

THE  
BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

OF

LIVINGSTON AND WOODFORD COUNTIES,

ILLINOIS.

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ILLUSTRATED.

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*“A people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote generations.”—MACAULEY.*

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CHICAGO:  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY,  
1900.

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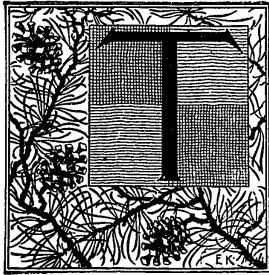
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## PREFACE.

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THE greatest of English historians, MACAULAY, and one of the most brilliant writers of the present century, has said: "The history of a country is best told in a record of the lives of its people." In conformity with this idea, the BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD has been prepared. Instead of going to musty records, and taking therefrom dry statistical matter that can be appreciated by but few, our corps of writers have gone to the people, the men and women who have, by their enterprise and industry, brought this county to a rank second to none among those comprising this great and noble State, and from their lips have the story of their life struggles. No more interesting or instructive matter could be presented to an intelligent public. In this volume will be found a record of many whose lives are worthy the imitation of coming generations. It tells how some, commencing life in poverty, by industry and economy have accumulated wealth. It tells how others, with limited advantages for securing an education, have become learned men and women, with an influence extending throughout the length and breadth of the land. It tells of men who have risen from the lower walks of life to eminence as statesmen, and whose names have become famous. It tells of those in every walk in life who have striven to succeed, and records how that success has usually crowned their efforts. It tells also of many, very many, who, not seeking the applause of the world, have pursued the "even tenor of their way," content to have it said of them, as Christ said of the woman performing a deed of mercy—"They have done what they could." It tells how many, in the pride and strength of young manhood, left the plow and the anvil, the lawyer's office and the counting-room, left every trade and profession, and at their country's call went forth valiantly "to do or die," and how through their efforts the Union was restored and peace once more reigned in the land. In the life of every man and of every woman is a lesson that should not be lost upon those who follow after.

Coming generations will appreciate this volume and preserve it as a sacred treasure, from the fact that it contains so much that would never find its way into public records, and which would otherwise be inaccessible. Great care has been taken in the compilation of the work, and every opportunity possible given to those represented to insure correctness in what has been written; and the publishers flatter themselves that they give to their readers a work with few errors of consequence. In addition to biographical sketches, portraits of a number of representative citizens are given.

The faces of some, and biographical sketches of many, will be missed in this volume. For this the publishers are not to blame. Not having a proper conception of the work, some refused to give the information necessary to compile a sketch, while others were indifferent. Occasionally some member of the family would oppose the enterprise, and on account of such opposition the support of the interested one would be withheld. In a few instances men never could be found, though repeated calls were made at their residence or place of business.

October, 1900.

THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING Co.

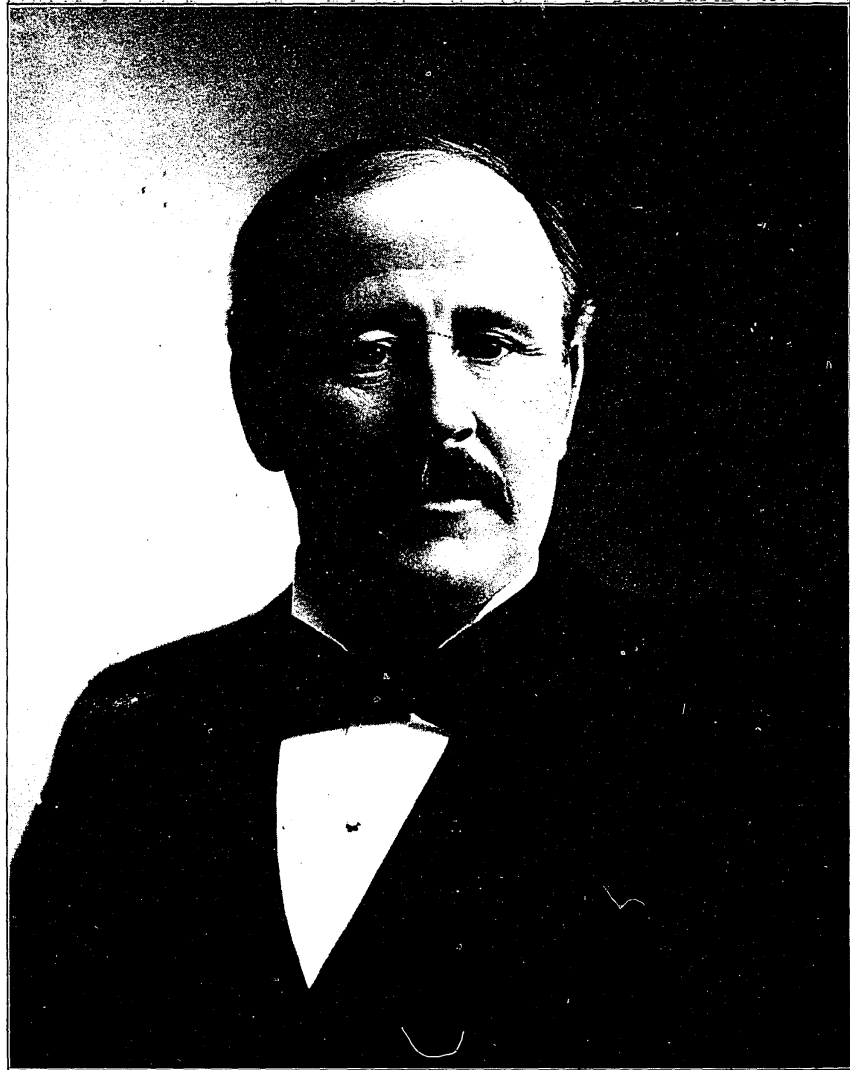
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“Biography is the only true history.”—Emerson.

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GEORGE W. PATTON.

# BIOGRAPHICAL.

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ON. GEORGE W. PATTON. At the present time it is seldom that one wins prominence in several lines. It is the tendency of the age to devote one's en-

tire energies to a special line, continually working upward and concentrating his efforts toward accomplishing a desired end; yet in the case of Judge Patton it is demonstrated that an exalted position may be reached in more than one line of action. He is an eminent jurist, an able judge and a leader in political circles. For several years he was successfully engaged in the practice of law in Pontiac, and is now serving as judge of the eleventh judicial circuit.

The Judge is a native of Pennsylvania, and during his infancy was brought to Woodford county, Illinois, in 1851, by his parents, Samuel R. and Jane (Haines) Patton, who were also natives of the Keystone state. His paternal grandfather was Rev. James Patton, and his great-grandfather, Rev. John Patton, both of whom achieved some local celebrity as Baptist ministers in western Pennsylvania, the latter having been

pastor of the church at Smithfield, Fayette county, for thirty consecutive years, as the inscription on his monument, erected by his church, still attests. Judge Patton's maternal grandparents were John and Margaret (Anderson) Haines, farming people of western Pennsylvania. The latter was a daughter of James Anderson, a native of Ireland, who carried a musket for six years in General Washington's army during the Revolutionary war. During their entire residence in this state the parents of Judge Patton made their home in Woodford county, where the mother died in 1873, the father in 1886. He was a Democrat in politics, a successful farmer, a man of great industry, indomitable will and strong common sense, while the mother was a woman of keen wit, remarkable memory and forceful intellect.

Reared on the home farm in Woodford county, Judge Patton attended the common schools of the neighborhood until twenty years of age, and then took a three years' course at Normal, Illinois, completing the same in 1871. During the following two years he taught school in Secor and El Paso, Woodford county, and with the money thus earned he commenced the study of law with Hay, Green & Littler at Springfield, Illinois,

and was admitted to the bar in 1875, being a member of the same class as W. J. Calhoun, ex-Senator T. C. Kerrick and George Torrance. Subsequently he again taught school and engaged in other pursuits until 1881, following farming for three years to regain his health. In 1881 he commenced the practice of law at Fairbury, this county, and two years later located in Pontiac, where he formed a partnership with C. C. Strawn, which was dissolved in 1888. After that time he was alone and succeeded in building up a large and lucrative practice. On the 7th of June, 1897, he was elected one of the judges of the eleventh judicial circuit, composed of Livingston, Woodford, Ford, McLean and Logan counties, and is now most creditably filling that office. His mind is analytical, logical and inductive. With a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of the fundamental principles of law, he combines a familiarity with statutory law and a sober, clear judgment, which makes him not only a formidable adversary in legal combat, but has given him the distinction of being one of the ablest jurists in this section of the state.

Although reared in a Democratic atmosphere, Judge Patton has never voted that ticket, but is a stanch Republican. He was a member of the state central committee of his party from 1894 to 1896. He was made a Mason at Fairbury, and is now a member of Pontiac lodge, No. 294, F. & A.M.; Fairbury chapter, R. A. M.; Chenoa council, R. & S. M.; and St. Paul commandery, K. T., of Fairbury. He also belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge and encampment, and both he and his wife are members of the Pontiac Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is serving as an officer. The Judge was married, September

20, 1877, to Miss Flo Cook, daughter of James and Lucinda Cook, of Fairbury, and they now have two children, Marie and Proctor.

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#### HAMILTON R. STEWART.

Hamilton R. Stewart, who for the last fifteen years has successfully operated the farm of B. M. Stoddard on section 8, Avoca township, Livingston county, was born in county Derry, Ireland, June 4, 1854, and is the oldest child of William and Mary A. (McLaughlin) Stewart, also natives of county Derry, where the father successfully engaged in farming from early manhood until his death in 1868. Subsequently his widow came to America with her family of five sons and one daughter, namely: Hamilton R., the subject of this sketch; Joseph, a farmer, who died in Iowa; Samuel, a resident of Avoca township; William, a laborer of Ogden, Iowa; John, deceased; and Hannah, wife of William Scott, who lives near Rochelle, Ogle county, Illinois. On their emigration to America the family located in Lexington, Illinois, where they made their home for four years, and in 1872 moved to La Salle county, where the following two years were passed, coming to Livingston county at the end of that time. While in Lexington the mother married Thomas Clinton, by whom she had one son, Thomas F., now a school teacher in Swygart, Illinois. Her second husband died in Livingston county and she is now living with our subject at the age of sixty-seven years.

Hamilton R. Stewart commenced his education in the common schools of his native land, and after coming to America, at the age of fourteen years, attended school in

Lexington, Illinois, for a short time. Being the oldest of the family he had to go to work on a farm that he might aid in their support, and lived at home until twenty-two. While in La Salle county he worked in a coal mine in Streator for two years. In 1876 he left home and was employed as a farm hand about five years, at the end of which time he rented land and embarked in farming on his own account.

In 1883 Mr. Stewart married Miss Jane Blair, who was born in Tazewell county, this state, in 1862. Her parents, William and Mary (Gillian) Blair, both natives of Ireland, located in Tazewell county on their emigration to the United States, and after residing there for a few years moved to McLean county, where they now make their home. The father is a successful farmer. In the family were seven children, namely: Thomas, a farmer of McLean county; Jane, wife of our subject; David, a prosperous farmer of McLean county; Annie, wife of H. Gillian, of the same county; William, also a resident of McLean county; and Lydia and Addie, both at home. Of the nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, one died in infancy. The others are as follows: William J. and Mabel M., who passed the central school examinations at the ages of fifteen and thirteen years respectively, being the youngest who ever passed from their school, and standing high in rank in a class of forty; Minnie P., Litta G., Ira J., Hamilton G., Geneveive and Morris M. The parents are giving their children the best possible educational advantages.

After his marriage Mr. Stewart located on a farm in McLean county, where he successfully engaged in general farming for two years, and in 1885 moved to the farm of two hundred acres in Avoca township, Living-

ton county, where he now resides. He is a conscientious man, upright and honorable in all his dealings, as is shown by his remaining on one farm so long. During his residence here he has been prominently identified with local politics. He was justice of the peace five years, school trustee six years and assessor two years, being re-elected for a third term, and serving in each office to the best of his ability and for the interests of the people he represents. He is a man who does not draw party lines in local affairs, but supports those whom he believes best qualified to fill the positions, regardless of party affiliations. For the past twelve years in national elections he has supported the nominees of the Prohibition party and at present is township committeeman of that party. Socially he is a member of Fairbury Camp, No. 6, M. W. A., and religiously is a member and active worker in the Methodist Episcopal church and Sunday school, serving as a member of the board of trustees for the past fourteen years. He is a genial gentleman, who is well liked by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

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#### FREDERICK DUCKETT.

Success is determined by one's ability to recognize opportunity, and to pursue this with a resolute and unflagging energy. It results from continued labor and the man who thus accomplishes his purpose usually becomes an important factor in the business circles of the community with which he is connected and also prominent in public life. Through such means Mr. Duckett has attained a leading place among the representative men of Livingston county, which he is now serving as county clerk.



A son of Benjamin and Jane (Redmond) Duckett, he was born November 10, 1840, in Wedmore, Somersetshire, England, which place has been the ancestral home of the family for many generations. There the father engaged in farming until his death, which occurred when our subject was a boy of five or six years. The mother was left with six children, five sons and one daughter. She spent her entire life in her native land and died in the faith of the Episcopal church. Those of the family who came to America were Francis, now a resident of Des Moines, Iowa; Daniel, a physician, who died in Forrest, this county, in 1890; Sarah, wife of Jesse Arney, of Kent, Washington; and Frederick, our subject. The youngest son, Gabriel, is a resident of Australia.

Frederick Duckett received a good practical education in the schools of his native land. In 1854, at the age of thirteen years, he came alone to the United States and spent two years in New York state, where he found employment. In 1856 he came to Illinois and first located in Henry, Marshall county, working on a farm near there until fall, when he went to Peoria county and obtained a position, where he worked for his board with the privilege of attending school. He remained in that county until the Civil war broke out and in the spring of 1862 enlisted in Company K, Eleventh Illinois Cavalry. Going immediately to the front, he joined his regiment at Memphis, Tennessee, and was first under fire at Lexington, that state. He took part in the second battle of Corinth and the siege of Vicksburg, and remained in active service until mustered out September 30, 1865, being never off duty a single day. He was serving as second lieutenant at the time of his discharge. Returning to Peoria county he remained there until 1867,

when he removed to Forrest, Livingston county, and entered in the drug business with his brother. Later he became sole proprietor of the store, and though he began in a small way he carried a large and well-selected stock and had built up an excellent trade at the time of disposing of his business.

On the 19th of February, 1866, Mr. Duckett married Miss Mary E. Munhall, of Peoria county, a daughter of Samuel Munhall, and to them have been born six children: Jeanette, now the wife of H. C. Amsbury, of Wellsville New York; Arthur F., who married Grace Stillwell and resides in Forrest; Jesse, now serving as deputy county clerk under his father; Nellie M.; Mabel M., wife of Everett Tate, of Pontiac; and Aldine, at home.

Mr. Duckett attends and supports the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife is a member. He is a very active and prominent member of several civic societies, was one of the organizers of Forrest Post, C. A. R., and served as its first commander. He has represented it in the state encampment several times and was a member of the commander's staff one year. He was a charter member of Forrest lodge, No. 614, F. & A. M., of which he was master about ten years, and is now a member of Pontiac lodge, No. 294, F. & A. M., of which he has been secretary, while at present he is high priest of Pontiac chapter, R. A. M., and past commander of St. Paul Commandery, K. T., of Fairbury. He also belongs to Chenoa Council, R. & S. M., of Forrest lodge, K. P., of which he is past chancellor, and the Modern Woodmen of America, of which he is past venerable consul.

Since attaining his majority Mr. Duckett has been an active Republican. He served as collector of his township several terms

and was a member of the township board at different times. In 1894 he was elected county clerk by a good majority and after filling that office for four years was renominated by acclamation in 1898 and elected by an increasing majority, which speaks well for the estimation in which he is held by the people of the county, who recognize his ability and fitness for the office. His present term will not expire until December, 1902. As a citizen he has always been found true to every trust reposed in him, so that his loyalty is above question, being manifest in days of peace as well as when he followed the old flag to victory on southern battle fields. Since he entered upon the duties of his present office he has made his home in Pontiac.

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#### JAMES P. DAHL.

James P. Dahl, who is successfully engaged in farming on section 3, Eppards Point township, Livingston county, Illinois, two miles from Pontiac, is a native of Denmark, born on the Baltic Sea March 24, 1839, and is a son of Lars P. and Christina (Peterson) Dahl, who spent their entire lives as farming people in that country.

Our subject was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools of his native land. His knowledge of the English language has been acquired through his own unaided efforts. It was in 1860 that he crossed the broad Atlantic, sailing from Liverpool, England, to New York, and landing in the latter city on the 25th of May, that year. He came direct to La Salle county, Illinois, where he had friends living, and where he worked on a farm by the month for some time. Later he was similarly

employed in Putnam county for five years, and from there went to Peru, Illinois, where he formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, John Dixon, and engaged in fruit growing and the milk and dairy business for nine years, selling out on coming to this county.

On the 10th of April, 1877, in Peru, Mr. Dahl married Miss Lydia Jensen, a native of Copenhagen, Denmark, and a daughter of Paul and Louisa (Otto) Jensen, who were also born in that country. The father was a business man of Copenhagen. Mrs. Dahl was well educated in the schools of that city and came to the new world in 1875. To our subject and his wife have been born six children, of whom four are living, namely: Anna is a well educated young lady, who is now successfully engaged in teaching music and also serves as organist of the McDowell Methodist Episcopal church; William assists his father in the operation of the farm; and Joseph and Clinton are also at home. Carrie died at the age of ten years; Mary, at the age of six months.

The day after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Dahl came to Livingston county and he purchased eighty-four acres of land on section 3, Eppards Point township, where he now resides, and has since bought forty acres more, making a fine farm of one hundred and twenty-four acres, which he has tiled and placed under a high state of cultivation. He has remodeled the house, planted an orchard, erected outbuildings and made many other useful and valuable improvements on the place which add greatly to its attractive appearance. He is quite successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. Originally he was a Republican in politics, but is now a Prohibitionist, and at local elections votes for the men whom he believes best qualified to fill the offices,

regardless of party affiliations. He is now an efficient member of the school board and president of his district. Religiously Mr. Dahl and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of McDowell and are highly respected and esteemed by all who know them.

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### JAMES H. GAFF.

James H. Gaff, a prominent old resident of Pontiac, Illinois, who is now serving as justice of the peace and deputy sheriff of Livingston county, was born in Xenia, Greene county, Ohio, March 23, 1827, a son of David M. and Hannah (Mock) Gaff. His paternal grandparents were John and Martha (Scott) Gaff, natives of Pennsylvania and Maryland respectively, the birth place of the former being not far from Gettysburg and Hagerstown. They were of Scotch-Irish descent and members of the old Covenanter church. The maternal grandparents were John and Mary (Horney), natives of North Carolina. In 1801 they removed from that state to Xenia, Ohio, in a one-horse wagon, resting always on the Sabbath day during the journey. Mr. Mock helped build the first house ever erected in Xenia and owned one hundred acres of heavily timbered land about five miles south of where that city now stands. This he cleared and transformed into a good farm. Leaving his family and several children at home, he enlisted in the war of 1812, and was stationed at McPherson's block house on the line between Indiana and Ohio. He and his wife spent their last days upon a farm which he improved in Fayette county, Ohio. She was of Quaker descent and was a daugh-

ter of James Horney, who had charge of the train of seventeen wagons in which the Mock family moved to Ohio from North Carolina. They became members of the Methodist Episcopal church and old Peter Cartwright preached in their house.

David M. Gaff, the father of our subject, was born in Maryland near the Pennsylvania line, and was a young man when the family moved to Xenia, Ohio, where he married Hannah Mock, a native of Ohio. He followed farming, but died at the early age of twenty-seven years, being accidentally killed March 27, 1831, when our subject was only four years old, leaving his widow with three small children to support. This she did by engaging in weaving. Later she married John Calhoun and moved to Montgomery county, Ohio, locating six miles south of Dayton, where the family lived until about 1857, when they came to Illinois and settled near Decatur, Macon county. Mr. Calhoun died in Decatur in 1866 and his wife died near Bloomington, this state, in 1892, at the age of eighty-five years. At an early day John Gaff, our subject's paternal grandfather, who was also a soldier of the war of 1812, floated down the Ohio river on a flat boat to Cincinnati, and from there drove across the country to Xenia, where in the midst of the forest he commenced to develop a farm, which was to have been inherited by our subject's father had he not been killed so early in life.

Just before he attained his eighth year James H. Gaff, our subject, went to live with an uncle, with whom he remained for four years, and then made his home with his grandfather Mock. Until eighteen years old he attended school not to exceed thirty days a year, his first books being an elementary speller and testament, which were later sup-

plemented by the American reader and Smith's arithmetic. The school house where he pursued his studies was a primitive structure built of logs, with puncheon floor and seats and greased paper windows, and the little room often had to accommodate forty pupils.

After leaving school at the age of eighteen years Mr. Gaff learned the blacksmith's trade in Jeffersonville, serving a three-years apprenticeship, and then working as a journeyman at that place for a time. While there he was married, December 23, 1850, to Miss Catherine Powell, a native of Fayette county, Ohio, and a daughter of Harper Powell, a farmer. They have one child, Ann E., now the wife of Charles Tanquary, of Chicago, by whom she has a daughter, Helen G.

On leaving Jeffersonville, Ohio, in the fall of 1851, Mr. Gaff moved to what is now Cooksville, McLean county, Illinois, where he bought eighty acres of land and commenced breaking prairie with an ox team. In 1854 he moved to Pleasant Hill and opened a blacksmith shop, which he conducted for five years and then sold. Coming to Pontiac he was here engaged in general blacksmithing until after the Civil war broke out.

In the fall of 1862 Mr. Gaff enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry and first went to Louisville, Kentucky. He was at the engagements at Bowling Green, Gallatin and Nashville and later started on the Chattanooga and Atlanta campaign, his regiment being one of the first to enter Atlanta after the evacuation. They were on the left wing of the army in the march to the sea and up through the Carolinas to Goldsboro and Raleigh. The war having ended they continued their march through Richmond to

Washington, D. C., where they participated in the grand review. They were mustered out at Washington June 8, 1865, and discharged at Chicago on the 21st of that month. Mr. Gaff had four half-brothers and one step-brother in the service, not one of whom was ill or wounded while in the army, although their aggregate service amounted to over nineteen years.

Returning to his home in Pontiac, Mr. Gaff resumed blacksmithing, at which he worked until the fall of 1866, when he was elected sheriff of the county for a term of two years, and the following two years served as deputy sheriff, having charge of the office for his successor. After clerking in a store for one year he again opened a blacksmith shop and built up an extensive business, furnishing employment to four men. During President Hayes' administration he was appointed postmaster, having always been an active Republican and chairman of the central committee during the Hayes campaign. He had previously filled the office of assessor for a number of terms. While serving as postmaster the postage on a letter was reduced from three to two cents, which naturally affected the revenue of the office. He was reappointed by President Arthur and for eight years devoted his time exclusively to the duties of his position. Later he spent a year and a half in Kansas, returning to Pontiac in 1890. He has served as constable four years, justice of the peace three years and deputy sheriff since 1891, having charge of the circuit court. His official duties have always been discharged in a prompt and able manner, which has won the commendation of all concerned.

Mr. Gaff is one of the oldest members of T. Tyle Dickey Post, No. 105, G. A. R., and has served as its commander. He

is one of the oldest Masons belonging to Pontiac lodge, No. 294, F. & A. M., and is a member of Fairbury Chapter, R. A. M. For forty years he and his wife have held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and during that entire time he has served as steward or in other official positions. He has also been class leader for some time and takes an active and prominent part in church work. During the long years of his residence in Livingston county he has been one of its most influential and popular citizens—a man honored and respected wherever known.

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#### GEORGE TORRANCE.

Whatever else may be said of the legal fraternity, it cannot be denied that members of the bar have been more important actors in public affairs than any other class of the American people. This is but the natural result of causes which are manifest and require no explanation. The ability and training which qualify one to practice law also qualify him in many respects for duties which lie outside the strict path of his profession and which touch the general interests of society. The subject of this record is a man who has brought his keen discrimination and thorough wisdom to bear not alone in professional paths, but also for the benefit of his fellow citizens and the community in which he lives. He is now most efficiently and satisfactorily serving as superintendent of the Illinois state reformatory at Pontiac.

Mr. Torrance was born in Lancaster, Ohio, May 15, 1847, a son of David and Sarah (Kerns) Torrance, both natives of

Pennsylvania, and the former of Scotch-Irish and the latter of German descent. The parents removed from their native state to Lancaster, Ohio, and in 1863 came to Illinois, locating in Danville, Vermilion county, where for some time the father engaged in business as a contractor and builder, being a carpenter by trade. He died in that city. While a resident of Ohio he took quite an interest in educational affairs, and always attended and supported the Presbyterian church, though not a member. His wife still survives him and continues to make her home in Pontiac.

During his boyhood George Torrance attended the common schools of his birthplace. He removed with the family to Danville, Illinois, and there enlisted, in 1864, in Company E, One Hundred and Forty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was with his command in Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. He remained in the service until the close of the war, being mustered out at Dalton, Georgia, and discharged at Camp Butler, Illinois. At the age of twenty years Mr. Torrance began his business career as clerk in a grocery store, and was later in the United States express office and a clothing store of Danville. He came to Chatsworth, this county, as a dry-goods clerk, and held that position for some time, after which he was employed as a commercial traveler. He served as justice of the peace and read law with the firm of Fosdick & Wallace, the latter being now Judge Wallace, of Pontiac. Later he studied for a time with A. M. Wyman, and was admitted to practice by examination January 9, 1875. He was engaged in practice at Chatsworth until the spring of 1881, when he came to Pontiac. Here he began practice alone, but later was in partnership with R. S. McIll-



GEORGE TORRANCE.

duf, as a member of the firm of McIllduf & Torrance, and when that was dissolved he was alone for some years. Subsequently he was engaged in practice with his son under the firm name of Torrance & Torrance. He would never accept criminal cases, but as a civil lawyer met with most excellent success in his chosen profession.

On the 9th of June, 1869, Mr. Torrance was united in marriage with Miss Eliza M. Fenn, of Chatsworth, a daughter of Elam P. Fenn, a farmer, from Connecticut, and to them have been born two children: Herbert E., now an attorney of Pontiac; and Grace Tren. The family attend the Presbyterian church, of which Mrs. Torrance is a member.

