERN DEPOT, BELLE PLAINE.

ployed in the shops and yards—seventy-five on the day force and forty-five on the night shift.

The fire of July, 1894, burned the old Northwestern Railroad depot, the structure now occupied being completed in the following

pathic physicians; James is a farmer in Canton township; Mrs. McVey, Mrs. Strain and Mrs. Stookey live in Shellsburg.

A. K. Rife was reared in Benton county, and received his education in the academy at Vinton and the Normal School at Dixon, Illinois; he taught fifteen years in Benton and Linn counties, and in the fall of 1898 was elected county superintendent of schools of Benton county, serving two terms of two years each. He then spent three years in mercantile business in Vinton and then lived on a farm until the organization of the bank, in August, 1906. He owns the home farm, a farm in Worth county, Iowa, and also residence property in Vinton. Mr. Rife is a public-spirited citizen, greatly interested in progress and the welfare of the community, and politically is a firm Prohibitionist. He is a member of the school board of Shellsburg, and has held other public positions of trust. He has always enjoyed the full confidence of his fellow citizens, and all have appreciated his sterling qualities and worth. He and his wife are both members of the Presbyterian church; he is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Shellsburg, and both he and his wife belong to the Rebekah order.

Mr. Rife married, in Benton county, Sarah E., daughter of Henry Weinland, an early resident of Blairstown and vicinity. They have one son, James A., born in Shellsburg, March 3, 1908.

THE PEOPLES SAVINGS BANK, of Shellsburg, was opened for business August 1, 1906, its organizers being, Messrs. J. M. Beatty, Charles F. Stookey, A. K. Rife, W. W. Hatfield, J. W. McClintock, J. G. Carrier and S. E. Railsback. The present officers are: John M. Beatty, president; Charles F. Stookey, vice president; A. K. Rife, cashier; and H. G. Loizeau, assistant cashier.

In the four years the bank has been doing business the capital stock has increased from fifteen thousand to twenty-five thousand dollars, and the deposits have increased from one hundred and twenty-seven to one hundred and ninety-one thousand dollars. The work of the bank is carried on in a conservative manner, and the men associated with it are the substantial representative business men of the city. The bank pays an interest of four per cent. on time and savings accounts, and gives very satisfactory service to its customers. The management offers safety deposit boxes for rental, and this is a valuable opportunity for persons to secure their valuable papers and effects from loss by fire or otherwise.

HENRY HARDER, is identified with the business of Keystone as a harness maker. He was born in Kane township August 15,

1869, a son of Hans and Magdalena (Kroehnke) Harder. Hans Harder, born in Holstein, Germany, near the city of Kiel, in 1830, came to the United States in 1856, and for three years thereafter was a watchman at the Davenport-Rock Island Bridge. Going from there to St. Louis he enlisted on the 23rd of September, 1861, in Company I, Twelfth Missouri Infantry, served three years as a loyal soldier, and was discharged at St. Louis on the 23rd of September, 1864. He returned then to Davenport, and in 1866 came to Benton county and bought eighty acres of the unimproved land of Kane township in section 24. He died here in 1887. Mrs. Harder, born in 1839, survives her husband. Their four children are all living and are Henry; George, of Keystone; William, in Stanwood, this state; and Catherine, wife of Fred Zellers, of Kane township.

Henry Harder was reared as a farmer's son and received a district school training, but when he had attained his fifteenth year he went to Traer, this state, to learn the harness maker's trade, spending three years in that city. Returning then to Keystone he worked one year for N. Fitzgerald, and in the fall of 1889 bought his employer's business and has since carried on the work. He also owns a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of finely improved land in Lyman county, South Dakota, and he has been very successful as a business man. He has served nine years as a member of the city council, during a similar period was a member of the city school board, and for four years was town treasurer.

Mr. Harder married on March 17, 1891, Mattie Kroehnke, who was born in Kane township in 1874, a daughter of John P. and Elizabeth (Heyer) Kroehnke, both born in Germany. The father came to the United States in 1865, locating in Wisconsin, and in 1870 he came to Benton county, dying here in 1893, at the age of fifty-five years. The mother became a resident of Keystone in 1870, and she survives her husband and is sixty-two years of age. They were married in Benton county, and their two children are Alva J. and Mrs. Harder, the former living in Perry, this state. The five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Harder are: Edward, Arthur, Robert, Edna and Alvin. Mr. Harder is a member of Keystone Lodge, No. 35, I. O. O. F., and of Keystone Lodge, No. 4560, M. W. A., serving as the present banker of the latter order. In politics he is allied with the Democracy.

CHARLES S. HARPER, owner of a two hundred and seven acre farm in section 35 and section 2, Harrison township, feeds a good breed of cattle and hogs, and breeds fine Norman horses. He was

Second street which menaced the balance of the buildings on First street.

The heaviest losers in the fire—those who suffered a loss of \$10,000 or over—were as follows: Opera House Block (T. F. Greenlee), main building occupied by Shaw & Bowman as a department store, \$25,000; Shaw & Bowman, \$30,000; W. H. Burrows & Company, clothier, \$17,000; J. D. Blue, dry goods merchant, \$14,000; Van Metre & Cox, druggists, \$13,000; Robert Nicholson, grocer, \$12,000; Hartman Grocery Company, \$10,000; J. J. Mosnat, building and law library, \$18,000; Sol. Wertheim, clothier, \$18,000; L. Grossman, dry goods merchant, \$16,000; Wm. P. Hanson, Opera House, jeweler and hardware dealer, \$29,000; Nichols & Marr, \$16,000; and T. Lawrence, building and dry goods stock, \$23,000. The Knights of Pythias and Masons also were burned out and the Herring Hotel was also destroyed at a loss of \$8,000.

#### LIGHT AND POWER PLANT.

A plant to furnish Belle Plaine with light and power was erected in 1881, William A. Hunter being its proprietor. In



“JUMBO” WELL IN ACTION, BELLE PLAINE.

August, 1884, a larger building was completed, and under the management of S. S. Sweet the enterprise progressed until 1894. In that year G. L. Thayer became a partner, and in August, 1899,  
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and was a great worker for the cause of the Republican party. When they first settled on their farm, there were but two houses between Vinton and Bear Creek, and they experienced all the trials and privations common to frontier conditions at that time.

The eldest son of Alexander Harper and his wife was Alexander Patterson Harper. He was born in Indiana March 13, 1854, and came with his parents to Iowa when two years of age. He remained with them until he attained his majority when he married Clara Gates. Following his marriage for one year he worked by the month on a farm and afterwards for a number of years rented land. Later for a few years he engaged in the clothing business at Urbana, after which he returned to the old home farm and while living there his first wife died. He afterward married for his second wife Alice Brock of Vinton. From the old farm he removed to Vinton where he has ever since lived, being engaged first in the plumbing business and later buying a dray line and running it for about three years. He now runs an express hack. The children of his first marriage are Grace and Nellie, and of his second Blanche, Earl, Cassie, Milo and Geniveve. He is a member of the Christian church and votes with the Republican party.

R. S. Harper, the second son of Alexander and Grace A. (Spiers) Harper, was born in Benton county, Iowa, in 1856; he remained on the home farm until twenty-one years of age, and taught school five years. He bought some land, rented a farm, later bought more land, on to which he moved and lived until 1904, when he purchased the old homestead where he still resides. He is a man of natural business ability, and has acquired a good education by his own efforts; after attending the common school he spent one year in Tilford Academy, and he has acquired considerable learning through private study, of his own volition. Mr. Harper is a Republican, an elder in the church of Christ, and a member of the blue lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He now owns two hundred acres of land in sections 27, 35 and 34 of Harrison township, where he carries on general farming, and does not raise much stock except horses and cattle for commercial purposes. June 15, 1881, he married Sarah J. Armstrong, who was born in New York city, and came to Indiana as an orphan, and later came to Iowa in care of J. L. Pauley. She is a daughter of Robert and Jane (McCauley) Armstrong, who came to New York city from Ireland. Mr. Harper and his wife have three children, namely: William, attending school in Des Moines; Jessie H., who died in infancy; and Edward Harland, at home.

W. W. Harper, the fourth son, was born in Harrison township March 26, 1861. He remained at home until his twentieth

Its proprietor, Will P. Herring, is the father of the cottage. Twenty years ago he was running the old Tremont House near the round house. He was one of the victims of the 1894 fire, but was so instinctively a landlord that he commenced renting cottages



THE HERRING COTTAGE.

around town and letting them out to transients. The scheme and the man "took," and in 1899 he erected the Herring Cottage, which now has a wide reputation for hospitality and good service.

#### THE BAILEY HOUSE.

This hotel, erected by one of Belle Plaine's pioneers, is the oldest public house of entertainment in the city. Its proprietor is Mrs. F. A. Armstrong, daughter of its builder and original proprietor. The hotel is now largely patronized by railroad men.

#### FOUR LEADING ESTABLISHMENTS.

Belle Plaine has two lumber and coal yards. J. P. Henry started the first lumber yard in the place during 1865. He was alone in business until 1899 when his son, F. H. Henry, became associated with him. The "Eclipse" coal and lumber yard was established about five years ago by C. W. Burnham.

(Harper) Bunten, of Kentucky, who removed to Indiana and later to Iowa. Mrs. Harper was born in Pennsylvania, where her parents spent a short time before removing to Indiana. When they settled in Iowa, in 1867, they located on the farm now occupied by Mr. Harper. Mr. Harper and his wife have children as follows: Ethel, a stenographer in Vinton; Clara, at home; Emma Frances; Bertha Belle and **James Alexander**.

**HUGH HUMPHREY.**—A resident of Benton county since early boyhood, Hugh Humphrey, of Florence township, has not only continued the successful career in agriculture and business, which marked the life of his good, earnest father, but has devoted half a century of service to the public advancement of the township and county. Also active and liberal in church affairs, he has so ordered his life that it has contributed, to the limit of its strength and allotted time, to the comfort and happiness of those close to him and to the material and moral well-being of the community which has trusted and honored him. Mr. Humphrey is a native of Mercer county, Pennsylvania, born on the 23rd of September, 1845, to Joseph and Margaret (Gill) Humphrey, the latter being a daughter of Hugh Gill, of Butler county, that state. The father was a York state man, born January 19, 1816, who went to Pennsylvania with his parents in his early manhood, his industry and shrewdness soon making him a successful farmer and business man. In the spring of 1855 Joseph Humphrey converted his Pennsylvania property into money and settled in Florence township, this county, where he had purchased two hundred and forty-six acres of raw land. His first years in Iowa were filled with the hardships of a representative western pioneer, but hard and persistent work, with keen business insight and foresight, brought prosperity to the later years of his life. He sold his first farm and turned over his property several times before he finally purchased the four hundred acres which was his homestead at his death December 5, 1891. With his accumulation of money and property, the deceased developed in generosity, and was never happier than when he could help a deserving friend and neighbor. He was also liberal to general charities, and a staunch supporter of the Presbyterian church. In politics, he was a radical Republican, and it was often said that he would fight for his party, although he never asked a favor of it. His wife shared his honor and popularity, surviving her husband until May 28, 1900, when she died at the age of eighty-two.

Hugh Humphrey obtained a district school education in Pennsylvania and in Benton county and, although he was reared on a



farm and has spent the years of his maturity in agricultural pursuits, he has never been a "farm hand." At the age of eighteen, when just commencing his course, he enlisted at old Western College, Linn county, in the Forty-fourth Iowa Infantry. He first went to Iowa City and was quartered for a time in the old state capitol, after which he went to Davenport, where he was mustered into the service. From Davenport he went to Cairo, Illinois, and was thence transferred to Memphis and LaGrange, Tennessee, and various points in Mississippi. The youth completed his hundred-day service, being chiefly occupied in guarding trains, railroads and bases of supplies at different points in Tennessee and Mississippi. Although this could not be called exciting, as war experiences go, he has always considered the trip as a valuable discipline and education for that period of his life.

In the fall of 1864 Mr. Humphrey received his honorable discharge from the Union service at Davenport, and returned to his home in Benton county. At the age of twenty-one he bought eighty acres of land from his father, and prospered from the first, his present fine homestead comprising a quarter section. He is also vice president of the Farmers' Savings Bank of Walford, Iowa. As to his political and public record, he cast his first vote as a Republican, the year after the war, and has never given his faith or his suffrage to any other party. He has served six years as a county supervisor, during which period the County Home and Court House were constructed under the contracts which he approved; was justice of the peace for sixteen years, and has been on the school board for more than thirty years. His broad and useful activity in local affairs also includes a liberal support of the Presbyterian church and all worthy charities.

On June 1, 1867, Mr. Humphrey married Miss Martha Leslie, daughter of Jacob and Mary Leslie, natives of Ohio. Mrs. Humphrey was educated in that state and at the Western College, Linn county, Iowa, and taught school in both Linn and Benton counties. Mr. and Mrs. Humphrey are the parents of three children; Lottie, who graduated from the academy at Blairstown, Iowa, is now the wife of J. F. Lust, of Hereford, Texas; Joseph is a farmer of this county; and Benton Wade, who graduated from Cornell and the Iowa State University, is cashier of the Farmers' Savings Bank at Walford, Iowa.

JACOB POHLMANN through his own unaided efforts has won a name and place in the industrial life of Benton county, his splendid energy and progressive spirit enabling him to overcome many obstacles and reach the height of success. He is now prominently

known as a retired farmer and as the president of the German State Bank at Keystone. He was one of the nine children born to Jacob and Margaret (Lau) Pohlmann in Holstein, Germany, born December 31, 1844, and of this once large family only two sons are now living, the elder, Herman, residing in Germany. The parents spent their lives and died in that country.

Coming to the United States during the winter of 1868 Jacob Pohlmann located first in Scott county, Iowa, where he worked one year on a farm, and then during a similar period was engaged in buying stock at Davenport. Coming at the close of that period to Benton county he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 14, Kane township, this being then virgin soil, undeveloped and unimproved, and he set at once to the task of preparing his land for cultivation. In 1900 he retired from the work of the farm and came to Keystone, erecting him a modern home here. He owns five hundred and thirty acres of land in Kane township, and has also been an extensive dealer in western and northwestern lands. While identified with agricultural pursuits he was a prominent stock raiser, and was withal a successful man. He is a heavy stockholder in the German State Bank of Keystone, and has been the president of that institution since 1904.

Returning to Germany in the fall of 1872, Mr. Pohlmann was married there to Marie Krey, who was born in Holstein May 17, 1850, and they have had the following children: John, living in Rock county, Minnesota; Herman, a Kane township agriculturist; Margaret, the wife of Otto Selk, of Kane township; Annie, deceased; Emma, wife of red Nebendahl, of Kane township; Mary Etta, at home with her parents; and Jacob, a farmer of Kane township. The family are members of the German Lutheran church, and Mr. Pohlmann is a Democrat in his political allegiance. He is a splendid type of the German-American business man, industrious, upright and highly respected by all.

WILLIAM M. ST. CLAIR, now retired from active business and living in Mount Auburn, was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, March 18, 1833. He lived in his native state until twenty-four years of age and then came alone to Benton county, Iowa. In Pennsylvania he had learned the trade of carpenter, and worked some time at this after coming to Iowa. He went to Kansas and worked for a time and spent one year at Council Bluffs, Iowa, and spent two years east of St. Joseph, Missouri, working at his trade. In 1861 he came back to Iowa and bought eighty acres of land in Cedar township, consisting of raw prairie.

On August 9, 1862, Mr. St. Clair enlisted in Company D,



*Wm M. Stblair*



Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry, went first to Iowa City, went to Davenport and down the river, in November, 1862, to Helena, Arkansas, and remained there until April, 1863. They then moved down the river and took part in the campaign against Vicksburg; he took part in the battle of Port Gibson, went to the battle of Champion Hills, and in the last-named engagement was wounded, May 16, in the thigh. He was taken to the field hospital and remained there until June 9, when he was taken in an ambulance wagon to the Mississippi river, then in a hospital boat to Memphis, Tennessee, to Geyosa Hospital. On the 14th of August of the same year he went home on a furlough, remained home until November 8, then went to Davenport Hospital and received his discharge December 19, 1863. For some time he received a small pension, which is now increased to twenty dollars a month.

After leaving the army Mr. St. Clair worked at his trade, and in 1864 he built a house on his own land. After his marriage he lived a year on the farm, lived one year in Vinton, and in 1866 moved back to the farm. In 1886 he sold his farm and located in Mount Auburn, where he purchased a half interest in a lumber yard and also a half interest in a grain business, conducted under the name of St. Clair Brothers until 1903, when the lumber business was sold. The grain interests he sold in 1906, and since 1903 he has been retired from active business life. Mr. St. Clair has been very successful in farming, also in mercantile life, and is a leading citizen of Mount Auburn.

In political views Mr. St. Clair is a Republican, and he has served in several local offices. He is a member of the United Presbyterian church, and is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

On January 12, 1865, Mr. St. Clair married Mary E., daughter of W. F. Kirkpatrick, of Vinton, who came from Ohio to Benton county in 1854. She died August 31, 1890, at Mount Auburn. Mr. St. Clair owns two acres of land in the city of Mount Auburn, where he has a handsome residence. He is one of the pioneers of Cedar township and is still quite active for one of his years.

WILLIAM WALLACE STICKNEY is now retired from a successful career as a Benton county farmer and lives in Vinton, in a comfortable home on South Main street. He identified himself with this county in January, 1869, and for nearly thirty years was an active farmer in Taylor township, until he retired in October, 1898, leaving the management of his fine estate to his sons David and George.

He was born in Jay township, Essex county, New York, March 21, 1840, a son of George W. and Lydia (Torrence) Stickney. The

father was born September 10, 1803, in New Hampshire, and the mother March 9, 1809, in Essex county, New York, where they married. The mother died in New York on December 11, 1856, and the father, who was a lifelong farmer, came west to Benton county in 1869 and lived here until his death, January 31, 1893. He and his wife were members of the Baptist church. Their children, besides William W., were: John, Walter, Sherman and Mrs. Lydia W. Jones, all deceased; David, who died when four years of age; and Shelden, who died at the age of seventeen years.

William W. Stickney was reared in New York, and lived there till after the war. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company A, Second New York Cavalry, and served as private and corporal nearly three years, until mustered out in 1865. He was seriously wounded during the advance on Richmond, and was confined in the hospital until he was discharged from service. He is a member of P. M. Coder Post No. 98, G. A. R., and his wife is a member of the Relief Corps. His politics is Republican, and the family are all members of the Baptist church.

He married, in 1865, in his native county of Essex, Miss Sarah Torrence. She was born in Essex county, May 23, 1842, being a daughter of Mitchell and Laura (Harrison) Torrence, who were farmers and spent all their lives in Essex county. Her father was born in 1800 and died about thirty years ago, followed two or three years later by the death of her mother, who was born in 1802. The seven children in the Torrence family were Orrin, Janet, Harriet, Eliza, Carlisle, Clark and Mrs. Stickney, all deceased but herself and Clark, who is a resident of New York City.

Mr. and Mrs. Stickney had four children, two of whom, Nettie May and Lydia Iola, died at the ages of nine months and sixteen months, respectively. The others are David and George, prosperous farmers of Taylor township, mentioned below.

DAVID H. STICKNEY is the senior member of the partnership of Stickney Brothers. As farmers, stock raisers and feeders they are among the most progressive and successful in this section of Iowa. The brothers own a farm of one hundred and forty-five acres, and their father's fine place of one hundred and seventy-five acres is under their management, and they also operate a quarter section under lease, so that their farming enterprise in all comprises nearly five hundred acres of land.

David H. Stickney was born at Jay, Essex county, New York, April 5, 1867. In the fall of 1868 he was brought west by his parents, and has spent practically all the rest of his life in Benton county. He attended the public schools of his township and was



MAIN STREET, BLAIRSTOWN.



and lived there until 1866, when he sold this land and moved to Canton township. He was a farmer the rest of his life, and at the time of his death in 1897 owned three quarter sections. In 1878 he visited his native country, spending also some time in traveling through England, Scotland and the Continent.

September 27, 1860, Alexander Johnson married Martha, daughter of David Kirkpatrick; she was born in Hardin county, Ohio, December 28, 1841. They became parents of five children, of whom two are still living. Nellie M., wife of Clifford Long, lives at Hackensack, Minnesota. Politically Mr. Johnson was a Republican, and cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln for president, in 1860. He was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. David Johnson's maternal grandfather, David Kirkpatrick, was a pioneer of Benton county, and one of its most enterprising, successful and progressive citizens. He was born in New Jersey, November 22, 1803, and received a common school education. When a young man he removed to Guernsey county, Ohio, where he taught school, which occupation he also followed in Iowa. November 17, 1825, he married Nancy Anderson, born in Virginia, March 31, 1811; he engaged in mercantile business in Ohio, and about 1834 removed to Hardin county, same state, and to Iowa in 1852. He entered over twelve hundred acres of land in Canton township, Benton county, returned to Ohio and came back to Iowa with his family in 1853. He taught school the first winter for a dollar and a quarter per day. He was an excellent financier, was very economical, and soon began to loan money at the high rates people then were willing to pay, and he advanced rapidly in fortune. He died on his farm April 28, 1874, kindly remembered and widely mourned. His wife died November 10, 1870. He had nine children, of whom three are now surviving, namely: Mrs. Sarah Spurgeon, of Canton township, Mrs. Martha Johnson, of Shellsburg, and Mrs. Nancy Shomler, of Canton township. Politically Mr. Kirkpatrick was a Whig, and he served as county commissioner in Hardin county, Ohio; he became a Republican at the inception of that party, and heartily supported its issues.

David K. Johnson was reared on a farm, and attended the public schools, and has always followed farming. He has made a specialty of stock raising, and has tried several different breeds satisfactorily; he prefers the Short-horn cattle and Chester White hogs, with which he has been very successful. He has been a resident of Canton township since he was two years of age, and remained at home until he was of age; he then began working for himself on his present farm, which was entered by his maternal grandfather, David Kirkpatrick, so this quarter section has been



transferred only twice. The farm is located but a mile from Shellsburg, and is valuable land. He has made most of the improvements himself, and keeps it in excellent condition.

Politically Mr. Johnson is a Democrat, and he has served as township trustee and for the past ten years has been treasurer of the school board. He is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias, of Shellsburg, also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian church.

In 1893 Mr. Johnson married, in Benton county, Melissa, daughter of Samuel Long, an early settler of Canton township, who came from Pennsylvania, and died many years since. She was born and reared in Iowa. They have three children, as follows: Ida May, who married J. Gordon Bixby, of Canton township and has three children; Mattie E., a graduate of the Iowa State Teachers' College, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, and a teacher in the Benton county schools; and Vera M. is attending high school at Shellsburg.

ARTHUR J. AULD, part owner of the old family homestead, in Big Grove township, known as the Auld farm, was born there, August 28, 1870. He is a son of George W. and Joanna (Marine) Auld. George W. Auld was born in 1834, in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, son of John and Nancy Auld, and reared in his native state. When twenty years of age he came to Washington county, Iowa, with his father's family. Two years later, in 1856, he came to Benton county, settled on the west quarter of the land, which is still the property of his heirs. He enlisted, in 1861, in the Thirteenth Iowa Infantry, Company G, and took part in many important battles. He went with Sherman on the march to the sea and marched two thousand miles the closing year of the rebellion, being a member of the famous "Crocker Brigade."

At the close of the war Mr. Auld returned home and again took up farming, exchanging the sword for the plow share. In 1866 he married Joanna B. Marine, and lived on his farm until he removed to Illinois where he took up his residence on his father's place. His father, John Auld, had returned to Illinois and worked in a glass factory; later exchanging his position with his son, he came back to his farm. John Auld died in 1874. In 1876 George W. Auld returned to Iowa. He consolidated his father's farm and part of the Marine farm with his own, making the half section, now known as the "Auld farm." Here he lived until his death on March 24, 1899. His father, John Auld, traded a team of horses for one eighty of his splendid estate. George Auld's wife was a daughter of William F. and Mary Marine, who came from Wayne county, Indiana, to Benton county, about 1856, and took up land;

later they moved to a farm north of Vinton, locating in Vinton afterward, and then went to Des Moines, where both died. Mr. Marine, at one time thoroughly discouraged by the problems confronting the pioneer, declared this country fit only for buffalo and Indians. One of his sons, S. A. Marine, was editor of the *Vinton Observer*, later consolidated with the *Vinton Eagle* when Mr. Marine became pension agent at Des Moines. George W. Auld and S. A. Marine were in the same company during the war until Mr. Marine lost a leg at Atlanta and was compelled to return home. The children of George W. Auld were: Harry M., in government mail service since leaving the farm and now living at Cedar Rapids; Arthur; and Lida C., wife of H. W. Moody, of Chicago. Harry M. Auld has one son named Robert Henry and Mrs. Moody has a daughter, named Hope Louise.

Arthur J. Auld was reared on a farm, and has lived there all his life with the exception of the time spent at Tilford Academy and one year spent at Cornell; he has also spent some time in travel. Mr. Auld is a successful farmer, energetic and up-to-date, and has made all possible improvements on his farm. In politics he is a Republican, and he has held township offices. He belongs to the Methodist church of Garrison. He is well known in the community, having spent his life in Benton county, and is a prominent citizen.

In 1901 Mr. Auld married Cecile A., daughter of Howard and Leah (Williams) Beresford, who had come from Indiana in an early day. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Auld have three children, namely: George Emory, six years of age; Leland Beresford, four, and Byron Marine, two. The scattered living members of the two pioneer families mentioned in the sketch are Insko Marine of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Mary (Marine) Burgin of New York City; and Chas. B. Marine, of Des Moines, Iowa; Mary (Auld) Whitacre of St. Paul; O. P. Auld, of Plankinton, South Dakota; I. N. Auld, of Oacoma, South Dakota; C. C. Auld, of Marshalltown, Iowa; J. J. Auld and his sister N. E. Auld, of St. Paul, Minnesota.

