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HISTORY OF  
**Walworth County**  
WISCONSIN

BY  
ALBERT CLAYTON BECKWITH

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VOLUME II

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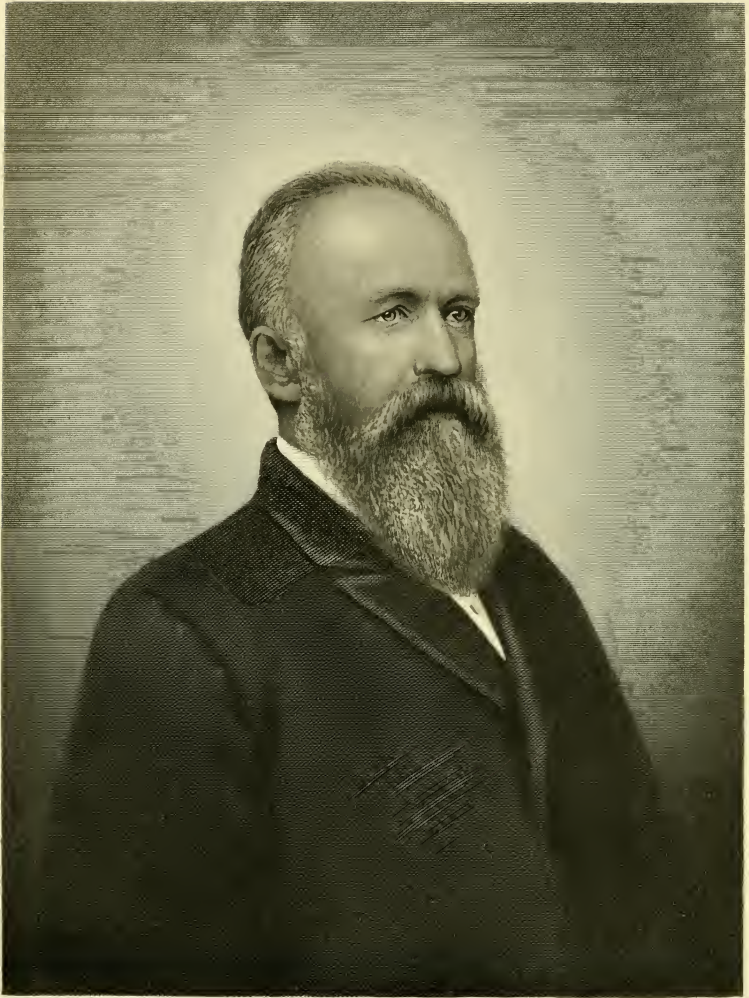
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*G. A. Buechee*

## BIOGRAPHICAL—Continued

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### FRANKLIN ASBURY BUCKBEE.

In the death of the late Franklin Asbury Buckbee, Walworth county lost one of its representative citizens. As the day, with its morning of hope and promise, its noontide of activity, its evening of complete and successful efforts, ending in the grateful rest and quiet of the night, so was the life of this honored man. His career was a long, busy and useful one, and although he devoted his attention primarily to his individual affairs, as is quite natural and right, he never allowed the pursuits of wealth to warp his kindly nature, but preserved his faculties and the warmth of his heart for the broadening and helping influences of human life, being to the end a kindly, genial friend and gentleman with whom it was a pleasure to meet and converse. Through the long years of his residence in this locality he was ever true to the trust reposed in him, whether of a public or private nature, and his reputation in a business way was unassailable. He commanded the respect of all by his upright life, and engraved his name indelibly on the pages of Walworth county's history.

Mr. Buckbee was born at Chili, Monroe county, New York, June 8, 1828. He was the son of Jesse and Mary (Secor) Buckbee. His mother was born in Orange county, New York, and was of French parentage. Her father, John Secor, was a large iron manufacturer, along the Hudson river, also operated a mill and a store; he was a slave owner. Mr. Buckbee's father was a farmer of English extraction. He was prominent in his community and very active and well known in the Methodist church. When Franklin A. Buckbee was seventeen years old the family moved to Rockford, Illinois, and engaged in farming near there. The father's death occurring soon after they took up their residence there, Franklin A. had to take his place at the head of the family, shouldering the responsibilities of the same. When he was twenty-four years old he engaged in the mercantile and produce business. When the Civil war came on he was a member of the Ellsworth Zouaves, that was drilled by the famous Major Ellsworth. He went to Chicago to drill troops there and became known as a splendid drillmaster. He accom-

panied the troops to Kentucky, but was taken very seriously ill with a fever and was brought back to Illinois. Much as he wished to go back into service, he was dissuaded from doing so. He came to Walworth county in 1864 and settled in the town of Lyons and engaged in farming in that vicinity, having charge of a farm of two hundred and twenty-nine acres, belonging to Doctor Palmer, his wife's father. In 1874 he and his wife and her mother went to California, where they remained until July, 1875, then returned to Walworth county, locating at Lake Geneva.

Mr. Buckbee took a great deal of interest in public affairs and he served as justice of the peace at Lake Geneva from 1877 until about 1906. He was also police justice from May, 1879, until about 1906, when failing eyesight compelled him to give up the position which he had filled with such signal satisfaction. He also served two years in the Legislative Assembly, having been elected in 1866 and again in 1873, and there he made his influence felt for the good of his community and the party. As a public servant he performed his every duty most faithfully, in a manner that reflected much credit upon himself and to the eminent satisfaction of his constituents, eliciting their hearty approval by his fairness, promptness and commendable course. He was a wide reader and kept well advised on current questions and issues on which men and parties divide, and knew the working of the civic code and the basic principles of jurisprudence. He was justice of the peace for over twenty years, during which time his decisions were noted for their fairness and justice to all.

Mr. Buckbee was married in 1854 to Abigail Jennie Hubbard Palmer, daughter of Salmon and Abigail (Sears) Hubbard. Her parents died when she was young and she was adopted by Dr. A. S. Palmer and wife, Mrs. Palmer being a sister of Mrs. Buckbee's mother. Mrs. Buckbee was educated at Rockford College, Rockford, Illinois, being graduated from that institution in 1854, a member of the first graduating class of that institution. While there she met Mr. Buckbee and their acquaintance was continued until their marriage, ten years later. She is still residing at Lake Geneva, her pleasant, neatly kept and attractive residence facing that picturesque body of water.

Mr. Buckbee was active and prominent in Masonry; he was a Knight Templar, and was master of the blue lodge, also master of one of the higher degrees for a number of years.

The subject and wife spent considerable time in travel, passing many winters in the South, having large interests in real estate in various places, and they also spent one winter in Cuba.

The death of Franklin A. Buckbee occurred in the latter part of May, 1908. He was held in the highest esteem by the citizens of this locality. Personally, he was a man whom it was a pleasure to meet, genial, obliging, gentlemanly in demeanor, kind of heart and broad-minded, and he numbered his friends by the scores wherever he was known.

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#### ALBERT SALISBURY.

That life is the most useful and desirable that results in the greatest good to the greatest number, and, although all do not reach the heights to which they aspire, yet in some measure each can win success and make life a blessing to his fellow men. It is not necessary for one to occupy eminent public positions to do so, for in the humbler walks of life there remains much good to be accomplished and many opportunities for the exercise of talents and influence, that in some way will touch the lives of those with whom we come in contact making them better and brighter. In the list of Walworth county's successful citizens, the late Albert Salisbury, a prominent Wisconsin educator and for many years the efficient and popular president of the State Normal School at Whitewater, long occupied a conspicuous place. In his record there is much that is commendable, and his career forcibly illustrates what a life of energy can accomplish when plans are wisely laid and actions are governed by right principles, noble aims, and high ideals. His actions were ever the result of careful and conscientious thought, and when once convinced that he was right, no suggestion of policy or personal profit could swerve him from the course he had decided upon. His career was complete and rounded in its beautiful simplicity; he did his full duty in all the relations of life, and he died beloved by those near to him, and respected and esteemed by his fellow citizens.

Professor Salisbury was born in Lima, Rock county, Wisconsin, near Whitewater, on January 24, 1843, being the first white child born in Lima township. His parents, Oliver and Emily (Cravath) Salisbury, were members of a colony which emigrated about 1840 from Cortland county, New York, to what is now Whitewater, Wisconsin, his maternal grandfather, Deacon Prosper Cravath, being the central figure of the migration. The members of this colony were all of New England birth or extraction, having tarried in central New York for a generation on their westward way. His paternal grandfather, Silas Salisbury, also emigrated from Marathon, New York.

The subject's maternal grandfather, Deacon Prosper Cravath, was one of the early pillars of the Congregational church of Whitewater, and before the church edifice was erected services were frequently held in his home, and it was in his log cabin that the local church was formally organized as the First Presbyterian church. He was of Huguenot ancestry, and he was in the highest sense a man of good will. He married Miriam Kinney, and their daughter, Emily, mother of Professor Salisbury, was one of the constituent members of the church. The death of Deacon Cravath occurred on April 22, 1841, after a life of much good among the early settlers.

The pioneer life of Albert Salisbury in Wisconsin, before the day of railroads and improved farming machinery, was a hard but wholesome school for the boy born into it. His father was a hard-working farmer, and later in life a sheep raiser and nurseryman. The youth accordingly served apprenticeship to all these lines of industry, and retained for the last named an interest in trees and flowers which materially influenced his later life. His early schooling consisted in a few months' yearly attendance at the district school, up to the age of eighteen years; but he owed much to the careful tuition of his mother, who had been a teacher before her marriage. She gave him a vigorous training in Warren Colburn's Mental Arithmetic and in Day's Algebra. Later he became a student in Milton (Wisconsin) Academy, which afterwards became a college, an institution famous for the number of prominent educators among its alumni. From Milton College he was graduated with its first class, in 1870, his course having been interrupted by the Civil war and other causes. From this institution he later received the degree of Master of Arts and of Doctor of Philosophy. The two years from December, 1863, to December, 1865, were spent as a private soldier in the Thirteenth Wisconsin Infantry, serving chiefly in the Army of the Cumberland, and after the war was over he spent several months in Texas, in the enforcement of the Monroe doctrine as against Maximilian.

Professor Salisbury was married on November 20, 1866, to Abba A. Maxson, a native of Allegany county, New York, who died May 21, 1881, leaving four children: Gertrude, who married Isaac Peterson; Oliver M., who married Alma Pierce; Grace, who married J. C. Partridge, and Wini-fred, deceased.

From September, 1870, until March, 1873, he was principal of the public schools of Brodhead, Wisconsin, then became professor of history and conductor of teachers' institutes in the Whitewater State Normal School, which position he held for nearly ten years. While thus engaged he had an important share in developing the famous Wisconsin system of teachers' institutes. In

1882 he accepted an appointment as superintendent of schools for the American Missionary Association in its work among the freedmen and the Indians. Making his headquarters at Atlanta, Georgia, for the next three years, he traveled about thirty thousand miles yearly, being on the road chiefly nights and Sundays, spending the school days each week inspecting and supervising educational institutions from the Atlantic and Gulf coasts to the Rocky mountains and the Dakotas.

In August, 1883, Mr. Salisbury was again married, this time to Agnes Hosford, a teacher in the Whitewater State Normal School, who had been previously county superintendent of schools in Eau Claire county, Wisconsin. One son, Albert, was born of this marriage, whose death occurred on May 18, 1905, a month before he was to have graduated. In the summer of 1884, Mr. Salisbury moved his family from Atlanta to Montclair, New Jersey, but continued his work and traveling in the South and West. In the spring of 1885 he was called to the presidency of the State Normal School at Whitewater, in his old home. He accepted and commenced work in August of that year. From that date until his death he administered the affairs of this well-known institution, developing new departments of work, greatly enlarging and improving its buildings and equipment and assisting in putting the normal system of the state on a better foundation and in a stronger position in the regard of the public. He was president of the Wisconsin Teachers' Association in the year 1887 to 1888, and he was a member of the board of examiners for state certificates for several years and was at one time a trustee of the State School for the Deaf at Delavan. Later Professor Salisbury became greatly interested in proper provision for the care and training of the feeble-minded. Backed by the State Teachers' Association, he carried on a campaign of several years' duration. With patience, tact and convincing argument he persuaded a reluctant Republican Legislature to pass a bill for establishing the Wisconsin Home for Feeble-Minded, but the governor vetoed the bill. Nothing daunted, Professor Salisbury secured its passage at the next Assembly, which was Democratic, and again it was vetoed. Again the Legislature became Republican and the subject got them to pass the bill, and this time the governor signed it. Professor Salisbury's work in that matter was recognized as a great public service. He had spent much time and money in arousing public sentiment in the interests of a school for these unfortunates. He also championed many other reforms, assisting in securing the consolidation of rural schools, the grading of rural schools, improving the rural school course of study, presenting exhaustive reports on the needs of those schools. Although very busy as a high school principal, educator of teachers' insti-

tutes, and president of a normal school, he found some time for authorship and published many books, some of them being text books of study, some of which have been widely circulated and put through several editions. He wrote the "Geography of Wisconsin" in 1876; "Historical Sketch of Normal Instruction in Wisconsin" in 1876; and another work under the same title in 1893; "History of the Wisconsin Teachers Association" in 1878; "Orthoepy and Phonology" in 1879; "The Duty of the State to the Feeble Minded" in 1890; "First Quarter Century of the Whitewater Normal School" in 1893; two reports on the "Rural School Problem" in 1897 and 1898; "The Theory of Teaching and Elementary Psychology" in 1905; "Early Annals of Whitewater, Wisconsin." in 1906; "School Management" in 1911. He was the historian of education in Wisconsin. Whenever a large educational gathering seemed to demand history pertinent to it he seemed to be the only man capable of presenting it adequately.

The growth of the Whitewater Normal during the twenty-six years he served as its president is a matter of local history. Three times the building has been substantially enlarged, and once it was recovered after a disastrous fire, and the growth has been steady, many-sided and healthy, the advance in things scholastic keeping pace with the improved facilities and also with the general advance in management. President Salisbury possessed a remarkable memory, being able to recall the names of his pupils, the number who attended the normal during his presidency running into the thousands, but he could almost invariably recall their names, and he maintained an active interest in their success in the profession in which he helped train them.

At a meeting of the leading educational lights of Great Britain in London, he was one of the speakers and was appreciated and applauded with the best of them. His many addresses at the normal school were always thoroughly prepared, showing splendid scholarship and a fine literary diction. At least three times a week he delivered addresses rich in thought, with a wealth of counsel and of inspiration, never repeating himself. These talks will long be remembered by those fortunate enough to hear them, as the most valuable part of the day's program. He thought logically and clearly, reaching positive convictions, and with unswerving fidelity and courage made the ideal good take form in tangible, practical betterment. Not alone in Whitewater and in Wisconsin, but in the national councils also, was he a potent and invariably a righteous influence. His life was as an open book, with nothing to conceal. He was a man of rare gifts and immense moral courage, never shifting his burdens to others, and always choosing the harder tasks himself.

Sham, pretense, instability and inefficiency were foreign to his nature. He would choose rather to rebuke a wrong boldly, even at the risk of injury to the wrongdoer, believing that it was best for the one rebuked to be set right. He was impartial and insistent for order, strength, harmony.