As a Republican Mr. Torrance has taken an active and influential part in political affairs, and has been chairman of the county committee. In the fall of 1880 he was elected to the state senate and served two terms of four years each with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. During this time he was one of the one hundred and three who helped to elect General Logan to the United States senate.

Mr. Torrence was appointed superintendent of the Illinois State Reformatory, March 1, 1897. Realizing that if it was to properly perform the work designed for it many changes must be made in its buildings, schools, etc., he immediately began his labors along that line. This institution, with the great outlay of money necessary to its building, and the wants of fifteen hundred inmates to look after, including their schooling and discipline, would be a tax upon the strength of any man, but with this additional work has been a heavy burden, which he has borne with wonderful forti-

tude. Though criticised and condemned at times, he has never faltered, but patiently awaited the time which he felt sure must come when his work would meet with public approval. It has now arrived and the discipline of the inmates, the success of its trade and common school work, and the beauty of the grounds are generally commended and the institution is recognized as among the most successful of its kind in the world. Mr. Torrance has been told that he expected to leave the institution as a monument to his work in this state, and if given time would place it in such a position that it could not be surpassed by any other in the near future. That he has succeeded is now conceded and his former critics are loud in his praise, and the doubting yet hopeful friends jubilant over his success.

The discipline is excellent, yet without apparent severity. There seems to be a hopeful, contented air permeating the whole institution, and he has not elsewhere and probably never will have better friends than can be found among the boys in his custody. They speak kindly of him, are very respectful to him and obey his requests or commands as cheerfully as if he was paying them salaries. One by one the former modes of punishment have been abolished until the shackle, hand-cuff, ball line, solitary, etc., are relegated to the things that were. Parade and assembly grounds have been arranged, fine lawns, cement walks and flower beds constructed, until the inner yard is a beautiful park, the admiration of all that see it. Great attention has been paid by him to the training of inmates in both instrumental and vocal music until the institution has one of the best bands in the state. A military organization has been perfected, and it is unsurpassed anywhere, outside of

West Point. To instruct the inmates he has about twenty-two common and twenty-five trade schools, classes in ethics, Sunday school, chapel services, lectures, concerts and entertainments of various kinds.

With him the work is not performed for the salary alone; it has become a work into which he throws his entire energy and ability. A visit to the institution is very instructive and interesting, and hundreds inspect it every week, as many as fifteen hundred being conducted through it in one week last summer. In the handling of hundreds of thousands of dollars, the making and looking after many contracts with builders, machinists and plumbers, not one word of scandal has ever been heard, not a difference ever existed but has been adjusted without discord. The same is true in regard to his officers; differences often exist, but under his direction they are harmonized or he takes hold with a firm hand and settles them beyond further controversy. One employe said: "I have worked at other institutions and found much trouble among the officers always existing. This one runs without friction." As an organizer and director, he is unsurpassed. He possesses executive ability of a high order, has had great experience in public matters, is an excellent lawyer, an extensive reader and possesses a brain that works rapidly. Probably no man in the state is required to promptly pass upon so many matters embracing all the lines of industry and education as he is, or that could do so with less deliberation.

For nearly six years Mr. Torrance has been officially connected with the high school of Pontiac, and was president of the board almost five years, during which time the school was opened and raised to its present high standing among similar institutions in

the state. Other official honors would have been conferred upon him had he not declined, refusing to allow his name to go farther on the party ticket. Upright, reliable and honorable, his strict adherence to principle commands the respect of all, and as a pleasant, affable gentleman he makes many friends.

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### JOHN K. OLESON.

John K. Oleson, who resides on section 8, Pontiac township, is one of the successful farmers of Livingston county. He is a native of Norway and was born June 20, 1831, just sixty-nine years from the day the notes for this sketch were taken. He grew to manhood on a farm in his native country and until about thirteen years old attended the parochial schools. He then had to begin making his own living and engaged in farm labor.

The life of a poor man in Norway is not one for envy, and the opportunity for advancement is not such as is afforded in the United States. Realizing this fact, Mr. Oleson determined to emigrate to this country, and accordingly, in 1858, he took passage in a sailing vessel, crossed the Atlantic, and landed in Quebec. From that city he came west to Chicago, and from there to La Salle county, Illinois, where he commenced work on a farm by the month, and continued to be thus employed for several years, saving as much of his wages as possible.

While yet living in La Salle county, Mr. Oleson was united in marriage with Miss Elsie Olson, by which union two children were born. Ole R., the eldest is now married and has one son. He is engaged in farm-



ing in Livingston county. Emma is the wife of Ole Knudson and they have four sons.

In 1870 Mr. Oleson came to Livingston county and purchased a farm of eighty acres and also rented a place on which was an old log house. The place had formerly been worked, but when he obtained possession it had mostly grown up to grass and weeds and only about fifteen acres was fenced. Life in Livingston county was commenced under very discouraging circumstances, but he had grit and determination, and the unsightly weeds soon disappeared and the land was placed under cultivation. A small house was first erected, which in due time, gave place to a larger and better one, and the area of the farm was increased until the farm now comprises two hundred and twenty acres, all of which is under cultivation and the land tilled and well drained throughout.

Politically Mr. Oleson is a Republican, with which party he has been identified since coming to this country. On his arrival the slavery question was being agitated and the country was almost in the midst of the throes of a revolution. Lincoln and Douglas were holding their great debate, and the young Norwegian naturally took his place on the side of those who were fighting for freedom. His first presidential vote was cast in 1864 for Abraham Lincoln, while his last was cast for William McKinley. He was reared in the Lutheran faith and is yet a member of that church. His wife is also a member of the same church.

Mr. Oleson was a poor man when he came to the United States, and for several years he had a hard struggle to obtain a foothold, but he persevered, with the result that he now has one of the best improved farms in Pontiac township, within three miles of the county seat, and he can calmly

look the future in the face, knowing that he has sufficient to carry him through old age in comfort, if not in luxury. His forty-two years in this country have served to broaden his views and to make him progressive and thoroughly American in all things. All who know him have for him the utmost respect.

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### JOEL ALLEN, M. D.

Joel Allen, M. D., a prominent and successful physician of Pontiac, Illinois, is a native of this state, born on his father's farm in Jefferson county, November 13, 1827, and is a son of Abel and Prudence (Wilkey) Allen, natives of Kentucky and Georgia, respectively. His paternal grandfather, James Allen was born in Virginia, and when quite young moved to Kentucky, where he engaged in farming for some years, coming to Illinois about 1819, locating in Jefferson county, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying about 1830. The Doctor's father, who was a prosperous farmer, lived in his native state until about thirty-five years of age, when he came to Illinois and settled in Jefferson county, where he continued to follow his chosen occupation until his death, which occurred at his home March 29, 1869, at the age of seventy-four years. His wife survived him about six years and died on the old homestead in Jefferson county, June 3, 1875. For a quarter of a century she was a great invalid and for the last ten years of her life was also entirely helpless, requiring much care and attention. The Doctor has one brother in this county, Christopher Columbus Allen, a farmer of Pontiac township.

Dr. Allen obtained his early education in the district schools of Jefferson county;

and assisted his father with the farm work until twenty-two years of age. He had a great fondness for the study of medicine and for some time read with his uncle, Dr. Carter Wilkey, with a view of fitting himself for the medical profession.

On the 14th of November, 1849, Dr. Allen was united in marriage with Miss Martha Trowbridge, a daughter of Philo and Martha Trowbridge of Jefferson county, where her father was successfully engaged in farming until his death, about 1855. By this union were four children, all of whom are living, namely: Hardin A., born in Jefferson county, wedded Mary Kinnehan, of Livingston county, and is now a pavement and concrete walk contractor of Streator, Illinois; Lydia A. is the wife of A. C. Scott, a prominent farmer of Eppard's Point township, Livingston county; Laura is the wife of T. C. Taylor, a dealer in hardware and agricultural implements of Pendleton Oregon; and J. Brown married Lizzie Labourn and is a street car conductor of Denver, Colorado.

After his marriage Dr. Allen continued farming for some years in Jefferson county and then went to Lincoln, Logan county, where he was engaged in the manufacture of brick until the death of his wife, which occurred January 15, 1858. He then came to Livingston county and again took up farming, at the same time continuing his medical studies, being thus employed until the outbreak of the Civil war. He was again married, December 6, 1860, his second union being with Emily Tromly, by whom he had two children: Gertrude, born in La Salle county, August 23, 1861, resides at home, and Jessie P., born in this county, July 17, 1866, is the wife of Robert Harms, a farmer of Rock Island, Illinois.

In August, 1862, Dr. Allen enlisted at Minonk, Woodford county, in Company H, Seventy-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, as hospital steward and remained in the service three years, having charge of his regiment as physician and surgeon the last two years. He was serving as second assistant surgeon at the time he was mustered out with his regiment at Mobile, July 25, 1865. They participated in sixteen battles, the first being at Chickasaw Bluff, in the rear of Vicksburg, and for forty days was in the siege of Vicksburg. The following winter was passed in New Orleans and in the spring the command took Fort Gaines on Mobile Bay, also Spanish Fort and Fort Blakeley.

After the close of the war Dr. Allen returned to Livingston county. While in New Orleans he took a course of medical lectures and on his return, as a representative of the Eclectic School of Medicine, he commenced practice in this county, and was not long in securing a liberal patronage. In the fall of 1882 he moved to Graymont, where he engaged in practice and also conducted a drug store until coming to Pontiac, in October, 1888. He has his office at his handsome residence, No. 307 East North street, and although well advanced in years continues to engage in active practice.

For his third wife Dr. Allen married Mrs. Mary Hallam, of Livingston county, a daughter of James Carson, a farmer of this county, now deceased. She died in Pontiac, December 5, 1888, leaving no children. On the 12th of November, 1889, in Pontiac, the Doctor married Mrs. Addie E. Pound, oldest daughter of John S. and Eunice (Packer) Lee. The father, a native of Connecticut, and a blacksmith by trade, came to Illinois in 1857 and settled at Pleasant Ridge, near Lexington, where he fol-

lowed his trade for two years, and then came to Pontiac. He now makes his home with the Doctor and his wife, Mrs. Lee having died at her home in Pontiac in 1896. They had three children besides Mrs. Allen, namely: Hattie, wife of Joseph Roggy, a farmer of Nebraska; Frank P., who is employed in a pork packing establishment in Chicago, and Charles, agent on the Illinois Central Railroad at Riverdale, Illinois.

Mrs. Allen was born in Connecticut, December 24, 1850, and was seven years of age when she came to this state with her parents. She is a lady of refinement, highly educated, and after the death of her first husband she was, for a number of years, successfully engaged in teaching in the district schools of this county, and for a period of eight years in the public schools of Pontiac. Her first husband was Joseph Pound, a farmer living near McDowell, Livingston county, by whom she had two children, Mary and Alfred, both now deceased. The Doctor and Mrs. Allen have one child, Wayne Lee, who was born in Pontiac, May 10, 1892. In his political views Dr. Allen is a Republican, but has never sought or desired public office, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his professional duties. He is a member of the Methodist church of Pontiac, and is honored and respected by all who know him. Mrs. Allen is also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### REV. E. F. WRIGHT.

Rev. E. F. Wright, who for six years has been the beloved pastor of the Congregational church at Dwight, Illinois, was born July 21, 1842, in Shoreham, Vermont,

adjoining Whiting, where Senator Sawyer was born. His paternal grandfather was Andrew Wright, a native of Connecticut, and a soldier of the Revolutionary war, who after that struggle migrated to Shoreham, Vermont, and took up a large tract of land. He was married twice and reared a large family. The youngest of his children by the second marriage was Samuel Wright, our subject's father, who in early life followed the sea, sailing first on a whaling vessel and later on a merchantman. After giving up the sea he made his home in Vermont for some time, but spent the last three years of his life in Jackson county, Michigan, where he died when our subject was only four years old. He was twice married, but his first wife died young, leaving no children. His second wife was Minerva Knowlton, a native of New York state, by whom he had three children, namely: E. F., our subject; Florence, wife of C. W. Platt, of North Adams, Massachusetts; and Charles T., a resident of Crow Point, New York. The mother survived her husband many years, dying in Rutland, Vermont.

Our subject was reared by his father's sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Lucius Robison, and his early education was acquired in the district schools of Vermont, which he attended during the winter months. He was eighteen years of age when the civil war broke out and was one of the first from his state to enlist, joining Company K, Second Vermont Volunteer Infantry, May 17, 1861. He was mustered into the United States service at Burlington, and in June went to the front, participating in his first battle—that of Bull Run—on the nineteenth anniversary of his birth, July 21, 1861. His regiment was in the Peninsular campaign, the siege of Yorktown, the battles of Lee's

Mills and Williamstown, and the seven days' battle in front of Richmond. He was ill and off duty from August, 1862, until January, 1863, and after rejoining his command took part in the battle of Chancellorsville. The regiment gained distinction the following day by making a famous charge on St. Mary's Height, and later participated in the battle of the Wilderness, where they lost three hundred and thirty-six men. The brigade of which Mr. Wright was a member probably lost more than any other in the service. He was mustered out June 29, 1864, and returned home.

Previous to leaving the army Mr. Wright was converted, and soon after his return home entered the academy at Barry, Vermont, where he spent two years. The following year he was a student at Newbury, Vermont, and in the summer of 1866 entered Middlebury College, from which he was graduated in 1870, with the degree of A. B., receiving the degree of A. M. three years later. In the autumn of 1870 he commenced teaching in the academy, where he remained two years, and in 1872 was called to the pastorate of the Congregational church at Danby, Vermont, where he was ordained and installed in 1873.

On the 11th of November, 1871, Mr. Wright married Mrs. Ellen M. Marsh, of Norwich, Vermont, who died July 4, 1874, leaving one son, Robert Hopkins, who is now married and in the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad at Dubuque, Iowa. After the death of his wife, Mr. Wright entered the Chicago Theological Seminary, from which he was graduated in 1876. While attending that institution he had served as pastor of the Congregational church at Des Plaines, Illinois, and later was in charge of the church at Seward, Winnebago county,

eight years; Rockton three years, and Crystal Lake, Illinois, for a time. From the last named place he came to Dwight, where he has now been for the past six years, during which time he has built up the church and has ministered faithfully to the spiritual needs of his people. He is not only well liked by his own congregation, but is honored and esteemed by all who have witnessed his devotion to his noble calling.

Mr. Wright was again married, September 7, 1876, his second union being with Miss M. S. Stone, of Pecatonica, Winnebago county, Illinois, by whom he has two children, namely: Florence, who is now bookkeeper and stenographer for the Dwight Star and Herald; and Clarence. Both reside at home.

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#### ARCHIE CRABB.

The early home of this well-known and honored citizen of Pike township was on the other side of the Atlantic, and on coming to the new world he was in limited circumstances, but so successful has he been in his business undertakings that he is now able to lay aside all labor and live a retired life upon his farm on section 4, Pike township, Livingston county, about eight miles from Chenoa.

Mr. Crabb was born in Arbroath, Forfarshire, Scotland, June 18, 1833, a son of James and Cecelia (Monroe) Crabb, also natives of that county, where the mother died. The father, who followed the sea in early life, came to the United States after the death of his wife and spent his last years with a daughter in Illinois. During his boyhood and youth our subject had limited

school advantages, and is mostly self-educated. In 1854 he took passage on a sail vessel bound for Montreal, Canada, and was seven weeks in crossing the Atlantic, during which time the ship encountered some severe storms. On their arrival in Quebec they were quarantined for two weeks, there being some twenty cases of smallpox on board. Mr. Crabb spent about six months in the city of Montreal, where he worked at his trade, that of a blacksmith.

In 1854 he came to Illinois, and first located in Tazewell county, where he worked for his uncle, William Monroe, as a farm hand, for about two years and a half, at ten dollars per month. He next engaged in farming for himself upon rented land in the same county, where he continued to make his home until 1866, and in the meantime purchased eighty acres of land in Pike township, Livingston county, where he now resides. He located here in 1866, and commenced immediately to break the virgin soil, upon which he built a small house. Later he purchased an adjoining eighty-acre tract, and still later another eighty-acre tract, and today has a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation and improved with good and substantial buildings, which stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise. After years of faithful toil he can now well afford to lay aside all business cares and enjoy a well earned rest.

In Tazewell county, December 25, 1861, Mr. Crabb married Miss Mary Ann Dorward, who was born and reared in the same neighborhood in Scotland as her husband and came to the new world in 1853, locating in Illinois. To them have been born six children, namely: Florence, now the wife of William Snethen, of Pike township;

John Henry, who is married and engaged in farming in the same township; Robert, also an agriculturist of Pike township; Margaret, wife of Lewis Brinkman, of Rooks Creek township; Cecelia, wife of Louis Salzman, of the same township; and Agnes, wife of C. B. Rollins, who operates the Crabb farm.

Mr. Crabb voted for Abraham Lincoln in 1860, but since 1868 has been independent in politics, giving his support to the men and measures that he believes will best advance the interests of the public regardless of party lines. He has taken quite an active part in local politics, and is now serving his sixth term as supervisor, and is now a member of the committees on public buildings, county house and farm, fees and salaries. He has also served as township clerk, assessor and treasurer, which office of treasurer he now holds, and as township trustee eighteen years. He and his wife are active members of the Presbyterian church, and his public and private life are alike above reproach, for his career has ever been one characterized by the utmost fidelity to duty. He and his family receive and merit the high regard of the entire community.

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#### THE LESLIE E. KEELEY CO.

Time tests the merit of all things, and the years with unerring accuracy set their stamp of approval upon all that comes before the public notice, or cause to sink into oblivion that which is not worthy of attention. Only truth is eternal, while "error wounded, writhes in pain and dies among her worshippers." There is no escape from such results; the ages have proven this, and the law will hold good throughout all time.

In the face of the most bitter opposition there was given to the world a wonderful discovery by Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, of Dwight, Illinois. He early met the ridicule and persecution of the medical fraternity, of which he was a member, and the amused and oftentimes abusive disbelief of the world, but time proved the efficacy and value of his discovery, and today he is known as one of the greatest benefactors that America produced in the nineteenth century.

Although the founder has passed away his living record forms an epitaph time will never efface, and the work he created is continued under the corporate name of The Leslie E. Keeley Company, the leading members being Major Curtis J. Judd and John R. Oughton, the latter the present mayor of Dwight, while the former for several years was a successful merchant and filled positions in the executive departments of the village. The history of the Keeley Institute forms the most important chapter in the history of Dwight, for prior to its establishment the little village was scarcely heard of outside of a radius of a few miles, and seemed to have little business or commercial prosperity outside of the farming industry before it. Today no city of equal size in the Union is as widely known.

In 1866 Dr. Leslie E. Keeley was graduated from Rush Medical College, of Chicago, and in seeking a location, determined upon this little village in Livingston county, Illinois. He soon won an enviable reputation, and enjoyed a large practice which came to him from miles around; but while he successfully performed his daily duties as a general practitioner, he became interested in the question of a possible cure for inebriety. He gave careful thought, study and investigation to the matter, prompted by

a love of scientific research, but more than all by the great humanitarian principles which ever formed a basic element in the character of Dr. Keeley. At length he became convinced that drunkenness was a disease just as surely as a fever or any other disease which comes under the care of the physician. He became convinced that there was nothing in the claim that heredity had anything to do with either. He believed that while a neurosis might be entailed upon descendants, they were not from necessity liquor or drug users. He defined drunkenness as "a condition wherein the nerve cells have become so accustomed to performing their duties and functions under the influence of alcohol that they are dependent on it and will no longer perform those duties and functions properly and painlessly except when under its influence." This theory has long been accepted by physicians throughout the country, and is taught in the leading text-books on physiology and hygiene in our public schools, but at the time Dr. Keeley advanced it he met with the greatest opposition from the medical fraternity. Hoping to perfect a cure for this condition of the nerve cells, he wrote to several well-known physicians to ascertain what they knew about the effects of salts of gold. A few responded and their information was meager, but Dr. Keeley continued to investigate and experiment, and as a result, perfected not only the cure but the system of treatment. The storm of abuse and opposition which he brought down upon himself can hardly be imagined. The president of a prominent medical college, with whom he took counsel, advised him thus: "Maintain the secret of your discovery if you think it of use to humanity, but the profession will not leave a shred of your medical

reputation." This was painfully true, but he fought his and humanity's battle nobly, until now thousands have been benefited by his treatment, the number reaching more than three hundred thousand.

It was in 1880 that Dr. Keeley abandoned general practice and began giving his entire attention to the cure of those who had become slaves to alcohol, opium and other very injurious drugs. He early associated with him Major Judd and Mr. Oughton, and the connection was maintained until the Doctor's death. These gentleman were prominent, popular and reliable business men of Dwight, and their faith in Dr. Keeley and his discoveries did much to gain for him the confidence of his home community. Major Judd is now the secretary and treasurer of the company, and Mr. Oughton is president and chemist. Soon after the partnership was formed Mr. Oughton was given the formulae and being an expert chemist has compounded the Keeley remedies to the present time.

With three such men as Dr. Keeley, Major Judd and Mr. Oughton at the head of the Institute its success was assured, although it was almost a decade before it gained the recognition and assistance of the press. Gradually public opposition was lessened, as those who came to the Institute under the curse of inebriety went away sober, intelligent citizens, ready to take their places again in the work of the world. Their testimony and influence lead to the growth of the work, the number of patients gradually yet constantly increased, and it is estimated that twenty-five thousand took the treatment prior to 1891, when Joseph Medill became its champion and advocated the cause through the columns of the Chicago Tribune. Before so doing, however, he thoroughly in-

vestigated the cure. In an editorial in the Chicago Tribune he said: "I tested this cure; I selected a half-dozen of the toughest products of alcoholism that the Chicago saloons had been able to turn out, and the drunkard-making shops in no other city can beat them in their line of workmanship. The experimental cases were sent down to Dwight, one at a time, extending over a period of several weeks, and in due time they were all returned to me, looking as if a veritable miracle had been wrought upon them. The change for the better was so great that I scarcely recognized them. They went away sots and returned gentlemen. It was amazing, and converted me to a belief in the efficacy of the 'Gold Cure' for alcoholism and opium. Well, I did not stop with the half-dozen specially selected cases, but sent down to Dwight a number of inebriate acquaintances to take the treatment, as I was anxious to reclaim those old friends who had been respected and useful citizens before the 'drink habit' had ruined their lives. When I had thus become fully convinced that drunkenness was a disease, the result of imbibing poison, and that a medicine had been discovered which released the victim from the irrepressible thirst for alcohol, and that it restored the man to normal health of body and mind, I felt it to be a duty which I owed to humanity to make known the virtue of the Keeley Cure as fast and as far as in my power, and I rejoice that the control of a widely-read journal enabled me to reach the minds of a multitude of intelligent people. I opened the columns of my paper freely to the rescued victims of alcohol, who related their experience and testified to what the Keeley Cure had done for them." The Tribune's example was immediately followed by that of other leading

journals in Chicago, and then throughout the country, until the Keeley Institute of Dwight became largely known throughout the length and breadth of the land.

It was soon found that the accommodations at Dwight were totally inadequate, so greatly did the number of patients increase. Dr. Keeley, Major Judd and Mr. Oughton held consultation and it was determined that the congestion at Dwight should be relieved at once by the opening of branch institutes. The first one was established at Des Moines, Iowa, soon others were started in New York and Pennsylvania, and after this branches sprang up in various places until at the present time there are one or more in nearly every state and territory. The most notable work perhaps was accomplished at the Leavenworth branch of the National Soldiers' Home, where nearly fifteen hundred veterans of the war of the Rebellion were treated with the most gratifying results, and the report of the board of managers to congress and the secretary of war spoke of the great good accomplished. The treatment was also administered in the Soldiers' Home at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Hampton, Virginia, Los Angeles, California, and others, with excellent results. Many men and officers of the regular army have also taken the treatment, sixty Indians from the Cherokee and Osage reservations were sent to the branch in Kansas City, and the results were so favorable to the cure as to prompt the writing of a letter by Chief Justice Connor, of the Indian Territory, to Dr. Keeley, praising the treatment in the highest terms. Sixty-five men in the work-house of Minneapolis were sent by the mayor of that city to the branch institute there, and a large majority of them, although they had been victims of inebriety, convicted from two to twenty-

nine times, were enabled to leave the work-house, and were changed from wards of the state to self-supporting, self-respecting citizens. To cite, either collectively or individually, the wonderful cures effected by the system inaugurated by Dr. Keeley would fill a large volume; suffice it to say that more than three hundred thousand have taken the cure, and the greater number have remained sober, useful citizens.

The cure for drunkenness is usually effected in four weeks. There is no sickness attendant upon the treatment, and the physical condition improves from the start. Men are also freed from the opium, morphine, laudanum, cocaine and chloral habits. The patients are left absolutely free, there being no restraining influences other than those of law-abiding citizenship. All patients are treated alike and stand on the same footing. It is interesting to note the many exhibitions of kindness and good will of the patients towards each other. A useful lesson is taught by this democracy of the Keeley Institute—a man of humble station is lifted up and given a new trend, whereas a man of high position is convinced more than ever of the leveling qualities of drink toward the lowest strata of society.

The Livingston Hotel of Dwight is owned and conducted by the Leslie E. Keeley Company, and is an excellently conducted hostelry, with pleasantly arranged rooms, well lighted and ventilated, and tastefully furnished. The laboratory is one of the finest and best equipped in the country, and the offices are models of convenience.

Dwight certainly owes her prosperity in very large measure to the Leslie E. Keeley Company. Prior to the establishment of the institute it was an ordinary country town, without electric lights, without water-



works and without drainage. Today it has all the accommodations and improvements of cities many times its size, this result being largely obtained through the efforts of the members of the Keeley Company. It is safe to say that no private institution in the entire country is so well known as the institute at Dwight, nor is there one whose influence and efforts have been so beneficial and far reaching.

The business of the Leslie E. Keeley Company is conducted upon a liberal principle and most approved business methods. The system is the result of years of experience and intelligent work, and cannot be improved upon. Visitors to Dwight invariably inspect the general offices as one of the sights of the village. While it has been a paying investment to its owners, it certainly deserves to be ranked among the greatest institutions for good that the nineteenth century has known.

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#### MATTHIAS TOMBAUGH.

Matthias Tombaugh, deceased, was one of the most prominent of the early educators of this county, and served as county superintendent of schools for several years, during which time there was a marked improvement made in the educational system then in vogue here. He was born near Washington, Washington county, Pennsylvania, June 11, 1835, and there grew to manhood. His parents were Mathias and Rachel (Spohn) Tombaugh, life-long residents of that county and of German descent. The mother survived her husband several years, dying about 1890.