JOHN NOVAK.—Our citizens of foreign birth have vied with each other in the completeness and rapidity with which they have assimilated with the American body politic. By as much as they have cherished the best heritages they brought with them from their native lands and have woven them into the fabric of their citizenship, by so much have they added fine and strong fiber to the American people. Among those of foreign birth and lineage who have attained success and prestige in connection with industrial and business activities and civic affairs in Benton county is num-

Phoenix No. 292, Knights of Pythias, has a membership of about thirty, with B. F. Paul, C. C.; N. C. Ransom, V. C.; Jacob Hunt, prelate; and Ralph Yacom, keeper of records and seals.



Jewell Lodge No. 43, Modern Brotherhood of America, was formed July 12, 1897.

#### WHY SHELLSBURG?

Why "Shellsburg?" A stranger to the town instinctively asks the question. The accepted explanation is that John Sells, a pioneer of Canton township, desired to have his name attached to the place, when it was laid out by Jacob Cantonwine and Emanuel S. Fluke in 1854. The proprietors preferred another name; perhaps they did not think Mr. Sells of sufficient importance to be

whom were born in Germany. They came to the United States about the year of 1863, and after spending some time in Chicago, Illinois, they began farming in that state, and in 1867 came to Benton county, Iowa, and bought one hundred and sixty acres of the virgin soil in section 24, Union township. They in time improved their land and spent the remainder of their lives there, Mr. Hagen dying in 1895, when seventy-two years of age, and his wife in 1884, at the age of sixty. They became the parents of twelve children, but only two of that once large family are now living, the elder being August, a resident of Van Horne, who owns the old homestead, which he rents.

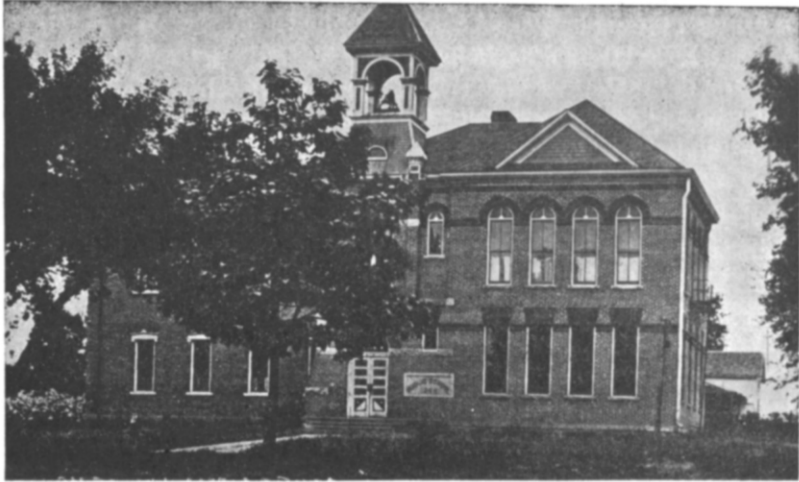
Fred Hagen, the younger of the two surviving sons of Frederick and Fredricka Hagen, was but a year old when brought by his parents to Benton county, and at the age of twenty-two he married and left home, starting for himself on one hundred and sixty acres which now forms a part of his present estate. His farm now contains three hundred and twenty acres, where he has made many and valuable improvements, and he devotes considerable of his time to stock raising. He is a successful farmer and a splendid business man.

Mr. Hagen married on March 8, 1887, Anna Gensicke, who was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, January 28, 1863, a daughter of Christian and Elizabeth Gensicke. The family came to the United States in 1867, and stopping for a time in Chicago, Illinois, they came from there to Buffalo Rock in Scott county, Iowa, and later to Wilton Junction in Muscatine county. From the latter place they came to Benton county and purchased a farm in LeRoy township, and in 1905 Mr. Gensicke moved to Cedar Rapids, retiring from business, and he has reached the eighty-second milestone on life's journey. He is by trade a carpenter and wagon maker, and he followed those vocations until coming to Benton county. Mrs. Gensicke died in 1897, when seventy-two years of age. Five of their seven children are living, namely: Christian, whose home is in Polk county, Iowa; Henry, living on a farm two miles from Cedar Rapids; Sophia, the wife of William Reiser, of St. Clair township, Benton county; Anna, who became Mrs. Hagen; and Rebecca, the wife of Carl Kreiger, of LeRoy township. Three of the four children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hagen are living,—Elsie, wife of George Kirk, of Union township, Fred and Lester. Mr. Hagen and his family are members of the German Lutheran church at Van Horne, and he is a member of the Republican party.

JOHN A. DILLING, a retired farmer of Eden township, has been a resident of Benton county since the spring of 1851. He was born in Blair county, Pennsylvania, December 31, 1833, and is a son of



*John & Billy*  
AND FAMILY



HIGH SCHOOL, SHELLSBURG.



PEARL STREET, SHELLSBURG.

Mr. and Mrs. John Dilling, both natives of that state. His grandfather Dilling came from Germany, located in Pennsylvania, and took up a large tract of land; he became a wealthy man, his land being secured under what was known as "tomahawk right."

When John A. Dilling was an infant his father died, and his mother died when he was six years and nine months old. He was taken by his sister to a family who cared for him until he was fifteen years of age, since which time he has supported himself. At first he worked out by the month, for from four to eight dollars a month and received a few hundred dollars from his father's estate. He had two sisters, now deceased, Mrs. Elizabeth Greaser, who lived in Benton county, and Mrs. Christina Cantonwine, who died at Pike's Peak. Mr. Greaser resides at Vinton. Mr. Cantonwine was one of the first pioneers of Benton county, having come soon after 1840.

Mr. Dilling received a very meager education, and was but seventeen years of age when he came to Benton county, Iowa, with his brother Henry, who located near Mount Pleasant, and later sold and removed to Hardin county, Iowa, where he died about 1905; his widow still lives in Hardin county with a grandchild. John Dilling worked some for his brother on a farm, but mainly followed carpenter work for some thirty-three years, and also operated a threshing machine for the same length of time. He moved to his present farm in 1855, shortly after his marriage, and has lived here some fifty-five years. He has at different times owned several tracts of land, and has been very successful. He stands well in the community, and has served as township trustee. In political views he has always been a Republican. He and his wife have been for many years members of the United Brethren church, of which he has served as steward and trustee many years, and now holds the latter post.

On December 19, 1854, Mr. Dilling married Elizabeth R. Leamer, born in Blair county, Pennsylvania, November 16, 1835, daughter of Jacob and Rebecca (Stevens) Leamer, who came to Benton county in 1850, locating first in Benton township and later removing to Eden township, where they died. Mr. Leamer died when about forty years of age, and his widow spent about twenty-five years with her daughter, Mrs. Dilling, passing away November 11, 1903, in her ninety-second year.

Mr. Dilling and his wife reared four children of their own, namely: Henrietta, Emma J., Mary C. and Sarah A. Henrietta, born May 24, 1856, married Silas Slabaugh, of Geneva, Fillmore county, Nebraska, and they have seven children, John, Mary, Mattie, James, Henry, Burt and Laura. Emma J., born July 8,

1858, married George Fry, and lives at Vinton; they have two children, Nellie and J. W. Mary C., born May 23, 1860, married George Hurless and lives at Shellsburg; they have one child, Faye. Sarah A., born September 16, 1863, married Aleck Ferguson and died May 19, 1891, at the home of her parents, leaving one child, Alta, whom Mr. and Mr. Dilling have reared. Alta Ferguson was born October 27, 1885, and is now a teacher at Marcus, Iowa.

Mr. Dilling and his wife have also reared other children, namely: Charles Penel, now in Kansas; John Schmouse, a railroad employe, now married; and Clyde Dilling, who has taken his foster-father's surname, and still lives at home. Clyde Dilling married Celia Culp and they have four children, Charles, Cecil Elmer and Eldenbern. He operates Mr. Dilling's farm.

When Mr. Dilling came to Iowa with his brother and brother-in-law, they journeyed by canal boat from Hollidaysburg to Johnstown and Pittsburg, and from Pittsburg on the Ohio river to Cairo, Illinois, thence on the Mississippi to Muscatine, Iowa, from which place they hired two wagons to take them to Cedar county, Iowa, and thence hired other wagons to bring them to Benton county. When Mr. Dilling arrived in the county he owed three dollars and fifty cents and had only fifty cents. In one season he built fourteen houses in Benton City, which was then the largest place in the county.

When Mr. and Mrs. Dilling commenced keeping house on their present farm it was in a one-room frame, twelve by sixteen, where they lived until their children were born. The house is still standing, although they built a modern house in which they now live. For ten years after Mr. Dilling came to his present place his taxes on one hundred and sixty acres were about three dollars per year, which was harder to pay than it is now to pay the present tax assessment.

Mr. Dilling made several trips to Iowa City, about fifty miles distant, spending three days on the journey. The highest price he received for his wheat was thirty-three cents per bushel. He bought at one time a barrel of salt for which he paid five dollars.

RUSH R. HANFORD, of section 32, Taylor township, is living practically retired on his fine farm which has been his home for more than forty years. In the business of farming, though he began at the bottom, he has been more than ordinarily successful, and the same may be said of his career as a citizen, since he has performed the duties of man to man and to country both faithfully and well.

He has lived in Benton county from the pioneer times, and his



associations date back almost as far as those of any other living resident. He came into the county in January, 1854, and for three years lived in Vinton, where he was engaged in teaming and also clerked awhile in the Jones & Bristol Hotel. In 1857 he bought a quarter section on section 32, and improved this and lived on it until after the war, when he sold this farm and bought the eighty acres which has ever since been his home. For the past ten years he has leased the land, and has not actively engaged in farming.

Mr. Hanford was born on a farm at the town of Walton, Delaware county, New York, in April, 1833, and was reared to manhood there and in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania. All his adult career has been spent in Benton county. In 1862 he enlisted in Company G, Thirteenth Iowa Infantry, under Colonel Shane, and was not mustered out till June, 1865. He was wounded while moving upon Atlanta a few days before the surrender of that city, but was never incapacitated, though in the severe service about Vicksburg, Atlanta and the march to the sea. He is a member of P. M. Coder Post No. 98, G. A. R. His politics has always been Republican. In township affairs he has been a useful factor for years. He has held the offices of township clerk and assessor, and for twenty-five years was secretary of the township school board.

Mr. Hanford's parents were Seely and Laura (Loomis) Hanford. The Hanford family have lived in America from before the Revolution, coming originally from England. The mother was born in Delaware county, New York, and died there during the thirties. Seely Hanford was born in Connecticut, when young moved to New York, and about 1840 to Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, where he died February 9, 1856, aged sixty-two. He was a farmer nearly all his active life. Of his children, another son besides Rush R. came to Vinton. This was W. W. Hanford, who located here in 1854, married, and was at one time proprietor and publisher of the Vinton *Eagle*. He died at Vinton in 1877. Another brother is M. L. Hanford, who now resides near Buffalo, New York. A sister died in New York in 1894.

Mr. Rush R. Hanford married, at Vinton, December 18, 1861, Miss Edna E. Chapin. She was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts, and died in 1895, aged fifty years. There are two children of their marriage: Arthur S. is president and general manager of the Hanford Produce Company of Sioux City, his father being also interested in this business. He married Miss Skemp, who was born in England and later lived in Dubuque, Iowa. She is the mother of two children, Edna M. and Arthur S., Jr. Warren D., the second son, has lived in New York city since 1895, being in the

brokerage business, dealing chiefly in butter and eggs. He married Miss Sherman, a native of Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Hanford of this review has been a member of the Vinton Presbyterian church for over fifty years.

WILLIAM H. WALLER has been identified with the life and interests of Benton county since 1867, and he resides at the old home farm purchased by his father in 1866, in the pioneer period of the county. He was born in Lincolnshire, England, April 5, 1844, a son of Robert and Mary (Hewitt) Waller. Lincolnshire was the family home of the Waller family for many generations, and Robert Waller was the first to come to America, arriving here with his family in 1852. His home was at Belvidere, Illinois, for a short time, and he moved from there to Pecatonica of the same state. His first employment in this country was at railroading, but later taking up farming he continued that vocation in Benton county until his death, dying at his old home in Homer township in 1886, at the age of seventy-three years. His wife, also born in Lincolnshire, England, and a member of an old family there, is yet living, having reached her ninety-fourth year. She was born in 1816. Mr. Waller is one of their three living children, Mrs. E. A. Stamp being a resident of South Dakota, and John P. Waller, a veteran of the Civil war, is living in Cherokee county, Iowa.

William H. Waller was reared from the age of nine years in Pecatonica, Illinois, attending the common schools there, and he worked out for others considerably until enlisting in the summer of 1862 for three months' service in the Civil war, but he continued on for nine months, engaged in guarding prisoners at Camp Douglas, Chicago. Re-enlisting in December, 1863, in Company C, Twelfth Illinois Cavalry, he served in the western army, his services extending through Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas and Texas, and he was honorably discharged at Houston of the latter state in July of 1866. Although never wounded his army service somewhat impaired his health, and he returned to his home in Winnebago county, Illinois. From there in 1867 he came to Benton county, Iowa, and has since been one of the leading farmers of Homer township. He married in this county in 1869 Miss Mary M. Sowders, who was born in Jackson county, Indiana, in 1848, a daughter of Thomas and Lydia (Urmy) Sowders, who made the journey with wagons to this state in the early '50s and located in Iowa county, their home until death. Both passed away in the year of 1860, in early life, leaving three children: Mrs. D. W. Utley, who died at Chicago, Illinois, in November, 1896, and Jacob W. Sowders, who died at St. Paul, Minnesota, but both were resi-

## ELEVATORS AND TILE FACTORY.

The two grain elevators at Garrison are owned and operated by the Stockdale-Dietz Company of Estherville, Iowa, and the Garrison Grain and Lumber Company. The latter is a corporation composed of local farmers and business men, which was organized in July, 1909. As its name implies, it also conducts a lumber yard.

In June, 1901, Frank Dautemont established the Garrison Brick and Tile Works, whose proprietor and manager is Casper C. Gross.

## TELEPHONE COMPANIES.

In 1902 the Garrison Mutual Telephone Company was organized. It now operates about ninety instruments, with S. L. Gulick, president, and John Baun, secretary.



PUBLIC SCHOOL, GARRISON.

The Farmers' Telephone Company is reported to have a list of some 300 subscribers. Its president is Dr. F. C. Carle; secretary, Charles E. Bryant, and treasurer, Frank Naeve, Garrison.

## MODERN WOODMEN AND ODD FELLOWS.

Garrison's two flourishing lodges are the Modern Woodmen

for the manufacture of fanning mills and cutting boxes, which he carried on until 1852. In 1847 he was married, and a few years later (in 1852) came to Benton county, Iowa, and entered eight hundred acres of land in Cedar township. He spent one winter in Vinton and in 1853 went back to New Washington, Indiana, and entered into business, having a factory similar to the one he had formerly conducted. While here he invented the self-rake reaper, which was manufactured by McCormick. In 1864 he removed to New Albany, and spent some time there and in Louisville, engaged in the oil trade. Later he invented car couplers used on the J. M. & I. Railway, and later conducted a ship yard at New Albany, Indiana, on the Ohio river, under the name of Lamb & Hill. Mr. Lamb finally located in Chicago, where in 1900 he retired; he died there in March, 1903. His wife was a daughter of Henry and Lina (Tilford) Arbuckle. Her mother was a sister of John Tilford, who founded the Tilford Collegiate Academy, at Vinton. She was born in Clark county, Indiana, July 8, 1829, was reared in her native state, and lived there until her marriage, previous to which she had taught school three years. She is now residing in Chicago. S. T. Lamb and his wife had children as follows: Mary Amelia, born in November, 1848, and died unmarried, in 1885, in Indiana; Henry J.; Florence S., born in September, 1852, and residing with his mother; Nettie G., born in 1860, wife of Thomas Burke, of Peoria, Illinois; Frank T., born in 1863, now in the employ of Armour & Company and living in Chicago; and Salem T., born in 1866 and died in infancy.

Henry J. Lamb was reared principally in New Washington, Indiana, where the family lived ten years; he attended the public school, and later graduated from the Bryant and Stratton Business College in Louisville. He worked some time as second bookkeeper in a wholesale grocery house at New Albany, and later attended college in Louisville. In 1870 he worked as clerk for O. W. Guthrie, an ice dealer, of Chicago, and held this position until coming to Benton county. He then went on his father's farm, which he operated, although he had never had any experience in this line; nevertheless, he remained on the farm ten years on account of his health. In 1881 Mr. Lamb engaged in general merchandise business in Mount Auburn, under the name of Lamb & Shield, for one year, and then he conducted the business alone seventeen years. In 1899 Mr. Lamb sold a half interest to J. M. St. Clair, and in 1902 sold his remaining interest to John Galbraith.

In 1900 Mr. Lamb went into banking business, in a new building, under the name of H. J. Lamb, Banker, which he continued several years; he sold out in August, 1906. In 1866 Mr.

Lamb began operations as a stock buyer, and he continued this enterprise until 1908. For the past ten years he has been engaged in insurance business. He has great business acumen, and has been successful in all his enterprises. He now owns a half-section in sections 13 and 14, Cedar township, which is occupied by a tenant. He has had much valuable experience in a business line, and has the confidence of all. His probity and integrity are recognized, and he does a very flourishing business.

In political views Mr. Lamb is a Republican, and he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He has a record of long standing in the Masonic order, having joined at the age of twenty-one years. He was one of the organizers of the Lodge of Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Mount Auburn. Mr. Lamb served ten years as township clerk, eight years as trustee, and a number of years on the school board.

September 23, 1877, Mr. Lamb married Lucy Adele, daughter of Lorenzo and Laura J. Newell; her parents were reared in Erie county, as were Mr. Lamb's parents, but they were strangers until all came to Iowa. Mr. Lamb and his wife had children as follows: Charles S., born May 4, 1880 and died in March, 1882; Leeta Adele, born February 10, 1882 and living at home; Lloyd J., born November 9, 1883, unmarried and living in Canada; Henry Harland, born September 10, 1886 and died July 31, 1898; Florence S., born August 8, 1894; and the youngest child, born in September, 1898, died unnamed, in infancy.

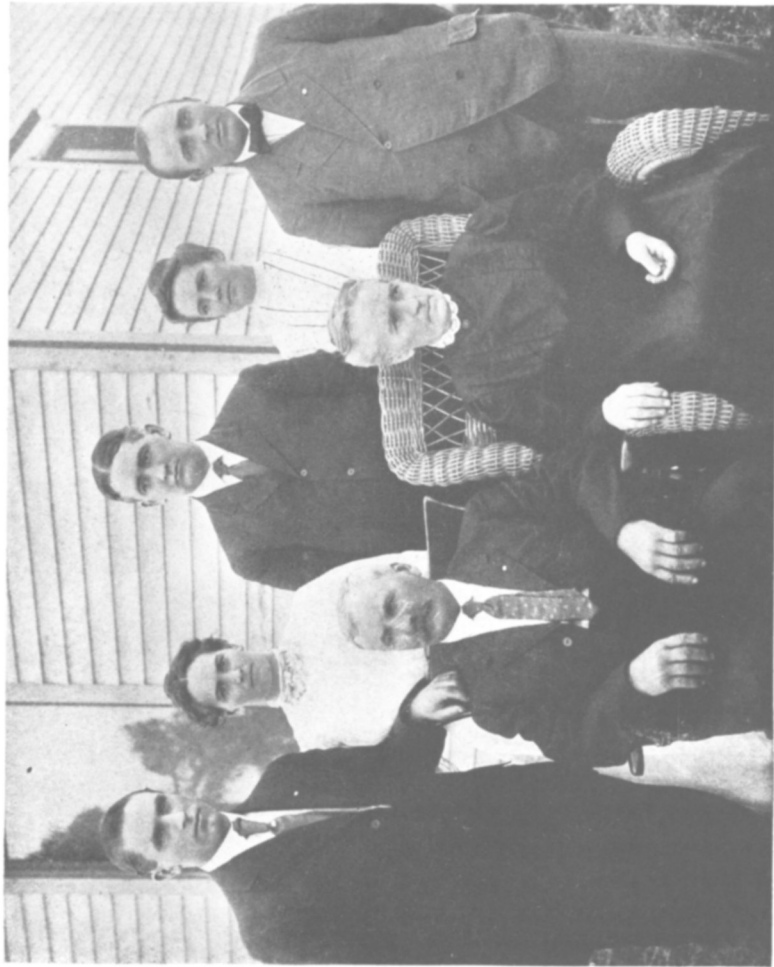
WILLIAM J. LONG, a successful farmer of Harrison township, owns one hundred and thirty acres of land in sections 4 and 9, where he carries on a line of general farming and makes a specialty of feeding hogs. He was born in 1851, in Indiana, and came to Benton county in 1855. He is a son of Woodson P. and Annie (Waddle) Long. Woodson P. Long was born in 1823, in Kentucky, son of John Long, who was born before the close of the eighteenth century. He moved to Indiana, where he was reared, and his father died when he was ten years old. He remained at home until he reached his majority. In 1855 Woodson Long came by wagon to Benton county, Iowa, and at first rented land. He purchased forty acres, and later one hundred and sixty acres in Polk township; he first carried on the forty-acre farm, and later the one hundred and sixty acre farm. He sold his land and moved to Urbana, where his wife died, and he then sold his interests there. Later he married Tabitha Meredith, and retired; he made several changes of residence, and finally settled in Urbana, where he died in 1907. His first wife came from Kentucky to Indiana,

and removed with her husband to Iowa; she died near Urbana, in 1890. Their children were: Nancy Jane, who married (first) H. Brown, deceased, (second) Harry Whipple, deceased, and (third) John Glendy, of Vinton; Cornelius, deceased; John, deceased; William J.; Margaret, deceased wife of B. Holt, of Hamilton county, Iowa; Oliver, of Denver, Colorado; Albert, of Vinton; and Henry, who died about four years since. Emma and Lizzie died in infancy.

William J. Long remained at home until he was of age and then rented land and carried on farming. He removed to Hamilton county, Iowa, where he rented land, returned to Benton county and rented land three or four years longer, and then purchased forty acres of land to which he has several times added. He has made all improvements and carries on the business of the farm in energetic, able manner, which assures him success. He is greatly interested in public affairs, and is a Democrat; he has served as school director. Mr. Long is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Modern Brotherhood of America. He also belongs to the Christian church.

In 1872 Mr. Long married Emma, daughter of Daniel Maples, from Illinois, who removed to that state from New York, among the pioneers. Mr. Long and his wife were blessed with children as follows: Charles H., who married Anna Dauthenbaugh and lives in Harrison township; Carrie, wife of Scott Fowler, living near Urbana; Effie, wife of Charles Geiger, living near Urbana; W. W., at home; Vernie, wife of Arthur Chadock, a farmer of Minnesota; and Vena, deceased.

JAMES BROWN, of Polk township, operates his farm of one hundred and twelve acres in section 3, and has been a resident of Benton county since 1852. He was born, April 20, 1847, in Indiana, and is a son of Abraham and Charlotte (Gilland) Brown. Abraham Brown was born in 1806, in Pennsylvania, and was a son of Andrew and Katherine Brown; he was reared in his native state and moved to Indiana and later to Iowa; his father died in Indiana. Abraham Brown entered forty acres of land in Iowa, and there reared his family, remaining on the farm until his death, September 1, 1880. He added to his first purchase until he owned two hundred and forty acres at the time of his death. His wife was a daughter of James and Mary (Carnes) Gilland, born in Virginia, October 24, 1813; she was reared in her native state and later moved to Indiana, where she married (first) Christopher Cagley, who died when a young man. She was married to Abraham Brown October 24, 1839, and her death occurred December 31,



*James Brown. Wife & Family*





1879, in Benton county, Iowa. The children by Mrs. Brown's marriage to Mr. Cagley were: Mrs. Barbara Titus, deceased; Mrs. Sarah Berry, of Urbana; and Jacob, deceased. Those born after her marriage to Abraham Brown were: Elizabeth, deceased; Martha, deceased, wife of Robert Berry; James; Samuel, a resident of Oregon; and Katherine, deceased, wife of Henry F. Lash, of Montana.

James Brown remained on the home farm until twenty-three years of age, and received a common school education. He bought the old home farm, which he later sold, and in 1893 purchased the place he now occupies, having lived here ever since. He breeds fine horses and mules, and also feeds hogs and cattle for the market. He is an ambitious, hard-working farmer, and has been very successful. Mr. Brown is a Democrat and a member of the blue lodge and chapter of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

Mr. Brown married Anna E., daughter of John L. and Cynthia A. Burk, who were pioneers of Iowa, coming from Indiana in 1853. The father was a farmer and bought land in Polk township, where he reared his children, who were: William, living in the west; John, living in the south; Wilford, of Clermont, Iowa; Eldridge, deceased; Luther, deceased; Mrs. Brown; and Robert S., of Denver, Colorado. Mr. Brown and his wife became the parents of eight children, namely: One child that died in infancy, unnamed, in 1871; Ora E., wife of J. C. Burrell, of Polk township; Frank J., a physician living in Dufur, Oregon; Clara A., deceased; Scott O., an engineer of the Rock Island railroad, living in Albert Lea, Minnesota; Grace G., wife of Ray Johnson, of Vinton; Seth L., who died in infancy; and Guy D., living on a farm adjoining his father's in Polk township.

When the parents of both Mr. and Mrs. Brown came to Iowa, they drove through in covered wagons and the land was owned principally by the government. None, or little of the land had been broken and the country was in almost its natural state. They did their trading at first at Dubuque, Iowa, one hundred miles away and later at Cedar Rapids, twenty-five miles distant.

JOHN RAILSBACK, for the past four years retired and living at Shellsburg, resided many years on his farm in Linn county, Iowa, near Palo. He came with his father, Edward Railsback, to Linn county, when about twelve years of age, and when attaining a suitable age took up farming and stock raising, which he followed with great success. He still owns three hundred and twenty acres, though he has given considerable land to his children.

John Railsback was born in Park county, Indiana, in 1828, son of Edward and Allie (Lowe) Railsback, who came to Linn county, Iowa, in 1839. Edward Railsback was a successful farmer and stockman and entered a large acreage of land in Linn county, where he lived practically the remainder of his life. He and his wife died more than forty-five years ago on a farm he owned in Canton township, Benton county. They had a large family, of whom but two survive, John, and Mrs. Jane Dorsey of Cedar Falls, Iowa.