A wide reader and profound student, President Salisbury was familiar with the world's best literature, leaving no branch unexplored, and he was a fearless and independent investigator. His interests were broad and general. He felt that money, time and talent were for the furtherance of great ends and good causes. He gave himself and his possessions to the furtherance of what was uplifting in life—the school, the church and worthy charitable institutions. He was reserved and unobtrusive, never intruding his presence. His character was many-sided, in some ways unique—a man in whom others repose implicit confidence. He could be very congenial and companionable, as well as stern and impassible, as occasion demanded. He had a very strong sense of justice. He was an energetic leader in the church, devoutly religious and steadily consistent; he was a strong supporter of the Congregational church and an inspiration to the religious life of the community. While not posing as an orator, he was an able speaker, bringing to his audience something worthy of their consideration. His diversion was the study of plants, and it was largely through his direction that the normal grounds are widely known for their beauty and variety of plant life. As an all-around scholar he had few equals, and had a great capacity for hard work. He never gave one the feeling that he was self-seeking, but he was ever trying to be helpful to all with whom he came into contact. He was a man of handsome presence, tall, vigorous physique, strong-minded, quick wit and possessed a keen sense of humor and biting sarcasm, with a generous sympathy. He was a cheerful companion, a faithful friend, but a dangerous antagonist. He had an accurate and varied knowledge over an amazingly wide field of human interests, and was able until the last to grow mentally, morally and spiritually. Sincerity was a dominant trait with him, not only in words, but in deeds and in thought. Continuous application through a long period of years gave him a clear and comprehensive insight into the philosophy of education and the largest wisdom as to the method and means of attainment of ends, while his steady growth in public favor and his popularity with teachers and pupils won for him an educational standing second to none in the state and that was even national in its scope. He possessed the personal charm and tact which made him popular with the young. He was industrious, concentrated, tireless in penetration and search

for the higher truth, and his mental and moral achievements were radiant; he was harmonious, and breathed cleanliness in manner, in expression, in the thought, in the secret of his comprehension and in the power of his silence in the benevolent purity of his personality, and his spirit was great in omnipresence. When this excellent citizen was called to take up his abode in the "windowless palaces of rest" on June 2, 1911, Walworth county realized that she had sustained an irreparable loss, but was grateful for the legacy he left of being one of the purest, most intellectual and most useful men that lived in his native state.

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#### CHARLES LAWRIE.

Another of the sterling sons of bonnie Scotland who left his native brakes and braes for our land of greater opportunity, and, after making various investigations, decided that Walworth county, Wisconsin, appealed to him in a way that no other section did, is Charles Lawrie, of Lake Geneva, a man who, owing to his habits of industry, frugality, fortitude and unbending integrity, would have succeeded in any portion of the great western republic. He has never sought to be a leader in the affairs of this locality, merely striving to live up to the standard of good citizenship and make a comfortable living, and while revering the scenes of his native land, as is quite natural and right, he has nevertheless been most loyal to our flag and institutions, and we are glad to number him among our representative citizens.

Mr. Lawrie was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, November 26, 1855. He is the son of Adam and Marian (Tate) Lawrie, and he grew to manhood near that city and there received his education, and there learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for about ten years. When about twenty-five years of age he came to America, and after spending nearly three months in northern Michigan, he came to Chicago, then lived for a time at Elgin, Illinois, but soon returned to Chicago. While there he was engaged to work in building one of the large summer residences at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and he came here in the fall of 1881, and, being favorably impressed with the future as well as the beauty of the place, has since resided here, continuing carpentering, and for the past ten years has been contracting on his own account. He has erected or assisted in the erection of many of the substantial and attractive residences, business houses and public buildings in this locality, which will long stand as monuments to his skill as a builder.

Mr. Lawrie was married in November, 1882, to Annie Robinson Viphan, daughter of George Viphan and wife. She was born in Lincolnshire, England, and there spent her girlhood, emigrating to the United States when eighteen years of age, with her parents, who located in Walworth county, Wisconsin.

To Mr. and Mrs. Lawrie five children have been born, namely: Charles Douglass, who died when twenty-two years of age; Edna is the wife of Leo Chase, of Lake Geneva, and they have two children, Marian and Ethel; Marian, third child of the subject and wife, married Grover Kull, a sketch of whom appears in this volume; Arthur is attending college at Beloit; Ethel, the youngest child, died when thirteen years of age.

The mother of the above named children was called to her rest in April, 1898. In May, 1908, Mr. Lawrie was united in marriage with Sarah Lloyd, who was born in Yorkshire, England, and came to Chicago when a child and there grew to womanhood.

Mr. Lawrie is not a party man in politics, but he was at one time elected on an independent ticket for city treasurer of Lake Geneva, the position coming unsought, and he filled it most creditably. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen, and he and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### ANDREW W. HAFS.

One of the leading agriculturists and public spirited citizens of the vicinity of Genoa Junction is Andrew W. Hafs, a man who has kept well abreast of the times in all that pertains to his vocation, having believed in doing well whatever was worth doing at all, from his youth up, and it is this adherence to thoroughness and system that has won him a very substantial material success and rendered him a man of influence in his county.

Mr. Hafs was born in the town of Wheatland, Kenosha county, Wisconsin, September 1, 1865. He is the son of Herman and Johanna (Vogt) Hafs, both natives of Pomerania, Germany, where they spent their earlier years, finally emigrating to Canada, and from there to Kenosha county, Wisconsin, in 1862, and there rented a farm. After renting for some years on two or three different places, they purchased a farm in Randall township, that county, near Powers lake, and there they lived about eight years, becoming very comfortably established through their industry. About 1874 they bought

a farm of one hundred and forty acres in sections 10 and 11, Bloomfield township, Walworth county, and later purchased eighty acres adjoining them on the south where they made their home, and there the death of the mother occurred on November 17, 1891.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hafs, one of whom, a son, died in infancy before the family left Canada; Mary died when about two years old; Bertha grew to womanhood, married John Radeeg and lived in Randall township, Kenosha county, until her death in September, 1898; Andrew W., of this sketch; Amelia is the wife of Frank White and lives at Genoa Junction; Emma married John H. Berger and also lives at Genoa Junction.

Andrew W. Hafs, of this sketch, grew to manhood on the home farm where he assisted with the work when a boy, and he received his education in the common schools. In June, 1889, he was united in marriage with Clara Kohls, daughter of William and Wilhelmina (Bartz) Kohls. She was born near Burlington, this state. Her parents came from Germany and were among the very first settlers in the locality of Burlington. Upon reaching Chicago from the old country they found a straggling hamlet in a semi-swamp. The nearest settlement was at Kenosha, then called Southport, and they were compelled to drive there to market, making the trip with ox teams. They endured all the hardships incident to pioneer life, and here they spent the rest of their days. There Mrs. Hafs grew to womanhood, was educated, and lived until her marriage.

After his marriage Mr. Hafs spent five years on the farm where his father had located upon first coming to this county, in sections 10 and 11, Bloomfield township. He then purchased a farm of one hundred and forty acres in section 11, of Donald Forbes, which has been his home ever since. It is noticeable as a neat, well-kept and pleasant place. He has purchased the old homestead of his father, which he has placed under a high state of improvement and cultivation, and he is now the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of valuable and very productive land on which he carries on general farming and stock raising in a manner that stamps him as one of the up-to-date farmers of the county.

Mr. Hafs has been influential in political matters for some time, and he has held several township offices, such as a member of the board of supervisors, justice of the peace and he is now township clerk. As a public servant he has performed his duties in a faithful and most acceptable manner.

Mr. Hafs makes a specialty of raising high grade Holstein cattle and White hogs, at which he has been quite successful, and he is frequently called

upon at farmers' institutes to talk on the subject of successful breeding and stock raising, in which he is exceptionally well versed.

Mr. Hafs and wife are the parents of two children, Oscar H. W. and Florence Aurora, both attending high school at Genoa Junction, where they are making excellent records.

Mr. Hafs and his family belong to the Lutheran church at Slades Corners, and no family in this part of the county stands higher in the community than they.

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### HERMAN MALSCH.

One of the most progressive of the summer generation of business men in Walworth county and one of the most deserving is Herman Malsch, a representative of one of our most highly esteemed families, and his birth occurred at Springfield, this county, on November 1, 1874. He is the son of John Frederick and Christina (Rader) Malsch, the father being generally known as "Fred" Malsch. He came from Saxe-Meiningen, Germany, about 1865 and located near Springfield, Wisconsin. In Germany he grew to manhood and married, and his wife died before he left the old country. Here he was married a second time, his last wife being Christina Rader, who was from the same part of Germany in which he was reared. The father of the subject was a mason by trade, as was also the paternal grandfather, who did a great deal of contracting. Fred Malsch established a good home at Springfield, where he spent the rest of his life, dying in May, 1900, and there his widow still resides. The subject has one brother, Andrew, who is in the Moore hardware store at Lake Geneva.

Herman Malsch grew to manhood at Springfield and when about fourteen years of age he began learning the mason's trade with his father. In 1892 and 1893 he took a position in a store, but gave it up after a year and a half to resume his trade as a mason. Early in life he began taking contracts in a small way. In 1895 he and Edward C. Reinert formed a partnership for doing all kinds of concrete and masonry work at Lake Geneva. In 1906 they took in another partner, William Baumbach, under the firm name of the Cement Stone & Brick Manufacturing Company. They have pushed this business and added various lines which are related to those they originally had, including the building of silos of cement blocks, in which they are doing a very extensive and rapidly growing business. This is one of the best known firms of its kind in southern Wisconsin and would be a credit to any commu-

ity. They are well equipped with every modern appliance and apparatus for prompt and high grade work and only skilled workmen are employed.

In the fall of 1909 the firm began the building of their present superb plant in Lake Geneva, a two-story building of cement block with a basement, the building being fifty by one hundred feet with an office added that is twenty-four by fifty feet, built of their new granite-finish concrete block, which has almost the exact appearance of real stone of a high grade.

Herman Malsch was married on November 25, 1900, to Nina Johnson, daughter of David and Miranda Abigail (Bogardus) Johnson, a sketch of whom will be found on another page of this work. She was born in North Geneva, this county, and her parents were from Albany, New York. They lived in Illinois for some time, then, about 1877, came on to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and located on a farm in North Geneva and here became well established. Six children have been born to the subject and wife, namely: Rose Arlene, Floyd, Alvan, Donald Everett, Glenn and Harvey. Rose Arlene and Donald Everett died in infancy. Mr. Malsch belongs to the Mystic Workers.

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### JOHN BOLTZ.

By a life of persistent and well applied industry led along the most honorable lines, the gentleman whose name appears above has justly earned the right to be represented in a work of the character of the one at hand, along with the other men of Walworth county who have made their influence felt in their respective localities.

John Boltz, a successful farmer of Lagrange township, was born in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, October 22, 1866. He is the son of Andrew and Amelia (Miller) Boltz, both natives of Germany, the father born on April 2, 1830, and the mother in April, 1829. There they grew to maturity and were educated. Andrew Boltz emigrated to America in 1853 and settled in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, and later Amelia Miller came, and they were married there in 1860. They found a good home in the new country and there reared their five children, four of whom are living at this writing. These parents owned seventy-seven acres of land in Jefferson county, and there the father is living retired, his wife having died in 1889. In politics he is a Democrat and a member of the Catholic church.

John Boltz, of this review, was reared on the home farm and was educated in the district schools and early in life he turned his attention to farming. He came to Walworth county in 1888 and worked out in order to get a

start and in 192 he bought the farm in Lagrange township of one hundred and fifty-six acres, which he still owns and on which he has made a very comfortable living as a general farmer and dairyman, always keeping an excellent grade of live stock.

Politically, Mr. Boltz is a Republican, but he has never made an effort to be a leader in the affairs of his community. He was married in 1896 to Minnie Helena Winn, who was born in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, December 11, 1876, the daughter of John H. Winn, a farmer of Lagrange township. To the subject and wife have been born one son, Leroy J., whose birth occurred on September 25, 1905. The Boltz family have all been characterized for their thrift and industry.

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#### FRANCIS M. HIGGINS.

The newspaper profession in Walworth county has an able and worthy representative in the person of Francis M. Higgins, editor of the *News* at Lake Geneva, whose success since locating here has won him a high place among his contemporaries and many admirers in the city and county for his straightforward and public-spirited policy, and his influence has been for the general upbuilding of this locality in every way possible, for he evidently has unswerving faith in its future and its interests at heart.

Mr. Higgins was born in LaSalle county, Illinois, May 23, 1861. He is the son of James and Ellen (Egan) Higgins, the father born in county Donegal, Ireland, and was there reared and educated, emigrating to America in 1837, and located in LaSalle county, Illinois, in 1838. He was a stone cutter and there he assisted in building culverts and viaducts on the Illinois & Michigan canal, and he was living there when he married Ellen Egan, a native of county Mayo, Ireland, who came to America when young and at the time of her marriage was living at Joliet, Illinois. When these parents came to northern Illinois they found a wild, sparsely settled prairie. James Higgins took a prominent part in public affairs, in organization and general civic duties in LaSalle county, of which he was commissioner at the time the county was laid off as a separate county. He bought land and turned his attention to farming. His family consisted of twelve children, all born and reared on the farm in LaSalle county. The death of James Higgins occurred in 1889; his widow is still living, being now eighty-seven years of age. After spending fifty-five years on the home farm, she moved to Seneca, Illinois, in 1905, where she still resides.

Francis M. Higgins grew up on the home farm on which he worked when a boy, attending the district schools in the winter time, later attending the Grundy County Normal at Morris, Illinois. When nineteen years of age he obtained a certificate to teach school and he taught near home during the winters for several years. In 1884 he went to Kansas, where he spent six years, part of the time in Nebraska, handling horses. Returning to the home farm in LaSalle county, Illinois, he remained there five years, managing the same in partnership with his brother, then he bought a newspaper at Seneca and has been in the newspaper business ever since. In 1899 he leased the plant of the *Fair Dealer*, a newspaper at Ottawa, Illinois, and he remained at that place until the spring of 1903. In October of that year he came to Wisconsin and took the management of the *Lake Geneva News*, and here he has continued his efforts to the present time. He has made his paper an important factor in local affairs, increased its circulation constantly, rendered it valuable as an advertising medium and brightened very materially its mechanical appearance.

Mr. Higgins has long taken an active interest in politics, and before leaving Illinois he took a hand in public affairs. He is at present chairman of the Republican county central committee of Walworth county. He is president of the Wisconsin League of Progressive Republican Newspapers. He is also a member of the executive committee of the State Progressive League. He is heart and soul for the progressive movement, believing it to be the fight for the people, although he was reared a Democrat and was with that party in his earlier career.

Mr. Higgins was married in 1895, at Seneca, Illinois, to Katherine McCormick, daughter of James and Johanna (Sheedy) McCormick. She was a native of LaSalle county, Illinois, and her death occurred in 1902, leaving three children, Mildred, Florence and Francis. She was a member of the Catholic church, to which her children and Mr. Higgins also belong. In 1904 Mr. Higgins was united in marriage with Mrs. Cora (Gifford) Hanscom, daughter of E. P. and Marietta (Chapin) Gifford, and widow of P. L. Hanscom, deceased. She was born in Walworth county, of which her parents were early settlers. Her mother was born on the "Maple Glen Farm," near Lake Geneva, seventy years ago. Her father came here from New York about 1840, being among the very early settlers. Mrs. Higgins had one daughter by her former marriage, Winnifred. Her first husband, Mr. Hanscom, died in 1901.

Mr. Higgins' hobby is scientific agriculture. Before leaving Illinois he spent a week each year at the state agricultural experiment station, and he

has endeavored ever since to disseminate knowledge and arouse interest in experiment work along these lines. He gives much time to farmers' institute work and in organizing corn contests, distributing seeds, etc. He is well read, keeps fully abreast of the times in all scientific and research work as well as the world's best literature, and he is known as an earnest worker for any cause which he espouses.

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### JAMES HENRY CAMP.

James Henry Camp, retired druggist of Delavan, and a well known citizen of Walworth county, belongs to that class of substantial men whose lives do not show any meteoric effects, but who, by their support of moral, political and social status for the general good, promote the real welfare of their respective communities, and are therefore deserving of honorable mention on the pages of a county history. He is now advanced in years, having come down to us from the pioneer epoch. He has, however, had the advantages of a good home education, and industrious habits have brought him a fair success in life.

Mr. Camp was born in the village of Vernon, Oneida county, New York, November 28, 1828. He is the son of James and Laura (Andrews) Camp, and the grandson of John and Roxy (Stoddard) Camp. Roxy Stoddard was the daughter of Eli Stoddard, who was the son of Thomas Stoddard, son of Nathaniel and Eunis (Standish) Stoddard. Eunis Standish was the daughter of Capt. Miles Standish, of Plymouth, Massachusetts, one of the Pilgrims and first settlers of the old Bay state. James Camp, father of James H. Camp, was born January 1, 1798. Laura (Andrews) Camp, mother of J. H. Camp, was the daughter of Mr. Andrews, who was a soldier in the war of 1812.

James Camp, father of the subject, was originally a cabinet-maker, later becoming an organ builder. When his son, James H., was six years old, the family moved to Perry, Wyoming county, New York, and there the father began the manufacture of organs, removing, a few years later, to Nunda, Livingston county, that state, continuing the manufacturing of organs for a number of years.