Our subject completed his literary edu-

cation at Mt. Union College, and then commenced teaching school in his native county, serving as superintendent of schools at Monongahela City for a time. While there he married Miss Elivira J. Letherman, who was born June 11, 1838, a daughter of John and Christina Letherman, of Washington county, Pennsylvania, and of German descent. Her father was a soldier of the war of 1812, and a farmer by occupation. To Mr. and Mrs. Tombaugh were born seven children, five of whom are still living, namely: Charles R., who is represented on another page of this volume; Alice I., wife of E. F. Pound, of Glen Elder, Kansas; Dr. Frank M., medical examiner for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad at Burlington, Iowa; Nettie Z., wife of W. F. Worthley, of Odell, Illinois; and John L., a student in the Chicago Medical College. Raymond R., the third in order of birth, died June 25, 1886, at the age of nineteen years. Horace Reid, the fifth child died in infancy.

In 1865 Mr. Tombaugh came to Livingston county, Illinois, and purchased land in Reading township, when this country was quite new and but slightly improved. After making his home there for three years he moved to Sunbury township and bought another farm. While living there he served as principal of the schools of Odell for one year, and in 18873 was elected county superintendent of schools, which important position he held until 1882, the term at that time being four years. While in office a change was made in the election laws and he was elected by the board of supervisors for one year. During his incumbency he made many important changes in the schools which have been of permanent value, and it is conceded that he was a very effective

school officer. Selling his farm in Sunbury township, in 1876, he bought property in Odell township, and successfully engaged in farming there up to the time of his death.

After 1882 Mr. Tombaugh served as supervisor of his township and was also a member of the Odell school board. He was a Republican in politics and a member of the Masonic fraternity. Both he and his wife held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and took an active part in its work. He served as superintendent of the Sunday schools twelve years; was president of the County Sunday School Association; and was also steward, trustee and church secretary, in fact was one of the pillars of his church. While one of a fishing party at Marseilles, Illinois, May 13, 1887, he was drowned while attempting to rescue another member of the party who had fallen in the river. He was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him on account of his sterling worth and true nobility of character, and his death was widely and deeply mourned. His estimable wife still survives him and makes her home in Odell.

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#### CHARLES R. TOMBAUGH.

Charles R. Tombaugh, the present county superintendent of schools, was born near Washington, Washington county, Pennsylvania, October 1, 1862, and is a son of Matthias and Elvira J. (Letherman) Tombaugh, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work. He was about three years old when brought by his parents to Livingston county, Illinois. He began his education in the schools of Sunbury town-

ship, later attended the common schools of Odell and then taught school for five winters in this county, at the end of which time he entered the Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois. After his return home he resumed teaching and taught for six years, during which time he was principal of the East Side School at Dwight, and also principal of the schools at Chebanse and Odell. While at Odell he was president of the Livingston County Teachers' Association for two years, and also an instructor in the County Teachers' Institute. After the death of his father, in 1887, he took charge of the home farm and carried it on until he assumed the duties of his present position as county superintendent of schools. He was elected on the Republican ticket, and in 1898 was renominated by acclamation and again elected to that office. The educational meetings held during his term have been most successful, and he has the entire confidence and respect of the people.

On his election to his present office Professor Tombaugh moved to Pontiac, and now has a pleasant home at No. 311 South Vermilion street. On the 20th of January, 1892, he married Mrs. Anna L. Bradrick, a daughter of Rev. Samuel Deach, of the Central Illinois Methodist Episcopal conference. Rev. and Mrs. Deach were in Kansas for a time on account of his health, and Mrs. Tombaugh was educated in Salina, that state. By a former marriage she has one child, Margaret L. Bradrick, and she has borne our subject three children: Alice V., Glen D. and Stella M.

Professor Tombaugh was made a Mason in Odell Lodge, No. 401, F. & A. M., in which he served as warden, but has since demitted to Pontiac lodge, No. 294, where he is now serving his fourth year as mas-

ter. Both he and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is now a member of the official board of the church and president of the Livingston County Sunday School Association. While a resident of Dwight, Chebanse and Odell, he was superintendent of the Sunday schools there, having like his father devoted much time to Sunday school work. He has followed closely in the footsteps of his father, having held practically all of the local, county and church offices held by the latter. As a citizen he ever stands ready to discharge any duty devolving upon him, and as an educator he stands deservedly high.

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#### EMILE A. SIMMONS.

The man who achieves success in the legal profession is even more strictly the "architect of his own fortunes" than is the average self-made man, there being in the keen competition of the lawyer's life, with its constantly recurring mental duel between eager and determined antagonists, no chance for the operation of influences which may be called to the aid of the merchant, the manufacturer or the financier. Among the men of Livingston county who have demonstrated their abilities in this difficult field Emile A. Simmons holds a leading place, being one of the prominent attorneys of Pontiac.

A native of Illinois, Mr. Simmons was born in Avon, October 19, 1865, and is a son of George and Charlotte L. J. (Mailliard) Simmons. The father was born, reared and educated in Hamilton, Madison county, New York, and as a young man removed to Avon, Illinois, about 1850, where

he followed the carpenter's trade, and also engaged in farming, making his home there until his death. He held different local offices, including those of justice of the peace, assessor and collector, and was a Republican in politics, having been an abolitionist in New York. His father was a soldier of the war of 1812, and a life-long resident of Hamilton, New York, where he followed the occupation of farming. The mother of our subject was born in Florence, Italy, of French parentage, and was reared in France until twelve years of age, when she came to America with her family and settled in Avon, Illinois. Her father was Ely Mailliard. She is still living, but the father of our subject died in 1892.

During his boyhood and youth Emile A. Simmons attended the public schools of Avon, and at the age of sixteen commenced teaching. After following that profession for six years, he became a student at the Normal School in Normal, Illinois, and after leaving that institution again taught school for two years, being principal of the school at Vermont, Illinois. In December, 1889, he came to Pontiac and entered the office of A. C. Ball, studying law with him two years, and also teaching the latter year. The following year he was in the office of McIlduff & Torrance, and in May, 1892, was appointed deputy circuit clerk. While in that position seeing the practice of leading lawyers was of great benefit to him. In August, 1892, he was examined at Mt. Vernon by the judges of the appellate court, and a certificate issued at the next session of the supreme court at that place the following November. In December he left the clerk's office and entered the office of Mr. McIlduff, remaining with him until August, 1894, when he opened an office of his own.

He is now successfully engaged in practice before all the courts of the state.

On the 31st of December, 1894, Mr. Simmons was united in marriage with Miss Katherine M. Smith, of Avon, a daughter of P. H. Smith, and to them has been born one child, Louise A. They hold membership in St. Mary's Catholic church, of Pontiac, and fraternally Mr. Simmons is a member of Crescent Lodge, K. P., is clerk of the Camp, M. W. A., of Pontiac, and is president of the Pontiac Colony Pioneer Reserve Association. He is also director and treasurer of associated charities of Pontiac. For some time he has been secretary of the Pontiac Loan & Building Association—a home loan building concern, whose assets amount to one hundred and twelve thousand dollars. He is also a member of the company. By his ballot he supports the men and measures of the Republican party, and takes an active and prominent part in local politics. He still retains an interest in educational affairs, and in April, 1900, was elected to the Pontiac township high school board. He is also serving his second term as a member of the board of directors of the Pontiac public library, receiving his appointment from the mayor, and as a progressive and public-spirited citizen, he takes a deep interest in every enterprise calculated to advance the moral, social and educational welfare of his community.

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#### COLONEL FRANK L. SMITH.

Colonel Frank L. Smith, of Governor Tanner's staff, is one of the leaders of the Republican party in Livingston county, his large acquaintance and unbounded popu-

larity giving him an influential following, while his shrewd judgment of men and affairs make his counsel of value in all important movements. In business circles he also takes a foremost rank, his success as a real estate dealer being all the more notable from the fact that it has been secured by his own judicious management.

This prominent citizen of Dwight, a member of the well-known firm of Romberger & Smith, was born in that city November 24, 1867, and is a son of Jacob J. and Jane E. (Ketcham) Smith, natives of Germany and New York, respectively. The father was only four years old when brought to America by his parents, who located in Pennsylvania, but at the age of fifteen he came to Dwight, Illinois, which continued to be his home until 1891, when he removed to Chicago, where he died in 1894. His wife died nine years previous. In their family were three children.

Colonel Smith received his early education in the public schools of Dwight, and at the age of seventeen taught school in Round Grove township for about one year, after which he accepted a position in the freight department of the Chicago & Alton Railroad at Dwight, remaining with them in a clerical capacity about four years. In 1887 he went to Chicago and accepted a similar position with the Rock Island Railroad, being located at the Englewood station two years. Subsequently he served as cashier with P. H. Bolton & Company, commission merchants on South Water street, Chicago, until 1890, when he returned to Dwight and entered into partnership with W. H. Ketcham in the real estate and loan business. When that firm was dissolved April 1, 1895, Colonel Smith became connected in business with C. L. Romberger un-

der the name of Romberger & Smith, their specialty being real estate and real estate work, although they do a private banking business for the accommodation of friends and acquaintances. Without question the firm does one of the largest loan and real estate businesses in central Illinois, this fact being conceded by all other firms in their line. At present they are extensively interested in Mississippi and Louisiana lands. Their holdings in the latter state are timber lands, which the firm purchased with the view of enhancing their value, and in January, 1900, they sold one tract of twelve thousand acres in Madison parish. This is desirable property, being accessible to steamboats and the Vicksburg, Shreveport & Pacific Railroad. The Mississippi land is in the Delta country, and is also covered with hard wood timber, principally oak, pecan and gum. When cleared this will become excellent cotton land. Besides this property, the firm has about fifteen hundred acres of fine farming land in Lee county, Illinois, which is well improved and under a high state of cultivation, and also operate largely in Iowa and Indiana lands.

On the 8th of February, 1893, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Erminie Ahern, of Dwight, a daughter of John and Margaret Ahern, who are at present living in Ogden, Utah. Mrs. Smith is a member of St. Patrick's Catholic church, of Dwight, and the Colonel belongs to Hebron lodge, No. 75, K. P., and Dwight Camp, M. W. A. Since attaining his majority he has affiliated with the Republican party, and has taken a very active and prominent part in political affairs, always attending the county conventions and serving as a delegate to the state conventions three times. In the spring of 1900 he was offered

the nomination for state senator on his party ticket, but would not accept on account of his business interests, though the nomination was equivalent to an election in his district, which is strongly Republican. Early in his career he served as city clerk in Dwight, but since then he has never been prevailed upon to accept office. In January, 1897, he was appointed colonel on Governor Tanner's staff, and in that capacity has participated in many important functions, being present at the inauguration of President McKinley at Washington, D. C., in March, 1897; the unveiling of the Grant monument at New York; the unveiling of Logan's monument at Chicago; the christening of the battleship Illinois at Newport News, Virginia; and the dedication of the Illinois monument at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

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#### HON. NELSON J. MYER.

There are in every community men of great force of character and exceptional ability, who by reason of their capacity for leadership become recognized as foremost citizens, and take a very important part in public affairs. Such a man is Mr. Myer, who is now so efficiently serving as superintendent of the Livingston county farm in Eppards Point township.

He was born in that township, July 30, 1851, and is a son of Judge Eli Myer, who was born and reared in Maryland, and at the age of eighteen years moved to Licking county, Ohio, locating near Newark. There he married, and continued to make it his home until after the birth of several of his children. In 1850 he came to Livingston county, Illinois, and purchased a tract of raw land in Eppards Point township, to

the cultivation and improvement of which he at once turned his attention. Later he bought more land and at one time owned five hundred and sixty acres, which he placed under a high state of cultivation and improved with a good set of farm buildings. He was a man of good business ability, and was one of the most prominent and influential citizens of his community, being called upon to serve as associate judge, and township treasurer and clerk for some years each. He died upon the old home place December 28, 1868, and his wife passed away June 5, 1875.

Nelson J. Myer grew to manhood upon the farm and attended the local schols, but the knowledge there acquired has been greatly supplemented by reading and study in later years. For some time he and his brother operated the old homestead together, and in 1875 Mr. Moyer purchased eighty acres in sections 21 and 16, on which he lived and there made his home until 1895, when he took charge of the Livingston county farm. He has been very successful in the management of this place, and has gained an enviable reputation as one of its most efficient superintendents. When he took charge of the farm it had fifty-one inmates, but the number has since been increased to eighty-four, which includes a number of insane, old and decrepit persons. In the management of the place and the care of the inmates, he has been greatly assisted by his estimable wife.

In this county, December 17, 1871, Mr. Myer married Miss Helen E. McElhiney, who was born in Green county, Wisconsin, but was reared and educated in Stephenson county, Illinois. Her father was James McElhiney. To our subject and his wife have been born two children: Nelson D.,

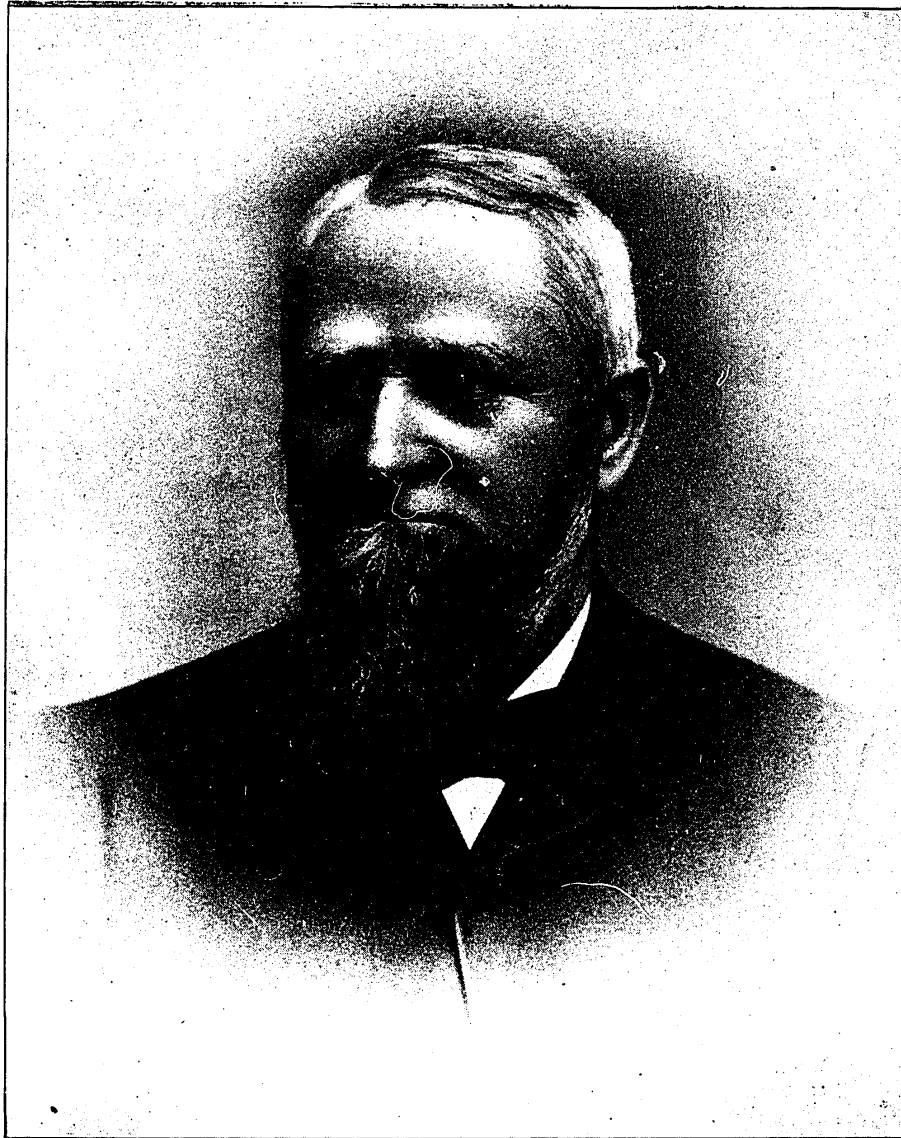
who is attending the Pontiac High School, and James O., a student in the home school.

In his political affiliations Mr. Myer is a pronounced Republican, and cast his first presidential vote for General U. S. Grant in 1872. He has taken a very active and prominent part in political affairs, and has been elected to several offices, serving as township collector several years, and was justice of the peace for eight years from 1876. In 1881 he was elected supervisor, and filled that office continuously for ten years, during which time he was chairman of a number of important committees. He was elected to the state legislature in 1888, and so acceptably did he fill that office that he was re-elected for another term, and was a member of the committees on state institutions, revenue and others. In 1893 he was again elected supervisor, was re-elected two years later and made chairman of the county board. He resigned that office to accept his present position as superintendent of the county farm. His official duties have always been discharged with a fidelity and promptness worthy of the highest commendation, and he is today one of the best-known and most popular citizens of the county. Religiously both he and his wife are members of the Center Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### CHRISTOPHER W. STERRY.

Christopher W. Sterry, of Pontiac, was born in Somerset county, Maine, August 12, 1826. His father, Samuel Sterry, also a native of Maine, was born in 1782, married Hannah Harding, in 1807, and served through the war of 1812, dying at his home in Somerset county in 1827, when Christo-



C. W. STERRY.

pher was less than one year old. The paternal grandfather, David Sterry, was one of the heroes of the Revolutionary war, and died at his home in Maine at the advanced age of eighty-eight years and eight months.

The mother, Hannah Harding Sterry, was a devoted Christian woman. She was born in 1788, and died in Maine in 1871, when eighty-two years old. At the death of her husband she was left with five sons, the eldest less than eighteen years old and the youngest, Christopher, not a year old, to face the stern realities of life with but scant means of support. The devoted mother, after a heroic struggle for several years to keep her family of boys together, found it necessary to find homes for them. Thus the subject of this sketch, when but eight years of age, was placed among strangers, where he remained under harsh treatment and hard work, and but few opportunities for school privileges for four years, when he could endure it no longer, and ran away. When fifteen he worked six months for twenty-five dollars, and at eighteen he went into Massachusetts and commenced work at twelve dollars and a half per month on a farm. Then he became engaged in manufacturing business, in which he continued until he came to Illinois in 1852, and located in Chicago, where he remained four years, having charge of the stone sawing works of A. S. Sherman & Company. In 1856 he was engaged as bookkeeper of the Sheffield Mining & Transportation Company, of Sheffield, Bureau county. It was in this year, 1856, that Mr. Sterry came into Livingston county and settled in Esmen township, where he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land, seven miles north of Pontiac. This he improved, erecting buildings

and making of it a pleasant home, on which he lived for many years, engaged in farming and stock-raising. During this time he added one hundred and seventy acres to the homestead, which he still retains in the highest degree of cultivation, and became possessed of large business interests and property holdings in New Orleans, Louisiana. The latter required so much attention that he left his farm in 1884 and moved into Pontiac. Securing one of the finest locations in the city on the north bank of picturesque Vermillion, Mr. Sterry erected on it one of the most elegant modern residences in Pontiac. It is located on East Water street, in the midst of spacious grounds extending back to the river, and is shaded by grand old oaks and native forest trees. Here he makes his home, though business as well as comfort calls him south during the winter months.

Soon after becoming a citizen of Pontiac, Mr. Sterry became identified with the business interests of the city, first by establishing the jewelry, drug, book and wall paper firm of John S. Murphy & Company. A little later he was one of the principal organizers of the Pontiac Shoe Manufacturing Company, which was incorporated in 1889, taking one-third of the stock and furnishing financial backing to a much greater extent. He has been a director and president of the company from its organization. It is the chief industry of Pontiac, and is considered a prime factor in its prosperity and growth. Starting up in October, 1889, it has grown to a capacity of two thousand pairs of shoes per day, and furnishes employment to three hundred men and women, the majority of whom are skilled workmen. The product of the factory is disposed of throughout the territory from Ohio to the



Pacific coast on the west and the Gulf of Mexico on the south.

In 1897 Mr. Sterry purchased Riverside Park, adjoining the city on the east, and almost encircled by the Vermillion river, shaded by stately native forest trees, thus securing its use for the Pontiac Chautauqua Association, which he assisted in organizing, and in which he was the largest stockholder. He is also largely interested in the Pontiac State Bank, of which he has been director and vice-president since its organization. While he does not give special attention to the details of this business, yet the mere fact of his connection with it has served to increase the confidence of the business community in its conservative management. He is also president and largest stockholder of the Riverside Irrigation Company, of Idaho, which controls some fifteen thousand acres of arable land in that state. About thirty miles of canal have been constructed and is in operation for irrigation purposes. In 1899 he erected the four-story office building on the southwest corner of Court House square. It is known as the Sterry block, and will doubtless be a landmark for years to come as its equal has not appeared in any city the size of Pontiac. It fronts eighty feet on Washington street and one hundred feet on South Mill street, and is four stories above the basement. It consists of two stores and the Pontiac State Bank below, and of sixty suites of offices above, which are made accessible by an electric-power passenger elevator, heated by steam and supplied with city water and with electric lighting.

As a citizen Mr. Sterry has ever been ready to accept the responsibilities and perform his duty in the most conscientious way. While as a matter of choice he would have

avoided the cares of public office, yet he has served many years in various official positions. In Esmen township he served as school director, trustee, school treasurer, justice of the peace and supervisor. He was a member of the board of supervisors of Livingston county for several terms, and as such, aided in securing the location of the State Reform School at Pontiac.

Having been a strong advocate of anti-slavery principles even as an abolitionist, on the organization of the new party, he became a staunch Republican, and during the war of the Rebellion was an active member of the Union League. He continued to act with the party until the old issues were settled, and he became convinced that the new and greater issue of temperance could expect no real support from the old party. He then gave the Prohibition party his liberal support and became an ardent supporter of that party.

Realizing in his own life what he missed through want of school privileges, he has been an ardent supporter of the public school system and also of higher education. He has been a supporter especially of New Orleans University, of which he is a trustee, of Wheaton College, and of Illinois Wesleyan University.

In 1847 Mr. Sterry was married to Miss Elizabeth Day, who lived with him seven years, bearing to him three children, all of whom died in infancy, while her death occurred March 25, 1855.

In 1858 he married Miss Amanda Hadley, daughter of the late James P. Hadley, a prominent farmer of Sunbury township, this county. One child was born, and lived but a short time, and the wife also was taken away after a union of a little more than one year. In 1861 he was united in marriage

with Mrs. Mary C. Beeler, a daughter of John Ross, of Sangamon county, and she has been spared to live with him until the present time. To them have been born six children: Lida, wife of Dr. C. H. Long, of Pontiac, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume; John L., the only son, a young man of great promise who died at the age of twenty years, in 1884, while attending the Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington, where he was preparing himself for the ministry; Hattie and Josephine, who both died in infancy; Mary E., wife of E. M. Kirkpatrick, a prominent grain merchant of Chenoa, Illinois; and Jessie, wife of Clarence B. Hurtt, now a resident of Roswell, Idaho, where he is serving as secretary of the Riverside Irrigation Company. They have also four grandchildren, Christopher Sterry Long, Mary Catherine Long, John Nelson Hurtt and Baby Hurtt.

Mr. Sterry early identified himself with the Methodist Episcopal church, and for many years has served in official capacity as steward, trustee and Sunday school superintendent. While in Esmen he was instrumental in securing the erection of the Esmen Center church. On moving to Pontiac he was immediately chosen as a trustee of the First Methodist Episcopal church, and on the destruction of the old church by fire in 1885, he aided in the building of the present church edifice. He is president of the board of trustees, having held that office for a number of years.

For almost half a century Mr. Sterry has been a resident of Livingston county. On his arrival here the greater part of its rich land was yet unbroken, its inhabitants were few in number, widely scattered and the improvements were not of the best. He has certainly done well his part. Thor-

oughly honest and conscientious in all he does, he has won the respect and confidence of all with whom he has been brought in contact, and his lifework is worthy of emulation by the generations to follow.

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#### CAPTAIN SILAS MILTON WITT.

Captain Silas Milton Witt, an honored veteran of the civil war and a prominent resident of Pontiac, Illinois, who is now living a retired life, was born in Lebanon, Boone county, Indiana, February 1, 1842, and is a son of Michael and Lohama (Wall) Witt, the former a native of Guilford county, North Carolina, of which state his father, a soldier of the Revolutionary war, was an early settler. The maternal grandfather, Elisha Wall, also fought for the independence of the colonies. He was a relative of Daniel Boone, who was a frequent visitor at his home, and they often hunted and trapped together. Later Mr. Wall went with Boone and a number of others to Kentucky, becoming pioneers of that state.

Michael Witt, our subject's father, grew to manhood on the home farm in his native state, and from there entered the service of his country during the war of 1812, serving as captain of a company. Later he was commissioned colonel in the North Carolina militia, and after his removal to Indiana was an officer in the state militia there. Our subject well remembers seeing him on horseback on general training days, which at that time were the important days of the year. Soon after his marriage Michael Witt and his wife removed to the territory of Indiana, and she was the first white woman to locate in Lebanon, the county

seat of Boone county. There he engaged in farming for a time, and after the town was started opened out an old fashioned general store, hauling his goods first from Cincinnati and later from Indianapolis and Lafayette. He became one of the successful men of that locality, owning large tracts of land, and part of the town of Lebanon was built on the first three hundred and twenty acres which he purchased. He held much of this property until his death, the land later becoming very valuable. As a Whig he took quite an active and prominent part in local politics, and held a number of offices, including those of county judge and coroner. He left the south on account of slavery, and also because he believed that men of moderate means could do better in the north. Both he and his wife are devout members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and his home was always the stopping place for the ministers. His first house in Lebanon was a sort of hotel for travelers journeying between Lafayette and Cincinnati, and in those days he was *the* man of the town. He died there March 2, 1861, and was buried the day President Lincoln was first inaugurated. Our subject's mother died in Dwight, this county, in 1874. They left a family of sixteen children, of whom our subject is the youngest. Both had been married before, the mother's first husband being a Mr. Blair, of Kentucky.