The educational advantages enjoyed by John Railsback were meagre, but he made the most of his opportunities for learning and culture, and was naturally a keen business man. Politically he is a Democrat, but has never accepted public office. He is a member of the Masonic Order of Shellsburg. Mr. Railsback was reared in the Quaker faith.

Mr. Railsback married Miss Jane Elson, daughter of Archibald Elson, an early resident of Linn county; she was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, in 1838, and came to Iowa with her parents when a child. They became parents of five sons and five daughters, all residents of Linn county save Samuel E., who owns a fine farm in Taylor township, Benton county.

SAMUEL E. RAILSBACK, son of John Railsback of Shellsburg, mentioned above, owns the fine stock farm in Taylor township which has been known as the Railsback farm for the past sixteen years. The three hundred and twenty acres comprising the farm lie in sections 25 and 36, his comfortable residence being in section 25. He engages in general farming and the raising of graded stock. Another farm, of one hundred and sixty acres, which he owns, is located in section 13, Eden township, and he leases this for tenant farming. He also owns one hundred and fifty-seven acres adjoining his present home, which he purchased in the fall of 1909.

He was born in Linn county, Iowa, on his father's farm between Palo and Shellsburg, in 1858, being one of ten children. He was reared and lived in Linn county to the age of twenty-five, being educated in the public schools, and then for several years was engaged in farming in Fremont township, Benton county. In 1894 he bought his present homestead and has since been engaged in its improvement and cultivation. In politics he is independent, and affiliates with the Knights of Pythias at Vinton, which is his market and postoffice town.

While living in Fremont township he married Miss Mattie Hite. She was born in Benton county, a daughter of Jacob Hite, mentioned below. Mr. and Mrs. Railsback have five children, all

born in this county: Lucile, for the past two years a teacher in Newhall; Grace, who has taught in Manchester; Marguerite, in school at Manchester; and Charles and Stanley, at home.

JACOB HITE has lived in Benton county nearly sixty years, and is himself a pioneer and represents one of the best known pioneer families who have promoted the development of the farming communities of the county. He was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, in 1835. His grandfather, Christopher Hite, served seven years in the Revolution and Indian wars.

His parents were David and Margaret (Stephens) Hite, who came to Iowa and located in Benton township of this county on May 4, 1850. David Hite bought eighty acres from the government, which he later sold, but remained a resident of Benton township until his death, when about seventy years of age.

Jacob Hite lived at his father's home until he began independently, and then bought a farm of eighty acres on sections 28 and 29 in Benton township. This was his home for about fifty years, and he was an industrious and successful farmer. He sold his homestead in 1908, having some years before retired to reside in Vinton. He has been engaged in farming most of his life, with the exception of about ten years following his return from the army, when he worked in the mill at Benton City. In 1862 he enlisted in Company D, Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry, and served until wounded at Champion Hill, receiving his honorable discharge in 1864. He is a member of the P. M. Coder Post No. 98, G. A. R. In politics always a Republican, he has been an active citizen of his locality, and has served as township trustee and in various school offices. He is a member of the Methodist church, as was his wife.

Mr. Hite married, in 1857, Miss Susan Thompson. She was born in Clarion county, Pennsylvania, in 1836, and died in November, 1908. They reared eight children: Mattie, wife of S. E. Railsback, of Taylor township; Lottie, wife of Grant Carrier, of Vinton; Mollie, wife of Sherman Richart, of Benton township; Lulu, wife of James Maxson, of Benton township; Minnie, wife of Burt Sheely, of Canton township; Clyde C., of Eden township, whose first wife, Lucy Markham, is deceased, and he then married Edna Haven; Richard E., of Eden township, who married May Sanders; and Nannie, wife of Harry McClintock, of Canton township.

RODERICK ROYCE, senior member of the firm of Royce and Bergen, conducting a nursery business in Shellsburg, was born in

Sullivan county, New York, in 1845. He is a son of Colby Royce, who cleared and improved a farm in Sullivan county, at an advanced age; he was from Connecticut, where he was a colonel in the state militia. Mr. Royce was twice married, and Roderick is one of two children by the second marriage. The other son, Edward, was killed during the Civil war, off Cape Hatteras, by the burning of the steamer in which he was stationed.

Roderick Royce grew to manhood in his native state, and received his education in the public schools. He followed farming many years, and spent two years in a store at Monticello, New York. He partially lost his health, and has since then chiefly followed the nursery business and farming. Mr. Royce started in his present line of business in the spring of 1869, in company with J. L. Budd, mentioned elsewhere in this work. They first started business at Parkers Grove, in Canton township. In 1875 they removed to Shellsburg, and there carried on the business until the removal of Mr. Budd to Ames, Iowa. Five years later the son, A. L. Budd, became a partner, continuing six years; from then until seven years ago, when the present partnership was formed, Mr. Royce carried on the business alone. At the present time they take care of about twenty-five acres, and supply almost the entire needs of the surrounding county. They employ two or three salesmen, and the surplus is sold wholesale. They have also shipped direct to many parts of the country, and have established a reputation for first-class goods and honest treatment of their customers. Both are well informed along the line of their work, and pay close attention to their business interests. Mr. Royce has been a resident of the county since 1868, and has a wide circle of friends. Politically he is a Republican, and has served as mayor of Shellsburg, and has also filled other posts of public trust. He is a member of the Masonic order of Shellsburg, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Royce & Bergen, besides their interest in the line of horticulture, conduct a farm near Shellsburg, where they raise Short-horn cattle.

Mr. Royce married, in New York, in 1867, Charlotte Divine, born in Sullivan county, daughter of Henry Divine, and they have one daughter, Edith, who married O. C. Bergen, of Shellsburg, given mention at length elsewhere in this work.

O. C. BERGEN, of the firm and Royce & Bergen, dealers in nursery stock in Shellsburg, was born near Vinton, Iowa, August 20, 1862, and is a son of Peter G. and Mattie A. (Fleming) Bergen. Peter Bergen was born in Henry county, Kentucky, in 1826, and

was a son of Garrett C. Bergen and his wife, old residents of Kentucky. Peter G. Bergen came with his family to Franklin, Indiana, where he was reared and educated; his father was a tanner, but Peter himself always followed farming. As a young man he married in Indiana, and in 1852 removed to Benton county, Iowa, locating first in Big Grove township, and later near Vinton, where he purchased a farm, part of which is now in the corporation of Vinton. This was the family home until 1870, when Mr. Bergen purchased Wild Cat Grove Stock Farm, in Canton township, which he carried on until his death in 1899. He had a farm of eight hundred acres, and was an extensive stockman, handling many cattle, and noted for his fine horses. He was a successful and prominent man in the community, and well known; he was universally respected and esteemed for his high character and sterling worth, and widely mourned. He married, first, in Indiana, Emily Guinn, who died at their home near Vinton, leaving one son, Dr. A. C., who was assistant surgeon in the United States army, and was sent with Custer on the Black Hills expedition; he was later stationed at various points, but finally retired from the government service and began private practice at Sioux City, Iowa, where he died in the fall of 1900, at the age of fifty-two years. Peter G. Bergen married, second, at Vinton, in 1856, Mattie A. Fleming, born in Scott county, Indiana, August 29, 1832, daughter of Robert and Nancy (Adams) Fleming, both Kentuckians, who lived on a farm in Indiana. Her father died in Indiana and her mother died in Benton county, Iowa. Mrs. Bergen came to Benton county with her mother in 1855, and was married the following year. She and her husband had four children, namely: Kirk, who died at the age of nine months; Oscar C.; William S., in the employ of the Santa Fe Railroad Company, now in La Junta, Colorado; and Alice, who married A. N. Harbert, formerly a banker of Shellsburg, now in real estate and loan business in Cedar Rapids.

Oscar C. Bergen was reared in Benton county, where he has lived all his life with the exception of three years from 1883 to 1886, which he spent in the drug business in company with his brother. Upon his return he spent six years in the same business in Shellsburg. In the spring of 1892 he removed to the farm in Canton township, where he resided a year after the death of his father; he then located in Shellsburg, and he rents his farm of two hundred and fifteen acres.

Besides carrying on the nursery business, in which line they have been most successful, Mr. Bergen and his partner also handle and breed Short-horn cattle, which they feed for the market.

They are both men of business judgment and are energetic and industrious.

Politically Mr. Bergen is a Democrat, and he has always taken an active part in public affairs; has been candidate for county clerk, and has filled several local offices. Mr. Bergen is a member of the Masonic orders, including Cypress Commandery of Vinton, and also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Shellsburg and the Modern Woodmen of America. He and his wife belong to the order of the Eastern Star and are also members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Bergen married, in 1891, Edith, daughter of Roderick Royce, mentioned extensively elsewhere in this work, and they have five children, namely: Royce, Peter, Clarence, Esther and Howard, all attending school at Shellsburg.

MICHAEL BARRY is prominently mentioned among the farmers and stock raisers of Union township, where he is also a large property owner. He was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, July 14, 1856, a son of William and Catherine (Brown) Barry, both of whom were born in county Clare, Ireland. William Barry came to the United States when a young man, arriving here in the early '50s and locating first in Pennsylvania, was married there and was employed at railroad bridge work until 1862. In that year he came west by railroad to Blairstown, Iowa, and located in section 16, Union township. He purchased eighty acres of the virgin soil and began at once the arduous labor of preparing his land for cultivation. He was a successful business man, hard working and persevering, and at his death he left an estate of seven hundred and forty acres of Union township land. He died in the year of 1893, when sixty-eight years of age, and Mrs. Barry had passed away in 1890, at the age of fifty-four. She spent seventeen weeks on the ocean when crossing to the United States, experiencing a hard and stormy voyage. Mr. and Mrs. Barry were the parents of four children, Michael, Elizabeth, Thomas and John.

Michael Barry remained in the parental home until his marriage, and at that time his father gave him one hundred and sixty acres improved land, which he has since converted into one of the most valuable farms of Union township, and his estate now contains two farms of four hundred and forty acres, adorned with two splendid residences and farm buildings in keeping therewith. He is a large stock-raiser and feeder as well as a general farmer. During a number of years he has served his township as a school treasurer, and in politics he is allied with the Democracy. On the 2d of March, 1882, he was married to Julia A. Morris, who was

born in LeRoy township, Benton county, Iowa, a daughter of John and Johanna (O'Leary) Morris, who were from Ireland. The father, born in the city of Dublin, died in 1889, when seventy-two years of age, and the mother died in October of 1903, also aged seventy-two. Of the ten children which were born to them the four now living are: Jennie M., living in Van Horne; Julia A., who became Mrs. Barry; Winifred, the wife of John Nolan, a LeRoy township farmer; and John, whose home is in Texas.

John Morris came to the United States with his father when eighteen years of age, and landing in the harbor of New Orleans, they made their way to St. Louis, where the son married, and in 1855 he came up the river to Muscatine, Iowa, from whence he drove to LeRoy township in Benton county. There he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land and their first home was a little tent, made from a wagon cover, which served as a habitation until they could build a dwelling. Their nearest markets at that time were Muscatine and Iowa City, and all was wild and primitive. Mr. Morris sold his best pork in those early days for two and a half cents a pound. His name is enrolled among the earliest of the Benton county pioneers.

Six children have blessed the marriage union of Michael and Julia Barry: William, Mary K., Euzella, Thomas, John and Elizabeth. The eldest daughter, Mary K., is a graduate of the Van Horne high school and of Mt. St. Joseph's College at Dubuque, Iowa, and she is now teaching school. Mr. Barry and his family are members of the Catholic church, at Van Horne. He is one of the representative agriculturists and citizens of Union township.

CHARLES F. ALBERT, of the firm of Albert & Whipple, dealers in real estate and insurance, of Vinton, Iowa, was born in Harrison township, Benton county, Iowa, in November, 1858, in an old log cabin. He is a son of Henry and Louisa (Albert) Albert, cousins, and is grandson of Peter and Catherine (Bonebrake) Albert. Peter Albert and his wife were both Germans, and moved to Meadville, Pennsylvania, where they lived sixteen years and then between 1820 and 1830 removed to Iowa. Their children were: Henry, Julia and Catherine, born in Germany, and Peter, John and Eva, born in Pennsylvania. Peter Albert, Jr., is a miner in Idaho. Henry Albert was born in Germany, and came to Pennsylvania with his parents when about ten years of age. When he was old enough he began working on his own account at farming and when about twenty-five years old came to Iowa and bought land from the government; he was one of the first settlers of Jefferson township, Buchanan county, and one of the earliest

settlers of Harrison township, Benton county. By his industry and thrift he became the owner of twelve hundred acres of land, and was very successful in farming and stock raising. His wife was born in Meadville, Pennsylvania, and came with her parents to Buchanan county, Iowa, and was there married from her father's home. She was the daughter of Nicholas and Margaret Albert, both natives of Germany, who came to the United States with Mr. Albert's brother Peter and his wife, and were married in Meadville, Pennsylvania. They removed to Iowa in 1836, at the same time as Peter Albert and family. Nicholas Albert was a shoemaker by trade, and became a farmer after settling in Pennsylvania. He and his wife had children as follows: Louisa, (Mrs. Albert); Henry, a retired farmer of Iowa; Catherine, widow of P. Steckman, of Pipestone, Minnesota; Peter D., deceased; William A., a hotel keeper of Brandon, Iowa; and Margaret, wife of W. Taylor, of Bakersfield, California. Both Peter and Nicholas Albert were friends of "Coal Oil Johnny," a man famous for his oil discoveries in Pennsylvania. Henry and Louisa Albert had children as follows: George N., a retired farmer living in Vinton; William, who died in infancy; Charles F.; Edgar, deceased; and Catherine M., wife of Theodore Peck, of Iowa.

Charles F. Albert was reared in Harrison township, and after attending the common school, entered Tilford Academy, at Vinton, from which he graduated. After his marriage he settled on part of the old homestead, where he lived fourteen years, and then removed to Vinton and entered into business, dealing in grain; a year and a half later he began dealing in real estate and insurance, in which line he has since been successfully operating. Both he and his partner are men of enterprise and good business principles, and well informed along the line of their activities. Mr. Albert is a member of the Christian church, and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Politically he is affiliated with the Democratic party, and takes an active interest in public affairs.

In March, 1885, Mr. Albert married Cynthia, daughter of William and Amy Ann Revel, of Vinton, Benton county, Iowa.

CHARLES WANDSCHNEIDER, a prominent and successful farmer and stock grower of Cedar township, Benton county, was born February 24, 1875, on the farm he now occupies. He received a common school education and remained at home until seventeen years of age, and his father dying at about this time, he began carrying on the farm on his own responsibility. He is a son of Frederick and Margarite (Delfs) Wandschneider. His father, who was born in Germany, came to Illinois when a young man



and worked land in that state until the Civil war. He enlisted in the Thirteenth Illinois Cavalry, and took part in the Battle of Gettysburg and Pittsburg Landing. At the close of the war he removed to Benton county, Iowa, in 1866, and there purchased eighty acres of land; he was married in 1872, and lived on the place until his death, in 1892.

Charles Wandschneider is an up-to-date, hustling farmer, and besides general farming makes a specialty of high-grade cattle and hogs. In political views he is a Republican, and has held various public offices. He takes an active interest in local politics, and is a public-spirited citizen.

Mr. Wandschneider married, in April, 1901, Sophy, daughter of James Kahler, and they have two children, Grace, born January 26, 1902, and Kenneth Fred March 8, 1908. Mr. Wandschneider owns eighty acres of land in Cedar township, and also operates two hundred acres in the same township.

E. H. FISH, a farmer and bee-keeper of Polk township, Benton county, was born May 7, 1843, in Leroy, Calhoun county, Michigan. He is a son of David and Celia (Simmons) Fish, of Michigan. David Fish was born in Pennsylvania, in 1800, reared in his native state, and when a young man removed to Steuben county, New York, where he married and settled on a farm. He moved to Michigan about 1830, and there entered one hundred and sixty acres of land, where he lived until 1868, and then retired and lived near Battle Creek, Michigan. His wife was a daughter of Major Simmons, born in New York, and of Scotch descent. They were parents of eighteen children, nine of whom grew to maturity, namely: Jane, widow of H. Cole, of Santa Rosa, California; Sarah, widow of Reverend William Copeland, a Methodist minister, now of Santa Rosa, California, and formerly of Jackson, Michigan; William, who died in Michigan; Rosinda, wife of Emerson Boni, of South Dakota; Waity, wife of A. J. Quick, of Leroy, Michigan; Leroy, deceased; E. H.; Washington, of Battle Creek, Michigan; and Cordelia, wife of Dr. Johnson, of Battle Creek.

E. H. Fish was reared on a farm in Michigan, and enlisted in July, 1861, in the Sixth Regiment of Michigan Infantry, in the Union army. He served four years and took part in the siege of Jackson and Phillips, and was in New Orleans when Benjamin Butler landed. He was at Baton Rouge and Port Hudson, and spent forty-two days under fire. He also participated in the siege of Fort Morgan, Fort Gaines, Spanish Fort, Fort Hugo and Fort Tracy, and was mustered out at Jackson, Michigan, in August,

1865. He removed to Iowa in the fall of 1865, and rented land. He later went to Kansas in 1878 lived four years on a homestead, after which he came to Buchanan county, Iowa, and lived until 1900 and then located in Polk township, Benton county, where he owns eighteen acres in section 11. He is an energetic and thrifty farmer, and pays close attention to his business interests. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. He takes great interest in public affairs, and is a Republican.

When home on a furlough in 1864, Mr. Fish married Susan A. Smith, and they have two children, George H., of Kansas, and Katherine, wife of M. D. Curtis, of Colorado. Two others, George and Estella Hortense, died in infancy.

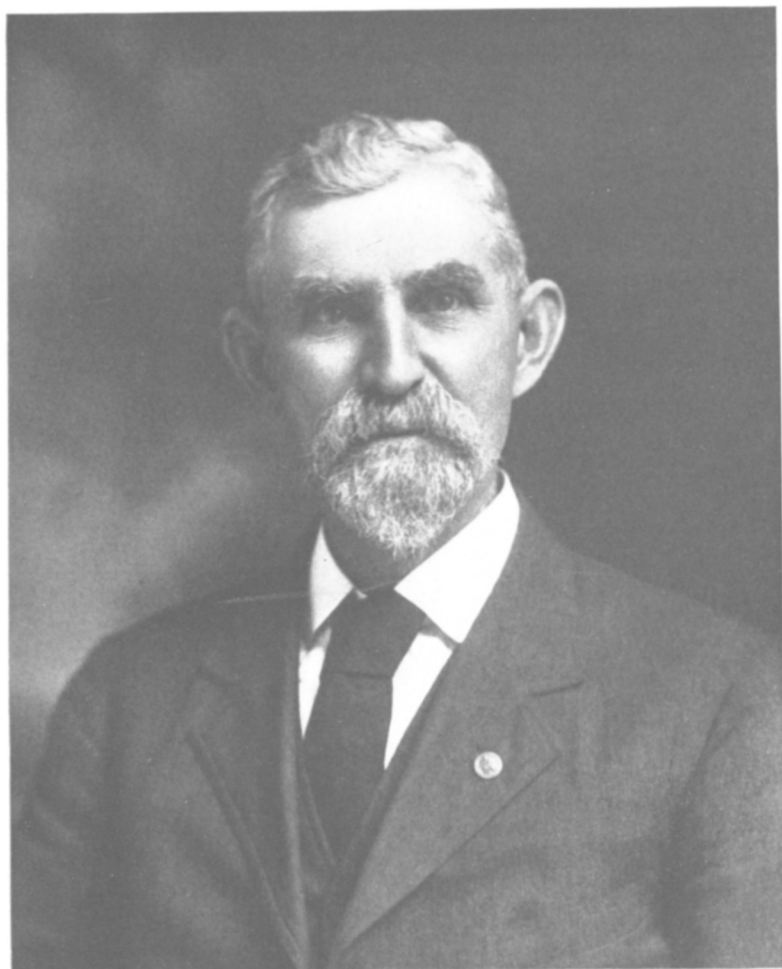
J. H. BALL has retired from a business life and has lived in Vinton during the past seven years. He came to Benton county, however, in April, 1864, coming from Massachusetts, and he was born in Holyoke of that state, in 1843, in the same county in which Springfield is located. He traces his descent in a direct line to the founder of the family in America, to Francis Ball, who came from Barkham in Berkshire county, England, near Windsor, in 1640. He settled first at Dorchester Heights and a year or so later at West Springfield, now Holyoke, Massachusetts, and there are still several representatives of the Ball family in that vicinity, including three brothers and a sister of J. H. Ball. Francis Ball had two sons, Jonathan and Samuel.

Jonathan Ball became captain of militia in the service of the crown, and he died in 1741, aged ninety-six years. He left nine children, including the direct antecedent of J. H. Ball, Benjamin Ball, who located on the Holyoke farm, yet in the possession of the family. He planted an elm tree there which stood until 1908, and was then cut down owing to its decay. His son Benjamin was in the Colonial army and was killed at Cape Breton in 1745.

Charles Ball, another son of Benjamin, Sr., and the great-grandfather of J. H. Ball, was a selectman of Springfield and died in 1795, at the age of seventy years.

Charles Ball, a son of Charles Sr., born in 1760, was known as Lieutenant Charles Ball, and he was a soldier and a pensioner of the Revolutionary war. He died in 1838. His wife was a daughter of a Revolutionary soldier.

Edwin H. Ball, the youngest son of Charles, was born in Hampden county, Massachusetts, in 1809, and he became a colonel on the staff of the governor of Massachusetts and was a representa-



*J H Ball*



tive to the state legislature. Like his forefathers he took up agricultural pursuits. He was twice married, wedding first Phoebe Frink, who died in 1842, at the age of thirty-four years, leaving four children: Helen, Edwin H., Jr., James R. and Alice Evelyn. Of this family Helen Allen and James R. and the only ones living, the latter residing on the old Ball homestead. The daughter Alice married Dr. C. O. Carpenter, of Holyoke, and she left two children at her death. Edwin H. Ball, the father, married in 1842 Eurydice Ely, born at Holyoke, Massachusetts, a daughter of Jube and Lucy (Day) Ely. She came as a widow to Vinton a year before her death, which occurred in 1890, at the age of seventy-five, and she was buried in Massachusetts. Mr. Ball resided in that state until his death in 1889. He was a farmer but also actively interested in the manufacture of writing paper and was a prominent man of affairs. There were four children born of this second marriage, of whom Jube Henry Ball is the eldest. Francis Wayland Ball, the second child, was born in 1847 and he resides at Holyoke. Lucy M. died in infancy. Charles Ely, born in 1852, also resides at Holyoke, a successful business man and a wholesale and retail druggist, owning perhaps what is the finest drug store in the east. He is also interested largely in the tobacco trust, in the sugar trust and in the coastwise trade. He is also the president of the large corporation known as the Ford Auger Bit Company. Gilman Kimball Ball, born in 1854, died at Salem, Oregon. He had lived some ten years at Vinton, a farmer and an active business man.

Eurydice (Ely) Ball, the mother of these children, was a daughter of Captain Jube and Lucy (Day) Ely, the youngest of their four children, the others being Julia Ann, Paulina and Jube, but the last named died young. Captain Jube Ely was a son of Captain Joseph Ely, born in Holyoke, Massachusetts, in 1761, and he died in 1843. Joseph Ely, the father of Captain Joseph, was born March 30, 1718, in West Springfield, now Holyoke, Massachusetts, and he died on the 31st of May, 1803. He married on February 3, 1749, Mary, daughter of John and Abigail (Bagg) Day. Mary was born at West Springfield, August 7, 1726, and died April 22, 1771. Joseph Ely was one of a company of rangers under Captain Phineas Stevens who during the French and Indian war in April, 1747, successfully resisted an attack on the fort at Charlestown, New Hampshire, receiving a wound in his forehead. Joseph Ely, the father of this Joseph, was born at West Springfield, Massachusetts, April 9, 1686, and he died there June 6, 1770. He married Margaret Leonard, born in 1692, and she died there on October 3, 1760. Joseph Ely, the father of this last

named Joseph, was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, August 20, 1663, and died at West Springfield April 29, 1755. His wife, Mary was a daughter of John Riley, who located in the part of West Springfield called Ireland Parish, now the southern part of Holyoke. She was born June 2, 1665, and died on May 19, 1736. Samuel Ely was the father of Joseph, and no record of his birth can be found, his name first appearing as a witness to an Indian deed given to his father and others, dated February 15, 1651, and the name does not again appear in the Norwalk records. He married in Springfield, Massachusetts, October 28, 1659, Mary Day, youngest child of Robert Day and his second wife, Editha Stebbins. Samuel Ely was a son of Nathan Ely.

Jube Henry Ball, a son of Edwin H. and Eurydice (Ely) Ball, was reared at Holyoke, and in 1862 he enlisted for the Civil war, joining Company B, Forty-sixth Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, though but eighteen years old at the time. He was in the nine months service and remained in the ranks about a year, participating in the battles of Kingston, White Hall and Goldsboro. In the spring of 1864 he came to Benton county, Iowa, locating three miles from Vinton in Taylor township, and he still owns a farm there. He conducted the place many years, and he is also interested in various other enterprises. He was married in this city to Miss Missouri E. Beck, born at Bethel, Ohio, in 1844, a daughter of Dr. Oliver C. and Jemima A. (South) Beck, one of the pioneer families of Ohio and of Vinton, Iowa. Dr. Beck practiced medicine a number of years, and he died here in the fall of 1864, his wife passing away a year or two previously. Mrs. Ball died in 1882, leaving four children: Edwin H., with a wholesale house in Phoenix, Arizona, and he is married and has two sons and two daughters; Catherine, wife of J. Albert Gallaher, an attorney at Jefferson, Iowa, and they have three sons and one daughter; William is a printer and a real estate operator in Chicago, and he is married and has one son; and James is operating his father's farm in Taylor township. He is also married and has one son. In 1885 Mr. Ball married Mrs. Adeline C. Allbright, nee Smith, born at Delavan, Wisconsin, in 1851, a daughter of Heman and Jane (West) Smith, who came to Fayette county, Iowa, in 1853, and both died at Vinton to which place they had moved in 1897, the father dying in March of that year, when seventy-seven years of age, and the mother died in the fall of 1905, when eighty-five years of age. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Ball. Jube H. Ball, Jr., the elder, born in 1888, attended the naval academy at Annapolis from June of 1907 until his resignation in October, 1908, and he is now a draftsman

with the Stotts Signal Company at Marion, Iowa. Charles Francis Ball, born in 1892, died in 1895, when but three years of age.