When eleven years old the subject returned to Vernon as clerk in a drug store owned by his cousin, James Turner, remaining there about a year, and even at that early age he became interested in political affairs, his sympathies being with the Whigs, and as his employer, Mr. Turner, was an ardent Demo-

crat, they frequently had some hot arguments. The only disagreement which the subject later regretted was when he wished to go and hear Daniel Webster speak at Utica in the political campaign of 1844 and Mr. Turner refused his permission, thus the boy lost his opportunity to hear the Great Exponent of the Constitution. In a year he returned to Nunda, where he remained fifteen years, clerking a number of years for the Remington drug store, eventually buying out his employer. In 1856 he sold out his drug business and moved to Milwaukee, where he remained about two years in a wholesale drug store, moving, in October, 1857, to Elkhorn, Wisconsin, where he started the first exclusively drug store in that city, and where later his brother-in-law, C. H. Britton, joined. After remaining there several years he sold to Britton and went to Janesville, where he bought the drug store of Tallman & Collins in partnership with Orange Williams, purchasing his partner's interest four months later, and continued to run the store about two years, selling out soon after Lee's surrender, in the spring of 1865, and came to Delavan, where he has since resided. Here he bought the drug store of Cyrenius McKee and remained in business here about thirty-eight years, building up a good trade with the surrounding country and becoming one of the oldest druggists in this part of the state, and thus completing sixty-two years in the drug business. In his youth he read medicine but never practiced.

It is worthy of note that it was in Camp & Britton's drug store in Elkhorn, Wisconsin, that Joseph H. Webster began writing the music of his famous song, "Sweet Bye and Bye," Doctor Bennett assisting with the words.

Mr. Camp was married, first, to Lucy (Angier) Britton, in Nunda, New York, December 17, 1851. She was the daughter of Surranus and Priscilla (Russell) Britton. Six children were born of this marriage, namely: Frank Britton Camp, who died when nineteen years old; Laura Priscilla, who married Harrison Kay, lives in Chicago and has one son, Leonard James; Anna Maria married Frederick Lindeman, lives in Delavan and has one daughter, Ruth Camp; John William, who is engaged in the drug business at Council Bluffs, Iowa, married Flora Ellis and has one son, George Britton; George Frederick, also engaged in the drug business in Council Bluffs, married Flora Jeffers; James Lincoln, who died when one year old, and Lucy Adelle, who married James S. Parsons and lives in Delavan.

The mother of the above named children passed to her rest on March 27, 1884, and on October 8, 1885, James H. Camp was united in marriage with Mrs. Susan (Marsh) Kellog, widow of Edson Kellog, of Whitewater. She had been a widow twenty years when she and Mr. Camp were married; they had been schoolmates at Nunda. She was a daughter of Daniel Marsh, of Canandaigua, New York. Her death occurred on March 15, 1901.

Although past eighty-three years of age, Mr. Camp is remarkably well preserved and he takes a delight in hunting trips in the northern part of the state and the Dakotas. He reads without glasses and his other faculties are good. He is a writer of some ability, and many of his stories of the early days, published under the title, "Some Recollections of an Octogenarian," possess a certain interest, having been culled from a long life of experience, and retentive memory especially of War of the Rebellion incidents as occurring at home. He recalls the fact that on his first Sunday in Elkhorn he and his wife attended church and were surprised to find the congregation all young people, no gray heads among them. But few of that congregation remain this side of the Great Beyond.

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#### FRANK S. MOORE.

The business career of Frank S. Moore, the popular ex-postmaster of Lake Geneva, Walworth county, and now a successful hardware merchant of that city, is one that should encourage others to press on to greater achievements; for when a boy he set to work to overcome all difficulties that might lay in his path to success and the high standing which he now enjoys is the result. Earnest labor, unabating perseverance, a laudable ambition and good management are the elements by which he has ascended the steeps.

Mr. Moore was born in Beloit, Wisconsin, on the 27th of October, 1854. He is the son of Charles and Harriet (Clark) Moore. The father died when the subject was five years of age. He and his wife came overland from the state of New York in an early day and located at Beloit, passing through Lake Geneva on their way, the latter being a mere hamlet with but one hotel at that time. After the father's death, the mother and three children went to Freeport, Illinois, and lived there about six years, then went on a farm near Lena, that state, where they remained about seven years, then Frank S. Moore went to Lena and learned the tinner's trade, remaining there three years. His next move was to Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, where he spent two years working at his trade. In 1870 he came to Lake Geneva and took a position as tinner with the firm of Briggs & Ingham, tanners and hardware merchants. The firm later changed to Smith & Ingham. Five or six years after he came to this city Mr. Moore succeeded Mr. Smith in the firm and later bought out his partner's interest, and has continued the business alone ever since, enjoying an extensive patronage, his trade extending over a wide territory. In 1903 he erected a handsome, substantial building for his plant

and store, the upper part of the structure being used for the offices and plant of the *Naves*. He keeps a large and carefully selected stock of goods and his prices are always right. He has long been considered an expert at the tinner's business.

Mr. Moore has long taken an active part in public affairs, being an ardent Republican. He has served two terms as alderman and also two terms as mayor of Lake Geneva, during which he did many commendable things, his efforts resulting in much permanent good to the vicinity. He was postmaster of the local office from May 10, 1906, to May 15, 1911, giving the utmost satisfaction to the people and the department. As a public servant he always discharged his duties earnestly and faithfully. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias. He has passed through all the chairs and has long been active and influential in the same.

Soon after coming to Lake Geneva, Mr. Moore was united in marriage with Mary Blair, the daughter of Isaac and Mary (Reddish) Blair. To this union one daughter was born, Helene, now the wife of Arthur Bullock, who is assistant cashier at the First National Bank of Lake Geneva, and Mr. and Mrs. Bullock have one son, Frank Arthur.

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### JOHN G. FLACK.

Another of the venerable pioneers and ex-agriculturists of Walworth county who have, through their industry and right living, succeeded in laying by a competency for their declining years and are now living in honorable retirement, enjoying the fruits of their earlier days of toil and endeavor, is John G. Flack, of Elkhorn.

Mr. Flack was born in 1828 in Lisbon, St. Lawrence county, New York. He is the son of James Adams Flack and Mary (Lyttle) Flack, both natives of the same vicinity in which the subject was born, and there they grew up and were married, the mother dying there in 1834, when John G. was six years old, and in 1843 the father brought his family to Walworth county, Wisconsin, coming by boat on the Great Lakes, on what was then known as a "propeller," landing at Racine, thence by wagon to Geneva, where James A. Flack took up forty acres of government land. However, he kept it but a short time when he sold out and bought another farm of eighty acres which he improved and continued to farm successfully until his health failed, compelling him to retire, and he spent the rest of his life with his son, dying in 1885. He served two terms as supervisor. He was a Republican,

and in religious matters was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

John G. Flack, being the oldest of a family of seven children, had plenty of work to do when a boy. He grew to manhood on the home farm and received such education as he could in the old log school house near his home. When twenty-one years old he began life for himself as a farmer, buying forty acres, which he kept about two years, then sold and purchased one hundred and sixty-eight acres in Geneva township, which he still owns. It had very few improvements when he moved there, but today it is one of the best improved and most valuable farms in the county. Here Mr. Flack carried on general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of full blood Merino sheep and Jersey cattle. In 1881, having accumulated a competency through his persistent efforts and good management, he retired from the farm and moved to Elkhorn, where he erected a beautiful home on his lot and here has since resided.

Mr. Flack was married in 1849 to Ellen M. Benton, daughter of Daniel and Sarah Benton, natives of Connecticut, where they spent their earlier years, finally emigrating to Walworth county, settling in Geneva township. Mrs. John G. Flack passed away on June 22, 1900. The union of the subject and wife was without issue.

Mr. Flack is a Republican, and he was at one time supervisor of Geneva township. He is a member of the Congregational church.

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#### EDWARD C. REINERT.

The name of Edward C. Reinert is well known among the business men of the younger generation especially in Walworth county, and he is deserving of the large success that is attending his efforts, for he has applied himself assiduously to his tasks and has dealt honorably with his fellow men.

Mr. Reinert was born in St. Louis, Missouri, January 15, 1872. He is the son of Herman and Mary (Stevener) Reinert, both natives of Germany, from which country they came to America in their childhood.

The subject lived in St. Louis until he was thirteen years old, then moved with his parents to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. He received his education in the public and Lutheran schools in St. Louis, and when a boy he began learning the mason's trade, which he followed for four years, then began in a small way contracting for masonry, which he continued for several years. Then formed a partnership with Fred Coleman in the same business in Lake Geneva, which lasted five years, then Mr. Coleman went to California, and

the subject continued the business alone for several years. In 1906 he entered into partnership with Herman Malsch and William Baumbach in the manufacture of concrete building material, cement and masonry supplies, and contracting, under the firm name of Reinert, Baumbach & Malsch, and a sketch of this business is found on another page of this work; suffice it to say here that they have been most successful and are doing a large and growing business.

The subject has done much in the way of research work and investigation for methods of improving their output and business. He is a Republican politically, and was alderman for four years in his younger days, and he is now a member of the local school board.

Mr. Reinert was married in 1895 to Martha Gartz, daughter of Christian and Erverstine (Smith) Gartz. She was born in Lyons township, this county, and has lived in this county all her life. Her parents were natives of Germany, and emigrated to this country many years ago. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Reinert, namely: Clara, Edward, Edith, Ralph, Albert, Allen, Gertrude and Marian.

Mr. Reinert and family belong to the First Evangelical Lutheran church in Lake Geneva.

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#### SAMUEL H. STAFFORD.

A study of the career of the late Samuel H. Stafford, one of the best known and most highly respected citizens of Walworth county during the generation that has passed, cannot help but be instructive and encouraging to those who stand at the beginning of the path leading toward the steeps, for his life was conservatively lived so as to result in no harm to those with whom it touched and he permitted no obstacle to thwart him when pursuing a course which he knew to be right.

Mr. Stafford was born near Saratoga, New York, in 1811, and his death occurred in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, in 1889. He was the grandson of Amos Stafford, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. The latter was a native of Rhode Island; his father served in the British army in the French and Indian war, and he died in Rhode Island of the smallpox, contracted while in the army. Amos Stafford, who was then quite young, was taken by his uncle John to Pennsylvania, where he was taught to hunt and trap, which he followed for a number of years in early life. In 1778 he had a very narrow escape from the Indians at the massacre of Wyoming. He was then nineteen years old and was serving as a reserve rifleman. His three

comrades fell around him and he felt that his turn would be next. But he noticed that the fatal shots were preceded by a puff of smoke from behind a certain log, and as the head of an Indian appeared at that place a bullet sped thither and his life was saved. Retreating, he sought concealment in a wheat field, but the Indians accidentally came upon him and he was forced to run. One of the savages overtook him and was lifting his tomahawk to strike when Mr. Stafford cleared a brush fence at a single bound, then turning, shot his pursuer dead. Throwing away his musket, he plunged into a nearby river, which he swam, reaching the opposite side in safety, although a shower of bullets fell about him, and finally hid in a marshy spring, in which he remained all night, and he spent the next two nights in a hollow log. Once several Indians sat on the log and he could hear the bullets rattling in their pouches. For three days and nights he lay concealed without food or clothing, for the latter he had cast aside in swimming the river. Finally, not able to stand it any longer, he ventured forth, and in a short time met a band of men among whom was a Tory whom he knew and who exclaimed: "My God, Amos! how came you here stark naked?" His friend gave him food and clothing and two days later he reached the American camp in safety and was the first to tell the news of the terrible massacre of Wyoming. After the war he located at Saratoga, New York, at what is yet known as Stafford's Bridge, and there his death occurred in 1813.

Samuel Stafford, the immediate subject of this sketch, grew up at Saratoga, New York, and there, in 1841, he married Eliza Gay, who was born there in 1811. They came west in 1842, locating first at Kenosha, Wisconsin, but soon they moved to a farm near Bloomfield and from there to Lake Geneva. Here Mr. Stafford engaged in the general merchandise business until the beginning of the Civil war, when he retired and gave his attention to the care of his private estate. He had met with a large measure of success in his business operations, and owned valuable farms in this county, one in Lyons township, one in Bloomfield township, and one in the northern part of Geneva township. For many years he was a leading business man in Lake Geneva, and he took much interest in the life and public affairs of the town. His family consisted of three children, namely: James Wellington, born in 1842, died in 1861, when eighteen years of age. He was a youth of much promise, intellectual and a fine character. Samuel Harvey, born in 1844, died in 1910. Mary Alice married George Van Slyck, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

After the death of Samuel Stafford his widow made her home with her daughter, Mrs. VanSlyck, until her death, April 5, 1905, at an advanced age.

## CHARLES JULIUS KULL.

The material advancement of the northern section of the United States is the wonder of the world, and it has been largely secured through the sturdy and intelligent manhood of descendants of the pioneers from New York and other Eastern states, with their moral and intellectual and physical stamina. The work of the pioneers is nearly complete, and every year sees more new graves filled with those who laid the foundations of an empire and helped build it for all time and eternity, and soon, too soon, will the last of these sterling men be called to the Silent Land; but their memory will forever remain green among those who lived among them and appreciated their efforts.

Charles Julius Kull, well known citizen of Lake Geneva, is the son of one of these worthy pioneers,—indeed he has come down to us from the pioneer epoch himself, having lived here nearly sixty years, or all his life, during which period he has seen the primitive conditions give way to advanced civilization, and he has played well his part in this movement. He was the son of John Michael and Margaret (Runkel) Kull, a sketch of whom and the Kull ancestry appears on another page of this volume, under the caption John M. Kull.

Charles J. Kull, of this sketch, grew to manhood on his father's farm, where he was born, and as the farm was a large one, he had plenty of work to do early in life. He attended school two years at Lake Geneva, after passing through the schools of his native district. On March 16, 1885, he was united in marriage with Estelle Covelle, daughter of Marius and Sarah (Sackett) Covelle. She was born at LaGrange, Illinois. Mrs. Kull's parents, both of whom are now deceased, were children of very early settlers of Cook county, Illinois, and her father was one of the oldest settlers living there. Her father's father, Thomas Reed Covelle, came to Chicago when it was only a trading post in 1818, from Boston, Massachusetts. Sarah Sackett was the daughter of Joshua Stanton Sackett and wife. Her parents came from Burlington, Vermont, around by the Great Lakes in a sloop, and arrived at Chicago on July 4, 1831, and they became intimately associated with the first settlers of Chicago. Joshua S. Sackett and wife were among the settlers who at one time gathered into Fort Dearborn, as a refuge from the Indians, and a son, a brother of Marius Covelle, was born to the Covelles while in the fort.

Mrs. Kull's parents had been married nearly fifty-four years when the mother died. Her mother was the daughter of Joshua Stanton Sackett and Eliza (Brownell) Sackett. Tradition has it that Eliza Brownell is a descen-

dant of John Alden and Priscilla Mullens, who were immortalized in the fine poem of Longfellow, "Courtship of Miles Standish." Others of the ancestors were in the American Revolution.

Charles J. Kull, of this sketch, lived on the home farm, and when the father died, in 1887, he bought out the other heirs and continued farming there until the spring of 1908, having been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, and then he moved to Lake Geneva, bought a pleasant home, and retired from active life. Much of the time he lived in Bloomfield township he was a member of the school board, taking a great deal of interest in educational affairs. He and his wife are both members of the Congregational church at Lake Geneva. They are kind, hospitable, considerate of others' welfare. Four children were born to them, two sons and two daughters, namely: Helen attended normal school at Whitewater, and is now a successful teacher; Mildred received a good education and is teaching in the public schools at Lake Geneva; Charles Anthony and Adelbert are both attending school in Lake Geneva.

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#### HEMAN MERENESS.

One of the careful agriculturists and respected citizens of Sharon township, Walworth county, is Heman Mereness, a man whose history furnishes a splendid example of what may be accomplished through determined purpose, laudable ambition and well directed efforts. Starting out in life a poor boy, he has steadily worked his way upward, winning success in his chosen field of endeavor and gaining the public confidence, which he has retained through careful "hewing to the line" in all the relations which he has sustained to his fellow men. He seems to have inherited some of the winning traits of his sterling father, one of the early settlers of this portion of the county, the name Mereness having been well known here for many decades, and it is a name of which any community might well be proud to include in its list of citizens.