Captain Witt received a good practical education in the schools of Lebanon, and aided his father in the work of the farm and store until the civil war broke out. On the night of the surrender of Fort Sumter, April 13, 1861, he enlisted for three months as a private in Company I, Tenth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, at the president's first call for seventy-five thousand men. They

joined General McClelland in West Virginia, and with him participated in the battle of Rich Mountain, July 11, which was followed by the engagement at Phillippi Tunnel Hill. When his term of enlistment expired, Captain Witt returned home and was made recruiting officer at Lebanon, where he helped recruit the Tenth, Fortieth, Eighty-sixth and One Hundred and Sixteenth Indiana Regiments, raising two companies for the Eighty-sixth. In the spring of 1863 he enlisted as orderly sergeant in Company G, One Hundred and Sixteenth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was first ordered to Dearborn, Michigan, to guard the arsenal there during the time of the Vallandigham trouble. Crossing the lake to Cleveland, he proceeded to Camp Nelson, Kentucky, where he joined his brigade, and later was through the east Tennessee and Knoxville campaign, capturing Cumberland Gap the last time. This was followed by the siege of Knoxville and the engagement at Walker's Ford and Tazewell, Tennessee, where his regiment was on the extreme left of Burnside's army. In March, 1864, he was mustered out and appointed deputy provost marshal with headquarters at Lafayette, Indiana, where he helped the deputy provost marshal organize a regiment, then went to Indianapolis, where he secured arms and ammunition and started in pursuit of Morgan. He spent sixty days on this expedition, and assisted in capturing some of Morgan's forces at Mt. Vernon. When the president called for troops to push the Atlanta campaign, he helped organize Company E, One Hundred and Thirty-fifth Indiana Volunteer Infantry and was commissioned second lieutenant. They were on duty in Kentucky, Alabama and North Carolina, and participated in the battle of Look-

out Mountain. Captain Witt was always with his regiment with the exception of three days when ill with fever after the battle of Tazewell, but was never in the hospital. After being mustered out in the fall of 1864 he returned to Lebanon, Indiana.

At Lebanon Captain Witt was married, November 10, 1864, to Miss Maria L. Landon, a daughter of Myron and Martha (Jeffers) Landon. Her father removed from Ohio to Indiana at an early day, and was one of the first teachers in his locality. He was a prominent Mason. He died when Mrs. Witt was only a year old and her mother died two years later. Their eldest son, Albert Landon, was a prominent member of the Humane Society, of Chicago, and was the publisher of the Humane Journal until his death, a period of over thirty years. Mrs. Witt spent her early life in Shelbyville, Indianapolis and Lebanon, Indiana. To the captain and his wife were born three children, namely: Hattie A., now the wife of L. S. Baldwin, of Noblesville, Indiana; Jessie M., wife of Philip Piper, a dentist of Pontiac; and Albert M., at home, who has been a member of the National Guard for three years, and served as corporal in Company F, Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, during the Spanish-American war.

On the 13th of November, 1864, Captain Witt removed to Dwight, Illinois, where he engaged in the real estate business one year, dealing first in farm and later in village property. In 1866 he was appointed marshal of that town, and held the office thirteen years; was also deputy sheriff ten years and constable nineteen years. For a year and a half he engaged in the harness business, but at length was forced to give it up as his various official duties required his entire time. At the same time he also held

other local offices, such as school director, street commissioner, and was fire marshal fourteen years. As a Republican he has always taken an active part in political affairs. In 1866 on the first organization of the Grand Army Post at Dwight, under the old dispensation Captain Witt became one of the charter members, but the organization afterward went down. Since 1880 he has been a member of T. Lyle Dickey Post, of Pontiac, of which he is now past commander, and which he has represented in the state encampment, and was also elected to represent his district to the national encampment at Chicago in the fall of 1900. He was a member of Dwight Lodge, I. O. O. F., and admitted to Pontiac Lodge, No. 262, in which he has filled all the chairs. He is also a member of the encampment, and was the organizer and captain of the Canton for three years. For many years he was an active member of the Independent Order of Good Templars, and was an officer in the same until the lodge disbanded.

For ten years Captain Witt was a member of the Illinois National Guard, and rose from second lieutenant to captain of his company, thus gaining his title. During the strike of 1877 he was in active service with his company for three months, being stationed at Braidwood. After his election to the office of sheriff he had to disband the company as his men refused to elect another captain, so well was he loved by them, and he was given permission to disband them by Governor Cullom.

It was in 1882 that Captain Witt was elected sheriff of Livingston county, which office he filled for four years with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. At one time he had thirty-two prisoners in the jail. Later he was appointed an officer

in the Illinois State Reformatory under Dr. Scouller, but resigned after holding the position for two years and four months, and returned to Dwight, where he was engaged in business for a year and a half. Subsequently he conducted a bakery in Pontiac, but is now living retired, enjoying a well earned rest. His beautiful home at No. 603 West Grove street, is pleasantly located on the banks of the Vermilion river in what is now the best portion of the city, and the lawn and garden surrounding it cover one acre of ground. The Captain and his wife are leading members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of Pontiac, and are highly respected and esteemed by all who know them, while their circle of friends throughout the county is extensive.

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#### WILLIAM KIMBER.

William Kimber, a thorough and skillful farmer residing on section 10, Esmen township, Livingston county, six miles west of Odell, was born near the city of London, England, October 10, 1853, a son of Jesse and Alice (Hackett) Kimber, natives of the same country. In 1873 he crossed the broad Atlantic with his parents, and on landing in New York proceeded at once to La Salle county, Illinois, where his brother and sister had located four years previously. There the father rented land and engaged in farming for several years, but finally came to Livingston county and spent his last days on a farm in Esmen township with our subject, dying here May 11, 1885. The wife and mother departed this life October 19, 1883, and both were laid to rest in Esmen township cemetery. In their family

were three children: Mary, wife of Samuel Mills, of Grundy county; Percival, a farmer of Esmen township, Livingston county; and William.

Our subject was given good educational advantages in his native land. On the emigration of the family to America, he assisted his parents and worked as a farm hand by the month for six years. He was married in De Kalb county, January 1, 1880, to Miss Caroline Rose Tomlin, a native of Adams township, La Salle county. Her father, James Tomlin, was born in England, and came to America in 1842 when a young man, and located in Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Kimber were born seven children, namely: Bertha May, now the wife of Henry Warner, of La Salle county; Jesse Arthur, Ella Alice, Edward James, Dora Ann, Caroline Eliza and William Andrew, all at home.

For five years after his marriage Mr. Kimber operated a rented farm adjoining his present place, and in 1884 bought eighty acres where he now resides, but did not locate thereon until a year later, though he had engaged in its cultivation for two years. To the original purchase he has since added a forty-acre tract, and now has a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres which he has placed under a high state of cultivation and improved with good and substantial buildings. He is an industrious, enterprising and progressive man, and to these characteristics may be attributed his success, for he received no outside aid.

By his ballot Mr. Kimber supports the men and measures of the Prohibition party, and he served one term as a member of the school board, but has never cared for official honors. Religiously both he and his wife are earnest and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Esmen

Center, of which he is a trustee. In the Sunday school he has served several years as superintendent.

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### WILLIAM W. WASSOM.

William W. Wassom is one of Pontiac's highly respected citizens, whose useful and well-spent life has not only gained for him the confidence of his fellow men, but has also secured for him a comfortable competence which enables him to lay aside all business cares and live retired. A native of Illinois, he was born in Spring Valley, Bureau county, December 1, 1848, and is a son of Jacob and Jane (Scott) Wassom. The father was born in Pennsylvania, but when a small boy accompanied his parents on their removal to Tennessee, where he was reared, and as a young man came to this state, locating in Bureau county. There he was married, and subsequently removed to Burlington, Iowa, where he purchased a farm and successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising, where he remained seven years. Then returning to Bureau county he purchased a farm on the site of the present village of Spring Valley. He was a prominent man in his community and took an active interest in the early schools. He died there August 25, 1879. The wife and mother died when our subject was only four years old. Both were earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church. She was a native of Virginia, and a daughter of Robert Scott, of Scotch descent, who was one of the earliest settlers and most prosperous farmers of Bureau county. He manufactured the brick of which his house was constructed, and that building is still

standing. He was probably the first manufacturer of brick in that county.

William W. Wassom was educated in the schools of rural township, and remained with his father until coming to Livingston county in 1868, when he took up his residence in Nevada township. While living there he was married, June 29, 1871, to Miss Hannah Sharp, a native of Farm Ridge, Illinois, and a daughter of George and Catherine (Spence) Sharp. Her father was born in Ireland of English parentage, being a son of Noble Sharp, who never emigrated to America. George Sharp was married in Ireland, and later crossed the Atlantic to Toronto, Canada, whence he removed to Farm Ridge, Illinois. Subsequently he took up his residence in Dwight, and later upon a farm in Nevada township, this county. He was highly respected and was called upon to fill different township offices. Mr. and Mrs. Wassom have a family of six children, namely: Jacob, a resident of Marengo, Iowa; Charles Bert, who is living on the Blackstone farm, in Sunbury township; Fannie, who married Everett Ferguson, of Saunemin, this county, and has two children, Laurine and Lela; Ada, who resides at home and is successfully engaged in teaching in the schools of this county; George, who was graduated from the Pontiac High School in 1900; and Catherine, who is still attending the high school.

On locating in this county, Mr. Wassom found considerable wild game and much of the land was still in its primitive condition. He purchased eighty acres of raw prairie in Nevada township, which he at once commenced to break, fence and improve. Prospering in his new home, he purchased more land until he owned five eighty acre tracts,

which he tiled and put in first class condition, making one of the best improved farms in the township. He also owned another eighty-acre tract in Sunbury township, and in connection with the operation of his land was engaged in stock raising. He always kept a good grade and had considerable registered stock on hand, being among the first to introduce it. In 1895 he moved to Pontiac and bought a pleasant home at No. 608 North Mill street, where he has since lived retired.

Politically Mr. Wassom has always been identified with the Republican party, but has never held office, his home being in a strong Democratic township where his party could get nothing that the Democrats would take. He was an efficient member of the school board for some time, and helped to erect the school buildings in his township. He and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and while living in the country he served as superintendent of the Sunday school one year and took a leading part in church work, filling all of the different official positions. He was a member of the building committee when the church was erected in Nevada in 1873, and hauled the first load of stone for its foundation. He is now connected with the church in Pontiac. Wherever known he is held in high regard, and justly merits the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens.

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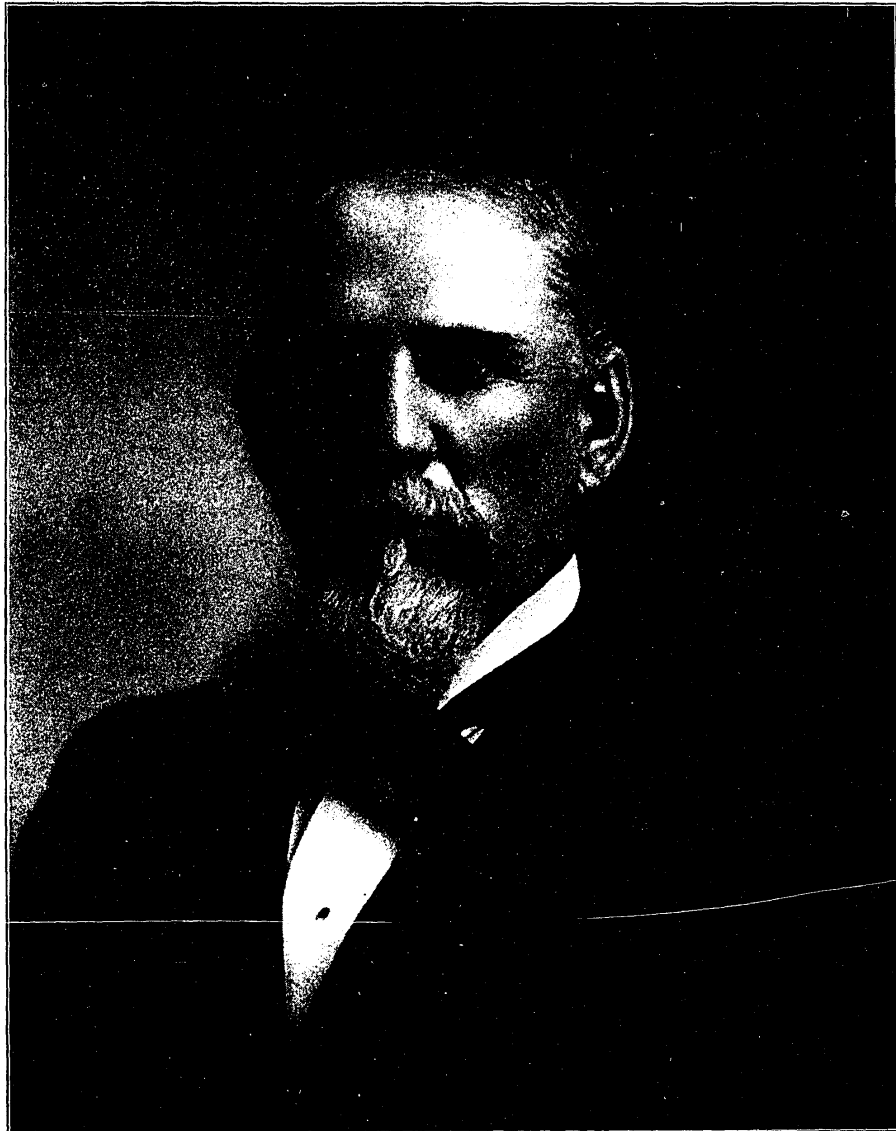
#### HON. ROBERT R. WALLACE.

In the legal profession, which embraces some of the finest minds in the nation, it is difficult to win a name and place of prominence. In commercial life one may start

out on a more advanced plane than others; he may enter into a business already established and carry it further forward, but in the legal profession one must commence at the beginning and work his way upward by ability, gaining his reputation and success by merit. People do not place their legal business in unskilled hands, and those who to-day stand at the head of their profession, must merit their position. Among the most prominent lawyers of Livingston county is Robert R. Wallace, of Pontiac, who served as county judge for the long period of twenty-one years.

The Judge was born in Belmont county, Ohio, March 13, 1835, a son of David and Frances (Ross) Wallace. His paternal grandfather was David Wallace, who came to this country from the north of Ireland and was a strong United Presbyterian in religious belief. The maternal grandfather, Robert Ross, was of Scotch descent, and also a staunch member of the United Presbyterian church. The Judge's father was born in western Pennsylvania, and reared there and in eastern Ohio, while the mother was born near Chambersburg, in eastern Pennsylvania, and when young removed to the western part of that state. During his active life David Wallace engaged in farming in Belmont and Guernsey counties, Ohio, and in 1869 came to Illinois, locating near Biggsville, Henderson county, where he continued to engage in agricultural pursuits until his death in 1875. His wife still survives him and is now living with a daughter in Kansas at the age of ninety-one years.

During his boyhood Judge Wallace attended the common schools of his native county and completed his education at Monmouth, Illinois, where he received the degrees of A. B. and A. M. and was graduated



R. R. WALLACE.



with the class of 1861. In December of that year he responded to his country's call for troops, enlisting in Company K, Seventy-fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was first sent to Xenia, Ohio, and from there to Camp Chase, Columbus, where he was engaged in guarding prisoners for a time, and later with the Army of the Cumberland he participated in all the battles from Nashville to Atlanta, and after the fall of the latter city took part in the defense of Nashville. Later he was on post duty near there and Memphis until the close of his term of enlistment. He had re-enlisted in the same regiment and was promoted to captain during the summer of 1864, remaining in the service until 1866.

Judge Wallace had previously commenced the study of law, and after the war continued his studies at Ottawa, Illinois, being admitted to the bar in April, 1867. In the fall of that year he located in Chatsworth, Livingston county, where he was engaged in general practice until his removal to Pontiac in the spring of 1874, having the previous fall been elected county judge on what was known as the anti-monopoly ticket. He took the office in December, 1873, and held it five consecutive terms—a longer period than other county officer has been retained in one position. This fact clearly indicates his efficiency, popularity and fidelity to duty. During all this time he continued to engage in active practice, and is to-day one of the leading general practitioners of the county. He is an honored member of T. Lyle Dickey Post, G. A. R., and is past commander of the same.

On the 3d of June, 1867, Judge Wallace was united in marriage with Miss C. Louise Strawn, a daughter of Isaiah and Elizabeth (Champlain) Strawn, of Ottawa,

Illinois, and to them were born four children: Ross S., now chief engineer of the People's Gas & Electric Company, of Peoria; Francis; Lucile, and Grace, a teacher in the schools of Joliet. The family have a pleasant home at No. 303 East Howard street, and are prominent members of the Presbyterian church of Pontiac.

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#### MILLER HOTALING.

Miller Hotaling, a successful farmer and land owner on section 31, Avoca township, and a resident of Livingston county since 1876, was born in Greene county, New York, July 30, 1850, and is a son of Richard and Helen (Miller) Hotaling, both natives of that state and of German descent. The father died in New York in 1882, where he had followed farming since early manhood. His wife survives him and lives on the old Miller homestead, which was occupied by her father for sixty years, never passing out of the family. She is now seventy-three years of age, and has always been active. Our subject's paternal grandfather served as lieutenant through the war of 1812. The family were formerly Whigs, and upon the formation of the Republican party joined its ranks. To Richard Hotaling and wife were born eight children, five of whom are still living, namely: Annie, wife of John Jacobs, of Hazelton, Pennsylvania; Augusta, wife of Harry Herr, of Athens, New York; William, who lives with his mother on the old Miller homestead; Van Allen, a prosperous farmer and land owner of Livingston county, Illinois; and Miller, the subject of this sketch. Jacob, the oldest son, was a member of the Seventh New York Artillery

during the civil war, was taken prisoner and sent to Andersonville, where he was incarcerated twenty-two months before exchanged, and contracted disease from which he died in 1865, just as he was released.

Miller Hotaling received a common school education in his native state and grew to manhood on his father's farm. On leaving the parental roof at the age of seventeen years he came to Illinois and worked as a farm hand for two years in McLean county, at the end of which time he rented a farm and carried on farming quite successfully in that way for a number of years. In 1885 he purchased fifty acres of rich and arable land on section 31, Avoca township, Livingston county, and has since engaged in general farming here with marked success. He has added to the original purchase another fifty-acre tract; has made many valuable improvements on the place and to-day has a most desirable farm. He gives his entire time and attention to the improvement and cultivation of his land.

In 1874 Mr. Hotaling was united in marriage with Miss Flora Pulsipher, a native of Oneida, Knox county, Illinois, and to them were born four children: Lewis, who graduated at Eureka College and is now a Christian minister at Kentland, Indiana; Philip, who was graduated at the same institution, and is now assisting his father on the farm; Leah and Chloe, who are both at home. The wife and mother died at their home in Avoca township in 1887, and in 1890 Mr. Hotaling married Miss Martha Van Wormer, a native of Brimfield, Peoria county, by whom he has three children, Edna, Millie and Leola. Mrs. Hotaling is a daughter of William and Martha (Shepherd) Van Wormer, her father being a veteran of the Civil war, and who for

years was engaged in farming. Both he and his wife are yet living, and are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

As a Republican Mr. Hotaling has always been an active worker in the interests of his party, and has held several minor offices in the township, faithfully fulfilling every trust reposed in him. In 1899 he was elected supervisor. He has been a school director fifteen years, always taking a stand for good schools and teachers. Religiously he is a member of the Christian church, in which he is serving as elder, and socially is a member of the Court of Honor of Fairbury. He is a man of rather unpretentious nature, but is well liked by all who know him. Mrs. Hotaling is also a member of the Christian church.

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#### HENRY C. JONES.

Henry C. Jones, a well-known citizen of Pontiac, Illinois, was born in Cicero, Hamilton county, Indiana, February 11, 1838, a son of Henry Jones, who was born near Cincinnati, Ohio, where during his youth he learned the blacksmith's trade. When a young man he removed to Cicero, Indiana, and turned his attention to mercantile business. Here he married Emily De Moss, a daughter of James De Moss, a French Huguenot and a carpenter by trade, who passed his last days as a farmer in Livingston county, Illinois. The parents of our subject came to this county in 1845, but after a short time spent here they removed to the territory of Iowa, locating at Bellevue, where our subject began his education. In 1847 the family returned to this county, and after following farming for a short time the fa-

ther, in 1849, went to California, where for several years he was engaged in mining and mercantile pursuits. Returning to Pontiac in 1855 he again engaged in mercantile business here, and was, in 1857, elected county judge. In 1859, resigning his office of county judge here, he returned to the Pacific slope in company with our subject and fifteen young men. He engaged in mercantile business in Shasta, California, and became one of the most prominent and prosperous men of that place. He was elected a member of the board of supervisors, and was also alcalde (or mayor) of Shasta. In connection with his other business he was quite extensively engaged in gold mining. He did much to build up the town and was recognized as one of its most influential and prominent citizens. After the Civil war he supported the Republican party and took a leading part in public affairs. He died in Shasta in 1893, and the mother of our subject died in the same place in 1868, leaving five children, of whom Henry C. was third in order of birth.

During his boyhood our subject attended the public schools of Pontiac, and when his education was completed clerked in his father's store until going to California in 1859. They made the trip overland with horseless vehicles (ox teams) and were six months upon the way. They passed through St. Joseph, Missouri, went up the Platte when the Indians in that region were quite hostile, and passed through what is now Ogden, Utah, and through Nevada. Arriving at Shasta, California, which was a good mining town, father and son opened a store and as merchants soon built up a good trade. For some years they were interested in placer and later in quartz mining. Our subject continued in business with his father

until 1864, when he enlisted in the volunteer service and was elected lieutenant of his company, but when they were put in barracks and the regulars sent to the front, he resigned. That he might see some active service he went, *via* Panama, to New York with the intention of enlisting there, but the war ended before he found the opportunity.

Returning to Livingston county, Illinois, Mr. Jones entered the newspaper field, and with Mr. Renoe established the Free Press at Pontiac. Later he bought the Sentinel, the oldest newspaper in the county, from James Stout, and, consolidating the two, published a paper known as the Sentinel and Press. Mr. Renoe was a Democrat, while he was a Republican, but Mr. Renoe later withdrew, leaving Mr. Jones as sole editor and proprietor, and the paper resumed its old name as Sentinel. He continued the publication of the Sentinel for nine years, during which time he built up a good circulation and made it the leading Republican paper in the county. Selling out in 1875, he went to Texas, and engaged in the auxiliary newspaper business in Dallas, getting out patent insides. In this enterprise he was remarkably successful, having a list of two hundred and sixty-two local papers to supply. He also published the Planter and Farmer, and in that undertaking was also successful, but on account of the ill health of his wife, he disposed of his interests in Texas and removed to Santa Cruz, California, where he owns a valuable prune ranch.

In 1892 Mr. Jones returned to Pontiac and acquired a three-fifths interest in the electric light plant, having helped to develop the enterprise. This company was incorporated as the Pontiac Light, Heat & Power

Company, and has grown to large proportions. Mr. Jones served as its president for seven years, though he recently sold his interest in the same. He has been a taxpayer in Pontiac for over thirty years and is recognized as one of her most progressive citizens, giving his support to those objects which he believes will prove of public benefit. Socially he is a member of the Pontiac Lodge, No. 294, F. & A. M.

On the 25th of September, 1873, Mr. Jones was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Bancroft, a native of New York, and a daughter of Luther Bancroft, of Pontiac. They have one daughter, Nellie A., who with her mother is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Pontiac.

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#### LUTHER C. HAYS.

Luther C. Hays, a practical and enterprising agriculturist of Eppards Point township, owns and operates two hundred and fifty acres of land on section 32, constituting a valuable and highly improved farm, pleasantly located nine miles south of Pontiac and three and a half miles northeast of Chenoa. His possessions have been acquired through his own efforts, and as the result of his consecutive endeavor he has won a place among the substantial citizens of his community.

Mr. Hays was born in Brown county, Ohio, July 27, 1836, and is descended from an old Connecticut family of Scotch-Irish origin. His great-grandfather, Celia Hays, was a native of that state and a pioneer of Pennsylvania. He was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, while the grandfather, Warren Hays, aided in the defense of his country during the war of 1812. The lat-

ter was born in Pennsylvania, and married a Miss Stark, a cousin of Rev. Lorenzo Dow. Abiel Hays, father of our subject, was born in New York, in 1813; and from that state removed to Kentucky and later to Brown county, Ohio, where in the midst of the forest he cleared and improved a farm. There he wedded Mary Kennedy, a native of Virginia, and a daughter of James and Margaret Kennedy. In 1855 he brought his family to Illinois, driving across the country with an ox team and locating first in Woodford county, but a year later he removed to Chenoa township, McLean county, where he bought land and improved a farm, making his home there for some years. He helped organize that township, which was previously only a voting precinct. His last days were spent upon a farm in southern Illinois, where he died in 1890, at the ripe old age of seventy-seven years, and his wife died in 1884, at the age of sixty-nine years. Our subject is the oldest of their family of seven children, two sons and five daughters, all of whom reached years of maturity, the others being as follows: Arminda J., deceased wife of E. C. Hyde; Clarissa A., who married John G. Dodge and died in 1898; Ellen, deceased wife of Elijah Cole; Minerva E., wife of A. D. Polk, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Eva, who died when a young lady, and Thomas J., a resident of San Diego, California.

Luther C. Hays was a young man of nineteen years on the removal of the family to this state, and he aided his father in opening up and developing the farm in McLean county, remaining with him until his marriage. He was educated in common and select schools of his native state. With the exception of the oldest, all his sisters engaged in teaching school in McLean county.

In Chicago, Illinois, September 26, 1860, Mr. Hays married Miss Matilda Fraser, a native of Canada and a daughter of Louis and Mary Fraser, who were born in that country of French ancestry, and removed to Chicago during the childhood of Mrs. Hays. They began their domestic life upon a farm of forty acres in McLean county, to which our subject added until he had one hundred and twenty acres. He continued to operate that farm until 1888, when he purchased the two-hundred-and-fifty-acre tract of land in Eppards Point township, Livingston county, where he now resides. It was known as the 'Squire Payne farm, being entered by him in 1852. Since taking possession of this place, Mr. Hays has remodeled the residence, built a good barn, set out fruit and ornamental trees, and made many other improvements which add greatly to its value and attractive appearance.

Mr. Hays' first wife died in McLean county, in 1872, leaving four children, namely: Samuel L., who is married and engaged in farming in Oregon; Mary Frances, wife of G. L. Howard, of Byron, Nebraska; Jessie, wife of Andrew Vercler, of Salem, Oregon, and W. C., who is married and follows farming in this county. Mr. Hays was again married, in Livingston county, in 1874, to Mrs. Frances A. Clark, a daughter of Almon Rhodes, an early settler, first of La Salle county and later of Livingston county. She was first married in the former county to Wilson M. Clark, a veteran of the Civil war, who died in 1870, leaving two daughters: Alda, a teacher of Black Hawk county, Iowa, and Laura B., wife of J. C. Rainbow, of Pottawattamie county, Iowa. By his second union our subject has six children, namely: George M., who assists in the operation of the home farm; Nellie, Pearl

M., Eva E., John S. and Lottie L., all at home.