Mrs. Ball at the time of her marriage to Mr. Ball was the widow of John W. Allbright, who was born in Cass county, Michigan, in 1840, and died in Winnebago, Forest City, Iowa, in December, 1874. They were married near West Union, Fayette county, Iowa, in September, 1869. Mr. Allbright served with the Forty-sixth Iowa for about a year. He was a school teacher and farmer in Fayette county and was at one time principal of the Forest City, Iowa, school. By their marriage there were three children, Frank W., who died when thirteen years old; Cora, who died when fifteen years and six months old; and Bessie W., who died when nine years and six months old.

Mrs. Ball's father, Heman Smith, was born November 20, 1820, in Tioga county, New York. He was married in September, 1844, to Jane West in Livingston county, Michigan, where he had gone with his mother and the remainder of the family in 1834. His father was Heman Smith, who was born November 23, 1776, in Massachusetts, and died May 6, 1813, in New York state. Heman Smith, Mrs. Ball's great-grandfather, was born in 1741, in New York state, and died there June 10, 1833. His wife was Lucy Taylor. Mrs. Ball's maternal grandfather, Ezra B. West, was born in Berkshire, Vermont, and died at Waupaca, Wisconsin, in 1860. He was a soldier in the war of 1812. The Smith family is related to Admiral Dewey. When Mrs. Ball's parents came to Fayette county, Iowa, the father purchased a quarter section of government land, which he improved and lived on until he sold and moved to Vinton. Mrs. Ball was one of five children, three of whom died in infancy, the other was Swain, who died at thirty-three years of age in 1879, and left two sons.

Mr. and Mrs. Ball are members of the Baptist church. Mr. Ball is a Republican and a "standpatter." He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and of P. M. Coder Post, No. 98, and a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, belonging to the Blue Lodge and Chapter.

HENRY SCHWAB, one of the most prosperous of the German-American farmers of Benton county, resides on a fine homestead of two hundred and forty-one acres in section 33, Taylor township, and is also the owner of an additional eighty acres in section 27. He has lived in that locality for three decades, is now in his seventy-second year and has thrown many of the heavier burdens of life on to younger shoulders, his son having the active conduct of the home farm. Mr. Schwab was born in the Rhine

province of Germany in 1838; was reared there and first assisted his father, Henry, in the working of the paternal farm. The latter died on the old place near the Rhine, and afterward the son followed an independent agricultural career in the fatherland until his departure for Iowa in 1879. He was already in fairly prosperous circumstances and brought considerable capital with which he purchased his farm in Benton county. His first purchase was a quarter section, to which he made additions of various tracts, improving his property faithfully and according to modern and up-to-date methods of the American west.

Mr. Schwab had wedded, in Germany, Miss Abbie Glock, also a native of the Rhine country, born in 1858. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Schwab, as follows: Henry J., who is operating the home farm; Mary, residing at home; Rev. John Schwab, who is now pastor of a German Evangelical church at Jackson, Ohio; Arthur, who is connected with the Northern Pacific Railroad in Idaho; and Frank, who is also living at home, assisting in the farm work. Mr. Schwab himself is a firm member of the German Evangelical church, as were both his deceased father and mother; the former died May 1, 1896, at the age of ninety years, and the latter (nee Phillipena Espenschied) died in 1856. Mrs. Schwab is a daughter of Nicholas and Opelonica (Knoblock) Glock, the former of whom (a veteran cooper) is still alive at the age of eighty-three, and the latter died in 1900, when seventy-two years old.

JAMES SCOLLON.—During many years James Scollon, esquire, has been prominently identified with the life and interests of Benton county, a splendid business man and a successful agriculturist. He is a native son of Ireland, born in county Fermanagh, in November, 1829, a son of James and Rose (McManus) Scollon, who lived and died in their native Ireland, the parents of the following children: James; Phillip and Felix, of Calhoun county, and John of Dixon county, Iowa; and Margaret, in Ireland.

James Scollon was reared on a farm in his native land, receiving a good common school training for those days, and about the year of 1849 he sailed for the United States, spending seven weeks on the voyage, and he was obliged to cook his own food during all that time. During his first nine months in this country he worked in a grocery store in New York city, from there went to Essex county, New York, and thence by the water route to California. He remained in the Golden state for four and a half years, and was quite successful in his search for the precious metal, bringing some of his gold with him to New York, and from



there he sailed for his native Ireland to marry the lady of his choice, bringing his bride with him on his return trip. For a time thereafter Mr. Scollon was employed at railroad work at Belle Plaine, Iowa, and in 1867 bought eighty acres of land in section 19, Union township, and in 1871 took up his abode thereon. He later sold the first purchase and bought the present home in section 17, which contains one hundred and forty acres of land, all splendidly improved and valuable and fertile land. During the past twenty years he has held the office of justice of the peace. He is a well read man, a substantial citizen and takes an active and helpful part in the progress and welfare of the community.

Mrs. Scollon died in 1897, when sixty-four years of age. She bore the maiden name of Ellen Doran, and she became the mother of seven children, John, Constantine, Rose, Margaret, Lewis, Frank and Mary B. Constantine, Rose and Margaret are deceased. Squire Scollon is a member of Holy Cross Catholic church in Kane township.

CHARLES TROJOVSKY, of Norway, one of its most prominent citizens, was born in Bohemia, October 15, 1860, and is a son of John Trojovsky, also a native of Bohemia. John Trojovsky was a weaver by trade, and served in the army eleven years, without a furlough; he served with his regiment in Italy, and took part in several battles. During the Revolution of 1848 he served with great gallantry and was discharged in 1850. He took up his trade for two years, and then became a government mail carrier. He continued in the government service until he left his native country in 1877; he came direct to Iowa, and in June, 1877 settled in Johnson county, where he remained a few months. He purchased forty acres of land in Tama county, and began farming, but died in 1882, before he was able to realize much from his labor. He married, in Bohemia, Francis Zabokrtsky, and they had nine children, of whom six survive, Charles being the youngest.

Charles Trojovsky was educated in the common schools of his native country, and always took keen interest in educational matters; he is a well-read man, and always keeps in touch with the events of current history. Before leaving his native country he learned the trade of shoemaker, and after reaching Iowa helped on the farm, working at his trade in Marshalltown. In 1879 he came to Benton county, and worked as farm hand for five years, after which he spent four years farming on his own account, making a success of the enterprise.

In 1888 Mr. Trojovsky went to Nebraska, where he spent about a year and returned in the fall of 1889, and came to Norway

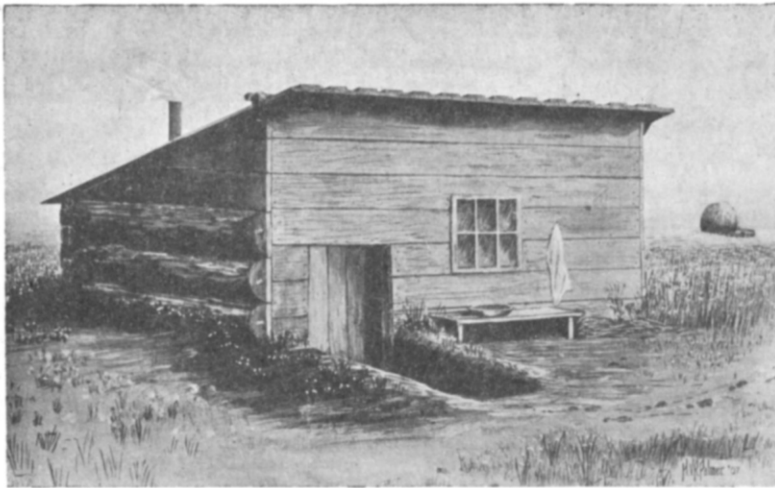
where he followed his trade for eleven years, during which time he was able to save enough money to embark in the business of manufacturing brick and tile. He began in a modest way and has constantly increased the capacity of the plant for ten years, though he is now unable to supply the large demand for the output of the plant. He expects during the year 1910 to turn out seven hundred and fifty thousand of tile. The machinery used is modern and the latest improved, and the plant is located a quarter mile north of the town of Norway. He keeps improving his brick yard, putting in new machinery, sheds and kilns, and is thoroughly progressive. He is an influential citizen of Norway, and is well liked. He is a member of the fire department, being a charter member of ten years' standing, and now acts as chief. He is also a member of the Roman Catholic Mutual Protective Society of Iowa, is a devout Catholic and a trustee of the church and treasurer of the board. In national affairs he is a Democrat, but votes independent of party in local matters.

On September 11, 1883, Mr. Trojovsky married Lena, daughter of Peter and Anna Walter, retired farmers of Benton county, now residing in Norway. She is a native of Iowa, educated in the public schools. They have six children, all educated in the parochial school in Norway, namely: John M., of Norway; Anna, now Mrs. John H. Boddicker, of Newhall, Iowa; Elizabeth, Catherine, Louise and Henry, at home.

ROBERT A. HARPER, owner of a farm of two hundred and seventy-six acres, in Harrison township, section 23, came to Benton county in 1854, from Switzerland county, Indiana, where he was born in 1851. He is a son of John W. and Jannette (Miller) Harper, the former born in 1817 in Scotland. John Harper lived in his native country until nine years of age, and then came with his parents to the United States; they settled in Pennsylvania, removed to Indiana, returned to Scotland, and again crossed the Atlantic to settle in Indiana, where the father died. John Harper lived in Indiana until 1854 and then came to Iowa and entered one-quarter section of land in Polk township, Benton county. He also purchased two hundred and forty acres of land, and lived in Benton county until his death, in 1893. His wife born in Ohio, in 1820, was a daughter of Daniel and Agnes (Allen) Miller; her parents came from Scotland. She was reared in Indiana, and there married. Mr. Harper and his wife had children as follows: Alexander, deceased, a soldier in the Eighth Iowa, Company D, from Benton county; Daniel M., who died in the army in 1865, in the same company as the preceding; J. W., of Harrison town-

## TYPICAL "SEMI-DUGOUT."

George L. Palmer, a son of York state, where he was well educated and taught school, has been a farmer in Big Grove township since 1855. In the fall of that year he brought his wife to their new cabin home, which he describes as a "semi-dugout; four feet of which was underground; three logs high on the ends



GEORGE L. PALMER'S "SEMI-DUGOUT."

and back side and boarded in front; with a shed roof, ten by fourteen feet. It was one of the first homes on the prairie, boarded up inside, and floored." Mr. Palmer's house is so typical of pioneer life that it is substantially reproduced as an illustration.

## SHUTTS, FATHER AND SON.

Peter Shutts, who died in 1905, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. LaRue, in Big Grove township, at the age of ninety-three, came to that section of Benton county from his home in New York during the year 1858. His son, Louis E., has lived in the township since he was a boy of ten, being an old soldier and a successful farmer, as was his father before him.

Garrison and, with J. S. Stanley (now of Colorado) and E. E. Manhard (of Waterloo), established the business of which he is still the prime mover.

Mr. Stanley, also one of the founders of the enterprise, is warmly remembered as a pioneer merchant who came to Benton county forty years ago and conducted a store for some time in Vinton. He then retired to his farm in Jackson township until 1898, when he moved to Garrison, where he remained until 1902. Having been of great service in the establishment of the Iowa Canning Company, in the year mentioned he located on his ranch in Wyoming, but now resides at Fort Collins, Colorado. Mr. Stanley was an active Democrat and a leader of both business and public affairs, serving several terms as supervisor of Benton county and being a prominent candidate for congress. The Stanley family is of Ohio ancestry.

Mr. Jones' wife (nee Mary E. Stanley) is a daughter of J. S. Stanley and his wife, the latter of whom died in 1905. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have two children: Horace Stanley, now a pupil in the Vinton high school, and Kathryn, aged six years. The family is pleasantly located in a beautiful home near the academy, the residence having been purchased by Mr. Jones not long ago. Both he and his wife attend and faithfully support the Presbyterian church, and the former is also active and popular among the Masons and Knights of Pythias; as a Mason he is a member of the Blue Lodge, Chapter and Commandery of Vinton.

ALEXANDER H. HANNA, who passed away December 13, 1903, at the home of his son John W. Hanna, the old homestead in Big Grove township, was a resident of Vinton some twenty years before his death. He had won a warm place in the hearts of his neighbors and fellow citizens, and was mourned by many. Mr. Hanna was born at Mount Eaton, Ohio, December 14, 1828, and is survived by one brother, Calvin, of Eugene, Oregon.

Mr. Hanna was reared on a farm and received a fair education. He spent two years teaching, and here met his future wife, Rosanna Watson, who was one of his pupils, and they were married October 4, 1852. She passed away but a short time before her husband. They lived three and one-half years on his father's farm in Ohio, and he entered land in Benton county, Iowa, in September, 1850, at one dollar and a quarter per acre. In March, 1857, Mr. Hanna brought his family to Iowa and erected a plank house fourteen by eighteen feet; he purchased a few acres of timber land, a team of horses, a wagon and a couple of cows, and broke forty acres of land. He and his wife endured the rigors of a





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*A. H. Hanna.*

*The Lewis Publishing Co.*



*J W Hanna*





pioneer existence, and for years had many hardships. Fourteen years after settling in the wilderness Mr. Hanna stated they had not yet had a physician wait on them. Bravely they accepted their share of hard work and privations incident to reclaiming the country from its wild state, and they won the respect and esteem of all in the community. They had few neighbors, though they early joined with a religious society. Alexander Hanna gave his heart and desire to spiritual things when he was twenty-one years of age, and always took great interest and deep comfort in his associations with the church. He had been reared in a Christian atmosphere, and in the same year he came to Benton county with his wife, in 1857, they joined the Presbyterian church of Vinton. They were publicly united with the church July 28, 1857, on the same day as the following others: Dorothy Lowe, R. H. Wilson, Mrs. Betsey Wilson, Robert Gilchrist, Mrs. Elizabeth Gilchrist, Mrs. Rebecca Lowe and Mrs. Jane Logan. He removed his membership two years later to the newly organized church at Big Grove, where at the same time he was ordained an elder, and he held this office until his removal to Vinton. He became an elder in Vinton. He was faithful in all his church duties, and gave freely of his time and means toward the support of the cause of the gospel. At the time of his death he had been visiting among his children, had spent two weeks with his son William and had been but a few days with his son John on the old homestead where he passed away, with only a few minutes' warning. He peacefully passed away, with his family around him, all of whom felt he was fully prepared for death. A short service was held at his son's home, conducted by A. S. Wright, of Garrison, and the regular service at the Presbyterian church in Vinton was conducted by his pastor, Rev. S. S. Hilscher, assisted by Rev. Wright; he was interred in Evergreen Cemetery.

Mr. Hanna and his wife had children as follows: Belle, unmarried, a teacher in Cornell College, at Cornell, Iowa; Howard, a physician at Goldfield, Iowa; James, an attorney at Greeley, Nebraska, at one time a judge in his district; and William and John, successful farmers of Big Grove township, Benton county.

JOHN W. HANNA, a prominent and enterprising farmer of Big Grove township, Benton county, was born on the farm he now owns, which is known as the "Grandview Farm and Dairy," August 29, 1857. He is a son of Alexander H. Hanna, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. John W. Hanna was reared in his native township, and attended the public schools; he also took a course at Tilford Academy and attended Cornell

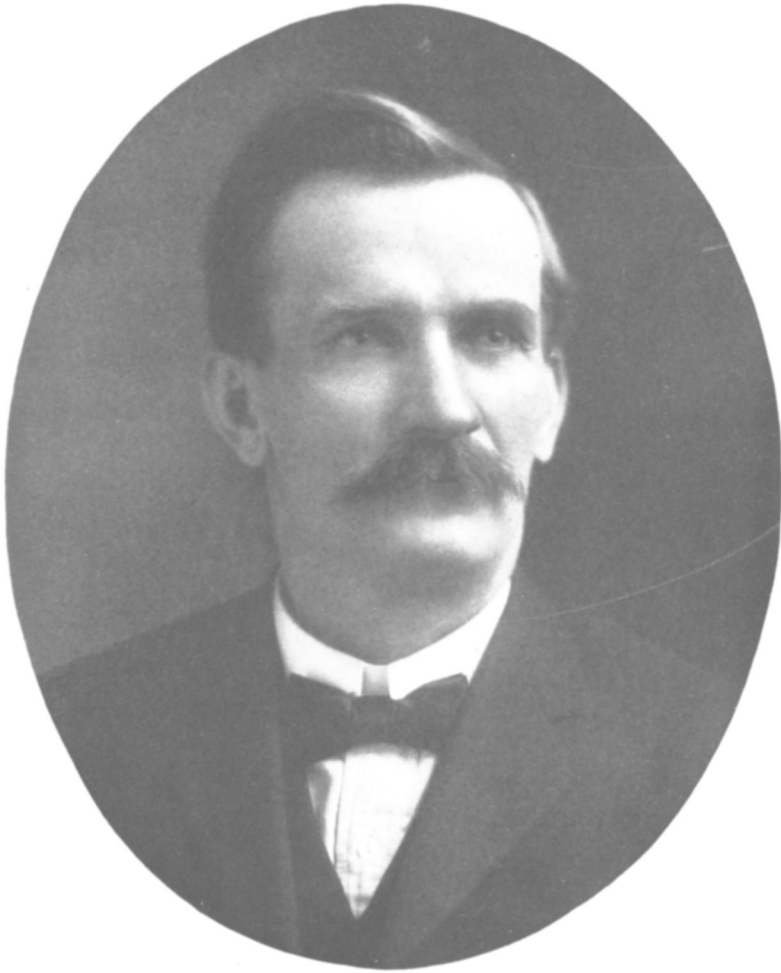
College, of Mount Vernon, Iowa, one year. Since leaving college he has devoted his time and energy to farming, stock-raising and breeding. He owns a half-section of well improved land, and has a fine herd of Short-horn cattle, of which he has been a breeder during the past twenty-five years, being formerly associated with his father in this enterprise. He erected his present fine home several years since, and has modern comforts and conveniences.

Mr. Hanna was one of the organizers and has served as president since the organization of the Farmers' Savings Bank, of Garrison. He is also a stockholder in other banks as well as other lines of business, including the Farmers' Grain & Lumber Company of Garrison. He is considered one of the substantial business men of Benton county, and as a public-spirited, patriotic citizen. Politically Mr. Hanna is a Republican, and he has filled several local offices. He is an elder in the Presbyterian church at Garrison. Mr. Hanna is supposedly the longest continuous resident of Big Grove township.

Mr. Hanna married Rosella, daughter of Samuel Ward. Mr. Ward, an early resident of Benton county, is now deceased; his widow survives him. Mr. Hanna and his wife have three children, namely: Edna, wife of C. J. Harwood, a banker of Greeley, Nebraska; and Leola and Leland, both at home.

WILLIAM H. HANNA, a former representative from Benton county, was born on the old home farm owned by his father, May 10, 1859. His father, Alexander Hanna, is given mention at length elsewhere in this work. William Hanna was educated in the public schools and remained on the home farm until twenty-two years of age, when he began working on his own account in Big Grove township, Benton county, operating the home farm four years, and then went to live on the seven hundred and twenty acre farm where he still resides. Here he has met with excellent success, and besides general farming raises a large number of hogs, also buys and feeds cattle for the market; he feeds all the grain he is able to raise on the farm, and buys from five to fifteen bushels of grain for feeding.

Besides his agricultural interests Mr. Hanna is identified with the following business enterprises: director of the Peoples Savings Bank of Vinton; Greeley State Bank, of Greeley, Nebraska; Farmers' Savings Bank, of Garrison; and the Benton County Telephone Company. In these he is a director. He is connected with the Benton county branch of the Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association, and is president of the Benton County Agricultural Society, to which office he was elected in 1908; he has been a member of the latter organization for twenty-two years.



W H Hanna



Since attaining his majority Mr. Hanna has been actively interested in public affairs, and is a strong adherent of the Republican party. In 1906 he was elected as representative to the Iowa state legislature, and served as a member of the Thirty-second general assembly; he refused renomination on account of family and business affairs. He is an enterprising and public-spirited citizen and well-known in the community.

Mr. Hanna married Rachel M., daughter of Isaac and Martha (Voorhies) Bergen, born also in Big Grove township. Isaac Bergen died in November, 1905, at the age of seventy-seven years, and his wife died in February, 1905, at the age of seventy-two. He was born in Shelbyville, Kentucky, September 3, 1828. He came to Benton county in 1859, and at the time he crossed the Mississippi was just twenty-one years old. He started in as a farmer in Benton county a poor man, and at the time of his death owned some nine hundred and sixty acres in Big Grove township. His wife, Martha Voorhies, was born in Johnson county, Indiana, March 25, 1831. Isaac Bergen removed to Johnson county with his parents when three years of age, where he lived until locating in Benton county, Iowa. Mrs. Hanna is their only child who now resides in this county; she attended Tilford Academy and Cornell College. Mr. Hanna and his wife have two daughters, Roberta and Rosanna Belle, both living at home. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church of Garrison, of which he has been an elder some twenty years.

HERMAN R. STUCKENBRUCK, who occupies a place among the representative farmers of Iowa township, Benton county, Iowa, was born in Iowa City, this state, September 5, 1860, a son of William and Catherine Stuckenbruck, pioneers of Benton county.

William Stuckenburk was born in Germany, November 14, 1814, and died on his farm in Benton county, Iowa, August 10, 1875. When a young man he came to the United States. In Pennsylvania he married, and shortly after his marriage moved to Richland county, Ohio, where he made his home until 1855. That year he brought his family to Iowa, making the journey across the country with ox team, and settled in Iowa City, where they lived for five years. In the autumn of 1860 they moved to Benton county, arriving in Iowa township on October 16. Here he purchased forty acres of land on section 25, erected a log house and made other improvements, and here he spent the rest of his life and died. His wife's maiden name was Bickel. She was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, June 3, 1824, and is still living, now making her home with her son, Herman R. She was

twice married. Her first husband, Alexander Little, a native of Canada, died at the age of forty-five years, leaving her with one child, A. H. Little, who came with the family to Iowa and is now a resident of Iowa township, Benton county. By her marriage with Mr. Stuckenbruck she had ten children, of whom six are living, namely: William, of Kosta, Iowa; Mary J., wife of I. Berkheimer, of Iowa township; Emma, wife of Charles Seluchert, of Iowa township; Herman R., whose name introduces this sketch; Joseph C., of Sioux county, Iowa; and Daniel of Iowa township.

Herman R. was a babe in his mother's arms at the time the family settled on the farm above mentioned, and here he grew to manhood and received a common school education. On reaching his majority he began working out by the month on farms, and thus employed for three years. After his marriage he engaged in farming on his own account on rented land, which he cultivated for six years, until 1890, when he bought his present farm of eighty acres in section 27, Iowa township. He has since acquired by purchase eighty-five acres in Iowa county, this state. His home farm was covered with timber and undergrowth, and the work of grubbing and clearing was no small task, but in time he accomplished it, and is now the owner of a fine, well improved farm and modern home.

On February 17, 1884, Mr. Stuckenbruck married Miss Rachel L. Carter, a native of Athens county, Ohio, born June 23, 1863, daughter of Harrison and Catherine (Sayers) Carter, both natives of the "Buckeye State," where they were married November 13, 1861. Harrison Carter was born April 13, 1840, and died February 25, 1894. He came with his family to Benton county in the spring of 1865, and purchased a farm on section 35, Iowa township, where his widow is still living. To them were born eight children, of whom five are living at this writing, as follows: Mrs. Herman R. Stuckenbruck; Eva, wife of O. C. Trueblood, of Belle Plaine, Iowa; Silas, of Minnesota; and John and Emma, at home with their mother. To Mr. and Mrs. Stuckenbruck have been given four children: William A., Harold C., Ella L. and Clifford M., all at home, the eldest employed as a school teacher.

Mr. Stuckenbruck has been a staunch Republican ever since he became a voter, and he has a number of times been honored with local office, such as road supervisor, school officer and township trustee. The last named office he has filled four years. Fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, No. 795, at Belle Plaine.

CHARLES KELLY, is a member of family that established their home within the borders of Benton county in the early days of its history and from those early times until the present the name of Kelly has been prominently associated with the agricultural interests of the county. He was born on his father's farm in Union township in 1858, a son of Patrick and Mary (Ryan) Kelly, whose history is recorded elsewhere. He was reared as a farmer's son, receiving in the meantime a good educational training in the public schools, with three terms in the academy at Vinton, and remaining at home with his parents until his marriage he located then at his present home. He received at that time one hundred acres of improved land from his father, but he has since added to the boundaries of his farm until it now contains two hundred and twenty acres, and he has placed his entire estate under a splendid state of cultivation and has erected commodious and pleasant farm buildings. He is both largely engaged in general farming and stock raising, and he has served his township as an assessor and as a school director.

Mr. Kelly married on January 2, 1882, Mary O'Brien, who was born in Iowa township, Benton county, January 12, 1861, a daughter of Thomas and Mary (Caslow) O'Brien, who were born in Ireland. Coming from their native land to the United States in 1853 they landed in New Orleans, and coming up the river to St. Louis, Missouri, they remained there until 1857, when they continued their journey to Benton county. They purchased land in Iowa township and spent the remainder of their lives there, Mr. O'Brien dying in 1880, when forty-six years of age, and his wife in 1903, at the age of seventy-four. Eight of their eleven children are yet living, namely: John and Thomas, both of whom are living in Iowa township; Mary, who became the wife of Mr. Kelly; Ellen, the wife of James Maher, of Union township; Patrick, whose home is also in Iowa township; Margaret, the wife of Matthew Donahue, of San Francisco, California; Edward, whose home is unknown; and Agnes, the wife of Edward Maher, of Union township. The nine children who have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kelly are: Thomas, a Union township agriculturist, and Mabel, Loretta, Gertrude, Edward, Florence, Lillian, Bernard and Anna. The family are members of the Catholic church at Van Horne.