Mr. Mereness, of this sketch, was born on January 8, 1861, in Sharon township, this county. He is the son of Edwin and Harriet Mereness, natives of the state of New York, he born in the city of Rome and she in Schoharie county. There they grew to maturity and continued to reside until 1852, when they emigrated to Wisconsin. They were married in Racine, Wisconsin, settling in Sharon township, buying a farm of eighty acres, which they made their home for about five years. Leaving there in 1865,

they moved to Iowa and bought a farm there, which they operated until 1873, when they returned to Sharon township, this county, and here Edwin Mereness lived until his death, in 1877, after an honorable and well spent life. His widow is still living, being now eighty-four years old, and she makes her home with her son, Heman, of this sketch.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Mereness, named as follows: Cora is deceased; Heman, of this review; Leslie was next in order; Dexter, Lucy and John, all deceased.

The subject grew to manhood on the home farm and there assisted with the work when old enough, and during the winter months he attended the common schools in his district. He has devoted his life to farming and is now the owner of one hundred acres of fertile land in Sharon township, which he has kept well improved and well tilled and which lies in section 3. He keeps a good grade of live stock and has a desirable home.

Politically, Mr. Mereness is a Republican. He was treasurer in 1896, and assessor in 1902 and 1903. He has been township clerk for about eight years, still holding this office. As a public official he has discharged his duties in a most creditable manner.

Mr. Mereness was married on September 27, 1894, to Mary Elizabeth Knaub, daughter of Joseph and Susan Knaub, an excellent family of Sharon township, the father being now deceased, the mother still living here.

To the subject and wife five children have been born, namely: Jessie Elizabeth, born October 6, 1895; Josephine, born June 25, 1899; Howard, born December 20, 1900; Dorothy, born March 28, 1902; and Edith, born November 30, 1903.

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### JOHN S. McDOUGALL.

The old Empire state has furnished perhaps more citizens to the newer states of the West than any other of the so-called colonial commonwealths. They have come to Wisconsin in large numbers and have done a great work here in assisting us clear the vast forests from the rich soil underneath and have assisted us not only in material ways but in establishing schools and churches, in short, advancing the cause of civilization in any way. They, as a rule, have been not only men of industry, willing to push ahead despite all obstacles and adverse environment, but they have been law-abiding, hospitable, sociable and liberty-loving.

Of this worthy number from the old Empire state has come John S. McDougall, who, after a long and successful life in agricultural pursuits, spent



JOHN S. McDOUGALL

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his last years in honorable retirement in his pleasant home in the city of Delavan. He was born on November 9, 1827, in New York. He was the son of Ralph and Abigail (Armstrong) McDougall, both born in New York, where they grew up and were married, in fact, spent their lives there, engaged in farming. They were the parents of the following children: Mary Ann, Hugh, Hannah, Sarah, Eliza, Benjamin, Alexander, John S. (subject) and Ralph, all now deceased.

John S. McDougall was reared in his native community and assisted his father with the general farm work when he was a boy, and there he received his education in the common schools. He came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, from his native state, arriving here on November 9, 1851, and he worked out for a while, then bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Walworth township, and lived there five years, then bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Delavan township, and there he developed a fine farm, on which he remained until the fall of 1898, when he sold out and moved to the city of Delavan, retiring from active work, having farmed all his life successfully and laid by a competency. Here he bought an attractive home and lived a quiet life the rest of his days.

Politically, Mr. McDougall was a Republican, and he always took an interest in public affairs. He belonged to the Episcopal church and to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Delavan. He was supervisor of Delavan township for a number of years, also school director and alderman from the second ward in the city of Delavan, holding the latter position for a number of years until failing health made it necessary for him to give the office up. He was very faithful to every trust reposed in him by the people, always favoring progress and improvement and the betterment of the city and the town.

On July 20, 1852, Mr. McDougall married Sarah Jane Rector, daughter of George and Martha (Campbell) Rector, natives of the state of New York. Her parents grew up and were married in New York and there they lived until 1848, when they sold their farm there and moved to Alden county, Illinois, where they spent the balance of their lives.

The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. George Rector: Sarah Jane, wife of Mr. McDougall; Esther Ann, William Henry, Sherman (deceased), Edwin, Mary, Theodore, Amos, Almira, Emma and Fred.

To Mr. and Mrs. McDougall have been born the following children: Ida and Frances, both deceased; Mary, who lives at home; Ralph lives in Lima, Ohio. He married Bertha Argenbright. He engages in carpentering and deals to some extent in real estate.

Mr. McDougall was well preserved for a man of his age, having led a quiet, clean life, and he was highly respected by all who knew him. He passed away Tuesday, March 19, 1912, and this closed a well spent life. He was an exemplary citizen, sober, and industrious, a man whose advice was sought on many subjects by a host of warm friends. An excellent farmer and a loyal neighbor, he combined all the traits of good citizenship, kind father and husband, with those of a first class business man. His word was as good as gold and his integrity never questioned.

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### GEORGE W. VANSLYCK.

No man who has lived in Walworth county became better known or more highly esteemed than the late George W. Van Slyck. His life was indeed a busy and successful one and fraught with much good to his fellow men, for, while laboring to advance his own interests, he was never neglectful of his larger duties to the public, and his record is eminently worthy of perusal by the student who would learn the intrinsic essence of individuality and its influence in moulding public opinion and giving character and stability to a community.

George W. Van Slyck was born in Lyons, Walworth county, Wisconsin, January 25, 1846. He is the son of Peter and Caroline (Head) Van Slyck. The father came from Pennsylvania with his parents and his wife to Wisconsin about 1845. The mother of the subject was from Kinderhook, New York. The Van Slyck family located on a farm between the present towns of Lyons and Burlington, and there the subject of this sketch lived until he was ten or twelve years old, when his parents brought him to Lake Geneva. Here his father, Peter Van Slyck, bought the Lake House in 1862 and managed it for a number of years, and here the father's death occurred on February 2, 1893.

George Van Slyck grew to manhood at Lake Geneva and there he received his education, later taking a commercial course at Bryant & Stratton's Business College in Chicago. About 1869 he entered the dry goods business at Lake Geneva with Charles Palmetier and continued in the same about two years, then he bought his partner's interest and took in his brother-in-law, Maurice A. Miner, as a partner. They were in business about a year and a half, adding a drug business, Mr. Miner being an experienced druggist. After they dissolved partnership Mr. Van Slyck continued alone for two or three years. Then sold out and went into partner-

ship with two other gentlemen and they built the steamer "Commodore," which plied on Lake Geneva. The partnership continued until the death of Mr. Van Slyck in 1883. He was a popular man on the lake and when he died the lake steamers carried their flags at half mast. He was a straightforward, sincere, industrious man, who would scorn to stoop to any paltry action and was generous to a fault.

George W. Van Slyck was married in 1868 to Mary Alice Stafford, daughter of Samuel and Eliza (Gay) Stafford, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Mrs. Van Slyck was born at Bloomfield, this county, and when four years of age her parents brought her to Lake Geneva, where she grew up and was educated.

Three sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Van Slyck, namely: Harry S., who married Edith Van Velzer, lives in Racine, where he has charge of the shipping department of a piano factory; they have two children, Neta and Alta Gay. Louis Hugh Van Slyck, who is now captain of a boat on the lake here, lives in Lake Geneva. He was formerly a railroad fireman. He married Frederetta Spoor and they have two children, Wellington and Harold. George Albert Van Slyck also lives in the city of Lake Geneva, operating a popular livery stable on Broad street. He married Hallie Howard, and they are the parents of four children, Clara Alice, Georgette Tapha and two little twin daughters, named Helene Gay and Hallie McLean.

George W. Van Slyck was a member of the Masonic order. His widow has resided in the city of Lake Geneva ever since his death, and here she has a host of friends.

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#### HENRY ANTON ROBERS.

Among the strong and influential citizens of the eastern part of Walworth county whose lives have become an essential part of the history of this section, Henry A. Robers, one of the leading farmers and stock men of Lyons township, occupies a prominent place and for years has exerted a beneficial influence in the locality honored by his residence. His every-day common sense, persistence and honesty of purpose have enabled him to advance his own interests and also largely to contribute to the material and moral as well as civic advancement of the county.

Mr. Robers was born at Burlington, Wisconsin, November 2, 1855, and is the son of Herman and Mary (Effing) Robers. Both parents came to Burlington in an early day and here followed farming the rest of their lives, and there Henry A. Robers grew to manhood and was educated, living

at home until his marriage, on June 24, 1879, to Anna Gies, daughter of Lorenz and Elizabeth (Gies) Gies; although of the same name, they were no relation. Mrs. Robers was born on the home farm in Lyons township. Her parents were born and reared in Kur-Hessen, Germany, and married there in 1839, emigrating to America about 1841 and located in Spring Prairie township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where they entered land from the government, which they later sold and moved to Lyons township, entering one hundred and sixty-one acres in section 23, of that township, from the government. This land has never been out of the family from that time to this. The death of Mr. Gies occurred in 1865, his widow surviving until January 24, 1889. Their family consisted of eight children, namely: Frank died when twelve years old; Catherine is the widow of John Hack and lives in Lyons; Mary died when six years old; Susan died when four years of age; John died in infancy; the sixth child, a son, also died in infancy, as did also Pater, the next in order of birth; Anna, wife of Mr. Robers of this sketch, was the youngest of the family.

The parents of the above-named children were true pioneers. Mr. Gies built a log cabin upon his arrival here which was the family home for some time until a better could be built and the place generally improved. Their neighbors were few and remote, and the wide-stretching forests were filled with wild animals, wolves, lynxes, panthers, deer, etc. The roads over the country were little more than Indian trails. Oxen traveling so slowly, the family preferred walking long distances, even to Milwaukee, whither Mrs. Gies made a number of trips afoot, carrying eggs to market. Once she was pursued by a panther, having a very narrow escape, barely reaching a settler's cabin before the beast overtook her. Indians frequently came to their home, begging for something to eat. The Gies family moved from their log cabin into the stone house which they built about twelve years after they took up their residence in the wilderness here, in due course of time having a comfortable home and a good farm. Mrs. Robers' parents both plowed with eight yoke of oxen, breaking new ground, he driving the oxen while she held the plow handles. They endured the usual hardships and privations incident to pioneer life. The death of Mr. Gies occurred in 1865, his widow surviving until 1888.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Robers lived on a farm immediately south of that of her father in section 23, owning one hundred and thirty-nine acres there, on which they remained until 1906, successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising.

Seven children have been born to Henry A. Robers and wife, named

as follows: Elizabeth, died August 20, 1896, when sixteen years old; Louis, who rents the farm on which his parents lived so many years, married Agnes Burgett, a native of Minnesota, and they have one son, Irvin; Lornse, who is farming with his brother Louis, married a sister of the latter's wife, Gertrude Burgett, and they have two children, Odelia and Evaline; George is at home with his parents; Anna married John Elen and lives in Lyons; Henry and Friedland are both at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Robers now live on the farm her parents entered from the government in section 23, Lyons township, owning three hundred acres of valuable, productive land which they have kept well improved and in a high state of cultivation. They and their children belong to the Catholic church, and the family stands high in all circles in the community.

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#### JAMES LEO GAVIN.

It cannot be other than interesting to note in the series of personal sketches appearing in this work the varying conditions that have compassed those whose careers are outlined, and the effort has been made in each case to throw well focused light onto the individual and to bring into proper perspective the scheme of each respective career. The banks of Walworth county have ever maintained a high standing, and among the able young workers in this field of endeavor is J. Leo Gavin, assistant cashier of the Farmers National Bank, of Lake Geneva. With a natural predilection for this vocation and endowed with an analytical mind and ready faculty of assimilation, he was led to adopt the work and he is exemplifying in a significant way the value of concentration, while the future of such a career cannot fail to be gratifying.

Mr. Gavin was born in the town of Linn, this county, March 1, 1889. He is the son of John and Mary (Burns) Gavin. Both John and Peter Gavin, brothers, were well known residents of the town of Linn for many years. Their parents were James and Ann (Kennedy) Gavin. She was a first cousin of Lord Chief Justice Russell, of England, and because she married a Catholic she lost her inheritance and family connections. In 1855 James Gavin emigrated to America and after spending a few months at different places he came to Lake Geneva and worked on the new line of railroad then building between Elkhorn and Geneva. After two hundred days' work at fifty cents a day the contractor suddenly disappeared, failing to pay his men,

leaving Mr. Gavin in very straitened circumstances. He came to Linn township and worked, earning fifty dollars at fifty cents per day, then bought ten acres at five dollars per acre, raw timber land that had to be grubbed out. He raised an ox team, worked hard, was economical and soon had a start. And here he married, reared his family and has long since passed to his rest.

John Gavin grew to manhood in Linn township and owned a farm about a mile north of Zenda. He married Mary Burns, daughter of John and Jane Burns. John Burns was from New York, and he came to Lake Geneva in an early day and here became very comfortably established. John Gavin lived on his farm until 1897, when he sold out and bought a store near the Lake View Creamery, north of central Linn township, where there was a country postoffice called Robinson. He remained there fourteen years, until the fall of 1911, when he moved to Aurora, Illinois, where he and his family now reside. John Gavin was township treasurer of Linn township about fifteen years. There are four children in his family: Jane Elizabeth, James Leo, of this sketch; John Henry is in the grocery business with his father at Aurora; Charles Francis is with his parents, as is also the daughter.

J. Leo Gavin, of this sketch, grew up on the home farm in Linn township, and there assisted with the general work when a boy. He attended high school in Lake Geneva, from which he was graduated in 1906. On September 24, 1907, he took a position with the Farmers National Bank at Lake Geneva, starting as a clerk. On November 1, 1911, he was appointed assistant cashier, which position he still holds, discharging his duties to the eminent satisfaction of the stockholders and the patrons of the bank and in a manner that reflects much credit upon himself.

Mr. Gavin was reared in the Catholic faith, from which he has not departed.

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#### STEPHEN BLISS ABELL.

One of the leading citizens and representative agriculturists of Walworth county is Stephen Bliss Abell, proprietor of beautiful "Aloha Heights" farm. His has been an eminently active and useful life, but the limited space at the disposal of the biographer forbids more than a casual mention of the leading events in his career, which, in our opinion, will suffice to show that earnest endeavor and honesty of purpose rightly applied and persistently followed will lead to unqualified success. He is a man of influence in local affairs

and he is looked upon as a man thoroughly in sympathy with any movement looking toward the betterment or advancement in any way of his community, where he has always been regarded as a man of sterling honesty and worthy of the utmost confidence and respect which his fellow citizens have been free to accord, owing to his upright, public-spirited and industrious life.

Mr. Abell was born in Bloomfield township, this county, January 22, 1854. He is the son of Alfred Henry Abell and Mariett (Carpenter) Abell, who came from Schenectady county, New York, and located in Bloomfield township, this county, in 1852, and there Mr. Abell entered part of his land from the government, buying the balance, and there he established the family home, and remained there until just a short time before the death of the father. They had two children, Stephen Bliss, of this review, and a daughter, Amelia, who now lives in DeKalb county, Illinois, with her uncle.

Politically, Alfred H. Abell was a Republican and he took an active interest in public affairs. In 1878 he was a member of the Assembly of Wisconsin, and he was a leader in the affairs of his home community, holding various township offices. On May 26, 1881, he sold his farm, which he had developed as a pioneer, and bought another in section 11, Geneva township, and moved thereto, dying about a month later, his wife following him to the grave in October of the same year. He was a good and useful man and widely and favorably known.

Stephen B. Abell, of this sketch, grew to manhood on the home farm and received his education in the local schools. He has devoted his entire life to agricultural pursuits.