Politically Mr. Hays was identified with the Republican party until 1896, when he voted for W. J. Bryan and free silver. He cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. He has been a delegate to numerous conventions; served as commissioner of highways in McLean county for six years, and as a member of the school board for over thirty years, having always taken an active interest in educational affairs. Mrs. Hays and her daughter are members of the Baptist church and the family is one of prominence in the community where they reside.

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#### CAPTAIN HENRY B. REED.

Captain Henry B. Reed, an honored citizen of Pontiac, now living a retired life at No. 504 South Mill street, is a veteran of the Civil war and bears an honorable record for brave service in the cause of freedom and union, and in the paths of peace has won an enviable reputation through the sterling qualities which go to the making of a good citizen.

The Captain was born near Pottsville, Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, January 29, 1833, a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Barley) Reed. The father was also a native of Pennsylvania and a son of Thomas Reed, who was born in the North of Ireland and came to this country six years prior to the Revolutionary war, in which he took part. He first settled near Philadelphia, and throughout life followed farming, dying at about the age of eighty years. Our subject's father was a life-long resident of Penn-

sylvania and a carpenter by trade, but at the time of his death was following farming in Schuylkill county. He died in February, 1833, when our subject was only three weeks old, and the mother, who long survived him, departed this life in 1873. They had eleven children, of whom the Captain is the youngest. Only three are now living. Elijah, now seventy-six years of age, is living retired in Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania, after having served for twenty-two years as superintendent of the car shops at that place. His wife died leaving five children that are still living. Rebecca is the wife of Jacob Zimmerman, who also worked in the car shops at that place for a great many years, but is now living retired at the age of seventy-five years, while his wife is sixty-nine years of age. They have a family of three sons and three daughters.

Captain Reed remained with his mother in his native county until nine years of age, and then lived with a married brother on his farm in the same county until twelve years of age, when he commenced learning the shoemaker's trade in Schuylkill Haven, serving a three-years apprenticeship. The following year he was foreman in the shoe factory of Frederick Millett, at Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, and then started in business for himself at that place, remaining there until 1852 and building up a large business for those times. Receiving a good offer from the firm of Packer & Olewine, shoe manufacturers of Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania, he accepted the position as foreman for that company, and was in their employ a year and a half, after which he returned to Tamaqua. He was elected constable and held that office until coming to Illinois in 1855. He first located in Du Page county, where he worked at his trade for a time,

and later was foreman for John Wallace, at Joliet, for about a year and a half, at the end of which time he removed to Bloomington. During the Lincoln campaign of 1860, he was captain of the Wide-Awakes, and came to this county with that political organization. Being pleased with this locality he decided to remain and was engaged in the shoe business in Pontiac until the Civil war broke out.

At the President's first call for troops, Captain Reed responded, being the first to enlist in Pontiac, and he helped organize the first company from that city, which was mustered in as Company D, Twentieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He went to the front as second sergeant, but after the battle of Fort Donelson was promoted to second lieutenant, his commission citing that his promotion was for meritorious conduct on February 14, 15 and 16, 1862, at Fort Donelson. Returning home June 30, 1862, he organized a company under the large call of that year, and again entered the service as captain of Company G, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Volunteer Infantry, which was under General Sherman's command on the march to the sea, and from there marched on to Washington, D. C. Our subject was mustered out at Chicago, in June, 1865, as captain.

After the war Captain Reed returned to his family in Pontiac, and was here engaged in the boot and shoe business for a number of years, but finally retired on account of ill health. He was appointed by Governor Oglesby as custodian of memorial hall at Springfield, and was re-appointed by Governor Fifer. Since 1894 he has led a quiet, retired life at his home in Pontiac. By his ballot he supports the men and measures of the Republican party, but has never

sought political honors. Religiously he is a member of the Methodist church, and socially belongs to Pontiac Lodge, No. 294, F. & A. M., and T. Lyle Dickey Post, No. 105, G. A. R., of Pontiac, of which he is past commander. His loyalty as a citizen and his devotion to his country's interests have ever been among his marked characteristics, and the community is fortunate that numbers him among its citizens.

On the 29th of September, 1850, in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, Captain Reed was united in marriage with Miss Esther Beck, a daughter of George and Mary (Barbary) Beck, of Carbon county, who were farming people and life-long residents of that state. The father died on his farm in Carbon county at the age of eighty-five years, his wife at eighty-six. Mrs. Reed's paternal grandfather was a native of Germany and came to this country at an early date. To the Captain and his wife were born nine children, six of whom are now living, namely: George O., born in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, is now engaged in the boot and shoe business in Pontiac; Katie L., born in Du Page county, Illinois, is the wife of Thomas Kay, a dry-goods merchant of Pontiac; Edward O., born in Bloomington, in 1860, is now serving as county treasurer of this county, and is a prominent citizen of Pontiac; Harry B., born in Pontiac, March 17, 1862, has been mail clerk on the Chicago & Alton Railroad for fourteen years, running between Chicago and St. Louis, and makes his home in his birthplace; Joseph S., born in Pontiac, in 1864, is now a groceryman of that city and has served as alderman from the second ward; Cora E. is the widow of Frederick O. Scrivens, late of Pontiac, and is assistant county treasurer at the present time. The other children died at an early age.

#### FREDERICK SCHOENBECK.

Frederick Schoenbeck is one of the worthy citizens that Germany has furnished to Livingston county, and is to-day one of her most prosperous and successful farmers. He resides on section 15, Pike township, where he has a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and besides this property he owns two other farms of similar size on sections 10 and 20, respectively.

Mr. Schoenbeck was born in the kingdom of Prussia, Germany, February 26, 1850, and attended the schools of his native land for eight years. His knowledge of English has mainly been acquired through his own unaided efforts. In 1867, at the age of seventeen years, he crossed the ocean with his mother, brother and sister and joined an uncle in Peoria, where the mother subsequently married John Rutz, who later came to Livingston county and settled on a farm in Pike township. Our subject worked for an uncle in Woodford county, and then spent a year in Peoria county. In 1871 he came to Livingston county, and after working for others two years he rented a farm, which he operated for the same length of time. At the end of that period he purchased eighty acres in section 15, Pike township, where he now resides. The improvements upon the place at that time were of a very inferior order, but he has since erected a pleasant residence, good barns and out-buildings, has built fences, planted fruit and ornamental trees and to-day has one of the best improved farms in the township. He has extended its boundaries until it now contains one hundred and sixty acres, and his other farms are both valuable places of one hundred and sixty acres each.

On the 25th of March, 1875, Mr. Schoen-

beck was married, in Peoria, Illinois, to Miss Frederica Wenke, a native of Oldenburg, Germany, and a daughter of John F. Wenke, who, on his emigration to America, settled in Peoria and purchased a farm adjoining the city, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying there in 1875. Mr. and Mrs. Schoenbeck have four children, namely: Frederick, Jr., at home; Katie, wife of John D. Klein, a son of John Klein, who is represented on another page of this volume; Anna and William, both at home.

Mr. Schoenbeck cast his first presidential ballot for Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876, and has never wavered in his allegiance to the Republican party since that time, but he has never cared for political preferment. His life has been one of industry and perseverance, and to these characteristics as well as his good business ability may be attributed his success, for he has received no outside aid. Both he and his wife were reared in the Lutheran faith and are highly respected and esteemed by all who know them.

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#### DAVID S. MYERS.

David S. Myers, of Pontiac, president of the Pontiac State Bank, is ranked generally as one of the safest financiers and most sagacious business men in central Illinois. If success is to be measured by results he must be regarded as an eminently successful man, for not only his individual affairs, but all the enterprises he has organized and promoted in Pontiac and elsewhere have prospered even beyond his predictions and the expectations of those he enlisted in these various undertakings. His active connec-

tion with so many projects, both of a public and private nature, most of which contributing to the material advancement of his county and city, marks Mr. Myers as one of the useful and prominent citizens of Livingston county.

David S. Myers was born February 10, 1858, on a farm near Russellville, Ohio, and is now, July, 1900, only in the early maturity of intellectual and physical manhood. He inherited much of the vigor of his constitution and force of character from his ancestors, who were people of reputation and intelligence, conspicuous in the pioneer history of Ohio. He is the son of William and Margaret Myers, both natives of Ohio, the former being born March 22, 1814, at Russellville, and the latter in 1823 at Georgetown. This lady, who was a woman of practical merit and mental attainments, was the daughter of Ebenezer Moore, a substantial and influential citizen of Brown county, Ohio, where he resided all his life as a prosperous farmer and useful member of the community. His first political affiliations were with the Whigs, but later the progressive principles of the Republican party appealed to his sympathies and won his ardent support. As a girl Margaret had what she afterward considered the rare distinction of being the schoolmate and studying the same lessons with an unpretentious lad who was destined to become the most famous soldier of his time, General U. S. Grant, the Grant and Moore families being neighbors.

Francis Myers, grandfather of D. S. Myers, was among the earliest settlers of southern Ohio, actively assisting in the development of the county, and, together with his family, resolutely undergoing all the toil and privations that were assumed by those





D. S. MYERS.

devoted pioneers who blazed the way and smoothed the path for the coming generations.

William Myers, father of D. S. Myers, was in many respects a remarkable man. He passed the largest portion of his life in Ohio, his native state, where he achieved the noteworthy record of having taught school uninterruptedly for forty years. The entire course of his life was regulated and directed by his love of humanity, his sense of justice and his sympathy with the oppressed, and he was one of those dauntless spirits, who, known as Abolitionists, were the vanguard of that grand movement which resulted in the extinction of slavery within the borders of the United States. His home was one of the stations on the "Underground Railway," which was the significant name of a secret byway over which fugitive slaves were assisted and hurried from the yoke of bondage to the blessings of liberty. He was suspected and his life often endangered, but no intimidation could swerve him from his convictions of right. William Myers had been a Whig, but the noble mission of the abolition of slavery proclaimed by the Republican party induced him to pledge his voice and vote to that organization. For a time but two Republican votes were recorded in his township, one of which was his own. He enjoyed the distinction that few could claim of having cast his first presidential vote for William Henry Harrison and his last for that president's grandson, Benjamin Herrison. William Myers was a man of culture in book knowledge as well as of practical intelligence in the affairs of life, being a close observer and a clear thinker, with distinct though liberal views on all the political and social problems of the time. He was everywhere honored for

his excellent qualities of head and heart and universally respected for his unyielding fidelity to principle. He resided on his farm until 1888, when his son induced his father and mother to come to Pontiac and make their home with him, and he contributed to their comfort and the serenity of their declining years until death closed their eyes in eternal slumber. After a life seldom equalled in its steadfast purpose of uplifting his race, William Myers died in March, 1896, and was followed a year later by his worthy helpmate, a loyal wife, devoted mother and sympathetic friend. Both lived as exemplary Christians, being until death members of the Presbyterian church.

The boyhood and early manhood of David S. Myers was passed upon his father's farm, where he formed habits of industry, a fixed purpose in life and stability of character, and in the district schools where he acquired the elementary principles of education, and under the vigilant eye of his father, the most effective training that any boy could receive. To prepare himself for the profession of teaching he attended different normal schools in southern Ohio and so improved his advantages that he soon qualified and was called to take charge of schools, first in Kentucky and then in Ohio. In 1883 he came to Livingston county, Illinois, a movement upon which all his later successes appear to hinge. Here he engaged in teaching for nearly two years in Owego and Saunemin townships, with the most satisfactory results. Going to Chicago he entered a real estate office, where he diligently applied his time for a year, familiarizing himself with the details and acquiring much valuable knowledge of real estate transactions. Returning to Livingston county he, with N. Q. Tanquary, opened the real estate office

of Tanquary & Myers in Pontiac, an arrangement which continued in force until 1889, when Mr. Tanquary's withdrawal dissolved the firm, since which time Mr. Myers has conducted an extensive real estate business independently, always beneficially to his patrons and satisfactory to himself. During the years following 1888 several additions to the city of Pontiac, owned by Mr. Myers, were platted and opened to market. By inviting buyers who improved the property and became actual residents, he has promoted the growth of the city in wealth and population and thereby enhanced the value of all real estate, stimulated business and increased the general prosperity. The first project of this kind in which he was interested, known as Camp's addition, comprised sixteen acres of eligible lots and is now the most desirable residence portion of the city. A second addition to this tract has since been opened. Myers' first, second, third, fourth and fifth additions have also been platted, all of which have their attractions and in all of which lots are being rapidly disposed of to home builders, many of whom he has assisted in their improvements. At this time, July, 1900, there are but two other additions on the market, and in one of these, the Riverside addition, near the shoe factory, he holds an interest. In 1899 Myers sold thirty thousand dollars worth of vacant lots, in his various additions to Pontiac, which not only attests his ability as a real estate dealer, but is substantial evidence of the remarkable growth and improvement of the city. For the past ten years Mr. Myers has been interested in drainage and reclaiming extensive tracts of swamp lands in Livingston, Lee, Henry and Bureau counties, in Illinois, and La Porte county, Indiana, and is the owner of a large amount of very valuable

and highly productive land in each of these counties.

Mr. Myers does not believe that a city can become permanently prosperous without productive industries employing skilled labor. Hence he has encouraged such enterprises in Pontiac, and was one of the founders, as well as the first stockholder, and is still a director, in the Pontiac Shoe Manufacturing Company, one of the most extensive and prosperous plants of this kind in the United States, affording employment to more than three hundred persons, disbursing for its pay roll more than one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars annually and an annual product valued at nearly one million dollars. In 1899 Mr. Myers became interested in the Allen Candy Company, which was incorporated with a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars. He was chosen as one of the directors and the company is now in successful operation. Mr. Myers was the chief promoter of the organization of the Pontiac State Bank, which was incorporated and opened for business in February, 1899. He was the largest stockholder and was elected president, which position he still fills acceptably to patrons and to the best interests of the bank. Under his able management, assisted by an efficient board of directors, comprising some of the most capable business men of Pontiac, the Pontiac State Bank was a success from its inception, and is recognized as one of the solid financial institutions of central Illinois. The bank occupies elegantly appointed rooms in the corner of the new Sterry block, which were especially designed for that purpose.

The Pontiac Chautauqua Association is the pride and boast of every citizen, and has been popular as well as prosperous from its first assembly. Mr. Myers actively pro-

moted its organization and has since been one of its directors. In 1899 its earnings were fifty-five per cent. on its stock. He rendered valuable aid in founding the public library, and purchased, at a liberal price, land donated by Mr. Babcock, besides contributing generously to the library fund. The township high school was another object of his generous public spirit, donating the grounds in the center of which stands the imposing school building.

Mr. Myers has always been an interested student of state and national affairs, and is well informed on all the public questions of the day. Politically, he is an avowed Republican of the most pronounced type. His first presidential vote was given to General Garfield in 1880. He has participated actively in county and city politics and rendered valuable assistance to his party. In 1892 he was selected as councilman from the first ward, and while acting in that capacity advocated the system of sewerage and adoption of water works which marked the beginning of an era of city improvements. In 1897 he was elected mayor of the city, his administration being one of the most important and successful in its benefits to the city in the history of Pontiac, including the removal of the unsightly raised sidewalks and bringing the streets and sidewalks to a uniform grade. From June, 1898, to June, 1900, he served as chairman of the Republican county central committee and brought to that position the same energy and sagacity that he exercised so effectively in other affairs. As a prominent and active Republican Mr. Myers is well known to the leaders throughout the state.

Mr. Myers is a man of keen perceptions, almost unerring in his judgment of men and affairs and of the very first order of

executive ability. In his methods of thought and action he is very deliberative, weighing every word before it is uttered and measuring every step before it is taken. He is quiet and self-possessed, and he turns off transactions involving tens of thousands of dollars with less palaver than many men would require to consummate the most trifling transaction. The elements that contribute to his unexampled successes are undoubtedly his self-evident honesty and sincerity, which invite confidence, the clear manner in which he presents a proposition, his excellent judgment in making investments and his exceptional ability in organizing and maturing extensive enterprises. He is unselfish in his success, for every step in his prosperity has been marked by some advantage to his city and county. As an example of what may be accomplished by a well-balanced, energetic and ambitious young man, dependent absolutely upon his own efforts, the career of Mr. Myers is invaluable.

Although an intensely busy man, and while engaged in business oblivious to every distraction, Mr. Myers, recognizing all the obligations of citizenship and society, has a very agreeable social side to his nature. He has a refined home, one of the most elegant residences in Livingston county, which is located on Grove street, overlooking the Vermillion river, and has a cultured family. On February 9, 1887, David S. Myers and Miss Louise Catherine Snyder were united in marriage. Mrs. Myers is a lady of acknowledged refinement, supplemented by a practical, womanly disposition and a cheerful nature. She was born in Livingston county, one of ten children, her father being Simon F. Snyder, a prominent citizen of the same county. Four children came to bless this union, two of whom are living, Diller

Slyder and Anna Louise. The family are regular attendants of and liberal contributors to the maintenance of the Methodist Episcopal church of Pontiac. The passing years have justified the wisdom of Mr. Myers in the choice of a bride, for their domestic relations are very happy and their home life what may be truly termed ideal.

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#### CHARLES L. ROMBERGER.

Prominent among the enterprising, progressive and successful men of Dwight is the subject of this sketch, who as a lawyer and business man has been prominently identified with its interests for several years. His life history most happily illustrates what may be attained by faithful and continued effort in carrying out an honest purpose. Activity and energy have been the crowning points of his success, and his connection with various enterprises have been of decided advantage to his community, promoting its material welfare in no uncertain manner.

Mr. Romberger was born in a log cabin in Wyanet, Bureau county, Illinois, June 12, 1862. His father, L. D. Romberger, was born in Pennsylvania, April 23, 1831, of German ancestry, and was left an orphan when only a year old. At the age of eight he started out in life for himself and served an apprenticeship to the tinner's trade. He was about twenty-three years of age when he removed to Wyanet, Illinois, where he was married, March 1, 1860, to Francisca L. Weaver, who was also born in Pennsylvania, February 20, 1839, and had come west with her parents, who were engaged in the hotel business. Mr. Romberger was engaged in merchandising in Wyanet for a few years

and later followed farming for two years, after which he moved to Princeton, Illinois, where he was engaged in the mercantile business until his health failed, in 1880, when he sold out and has since devoted his attention to bee culture, having one of the largest apiaries in the United States. He has always been a staunch Republican in politics, but never an aspirant for office, though he is now serving as justice of the peace. Of his three children, one died in infancy; Emma L. is now the wife of Frank H. Hoffman, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Charles L. completes the family.

The primary education of our subject was obtained in the public schools of Princeton, and he was graduated from the high school of that city at the age of seventeen years. He then entered the law department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he was graduated at the age of nineteen and received the degree of LL. B., March 20, 1882. He was not permitted to practice, however, until he attained his majority, when the state of Michigan forwarded his certificate, and he was admitted to practice at the bar of Illinois, September 24, 1883. After his graduation he located at Ottawa, Illinois, and entered the office of Mayo & Widmer, prominent attorneys of that place, with whom he remained for fifteen months.

In 1884, at the suggestion of Hon. Walter Reeves, now member of congress from this district, Mr. Romberger came to Dwight and opened a law office over the People's Bank, being alone in business until 1887, when he formed a partnership with John C. Hetzel, a real estate and insurance agent, under the firm name of Hetzel & Romberger. In 1891 he bought out his partner and continued alone until November, 1895, when he

sold a half interest in the business to Frank L. Smith, the firm being known as Romberger & Smith. Their specialty is real estate and real estate work, although they do a private banking business for accommodation of friends and acquaintances. Without question the firm does one of the largest loan and real estate businesses in central Illinois, this fact being conceded by all other firms in their line. At present they are extensively interested in Mississippi and Louisiana lands. Their holdings in the latter state are timber lands, which the firm purchased with the view of enhancing their value, and in January, 1900, they sold one tract of twelve thousand acres in Madison parish. This is desirable property, being accessible to steamboats and the Vicksburg, Shreveport & Pacific Railroad. The Mississippi land is in the Delta country and is also covered with hardwood lumber, principally oak, pecan and gum. When cleared this will become excellent cotton land. Besides this property the firm has about fifteen hundred acres of fine farming land in Lee county, Illinois, which is well improved and under a high state of cultivation, and also operates largely in Iowa and Indiana lands. Since coming to Dwight Mr. Romberger has had complete charge of the Keeley Company's legal business, and is attorney for the estate of Dr. Leslie E. Keeley. He is also local attorney for the Chicago & Alton Railroad. He does very little court work, however, his entire legal business being confined to office practice. He is interested in the Keeley Institute, located at No. 2803 Locust street, St. Louis, Missouri, being a partner of Dr. J. E. Blaine, who for eight years was chief of the medical staff of the Leslie E. Keeley Company of Dwight.

On the 7th of October, 1884, Mr. Rom-

berger married Miss Nellie M. Ensign, a native of Connecticut, and a daughter of Edward H. and Martha S. Ensign. By this union three children were born, the oldest, a daughter, died in infancy. Louise E. died very suddenly of tonsillitis, November 2, 1899, at the age of twelve years. Emma T., aged eleven years, is attending school in Dwight.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Romberger are members of the Congregational church, and he is also a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity. In 1884 he was made a Master Mason in Livingston Lodge, No. 371, A. F. & A. M., of Dwight, of which he is now past master, and received the higher degrees in Orient Chapter, No. 31, R. A. M., and Blaney Commandery, No. 5, K. T., of Morris, Illinois; Dwight Chapter, No. 166, O. E. S., of which he is past worthy patron; is a member of the Oriental Consistory and Medinah Temple of the Mystic Shrine, both of Chicago. He is now a member of Wilmington Chapter, No. 142, R. A. M., of which he is past high priest, and Joliet Commandery, No. 4, K. T., of which he is senior warden. Since old enough to vote Mr. Romberger has affiliated with the Republican party, and in 1892 was elected president of the board of trustees of the village of Dwight on the ticket advocating public improvements. He has always taken the lead in anything tending to advance the interests of his town and worked hard to get the sewerage system, electric light and water works adopted and cement sidewalks laid. Therefore during his administration there were more improvements made than at any other time, and he is justly numbered among Dwight's most progressive and public-spirited citizens. He is emphatically a man of enterprise, positive character, indomitable

energy, strict integrity and liberal views, and is thoroughly identified in feeling with the growth and prosperity of his city.

#### NATHAN S. GRANDY.

Nathan S. Grandy, deceased, was numbered among the honored pioneers of Livingston county, where he located when this region was wild and unimproved. In the work of development he took an active part in the early days and aided in opening up the country to civilization. As the years passed his faithfully performed duties of citizenship and his interest in the welfare and progress of the community never abated. Becoming widely and favorably known he made many friends, and his death was a loss to the entire community.

Mr. Grandy was born October 6, 1816, in Phantom township, Addison county, Vermont, where he grew to manhood, and there worked at the carpenter's trade, as a manufacturer of sash, doors and blinds. He first married a Miss Kent, who died in Illinois a few years after coming here. After his marriage he came to Illinois, arriving in Chicago about the 1st of May, 1850, when only thirty miles of railroad extended from that city toward Galena, and a few miles had been built in this direction, there being not more than one hundred miles in the state. From Chicago Mr. Grandy went to Alton, a part of the journey being made by way of the Illinois river, and the whole trip occupying over a week. He first located in Kane, Greene county, Illinois, where he had a brother living, and there he engaged in farming for a time.

While a resident of Greene county, Mr.

Grandy was married, February 12, 1854, to Miss Harriet E. Christy, a native of Lawrence county, Illinois, and a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Dennison) Christy, pioneers of that county, where their marriage was celebrated. The father, who was a native of Ohio and a farmer by occupation, removed to Greene county soon after the birth of Mrs. Grandy and bought a tract of land in Kane, where he spent the remainder of his life. In religious belief he was a Baptist.

To Mr. and Mrs. Grandy were born eight children, namely: T. E., a real estate dealer of Pontiac, married Elizabeth L. Mason; Harriet A., at home with her mother; Clara is the wife of Albert G. Mason, of Pontiac, and they have four children living, Ollie, Leonard L., Alice and Cress; Charles E., who lives on a farm three miles and a half east of Pontiac, married Susan Foster, of Owego township, and they have two children, Mabel E. and Victor J.; George W., a resident of St. John's, Kansas, married Jennie Dudley, of Missouri, and they have one child, Pearl; William A., a lumberman of Mason City, Illinois, married Emma Antrim, and they have one child, Margery; Henry lives on the home farm and married Miss Tillie Hill; Mary J. is the wife of W. C. Young, a farmer living three miles east of Pontiac, and they have three children, Edith, Marshall and Lewis.

In 1856 Mr. and Mrs. Grandy came to Livingston county and took up their residence in Owego township, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres, on which was standing a small cabin, 14x18 feet, made of rough slabs from the sawmill set up on end and the cracks filled with clay. The floor was of ash and oak boards about ten inches wide hewed down, while the roof was made of real old-fashioned clapboards split

from oak timber. In this rude dwelling the family lived for over a year. With the exception of a few acres the farm was unbroken. On taking up his residence here Mr. Grandy at once turned his attention to the improvement and cultivation of his farm. The first winter he constructed a stable by putting forked poles into the ground, laying other poles across these and covering them with brush and then with hay, while the sides were also banked up with hay. This comfortably sheltered his stock until a better barn could be built. He fenced his land and placed acre after acre under the plow until all was highly cultivated. In 1861 a more substantial and comfortable residence was built, much of the timber being taken from his own wood lot, two miles from his home. Men were making the sills for the new house when the news came of the firing upon Fort Sumter. The house was completed that summer and is still standing. A large part of the finished lumber used in its construction was bought at sixty dollars per thousand and paid for with corn at ten cents per bushel. This had to be shelled, sacked and hauled to Pontiac. Mr. Grandy used a small two-hole corn sheller, run by horse power.