ANDREW CONLEY, a successful farmer of Benton county, residing near Norway, was born in Chester, England, October 31, 1838, a son of Charles Conley. The father, born in 1795, followed the trade of core moulder, and in 1852 came to the United States,

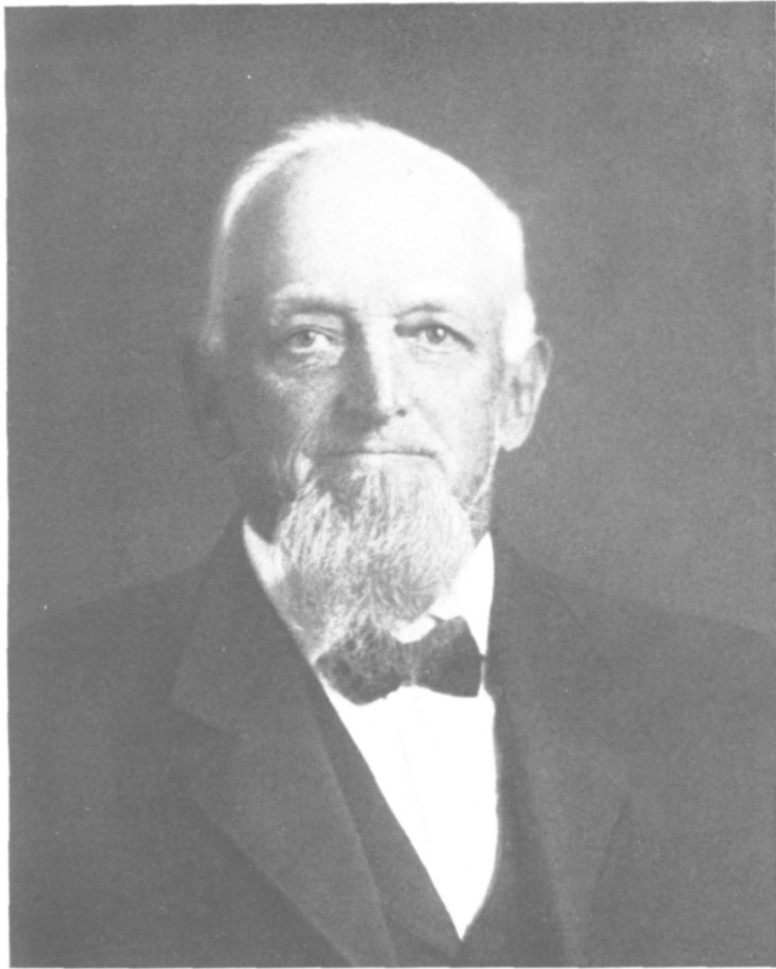
locating in Oneida county, New York, where he spent two years. In 1854 Charles Conley came to Florence township, Benton county and bought eighty acres of land, where he carried on farming; he met with fair success, but the last twenty years of his life was a great sufferer from rheumatism. He married Mary Crosby, a native of England, and they had three children, all boys, who grew to maturity and came to the United States. Mr. Conley died in 1893, at the age of ninety-eight years, on his home farm, and his wife died about 1863.

Andrew Conley received his early education in England, and later attended school in New York, also in Benton county, Iowa. He has always kept himself well informed, and is a deep student. He grew to manhood on a farm, and in September, 1861, enlisted in Company A, Fifteenth Iowa Infantry, and was mustered into service at Keokuk, Iowa. He took part in the two days' fighting at Shiloh, was at Corinth, and the engagements of his regiment in western Tennessee, during the fall of 1862. He was present at the Siege of Vicksburg, in the Black River Campaign, at Jackson, and then returned to Vicksburg; later he was at Meridian, and took part in all the battles and expeditions participated in by the regiment. In the summer of 1864 the Fifteenth joined Sherman at Kingston, and made the famous march to the sea, capturing Atlanta. After this campaign they were sent to Chattanooga, and from there Mr. Conley received his discharge November 20, 1864. Returning home, he took up farming and remained with his father, who sold him the farm, until the latter's death. Later he added eighty acres and made many improvements, and is considered a first-class farmer. In politics Mr. Conley is a Republican, and has served nearly thirty years as township trustee.

On December 2, 1870, Mr. Conley married Isabelle, daughter of John and Jane McGregor, well-known farmers of Benton county, who came to the United States from Scotland, in 1852. She received her early education in Scotland and also attended school in Benton county. Mr. and Mrs. Conley had children as follows: Mary, who died at the age of twenty-nine years, a graduate of Norway high school and highly esteemed by all; Jane, wife of Isaac Schinenberger, a farmer of Benton county; Flora, a graduate of Norway high school, and who was a successful teacher in Benton county until she was injured in an automobile accident October 31, 1909, and died from the effect of it January 10, 1910.

JAMES HARWOOD, retired and living in Garrison during the past thirteen years, has been a resident of Benton county since 1865. He located in section 26, Monroe township, where he secured a farm which he improved and operated some thirty years.





*James Haswood*



At one time he owned six hundred and eighty acres, which he has now sold. He has a comfortable residence at Garrison, where he is surrounded by modern comforts and conveniences.

Mr. Harwood was born in Lancashire, England, December 6, 1837, and is a son of Thomas and Betty (Ridge) Harwood, who came to America with two children in 1842. Mr. Harwood and his family located in Orange county, New York. He had a small amount of capital and engaged in farming; later he removed to Benton county, Iowa, and resided here from 1865 until 1897, when he died, at the age of eighty-four years. He secured a good farm and met with success. His wife died in 1885, at the age of sixty-seven years. They came to Illinois in 1856, and lived in Henderson county until 1865. Thomas Harwood and his wife had eleven children, all of whom survive, and three are residents of Benton county, namely: James, Mrs. Samuel Hawley and Charles. The two latter are residents of Jackson township. James and one other were born in England.

James Harwood was reared in New York, where he lived until nineteen years of age; he received a common school education, and removed with his family to Illinois, where he married and began working on his own account. In 1865 he removed to Benton county, Iowa, where he became a very successful farmer and a useful representative citizen. He favors the principles of the Democratic party, and has served as township trustee. Mr. Harwood was honored by the citizens of Garrison by election to the office of mayor, which he held some nine years.

Mr. Harwood married, in Henderson county, Illinois, Louise Pence, born in Henderson county, where her people settled in 1837. Mr. Pence and his wife were substantial farmers and came from Pennsylvania; both are now deceased. Mr. Harwood and his wife became the parents of five children, four of whom survive: Cora, who died when thirty-two years of age, being then a widow; Clayton A., of the firm of Harwood Brothers, owners of the fine new livery barn at Garrison, also extensive farmers of Jackson township; Burton A., also of Harwood Brothers; Clifford J., in a bank at Greeley, Nebraska; and Verna, wife of C. E. Ulery, now of Cedar Falls, and has one child. Clayton A. married Rose Merchant, and they have one child. Burton A. married Bernice Metcalf, and they have two children. Clifford married a daughter of John Hanna, and they have one child. Mr. C. E. Ulery is a jeweler by profession.

James Harwood was quite an extensive live stock dealer here for about thirty years until March, 1908. Built a large elevator in Garrison, which he operated fourteen years, when he sold the

same. He has been quite successful and he is a self-made man who came here with very little capital.

JOHN C. CLIME, a successful farmer of Harrison township, was born in 1853, in Indiana, and came to Benton county, Iowa, in 1868. He is a son of Charles and Nancy (McCord) Clime, the former a native of New Jersey, born in 1832. Charles Clime left home when sixteen years old and located in Indiana, where he worked for a number of years, and at the age of twenty was married, after which he rented a farm. Later he moved to Kansas, and to Minnestota, then back from Minnesota to Buchanan county, Iowa, and finally settled in Benton county, where he now lives. His wife is a daughter of John C. McCord, of Indiana, who moved to Kansas. They were married in Indiana.

John C. Clime moved west and remained with his father until twenty-one years of age, and after his marriage bought land in Polk township, and also in Harrison township, which he later sold and purchased his present home. The land had few improvements when he settled on it, and he has put up fine out-buildings, a good house, and has all modern conveniences. He raises the best stock, such as Short-horn cattle, Norman horses and Poland China hogs. He is actively interested in public affairs, and is affiliated with the Republican party. He has held various local offices, which he has filled to the satisfaction of all. He received but a common school education and has made the most of his opportunities for gaining knowledge and improvement. He is a member of the Christian church.

When he attained his majority Mr. Clime married Agnes McMillan, and their children are: Cora, wife of H. C. Ralston, of Harrison township, and Myrtle, living at home. Mr. Clime was married on the place he now occupies.

STEWART J. KERR, is one of the large property owners of Homer township. He has been identified with the interests of Iowa since 1870, and since 1874 he has lived at his present home-stand, a splendidly improved farm of two hundred acres. The land at the time of purchase was virgin prairie soil, and the improvements which it now contains have been placed there by him. His entire cash capital when he came to this state did not exceed one hundred dollars, but he owned a half interest in a threshing machine which he brought with him and which he operated for some twenty years, his services in this way being of inestimable value to the early residents of Benton county. The nucleus of his present estate was a forty acre tract, and he has added thereto

forty acres at a time, and he has been very successful in his chosen vocation. Vinton was his nearest market in those early days, and during the first years of his residence he worked some on the construction of the old Burlington Cedar Rapids and Northern Railroad, now the Rock Island, but general farming has been his principal occupation throughout life, and during recent years he has raised thoroughbred Hereford cattle. He was at one time interested in a creamery at Rogerville.

Mr. Kerr was born in Rochester, New York, in 1849, a son of Francis and Hannaah (Thornhill) Kerr. The father was born Scotland, but came to America when a young man, and he died in Indiana whither he had moved during the babyhood of his son Steward, and he died when this son was but a small child. The mother was born in England, her family emigrating to the state of New York when she was young, and after her husband's death she with her seven children returned to her parents in that state and remained there for some time. About 1855 she moved to Winnebago county, Illinois, where she was subsequently married to Thomas Dobson, and she continued to reside in that county until her death in 1862. Steward J. Kerr has a sister and two brothers living, William, living in Davis Junction, Ogle county, Illinois; Mrs. Mary Maine, of Rockford, that state; and Andrew, who lived for twenty years at Waterloo, Iowa, and he is now a retired business man at Shellrock, this state. The latter was a Civil war soldier serving in a New York regiment.

The deceased brothers and sisters of Mr. Kerr are: Eliza J. McGookin who died at Rockport, Illinois, in 1876; Ida Ferrin of Rockport, who died in May, 1890; William Dobson, who died at Rockford in July, 1890; Ellen M. Beach who died at Davis Junction, Illinois, in 1890; and Levi J., who served in Company I, Sixth Missouri Infantry during the Civil war and died at Waterloo, Iowa, in August, 1906.

Steward J. Kerr attended school in Illinois, and he became familiar with farming pursuits in his youth, working for others until the Civil war. On the 4th of January, 1864, he enlisted in Company D, First Illinois Artillery, and served until July 28, 1865, when he was honorably discharged. Returning to Illinois he continued to work out by the month until coming to Iowa in 1870 he rented land in Benton county, finally purchasing his present homestead. In 1870, in Illinois, he married Miss Mary Kennedy, born in Limerick, Ireland, in 1850, to Martin and Mary (Vaughan) Kennedy. Her father came to this country and to New York, and was killed on the railroad. His widow brought their family to America when the daughter was a baby, and in a

short time they located in Rockford, Illinois, the mother subsequently marrying there a Mr. Fahey. Both Mr. and Mrs. Fahey spent the remainder of their lives on a farm there. Mrs. Kerr has several brothers and sisters living, including Margaret Greene, of Bremer county, Iowa; Anna Dolan, of Cherry Valley, Illinois; William Fahey, living in Ogle county, Illinois; Miss Eliza Fahey, of the same county; and Sarah McGrath, of Ogle county. A brother, John M. Kennedy, died at Rockford, Illinois, August 27, 1908, when past sixty years of age. A sister, Mrs. Maria Duffy, the eldest of the children, died at her home in Burlington in 1908, and Patrick Kennedy died some thirty years ago, when a young man. Mr. and Mrs. Kerr have six children living, namely: Lucy J., the wife of Perry B. Fairbanks, of Dysart, Tama county, Iowa, and they have a daughter, Frances K.; J. W., a farmer near Dysart residing on one of his father's farms in Tama county, Iowa, and he married Miss Rose Schott; Delbert S., who is associated with his father in farming; Bessie E., also at home with her parents; Lulu B., the wife of F. H. Schmidt, of Dysart, and they have a daughter, Helen Elizabeth; and Lena M., teaching in Dysart. Two of their children are deceased, George F. dying in 1892 when just past the age of twenty-one, and Alice who died in infancy. Mr. Kerr votes with the Republican party, and he has served in local and school offices. He is a member of H. M. Miller Post No. 261, of Dysart, and both he and his wife are members of the Rogerville Methodist Episcopal church in Homer township.

DR. C. C. GRIFFIN, a prominent physician and surgeon, has been identified with Vinton since 1868, and is one of the best known and most influential men in Benton county. He was born in Potter county, Pennsylvania, February 21, 1846, and is a son of Josiah and Catherine (Thomas) Griffin, natives of Otsego county, New York. In youth the parents moved to Potter county, Pennsylvania, and in 1851 to Lake county, Ohio. Dr. Griffin attended the common schools of Lake county, Ohio, and when sixteen years of age began reading medicine at Madison. In 1864 he enlisted in the One Hundred and Seventy-first Ohio Infantry, and was on detail service in the commissary department. At the close of the war he studied medicine at Michigan University, at Ann Arbor, from which he graduated in the Class of 1868, when he located in Vinton, Iowa, which has since been his home. At the beginning of his practice he was in limited circumstances, but by his untiring efforts and devotion to his profession and a natural aptitude in business matters, he has won himself a com-

petence, a large and lucrative practice, and a splendid reputation as a professional and business man.

Dr. Griffin was one of the earliest physicians in Benton county, and is one of the best known men in the community, in the line of his profession. Dr. Griffin is an able physician and a skillful surgeon, and his services are much sought. He is a member of the County, State and National Medical Societies, and is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in which he has received thirty-three degrees.

In 1879, Dr. Griffin married Emma Wheelock, a native of Vermont.

JOSEPH WALTER.—Since coming from Illinois, thirty years ago, Joseph Walter has resided on his farm in section 18, and set a most worthy example as a skilful and thrifty agriculturist and a useful and intelligent citizen. As several years of his early manhood had been passed in the Union service, he had received a discipline which made him proof against average hardships and also taught him to appreciate the value of peace and stability. Like most of the other old soldiers, he has made the best kind of a citizen. Mr. Walter is a Pennsylvania man, born in Bedford county December 2, 1842, and a son of James and Elizabeth (Morse) Walter. The paternal grandfather, Jacob, was a native of Germany who settled in Virginia, where the father was born and reared. When a young man, James Walter moved to Pennsylvania, where he married Elizabeth Morse, and farmed almost to the time of his death at the age of eighty. The mother was a native of that state, of English extraction, and after the death of her husband made her home with her son Joseph until her death at the age of seventy-six.

The boyhood of Joseph Walter was uneventful and spent on the Pennsylvania farm, his service for the Union being as driver of a government team in 1862-4. In the latter year he moved west to Ogle county, Illinois, working on a farm until his marriage in 1868, when he rented a tract of land in Lee county, that state, which he operated for nine years or more. In 1879 he purchased his present farm of eighty acres, which at that time was virtually raw and entirely treeless. He has since planted shade trees, brought his place to a fine state of cultivation, made numerous other improvements, and, in fact, transformed mere land into a valuable and pleasing homestead. Besides the home farm in section 18, he owns fifty acres in section 7, of Taylor township, and is a substantial citizen who is a credit to his German, English and American blood.

In 1868 Mr. Walter was united in marriage with Miss Mary Hightman, a native of Ogle county, Illinois, and they have had five children, as follows: Irvin W., now a traveling salesman whose home is in Vinton; Irene, wife of D. L. Bryan, also a resident of that place; Emma, who married George Long, a farmer of Benton county; Albert Miller, an engineer who lives at Garrison, this county; and Anna, who is now the wife of John Myers, who also resides in Benton county. Both Mr. and Mrs. Walter are members of the Baptist church, popular for their social traits and highly respected for their integrity and helpfulness.

OKKE O. BOOMGARDEN, a successful farmer of section 6, Eldorado township, Benton county, Iowa, was born in Grundy county, Iowa, in Pleasant Valley township, March 9, 1869. He is a son of Okke and Elizabeth (Meister) Boomgarden, both natives of Germany. The father died in 1903, aged seventy-eight years, and the mother died in 1873, aged forty-three years. They were parents of eight children, of whom seven are living, namely: Jacob, of Lyon county, Iowa; Ella, wife of John Krugher, of Lyon county, Iowa; Amelia, wife of Wilken Brower, of Winnebago county, Illinois; Mary, wife of Harm Van Hauen, of Butler county, Iowa; Zike, wife of John Brower, of Winnebago county, Illinois; Martin, of Wright county, Iowa; and Okke O. Mr. Boomgarden and his wife came from Germany to the United States soon after 1840, and first located in Ogle county, Illinois; in 1856 they came to Iowa and located in Grundy county, where they bought land from the government at a dollar and a quarter an acre. They both died on the farm in Grundy county.

Okke O. Boomgarden was reared on a farm in Grundy county, Iowa, and attended the public school. When thirteen years of age he began working out by the month, which he continued thirteen years, and he then rented land in Grundy county. He bought eighty acres, and in 1900 moved to the farm where he now lives, consisting of one hundred and forty acres, which his wife received from her parents. He now has a well improved farm, on which he has erected part of the buildings, and he has planted some fine trees around his house. Mr. Boomgarden has a good grade of cattle and hogs, and is an intelligent, enterprising farmer.

In politics Mr. Boomgarden is a Republican, and he is now a director on the school board. He was reared in the German Lutheran church. He was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America of Applington, Iowa, and is also affiliated with Van Horne Lodge, No. 249, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having taken all the degrees in the order and also the canton.



On July 25, 1896, Mr. Boomgarden married Minnie, daughter of Jurgen Koopman, of Eldorado township, born June 20, 1875. Her father is mentioned at length elsewhere in this work, in connection with his son, Otto A. Koopman. Mr. Boomgarden and his wife have two children, Elizabeth and Matilda, both at home.

JACOB NELL, a retired farmer of Norway, Benton county, Iowa, was born in Hesse Cassel, Germany, March 20, 1830.

Mr. Nell's grandfather, Henry Nell, was a schoolteacher in Germany, and his father, Henry Nell, Jr., after spending twelve years in the German army, was for thirty-six years a government forester at Hesse Cassel. He married Miss Elizabeth Kimm, who was of good old German stock, and who bore him seven children. Of this number, Jacob is the only survivor.

Jacob Nell attended school in his native land from his sixth to his fourteenth year. He was then apprenticed to the trade of interior wood worker, and learned every detail of the business. Afterward he gave his attention to stone cutting and worked at that trade until 1853, when he emigrated to America. Upon his arrival in this country he took up his residence in Herkimer county, New York, where for fourteen years he was engaged in farming. In 1867 he came to Iowa and bought 160 acres of land in Benton county, upon which he made his home and where for a period of thirty-two years he successfully carried on farming operations. In 1899, having acquired a competency, he turned the farm work over to younger hands, and moved to Norway. Here he has a comfortable home and is enjoying the evening of life, active in both mind and body, and happy in the companionship of his many friends.

Politically, Mr. Nell is a Republican. As a loyal citizen of his adopted country, he has always taken a deep interest in public affairs, never, however, aspiring to official position, as his home duties have taken up all his time and attention. While living in New York, in 1862, he was instructed to appear before a board for examination to determine his fitness to be drafted into the army. But experience had taught him better than to go with drafted men, so he enlisted for a term of three years, and was assigned to Company E, 152d New York Infantry. From Herkimer county he went with his regiment to Washington, D. C., and was stationed for awhile below Washington, at Fort Masse; later, the regiment returned and guarded the city. Having served in the German army, Mr. Nell, when he entered the Union army, was appointed color sergeant, and during his outpost service had charge of the guards. The exposure of army life, especially one night while he

was guarding a point of danger, brought on a serious illness, on account of which he was discharged from the service.

His father, a devout Lutheran, Mr. Nell was reared in that faith, and he is one of the stanch members of the church near Atkins. He aided in the building of both the Lutheran church and school at this place.

In 1854, in Herkimer county, New York, Mr. Nell married Miss Ann Elizabeth Kimm, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Kimm of that county, where he father was engaged in farming. Mrs. Nell was reared and educated in Germany. The children of this union, nine in number, are as follows: Kate, wife of Louis Krumpitz of Calhoun county, Iowa; Leonard, of Newhall, Iowa; Anne, wife of Chris Renkentch of Von Horne, Iowa; Alice, wife of Anton Vernicke of Benton county, Iowa; Mary, deceased; Henry of Montana; Emma, wife of Theodore Romer of Benton county, Iowa; Lena, deceased; and Lizzie, deceased.

FRED WALKER, of Canton township, living on his farm, though now retired from active life, came with his parents to Benton county, in 1856. He was born in Chautauqua county, New York, in 1852, and is a son of C. N. and Augusta (Stoddard) Walker, the latter now residing with him, at the age of seventy-six years. C. N. Walker, who died in May, 1908, in his eightieth year, was also a native of Chautauqua county, New York, where for years he was engaged in mercantile business; although after coming to Benton county he followed farming. He and his wife were charter members of the Baptist church at Palo. In 1856 they settled in section 36, in Canton township, where they lived many years. The home is now located in sections 17 and 18, of the same township, where the farm of four hundred and forty acres upon which the family have resided since 1895 is operated by the sons of Fred Walker. They still retain the remainder of the estate, which aggregates altogether over eight hundred acres. Augusta (Stoddard) Walker was born at Brattleboro, Vermont, and came to New York as a child; her family later located in Benton county, Iowa, and she has a sister, Mrs. Thompson, residing at Belle Plaine, Iowa.

Fred was the only child of his parents, and after attending the local schools began to help with the work on the farm, which vocation he has since followed with remarkable success. He made a specialty of stock raising, and learned the trade of miller in a flour mill which his father and S. A. Bowe erected on Bear Creek in 1869. It was one of the first mills built in that section. He worked some time in his father's mill on Bear Creek, two miles

east of Shellsburg. He conducted a creamery and cheese factory at Shellsburg, for four years, although he prefers farming. He is a Republican in politics and takes great interest in local affairs, although he has never accepted public office. He is a prominent and influential citizen, and widely known and respected.

Mr. Walker married, in Linn county, Iowa, Carrie A. Root, who was born at Jackson, Michigan, in 1854, and died in the fall of 1908; she came to Iowa in 1855, lived in Black Hawk county for a time and then removed to Linn county where she resided until her marriage. She left six children, namely: Estella, now Mrs. Detwiler, of Waterloo, Iowa; Lola A., at home; Alberta, now Mrs. Bowe, of Canton township; Carlton, who married Effie Williams, and lives on the home farm; Oscar L., assisting in the work of the farm; and Norman, at school.

When the Walker family came to Iowa the trip was made by rail to Iowa City and from that point by stage. C. N. Walker purchased wild prairie land which he broke and improved. The trading was at that time done at Cedar Rapids which was the nearest trading point.

O. A. KOOPMAN, a successful farmer of section 15, Eldorado township, Benton county, Iowa, was born on the farm he now occupies May 3, 1871, a son of Jurgen and Annie C. (Albers) Koopman, both natives of Germany. Jurgen Koopman was born in 1833 and died on April 26, 1904; his wife, born in 1836, died January 26, 1904. They left four children, namely: O. A.; Emyl, of Minnesota; Annie, wife of Peter M. Kahler, of Eldorado township; and Minnie, wife of O. O. Boomgarden, of Eldorado township. Mr. Koopman was a carpenter and cabinet-maker in Germany, and in 1868 came to the United States, locating in Davenport, Iowa; in the fall of that year he came to Benton county, looking for a farm, and he purchased eighty acres in section 15, Eldorado township, for four dollars an acre. He settled on this farm in the spring of 1869, when it was raw prairie land, and the wolves at first prowled around and stole his chickens. Lumber being cheap, he was able to build himself a better home than that owned by the majority of his neighbors at that time; he made the dimensions fourteen by twenty-four, and it was considered then a fine house. About ten years after coming to the county Jurgen Koopman purchased eighty acres more, for which he paid fifteen dollars an acre. His next purchase was one hundred and sixty acres at thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents an acre and his next and last purchase was one hundred and forty acres, for which he paid forty dollars an acre. None of this land could now be bought for

less than one hundred and sixty dollars an acre. He was a successful farmer and remained on the farm until his death, being then possessed of four hundred and sixty acres.

O. A. Koopman remained on his father's farm until his marriage; he received a common school education and attended high school at Vinton three and one-half years, leaving a few months before he would have graduated. He worked on his father's farm from the time he was old enough, and at the time of his marriage located in section 6 of Eldorado township, on one of his father's farms, where he remained two years; he then returned to the home farm, which he rented and carried on until his father's death. He received one hundred and sixty acres of land which was the old homestead. He also owns one hundred and twenty acres of land in Union township. He is a progressive farmer and very successful.

In politics Mr. Koopman supports the measures of the Democratic party. He takes an interest in public affairs, and is serving his third year as road supervisor. He stands well in the community, where he is well known. Mr. Koopman is a member of the Modern Brotherhood of America, No. 662, of Newhall, and his wife belongs to the Catholic church.

Mr. Koopman married, February 20, 1895, Elizabeth Bodicker, born March 30, 1874, in Eldorado township, and they have four children, all at home, namely: Harry, Tillie, John and Alfred.