Mr. Abell was married in January, 1879, to Laura M. Stanford, daughter of John Russell and Laura Flora (Hart) Stanford, an excellent old family. She was born and reared in Lake Geneva, this county, and received a good education here. John Russell Stanford was of English parentage and he came here from Crawfordsville, Pennsylvania, locating at Lake Geneva in 1836, being thus one of the earliest pioneers of the county. He had for neighbors red men and wild beasts, but, being a great hunter, keeping hounds and all necessary paraphernalia for a sportsman, he greatly enjoyed his life here, despite the hardships and deprivations. He became quite influential among the Indians with whom he was always very just and they called him their white brother. The settlers depended on him to deal with the Indians for them. He came here as a young man, unmarried. Later he returned East to persuade his people to come here, where hunting and fishing were good. His father was dead and his mother refused to change to the new country. While in Pennsylvania he met and married Laura Flora Hart, a native of Connecticut, a

family well-known there, Mrs. Abell being the youngest of three small children. The father was greatly affected over the death of his estimable life companion, and, pining away, died in a few years. The sister and brother of Mrs. Abell are: Emma, who married George Putnam Conant, of Lake Geneva, where she now resides. His father was also an early settler; he is well-to-do. Frank Altomont, brother of Mrs. Abell, lives at Groton, South Dakota.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Abell: Earl Russell, who married Lulu Mary Wales, of Elkhorn, lives in that city, and they have one son, Arthur Stephen; and Alice May Abell, who is at home.

Mr. Abell is active in public affairs and has held various township offices, always with much credit to himself and with satisfaction to the community.

Mrs. Abell's father left ample means for the education of his children, and their guardian cared for them after his death. Mrs. Abell attended the schools of Lake Geneva, embracing the high school, also the Young Ladies' Seminary under the tutelage of Prof. and Mrs. E. S. Warner, well-known educators of that day.

Stephen B. Abell's farm is known as "Aloha Heights," this being an Hawaiian name, meaning "Welcome." It is one of the "show places" of the township, being an attractive, well-kept and well-improved farm, with a tastily furnished and pleasant dwelling and substantial outbuildings, surrounded by fine shade trees. From the home one can see across a broad valley with Lake Como visible in the distance—a truly inspiring panorama.

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#### BION C. ROSS.

One of the progressive farmers of Delavan township is Bion C. Ross, who has always been a man of industry and he has honestly made what he has, having been a hard worker and a good manager. He has led a life of which no one might be ashamed in any way, for it has been one of sobriety, neighborliness, honesty and filled with acts becoming a high-minded, public-spirited gentleman, a worthy scion of one of our sterling old families, members of which have done much for the furtherance of the material, civic and moral welfare of the community of which this history deals.

Mr. Ross was born on July 4, 1860, in North Geneva, Wisconsin. He is the son of George and Clarinda (Gray) Ross, both natives of the state of New York. The father of the subject emigrated west to Wisconsin in 1847 when the country was new, and settled in Geneva township, Walworth county, where he farmed successfully, and remained there the greater part of his life,

but finally sold his farm and moved to Elkhorn, this county, where he spent about twelve years. His death occurred on April 20, 1893, his widow surviving until September 20, 1910.

To Mr. and Mrs. George Ross five children were born, namely: Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor, Mrs. Maude Gunnison, Cora, Bion C., of this sketch, and Mrs. Angelia Newton, now deceased.

Bion C. Ross received his education in the public schools of Geneva township and he worked on the farm when a boy, in fact, he has farmed practically all his life; however, he owned and operated successfully a teaming outfit in Elkhorn a few years. After selling out there, he purchased the farm which he now owns, in 1905, one hundred and sixty acres in Delavan township, half of which lies in section 10 and the other half in section 11. He has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser and has kept his land under a fine state of improvement and cultivation. He has a very pleasant home and good outbuildings, and he keeps a good grade of live stock.

Mr. Ross is a Republican politically, and religiously he belongs to the Congregational church at Elkhorn. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen.

Mr. Ross was married on January 1, 1885, to Orpha Densmore, daughter of William and Josephine Densmore, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Madge A., DeMar, Eleanor and Glenn.

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#### HERMON C. BEARDSLEY.

A worthy native son of Walworth county is Hermon C. Beardsley, who, after spending his life here successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits, is now living retired at his pleasant home in Darien. He grew up amid pioneer conditions and he talks interestingly of the early days. He has not been an idle spectator of the great changes which have taken place here during his lifetime of sixty-five years, but he has taken a very active part in the work of upbuilding this nature-favored section, throughout which he is well known and highly respected.

Mr. Beardsley was born on June 12, 1847, in Linn, this county. He is the son of Charles and Susan (Copeland) Beardsley, the father born at Hannibalville, Oswego county, New York, and the mother in England, from which country she emigrated to America when young, and met and married Mr. Beardsley in the state of New York, where he had grown to manhood and where he engaged in farming until 1843, when he came to Walworth county,

Wisconsin, returning to New York about a year later, bringing his family back to this county in May, 1846. He purchased a farm upon his first visit here, consisting of about one hundred and sixty acres, part of which he later sold in order to accommodate a friend, selling forty acres and retaining one hundred and twenty acres on which he made a comfortable living until his death, on October 4, 1903, his wife having preceded him to the grave in May of the same year. They were the parents of three children, namely: Hermon C. lives in Darien; Amelia E. married Frank L. Arnold and lives in Geneva, this county; George Franklin lives on the homestead in Linn township.

Hermon C. Beardsley grew to manhood on the home farm and he received his education in the public schools of Linn and Geneva. He was also a student in Chicago University for one year. He then turned his attention to farming, buying a farm in Kansas which he operated from 1871 to 1880, when he sold out and came to Sharon township, Walworth county, and bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in section 3, which he continued to operate for many years, finally turning the active work of the same over to his son, Charles W., the subject retiring and is now making his home in the town of Darien, where he has a substantial residence, having moved here in April, 1910. He has been justice of the peace one term in 1900, filling the office in an able manner.

Mr. Beardsley was married on August 30, 1874, to Adelaide Bacon, daughter of Jeremiah W. and Elizabeth (Werrington) Bacon, natives of the state of New York. One child has been born to the subject and wife, Charles W., who operated the homestead as stated above. He married Altha Rockwell. They have two children, Esther and Donald Charles.

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### JOHN GARBUTT.

It is a well attested maxim that the greatness of the state lies not in the machinery of the government, or even in its institutions, but in the sterling qualities of its individual citizens, in their capacity for high and useful effort and unselfish endeavor and their devotion to the public good. To this class belongs John Garbutt, the present efficient and popular postmaster of the town of Darien. Although an American by adoption only, he has been most loyal to the same and his influence for good has been widely felt, his example having been worthy of emulation. He has at all times been actuated by highest motives and lofty principles, and the history of Walworth county should certainly contain his record, so intimately has he been connected with her upbuilding for a half century.

Mr. Garbutt was born on January 21, 1843, in Stockton-on-Tees, England. He is the son of Joseph and Margaret (Pickering) Garbutt, natives of England, where they grew up and were married, and from there they emigrated to the United States in 1849, reaching here in the month of September after a tedious voyage, as all voyages were in those days of slow-sailing vessels. They came direct to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but a few weeks later went to Palmyra, Jefferson county, where the father bought a farm which he operated in connection with milling, having been a miller by trade, until 1868, when he moved his family to Walworth county and settled in Sugar Creek township, but he was not able to work on account of ill health and here he died in 1871, his widow surviving until in March, 1903. They became the parents of seven children, named as follows: Anna is the widow of Thomas Astun; Joseph lives at Orfordville, Rock county, this state; John, of this review; George and Charles live at Palmyra, Wisconsin; Thomas died in infancy, and Mary is deceased.

John Garbutt, of this sketch, spent his early boyhood in England, and there attended school, later went to school at Palmyra, Wisconsin, being only six years old when he accompanied his parents to this country. After finishing school he worked as a cheese-maker until 1861, in the fall of which year he proved his loyalty to the federal government by enlisting in defense of the Union in Company I, Thirteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, in which he served very faithfully for a period of four years. He was honorably discharged and after the war returned home and resumed his former business, remaining at Palmyra until 1868, then moved to Sugar Creek township, Walworth county, and has since resided in this county. He owns and operates successfully a twenty-six-acre poultry and dairy farm at Darien, and is one of the best known poultrymen in the country, having become efficient in every phase of the business. He makes a specialty of White Rocks and Anconas. The oldest daughter, Cora B., has charge of the poultry business.

Mr. Garbutt was appointed postmaster at Darien on May 31, 1899, and he has been incumbent of the same to the present time, discharging his duties in a manner that reflects much credit upon himself and to the satisfaction of the department and the people. Religiously, he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Garbutt was married on December 31, 1872, to Mary Jane Uglow, daughter of John and Elizabeth Uglow, both natives of England.

The subject and wife have three children, Cora B., Hattie M. and Nellie E., all at home.

## ALBERT P. WILKINS.

Now that the summer time of life has ended and the autumn winds of old age have come, Albert P. Wilkins, long a prominent agriculturist of Walworth county, who is now living retired in his pleasant home in the town of Darien, can look backward over a career that has been well spent, resulting in good to those whom he has come into contact with and has brought material success to himself.

Mr. Wilkins was born March 10, 1841, in Darien township, this county, and he is thus the son of a pioneer, having come down to us from the days of the early development here, and in the later upbuilding of the locality he played no inconspicuous part. He talks interestingly of the conditions and customs prevailing here in his boyhood. He is the son of Joseph R. and Celestia (Johnson) Wilkins, the father a native of New Jersey and the mother of Steubenville, New York. They grew up in the East and were married there, coming to Wisconsin in 1838, first settling on eighty acres in Darien township, when the country was wild and neighbors few and remote. They entered their land from the government, and bought outright forty acres more in Darien township, and here they established a good home by dint of hard toil and here they lived for about thirty years, then sold the farm and retired from active life.

The death of the father occurred on September 12, 1907, at an advanced age, his wife having preceded him to the grave on March 6, 1891. Three children were born to Joseph K. Wilkins and wife: Albert P., of this sketch; Carrie Amy, wife of Levi Allen, of Sharon, and Alice C., wife of E. A. Holmes, of Milton, Wisconsin.

Albert P. Wilkins, of this sketch, grew to manhood on the home farm in Darien township and there he assisted with the work when a boy during crop seasons, attending the district schools, such as there were, in the winter time. Later attending the academy at Allen's Grove, then the Racine Business College, he thus became well educated for a boy of those early days in a new country. The completion of his business course in Racine rendered him well prepared for life's duties, and he began his business career by conducting a grocery store at Allen's Grove for several years, then took up farming in section 19, Darien township, where he purchased the old homestead, which he kept well improved and under a high state of cultivation, successfully following general farming and stock raising there until the fall of 1910, when, having accumulated a competency, he retired from the active duties of life, and moved to the town of Darien.

Mr. Wilkins was married on December 22, 1880, to Mary A. Blake, a daughter of Patrick and Ellen (Sullivan) Blake. Patrick Blake was born in Summerhill, Ireland. He and his wife grew up and were married in their native country, and in 1844 emigrated to the United States, locating at Eagle, Waukesha county, Wisconsin. Mrs. Wilkins was their only child. They became well established in this country and were highly respected by all who knew them.

Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Albert P. Wilkins, namely: Albert J. and Mary C., twins, were born September 16, 1882. The former lives on the homestead in this township, and the latter is the wife of Hugh McCarthy, also of Darien township. George H. Wilkins was born March 16, 1895, and is now attending school in Darien, as is also the youngest child, Marian M., who was born April 4, 1900.

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#### FRANK E. LAWSON.

Frank E. Lawson, well known banker of Walworth, is a notable example of the successful self-made man, and as such has made his influence felt among his fellowmen by rising to an important position in the affairs of Walworth county. Such a man commands our highest respect, for praise is always due to merit, especially where the latter is the result of individual effort.

Mr. Lawson was born at Delavan, this county, on August 9, 1868. He is the son of John and Elizabeth (Godfrey) Lawson, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

Frank E. Lawson was reared on the home farm in Walworth township and there he assisted with the general work during the crop seasons. He received his educational training in the high school at Sharon, and when eighteen or nineteen years old he taught one term of school. In 1889, when twenty-one years old, he married Iva Colburn, daughter of Lucius and Letitia (Heritage) Colburn. She was born and reared on a farm in Walworth township and received her education in the local schools.

After his marriage Mr. Lawson purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Walworth township and there became well established through his industry and close application, becoming one of the progressive and successful agriculturalists and stock raisers of his community, continuing farming until 1907, in which year he moved into the village of Walworth, but still retained his farm, and then took his present position as cashier of the Wal-

worth State Bank, having discharged the duties of this important post continuously to the present time, in a manner that has reflected much credit upon himself and to the satisfaction of the stockholders and the patrons of the bank. He has never relinquished his interest in farming affairs and in 1908 he was president of the Walworth County Agricultural Society, and has done much for the success of that praiseworthy organization. For a period of four years he was manager of the Farmers' Co-Operative Creamery Company in Walworth, whose large success has been due in no small measure to his efforts.

Mr. Lawson has ever taken a good citizen's interest in public affairs and is influential in local politics, although merely in an effort to place the best men in the offices sought. He was a member of the school board for about fifteen years and was town clerk for four or five years. He is a loyal Republican.

Three children have been born to Mr. Lawson and wife, namely: Joyce, who was graduated from the high school at Walworth, also took a course in a business college and she is now head bookkeeper for the Bradley Knitting Company at Delavan; Beulah and Ralph are at home and attending school.

Fraternally, Mr. Lawson is a member of the Masonic order and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a man of pleasing personality, kind-hearted, honorable in all his dealings with his fellowmen, and consequently inspires confidence and respect in those he comes into contact with.

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#### EDGAR O. BURDICK.

The subject of this sketch has long enjoyed prestige as one of the enterprising and public-spirited citizens of Walworth, standing high in the county and having the unbounded respect of all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance, and as the present treasurer of the village honored by his residence he is giving the utmost satisfaction to all concerned.

Edgar O. Burdick was born in Otsego county, New York, October 25, 1842. He is the son of Joshua and Mary (Crumb) Burdick. About 1858 the family came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and settled in the south-eastern part of Walworth township, where the father bought a small farm and there spent the rest of his life. His family consisted of seven children, four sons and three daughters, namely: Edgar O., of this sketch; George, who was a soldier in Company K, Twenty-eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, died during the Civil war; Emily, who married Edward Stocking,

lived at Sharon, and her death occurred in 1908; Henry A. lives at Los Angeles, California; Flora G. married James Jorgenson and has lived in San Francisco many years; Ella, who married George Richards and lived at Darien, died in 1909; Carrie M. died when nineteen years old.

Joshua Burdick, father of the above named children, spent his life in agricultural pursuits, and his death occurred in 1896, his wife having preceded him to the grave in 1886. His father, Benjamin Burdick, and his wife's father, Silas Crumb, lived in Oswego county, New York.

Edgar O. Burdick, of this sketch, grew up on the home farm, where he remained until 1861, in the fall of which year he enlisted in Company K, Thirteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and was assigned to the Western Division, seeing service in Missouri, Kansas, Kentucky and Tennessee, most of the time on guard duty and after bushwhackers. He was in the service about two years. After he was mustered out he went to Minnesota and entered a homestead, on which he spent four years. In 1864 he was united in marriage with Emily Sherburne, daughter of Joseph and Rebecca (Atwood) Sherburne. Her parents were from near Glover, Vermont, where Mrs. Burdick was born. The Sherburne family came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, about 1845 when Emily was one year old, the family settling on a farm in Walworth township, where they continued farming all their lives. There were five children in Joseph Sherburne's family, two sons and three daughters, namely: Phoebe A. married Lucien Covey and lived in Linn township; Edward, who lived in Chicago about twenty-five years, spent the rest of his life in this county, dying about 1897; Mary, who married C. C. Clark, lives in the village of Walworth; George lives at Covert, Michigan; Emily, wife of Mr. Burdick. The father of these children passed away in 1876, the mother surviving until 1889.

After his marriage Mr. Burdick lived in Minnesota until about 1868, then went to Chicago where he spent two years in the employ of the street car company. From there he came to Walworth township, and has since made his home here, engaged in farming until about 1902, when he moved to the village of Walworth, where he has since resided. He was very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser.

Mr. Burdick has always taken quite an interest in politics, and is a Republican of the old school and a loyal supporter of its principles. He has held various local offices, such as township supervisor, assessor, treasurer and clerk, and he has been clerk of the village of Walworth for about eight years. He has given eminent satisfaction as a public servant and has always discharged his duties faithfully.