When he located in this county he could travel in a northeasterly direction from his home and find not a house nor a fence until within two miles of Kankakee, while his nearest trading places were Pontiac and Fairbury. Coal was almost unknown and was very high when obtainable. Several times during the first four years spent here, the Grandy home came very nearly being destroyed by the prairie fires. Mrs. Grandy once saved the house with a pail of water and her mop. They added to the farm by additional purchase as their financial resources

increased, but in 1872 sold it and bought two hundred and four acres in Pontiac township, one mile from the court house, which Mrs. Grandy still owns, and on which the family moved that year. Our subject made all of the improvements upon the place, including the erection of a fine house, a good barn and substantial outbuildings. He was actively engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1877, when he was injured by a saw, after which he practically lived retired until his death, being blind the last two years of his life.

Mr. Grandy was a Democrat in politics and took an active and prominent part in the public affairs of his time. While a resident of Owego township he served as school treasurer, assessor and justice of the peace, and was known throughout the county as Squire Grandy. In Pontiac township he served as road commissioner some years and took an active part in building the bridges and improving the roads of his locality, assisting in the construction of the fine iron bridge three miles west of Pontiac. In 1868 he was appointed county commissioner by the board of supervisors to go over the county and re-appraise the swamp lands, to which business he devoted one whole summer, spending nearly all the time driving over the county. He was one of the early members of the Baptist church and later attended services at Avoca, where a church was built for the use of any denomination, this being much nearer his home. After his removal to Pontiac he united with the Baptist church in that city. He died on his farm, one mile east of Pontiac, June 26, 1890, honored and respected by all who knew him. Throughout his career of continued and far-reaching usefulness his duties were performed with the greatest care, and his personal honor and integrity were without blemish.



Mrs. Grandy still survives her husband and now makes her home in Pontiac, where she has a lovely home at No. 317 East Howard street. She has only lived here a year, though owning the place for some time. She was always a true helpmeet to her husband, aiding him in every possible way, and is a most estimable lady, beloved and respected by all who know her on account of her sterling worth and many excellencies of character.

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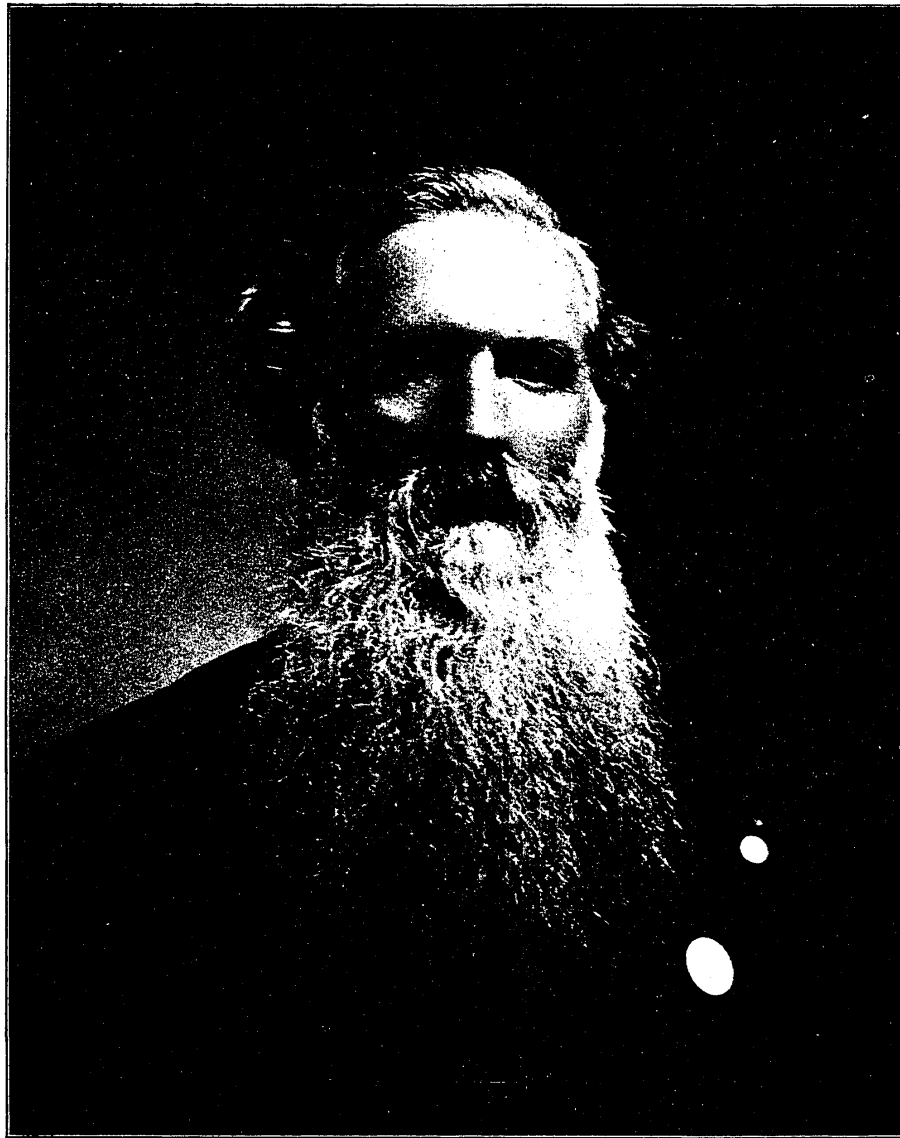
### JOHN W. HOOVER.

John W. Hoover, whose home is at No. 215 East Livingston street, Pontiac, is one of the most public-spirited and enterprising citizens of that place. He is a native of Illinois, born in Putnam county, March 9, 1840, and is a son of Henry Mann and Sarah (Hunt) Hoover. The father was born in Pennsylvania, June 10, 1808, and in 1838 came to Illinois, locating in Bureau county, where he engaged in farming until 1848 and then went to California, crossing the plains with an ox team. The following four years were passed in prospecting and mining, during which time he accumulated considerable property, but when just ready to return to his family in Illinois he met with a violent death and his hard-earned treasure was taken from him. His widow is still living at the age of eighty-eight years, and resides with her daughter in Minonk, Woodford county, Illinois. Only three of her ten children survive. Two sons, George H. and Julius G., were soldiers of the Civil war, and died in Tennessee during their service.

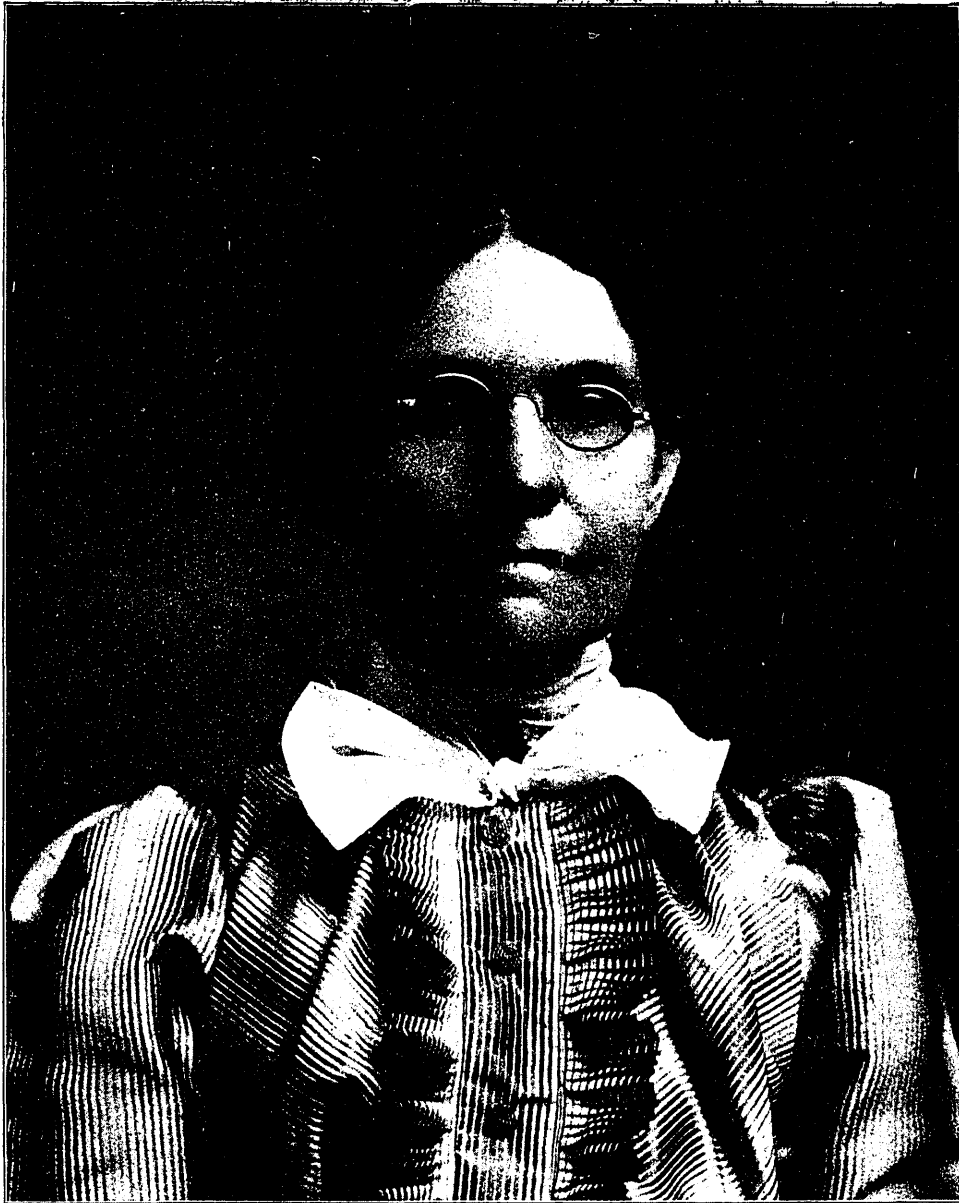
Our subject remained with his mother on the home farm in Bureau county until 1857, when they removed to Livingston

county and located in Nebraska township, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits until the breaking out of the Civil war, in 1861, when he enlisted in the Third Illinois Cavalry, Company K, for three years. He participated in a number of battles in Missouri and Arkansas, including the engagement at Pea Ridge, where he was wounded. He went to the gulf, was stationed at New Orleans for a time, and was in the sieges of Port Hudson and Vicksburg. He was at the latter place at the time of the first repulse of Sherman, and remained there until the surrender to Grant. He was mustered out at Springfield, Illinois, as commissary sergeant, having held that position two years.

After his discharge Mr. Hoover returned to Livingston county and again engaged in farming in Nebraska township. The sudden death of his father had left the family in very straightened circumstances and placed a very heavy burden on the shoulders of our subject, but he early displayed that determination and grit which have carried him forward to a successful life. He was devoted to his mother and toiled early and late that she might have the comforts of life that she had been accustomed to before the death of her husband. He continued to engage in farming until the fall of 1870, when he was elected sheriff of Livingston county on the Democratic ticket and moved to Pontiac. He filled that office for one term with credit to himself and to the general satisfaction of the public, and at its close embarked in general merchandising, which he carried on until his store and its contents were destroyed by fire, July 4, 1874. Although he lost almost everything he possessed, he was not cast down or crushed by the misfortune, but with characteristic energy he immediately purchased another stock



J. W. HOOVER.



MRS. JOHN W. HOOVER.

of goods and continued business until 1897, being associated with Wilson Pittenger some years, and afterward with W. S. Sims for about five years, the firm name being Hoover & Sims. He was then alone in business until selling out, in 1897.

Mr. Hoover was married, December 31, 1868, to Miss Mary E. Van Doren, of this county, a daughter of Hilyard and Eliza (Thompson) Van Doren. Her father was born in New Jersey, in 1808, and was six years old when he removed to Ohio with his parents. His father, John Van Doren, also a native of New Jersey, conducted a hotel near Clarksville, Clinton county, Ohio, for many years. Throughout the greater part of his life Mrs. Hoover's father followed the carpenter's trade, but after coming to Livingston county, Illinois, engaged in farming and stock raising in Nebraska township. He was school trustee for many years and also filled the office of collector and supervisor for some years. He helped build the first school house in his township, advancing money for the work until the district could reimburse him, and he organized the first Sunday school within its borders, services being held at his home until the school house and church were built. In 1885 he retired from active life and moved to Pontiac, where he died September 1, 1898. His wife had departed this life February 14, 1892. Mrs. Hoover is the youngest of their seven children. William T., the oldest, married Julia Smith in 1855, and is a prominent contractor and builder of Pontiac. Frank M. and Luther were both members of Company A, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil war, and the latter was drowned in the Cumberland river in Tennessee after serving one year. Frank M. married Nettie Nickerson

and resides on the old home farm in Nebraska township. Mr. and Mrs. Hoover have a family of four children, namely: Ella I., born in Pontiac, was married, May 10, 1898, to Halbert Opperman, a grocer of Pontiac; Helen P. has for the past three years been head bookkeeper at the Pontiac Shoe manufactory; Edna R. is at home, and Maude W. is a student in the high school of Pontiac.

In 1898 Mr. Hoover was elected supervisor of Pontiac township, and his services gave such universal satisfaction that in the spring of 1900 he was re-elected, being the only Democrat elected on the township ticket, which speaks well for his personal popularity and the confidence and trust reposed in him by his fellow citizens. He has been fire marshal of the city for the past twenty-five years, and was a member of the department for some years before. It has been his constant study to improve the department and the time he has devoted to that work has been well spent, for his efforts have been crowned with success. At present a new city hall and engine house is being erected. Mr. Hoover is an honored member of T. Lyle Dickey post, G. A. R., and attends and supports the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### GEORGE Z. FLAGLER.

Prominent among the citizens of Dwight who have witnessed the marvelous development of Livingston county in the last half-century, and who have, by honest toil and industry, succeeded in acquiring a competence and are now spending the sunset of life in quiet and retirement, is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch.

Mr. Flagler was born in Herkimer, New York, June 4, 1828, and was reared there until ten years of age, when he removed to Ohio with his parents, Philip and Nancy (Dygert) Flagler, also natives of New York. His paternal grandfather, Zachariah Flagler, was born in France, and on his emigration to America settled in Dutchess county, New York, where, in the midst of the wilderness, he developed a farm and spent the remainder of his life. He reared a family of eleven children, ten sons and one daughter, of whom Philip was fifth in order of birth.

On reaching manhood Philip Flagler removed to Herkimer county, New York, becoming one of its early settlers, and there he married Nancy Dygert, a daughter of William Dygert, who emigrated from Germany to the United States at an early day. After his marriage Mr. Flagler conducted a meat market in Frankfort, Herkimer county, until our subject was ten years of age, and then moved to Middlebury, Portage county, Ohio, going by way of the Erie canal to Buffalo, by lake to Cleveland, by canal to Akron, Ohio, and from there across the country by wagon to Middlebury, where he worked at the shoemaker's trade five years. He then returned to New York by the same route, this time locating in Dutchess county, where he followed farming until a few years prior to his death, when he sold his farm and moved to Rochester, New York. There he lived retired until called to his final rest, at the age of seventy years. The mother of our subject had died many years previous, leaving six children, who reached man and womanhood, namely: George Z., Catherine, Walter, Albert, William and Oscar, all still living with the exception of Walter. Catherine is the wife of Philip Miller, of Dwight, Illinois. For his second wife the father mar-

ried Katherine Wright, by whom he had one daughter, Annie.

George Z. Flagler received his education in the schools of Portage county, Ohio, and Dutchess county, New York, and remained at home with his father until after his marriage. On the 27th of September, 1848, when twenty-one years of age, he married Phebe Jane Clarkson, then sixteen. They met at the village school in Stormville, New York, and the friendship there formed soon ripened into a love that has never died out, for they are still lovers, the same as in the days long gone by. Mrs. Flagler was born in Dutchess county, of which her parents, Egbert and Maria (Jacox) Clarkson, were also natives, while her paternal grandfather, Charles Clarkson, was a native of England, having emigrated to this country at an early day. For many years her father followed farming in Dutchess county, but in the fall of 1856 he came to Livingston county, Illinois, where he lived retired until his death, at the age of sixty-three years. His wife died at the age of seventy-three. In their family were four children, William, Hamilton, Phebe Jane and Mary Elizabeth, but Mrs. Flagler is the only one now living. To our subject and his wife were born three children, namely: (1) Eugene, a resident of Dwight, married Letty Potter, and they have two children: Stella, wife of Eberett Lewis, a jeweler of Dwight, by whom she has one child, Harland; and Louise. (2) John W., an invalid residing in Dwight, married Laura Lee, and they have one child, Helen. (3) George N., who has succeeded his father in the lumber business, married Letty Saltmarsh, and they have two children, Eddie and Mattie.

After his marriage Mr. Flagler remained with his father a year, but determining to

engage in business for himself, he rented a farm of one hundred and seven acres in Dutchess county, New York, which he successfully operated for three years. Selling out in the east he came to Illinois in 1855, and after spending ten days at Joliet proceeded to Dwight, Livingston county, where he hired out to a Mr. Spencer, whose farm included the present home of our subject. After working for him one year he was variously employed for a time, and then turned his attention to the carpenter's trade. One of the first houses which he built is the one he is now living in, it being situated on a part of the old Spencer farm and is one of the most beautiful places in Dwight, surrounded by four acres of well-kept grounds. Here Mr. Flagler located in 1899. The first house that he owned in Dwight is still standing. He continued to follow the carpenter's trade for several years, and in 1874 became interested in the lumber business, which he carried on alone for three years, when he formed a partnership with Thomas Sims, under the name of Flagler & Sims. Three years later this was dissolved and Zed Johnson purchased an interest in the business, which was conducted under the firm name of Flagler & Johnson for three years and a half. From that time on he was alone in business until 1897, when he was succeeded by his son, George N., who still carries it on, while our subject is practically living retired, though he still continues to look after his property interests in Dwight, which include a number of houses.

Mr. Flagler has been prominently identified with almost the entire growth and development of Dwight, as when he located there there were only six houses in the place. During the first year of his residence here he and his wife, with another family, oc-

cupied a little shanty, 16x24 feet. In 1856 he and William Clarkson each built a house, the first that were erected that year. One Sunday the two men went out about three miles in the country and got some young basswood trees, which they brought to town on their backs and planted, these being the first trees set out in Dwight, as the place at that time was flat prairie land, unadorned by trees or shrubs. Mr. Flagler helped organize the village and has aided materially in its growth and building, assisting in the erection of most of the older dwellings of the place. He helped build the Presbyterian church, which was the first house of worship erected in Dwight, and later, as a contractor, built the Methodist Episcopal church. He was one of the first trustees of the village, being elected on a temperance ticket, and was a member of the village board four terms. By his ballot he has always supported the men and measures of the Democratic party at national elections, but in local affairs, when no issue is involved, votes for the man whom he believes best qualified to fill the office. Socially he is a member of Livingston lodge, No. 371, F. & A. M., and Wilmington Chapter, No. 142, R. A. M. During their long residence in Dwight Mr. and Mrs. Flagler have made a host of warm friends, have gained the confidence and respect of all who know them, and as honored pioneers and representative citizens are certainly deserving of prominent mention in a work of this kind.

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#### STEPHEN A. GOODMAN.

Stephen A. Goodman, the efficient engineer of the Dwight Electric Light Company and a highly respected citizen of

Dwight, Illinois, was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, December 26, 1851, and is a son of James J. and Catherine (Numen) Goodman, also natives of Pennsylvania. By trade the father was a wagon-maker and bridge carpenter, and during his residence in the Keystone state followed bridge building on railroads and canals. In 1867 he brought his family to Illinois and located on a farm in Dwight township, two miles southwest of the town of Dwight, making his home there for two years, at the end of which time he took up his residence in town, where his death occurred, in 1884, and where his wife is still living. In their family were ten children, namely: Anna, wife of W. H. Watson, a conductor on the Pennsylvania Railroad and a resident of Altoona, Pennsylvania; Mattie, widow of G. W. Stewart and a resident of Union Furnace, Pennsylvania; Stephen A., our subject; Emma, wife of George Taylor, a farmer and dairyman of Dwight township; Alfred, a farmer of Grundy county, Illinois; James, a conductor on the Chicago & Alton Railroad; George, who is employed in the round house at Dwight; Mary, twin of George and deceased wife of John Camerorn, of Ono, Willow county, Nebraska; Nora, wife of Frank Phole, of Dwight; and Bruce, an engineer on the Chicago & Alton Railroad.

The boyhood and youth of Stephen A. Goodman were mainly passed in Pennsylvania, and at the age of fifteen he entered the Mill Creek furnace shops to learn the blacksmith and machinist's trades, his father being then engaged in the hotel business at Mill Creek. He was sixteen years of age when the family came to Illinois, and for a time he worked at his trade in Dwight. Subsequently he accepted a position as engineer and general assistant with the firm of Hef-

fenbaugh & Rutan, but his first permanent position as engineer was in the old stone mill of Hahn & Siegert, where he was employed two years. He next entered the service of the Chicago & Alton Railroad in the round house at Dwight, and later was fireman on the Streator branch of that road and served the company until 1893. He spent two years as fireman on the Pennsylvania Railroad, running between Altoona and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. In November, 1896, he accepted his present position with the Dwight Electric Light Company, and has since filled it in a most capable and satisfactory manner.

On the 22d of September, 1877, at Dwight, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Goodman and Miss Belle Goodspeed, a native of Grundy county, Illinois, and a daughter of George R. and Emily (Starkey) Goodspeed. Her father gave up his life for his country as a soldier of the Civil war. During the last ten years of her life Mrs. Goodspeed made her home with our subject and there died March 31, 1897. Mrs. Goodman died January 12, 1893, and of the three children born of that union, Emma died at the age of four years and Hattie at the age of eleven. Charles is still living and is with his father. Mr. Goodman was again married, in Peoria, Illinois, April 20, 1897, his second union being with Miss Agnes McCloskey, a native of Blair county, Pennsylvania. They have a pleasant home in Dwight, erected by him in 1882.

In political affairs Mr. Goodman supports the Democratic party. While a resident of Altoona, Pennsylvania, he joined the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and now affiliates with Dwight Lodge, No. 513, of which he is past noble grand. He is also a member of Pacific Encampment, No. 126, and was elected and installed chief patriarch,

but resigned on account of his night work, which occupies his time to the exclusion of everything else. He is a thorough and skilled machinist and is a highly respected and honored citizen of Dwight. He was for five years a member of the Illinois state guards and was honorably discharged.

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#### N. M. AND TRUMAN M. KELLOGG.

These brothers, who are numbered among the representative citizens of Pontiac township, Livingston county, own and operate a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres on section 8, pleasantly located on Wolf creek, within three miles of the city of Pontiac. They are natives of Oneida county, New York, the former born near Utica June 29, 1829, the latter October 7, 1835, and belong to an old colonial family of English origin, which was founded in this country by two brothers, who were among the pioneers of Connecticut. Our subjects' paternal grandfather, Truman Kellogg, was a native of that state and a pioneer of Oneida county, New York, where he located in 1790. There he cleared and improved a farm in the midst of the wilderness, making it his home throughout the remainder of his life. The father, who also bore the name of Truman, was born in that county, in 1795, and on reaching manhood married Malinda Marsh, also a native of Oneida county. He was a farmer by occupation and lived on the old Kellogg homestead throughout life, dying there May 17, 1867. He survived his wife only a few weeks, as she died March 3, 1867. In their family were four children, two sons and two daughters, but only the former are now living.

In the county of their nativity the brothers passed their boyhood and youth, being provided with good educational advantages in both common and select schools. In 1852 Truman M. went to Chicago, where he entered the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, in the engineer department, as a rodman, and for twenty years was employed in the general office of the civil engineer for the Illinois Central Railroad Company at that city, being promoted for successful service from rodman to division engineer, and as such he superintended the construction of the Lake Shore harbor. N. M. Kellogg remained at home with his parents until their deaths, having charge of the farm. In 1868 he came to Livingston county, Illinois, and purchased the farm in Pontiac township where the brothers now reside. They located thereon in 1871, and have since devoted their time and energies to the further improvement and cultivation of the place, converting it into one of the most desirable farms of its size in the county. They follow general farming and have engaged extensively in feeding and shipping stock, fattening from six to ten car-loads of cattle and hogs annually. To this branch of their business they have devoted considerable attention for the past fifteen years, and recently have made a specialty of the breeding and raising of good roadster horses of the Hamiltonian and other standard bred stock. Success has attended their well-directed efforts and they are now numbered among the most substantial men of the community in which they live.

Politically the Kellogg brothers have been life-long Democrats, and N. M. has served as highway commissioner for fifteen years, but neither have cared for official honors, preferring to give their undivided atten-



tion to their extensive business interests. They are men of keen perception and sound judgment and their success in life is due to their own well-directed efforts, so that they deserve to be prominently mentioned among the leading and representative business men of this county. Fraternaly, Truman M. is a member of the Masonic lodge of Pontiac, having been made a Master Mason some years ago.

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#### CHARLES H. LONG, M. D.

The world has little use for the misanthrope. The universal truth of brotherhood is widely recognized, also that he serves God best who serves his fellow men. There is no profession or line of business that calls for greater self sacrifice or more devoted attention than the medical profession, and the successful physician is he, who through love of his fellow men gives his time and attention to the relief of human suffering. Dr. Long is one of the ablest representatives of this noble calling successfully engaged in practice in Pontiac, Illinois.

The Doctor was born in Dimmick township, La Salle county, this state, May 14, 1850, a son of Archibald and Adeline (Leigh) Long. The father was born in Gallipolis, Gallia county, Ohio, in October, 1825, a son of Archibald and Catherine (Keller) Long. The grandfather was born near Wheeling, West Virginia, September 24, 1791, and was one of a large family of children left orphans at an early age, and who were thrown upon the world to make their own way with little educational advantages. He managed, however, to acquire much varied information, which, with untiring energy, he ever put to use for the uplift-

ing of his fellow men. After drifting about through Tennessee, Georgia and North Carolina during his boyhood he was finally married, in October, 1813, and settled in Gallipolis, Ohio, where most of his family were born and where he acquired some property. He also secured the maintenance of select schools in the county, and early became a leader and exhorter in the Methodist Episcopal church, and afterward a licensed preacher. He spent a few years in Indiana, and then, in order to secure homes for his children, now grown, he came to Illinois, locating first in the military tract, near Knoxville, Knox county, in 1834. He built the first mill in that section and opened his house for church and school purposes, there being neither in his locality. He regularly filled appointments to preach for miles around, and our subject now has in his possession the parchment certificate given by Bishop Morris, in 1839, at his ordination as deacon. He soon secured the building of a church at Hermon, the expense of which was largely borne by himself. At camp meetings and revivals he was recongized as powerful in exhortation and prayer. It was at a meeting in his house that his son, Archibald, Jr., and Rev. M. L. Haney were converted. In 1849 he removed to La Salle county, and early the following year secured the organization of a church at La Salle, there having been no religious society there prior to that time. He resolved to build a house of worship and went about with his usual energy to accomplish this, hauling lumber, raising money and working on the building. While thus engaged he was exposed to the inclemency of the weather and contracted a disease that affected his lungs and eventually caused his death. His home was always the stopping place for all ministers, and he labored un-

tiringly for his church. He held most all the local offices, including those of school director and justice of the peace, and in his death the community realized that it had lost one of its most valued and useful citizens.