FRANK L. THOMPSON, farmer, stockmen, thresher and enterprising business man, has been engaged in threshing some thirty years, his father having been thus engaged for thirty-six years. Mr. Thompson was born in section 32, Big Grove township, Benton county, Iowa, August 8, 1864. He received a common school education and at the age of sixteen years operated one of his father's threshing machines. He has been very successful, and has made all the present substantial improvements on his farm, having modern comforts and conveniences in his handsome residence. He owns some nine threshing outfits, which he operates and oversees, and employs from six to twenty-five or thirty men, according to the season of year. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of land, in the northeast quarter of section 32, and has six fine stallions, five Percherons and one Belgian. Politically he is a Republican, although he takes no active part in public affairs, being very much occupied with his various enterprises. He pays close attention to his business, and is amply rewarded by the results obtained by him.

Mr. Thompson married, in Benton county, Mary, daughter of

Eli Grimm, of Garrison. Dr. Grimm is a veterinary surgeon and an early resident of Iowa, having come to the state in 1864 and to Benton county in 1883; he owns some four hundred acres of land in Big Grove township, and is given further mention elsewhere in this work. Mr. Thompson and his wife have seven children, namely: Martha, wife of August Mussman, of Big Grove township; James, Florence, Cora, Arzey, Horace and Mary (or Molly), all living at home. Mr. Mussman and his wife have had two children, Lawrence, who died when a few months old, and Elsie, now about one year old.

DR. ELI GRIMM, of Garrison, has retired from farming since the fall of 1901, but still practices his profession of veterinary surgeon. He was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, June 20, 1841, and was reared in Illinois, where the family located in the early fifties, near Freeport. He worked some in Illinois and also in Wisconsin, and in the fall of 1861 he removed to Jones county, Iowa. He had twice enlisted for service in the Civil war, but was unable to go to the front on account of disability. He spent some fifteen years in Jones county, and secured a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, where he built a home. He came to Big Grove township, Benton county, in the fall of 1883, having previously purchased two hundred and forty acres of land, where he located. He has since added one hundred and sixty acres, and has a well-improved farm. There are four residences, besides the sets of buildings necessary to keep up the four hundred acres. He supervises the cultivation of this large property, which is mainly operated by members of his family.

Dr. Grimm has practiced veterinary surgery since early manhood; he had a natural taste and ability for this profession, and has been very successful. He enjoys the confidence and respect of people throughout Benton county, and has a host of friends. He has always been actively interested in church work and politically is independent.

Dr. Grimm married, in Wisconsin, in 1860, Sarah A. Balmer, also a native of Pennsylvania, and early a resident of Illinois. He and his wife became parents of twelve children, seven daughters and five sons, eleven of whom grew to maturity, and ten of whom still survive, most of them in Benton county and two in Tama county, Iowa.

JAMES M. THOMPSON, late of Garrison, passed away July 26, 1908. Mr. Thompson was born January 1, 1841, at Dover, New Hampshire, and resided at his native place until he had nearly

reached manhood, when he removed, in 1858, to Muscatine county, Iowa, where he taught school several years. In 1861 Mr. Thompson settled in section 32, Big Grove township, Benton county, where he followed farming with success, also owned and operated threshing machines many years. He had retired and lived at Garrison for some twelve years before his decease. He was given the confidence and esteem of all who knew him, and stood well with his fellow-citizens. He was a keen and enterprising man of business, and paid close attention to his interests. Politically he was a stanch Republican. Mr. Thompson was a member of the Friends' church, as is also his widow, who survives him. He was a man of strong character, unfailing in the performance of his duties, and took a commendable interest in local public affairs. He had been a resident of Benton county many years, and was widely known.

James M. Thompson was a son of William and Louisa (Meader) Thompson, who lived in Muscatine county, Iowa, where William Thompson died; his widow later removed to Indiana, and after the death of her second husband she returned to Iowa and spent her declining years in Benton county.

Mr. Thompson married, in 1863, Hannah Merchant, who survives him. She was born in Fayette county, Ohio, in 1844, and is a daughter of Nathan and Mary (Davis) Merchant, who came to Benton county, in 1859, and resided in Big Grove township, where they lived until their deaths. Nathan Merchant has been dead many years. They were farmers. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, namely: Frank L., stock farmer, thrasher and business man, living in Big Grove township, mentioned elsewhere in this work; Edward C., also mentioned elsewhere in this work; Alva M., a farmer of Big Grove township; Elmer, of Waterloo, Iowa; and Charles, who died in childhood.

JOHN PATTERSON VANDIKE is a name which inspires a good deal of esteem, respect and liking in that section where it is oftenest heard, and where its bearer, one of the substantial citizens of Benton county, has so long made his home. As his name indicates Mr. Vandike is of Dutch origin, the family having been founded in America by one Andrew Vandike, who was born in Holland, January 11, 1744, and died September 3, 1814. At some time in his life, the date not being known, he decided to leave his native "land of pluck" and emigrate to a country richer in resources, settling as did so many of his compatriots in the city which some time before had appropriately been known as New Amsterdam.

Henry Vandike, the grandfather of John P. Vandike, died in

W. Jane Vandike



L. P. Vandike







April, 1796, his age not being known. The father, John Vandike, was born in Salem county, New Jersey, April 28, 1793. As his father died when he was only about three years of age, the family were in very straitened circumstances and young John remained for the next eight years at his grandfather's home on Tinicum Island, where the family had been visiting at the time of Henry Vandike's death. John Vandike was bound out as soon as he became old enough for his services to be of any use, to one Andrew Poulson. Free again upon the attainment of his majority in the fall of 1814 he moved to Fulton county, Pennsylvania. In 1815 he volunteered at McConnellstown, Pennsylvania, to go to the relief of Baltimore, which at that time was invaded by the British, but before reaching Baltimore the British were defeated, and the volunteer troops disbanded. The first turnpike in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, was built by him in the summer of 1816 and the next fifteen years of his life were devoted to teaching school, principally in Virginia. He was married to his first wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Walker, April 17, 1828, and she died in less than a year. His second union took place April 29, 1830, in the state of Pennsylvania and shortly thereafter he came to Delaware county, Ohio, settling on land nearby and hewing a home by mighty effort out of the forest primeval. He assisted greatly in the construction of the first buildings of the Ohio Wesleyan College at Delaware. Although he went to school but three weeks, he gave himself a good education, and even taught school for many years, following the double calling of pedagogue and farmer. As a Bible student he enjoyed more than local fame and when his children were growing up he recited the whole historical part of "the good book" to them on long winter evenings. He was exceptionally well-versed in astronomy and in ancient and modern history. Of his family of four sons and three daughters, all taught school with the exception of him whose name initiates this sketch.

For over sixty years John Vandike, Sr., was an unswerving member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He voted the Democratic ticket and was honored by his neighbors and fellow citizens with the gift of several public offices of importance, among these being the offices of justice of the peace, county judge and postmaster. The latter position he held at Redman, Benton county, Iowa, whence he removed in 1861, also pursuing the calling of a farmer in the new location. In the year 1868 he returned to the place of his birth after an absence of fifty-four years and met for the first time his half brother, Samuel Rain, a man more than half century old. During the year 1875 John Vandike's eyesight

failed him so that he could not read. This was a great affliction as reading was one of his chief enjoyments, and having read and studied a great deal during the course of a long life he was, perhaps, the best historian in the county. The death of this estimable gentleman occurred December 24, 1880.

John Patterson Vandike, the subject of this biography, was born in Delaware county, Ohio, on March 15, 1839. Mr. Vandike's mother's name before her marriage was Elizabeth Aultman, her birth having occurred in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, October 25, 1804, and her parents having been of the stock popularly known as "Pennsylvania Dutch." He received a common school education and early began his battle with the world, in the early sixties driving a breaking team with seven yoke of oxen and a thirty inch plow, especially intended for dealing with the sod of the unbroken prairie. Power horses were hard to get in those days and it was a matter of pride with him that on one red letter day he ran a threshing machine drawn by eight horses and one yoke of oxen. When he moved to the prairie there was not a tree in sight closer than twelve miles and the wheat was taken to a grist mill on Salt Creek to be ground. Mr. Vandike's pioneer reminiscences are interesting and among them he recounts this:

"My wife and I and two little children once went to Vinton, the county seat, to do some trading. It was a mild morning when we started out, the sun shining brightly. However, when we left for home it commenced to snow and soon turned into a blizzard. We were forced to stop with a farmer on the way and we had to stay two nights and a day before we dared to start for home, and, oh, the snow drifts we had to go through! In those days when we went to a party we hitched up a big sled or wagon and gathered up all the young folks along the way, sometimes carrying as many as seventeen in one load."

In later years Mr. Vandike secured an interest in a general store at Belle Plaine, but was burned out and the business was discontinued. He thereupon took up the feeding of cattle for a number of years and shipped the most of them to Chicago. He now owns three hundred and twenty acres of prairie land and forty acres of timber land in Kane township, and one hundred and twenty acres in Nebraska and is accounted one of the prosperous men of the locality.

Mr. Vandike was married December 7, 1862, at Redman, Tama county, Iowa, to Nancy Jane Drake, daughter of Kelley and Sarah (Ashby) Drake, her family being of agricultural stock. Kelley Drake built the first house in Kane township, Benton county, in 1853. Sir Francis Drake, the English naval hero of

the sixteenth century, was one of Mrs. Vandike's ancestors. Mr. Vandike believes that to his marriage he owes the greater share of his success, his wife having been an ideal helpmeet for nearly fifty years. He is very loyal to her and declares that his union with a woman of such strength of character and unselfishness was the greatest and most important event of his life.

As mentioned before Mr. Vandike has a fund of interesting pioneer anecdotes at his command. When he removed from Ohio to Iowa he made the journey by team and was about six weeks on the road, arriving at Redman, Iowa, November 22, 1861. He secured quarters with a family that winter which were by no means distinguished for their comfortableness. His room was upstairs and many a morning he would have to shake a thick crust of snow off the bedclothes before emerging and would leave deep tracks behind him all the way down stairs. After his marriage he and his wife moved out upon the prairie to a farm which Mr. Vandike had bought on time and which was two miles from any neighbor. He set to work dauntlessly to break the prairie and to build a home. As there were no railroads nearby he hauled his first crops thirty-five miles to Cedar Rapids. Upon one occasion he became lost in a snow storm when in reality within a mile of home. After wandering around for what seemed an interminable period Mr. Vandike unhitched his team, mounted one of his horses and left the solution of the problem to him. Although he started out in what seemed to Mr. Vandike the wrong direction, it proved to be the right one and he was soon by his own fireside.

In the matter of politics Mr. Vandike was for many years a Democrat, but he has latterly voted where he believed his vote would do the greatest amount of good, studying public questions upon his own account and not blindly following party leadership. He has been a Free Mason since 1873 and enjoys good standing in that august body. He is present school treasurer, an office he has held for many years. For twenty-four years he was trustee of Kane township and among his many good works was contribution to the Addison Institute at Irving, Tama county, Iowa. As Mr. Vandike expresses it, he belongs to the "Big Church," and he is unostentatious in his benevolences, his right hand not knowing what his left hand doeth.

To Mr. and Mrs. Vandike have been born a number of children. James A. Vandike was born May 25, 1864, in Kane township, Benton county, Iowa. He was graduated from the high school and has followed successfully the work of a farmer and school teacher. On November 9, 1887, he was married to Etta Byam, but she died in 1907 and on June 2, 1909, he took as his

second wife, Mary M. Quigley. They reside in Kane township. Almeda was born August 30, 1866, attended the local high school and married Daniel Rockwell, a horse shipper and large landowner in Custer county, Nebraska. Emmett M. pursued the calling of a railroad carpenter until last year, but now he devotes his energies to the cultivation of a farm in Kane township. He was born September 15, 1869, and September 23, 1894, laid the foundation of a household by his marriage to Gertie Bair. Clarence, deceased, was born November 18, 1874. Charles Henry was born September 18, 1876, attended the high school, adopted the farmer's vocation and was married to Mary M. LeQuatte, August 20, 1900. Frank A., who also follows the vocation for which the family seems to have a decided penchant, received his education in the common schools and was united in marriage to Clara Tarvasted, May 2, 1901. He was born July 22, 1879. James A., Almeda, and Charles H. were all teachers in the public schools of Benton county, Iowa.

F. MARION WARD, one of the county supervisors of Benton county, was born in Ogle county, Illinois, April 9, 1856, and is a son of Samuel and Mary (Hayes) Ward. The mother still resides at Vinton, at the age of seventy-six years, but the father died in October, 1898, at the age of sixty-seven. They were both from Ohio, the father being from Licking county, and they came to Illinois in their youth. They were married in Ogle county, where Samuel Ward owned a farm. This land they sold and bought in Benton county, Iowa, where at the time of his death Samuel Ward owned a half-section. He carried on his farm until fifteen years before his death, when he retired and lived in Vinton. He was first a Democrat, but subsequently became a supporter of the Republican party, and held various local offices. Besides F. Marion there were three sons and two daughters, namely: Mrs. J. W. Hanna, of Big Grove township; William E., of California; Albert C., of Vinton; Elizabeth, wife of F. S. Donaldson, of LaPorte, Iowa, and John E., of California.

In the winter of 1866-7 F. Marion Ward came with his parents to Benton county and was reared in Big Grove township, where he received his education. He has followed farming and stock-raising most of his life, and owns eighty acres in section 16, Big Grove township; he also operates additional land. Politically he is a Republican and has filled various township offices and he has held his present office of county supervisor since February, 1909. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias of Vinton and the Modern Woodmen of America, of Garrison. He and his wife are members

of the Presbyterian church of Garrison. He is an influential and public spirited citizen, and well known in the community.

Mr. Ward married first in 1878, Clara Hansen, who died June 6, 1892, aged thirty-five years, leaving two children, Mabel C. and C. Paul. Mabel married J. A. Bergen, of Big Grove township, and they are parents of five children. C. Paul, who is a farmer of Big Grove township, married Ruth, daughter of Levi Eggleston, of Eden township, and they have two sons. January 9, 1895, Mr. Ward married for his second wife Lizzie Smith, and they have four children, Helen F., Roscoe M., Dorothy M. and Rosella, all living at home.

JOHN SELK.—The life record of John Selk is one of which he may well be proud, representing as it does a self help that has brought him success and a name honored and respected in his home community. Born, reared and educated in Germany, he was about twenty-two years of age when he accompanied the family to America, and starting out for himself, working for others by the month, he has finally become the owner of a valuable estate of three hundred and twenty acres in section 21, Homer township. He leases one hundred and sixty acres of that tract and farms the remainder, which represents his homestead. On first becoming a resident of Benton county in 1875 he located near Keystone in Kane township, working on farms there, later renting land for several years, and the nucleus of his present estate was an eighty acre tract. His land is finely improved, and he is engaged in general farming.

Mr. Selk was born in Mecklenberg, Germany, in 1849, a son of Christopher and Mary (Stody) Selk, who came to this country in 1872, residing for a few months in Wisconsin, and the mother died there. A year after this sad event the father returned to Germany and he died in that country some eight years later. Mr. Selk has three brothers, all living in Benton county, namely: Henry, a retired farmer living in Keystone; Fritz, also a retired farmer of that place; and Christopher, a Monroe township agriculturist. Mr. Selk married in Benton county about twenty-five years ago Miss Lena Steffler, born in Wisconsin, a daughter of Fritz Steffler, one of the pioneers of that state and now living in its town of Kiel, a retired farmer of more than eighty years of age. Mrs. Selk was reared in Wisconsin, coming in her young womanhood to Benton county. The six children which have blessed their marriage union were all born in Benton county, and they are: Emma, the wife of Peter Lamprecht, of Monroe township, and the parents of a daughter, Helen Farmers; and Herman, Henry, Elsie, Minnie

and George. Mr. Selk is an independent political voter, and he is one of the representative citizens of Homer township.

JOHN GILMORE, whose varied activities in Benton county have placed him in the ranks of its most useful and enterprising citizens, has been a resident of the county since the close of the Civil war, in which he was a soldier. He deserves a special prominence in the history of the state and county for what he has done in the breeding of fine stock. His pioneer work in this direction has been a contributing cause to Iowa's present eminence among states as a producer of the finest American stock. In other departments of citizenship an enterprise his individuality has impressed itself on the life and affairs of the county.

Mr. Gilmore is a descendant of Scotch-Irish Covenanters, and was born in the extreme north of Ireland, February 2, 1834. His parents were John and Mary (McCandless) Gilmore, both natives of Scotland, and his father was a stock farmer. This was one of the old families of Scotland and Ireland, with an estate which had been under one name for generations, and its coat of arms was the design of a cleaver with the inscription, "Perseverance will succeed." The senior John Gilmore was first married to Eliza Henry, and their six children are all deceased. By his marriage with Mary McCandless there were seven children, of whom there are four living, John being the youngest, and the others are: Alexander, a bachelor aged eighty-five, for many years a successful business man and still a resident of Victoria, B. C.; James, who now lives on the old homestead in the north of Ireland, spent a number of years in America and served in an Ohio regiment during the Civil war; and Henry, who served in a Pennsylvania regiment during the war, later was a farmer in Benton county some years, and then went west and became successful and is now a resident of California.

Mr. Gilmore was sixteen years old when he emigrated from Ireland to America. He had been educated by private tutor. He was practically without funds when he located in Philadelphia in April, 1850, and he there learned the carpenter's trade. From employment at the trade he engaged in the lumber business, and was in that line at Cincinnati, Ohio, for some years. During his residence there the Civil war came on, and in 1863 he enlisted in Company I, 167th Ohio Infantry, and served till the winter of 1864-65, without serious injury. At the close of the war he was engaged in the lumber business at Janesville, Wisconsin, for a short time, and in the fall of 1865 established himself in Vinton. In the following year he commenced the lumber business here and continued the business at Vinton for six years.

From the lumber business Mr. Gilmore became identified with farming and stock raising in this county. From the beginning his attention was specialized in fine stock, and for twenty-six years his stock was among the exhibits at the state fairs and won many prizes. He has the distinction of having called the first convention of fine stock-breeders in the state of Iowa. His farm close to Vinton, on which he resided for thirty years, was a model and an inspiration for progress of Benton county agriculture. He has since sold his farm, and for the past ten years has been secretary of the Eden Farmers Mutual Insurance Company.

At Vinton he has been an active and progressive citizen. He helped secure the city charter and was one of the first alderman under its provisions. He has taken some part in Republican politics, and is a member of P. M. Coder Post No. 98, G. A. R.

Mr. Gilmore married in this county Miss Elizabeth A. Geddes. She is of the well known family of that name. Her father, Alexander, was an officer in the English army, as were some of her uncles. Of her brothers, five served as officers in the American Civil war, and one was the late General James L. Geddes, who was a colonel of the Eighth Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore became the parents of six children, two of them now deceased. Henry N., a pharmacist, is a member of the drug firm of Gilmore & Ullom of Vinton, and has one son; Mary E. is the wife of J. H. Stephenson, of St. Paul; Jessie L. is at home; and Robert Alexander, who took first honors in the Vinton public schools, graduated at the age of twenty from the University of Iowa with the class of 1909. The other two children were William and Wilhelmina Lorain, who both died young. In 1910 Mr. Gilmore retired and left Vinton, moving to Port Angeles, Washington, where he expects to make his home.

SAMUEL THOMPSON, for the past eleven years living retired at Shellsburg, has been a continuous resident of the county since 1855. He was born in Clarion county, Pennsylvania, September 17, 1829, and is a son of Francis and Nancy (McDowell) Thompson. His mother's parents came to America from the city of Cork, Ireland, where her father was a weaver, and located in Pennsylvania. Francis Thompson was born in the eastern part of Pennsylvania, and later moved to the western part of that state, where he lived some time on a farm, coming to Benton county in 1856. He and his wife both died in Benton county some forty years ago, he at the age of about seventy and she when about eighty-four. They belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church. One son came to Benton county in 1852, but later removed to

Missouri, where he died about one year ago. They were parents of four sons and three daughters, of whom but two survive, Samuel and J. W., the latter residing at Belle Plaine, Iowa.

Samuel Thompson came to Benton county in 1853, for a visit, and two years later returned; he purchased a farm, in 1858, in company with his father. He came from Pennsylvania direct to Benton county, which has since been his home. He made all possible improvements in the farm of two hundred and ninety-six acres, in section 5, Canton township, which he recently sold. He was a hard worker, and carried on his farm with a great degree of success. Mr. Thompson is a man of high character, and greatly interested in the public welfare. Prior to the inception of the Republican party he voted the Whig ticket, and he has served in various local and school offices; for twenty-two years he acted as secretary of the school board. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In May, 1857, Mr. Thompson married, in Benton county, Sarah Lewis, born October 24, 1837, near Gallipolis, Ohio, daughter of Thomas Lewis and his wife, who came to Benton county about 1850, and who were residents of the county until their decease, many years since. Mr. Thompson and his wife have seven children, namely: James W., died in North Dakota in January, 1909, at the age of fifty years; John L., of Butte, Montana; Oscar H., of Salt Lake City; Francis, of Great Falls, Montana; Luella, Mrs. Severance, of California; Otto, of Salt Lake City; and Nannie Mabel, Mrs. McClintock. Mrs. McClintock and her husband have recently purchased her father's homestead, where they now reside.

DR. U. B. WHITEIS, late of Urbana, was born in Bellefontaine, Ohio, in 1830, and died January 17, 1903. He was a son of Thomas and Hannah (Boyd) Whiteis. Thomas Whiteis was a brickmason, of Pennsylvania, and moved to Ohio about 1800, being among the earliest pioneers. His nine children are now all deceased. Dr. U. B. Whiteis was reared in Ohio and educated in the common schools; later he attended Ann Arbor, Keokuk and Chicago Universities. He practised medicine in Rockport, Ohio, for five years. He came to Iowa and found a location for practice, then returned to Ohio, where he was married, and came back to Urbana, Iowa, which he made his home until his death. He bought out the practice of Dr. Guthrie, then the only physician in the town, who left Urbana, and for some years Dr. Whiteis was the only physician. After practising four years he purchased eighty acres of land. He returned to Ohio, where he left his wife while he took a course at Chicago University, and the next year he



resumed his practice in Urbana. He was a very fine physician, conscientious in the performance of his duties, not sparing himself in the cause of his patients, and made many long drives through the wilderness to answer sick calls. He continued his practice until two weeks before his death, which was felt to be a great loss to the community and he was widely mourned. His wife still lives in Urbana.

Dr. Whiteis took no active part in political affairs, but was an earnest Republican. He was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the Legion of Honor. He was an attendant of the Christian church, and reared his family in that faith.

Dr. Whiteis married Emeline, daughter of John and Tamzen (Fleming) Sproot; her father was a farmer in Pennsylvania, and when fifteen years of age came to Ohio with his brother, where they cleared up land, and later the whole family removed to Ohio. John Sproot married in Ohio, Tamzen Fleming, a neighbor, and their children were: Mary, widow of George Young, of Kansas; Rachel, wife of Disman Ohmstead, both deceased; Mrs. Whiteis; Marion D., deceased; Celina, (deceased) wife of John Stoner; Samuel, deceased; Margaret, wife of James Loyd, of Michigan; Tamzen, wife of Emanuel Walsh; John, of Montana; Hannah, (deceased) wife of Dr. Charles Mills; and Nancy. Mrs. Whiteis was married in Ohio, where she was reared. The children of Dr. and Mrs. Whiteis are: John, deceased; Samuel W., deceased; Edith, wife of Dr. Albert, of Iowa City, Iowa, and William.

Samuel W. Whiteis, deceased, was born in Urbana, January 12, 1868, and there received his preliminary education. He graduated at Tilford Collegiate Academy and spent one year at Cedar Rapids. He became a large land owner and prominent citizen of Benton county, and was president of Urbana Savings Bank. He served five years as postmaster, and also held the office of school director and other local offices, and was a man of influence and very popular in the community. He was unmarried, and died June 10, 1909.

William Whiteis was born in Urbana, in 1869, and there spent his childhood. He attended school at Tilford, Iowa, and the University of Iowa, and later went abroad, where he spent some time at Vienna, Austria, and three years at school in Leipsic, Germany. He is now a prominent and rising young physician of Iowa City, Iowa. He is a man of considerable skill and stands high in his profession. Dr. Whiteis married Alice Fernstrom, of Lone Tree, Iowa, and they have one son, Robert.

JACOB SPRINGER has been a resident of Benton county since 1852, and has always figured conspicuously in all political and other public affairs. He was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, January 21, 1824, and is a member of a family of Swedish descent, well known in that state. The progenitor of the family in the United States settled near Wilmington, Delaware, in 1864.

Reared in his native state, Jacob Springer remained there until after his marriage. He came west in 1852, reaching Iowa City, Iowa, July 4th; he entered forty acres of timber land and then selected one hundred and sixty acres of land in the southeast corner of St. Clair township, Benton county, where he lived until the death of his wife, in 1883, and in 1886 he sold his land. He first came to Vinton, Iowa, in 1854, and in 1886 he located in Blainstown and lived for twelve years at a hotel. In September, 1903, he removed to the home of a daughter, Mrs. M. E. Bower, near Watkins, where he now resides.

Mr. Springer has always taken a keen interest in the affairs of his adopted state, and has always been a staunch Republican. He attended the first political convention in Iowa City, in 1856, for the organization of the Republican party, and has always worked devotedly for its interests. He was appointed by the county judge of Benton county as commissioner, and organized St. Clair township, giving it its name; he called the people together, and the township, twelve miles by six, contained only enough voters to fill the offices, with one to spare. He was appointed as commissioner to organize the first school district in the southern part of Benton county, and has served all his life here in one local office or another, always interested in the cause of progress and improvement. Mr. Springer was one of the twenty-five members of the Masonic Order in the southern part of Benton county, and has taken thirty-two degrees in the order. He was elected by unanimous vote as trustee of the College for the Blind at Vinton, and served twenty-six years continuously, longer than any other person in that capacity. He has always been a prominent and influential citizen, and has enjoyed the confidence and respect of the entire community.