Three children have been born to the subject and wife: Grace, who married Burt Button, a traveling salesman, who was born and reared at Milton Junction, where they still reside; Beulah married Harvey L. Burdick (no relation) and they live at Delmar Junction, Iowa, where he is principal of schools, and they have two children, George and Dorothy; Flora married Dr. H. M. Johnson, who came here from Stone Fort, Illinois, and is now practicing dentistry in Walworth.

Fraternally, Mr. Burdick is a Mason and a Modern Woodman, and also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He is secretary both of the Masonic and Modern Woodmen lodges at Walworth, and stands high in fraternal circles in this community. He is a man of obliging, sociable nature and of upright character and is highly respected by all who know him.

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### JASPER M. FISH.

A venerable and highly respected citizen of Geneva township, Walworth county, is Jasper M. Fish, a man who has lived a quiet, useful and successful life and has taken part in the development of this locality, laboring unselfishly for the improvement of the same along all lines, and it is to such worthy citizens as he that the present generation can enjoy so fully the blessings of the finely improved country which we of the younger generation find awaiting our pleasure.

Mr. Fish was born in Honey Hollow, Greene county, New York, January 31, 1836, and is one of eight children born to the union of Silas and Betsey (Raymond) Fish. The paternal grandfather, Silas Fish, who lived to an advanced age, dying on the old homestead, was a native of Albany county, New York, where he followed farming for a number of years, his family being early settlers in the Empire state. He was three times married and he reared a family by each wife, but the father of the subject was the only son of the second union to grow to manhood. The daughters by that marriage were, Susan, who married Nathaniel Thompkins, of Albany county, New York; Mary, who married John Townsend, of Philadelphia; Sarah, who married Isaac King, of Albany county, New York; and Amy, who married Daniel Frost, also of that county. The maternal grandfather, Elias Raymond, was a native of Athens, New York. During his early years he followed the cooper's trade, but later engaged in merchandising. He married Hannah Scott, and they reared a family of six children. In 1857 they came to Wis-



JASPER M. FISH

THE ASTOR LENOX  
TILDEN FOUNDATION  
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consin and in the spring of 1868 came from Sauk county to Walworth county. He died in November, 1878, at the age of ninety-one years. He was a member of the Methodist church, and he lived a temperate, honorable and upright life.

Silas Fish was also born in the state of New York, his birth occurring on April 19, 1806, and there he followed farming and lumbering. In April, 1855, he emigrated to Winfield township, Sauk county, Wisconsin, locating near Reedsburg, where he purchased a farm of two hundred and four acres, of partly improved land, and thereon made his home until his death, February 20, 1882, a month before his eighty-sixth birthday. He and his wife were Quakers. Eight children were born to them, namely: Elizabeth, who married Thomas Powell, of Sauk county; Elias R. lives in Monroe county, this state; Spencer C. lives at Reedsburg; Lewis N. and Emma Jane, who married Charles E. Kelley, both lived in Sauk county; Lucius lives at Reedsburg, and Elbert W. lives in Sauk county, also.

When nineteen years old Jasper M. Fish, of this sketch, accompanied his parents to this state, having been reared in New York and educated in the common schools. He remained with his parents until attaining his majority, and in 1859 he settled on forty acres in Sauk county which his father gave him. He had met Temperance Hand in Walworth county while on a visit here the previous winter, and on October 29, 1859, they were married. She was a daughter of Jared and Mary J. (Raymond) Hand, and was one of five children who grew to maturity, the others being, Hannah A., deceased, who married John Greenwood, of Sauk county; Raymond J., a contractor and builder of San Antonio, Texas, who married Harriet Coles, of Lyons, this county; Helen M. married J. W. Moore, an attorney of Dallas, Texas; and Milton J., who has a milk and dairy supply business in Kansas City, and who married Adaline Wischhusen. Mrs. Fish came to Wisconsin with her parents when she was six years old. Her union with Mr. Fish was blessed with seven children, namely: Lorenzo J., Mary E., William R., Silas B., Elizabeth M., Charles R. and Grace T.

For some time Mr. Fish was a Democrat and he voted for Cleveland in 1884, but since then he has been a Prohibitionist. He lived about eight years on his farm in Sauk county, and in 1866 purchased one hundred and sixty-one acres in Walworth county, in section 12, Geneva township; in 1874 he bought one hundred and sixty acres in section 11 and afterwards added sixty acres more in section 11, adjoining the other two tracts, also owned forty acres in section 2 and thirty acres in section 1, his fine farm being known as "The Fish Stock Ranch."

In the winter of 1891 Mr. Fish took a prominent part in organization the Walworth County Printing Company, together with other leading Prohibitionists, of which company he was president. They established the *Blade*, a Prohibition paper, and for some time Mr. Fish devoted his attention and energy to its publication, it becoming a powerful factor for the cause in this part of the state.

Mr. Fish and his wife now reside on the northeastern quarter of section 11 and they rent their farms to their sons. Lorenzo J. married Lucy Johnson and has a farm of his own in the north part of Geneva township; Mary E. died unmarried in April, 1906; Silas B. is farming the one hundred and sixty acres where the subject and wife reside; Elizabeth married Howard Lameaux and lives at Winesap, Washington; Grace married Bert Vant, now deceased, and she lives with her parents, and has one son, Arthur Vant.

Silas B. and Charles B. Fish are both told of at some length under separate headings herein.

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### JONAS B. WISE.

One of the best known and most highly honored of our native sons, who has been content to spend his long, useful and very active life right here at home and thus benefited himself, his family and the community in general, is Jonas B. Wise, well known real estate and insurance man of Sharon. He was born on October 28, 1848, in Sharon, Wisconsin. He is the son of Joseph and Matilda (Alexander) Wise, the father a native of France where he spent his earlier years, coming to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1842, and settling in Sharon township on a farm, taking up one hundred and twenty acres from the government, and here he farmed until about 1870, when he sold out and moved to the town of Sharon, retiring from active work. His death occurred in 1889, at Sharon. His widow survives, being now eighty-three years of age, and she has a host of friends at Sharon and vicinity. They were the parents of two children, Jonas B., and Frances, of Sharon.

Jonas B. Wise was reared on the home farm in this township, and there he worked during the crop season. He received his education in the public schools of Sharon and spent three years in the academy at Allen's Grove. He began life as a merchant and for a period of fourteen years successfully conducted a store at Sharon, then operated the local elevator for a period of sixteen years, building up an extensive grain trade with the surrounding country. He finally sold out and went into the real estate and insurance business in

Sharon, which he still continues and he does a large and growing business. He owns a beautiful residence on Lake Geneva, where he spends his summers. He has been very successful in a business way, being a man of keen observation and endeavoring to keep fully abreast of the times.

Mr. Wise is a loyal Republican and he has always taken an abiding interest in political affairs. He was chairman of the board of supervisors for about seven years, in the village. He was clerk of the district schools for twelve years, having filled these offices very creditably and to the satisfaction of the public. Religiously, he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Wise was married on June 18, 1874, to Alice Arnold, daughter of S. G. and Ann Arnold, a highly respected family of Sharon. To the subject and wife one child has been born, Alice Pearl, who died when twelve years of age.

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#### ALFRED HENRY FRICKER.

Among the enterprising and progressive men of affairs in Walworth county is Alfred Henry Fricker, of Walworth, an American by adoption only, but nevertheless a loyal and public-spirited citizen. He was born in Chester, England, March 21, 1873, and is the son of John Henry Fricker and Alice Elizabeth (Whittle) Fricker. The father was a mechanical engineer, one who made a specialty of installing brewery plants. He was a native of England, but had spent probably seventeen years, prior to his marriage, in Canada, where he followed his vocation, but he was making his home in England when his son, Alfred H., was born. The business of the father took him to various parts of England, but the son spent the major part of his youth in Liverpool, in which city he was educated at the Liverpool Institute and the Liverpool University, giving special attention to chemistry and making an excellent record in each of those well known institutions. About 1890 he emigrated to America and, after traveling over the states considerably, located at Whitewater, Wisconsin, accepting a position in a hardware store. He remained there until 1905, when he came to Walworth and went into business for himself, establishing a hardware store, he and D. W. Porter buying out Rowbotham Brothers. They continued in partnership a year and a half, then Mr. Fricker purchased his partner's interest and has been in business alone ever since, having been very successful, enjoying a large and growing trade with the surrounding country. He carries a large and carefully selected stock of general hardware and farming implements, and his many customers are treated with uniform courtesy and fairness. His store would be a credit to a much larger town than Walworth.

Mr. Fricker was married on October 11, 1895, to Zelpha Powell, who was born and reared at Whitewater, Wisconsin. She is the daughter of William and Emma (Matthew) Powell. William came from England, receiving his education there. He learned the trade of carpenter and came to this country after his marriage. He came direct to Whitewater, where he had friends, and worked at his trade there up to the time of his death. He had five children: Zelpha, wife of the subject; William married Adah Johnson and they have two children, Theodore and Ronald. He lives at Stephens Point, Wisconsin, where he is manager of a telephone company; Walter married Lily Kellar; Ed, who is married and has two children, Rosetta and Edward, lives in Stevens Point, Wisconsin; Nellie is married to Ember Fowler, who lives in Whitewater, Wisconsin.

To the subject and wife two sons have been born, William Henry and Earl Norman, also a daughter, Florence Ada.

Mr. Fricker and wife belong to the Episcopal church. He takes a due interest in public affairs and is recognized as a man of influence in his community. Mr. Fricker's mother is now living in Bristol, England. His father died the first of October, 1910. The subject was summoned by cable and within a week from the time he was at home in England, having made a very quick trip.

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### WALWORTH STATE BANK.

The Walworth State Bank, located at Walworth, Wisconsin, is universally regarded as one of the sound and safe institutions in the southern part of the state, and under its present capable management it is rapidly growing in prestige. It was started in 1900 as a private bank by Hiram S. Bell, and on August 23, 1903, it was chartered as the Walworth State Bank. It now has a capital stock of fifteen thousand dollars and a surplus of the same amount. The following comparative statement will show the growth of deposits of this bank during the past four years: February 20, 1908, \$94,773.10; February 20, 1909, \$108,788.30; February 20, 1910, \$111,454.43; February 20, 1911, \$166,189.05; February 20, 1912, \$220,654.33.

The following condensed report of the state banking department showing the condition of the Walworth State Bank at the close of business on February 20, 1912, is self-explanatory, speaking for itself: Resources—Loans and discounts, \$174,422.86; bonds, \$6,200; furniture and fixtures, \$1,445.72; cash on hand and in banks, \$68,005.28; total, \$250,073.86. Liabilities—

Capital stock, \$15,000; surplus and profits, \$14,428.53; deposits, \$220,645.33; total, \$250,073.86.

When chartered the officers of this bank were, Hiram S. Bell, president; L. C. Church, vice-president; J. C. Partridge, cashier. In 1904 Mr. Church was elected president and Frank E. Lawson, vice-president, and in 1908 Mr. Lawson became cashier, and C. S. Douglass vice-president; in 1909 Mr. Douglass was elected president and E. A. Peterson, vice-president.

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### WILLIAM C. BROWN.

Energy, sound judgment and persistency of effort, properly applied, will always win the goal sought in the sphere of human endeavor, no matter what the environment may be or what obstacles are met with, for they who are endowed with such characteristics make of their adversities stepping-stones to higher things. These reflections are suggested by the career of William C. Brown, farmer of Darien township, Walworth county, who has forged his way to the front ranks of twentieth-century husbandmen in this section of the county under consideration, and is one of the representative men of the same. For in studying the character of this gentleman it will be found that he came from a class of people who do not permit obstacles to lie in their way and hinder them from the goal sought: they are the kind of people who redeemed the wilderness, routed the savage and transformed the hills and valleys into fertile farms and good homes.

William C. Brown was born on March 14, 1863, in the state of New Jersey, where he spent his early childhood, but most of his life has been spent in Walworth county, Wisconsin. He is the son of James and Margarette (Moran) Brown, born natives of Ireland, where they grew up and were married and from there they emigrated to the United States in 1861, first locating in New Jersey. James Brown was a stone mason by trade, which he followed about nine years after coming to America. It was in 1870 that he brought his family to Jefferson county, Wisconsin, locating on Johnson's creek, where he bought a farm which he worked about six years, then moved to Darien township, Walworth county, where he now resides in section 24, with his sons, James and Stephen Brown. He was very successful as a general farmer, but he has lived a retired life for the past ten years. His wife died on December 18, 1909.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. James Brown, named as follows: William C., of this review; Mary, Mrs. Maggie O'Brien; James; Mrs. Nettie Fanning; Stephen; Frank is deceased, as is also Ora.

William C. Brown received his education in Rock county, Wisconsin, in the district schools. Early in life he turned his attention to farming and this has been his life work. He started humbly, but by hard work and good management he has laid up a competency and become the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of excellent land in section 26, Darien township, which he has under an advanced state of improvement and cultivation, and he has a good home and such outbuildings and modern farming machinery as his needs require. He always keeps a good grade of live stock.

Politically, Mr. Brown is a Democrat, but he has never found time to be especially active in public affairs. In religious matters he is a faithful supporter and member of the Catholic church. At present he is clerk of district school No. 3, Darien township. Fraternally, he belongs to the Catholic Foresters and the Modern Woodmen.

Mr. Brown was married on July 21, 1898, to Mary Fanning, daughter of Michael and Mary (Holland) Fanning, natives of Ireland. They came to this county twenty-five years ago, settling in Lima, Wisconsin. There were eleven children in that family, all of whom are living. They are members of the Roman Catholic church.

To Mr. and Mrs. Brown have been born three children, named as follows: William, born February 10, 1900; James, born September 3, 1902, and Mary, born November 5, 1904.

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### ARCHIBALD COLBURN.

We are always glad to revert to the lives of the old pioneers, for it seems that they had elements about them that are not found in the lives of men in the present generation; they seem to have been more courageous, more patriotic and more honest—it is at least indisputable that they were more hospitable. The stranger was always welcome and a guest need have no money with which to defray expenses of a night's lodging at the cabin of the early settler, and if he needed assistance in any way, he could always obtain it readily. There was evidently more brotherly love between men—a broader altruism. The change from such conditions to those of the present day is a regrettable one.

Mr. Colburn, father of Lucius Colburn, of this county, was the head of the family in this county. They came here from Livingston county, New

York, in 1846, and lived first two miles east of Walworth for one year, then moved about a mile nearer the village the following spring, then traded for eighty acres a little over a mile south of Walworth and there he lived until his death. The death of Archibald Colburn occurred in 1880, while he was attending the Republican national convention that nominated Garfield, his widow surviving until November 14, 1895. She had been known in her maidenhood as Charity Blair and was born in Chenango county, New York, the daughter of John Blair and wife.

Archibald Colburn was born at Pittstown, New York. When the Colburn family settled south of Walworth they found an open prairie country, with few neighbors. Their home was one of the very few frame houses, except temporary structures. Prairie wolves were often seen. No roads had been regularly laid out, the highways being only tracks across the wild prairie land. All barns were built of timber hewn from the woods, there being no sawed lumber. Later in life Archibald Colburn purchased twenty acres of timber. He worked hard and established a good home and had an excellent farm, and he became one of the influential men of his day in this vicinity. All of his children but the third and the youngest were born at Nunda, New York. The third was born here.

The subject and wife were both worthy members of the Baptist church.

Lucius Colburn was born in Livingston county, New York, August 4, 1831, and there he spent his boyhood and in 1862 was united in marriage with Letitia Heritage, who was born at Shiloh, Cumberland county, New Jersey, and about 1848 she came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, with her parents, Zacheus and Isabel (Ayers) Heritage. Lucius Colburn took up farming early in life, which he continued in Walworth township, this county, on his excellent farm three and one-half miles southwest of Walworth. In 1905 he sold out and bought land in South Dakota. He has lived in the village of Walworth since 1905. He has three children: Herbert, who married Fannie Pankhurst, has two sons and a daughter, Arba, Ivan and Claude. Mr. Pankhurst is farming near Alexander, South Dakota. Florance Colburn, son of the subject, lives at home and follows painting. Iva married Frank E. Lawson, cashier of the Walworth State Bank, a sketch of whom appears herein.

On January 1, 1912, Lucius Colburn and wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, and their children were all at home, the occasion being one long to be remembered by the family. Although now past eighty years of age, Mr. Colburn has never been sued nor sued any one nor ever been a witness in any case. He has always led an honest, industrious life, quiet and law-abiding.