Archibald Long, Jr., the father of our subject, was reared on his father's farm near Knoxville, and received a good practical education in the select school conducted in his father's home. This was largely supplemented in later years by extensive reading and observation. He built the first saw-mill at Knoxville and engaged in milling for some time. In early days before the grist-mill was built, the family hauled their grain to Chicago, a distance of two hundred miles. The early pioneers ground their cornmeal on stones. After building the mill the Long family sometimes rafted flour down the Mississippi river to St. Louis. In Knox county, Archibald Long, Jr., was married, in 1847, to Miss Adeline Leigh, a daughter of Robert Leigh, a veteran of the war of 1812, and an early settler of that county, where he followed farming until his death. Her paternal great-grandfather, Leigh, was private secretary to George III, of England, and for political reasons fled to the United States. He was the possessor of a large fortune, which the family never received. After his marriage, the Doctor's father engaged in farming in Dimmick township, La Salle county, and was one of the large land owners of his locality. Although he gave strict attention to his business affairs he never neglected his duties to his fellow men, and took a very active part in education and church work, ably seconding his father in the support of the feeble little church at La Salle. He was a member of the official board throughout life

and after his father's death was its strongest mainstay for forty years. He was honored with all the township offices. He died in La Salle county, December 31, 1892, and the mother of our subject departed this life in 1856, leaving two children, the younger being Robert, now a resident of Koszta, Iowa.

Dr. Long began his education in the district schools near his boyhood home, and at the age of fifteen years entered the academic department of Wheaton College at Wheaton, Illinois, where he was a student for two years. In 1866 he entered the Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington, where he was graduated with the degree of B. S., in 1873, being president of the class organization during his senior year. In the meantime he had engaged in teaching schools, and after leaving college followed that profession for three years as principal at Mackinaw, Stanford and Homer, Illinois.

Having decided to make the practice of medicine his life work, Dr. Long matriculated at Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago, in 1875, and was graduated with the degree of M. D., at the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College in 1878. He is now the leading homeopathic physician of Pontiac, and enjoys a large general practice. He served as United States pension examiner under Presidents Hayes and Arthur, doing all the work in that line for the county, there being no pension board at the time. In 1880 he was elected coroner of Livingston county and served by re-election eight years, during which time he held the inquests made necessary by the terrible Chatsworth wreck when seventy-four Niagara excursionists lost their lives. He is an honored member of the Illinois Homeopathic Medical Association, of which he was provisional secretary

two terms, ending in May, 1899, and is also an active member of the Central Illinois Homeopathic Association. He is medical examiner for the Modern Woodmen of America at Pontiac.

Dr. Long has been twice married, his first wife being Miss Martha Veimont, who died March 20, 1884, leaving two children, who are still living, namely: Eva Mary, now attending the Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, and Archibald V., at home. For his second wife he married Lida Sterry, daughter of C. W. Sterry, of Pontiac, and to them have been born two children: Christopher Sterry and Katherine. The family have a beautiful home at No. 304 East Water street, Pontiac.

From the start Dr. Long has served as secretary of the Pontiac Riverview Chautauqua Association, which is to-day one of the most successful organizations of the kind in the west, financially and otherwise, and he is also a trustee of the Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington, and also trustee of the board of finance for the same institution. With such ancestry it is not strange that the Doctor takes a very active and prominent part in church work and has always been willing to contribute his share to any enterprise for the public good. He is one of the leading and influential members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Pontiac, and is now the oldest member of its official board in point of continuous service, having held some office for the past twenty-two years. After serving eight years as superintendent of the Sunday school, he resigned that position to become superintendent of the primary department, which has developed rapidly during the seven years he has been in charge, the enrollment at present being two hundred and fifty. He was

also secretary of the Livingston county Sunday School Association seven years; was chairman of the executive committee a number of years; vice-president of the third Illinois district, and has been chairman of the finance committee a number of years. At the age of thirteen he was elected secretary of the Sunday school, which he attended, and has since been officially connected with Sunday school work. He was a lay delegate to the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, at Cleveland, in 1896, and at Chicago, in May, 1900, and for four years was president of the Lay Association of the central Illinois conference. He is also editor of the Pontiac Methodist, with which he has been connected from its beginning, in 1896. As a physician he ranks among the ablest, and as a citizen he stands deservedly high in public esteem, being honored and respected by all who know him.

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#### AUSTIN GIBBONS.

Austin Gibbons, of Dwight, was born in county Mayo, Ireland, January 5, 1846, a son of Philip and Bridget (McDonald) Gibbons, also natives of that county. The father was born December 10, 1819, and continued to make his home in county Mayo until his emigration to America in March, 1851. For three years the family made their home in New York state and in 1854 came to Illinois, locating first in Kendall county and removing to Livingston county in 1865. Here the father purchased a half-section of land in Nevada township, which he operated eighteen years, and then moved to Chicago, where he has since made his home. He is highly respected and esteemed and is a de-



AUSTIN GIBBONS.

vout member of the Catholic church, to which his wife also belonged. She died in the fall of 1899, at the age of eighty years. In their family were nine children, all of whom are still living, namely: Mary, a resident of Chicago; Austin, our subject; Margaret, widow of Denslow Marsh and a resident of Pittsburg, Kansas; Ellen, of Chicago; John, of Barton county, Missouri; Philip, Jane, Sarah and Thomas, all of Chicago.

Our subject was only four years old when brought to this country by his parents and his education was begun in New York state, though the greater part of it was obtained in the schools of Kendall county, Illinois. At the age of twenty-two he started out in life for himself by learning the trade of bridge builder and carpenter, which he followed twelve years. During this time he made his home in Nevada township, Livingston county, and on retiring from that business, in 1877, he engaged in farming on section 2, that township, where he purchased eighty acres of land. To this he added one hundred and sixty acres in 1896, making a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres, which he placed under a high state of cultivation. In connection with general farming he always gave considerable attention to stock raising, his specialty being Norman horses.

In 1897 Mr. Gibbons commenced buying grain for Edmund Mezger, of Dwight, and continued in his employ until that gentleman failed in business in March, 1898, when he entered the employ of William Pope, who then took the elevator, remaining with him until the fall of 1899, when Mr. Pope sold out to Merritt Brothers, of Dwight, by whom Mr. Gibbons has been retained as manager of the elevator. That fall he built a pleas-

ant residence at the corner of Waupansie and North Clinton streets, Dwight, and in the spring of 1900 took up his residence there, having remained on his farm up to that time.

On the 6th of January, 1878, Mr. Gibbons married Miss Margaret Kane, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of Robert and Ann Kane, of that state, where her father died a number of years ago. Her mother met her death in the tornado at St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1893. Mrs. Gibbons was their only child. Our subject and his wife have a family of five children: Nellie, now the wife of William Neville, a farmer of Good Farm township, Grundy county, Illinois, by whom she has one child, Frank; Frank, son of our subject and his father's assistant in the grain business in Dwight; and Annie, Philip and Sarah, students in the public schools of Dwight.

Religiously both Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons are members of the Catholic church of Dwight. He has always been a staunch supporter of the men and measures of the Democratic party and taken an active and prominent part in local politics for a number of years. He was assessor of Nevada township in 1871 and 1872 and served as supervisor of that township for more than twenty years, which office he filled continuously until the spring of 1900, when, owing to his removal to Dwight, the township was forced to seek another representative. His long retention in office plainly indicates his efficient service and the confidence and trust reposed in him by his fellow citizens. He was chairman of the board in 1897 and 1898 and was one of the special committee to oversee the building of the county house, which was built during his term at a cost of seventy-five thousand dollars. He was

chairman of the board of equalization for sixteen consecutive years and served on most of the committees, especially the more important ones. He was school treasurer for ten years prior to his removal to Dwight and the cause of education always found in him a faithful friend. In 1892 he was the Democratic candidate from his district for member of the state board of equalization and although he failed of election he succeeded in reducing the usual Republican majority from twenty-five hundred to five hundred, a fact which testifies strongly as to his personal popularity. At present writing he is the nominee of his party from the twentieth district as a member of the legislature. No man in his community is more highly respected or esteemed, and he has been called upon to settle a number of estates in Livingston, Will and Grundy counties, and is now in charge of three estates as executor and administrator.

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S. H. POTTER, D. D. S.

S. H. Potter, D. D. S., a prominent and successful dentist of Dwight, Illinois, was born on the 7th of July, 1874, in Sheldon, Iroquois county, this state, and is a son of M. G. and Mahala (Griswold) Potter, natives of New York state and pioneers of Iroquois county, Illinois. In early life the father engaged in farming and as a progressive and enterprising agriculturist he met with marked success, becoming owner of some five hundred acres of valuable land in that county. Having secured a handsome property he moved to Sheldon, in 1881, and has since lived a retired life, enjoying the fruits of former toil. In his family were ten children, nine of whom are still living.

Of this family Dr. Potter is ninth in order of birth. He received his literary education in the public schools of Sheldon and was graduated from the high school of that place. In 1893 he entered the Northwestern Dental College, of Chicago, where he pursued the regular course and was graduated in April, 1896, with the degree of D. D. S. That same month he came to Dwight and opened an office. Although he met with strong opposition from his competitors, he was not discouraged, and, as his skill and ability were soon widely recognized, he was not long in building up the excellent practice which he now enjoys. He is especially proficient in bridge and crown work and has met with remarkable success. His younger brother, Edgar C., was graduated at the Northwestern Dental College, May 1, 1900, and is now engaged in practice with our subject, under the firm name of Potter Brothers. Politically, the Doctor is identified with the Republican party, and socially, affiliated with Hebron Lodge, No. 176, K. P., of Dwight.

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JOHN Q. JOHNSON.

John Q. Johnson, whose home is on section 29, Esmen township, has been identified with the agricultural interests of Livingston county since July, 1857, and has borne an active part in its development and progress. He comes from across the sea, for he was born in Norway, November 1, 1835, and is a son of John and Martha (Iverson) Johnson, who spent their entire lives as farming people in that country. The father was four times married, and our subject is the youngest of the five children, two sons and three daughters, born of the second union. He

and a sister are now the only survivors. He was reared on a farm and had fair common school advantages. His knowledge of the English language has all been obtained through his own efforts since his emigration to America.

Before leaving Norway, Mr. Johnson was married, in April, 1856, to Miss Caroline Mitchell, also a native of that country, and the following year they came to the new world, taking passage on a sailing vessel at Stovanger and reaching Quebec, Canada, after a voyage of six weeks. They crossed the lakes to Chicago and proceeded at once to La Salle county, this state, where friends from Norway had previously located. Soon afterward they came to Livingston county and located in the town of Amity, where they made their home while Mr. Johnson worked by the day or month as a farm hand four or five years. He next rented land, and in 1864 bought eighty acres of the farm in Esmen township, where he now resides. At that time it was wild prairie with no improvements, but he built thereon a small house and soon placed the land under excellent cultivation. He has since purchased an adjoining eighty-acre tract, and the whole has been converted into a well-improved farm. He has tiled and fenced the land, has erected a good residence and substantial outbuildings, and has set out fruit and shade trees. In 1893 he bought another place of forty acres on section 29, Esmen township, where he now lives, and he has since made many improvements upon that farm.

To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been born seven children, namely: Isabel and Martha, twins, the former of whom died at the age of seven years, the latter now the wife of James Street, of Hamilton county, Iowa; Mitchell, who is married and engaged in

farming in Minnesota; John, who is married and assists in the operation of his father's farms; Dora, wife of Oliver Henderocker, of Hamilton county, Iowa; Isabel, wife of James Jacobson, a farmer of South Dakota, and Theodore, who died at the age of three years.

Since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, in 1864, Mr. Johnson has been an ardent Republican in politics, and has given his support to every enterprise which he believed would prove of public benefit. He served one year as road commissioner and was a member of the school board three years, but has never sought official honors. Religiously, both he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church and are highly respected and esteemed by all who know them.

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#### GEORGE SKINNER.

The deserved reward of a well-spent life is an honored retirement from business in which to enjoy the fruits of former toil. To-day, after a useful and beneficial career, Mr. Skinner is quietly living at his beautiful home in Pontiac, surrounded by the comfort that earnest labor has brought him.

Mr. Skinner was born in Troy, Ohio, December 5, 1822, a son of Joseph M. and Lydia (Stillwell) Skinner. His paternal grandfather was George Skinner, a Revolutionary soldier, who was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, in May, 1761, and there was married, September 23, 1789, to Susanna Freeman, who was born in April, 1759. At an early day they floated down the Ohio river to Cincinnati, and located

on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Milford, Ohio, one mile from Camp Dennison, which place is still in possession of the family. There the grandfather died in 1853, his wife in 1849.

Joseph M. Skinner, father of our subject, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, January 25, 1795, and accompanied his parents on their removal to Ohio, where he grew to manhood, remaining at home until he attained his majority. On the 27th of September, 1820, he married Lydia Stillwell, who was born in New Jersey, January 24, 1792. As a young man he built many mills in the unbroken forests of Ohio. On leaving the parental roof, he went to Troy, that state, and entered a general mercantile store, later becoming a leading merchant and prominent business man of that section. He engaged in pork packing through the winter months and also shipped produce quite extensively down the Miami, Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans. At that time it required three months to go to New York, buy goods and convey them to his store, as the trip had to be made with horses. Value of money was unstable and postage on a letter amounted to twenty-five cents. Mr. Skinner owned the first freight boat at Troy, which proved of great benefit to the township, and he was extensively engaged in the freighting business for some years. Later he owned and conducted a branch store at Covington, Ohio, and when the canal was completed engaged in the commission and shipping business, owning and running boats on the canal, while he left his partner in charge of the store at Troy. General Harrison was present at the opening of the canal, and our subject well remembers that important occasion. The father had served in the war of 1812 under that general, was a strong

Whig and anti-slavery man, but never an office seeker. For many years he was an elder in the Presbyterian church and also a Mason, but during the Morgan trouble, he was forced, by public opinion of the church, to withdraw from the order. He died September 12, 1869, and his wife passed away December 19, 1860.

Our subject was educated in a subscription school at Troy, and during his youth assisted in his father's store. Later he commenced to learn the tanner's trade at Covington, Ohio, where he remained one year. Later, Mr. McCorkle, the leading tanner of Troy, dying, he took charge of the business, his father being administrator of the estate. In 1851 he went to Louisville, Kentucky, where he was engaged in the ice business, being the first man to bring northern ice into that city. This he shipped down the Ohio river. He was living there during the great American, or "Knownothing" mob, of 1856, but that summer he was forced to give up his business on account of failing health, and came to Livingston county, Illinois. He purchased two hundred and ten acres of land in Odell township, near the station of Cayuga, and in the spring of 1857 brought his family to their new home. They often traveled ten or fifteen miles without seeing a single habitation of any sort, and wolves were still quite numerous in this region. Mr. Skinner's land was still in its primitive condition when he located thereon, but he soon broke and tilled it, and erected good and substantial buildings, making it one of the most desirable farms of its size in the county. Though he still owns the place, he has made his home in Pontiac for the past twelve years, and has a fine brick residence here, which is supplied with many comforts and luxuries. In connection with general



farming he always engaged in stock raising, and while living in the country served as school director, but would never accept political positions.

In the fall of 1862 Mr. Skinner returned to his old home in Troy, Ohio, where he remained two years. As a young man he had been a member of the La Fayette Blues of that place, an infantry company that drilled all over the state, and in May, 1864, he joined the Home Guards as a member of Company K, One Hundred and Forty-seventh Ohio Infantry. They first went to Camp Dennison, Ohio, and from there to Fort Morris, Washington, D. C., where they were stationed at the attack of General Ewell, the last attempt of the rebels to capture the capital. Mr. Skinner remained there until the close of his term of enlistment and was mustered out at Camp Dennison.

On the 12th of April, 1849, Mr. Skinner was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Shafer, who was born November 15, 1829, a daughter of Eckert and Rachel (Smith) Shafer. Her father was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, December 29, 1804, a son of George and Barbara Shafer, and was reared in Earl township, Lancaster county, between that city and Philadelphia. His father was of German descent and a soldier of the Revolutionary war. Mrs. Skinner's mother was born at New Holland, Pennsylvania, March 25, 1809, a daughter of Edward Smith. After following farming in his native state for several years Eckert Shafer left there in the spring of 1847, accompanied by his wife and six children, and moved to Troy, Ohio, by way of the canal and Ohio river. He bought a farm two miles from Troy, where his wife died March 7, 1854. Later he came

to Livingston county, Illinois, and purchased land in Esmen township, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted his energies until after his children were all married. He then made his home with his eldest child, Mrs. Skinner, dying there December 13, 1882.

Mr. and Mrs. Skinner have a family of nine children, namely: Loretta, wife of John J. Pfau, of Odell; Clara L., wife of Joseph French, of Indiana, by whom she has one daughter, Edna May; Elias Freeman, now a resident of Missouri; Rachel L., who married James Jones, of Streator, Illinois, and they have three children; Martha L., who married J. W. Adams, traveling passenger agent for the Vanderbilt lines, and a resident of San Francisco, and they have four children, Nona L., Nina L., George J. and Harry V.; Eckert, also a resident of California; Joseph Morris, who married Minnie Streator, has one child, Irma, and operates the home farm near Cayuga; Luella and Emma L., at home.

Both our subject and his wife are active members of the Presbyterian church. He assisted in organizing the church at Cayuga, and was one of the leading contributors to the erection of the house of worship there. He also served as elder of the church at Louisville, Kentucky, and has filled that office ever since in different societies with which he has been connected. He was most of the time superintendent of the Sunday school during his residence at Cayuga, and has never missed in his attendance at Sunday school or church since coming to Pontiac. His life has been exemplary in all respects, and it is safe to say that no man in his community is held in higher regard or is more deserving the respect and esteem of his fellow men than George Skinner. He has

been an active worker for the Republican party and its principles, but has never been an aspirant for office.

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### JOHN KULL.

It is astonishing to witness the success of men who have emigrated to America without capital and from a position of comparative obscurity have worked their way upward to a position of prominence. The readiness with which they adapt themselves to circumstances and take advantage of opportunities offered brings to them success and wins them a place among the leading business men of the community in which they reside. No better illustration of this can be found than in the life of John Kull, the well known proprietor of the Pontiac Steam Mill and manager of a meal and feed store on the Alton Railroad and Water street, Pontiac, of which place he has been a resident since October 11, 1894.

Mr. Kull was born in Niederlenz, Canton Argau, northeastern Switzerland, October 5, 1834, a son of John Kull, a baker by trade, who spent his entire life there. Our subject attended school there, but the times being hard he commenced work at the early age of nine years with the hope of being of some assistance to his parents. He entered the spinning room of a cotton factory, where he worked from six in the morning until nine at night, with only an hour each day for dinner, and received only the equivalent to one dollar per month in our money. When all tired out with the day's work he had to walk a distance of three miles to his home before getting his supper. In the winter he put in six hours of school work each day

during the six years spent in the cotton factory. At the end of that time he began serving a three-years apprenticeship to the miller's trade with his uncle, and while thus employed received only his board and clothes in compensation for his labor, but he thoroughly learned the business and at the age of eighteen had a good trade, having passed the examination and received his papers.

Wishing to see more of the country Mr. Kull traveled over Switzerland and Germany, working in mills in all of the important cities of those countries. He also spent some time in France and learned to handle and put together the French burrs, this being an important part of his trade. By working in so many different mills he gained a varied knowledge of the methods in use and became an expert miller. Returning to Basal, Switzerland, one of the largest cities of his native land, he served as head miller in its largest mill for three years to the entire satisfaction of the owners.

In April, 1867, Mr. Kull came to the United States, landing in New York after a fifteen-days voyage in a steamer with an excellent knowledge of a good trade, but unable to speak a word of English. Coming directly to Highland, Illinois, he served as miller there for a time, and then went to Pocahontas, Illinois, where he was similarly employed for three years. He then removed to Greenville, Boone county, Illinois, and took charge of a mill for J. E. Walls, an English gentleman, who wanted a first-class, practical miller. All of the employees of the mill being Americans but himself, he learned the English language more readily than had ever before been necessary, and this has since been of great advantage to him. From Greenville he went to Litchfield, Illinois, and other places throughout

this state, and also various places in eastern, southwestern and northwestern Missouri. Subsequently he had charge of some of the best mills in Kansas. On the 1st of October, 1894, he came to Pontiac, Illinois, to take charge of the Pontiac Steam Mill for F. E. Wuerpel & Company, of St. Louis, and in March, 1897, purchased the mill, which he has since successfully conducted on his own account, having built up a good business. He has the leading custom trade of the city, receiving the patronage of all the extensive farmers of this section of the county who have grain to grind. He is also general agent for the Jersey Lily flour, made by Jennison Brothers & Company, of Janesville, Minnesota, and has built up a fine wholesale and retail trade, as the flour is of a superior quality and gives excellent satisfaction. As a wholesale dealer he sells in car-load lots. In the spring of 1900 he equipped his mill with electric motors and now very successfully uses electricity for his motive power. He was the first miller in this part of the county to adopt it and this shows the characteristic enterprise of the man. While by nature conservative, he is yet ready to adopt new ideas in his business and keep in the front.

On the 18th of June, 1867, in Pocahontas, Illinois, Mr. Kull married Miss Karoline Bornhauser, who was born in Weinfelden, Canton Thurgau, Switzerland, and who came to this country on the same vessel with him, joining her father, Jacob Bornhauser, a cabinetmaker by trade, who crossed the Atlantic in 1866. By this union has been born one daughter, Carrie. Mr. Kull and his wife are both earnest members of the Presbyterian church and he is a Democrat in politics. He is enterprising and progressive and gives his support to any

object he believes will prove of public benefit. He was one of the men who felt the need of a bridge at Vermillion street. He got up the petition and secured a subscription of nine hundred dollars from citizens and also a good one from the Chicago & Alton Railroad Company. With such a backing the council passed the ordinance and appropriated twenty-five hundred dollars to the enterprise, while the board of supervisors gave one thousand dollars. So Mr. Kull was really the founder of the bridge, which is a great improvement to the western part of the city. Its need was long felt, but it required an active and energetic man like Mr. Kull to carry the enterprise through successfully.

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#### WILHELM BISCHOFF.

Wilhelm Bischoff, an industrious and enterprising agriculturist residing on section 14, Avoca township, Livingston county, is a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Towanda township, McLean county, February 5, 1862. His parents, Ludwig and Mary (Allendorff) Bischoff, were both natives of Germany and came to America when young, about 1850. Their marriage was celebrated in Bloomington, Illinois, and in the vicinity of Towanda, McLean county, they began their domestic life upon a farm which Mr. Bischoff had rented. They remained residents of that county until coming to Livingston county in 1870, when they located on the farm now occupied by our subject. The father purchased the property and at once began to clear away the timber and break the land, having previously erected a small house suitable for a home for the family. He died in 1893, having survived

his wife several years, her death occurring in 1894. Both were consistent members of the Lutheran church, and he was a Republican in politics and an ardent worker for the party. In their family were five children, two sons and three daughters, but two died in childhood. Wilhelm, our subject, is the oldest of those who reached maturity; Matilda is now the wife of Richard Morton, who lives south of Fairbury; and Alvena married F. Burley, of Pleasant Ridge township, and died in 1889.

Wilhelm Bischoff came with the family to Livingston county and upon the home farm he grew to manhood, his education being acquired in the district schools of Avoca township. He early became familiar with the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist and has never left the homestead, but carried on farming successfully with his father until the latter's death, since which time he has had entire charge of the place, consisting of one hundred and twenty acres of good land, nearly forty of which are covered with timber, while the remainder is under a high state of cultivation. He has added, by purchase, an eighty-acre tract, giving him a farm of two hundred acres. He is a thrifty and energetic farmer, and by these means has made a success of his labors. He raises hogs for the Chicago market and in all his undertakings has steadily prospered.

In 1890 Mr. Bischoff was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Funk, who was born August 22, 1869, in Morton, Illinois, and daughter of John and Christian Funk. Her parents, dying when she was an infant, left her in care of relatives, with whom she made her home until reaching womanhood. She has a sister, Mrs. Christina Lucas, who resides in Stonington, Illinois. Mr.

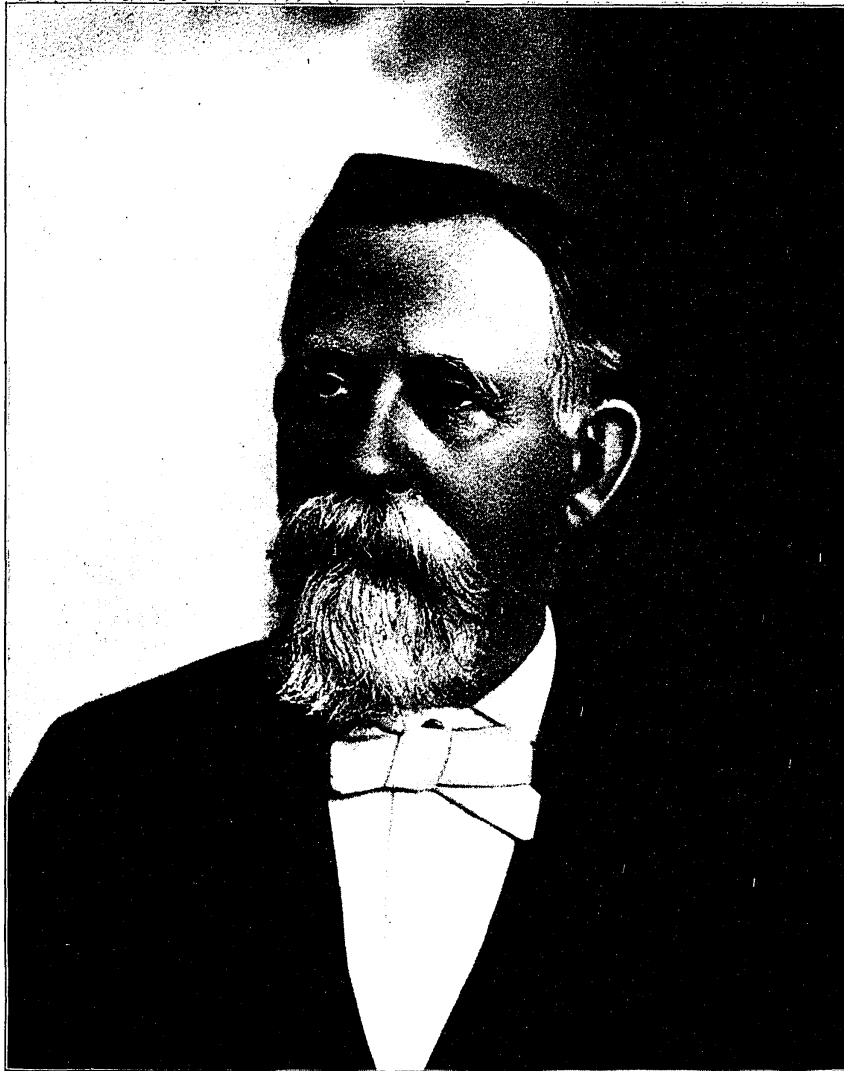
and Mrs. Bischoff have four children: Clarence L., Ethel Mae, Lester E. and Irving F., all attending the district school with exception of the youngest. The parents are active members and liberal supporters of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Bischoff is also a member of the Modern Woodmen Camp of Fairbury and the Court of Honor, in which later his wife is a member. He has always been a staunch supporter of the Republican party, but would never accept office or hold any public position, preferring that they should be given to men whom he considers more worthy of them. He is, however, public spirited and progressive and gives his support to those measures which he believes will prove of public benefit.