When he reached his majority, Mr. Springer married Eliza Jane McCormack, whose parents were from the northern part of Ireland; she died in Benton county, in 1883, at the age of fifty-seven years. They had a family of nine children, of whom four died in childhood. One son, Eugene, was a member of Company H, Second Iowa Cavalry, and died in service; Ada, Mrs. Miller, died in Missouri. Those living are: Ira, a retired farmer living in Belle Plaine, Iowa; Mrs. M. E. Bower, of St. Clair township; and Mrs. Annie Clausen, now residing in Nebraska.

OTTO B. SCHMIDT, who is a substantial farmer living on section 9, Eldorado township, was born in Jackson county, Iowa, April 26, 1875. He is a son of Gustave Adolph Otto and Sophia (Pagel) Schmidt, both natives of Germany. Gustave Schmidt who was familiarly known as Otto Schmidt, was born March 12, 1829, and died May 24, 1905. His wife, who was born in 1844, now lives in Preston, Iowa. They were parents of twelve children, of whom nine are living, namely: Frank W., of Kensett, Iowa; August F., of Preston, Iowa; Minnie, wife of Charles Finch, of Ellsworth, Minnesota; Otto B., of this sketch; George M., of Davenport, Iowa; Augusta, wife of F. S. King, of Preston, Iowa; Charlotte, wife of Dr. S. B. Tony, of Mandan, South Dakota; Lulu, at home; and Hugo, of Davenport, Iowa. Otto Schmidt, Sr., came to the United States in 1854, landing in New York August 6th. He remained in New York state working at his trade for three years and in 1857 he came to Iowa, locating in Jackson county, where he married and continued to carry on his trade of blacksmith. He located at what was known as Van Buren Center, and here he carried on a farm besides following his trade. This was his home until his death although for several years he was president of the German Savings Bank of Preston, Iowa. He was one of the enterprising and influential citizens among the pioneers of Jackson county.

Otto B. Schmidt lived on the home farm and attended school at Preston, there receiving a common school education; later he attended the Normal School at Valparaiso, Indiana, for one year. At the age of seventeen years he began teaching in Van Buren township, Jackson county, and thus spent three years; he then worked on a farm until his marriage, and in the spring of 1898 he moved to the farm he now occupies, which comprises one hundred and sixty acres, given to his wife by her father. Mr. Schmidt set to work to clear out the land, and erect new buildings where needed. He now has a fine place, in good condition and having modern conveniences. He deals extensively in stock, buying and selling horses, cattle and hogs, and he has been very successful in every enterprise undertaken by him. He also owns fifty-seven acres in Eldorado township.

Mr. Schmidt is accounted one of the representative farmers and business men of the community, and is actively interested in public affairs and enterprises. He is a stockholder in the Van Horne Savings Bank and the Van Horne Mercantile Company. He is treasurer of the township school board, and served two years as township clerk. He was reared in the German Lutheran faith. In politics he is a Republican.

December 29, 1897, Mr. Schmidt married Julia M. Rammels-

berg, born in Shellsburg, Iowa, December 5, 1875, daughter of Hugo and Bertha (Hauschild) Rammelsberg. Hugo Rammelsberg, Mrs. Otto B. Schmidt's father, was born in Germany, September 17, 1827. He came to the United States in 1847, landing at New Orleans where he remained until 1849 and then went to Yazoo City, Mississippi, where he stayed until 1854, when he came to Iowa. Here he entered a large tract of land in Fremont township, at one time owning two sections of land there. June 11, 1857, he married Emilie Toedter, a native of Germany, who died on April 15, 1863. There were four children by this marriage, two of whom are living. February 29, 1864, Mr. Rammelsberg married Bertha Hauschild, who was born in Germany May 25, 1845, and who survives him. She lives at Shellsburg, Iowa. By this marriage there were nine children, and four daughters are now living. Mr. Rammelsberg was a member of the German Lutheran church. In politics he was a Democrat. He died February 21, 1897.

Mr. Schmidt and his wife had two children, Waldo, born April 23, 1900, who died December 1, 1908, and Helen D., born November 19, 1907.

CARL DELFS, a prominent and successful farmer of Cedar township was born March 13, 1867, in Port Byron, Rock Island county, Illinois. He was brought to Benton county in 1867, October 9, when but a few months old. His father had purchased land in Cedar township, and the son remained at home until he reached his majority. He received a common school education, and later went to business college in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for three months. He then entered the store of Boggs & Conner, where he remained five years, after which W. C. Boggs and Mr. Delfs purchased the grocery stock and began business under the firm name of W. C. Boggs & Delfs. Two years later Mr. Delfs sold his interest to his partner and in 1895 moved on to the old home farm, where he has since remained. He owns city property in Vinton, and other towns, and operates one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 31 in Cedar township, the old home.

Mr. Delfs is an up-to-date, hustling farmer, and has made agriculture pay. He has good business judgment, and pays close attention to the improvement of the farm. Politically he is a Republican, and has served his township as assessor, school officer, etc., standing high in the opinion of his neighbors. He attends the First Presbyterian church of Vinton with his family. Fraternally he is a member of Vinton Lodge No. 83, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and his wife was a member of the Rebekah Order. He married, February 24, 1892, Minnie M., daughter of



MR. AND MRS. CARL DELFS



F. G. and Susan (Wood) Dresser, who lived west of Vinton on a farm; Mrs. Delfs died October 24, 1908, leaving one son, Claus G., now a medical student, at Drake University; besides there are two adopted children, Josephine Caporilla, now in Denver, and John Peteley, of Bruce township, Benton county.

CHRISTIAN SELK is one of the prominent land owners and farmers of Monroe township, where he has a valuable estate of two hundred and forty acres in sections 23, 25 and 26. He was born in Germany January 27, 1853, and in 1872 came with the family to this country, residing for a few months in Wisconsin, and the mother died there. A year afterward the father returned to Germany, and he died in that country eight years later. Mr. Selk has three brothers, all living in Benton county. He began life for himself in this country without capital, and while in Wisconsin he worked for others for about a year, coming then to Davenport. After three years there he came to Keystone in Benton county, and after working for others some years he bought eighty acres of land in Homer township, which he improved and which he yet owns. From there he came to his present home farm in 1901, purchasing the land from James Harwood. He has greatly improved his place, and he operates it with the help of his two sons.

Mr. Selk married in Benton county about twenty-nine years ago Miss Catherine Fick, who was born in Holstein, Germany, and she was about seven years old when she came to America with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Haas Fick, who located in Eldorado township, Benton county, and spent the remainder of their lives there. The six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Selk are: John, who married Miss Lizzie Hausman, and resides on the Homer township farm, their three children being Harry, Roberta and Raymond; and Etta, Ella, Martha, Fritz and Rudolph, all at home with their parents. Mr. Selk in politics affiliates with the Democratic party. He is one of the representative citizens of Monroe township.

JOHN BOOK, the old, popular, retired and honored citizen of Blairstown, is one of those rare men who, despite years of ill health, has not only won a business standing in the community, but has preserved a kindly and cheerful temper under all the suffering laid upon him. He has gained a high reputation as a general merchant; has well served as school director, and is a representative citizen of broad usefulness, integrity and charity.

Mr. Book is a native of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, born on the 17th of December, 1839, to Conrad and Mary (Olie) Book. The father, who was born June 29, 1805, and died July 3, 1886,

and the mother, who was born in 1814 and passed away in July, 1854, were also natives of that German duchy. Their three living children, of the four born to them, are as follows: Conrad, who now is a resident of Cedar Rapids; John, of this biography; and Elizabeth, now Mrs. Douk of Jasper, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Book emigrated to the United States in 1854, taking their four children with them. The vessel on which they sailed was bound for New Orleans, but was becalmed for three days off the Cuban coast, and met with so many reverses (both of storm and calm) that it was fifty-four days in making port. From New Orleans the family took an old side-wheel steamer and spent another fourteen days reaching their destination at Guttenburg, Clayton county, Iowa. The mother died during the year of the family emigration, and in 1866 the father moved to Benton county, where he died twenty years afterward.

John Book was fourteen years of age when he came to the United States with his parents and other children, and well remembers the trying ocean and river voyages already described. He obtained all his regular schooling in Germany, his education in Iowa being in the line of experience, reading and self-instruction. Mr. Book commenced his business career in a typical country store in Clayton county, and recalls the days when, as clerk, salesman and everything else, he saw corn sold at ten cents a bushel and dressed hogs at a cent and a half a pound. In 1864 he located at Blairstown, associating himself with H. H. Tazeman in the purchase and operation of a general store which was purchased from a Mr. Dickerson. This business was conducted by the two for ten years, but in the fall of 1874 Mr. Book was obliged to sell his interest on account of ill health and remained inactive until 1879. In that year his strength had been so far restored that he formed a partnership with Hiram Saulsbury, also in general merchandise, the firm being dissolved by mutual consent in 1884 and each establishing an independent business with the divided stock. Mr. Book conducted his store until 1905, when he permanently retired with a goodly competency and an unsullied name as a merchant and a citizen.

On March 28, 1862, John Book was united in marriage with Miss Harriet M. Washburn, born in Livingston county, New York, on the 8th of November, 1841, daughter of John G. and Ruth (Gillett) Washburn. The father was a native of Massachusetts, born in 1804, who died in 1864, and the mother, a Connecticut lady, was born in 1800 and survived until her sixty-fifth year. They were the parents of seven children, three still living: Matthew K., now a resident of St. Louis; Mills, of Kansas City,



Missouri; and Mrs. John Book. In 1843 Mrs. Book's parents had located at Beloit, Wisconsin, making the bulk of their journey thither by way of the great lakes. The father was a stone mason, but, after working at his trade for two years, commenced to farm, and was thus engaged in Wisconsin until 1849, when he went to California. Remaining on the Pacific coast for nine years, working in the mines and engaged in any occupation in which there was honest profit, in 1858 Mr. Washburn returned to Wisconsin. In 1861 he moved to Clayton county, Iowa, and in the following year to St. Joe, Missouri, where both he and his wife passed their last years. The two children born to Mr. and Mrs. Book were Jessie M., who is now at home, and Frank O., a resident of Omaha, Nebraska. Both parents are old and honored members of the Blairstown Presbyterian church.

WILLIAM J. DOERZMAN, a farmer of LeRoy township, Benton county, was born in Iowa county, Iowa, September 16, 1875, son of Michael and Freda (Parsell) Doerzman. Michael Doerzman was born in Germany, in 1839, and now lives in Iowa county; his wife was born in Germany, in 1843, and died in 1897. They were the parents of five children, all of whom survive, namely: Henry, of St. Clair township; Anna, wife of Andrew Kuck; William J.; Mary, wife of Albert Vogt, of Iowa county; and Ella, wife of Otto Grevatz, of Iowa county. Mr. Doerzman came to the United States when a young man, locating in the colonies of Iowa county. He married and engaged in farming where he now lives.

William J. Doerzman was reared on a farm and received a common school education. He remained with his parents until his marriage, and then engaged in farming in Linn county, Iowa, on one hundred and twenty acres of land which he had acquired. He sold his farm here, and in 1905 purchased his present home in section 12, LeRoy county. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres, paying the good price of one hundred and twenty dollars per acre. He has put his land into good shape, and has now a model place, with all modern conveniences. He is an energetic, intelligent farmer, and has the respect and good will of his neighbors. Politically Mr. Doerzman is a Democrat. He is now serving as township trustee. He and his wife are members of the German Lutheran church.

Mr. Doerzman married, March 1, 1900, Anna Paul, born in Iowa county, Iowa, June 19, 1879, daughter of William and Ida (Behler) Paul. William Paul was born January 7, 1840, and his wife December 25, 1854, both natives of Germany, and now living in Linn county, Iowa. Mr. Doerzman and his wife have three children, Lucy, Wilma and Lloyd.

L. C. KNUPP is one of the leading agriculturists of Homer township, where he owns a valuable farm of two hundred and forty acres in section 8. He was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, March 29, 1863, a son of John and Eliza (Cable) Knupp, both yet living, their home being at Garrison, although they have spent the past several months in California. John Knupp was born in Pennsylvania, near Johnstown, in January, 1837, a son of Daniel Knupp, a farmer and stockman in that state, where both he and his wife spent their entire lives. John Knupp attained to manhood's estate in Westmoreland county. He was also married and began life for himself in that state, and finally purchasing the home farm there he continued its operation until coming west, arriving in Benton county on the 12th of September, 1868, with his wife and son. He secured about a section of land in Monroe township, improved his property and also handled stock quite extensively, and was very successful in his financial operations. It was about ten years ago that he retired and moved to Garrison. He is a stanch Republican in his political affiliations, and has served in various local offices, and both he and his wife are members of the River Brethren church, a church of that denomination having formerly existed in Monroe township. Mrs. Knupp was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, June 14, 1839, a daughter of Henry Cable, of an old Pennsylvania family, and Mrs. Knupp is the only one of this family to come to Benton county, although another daughter is living in Kansas, where she was also reared and married. L. C. Knupp was the first born of his parents' thirteen children, and the six sons now living are: Daniel, an abstractor at Vinton; Joseph, a farmer near that place; Samuel, in the government employ at the navy yard at Bremerton, Washington; Noah, attending the University of Iowa at Iowa City, and also an instructor there; and Adam, a farmer near Vinton. Noah Knupp was awarded a year's scholarship at the University of Iowa for proficiency in his studies of liberal arts in that institution. A sister, Emma, died at the age of twenty years, and the remainder of the children died in infancy.

L. C. Knupp was reared in Benton county, receiving a common school training, and he has devoted his life thus far to agricultural pursuits and the handling of good grades of stock. He married here in 1887 Miss Minnie Kinderfather, born in Cook county, Illinois, in 1866, a daughter of Fred and Christena (Coleman) Kinderfather, both born in Hessen, Germany, and coming to this country when young they were married in Cook county, Illinois, and were farming people there. Coming to Benton county, Iowa, in the spring of 1869 they located in Monroe township, but after

many years they retired from farm work and moved to Dysart in 1896. A few years after this, on account of ill health, they gave up their home and lived with their children until death, Fred Kinderfather dying in June of 1909, when eighty-two years of age, and his wife Christena died on the 18th of March, 1900, when about seventy-two years of age. They were member of the River Brethren church. Mrs. Knupp is one of their six children, five daughters and a son, namely: Mrs. Charles Thiele, of Dysart; Mrs. John Grimes, of Garrison; Mrs. Charles Goken, of Dysart; Mrs. Ernest Breneisen, of Topeka, Kansas. The only son, Carl Kinderfather, died at the age of twenty years, soon after the family located in Benton county. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Knupp, manda S., Vernon and Floyd. Mr. Knupp is a member of the Republican party, and he is serving as both the director and president of the board of district No. 3, Homer township. Mr. and Mrs. Knupp are members of the Rogerville Methodist Episcopal church in Homer township.

THOMAS HANSEN, a successful farmer and stockman of Benton county, owns three hundred and twenty-seven acres of land in section 7, Jackson township, which he purchased in 1901, formerly the J. S. Stanley farm. Mr. Hansen was born in Schleswig, Germany January 21, 1858, and is a son of Carsten and Dorothy (Manther) Hansen, who brought their family to the United States in 1862, locating first in Scott county, Iowa. In 1869 they located in Tama county, in Oneida township, where they owned and operated a farm until the death of Mr. Hansen in 1898, at the age of eighty-two years. He was a successful farmer and a member of the Lutheran church, as was also his wife, who died in 1905, at the age of eighty-one. They had twelve children, among whom were the following, namely: Thomas; Henry, of Dysart; Hans, a farmer in Carroll township, Tama county; Peter, of Hartley, O'Brien county; Harvey, of Dakota; Mrs. John Wulf, of Traer; Mrs. William Sackett, of Tama county; Mrs. Gus Aggers, of Pipestone county, Minnesota; and Mrs. Thomas Peterson, also of Dakota. A half-sister of Thomas Hansen, Mrs. Hans Lemmers, lives at Everly, Clay county, and a half-brother, Carson Hansen, is deceased and his widow lives near Sioux City, Iowa.

Thomas Hansen was reared in Iowa, and received a good common school education; he chose farming as his occupation and has been very energetic and ambitious in getting ahead in the world. He raises and breeds short-horn cattle, also buys, feeds and ships cattle and hogs. He handles a large number, selling two to three carloads of cattle and two cars of hogs annually; he

favors the Duroc Jersey breed of hogs. Before locating in Benton county he had spent seventeen years farming in Tama county. He is a Democrat in politics and has served as school director. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Hansen stands well in the community, where he is considered a representative, public-spirited citizen.

Mr. Hansen married, March 5, 1884, Christina Simonson, who was reared in Iowa, and they have four children, all living at home, William C., Dora, Matilda and Albert. Mrs. Hansen was born in Davenport, Iowa, in 1865, and is a daughter of Christ and Christina Simonson; the latter died in May, 1908, at the age of sixty-five years, and Mr. Simonson is retired and lives at Dysart, Iowa. Besides Mrs. Hansen, they had another daughter, Annie, who married Nicholas Anderson, and is now deceased. Mr. Anderson now resides in California. Mrs. Hansen has half-brothers and sisters as follows: Mrs. Emma Buck, of Dysart; Mrs. Mary Temple, of Dysart; Charles, of Dakota; Albert, of Clutier, Iowa; William, of Reinbeck; and two deceased, Lizzie and an infant of the same name.

WILLIAM M. HANNEN, a successful farmer of section 35, LeRoy township, was born in Van Buren county, Iowa, August 18, 1861. He is a son of James B. and Margaret (Smith) Hannen. James B. Hannen was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, October 8, 1816, and died September 8, 1891, and his wife, a native of the same place, was born March 13, 1826, and died January 3, 1906. James B. Hannen grew to manhood in his native state, and was reared on a farm. He came to Iowa, first locating in Lee county, and later removed to Van Buren county, where he was married. He came to Benton county in October, 1863, spending the winter in Blairstown, and in the spring purchased forty acres of land in section 35, LeRoy township; there was a log house on this farm, and here he and his wife died. They were parents of six children, namely: Anetta, living with her brother, William M.; William M.; Isabella, wife of Albert Rice, of LeRoy township; Ella, wife of E. J. Schult, of Palo Alto county; Prudence, deceased; and L. H., of LeRoy township.

William M. Hannen was reared in Benton county, and received his education in the common schools. He lived at home after reaching manhood, and after the death of his father purchased the farm, then comprising sixty acres, which he has since carried on. He is enterprising and industrious, and highly respected by his fellow-citizens. Mr. Hannen is a Republican in political views, and has served the past fourteen years as township assessor; he

has also held the office of school director. Mr. Hannen is unmarried.

HERMAN D. KROEHNKE was during a number of years prominently identified with the business interests of Keystone, but he is now living in comparative retirement in that city. He was born in Holstein, Germany, December 2, 1846, a son of Claus and Anna (Barnhold) Kroehnke, born respectively on the 13th of March, 1807, and in 1810. They came to the United States in 1869, locating in Union township, Benton county, Iowa, where they purchased two hundred acres of land in section 6, and they improved that property and spent the remainder of their lives there, Claus Kroehnke dying in 1886 and his wife in 1870. He had served in the Prussian army in his native land. Of their family of eight children five are now living: Magdalena, widow of T. Theissen and a resident of Keystone; Peter J., living in Wisconsin; Herman D., mentioned below; Margaretta, the wife of Nicholas Hennings, of Everly, Iowa; and Sophia, wife of Henry Theissen, of Keystone.

Herman D. Kroehnke spent the early years of his life on a farm, receiving in the meantime a common school training, and on the 29th of August, 1867, he left his German home for the United States, and after landing in the harbor of New York he went to Calumet county, Wisconsin, where he spent three months. From there he came to Benton county, Iowa, working first for a brother, and in 1872 he purchased his father's farm of two hundred acres in Union township and continued to farm it until 1886, the year in which he came to Keystone and embarked in the lumber and implement business, but after three years in that business he disposed of his interests and turned his attention to buying and feeding stock. He owns three brick blocks in Keystone and a splendid residence, where he is living in quiet retirement after a long and successful business career. During the past several years he has been a member of the town council, and he is an independent political voter though favoring the principles of the Democratic party.

In 1871 Mr. Kroehnke married Sophia Bonewitz, born July 3, 1846, in Holstein, Germany, and the two daughters of this union, Lilly and Nannie, are both at home. Both are graduates of the high school at Mt. Vernon, Iowa. Lilly Kroehnke also attended the Women's College at Frederick, Maryland, and is a graduate of the State University at Cedar Falls, Iowa. Since leaving college she has taught school. Nannie, the younger daughter, attended Western College at Toledo, Iowa, and then pursued a

musical course in the Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois. The family are members of the German Lutheran church.

J. H. RAVENSCROFT, an enterprising stock farmer of Jackson township, where he owns and operates a two hundred and forty acre farm, is a self-made man, and owes his success in life to his own untiring energy. He was born in Big Grove township, Benton county, Iowa, May 7, 1862, and is a son of J. T. Ravenscroft, given mention at length elsewhere in this work.

J. H. Ravenscroft was reared in Benton county, which has been his home all his life with the exception of three years spent in Mahaska county, Iowa, when he was a child. He received a common school education and chose the vocation of farming, in which he has been successful. Besides his farm in Jackson township he owns eighty acres of land in Polk township. He has made all modern improvements on his farm, erected the present substantial residence and suitable outbuildings, and he has fences throughout which are nearly "hog-proof." He handles two to three hundred hogs and one hundred fifty head of cattle annually. He also deals in horses, buying, raising and selling some forty to fifty head annually. In politics he is a Republican, and takes an active interest in public affairs. He stands well in the community, where he is well known and highly esteemed. He belongs to Garrison Camp of Modern Woodmen of America. His wife was a member of the Methodist church.

Mr. Ravenscroft married, September 28, 1887, Ethel Rose, born in Homer township, Benton county, May 8, 1869, and who died May 2, 1907. She was a daughter of Walter and Estella (Herring) Rose, early residents of Benton county. Mr. and Mrs. Ravenscroft had six children born to them, namely: Olive A., aged twenty, is at home; Eula May, nineteen; Mabel, fifteen; Robert, fourteen; Laura, twelve, and James Franklin, two.

THOMAS McLAUGHLIN, who owns a farm of two hundred and twenty acres in Cedar township, section 36, has been a resident of Benton county since 1859. He was born in 1840, in East Troy, New York, and when five years of age moved with his family to Illinois. He is a son of Thomas and Mary (Russell) McLaughlin; the father was born and reared in Scotland, and came to New York City as a young man. He worked some time by the day and later removed to East Troy, New York. In 1850 he came to Illinois and there worked a short time on a farm, on shares. About ten years later he removed to Iowa City, Iowa, and shortly after to Vinton, whither his son Thomas had already come. Thomas McLaughlin,

Sr., rented a farm two years and then bought the present home. It was at first raw prairie, and he set to work to improve it, and had it in good shape before his death. His wife was born in Ireland, and they were there married. She came with her husband to New York, and finally to Benton county. Their children were: John, deceased; Margaret, deceased; Anna, lives in Montana; Elizabeth, wife of Augustine Milhan, connected with the Blind College in Vinton; Thomas; and Ellen, deceased.

Thomas McLaughlin, Jr., came with his parents to Illinois when ten years of age. He received a common school education and was reared on a farm. In 1859 he went to Iowa alone, and the next year his parents followed. He worked in the Claire Quarry, in Cedar township, where his father also worked afterwards.

In 1861 Mr. McLaughlin enlisted in Company G, Fifth Iowa Infantry, and was mustered out in 1866. He was at the Battle of Shiloh, in the "Hornets' Nest," took part in the Battles at Iuka and Corinth, and skirmished some two weeks; he went to Tennessee, took part in the battles of Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain, and went down through Georgia with Sherman, on his march to the sea. After the company returned to Benton county part of them went west, but Mr. McLaughlin remained at home and worked on the farm with his father. Later he purchased a part of the land from his father, amounting to forty acres, and has lived on the place ever since. He has added to his land as he was able, and besides general farming breeds Duroc Jersey and Poland China hogs, Holstein cattle and also Clyde horses.

In political principles Mr. McLaughlin is a Democrat, but he votes independently in local affairs. He is a public-spirited, influential citizen, and actively interested in public affairs. He has served a number of years as school officer. The family are members of the Catholic church.

In 1865 Mr. McLaughlin married Alice, daughter of John and Mary (O'Brien) Katen, who came from County Tipperary, Ireland, to New York, where the mother died; the father came to Iowa with his daughter Alice, and there died. Mr. McLaughlin and his wife have been blessed with children as follows: Mary Ann, died in infancy; Margaret, died in infancy; John, at home; Alice, died when fifteen years of age; Claire, at home; and William, also at home.

HENRY MILLER has during many years been identified with the agricultural life of Benton county, and although he has practically retired from an active business life he yet maintains his home on

his estate of seventy-five acres in section 4, Homer township. His home has been in Benton county since the year of 1874, a pioneer epoch in its history, and during ten years he farmed as a renter, purchasing then two hundred acres in sections 6 and 7, Homer township, which he improved and farmed for sixteen years. At the close of that period he traded farms with his son, and his home has since been at his present residence. He began life in Benton county practically without capital, and is numbered among its self made men as well as representative citizens.

Mr. Miller was born in Mecklenberg, Germany, June 19, 1844, a son of John and Mary (Dobe) Miller, who spent their lives in the Fatherland, John Miller being a superintendent or foreman for a large farmer there. Both he and his wife died many years ago. Two daughters of the family came to this country, but both are now deceased, and Henry Miller has a half brother living in Germany and a step-brother in the state of New York.