## PETER GUS PETERSON.

America has always held the gates of her entry ports ajar to the sons of Norway, and, having thus extended them a hearty hand of welcome and given them every opportunity to advance themselves after they got within our borders, they have come in large numbers from year to year and their substantial homes now dot the hills and plains of nearly every agricultural community of the Union and there is hardly a city of any importance in which we do not find their homes and places of business. Thus they have aided us in developing this vast western hemisphere and we have in turn benefited them. They were reared in a land where Mother Nature is somewhat unkind, where the winters are long and the country rugged and none too fertile, as a rule, so that they have had to battle hard for the right to live, had to extend every energy for the food and clothing necessary to keep aglow the little flame of life. This has enabled them to win success in this country of ours where there are unlimited opportunities, for they do not halt at any obstacle or permit any adversity to swerve them from their course.

One of this hardy band is Peter Gus Peterson, a farmer of Sharon township, Walworth county, who began life with no capital, and by perseverance and economy is the possessor of a good farm and a comfortable home. He was born in Norway on June 6, 1873. He is the son of Peter and Ellena (Olson) Peterson, the father a native of Sweden and the mother of Norway. They grew up in their respective countries and were married. They never came to America. The father devoted his life to farming, and was a quiet, hardworking man and known as an honorable citizen. His death occurred on January 10, 1890, his wife having preceded him to the grave on April 15, 1880.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Peterson, named as follows: Katherine, deceased; Olaus, deceased; Olena and Christina live in Chicago; Marens lives in Norway; Emma lives in Chicago; Bernt lives in Norway; Peter Gus, of this sketch.

Peter G. Peterson grew to manhood in Norway and received his education in the schools of his home community. He came to the United States in 1891 and went direct to Chicago. He learned the carpenter's trade in this country and this he followed for two and one-half years in Chicago. He turned his attention to farming and came to Sharon, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he worked as a farm hand for about five years. Then he married on February 23, 1899, and bought a farm of sixty acres, which he retained only a short time. Selling this place, he purchased the farm of

sixty-seven acres where he now lives at the edge of Sharon. He has a very valuable and desirable place, which he has under excellent improvements and cultivation, and is successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. He has a good home and good outbuildings, all of which he has made through his individual efforts, for he had to start in life empty handed, and, this being the case, he is deserving of a great deal of credit for what he has accomplished. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen and the Equitable Fraternal Union.

Mr. Peterson was married to Mary Ann Smith on February 23, 1899. She is the daughter of Ira and Barbara Smith, a highly respected family and well known in the northeastern part of Boone county, Illinois, and are very well known in that part of the country. To Mr. and Mrs. Peterson three children have been born, named as follows: Rae Everett, Vivian Eleanor and Willard Russell.

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#### CHARLES S. FRENCH.

Success comes to the deserving after all, though it seems sometimes that this is not the case. The man who puts forth the proper effort long enough and hard enough will achieve just about what he set out to achieve. This fact was realized early in life by Charles S. French, of Lake Geneva, another of the sterling New Englanders who have cast their lot in Walworth county, and by so doing have benefited alike themselves and us. His life record here has been especially characterized by the most absolute integrity of word and action, which has gained for him the unqualified respect of the entire community. Added to this is a spirit of good fellowship and geniality which has brought to him a large circle of warm personal friends. He was born in Burlington, Vermont, July 26, 1856. He is the son of Judge William H. and Ermina E. (Byington) French, the father a prominent man at Burlington, having for some time been judge of the court at that city. His widow survives and is making her home with the subject in Lake Geneva.

Charles S. French lived in his native city until he was ten years of age, then, his father having died, he and his mother came to Chicago, where they made their home until about 1868, then came to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and here they have since resided.

The subject attended the normal school at Whitewater and, deciding on a legal profession, began the study of law in the office of John A. Smith and

was admitted to the bar in 1879, soon afterwards becoming a partner of John A. Smith, and they practiced together until the death of the latter. He has practiced alone in Lake Geneva ever since, enjoying a liberal patronage and taking a high rank among the leading attorneys of this part of the state. He has kept fully abreast of the times in all that pertains to his profession and is known to be a careful, painstaking and learned counsellor, and he has figured prominently in important cases in this locality for many years.

Taking an active interest in public affairs, Mr. French has held a number of local offices within the gift of the people, always to the eminent satisfaction of all concerned. He was mayor of Lake Geneva for four terms when a young man, giving the city an administration such as it has seldom had in its history. He was postmaster here for eight years, and for a number of years was president of the board of education, and years ago was also clerk of the village.

Mr. French organized the Equitable Electric Light Company at Lake Geneva in 1897 and he has been president of the company ever since, its large and rapidly growing success being due very largely to his judicious advice and counsel.

The subject was united in marriage with Ida W. Newberry, who was born in Chicago, and who is the daughter of Capt. Oscar E. Newberry, a lake captain, and Nellie (Loomis) Newberry. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. French, namely: Eleanor E. married Howard Beckwith and lives in Lake Geneva; Mary E. is at home with her parents; Charles W. lives at Jerome, Idaho; Harry L. lives in Chicago; Sidney B. is at home.

Mr. French has long been prominent in Masonry, being a Knight Templar and a member of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He was high priest of the local chapter for a period of twenty-three years, a record, we believe.

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#### CYRUS A. MATTESON.

The family, whose name appears above, have enjoyed prestige as leading citizens of Walworth county since the early days, being familiar with the scenes and conditions of pioneer life, the parents of the subject knowing full well what it meant to establish a new home far removed from the advantages of advanced civilization in a wide-stretching forest through which the wolves prowled and deer roamed, and they became inured to hard work and knew how to appreciate toil at its true value, and members of this sterling

old family have played well their parts in the work of transforming the county from the wild state in which the Indians left it to one of the choice agricultural sections of the state.

Cyrus A. Matteson, farmer, of Sharon township, was born in the town of Darien on December 30, 1861, and he has spent his life in Walworth county. He is the son of Johnson and Laura (Franklin) Matteson, natives of the state of New York, where they spent their earlier years, received their education in the old-time public schools, and there they were married, and lived until 1844 when they came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and settled in Darien township, taking up one hundred and sixty acres from the government, which they improved into an excellent farm and there resided until 1896, when they retired from active life, and moved to a cozy home in the town of Darien where the father still resides, his wife having died in May, 1908.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Matteson, one of whom died in infancy; those living are, Mrs. George Fiske, of Delavan; Cyrus A., of this sketch; Frank lives in Darien, where he is engaged in contracting; John lives in North Geneva, Wisconsin; Mrs. Clara Chesebro, of Beloit, Wisconsin; Mrs. Marion McKenney lives in South Dakota.

Cyrus A. Matteson, of this sketch, was reared on the home farm where he worked during the summer months, attending the Darien schools in the winter time. He has devoted his life to farming. He is now the owner of one hundred and ninety acres of productive and well improved land, one hundred and ten acres of which lie in Sharon township and eighty acres in Walworth township. He has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser.

Politically, Mr. Matteson is a Republican. He was school treasurer for a period of twelve years, during which time he discharged his duties very faithfully and acceptably to all concerned. Fraternally, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen.

Mr. Matteson was married on October 12, 1887, to Amy Putnam, daughter of George W. and Eliza Putnam, a highly respected family of Darien. Here Mrs. Matteson grew to womanhood and received her education in the common schools of the community in which the family has long resided.

To Mr. and Mrs. Matteson five children have been born, named as follows: Edith, Alta, Cyrus, Johnson and Marion, who died when four years old.

## J. H. REDENIUS.

Clearly defined purpose and consecutive effort will inevitably result in the attaining of a due measure of success, but in following out the career of one who has attained success by his own efforts there comes into view the intrinsic individuality which made such accomplishment possible, and thus there is granted an objective incentive and inspiration, while at the same time there is enkindled a feeling of respect and admiration. The qualities which have made J. H. Redenius one of the prominent and successful men of Walworth county have also brought him the esteem of his fellow men, for his career has been one of well directed energy, strong determination and honorable methods. It would be hard to find in this section of the great Badger state a more progressive, scientific and industrious agriculturist and stock raiser than he, and his career is well worth considering by the youth just entering upon his life work along similar lines, for it abounds not only in lesson but also in incentive.

Mr. Redenius was born on September 18, 1853, in Tazewell county, Illinois, the scion of a sterling old family of the Sucker state, being the son of Hiram L. and Gertien J. (Gerdes) Redenius, natives of Ost Friesland, Germany, from which country they emigrated to the United States when young and located in Woodford county, Illinois, where they engaged successfully in farming. The father was a man of strong characteristics and he lived the latter part of his life retired, his death occurring in Woodford county, Illinois, about 1860. His family consisted of four children, namely: Ellen, Johanna, Hiram L. and J. H. of this review.

The subject grew up on his father's farm and assisted with the general work about the place when a boy, receiving what education he could in the district schools. He left his native state and came to Wisconsin when a young man, buying a farm in Darien township, and here he prospered by hard work and good management, being now the owner of one of the most desirable farms in the township, consisting of four hundred acres in section 14. He has brought it up to a high state of improvement and cultivation. In connection with general farming he always keeps an excellent grade of live stock, of which he is known to be an excellent judge. He has a large, substantial and attractive home and good, convenient outbuildings. Everything about the place indicates thrift, prosperity and that a gentleman of excellent taste has its management in hand. He is also the owner of seven hundred and ninety acres of very valuable land in Richmond and Delavan town in Walworth county.

Mr. Redenius was married on February 9, 1875, to Richie Folkers, the representative of an excellent family, and to this union have been born nine children, all living, namely: Dora J., J. G., H. W., Carl F., W. W., Johanna G., Esther Ethel, George A. and Henry Bryan.

Mr. Redenius is a Democrat and, while not a public man, he is interested in whatever tends to promote the interests of his party and the community in general. He is a member and liberal supporter of the Lutheran church.

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#### ADAM SMOK.

One of the successful farmers of Sharon township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, who has worked hard for that which he now possesses, and knows how to appreciate the true dignity of labor and to place a correct estimate upon the value of money is Adam Smok, who, although born under alien skies and reared to customs other than ours and taught to revere a flag different from our vaunted stars and stripes, nevertheless is loyal to our institutions and, in fact, is, after all, about as much of an American as any of us. Walworth county has indeed been fortunate in securing such a large number of men of his nationality and type, for they have certainly done much for this locality. But this has not been a one-sided affair, for we have offered them great inducements to come and till our land, in that we have furnished them as rich soil as might be found anywhere and at such figures as they could all afford to buy, and while they have been developing the same we have, under the aegis of our state codes, thrown about them every protection. They have appreciated this and have made good citizens and we are glad to have them with us. One of this worthy number is Adam Smok.

Mr. Smok was born in Germany on October 4, 1863. He is the son of Adam and Caroline Smok, both born in Germany, where they grew to maturity and received their education in the common schools and there were married. They are still living in the fatherland.

Adam Smok, the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood in his native land and there received his educational training in the public schools and there he spent his early life. When about thirty years of age, in 1893, he, having failed to find the opportunities in his native land that one of his ambition would naturally desire, set sail for the western republic, coming direct to Walworth county, Wisconsin. He first settled in Walworth county and, being short of funds, began working out by the day in order to get a

foothold here. He saved his money, and later rented a farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres in Sharon township and here he still resides, having made a success as a general farmer and stock raiser, keeping the place well tilled and everything in tip-top shape.

Mr. Smok was married in Germany and brought his family with him to America. On May 16, 1911, Mr. Smok was united in marriage with Mrs. Lena Sein, who had been previously married, having two children by her first husband, Carl, who lives at home, and Rose, who died on January 17, 1907.

Mr. Smok spent three years in the German army in his youth. He belongs to the German Lutheran church, and he is a member of the Mystic Workers.

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#### LEWIS G. BROWN.

The legal profession in Walworth county has an able representative in the person of Lewis G. Brown, of Lake Geneva, one of the leaders of the younger members of the bar, whose success since locating here has won him many warm friends and admirers in the city and county—in fact, he has spent his life in this community, being the representative of an excellent family, members of which have ever sought to promote such movements as have for their object the general betterment of the locality.

Mr. Brown was born in the city of Lake Geneva on March 4, 1876. He is the son of William and Emma E. (Lewis) Brown, both natives of Walworth county and here they grew up, received such education as the early schools afforded and here they were married.

Lewis G. Brown grew to manhood in Lake Geneva and received his education in the public schools, then took a course in the Northern Indiana Law School, from which he was graduated in 1897, when twenty-one years of age, having made an excellent record for scholarship. He returned to Lake Geneva and the same year began the practice of law, which he has continued ever since, with ever-increasing success, until today he has a wide clientele and figures prominently in the local courts. He has ever been a profound student and has kept well abreast of the profession in all that pertains to it.

Mr. Brown has taken an interest in public affairs, and he has been city attorney of Lake Geneva for about nine years, although he is a Democrat and Lake Geneva is very strongly Republican. This would certainly be criterion enough of his high standing in his home city and of the confidence reposed in

him by the people. He was nominated by his party in 1910 as a candidate for district attorney, having previously been nominated for the same position.

On June 29, 1901, Mr. Brown was united in marriage with Florence DeMain, daughter of Robert and Mary (Haswell) DeMain. She was born on a ranch in Oregon. Her parents had lived in Walworth county before emigrating to that state, her father having died when Mrs. Brown was an infant, then her mother brought her back to Lake Geneva where she has since resided. To Mr. and Mrs. Brown has been born one child, a daughter, Daphne.

Fraternally, Mr. Brown belongs to the Knights of Pythias in Lake Geneva. He has always been active in politics and he has assisted many of his friends, those he deemed well suited for the various offices sought, in landing many political plums. He is regarded as a local leader of his party. As an attorney he is painstaking, honorable and courteous to the court in the trial of cases. He believes in thorough preparation and in doing things when the right time comes for action.

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#### FRED MALSCH.

One of the best known men of a past generation in Walworth county and one of the most highly esteemed was the late Fred Malsch, a man of strong characteristics and a high sense of honor, also a man of kind and generous disposition and public spirit,—a man whom to know was to respect and admire. He was born in Saxe-Meiningen, Germany, February 13, 1832, and there he lived until 1867. Following in the footsteps of his father, he learned the trade of mason, in which he became very skilled. In 1867 he came to America and located at Lyons, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he worked at his trade. He was married in 1869 to Christina Rader, daughter of Frederick and Anna (Kelschner) Rader and a native of the same locality in Germany in which the subject was born. Her parents had died when she was thirteen years of age, and she came to America in 1868. She came to Lyons, this county, and was living at the same place in which the subject was staying when they met.

In 1870 Mr. Malsch and wife moved to Springfield, Wisconsin, and in 1876 moved on a farm which they rented for two years, then went back to Springfield. While on the farm he continued to work at his trade, and this he followed as long as he was able to work.

Mrs. Malsch had been married in Germany and two children had been born to her in that country, and one of the children and her husband died

there, the other child, Mary, having accompanied her mother to America, and here she married Fred Rown, and lived until her death in 1897.

Mrs. Malsch had two children by her second marriage, Herman and Andrew, both of whom live in Lake Geneva, and are very well situated in reference to material things.

The death of Fred Malsch of this sketch occurred in May, 1890, after an honorable career, throughout which he did his duty faithfully in all the relations of life, winning the good will of all concerned. His widow is living in her own cozy home in the town of Springfield. She is a faithful member of the Lutheran church, as was also Mr. Malsch.

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#### WILLIAM H. LOCKWOOD.

A worthy representative of that type of American character and of that progressive spirit which promote public good in advancing individual prosperity and conserving popular interests, was the late William H. Lockwood, for many years one of the leading farmers of the southeastern part of Walworth county, operating successfully a fine farm just east of Lake Geneva. The study of such a life never fails to offer much of pleasing interest and valuable instruction. His character was exemplary and he enjoyed the good will and esteem of a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

Mr. Lockwood was born at Saratoga, New York, October 23, 1836. He was the son of Zephaniah Lockwood, who lived to be ninety-one years old, and he had a brother, Jonathan, who lived to one hundred years of age and another brother, Leonard, died from an accident when ninety-nine years old, both his legs having been cut off by a train. A fourth brother, James, died at the age of one hundred and one years. This is, indeed, a remarkable record for one family.