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#### JAMES A. CALDWELL.

Prominent among the enterprising, energetic and progressive business men of Pontiac, Illinois, is the subject of this sketch, who is now devoting his time and attention to the real estate, insurance and abstract business. He was born in Charleston, West Virginia, March 22, 1831, a son of Joseph and Mary Ann (Adams) Caldwell.

Joseph Caldwell, the progenitor of the family in the United States, emigrated with his family from Derry, Ireland, in 1769, and settled in Sherman's Valley, Perry county, Pennsylvania. He was of Scotch descent. About 1780 he moved farther west, locating on Sewickley creek, Pennsylvania. He had five children, of whom Joseph, the eldest, was the great-grandfather of our subject. The grandfather was James Caldwell, who was born in Ireland, February 21, 1759, and was about



J. A. CALDWELL.

ten years of age when brought to America. He married Sarah Byram, who was born February 13, 1763, and was the eldest child of Edward Byram. At an early day her father moved with his family to the neighborhood of Fort Pitt, now Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and on the 7th of April, 1779, during the Revolutionary war, he and one daughter were captured by the Indians and taken to Canada, where they remained in captivity for a year. The child was allowed to ride with the Indians on horseback a part of the way, but Mr. Byram was compelled to walk. In 1780 they were taken to Montreal and later to Quebec, being in prison at both places, and finally, in the spring of 1781, were transferred by boat with other English prisoners through Lake Champlain and Lake George, then down the Hudson river and on to Morristown, New Jersey,—their old home.

The Byram family is traced back to Nicholas Byram, son of a gentleman of prominence in Kent county, England. He was born in 1610, and as a boy was sent in charge of an agent to a remote school, but the agent took his gold and placed the boy on board a ship to the West Indies, where he was sold to pay his passage. Secreted in his clothes was some gold given him by his mother and with this he came to Massachusetts Bay in 1633 or 1634. He settled in Weymouth, Massachusetts. Edward Byram, previously mentioned, was descended from John and Priscilla Alden in the fifth generation. For a more extended history of this family see the book entitled "Abby Byram and her Father, the Indian Captives," published at Ottumwa, Iowa, in 1898.

After his marriage James Caldwell, our subject's grandfather, became a farmer of

Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, where he spent his life, dying there July 11, 1847. His wife passed away prior to 1833. He was a zealous Christian, strong and positive in his belief, and served as elder of the Sewickley Presbyterian church for some years. Most of his sons adhered to that faith and the father of our subject was educated for the Presbyterian ministry. He was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, in 1786, and was a student at the college in Cannonsburg, that state,—the oldest college west of the mountains. In early manhood he removed to Charleston, West Virginia, where he embarked in merchandising, and became one of the most prominent and successful business men of the place. He married Miss Mary Ann Adams, who was teaching school in Tennessee at that time. She was a native of Weston, Massachusetts, and a granddaughter of Alpheus Bigelow, who as a Revolutionary soldier participated in the battle of Concord. On both sides she was descended from old New England families. She was born in 1811 and died in 1890, having long survived her husband, who died at Charleston in 1848. Of their eight children who reached years of maturity our subject is the oldest.

James A. Caldwell was about eighteen years of age at the time of his father's death; he received a good academic education in his native city and began his business career as clerk in a drug store at Charleston, West Virginia, where he continued to make his home until 1865, covering the period of the Civil war. There he engaged in business for himself for a time. He first married, in 1860, Miss Jennie Harvey, of Springfield, Ohio, a daughter of Captain John Harvey, but she died in 1873, leaving two children, one of whom, Jennie, is still living.

In July, 1865, Mr. Caldwell came to Pontiac, Illinois, and embarked in the drug business on West Madison street in partnership with John A. Fellows, under the firm name of Fellows & Caldwell. They continued in business together for some years and were finally succeeded by the firm of Caldwell & McGregor, who for twenty-five years carried on a most successful business, theirs being by far the oldest drug store or business firm in the city. To their stock of drugs and books they later added jewelry and built up a good trade in that line. They built the block on the northeast corner of Mill and Madison streets, then the finest business block in the city, and also bought the opposite corner, and after selling the front part improved the remainder of the property. In 1895 the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Caldwell retired from the drug trade. For about eighteen months he conducted a grocery store, and since disposing of that has successfully engaged in the insurance and real estate business, handling property for others as well as himself. After the dissolution of the firm of Fellows & Caldwell he bought lots 4 and 5 at the corner of Madison and Plum streets, which he subdivided into three business lots and sold to different parties. About 1880, in partnership with Mr. McGregor, he bought twenty feet front on the corner where the Sterry block now stands and sold it afterward to C. W. Sterry. At the time of purchase it was covered with a two-story business house. Mr. Caldwell still owns six residences in the city and has a nice home at the corner of Mill and Grove streets.

In September, 1874, Mr. Caldwell was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Lovina Hill, of Pontiac, a daughter of G. E. Tibbets, who came here in 1866 from

Maine, which was the birthplace of Mrs. Caldwell. They are active members of the Presbyterian church, in which our subject is now serving as elder. He has been a member of the official board many years and was superintendent of the Sunday school some time. He always supported the Democratic party until the campaign of 1896, but could not endorse the principles advocated by the Chicago platform. He has made an untarnished record and unspotted reputation as a business man. In all places and under all circumstances he is loyal to truth, honor and right, justly valuing his own self-respect as infinitely more preferable than wealth, fame and position. His success has been the result of honest, persistent effort in the line of honorable and manly dealing.

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#### GEORGE W. WOMELDORFF.

George W. Womeldorff, one of the highly respected citizens and successful farmers of Eppards Point township, residing on section 33, is a native of Illinois, born near Tremont, Tazewell county, February 22, 1846. His father, Daniel Womeldorff, was born in Gallia county, Ohio, in 1804, and there married Miss Harriet N. Kerr, a native of the same county and a daughter of Major John M. Kerr, an officer of the war of 1812. After his marriage Mr. Womeldorff followed farming in Ohio until 1844, when he came to Illinois and settled in Tazewell county. For about four years he was engaged in flat-boating down the Mississippi to New Orleans, and then turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, having purchased a claim in Tazewell county. Upon that place he died in 1852. Subsequently

his widow took her family back to Ohio, locating in the old neighborhood in Gallia county.

There our subject grew to manhood and attended the common schools. On the 25th of March, 1863, at the age of seventeen years, he joined the boys in blue of the Civil war, enlisting as a private in Company L, Seventh Ohio Cavalry, which was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee, under command of General Sherman. He participated in the battle of Stone River, the engagements of the Atlanta campaign, and then with his command went to the relief of General Thomas at Nashville. They were in the battle of Franklin and followed Hood to the Tennessee river. At Gravelly Springs, Alabama, Mr. Womeldorff was severely wounded, being shot in the left fore-arm and left side and receiving a saber thrust in the right leg and a scratch on the right shoulder. He was sent to a hospital boat at Waterloo on the Tennessee river, and fourteen days later was taken to Jeffersonville, Indiana, where he remained in the hospital until June 5, 1865, when honorably discharged from the service, though his wounds did not heal for nearly a year after his return home.

Mr. Womeldorff then attended a select school for nine months and engaged in farming in Ohio for a year, but in the fall of 1867 he returned to Tazewell county, Illinois, in company with his mother, youngest brother and sister. They drove the entire distance and located in Tremont. For eighteen months our subject was employed as overseer of a farm and in 1869 came to Livingston county, operating a rented farm in Pike township for three years, while his mother and sister kept house for him.

In that township Mr. Womeldorff was married, March 18, 1873, to Miss Maria C.

Beeks, a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of James H. Beeks, who moved to Marshall county, Illinois, in 1853, and later to Livingston county, but is now a resident of Arkansas City, Kansas. Of the twelve children born to Mr. and Mrs. Womeldorff five died in infancy. Those living are Eula, wife of John W. Farley, of Eppards Point township; Eugene, at home; Della, wife of Albert D. Hewitt, of Pontiac; Gilbert, Minnie, Ethel and Bertel, all at home. Mr. Womeldorff's mother died at his home December 28, 1898, at the advanced age of eighty-four years.

For two years after his marriage our subject continued to engage in farming upon rented land in Pike township, where he subsequently purchased a tract of eighty acres. This he sold six years later and bought one hundred acres in the same township, upon which he also resided six years. On disposing of that property, in 1887, he bought his present farm of two hundred acres on section 33, Eppards Point township, to which he has subsequently added a forty-acre tract. He has made many useful and valuable improvements upon the place, and now has one of the most desirable farms of its size in the township. Starting out in life for himself empty-handed, his career illustrates what can be accomplished through industry, perseverance, good management and a determination to succeed.

While with the army at Atlanta, Georgia, in 1864, Mr. Womeldorff cast his first presidential vote for Lincoln and has since been a staunch supporter of the Republican party. He has served his fellow citizens as supervisor and is now filling the office of township trustee. He has also been school director for thirteen years and president of his district in both Pike and Eppards Point town-



ships. Religiously he and all his family, with the exception of the youngest son, are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Weston, McLean county, and take an active part in church and Sunday school work. He is a prominent member of the Grand Army Post at Chenoa, in which he has served as commander and is now vice-commander. In times of peace as well as in war he is recognized as a most patriotic and useful citizen, and is held in high regard by all with whom he comes in contact, either in business or social life.

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#### LESTER EDWIN KENT.

Lester Edwin Kent, a retired grain dealer and a prominent early settler of Pontiac, was born in Suffield, Hartford county, Connecticut, August 18, 1834, a son of Edwin and Huldah (Jewett) Kent, also natives of that state, his ancestors being among its pioneers. The father was of English extraction and of good Revolutionary stock. He was a farmer of Suffield and a man of considerable prominence in his community, serving as selectman and road commissioner. There both he and his wife died. She was a consistent member of the Baptist church.

Our subject was educated in the common schools and academy of his native town and remained at home until he attained his majority. In 1855 he came west to Chicago, Illinois, but first located in Kane county, having a cousin living at Kaneville, where he spent one year. In the fall of 1856 he came to Pontiac and entered the employ of Sidney A. Kent, a grain dealer and a very prominent man, who recently died in Chicago. While with him our subject became

thoroughly familiar with the grain business in all its details, and in 1858 purchased the elevator in Pontiac and embarked in the business on his own account. The elevator was located on the Chicago & Alton Railroad, which was then run by Governor Matteson.

At that time grain was brought into Pontiac from distances of twenty or twenty-five miles, and as the wagons of the farmers would not hold shelled corn Mr. Kent furnished them with sacks. The elevators were often more than full and sacks would be piled up elsewhere like cord wood. It was sometimes impossible to get box cars to ship the grain and it had to be loaded on flat cars. Mr. Kent soon became interested in the grain business in other towns. He enlarged the elevator at Fairbury, when that place contained but one small house and store and before the railroad was built. He would drive over in the morning and back again at night. He built the first elevator at Odell, when it had but one store, and was instrumental in building up the town, as farmers bringing their grain to the elevator wished to do their trading there. At Odell the grain was shoveled into the cars at first. Mr. Kent also built the first elevators at Cayuga and Blackstone, this county, where he also engaged in the lumber business, and for two years shipped grain from Nevada, but did not build there. In those days he was the largest shipper on the Alton road, and would load full trains at both Pontiac and Blackstone; the road being short of cars they would run a train in for him to load immediately. He kept one man at Ocoya and furnished employment to a number of others most of the time. Most of his grain was shipped to Chicago. For over twenty-five years he continued to be at the head of

the grain trade in this county and gave his attention entirely to that business. He advanced money liberally to farmers in need of assistance when starting out, and was of great help to Pontiac in bringing trade here, as well as to the other towns where he had elevators.

Mr. Kent was also one of the original stockholders of the Pontiac National Bank and served as its vice-president for a number of years. At one time he owned and operated a distillery and was engaged in cattle feeding. He went into the former business to assist a man in difficulty, knowing nothing of the business, and got into trouble with the government, as the taxes were not paid, but owing to his influence and it being ascertained that the delinquency was prior to his taking possession he was soon cleared. He closed the distillery, but fed cattle for some years, doing a big business in that line, shipping in cattle from Chicago.

Mr. Kent married Miss Antoinette Graves, of Joliet, and they have one daughter, Mary L., wife of Victor Pearre, of Pontiac, by whom she has two children, William Payson and Kent Alden. He attends and supports the Episcopal church, of which his family are members. About 1865 he purchased a half-block at No. 206 North Court, opposite the park, which property he still owns and occupies, it having been improved by him. In 1894 he retired from active business and is now enjoying a well earned rest.

Socially Mr. Kent is a member of Pontiac lodge, No. 294, F. & A. M., and belongs to the chapter, council and St. Paul's Commandery, all of Fairbury. He has always affiliated with the Republican party, casting his first presidential vote for Fremont in 1856. He served as alderman from the second ward for four years and was in-

strumental in getting seventy-five car-loads of stone put into the street from the court house to the depot and also a sidewalk around the court house square. Having shipped so much over the Chicago & Alton road he got Mr. Chappel to ship the stone free of freight charges. This stone made an excellent foundation for the city streets. He has taken an active interest in promoting the welfare of the town and county, encouraging and aiding all enterprises tending to benefit the public, and enjoys in a high degree the confidence and esteem of his fellow men.

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#### LEONARD WEBER.

Leonard Weber, a representative agriculturist of Pike township, residing on section 10, has made his home in Livingston county since 1869 and has taken an active part in its development. He was born in New York February 2, 1850, and is a son of George Weber, who was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, about 1822, and emigrated to the United States when a young man, locating near Utica, New York, where he married Sophia Horner, also a native of Wurtemberg. Her father died in Germany and she came to America at the same time as her future husband. In this country Mr. Weber worked for others and also engaged in teaming in New York for some years, three of his children having been born in that state, but in 1856 he came to Illinois and first settled in Woodford county, where he engaged in farming on rented land for several years. At length he was able to purchase a small place in the southern part of the county, and on disposing of the same, in 1869, he bought a farm of one hundred

and sixty acres in Pike township, Livingston county, which at that time was but slightly improved. After operating it for several years he sold and bought another place in Pike township, which he subsequently disposed of, and now makes his home in Pontiac township, where he owns a valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres.

The subject of this sketch was a lad of six years when he came to this state, and in Woodford and Livingston counties he grew to manhood, his education being acquired in the public schools near his home. He remained with his father until he attained his majority, and then rented a farm on section 3, Pike township, where he engaged in farming for about six years. Mr. Weber was married in this county, April 2, 1878, to Miss Barbara Fischer, a native of Woodford county, Illinois, and a daughter of Joseph Fischer, a substantial farmer of Pike township, Livingston county, who was formerly a resident of Woodford county and was born in Germany. Mrs. Weber was reared and educated in this county. Our subject and his wife have a family of three children: Barbara S., Joseph G. and Leonard F., all at home.

After his marriage Mr. Weber continued to engage in farming upon rented land for about five years. He rented his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 10, Pike township, for two years and then purchased the place, to the further improvement and cultivation of which he has since devoted his energies. In his farming operations he is meeting with marked success and the prosperity that has come to him is certainly justly merited, for it is due entirely to his own unaided efforts and good management. Politically Mr. Weber is identified with the Democratic party on na-

tional issues, but at local elections votes for the men whom he believes best qualified to fill the offices regardless of party lines. For three years he served as school director, but has never cared for political honors. Religiously both he and his wife are members of the Evangelical church of Eppards Point.

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#### EDWARD O. REED.

Edward O. Reed, who for several years has been prominently identified with the public affairs of Livingston county, and is now most acceptably serving as county treasurer, was born in Bloomington, Illinois, June 12, 1860, a son of Captain Henry B. and Esther (Beck) Reed. The father is a native of Pennsylvania, born near Pottsville, Schuylkill county, January 29, 1833, and there grew to manhood and married. In early life he learned the shoemaker's trade, which he followed prior to the Civil war. On coming to Illinois, he settled in Naperville, later spent a short time in Joliet, and then moved to Bloomington. In the fall of 1860 he came to Pontiac, where he was engaged in the shoe business until the following spring, when he enlisted in Company D, Twentieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until after the battle of Shiloh. On the field at Fort Donelson, he was promoted for gallant service to the rank of second lieutenant, and our subject now has in his possession a reward of merit issued by Governor Yates. His term of enlistment having expired, Lieutenant Reed returned home. While being paid off at St. Louis, the paymaster told the government needed such men as he and suggested that he see Governor Yates. This he failed to

do, but the Governor sent for him and asked him to help recruit three companies in this part of the state. He helped recruit five, and again went to the front as captain of Company G, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was with Sherman on the march to the sea and remained in the service until the close of the war, participating in the grand review at Washington, District of Columbia. Returning to his home in Pontiac, he resumed the shoe business, which he carried on until appointed by Governor Oglesby as custodian of memorial hall in the state house at Springfield, and served four years at that time, being the first in the new hall and attending to the arranging of all the flags, etc. He proved a most capable official and was re-appointed by Governor Fifer. He is an honored member and commander of T. Lytle Dickey Post, G. A. R., also belongs to Pontiac Lodge, No. 294, F. & A. M., and both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is now living a retired life in Pontiac. A more extended mention of this worthy gentleman may be found on another page of this volume.

Our subject was educated in the public schools of Pontiac, and during his youth served an apprenticeship to the cigarmaker's trade, at which he worked until twenty-seven years of age, when he formed a partnership with John C. Riess, under the firm name of Reed & Riess, and started a manufactory of their own, which they still conduct. They have met with marked success in the undertaking and furnish employment to six or eight men. Mr. Reed built up the trade as a traveling man, but the firm now sells their goods mainly to home consumers, in this county. He owns a good store building and

a fine residence on South Mill street, where he makes his home. He was married, December 15, 1897, to Miss Eunice Stott, a daughter of John Martin Stott, of Chicago, and they have one daughter, Esther.

Since attaining his majority Mr. Reed has been an ardent Republican in politics and has taken a prominent and influential part in public affairs. He was serving as alderman from the third ward when the water works were put in and the sewer system adopted, the city being bonded to put in the sewers. Before his term expired he was elected assistant supervisor and was a member of the finance committee that found the ways and means by which the county could build the new court house, the contract being let to a contractor providing he would take the county warrants. It was built at a cost of sixty thousand dollars and is one of the finest in this section of the state. In the fall of 1894, before his time as assistant supervisor expired, Mr. Reed was elected county sheriff and entered upon the duties of the office in December, that year. That he filled the position in a most creditable and satisfactory manner is shown by his being elected county treasurer prior to the expiration of his term as sheriff, taking the office of treasurer the day he left the other office. When the auditing committee of the county checked up his four years as sheriff they found that the county was sixty dollars in his debt instead of their being deficiency. He was a member of the Sheriff's Association of the state. He is now supervisor of assessment of the county, which makes his position a very large and responsible one, and he handles over one hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year. His official duties have always been discharged with a fidelity and promptness worthy of the highest com-

mendation, and he has proved a most popular and efficient officer. Mr. Reed is now, in 1900, chairman of the Republican central committee of Livingston county, and the party organization will, under his administration, be kept intact, and the full vote of the party be polled. Fraternally he is a member of Pontiac Lodge, No. 294, F. & A. M.; Fairbury Chapter, R. A. M.; the Council R. & S. M., of Gibson City; and St. Paul Commandery, No. 34, K. T., of Fairbury. He also belongs to a number of mutual orders, including the Modern Woodmen of America.

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#### MRS. MARIA OWEN.

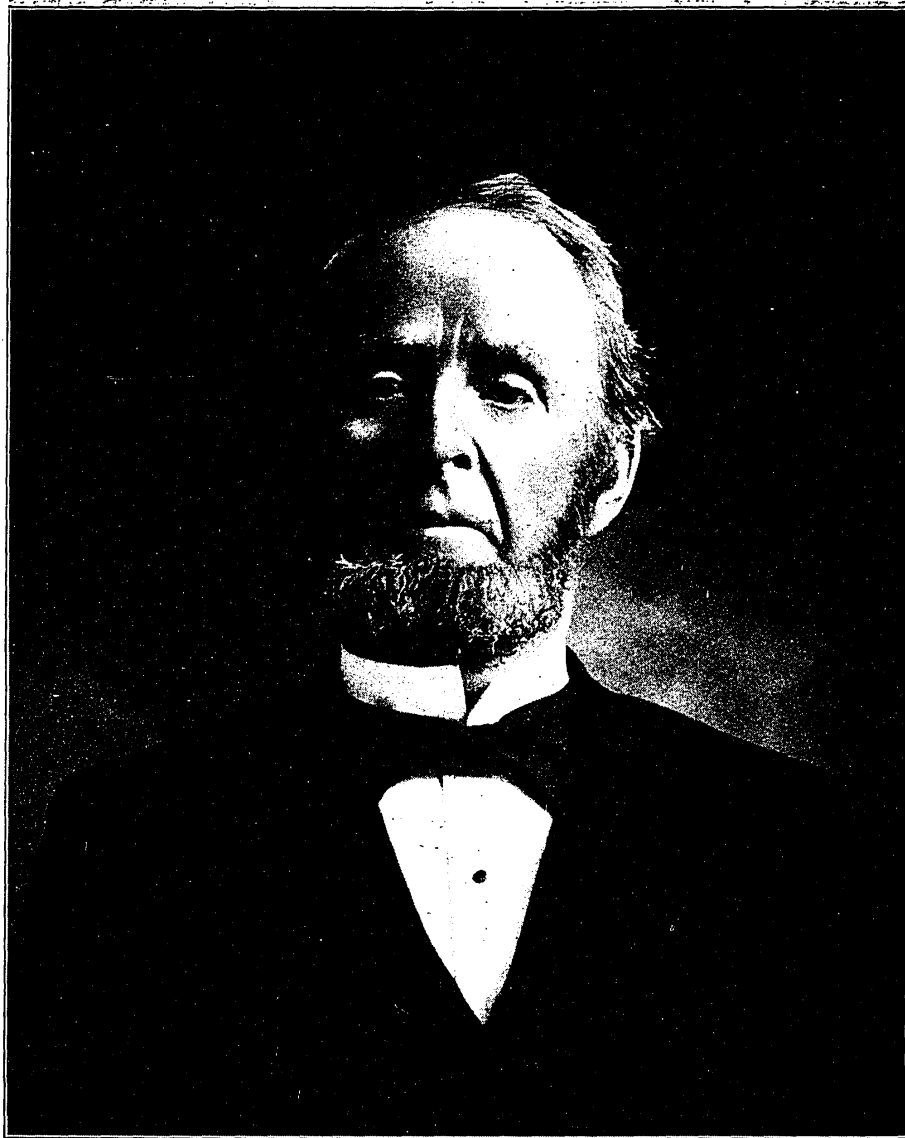
Mrs. Maria Owen, who now has the distinction of having been a resident of Pontiac longer than any other of its citizens, came here with her husband in 1842. She has witnessed almost the entire development of the county, has seen its wild lands transformed into beautiful homes and farms, its hamlets grow into villages and thriving towns and all of the interests and evidences of an advanced civilization introduced.

Mrs. Owen was born January 16, 1812, in New York, fourteen miles from Lake Ontario, and is a daughter of Starks and Esther (Gilbert) Tracy. The father was a native of Sharon, New York, born April 3, 1778, and an early settler of Oswego county, where he bought land prior to his marriage and there continued to make his home throughout life. He was a farmer by occupation and one of the highly respected men of his community. His estimable wife was a member of the Congregational church. Both died in Oswego county, New York. Mrs. Owen's maternal grandfather was

Allen Gilbert, a soldier of the Revolutionary war, who was severely wounded in the head and left for dead on the battle-field, but was found and cared for until he recovered. At an early day he removed from Schoharie county, New York, to Oswego county, where his daughter, Mrs. Tracy, was born August 23, 1793. He, too, was a farmer and a prominent man in his community.

In 1840 Mrs. Owen married Augustus Fellows, who, with his brother, owned a large farm in Oswego county, New York, but in 1842 he sold his interest in the same and purchased property in Pontiac, Illinois, whither the family removed in the fall of that year. The trip was made by way of the great lakes and Welland canal in a small propeller to Chicago, and they brought with them all their household effects, which were conveyed from that city to Ottawa, Illinois, by teamsters who were returning to the latter place, where Mr. Fellows had a sister living. There teams were hired to convey the family and their effects to their new home in Pontiac. A farm of two hundred acres and a number of town lots belonged to the estate they had traded for before coming west, so that they practically owned all of the present city at that time. There were only three families living there, and the buildings of the town consisted of a small frame house and the court house. Upon the farm, which adjoined the village on the east was a good two-room log house, with large fire places in both rooms, making it perfectly comfortable.

Selling his town lots, Mr. Fellows turned his attention to the improvement and cultivation of his farm and met with success in its operation. On the lot now occupied by Squire Woodrow's residence he built the first large hotel in Pontiac in 1847, and also



ELIJAH B. OWEN.



MRS. MARIA OWEN.