Mr. Miller was reared and educated in his native city of Mecklenberg, and he came to America in 1869, one year after his marriage. His first home here was at Bremer in Cook county, Illinois, where he worked during the first year for a farmer, and then with his brother-in-law he moved to Stockbridge, that state, and worked five years in a stone quarry and then two years at various lines in St. Louis, Missouri, returning then to Stockridge and was in the quarries for another year. In the following year he came to Benton county, where his brother-in-law, Fred Holtz, had located the year previously. Mr. Miller had married in Germany in 1868 Miss Caroline Rubenstine, also born there, and she died in Benton county on the 17th of November, 1896, at the age of fifty-one years. She bore her husband nine children, and eight are living at the present time: Henry Miller, Jr., the first born, is a native son of Germany, and was a boy of one year when brought to America. He resides in Monroe township. He married first a Miss Annie Thiele, who died leaving three children, his present wife being Annie Bantze and the mother of his one son. Mary, the second child born to Mr. and Mrs. Miller, is the wife of Samuel Bantze, farming in Big Grove township, and they have six children, three sons and three daughters; Anna, the wife of Herman Stahr, of Monroe township, has three daughters; Emma, the wife of Otto Erick, residing in Tama county, about four miles south of Dysart, is the mother of a daughter; Lena is the wife of Albert Piper, also of Big Grove township, and they are the parents of a son; Albert is at home; Herman married Miss Tina Bode and is a Monroe township farmer; and Martha, is her father's housekeeper. Mr. Miller is a member of the Republican party, and he has served



in various public positions, including seven years as a school director at his present home and six years in districts where he formerly resided, and he was for three years trustee of Homer township while residing in section 6. He has but recently been returned to that office, assuming its duties in November of 1909 for a term of three years. He is a member of the Evangelical church of Homer township, as was also his wife, and he is one of Benton county's honored pioneer residents and highly esteemed citizens.

CAPTAIN HENRY M. WILSON is still actively operating his farm south of Vinton, although he is in his sixty-eighth year and is one of the few survivors who went from Benton county to fight and march for three weary years with Grant, Sheridan and Sherman. He has resided in Benton county since he was a boy and has given his most faithful and efficient services to further its interests, as an agriculturist, a patriot in war and a citizen and public servant in peace. No man can do more and the numerous friends of Captain Wilson warmly accord him both the honor of virtuous intentions and of a practical realization of his honorable aims.

Henry M. Wilson is a native of southern Indiana, born in Scott county, during the month of December, 1842, son of R. H. and Elizabeth (McCosky) Wilson, who located at Vinton, then a town of about three hundred people. The father had met with such serious financial reverses in the Hoosier state that he had fallen from prosperity to the condition of a comparatively penniless farmer. In these straits, with his wife and seven children, he moved to Benton county in 1855, his son Henry being then in his thirteenth year. The father died two years afterward, at forty-five. The family is of Scotch ancestry, William Keith, the grandfather, being born in the mother country and being an emigrant to Pennsylvania in his early manhood. The father was also born in that state; was active in the work of the Presbyterian church from boyhood, and many years of his residence in Indiana was spent in promoting its interests as an elder. His worldly goods were scattered, but his faith in the permanence of other things of greater moment was his support and comfort to the last. The wife and mother was also of Scotch descent, her birthplace being Washington county, Indiana. She was a good and a strong woman and lived to be over eighty years of age, passing away at the home of her son, Captain Wilson, in 1904. Of this family, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. W. H. Wood, Hugh A. Wilson and Harvey M. Wilson reside in or near Vinton; Edward H. Wilson lives in St. Paul, Minnesota; and James, Alice, Margaret, Minnie and Nancy are deceased.

As Captain Wilson was the oldest son, he did not attend school after his father's death, but assumed a large share of the responsibility for the support of the family. He continued to steadily engage in farming until July, 1862, when, at the age of twenty, he enlisted in Company D, Twenty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and was soon afterward elected first sergeant. Within a year he had risen to a captaincy and, although one of the youngest officers of that grade, served with marked efficiency until his honorable discharge in August, 1865, more than three years from the time of his enlistment. Originally, his regiment was a part of the Thirteenth army corps under General John A. McLearned, but was transferred to the Nineteenth, under Brigadier General Emory, where it remained until the close of the war. He served under Grant at Vicksburg; participated in the expeditions up the Red river and along the Gulf; was with Sheridan's army in the Shenandoah Valley and other Virginia campaigns; and joined Sherman at Savannah, Georgia, for his Carolina operations against Johnston. In spite of all the fierce battles and active campaigns of which he company was a part, Captain Wilson returned to his Iowa home an uninjured man, although during the battle of Vicksburg he temporarily lost his sight, on account of becoming overheated in that terrific battle.

Upon returning from the front Captain Wilson purchased a farm of eighty acres in Taylor township and energetically resumed farming. He finally added to his possessions until he owned two hundred acres, but later sold his property with the exception of the farm on which he now resides. Although often urged to accept various Republican nominations, he has firmly refused since 1867, when he was elected sheriff and served three terms of two years each. Fraternally, he is a Mason and a loyal member of the Grand Army. As he became a member of the former order in 1862 by joining the Vinton lodge, with one exception he is now the oldest Mason in that body, being identified also with the blue lodge and chapter. His local connections with the Grand Army of the Republic are with P. M. Coder Post No. 98.

In 1867 Captain Wilson wedded Miss Callie Cline, born in Johnson county, Indiana, and who came to Benton county with her grandparents in 1852. The six children of this union were as follows: Callie Elizabeth, who became the wife of Burt Pitts, a farmer of Polk township, and the mother of one daughter; Everett M., who is also a farmer of that township; Charles S., who married Miss Laura Dorsey, has three children and is an agriculturist of the township named; Henry F., who died at the age of two years; James N., who married Miss Theo Lagrange, is the father of a

daughter and is serving as county treasurer of Benton county; and William P., who resides on the home farm. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, like all the family, are stanch members of the Presbyterian church.

MIL0 E. WHIPPLE, now practically retired from active life, though still residing on his farm in Taylor township, Benton county, Iowa, was born at the old homestead of the family, just west of the College for the Blind in Taylor township, September 15, 1858. He is a son of Cyrenius T. Whipple, mentioned at length elsewhere in this work.

Reared in his native township, Milo E. Whipple has spent most of his life within the county; he has devoted himself with ambition and energy to farming, and has been most successful; he owns one hundred and twenty acres of well improved, fertile land, where he now resides. For some years past Mr. Whipple has been a director of the Farmers' Mutual Telephone Company, and has also been interested from time to time in other enterprises. He has traveled extensively throughout Montana, Wyoming, Washington, and other western states, and has secured a farm in Montana. Politically he is a Republican and has held various township offices. He is a public-spirited, useful citizen, and highly respected in the community, where he is well known.

Mr. Whipple married, in Clinton, Iowa, Lottie L., daughter of Captain J. W. Barr, now retired and living at Vinton. Mrs. Whipple is a native of Benton county. Mr. Whipple and his wife have three children, all born in Taylor township, namely: Dudley H., aged twenty-six years; Maud M.; and Charlotte Jane, aged seventeen. Dudley H. is engaged in the lumber business, resides at Thatcher, Washington, and married Grace Derr. Maud M. is the wife of Charles Frederick, late of Seattle, Washington, now living near Lindsay, Dawson county, Montana; they have one daughter, Marie Luella. Charlotte Jane lives at home, and is now attending Sacred Heart School, a parochial institution, at Cedar Rapids.

Captain J. W. Barr, now retired from active life and residing at Vinton, has been a resident of Benton county since September, 1866. He was born at Columbus, Ohio, March 4, 1840, and is a son of John and Maria (Spencer) Barr, both natives of Maryland, who came to Ohio in their youth, with their respective families. The Barr family had resided in Maryland for several generations, and Mr. Barr has an ancestor who fought in the Revolution. John Barr was of English descent and his wife of Welsh. The Spencer family were originally from Pennsylvania.

John Barr was one of the early proprietors of the *Ohio State*

*Journal*, and was a printer by trade. By close application to his business his eyesight became impaired, and his last days were spent in farming. He died in 1847, at the age of thirty-six; his widow passed away in 1898, at her son's home in Vinton, at the age of seventy-three. Besides Captain Barr they had one daughter, Mary, who married H. D. Smith, formerly in the drug business at Vinton, but now living in California. Mrs. Smith died several years since.

Captain Barr was reared in Ashland county, Ohio, and received his education in the public schools, making his home with his maternal grandfather, William Spencer, who had a store at Albion, Ohio, for many years until it burned. Mr. Spencer closed out his interests in Ohio and removed to Stephenson county, Illinois, in the spring of 1860, and there conducted business until his death. Captain Barr assisted his grandfather in the work at the store until the beginning of the Civil war, and September 10, 1861, was mustered into Company B, Forty-sixth Illinois Infantry, as private. He was promoted through various ranks to first lieutenant, after the battle of Fort Donelson, commanding the company there and at Shiloh. He was twice wounded at Shiloh, and still carries a bullet near his spinal column. He spent some time in a hospital at Savannah, Tennessee, and was mustered out May 25, 1866, having spent a little over four years and eight months in the service. Captain Barr spent eighteen months on the staff of Brigadier General J. W. Davidson, mainly in the Sixteenth Army Corps, although he spent some time in the Seventeenth. He was taken prisoner at the Siege of Vicksburg. He returned and spent a short time in Stephenson county, Illinois, but during the war had purchased a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Homer township, Benton county, then unimproved, wild land. In 1866 he located in Vinton, and has been engaged there in various enterprises.

Captain Barr spent many years in the furniture and undertaking business; he conducted it alone three years and then entered into partnership with G. L. Freeman, to whom he later sold his interests. In the fall of 1885 he was elected sheriff and served from January, 1886, until January, 1890; he had previously served two terms as councilman of Vinton. Since 1890 Captain Barr has been practically retired. Politically he has always been a Republican. Captain Barr is a charter member of P. M. Coder Post No. 98, Grand Army of the Republic, of Vinton, of which he is a past commander, and of which he was the first senior vice-commander. He is a member of the Masonic Order, having taken thirty degrees, including the Scottish Rite. For nine years he was secretary of the blue lodge, chapter and commandery, of Vinton.

Captain Barr married (first) in 1861, in Stephenson county, Illinois, Lottie K. Davis, a native of that county, who was born in 1840; she died in the fall of 1880. Mrs. Barr was a daughter of Horatio G. Davis, and left six children, all living, namely: Lottie Luella, wife of Milo E. Whipple, of Taylor township; John D., of Des Moines, Iowa; Mary Maria, wife of L. Huffaker, of Chicago; Mary, wife of George H. Thompson, of Los Angeles, California; Bessie, wife of J. L. Hayward, professor in a commercial college in Auburn, Rhode Island; and Ralph, a traveling salesman. Captain Barr married (second) Agnes McLanahan, from Hagerstown, Maryland, and they have three children, namely: Mabel, who graduated in 1908 at the Iowa State Normal College, a teacher in Howard county, Iowa; Winthrop, a machinist, of Waterloo, Iowa; and Edna, at home.

HENRY DAVIS, deceased, for many years figured as one of the prominent farmers and leading citizens of Benton county, Iowa. He was born in Baden, Germany, December 1, 1837, and died on his farm in Benton county, August 25, 1892. With his parents, Jacob and Mary Ann Davis, natives of Germany, he came to this country, in 1853, and settled at Marion, Lynn county, Iowa. There the father engaged in farming until his death, which occurred in 1882. The mother died in 1880. Henry had received a common school education in Germany, and was sixteen years old at the time the family came to America. He grew to manhood on his father's farm, where he early became familiar with the methods employed in farming in this country, and for two years after his marriage he farmed in Linn county. Then, in 1863, believing he could better his condition by removal to Benton county, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land here and established his home on it. Here, in the course of twenty years, he was able to increase his holdings to a tract of six hundred acres, nearly all of which he brought under cultivation, and which he improved with good buildings, fences, etc.

In 1861, Mr. Davis married Miss Louisa Baker, daughter of Matthew and Louisa Baker, who, like himself, was a native of Germany. She was born in Prussia, February 27, 1838, and came to this country in 1858. Their union was blessed in the birth of six children, namely: Henry, a farmer of Benton county; Mary, wife of John Wickman of Benton county; Lena, wife of Louis Deklotz of Newhall, Iowa; Bertha, wife of William Means of Vinton; Louisa, wife of J. T. Smith of Norway, Iowa; and Elizabeth, wife of F. Lucas of Ontario, California.

When hardly passed the prime of his useful career, Mr. Davis

suffered a stroke of paralysis, and died soon afterward, August 25, 1892, as above stated. His widow continued to reside on the farm until 1900, when he sold it and moved to Norway, where she has since lived.

Personally, Mr. Davis was a man of great activity and perseverance. He was well posted and broad-minded and he believed in education. Indeed, his greatest pleasure in life was to afford his children good educational advantages and provide for their comfort. Politically, he was a Democrat. For a number of years he filled the offices of justice of the peace and township trustee, and as such was in close touch with local doings, his opinion and advice always carrying weight with them. Religiously he was a Catholic, earnest and devout, and he gave liberally of his means to the support of the church. Such, in brief, is a sketch of the life of one of Benton county's good men.

GEORGE R. AHRENS.—The enterprising and honored president of the First National Bank of Belle Plaine has been identified with this institution from the initiation of his business career, and his advancement to the position of chief executive has been gained through faithful and effective service and through his well proved administrative ability and his discrimination as a financier. Mr. Ahrens finds a due mede of satisfaction in adverting to Benton county as the place of his nativity and he is a scion of one of the well known and highly honored pioneer families of this county. Here he has found ample scope and opportunity for productive and well directed effort in connection with normal lines of business activity, and he is numbered among the representative business men and progressive and public-spirited citizens of his native county, where his course has been such as to fully justify the unequivocal confidence and esteem accorded him by the people of the community.

George R. Ahrens was born on the old homestead farm of the family in Iowa township, Benton county, on the 18th of June, 1871, and is a son of Christian and Amelia (Schroder) Ahrens, the former of whom was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, and the latter in LippeDetmold, Germany. The father was reared and educated in his native land, whence he immigrated to America when a young man. He had no financial reinforcement or influential friends in the United States, but he was equipped with invincible courage, determination and ambitions, and these attributes, combined with strong physical powers and sterling integrity of purpose, constituted no mean equipment with which to face the problems of life as a stranger in a strange land. He first took up

his abode in the state of Illinois, where he remained until 1854, when he came to Iowa and numbered himself among the pioneers of Benton county. Here he worked for a time at the carpenter's trade, and finally he purchased the farm where he developed a valuable property and became one of the substantial and independent agriculturists and stock-growers of the county. His energy and industry brought to him a goodly return and no citizen measured up to a higher standard of integrity and honor in all the relations of life, so that he ever held secure vantage ground in popular confidence and regard. He contributed his quota to the material and social development of this favored section of the state and his name merits an enduring place on the roster of the honored pioneers of Benton county. He continued to reside on his homestead farm until his death, at the age of sixty-six years, and the estate still in the possession of the family and comprising one hundred and fifty acres, is one of the best improved and most valuable in the county.

In politics Christian Ahrens maintained an independent attitude, but his influence was invariably cast in support of good government and of measures and enterprises tending to advance the best interests of the community. He was affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and both he and his wife were devout members of the Evangelical Association, to the support of which religious organization they were liberal contributors, ever mindful of their stewardship.

Mrs. Ahrens came to America with her parents when she was a girl and her marriage was solemnized in the state of Illinois. She survived her husband and was summoned to eternal rest in 1896, at the age of sixty-six years. Concerning the six children of this worthy pioneer couple the following brief data are entered: Amelia is the wife of John L. Fisher, of Sac City, Iowa; William is a resident of Plainview, Nebraska; Ernest L. resides in Sac City; Christian A. maintains his home at Marshall, Minnesota; Samuel owns and operates the old homestead farm near Belle Plaine; and George R., subject of this review, is the youngest of the children.

George R. Ahrens was reared under the environments and influences of the home farm and early began to assist in its work, the while he was afforded the advantages of the public schools, including the village schools of Belle Plaine. He continued to be associated in the work of the home farm for some time after leaving school, and in 1891, when twenty years of age, he secured a clerical position in the First National Bank of Belle Plaine, with which he has since been actively identified in executive capacity. From the position of bookkeeper he was promoted to that of as-

sistant cashier and in 1900 he was elected cashier of the institution. Of this position he continued incumbent until January, 1909, when he was chosen president of the bank, in which exacting and responsible office he has since continued to serve with marked ability and discrimination. The First National Bank of Belle Plaine is recognized as one of the solid and well managed financial institutions of this section of the state, and its business, handled with due conservatism, shows a constantly cumulative tendency. For the details of its growth and present status the reader is referred to the chapter on banking.

Mr. Ahrens has not only made an admirable record as a practical and reliable business man but he has also exemplified high civic ideals and has ever stood ready to lend his aid in support of all objects and measures projected for the general welfare of his home village and county. Though never desirous of entering the arena of "practical politics," he is a staunch supporter of Democracy. He has long served as secretary of the board of education, his predecessor in this office having been the late S. S. Sweet, who held the incumbency for thirty-one consecutive years. Mr. Sweet was the founder of the First National Bank and was president of the same until the close of his life. A special memoir is dedicated to him on other pages of this work. Mr. Ahrens is one of the three interested principals in the ownership of the electric light plant and system of Belle Plaine and is a stockholder in other local enterprises. He is an alert and progressive business man and loyal citizen, and is thus well entitled to recognition in this history of his native county.

Mr. Ahrens is affiliated with Belle Plaine Lodge No. 151, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; Hope Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons; is also a Mason of high standing, a member of St. Bernard Commandery and of the Mystic Shrine, Cedar Rapids. His wife was formerly Miss Gertrude DeLancey, daughter of a representative business man of the city of Des Moines, and they have one daughter, Gayle.

JAMES JOHNSON, a retired farmer of Vinton, Iowa, was born October 23, 1843, in Boone county, Indiana, and came to Benton county with his parents in the spring of 1848. He is a son of Albert and Mary (Schooley) Johnson. Albert Johnson was born in 1820, in Lawrence county, Indiana, and was reared in Putnam and Boone counties in the same state. He became a farmer and came to Benton county, Iowa, in 1848. He was a son of Alexander and Sallie (Allen) Johnson, both natives of Ohio, who moved to Kentucky and then to Indiana, and in 1847 to Benton county,



Iowa. Albert Johnson entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in Benton county, Iowa, which he improved; he retired from the farm about twenty years before his decease, and engaged in real estate business. He died June 2, 1902. In 1840 Albert Johnson married Mary, daughter of William and Mary (Phillips) Schooley, who was born in Maryland, removed to Ohio, thence to Indiana, and finally to Benton county, Iowa. They had seven children, namely: James; Caroline, wife of John King, of Vinton; S. L. of Harrison township, Benton county; Idella, deceased, wife of S. H. Bunten, also deceased; Harrison, residing in Missouri; and Norah, wife of A. Simmon of Polk township.

James Johnson came to Iowa when four and one-half years old, was reared on a farm, and lived at home until eighteen years of age. In 1861 he entered the Eighth Iowa Infantry, under General Fremont, Steele's brigade, and later was with Sherman's army, and he had the distinction to assist in chasing Hood out of Tennessee. He was taken sick and discharged from the Eighth Iowa Infantry, March 20, 1862, and re-enlisted in the Fifth Iowa Infantry April 12, 1864. He took part in the battle of Columbia, Tennessee, in the Wilson raid and in a number of other engagements. He received his discharge in Nashville, on August 19, 1865, and returned to Benton county, Iowa, where he purchased and improved a farm. He remained in the successful conduct of this farm until retiring to Vinton in 1904. He takes an active interest in local public affairs and is a Republican. He has served as county supervisor and school treasurer. He belongs to the Christian church and lends his support to any worthy object or cause, using his influence towards the progress and improvement of the community. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic of Vinton in which he is prominent. His family have always been true patriots, and his paternal grandfather, Alexander Johnson, took part in the war of 1812.

Mr. Johnson married in 1866, Nellie, daughter of Aaron King (deceased), of Benton county, and their children are: Leonard, a farmer; Minnie, wife of L. H. Liebsch, of Polk township; Lillie, living at home; and Ray, living on the old homestead. Mr. Johnson moved to Vinton in 1902.

WALTER SCOTT PALMER, who died at his home in Vinton, May 22, 1904, was at that time distinguished by being the oldest native resident of Vinton, where he had spent nearly a lifetime of successful business effort. For thirty-five years he had been in business in the same store room, part of the time as clerk. He was a successful merchant, a highly esteemed citizen, and made for himself a permanent place in the history of his locality.

He was born in Vinton, March 29, 1854, being the oldest of the four children of Thomas S. and Nancy (Hale) Palmer. The remaining three are Etta, born February 6, 1856, received a good common school education, finishing at Rockford Seminary, Rockford, Illinois. She then entered the Vinton public schools as a teacher, but after teaching about five years was compelled to give up the work on account of failing health. In 1882 she went with her parents to California and here she died of hemorrhage of the lungs on March 2, 1884. Charles Stephen, born at Clear Lake, Iowa, April 29, 1858, finished the Vinton public schools and spent a year at the State Agricultural College, at Ames, afterward learning the trade of house painting, which he has since followed. In 1883 he went to Los Angeles, California. On December 28, 1887, he married Lulu Finall, and they still live there and have one son. Annie, the youngest, was born August 16, 1864, and died of scarlet fever on May 30, 1868.

When fourteen years old Walter S. Palmer left the public schools and entered his father's drug store, which was one of the pioneer establishments of the kind in Vinton, and remained in the business until twenty years of age. He then made a long tour, to the Pacific coast and California cities, thence by steamer to Panama and some of the Mexican and Central American states, and after five weeks' voyage reached New York city. After visiting in Ohio he returned to Vinton and again entered his father's business, and the rest of his active life was spent in the drug business. He bought the store from his father on January 1, 1880.

He was married, March 29, 1881, to Miss Kate, a daughter of W. B. Van Horn, formerly prominent in the business life of Vinton and now retired. There was one child of this marriage, Van Horn Palmer, born November 1, 1891, and died November 7, 1891. The beautiful home on South Washington street, built by the late Mr. Palmer, is now occupied by his widow.

Mr. Palmer took considerable interest in tracing the genealogy of his family, and from the results of his efforts in this direction it is possible to give a fairly complete sketch of the origin and ancestry of one of the pioneer families of Vinton and Benton county.

In a legendary way the history of the Palmer family goes back to the crusaders of the twelfth century, during the time of Richard I. These valiant knights, bearing staves or palms, returned to their native land, and for this received the distinction of being termed "palmers." Some retained this as a surname, and from one of these crusaders it is supposed that the Palmer family in America is descended.

More authentic history begins with John Edgerton Palmer,

great-great-grandfather of Walter S. He was born on a farm in Kent county, England, in 1740, was a farmer by occupation, and died February 27, 1827. On January 20, 1763, he married Martha Sandwell, who died in July, 1779. They had seven children. Passing over the next generation to John Edgerton Palmer, the grandfather of Walter S., he was born in London, July 5, 1793, and, both parents dying when he was young, from the age of ten he grew up in the family of his maternal grandfather, Thomas Sharp, in Lincolnshire. He was well educated for that period, and on reaching manhood returned to London, where he was engaged in the mercantile business several years. In August, 1819, in company with his brother Charles, he took passage for America and after seven weeks landed here. They finally settled in the wilderness of Richland county, Ohio. In crossing the Atlantic they had become acquainted with the family of Joseph Ward, and after marriage had united the Palmer boys with the Ward girls they all settled down together in Ohio and became pioneers in subduing the wilderness of that region. John E. Palmer married Elizabeth Ward on July 15, 1820. She was born in Ripton, Derbyshire, England. Their homestead for nearly sixty years was the place from which they had cleared the forest, six miles northeast of Mansfield, and on that farm their eleven children were born. John E. Palmer, the grandfather of Walter S., was a strong character, very influential in his community, a zealous abolitionist whose house was a station on the "underground railroad," and for many years he served as deacon in the Congregational church of Mansfield. On July 15, 1870, he and his pioneer wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, and he continued to live for some years after that, his death occurring on the home farm July 25, 1877, at the age of eighty-four.

The third child of this pioneer couple was Thomas Sharp Palmer, father of Walter S. He was born near Mansfield, July 17, 1825, and after a limited education left home at the age of seventeen and became apprentice in a cabinet-making business at Mansfield. After three years' apprenticeship he set out as journeyman, going west and then south through Tennessee to St. Louis, and thence up the river to Oskaloosa, Iowa. While working at his trade in Oskaloosa in 1849, he was seized with the gold fever, and drove an ox team overland to pay for his passage to the coast. After six months he arrived, in the fall of 1849, at Sacramento, then a city of tents, and for two years worked in the mines with varying success. On his voyage back to the "States," his ship was nearly wrecked by storm and put into Acapulco, Mexico, where he and twenty-seven others left the boat and on horseback made

the perilous journey of seven hundred miles to Vera Cruz, thence taking ship to New Orleans.

He arrived at his old Ohio home in the fall of 1851, but in the following spring again came west, and at this early date in the history of Benton county he located at the settlement at Vinton, where he was one of the first to carry on the trade of cabinet-maker. Early in 1853 he returned to Mansfield and married Miss Nancy Hale, who was born and reared within two miles of his old home. They at once came to Vinton, and in 1854 the husband started a small drug store, almost the pioneer store of that kind. He was connected with the business from that time until he sold the store to his son in 1880. In 1857 he moved with his family to Clear Lake, Iowa, and went into general merchandising, meantime leaving his Vinton store under the management of his brother-in-law, W. A. Hale. This latter business, when he returned two years later, he found demoralized, but he recuperated quickly and in a few years was a prosperous merchant and influential citizen. After selling his business to Walter S. in 1880, he removed with his wife and daughters to Los Angeles, California, and lived there until his death, in January, 1908.

Another member of this family who was a pioneer of Benton county was Captain John Edgerton Palmer, an older brother of Thomas S. He was born in Richland county, Ohio, July 6, 1821, and in 1854 brought his family to Vinton, where he became a prominent figure in local politics. At the beginning of the war he enlisted in Compay A, Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry, was elected second lieutenant, and in 1863 was commissioned captain. He served in the siege of Vicksburg, was in the Red river expedition under General Banks, and later was transferred to the Army of the Potomac. He was killed at the battle of Winchester, September 19, 1864.