When William H. Lockwood was four years old, the family came to Walworth county, and his father, Zephaniah, entered land from the government, lying about a mile east from the postoffice in Lake Geneva. Here William H. grew to manhood amid pioneer conditions and in 1861 he went to California, later to Nevada, where he engaged in mining and other enterprises for thirty years, with a varying degree of success. He had as business partner for over twenty years Thomas Reilley, formerly of Linn, this county, now of Chicago. While at Eureka, Nevada, Mr. Lockwood became a charter member of the Masonic lodge at that place.



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM H. LOCKWOOD



THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ASTOR, LENOX  
TILDEN FOUNDATION

THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ASTOR, LENOX  
TILDEN FOUNDATION

In 1890 Mr. Lockwood returned to Lake Geneva to take charge of his father's affairs, and after the death of the elder Lockwood he remained on the old homestead, which he converted into a model farm.

In September, 1885, Mr. Lockwood was united in marriage with Mrs. Janet Van Barry, deceased. She has a son, John A. Barry, Jr., who is now in business in Milwaukee. Mrs. Lockwood is the daughter of Philander K. Van Velzer and wife, a sketch of whom will be found on another page of this work.

The death of Mr. Lockwood occurred at home on November 20, 1910, after several years of ill health. He was held in high regard by all who knew him and was respected everywhere for his many sterling qualities. His home was known for its hospitality and he and his wife helped many poor families of Lake Geneva.

Mrs. Lockwood, who is a woman of many sterling qualities of both head and heart, still lives on the home place, which she operates in an able manner. This valuable place has been the home of the Lockwoods ever since it was taken from the government. The active work of the farm is done by Mr. Lockwood's nephew, William E. Lawton. He was born November 16, 1873, on the Lockwood farm, and is the son of G. G. Lawton and Martha E. (Lockwood) Lawton. His father was a farmer and contractor. William G. Lawton's parents are both deceased. He grew up on the farm with his grandfather, succeeding him at his death in the management of the place, and he has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser.

Four of Mr. Lockwood's brothers survive: Ulysses, of Williams Bay; Tephemiah, of Oregon; Franklin, of Washington, and Jonathan, of California.

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#### OTTO YOUNG TERRACE.

The tourists and all other visitors to the Lake Geneva region carry away with them an indelible impression of the Otto Young Terrace, at the east side of Geneva bay, probably the most magnificent and imposing piece of architecture in Walworth county.

Approaching it along the lake shore by way of walks lined with broad lawns and flowers on the one hand and the clear sparkling water on the other, one comes to a terrace about two hundred feet long, built up with a split boulder wall eight feet high, the terrace enclosed at the top with a fence of

stone, the posts being turned and carved and overlaid with a dressed stone railing. From the grassy terrace broad stone steps lead up to the beautiful archways entering on the porch. The porch, eighteen feet wide and the full length of the house, is, like the structure itself, built of Bedford oolitic limestone, beautifully finished with hand carving in the stone, carving that shows superior workmanship.

The house itself is full three stories high, about sixty-five feet wide and one hundred and seventy-five feet long, of dressed Bedford stone, beautifully finished with exquisite hand carvings. Inside, the structure is finished in fine stone, Tennessee marble, Mexican onyx and African marble, of which a mantel alone is said to have cost six thousand dollars. The sixteen bath rooms is an indication of the complete comforts of the place, and the bowling alley and the billiard hall provide means for healthful enjoyment. For pleasure upon Lake Geneva there is the beautiful steam yacht "Olivette," one of the most sumptuous on the lake, of steel construction and richly finished.

Surrounding the house is a natural forest park, to which has been added many other trees and shrubs, the attractive grounds being in keeping with the house. The park is bordered on the east by Lakeside Drive. Along the driveway the park is enclosed by a wall of the same kind of stone of which the house is built, dressed stone, six feet high and about fifty rods long. Across the road lies the finely improved farm, belonging to the estate, the roadside fence being of split boulder, the same length and height as the wall enclosing the park, and costing about twenty thousand dollars for the fence alone.

Beside the main residence there are eight other buildings on the estate, one of which, known as "The Cottage," is deserving of special mention. It is three stories high, has sixteen large rooms and spacious verandas. It originally stood on the present site of the villa, but was moved some time ago to its present position on the east side of Lake Shore Drive. To accomplish this a number of large trees had to be taken up, but were afterwards replanted. Not far from the cottage are the large stone stables, handsomely finished, and containing a number of fine horses. There are flowers and vegetable gardens from which supplies are furnished to the residence in Chicago. About three hundred acres are included in the estate near the city of Lake Geneva and there are also other lands along the south side of the lake. The villa is conservatively estimated to have cost about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for the building alone, the furnishings, improvements and surroundings representing an outlay of about as much more.

Otto Young, the founder of the estate, was born in Germany, and he came to America as a poor boy. He worked for a time in a store in New York

City, later traveling as a salesman for a jewelry firm. He was finally able to go into business for himself, and he located on State street, Chicago, where he built up the well known Otto Young Jewelry Company. He later went into partnership in "The Fair," one of Chicago's great department stores, and made some quite profitable deals in real estate. He started building his villa at Lake Geneva in the fall of 1898 and was two and one-half years completing it. His death occurred in 1906, at which time he was said to be worth about seventeen million dollars.

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### ERNEST A. WEST.

Not all men order their lives to their liking; nor yet are all men true to themselves in living as near to their ideals as possible and attaining to such heights as their opportunities and talents render accessible. We now turn to one who has done well what he undertook all along the highway of life, wherein all honor lies. Not a pretentious nor exalted life has been his, but one that has been true to itself and its possibilities, and one to which we may revert with respect.

Ernest A. West, farmer of Darien township, was born in Lafayette township, Walworth county, on September 21, 1859. He is the son of Jesse Pike and Elizabeth Ann (Northrop) West, both natives of the state of New York, where they spent their early years, the father coming west when a young man and settling in Lafayette township, this county, in 1838. He was among the earliest pioneers here, and found a wild and undeveloped country, but he saw a great future in Walworth county and set to work with a will to upbuild his own interests and those of the community. He took up one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government, which he later sold, and took up one hundred and sixty acres more—in fact he repeated this plan several times, securing fresh land, making some improvements and then selling the same to newcomers. He finally bought up the first claim and there spent the rest of his life, being very successful as a farmer. His death occurred in 1868, his widow surviving a half century, dying at an advanced age in 1908. He had been twice married, first to Lydia Skinner, to which union one son was born, William, now deceased. Seven children were born of the second union, namely: Allen and Laverne both died young; Ernest A., of this sketch; Clara B., who married Alfred Smith, is now deceased; Hattie died when nine years old; Mrs. Sarah J. married Arthur Millis, of White-water, and she is now deceased; A. Pike lives in Milwaukee, where he is assistant custodian of the federal building.

Ernest A. West was united in marriage with Edna F. Foster, on November 25, 1880. She was the daughter of Jay and Marcia (Leach) Foster, a highly respected family of this county.

Mr. West has devoted his life to farming and he has been very successful. He is now the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and fourteen acres in Darien township, also eighty acres in Taylor county, Wisconsin, and one hundred and sixty acres in Lyman county, South Dakota. He keeps his land well improved and raises a good grade of live stock. He has a pleasant home and good outbuildings on his home place.

Ten children have been born to Mr. West and wife, named as follows: Jay P. is a veterinary surgeon of Madison, this state; Clinton H. lives at Williams Bay, this county; Arthur J. lives in Colorado; William died when eight years old; Roscoe E. is at home; Milo died when three years old; Roy F., who also lives at home, is clerking in a store in Darien; Edna May died in infancy; Lynn and Lyle W., twins, are at home with their parents. Mr. West graduated from the Elkhorn high school in the class of '78.

Mr. West is a member of the Congregational church. He belongs to the Masonic order at Darien, having transferred here from Elkhorn, where he first belonged. He is an independent voter.

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#### EDWARD F. DUNN.

It is a well authenticated fact that success comes as a result of legitimate and well applied energy, unflagging determination and perseverance in a course of action when once decided upon. She is never known to bestow her largesses upon the indolent and ambitionless, and only those who seek her untiringly are recipients of her blessings. In tracing the history of the influential business man and representative citizen whose name introduces this sketch, it is plainly seen that the prosperity which he enjoys has been won by commendable qualities and it is also his personal worth that has gained for him the high esteem of those who know him.

Edward F. Dunn, for many years one of the enterprising business men of Lake Geneva, was born in the eastern part of Walworth township, this county, on December 10, 1863. He is the son of Patrick and Ann (Murray) Dunn, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

Mr. Dunn grew to manhood under his parental roof-tree. When he was about twenty years old he went to Harvard, where he engaged in the gen-

eral merchandise business for himself about four years, then took a position as traveling salesman, which he followed about ten years, selling groceries first, later specialties. His headquarters most of the time was at St. Paul, Minnesota. He quit the road in 1893 and bought an interest in the feed business with Horace G. Douglass at Lake Geneva. They sold out in 1903 and bought the coal and feed business at Williams Bay from William Lackey. They had also purchased a similar business at Zenda in 1894. In June, 1911, they sold out their holdings at Williams Bay and in September of that year purchased a lumber, coal and feed business in the village of Walworth, known as the W. B. Merrium Lumber Company. The following December they sold out both at Walworth and Zenda. They have met with continued success at all these places and enjoyed a large trade with the people of those communities, in fact all over the southern half of the county. Mr. Dunn has resided in Lake Geneva since 1893. He has long taken an abiding interest in the public life of the city and has held several official positions, including that of mayor of Lake Geneva two terms, also alderman two terms, during which period he did much for the permanent good of the city, discharging his duties in an able and faithful manner and winning the hearty approval of all concerned by his judicious course. Religiously, he belongs to the Catholic church.

Mr. Dunn was married in January, 1893, to Mary Leahy. She was born at Marengo, Illinois, and she grew to womanhood there and at Howard and was living in Chicago at the time of her marriage. To the subject and wife one son has been born, Edward Dunn, whose birth occurred on August 25, 1898.

Mr. Dunn belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters, also the Knights of Columbus, the Improved Order of Red Men and the Modern Woodmen. He is a good mixer, a genial, obliging gentleman who makes and retains friends easily.

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#### WILLIAM BROWN.

Among the representative business men of Walworth county, the name of William Brown should be mentioned here. He has devoted himself very largely to the implement business, having ever carried on the various departments of his enterprise with that discretion, foresight and energy which are sure to find their natural sequence in definite success, having always been a hard worker, a good manager and a man of conservative habits, and being

fortunately situated in a thriving new community, it is no wonder that he has won the position that he today enjoys in the business world. He grew up amid pioneer conditions here and has lived to see wonderful changes take place in this section of the great Badger state, always lending such aid as he could in the work of upbuilding this section, whose interests he has at heart.

Mr. Brown was born in Hudson (now Lyons) township, this county, on March 20, 1843. He is the son of John and Catherine (Reid) Brown, the father born on the isle of Jersey in the English channel, off the coast of France. He was the son of George and Ann Brown. George Brown was a soldier in the British army and was stationed in the isle of Jersey for a number of years. John Brown grew to manhood in Ireland, probably Inneskillen, where it is believed that George Brown and his wife lived before he was sent away as a soldier into the isle of Jersey. John Brown emigrated to America in 1838 and lived for a time in Michigan, spending his young manhood days there, then came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, locating in what is now Lyons township, entering a claim of government land along the south line of the township, east of Ryan's lake. Having entered two hundred acres or more, he there developed a fine farm from the wilderness and made his permanent home, becoming one of the influential men of his community. A year or two after he settled here his parents came over from the old country, and here entered land from the government.

John Brown was married to Catherine Reid, a native of Ireland, from which country she came to America when she was a mere child. This union resulted in the birth of seven children, namely: Valentine, George, John, Ann, Eliza, Margaret and William.

John Brown devoted his entire life to farming after coming to this county. He took considerable interest in public affairs, holding a number of local offices. He was one of the pioneers who built the first Catholic church at Lake Geneva. His death occurred in 1887.

William Brown, of this review, grew up on his father's farm in Lyons township, and there he lived until his marriage, in 1873, to Emma E. Lewis, daughter of William Lewis and wife, the father a native of the state of New York, probably the town of Herkimer, and he came to this county in an early time, about 1845. Mrs. Brown was born and reared in Linn township, this county.

After his marriage, Mr. Brown came to Lake Geneva and entered the agricultural implement business, also bought and shipped live stock, wool and other products, soon building up a lucrative and extensive business. For the past fifteen years he has been a traveling salesman in the flour and feed business, and he has been very successful in this line. He was postmaster at Lake

Geneva for a term of four years, during which time he discharged the duties of the same in a most satisfactory manner, and at the same time carried on his live stock and wool business. He also served a term of two years in the city council. Politically, he is a Democrat.

Mr. Brown and wife are the parents of three children, namely: Lewis, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Catherine, who is keeping house for her father in Lake Geneva; John, who lives in Lake Geneva, is in the employ of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company. These children have been well educated, John being a graduate of the Lake Geneva high school, and Catherine was graduated from Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana, in 1907. Previous to attending that institution she had engaged in teaching in the public schools, both in the district and Lake Geneva schools. She attended normal school both at Whitewater and Oshkosh, and has also made herself proficient in stenography.

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### JOHN GRUNEWALD.

Distinguished for their thrift and honesty, which two qualities in the inhabitants of any country will in the end make that country great, no people who have cast their lot in Walworth county are worthier of our esteem and thanks than those of Germanic blood. This county, however, has been fortunate in securing such a goodly number of them. Of this excellent class is John Grunewald, well established farmer of Spring Prairie township, a man who, for many reasons, is eligible for representation in this work, not the least of which is the fact that he fought gallantly for his adopted country during its darkest hours, and, indeed, in all the relations of life he has been known as a man of sterling characteristics, consequently it is not surprising that he has succeeded in a material way and that he has won the confidence and respect of his neighbors and friends.

Mr. Grunewald was born in Germany, on July 13, 1842. He is the son of Henry and Elizabeth Grunewald, who were both natives of Germany, in which country they were married, having spent the greater part of their life there, after which they, with their youngest son, John, and one daughter, emigrated to America in 1855 and settled in East Troy township, Walworth county, Wisconsin. Here, through hard work, they became very comfortably established, and here they spent the balance of their lives, the father dying in 1865, and the mother in 1861. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom John, of this review, is the only one living at this writing.

Politically, Mr. Grunewald was a Republican and religiously, a member of the Lutheran church.

John Grunewald was thirteen years old when he accompanied his parents to Walworth county. He had attended the public schools in Germany and he also went to school for some time in the town of East Troy, and early in life turned his attention to farming. He is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of excellent and well improved land in Spring Prairie township, on which he built a fine residence in 1911. He has one of the choice farms of the township and he has met with a large measure of success as a general farmer and stock raiser. He deserves a great deal of credit for his success, in view of the fact that he has made his own property.

Politically, Mr. Grunewald is a Republican, but has not sought to be a politician or a leader in public affairs. He also is a survivor of the Civil war, having enlisted on August 15, 1862, in Company K, Twenty-eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, in which he served very faithfully until the close of the war, principally in the Western Army, having fought at Helena, Arkansas; Mobile, Alabama; Tallahatchie, Mississippi, and many other places of minor importance.

Soon after the war Mr. Grunewald was married on November 8, 1865, to Elizabeth Dietz, who was born in Germany. She is the daughter of Louis and Maria Dietz, natives of Germany, in which country they were married, having spent the greater part of their life there, emigrating to the United States in 1855 with their two children, a son and a daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Dietz located in Walworth county, where they spent the rest of their lives; however, Mr. Dietz's death occurred in Ohio, while the mother died in Spring Prairie township.

Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Grunewald, namely: Henry, who is deceased; Albert, Mary, William, Edward, Rose, Arthur and Frank, they having taken up their vocation in the various walks of life.

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#### WILLIAM A. ERWIN.

In all that constitutes true manhood and good citizenship, William A. Erwin, farmer of Darien township, Walworth county, is a notable example and none stands higher than he in the esteem and confidence of the community. His career has been characterized by duty faithfully performed, and by industry, thrift and wisely directed efforts he has acquired a liberal share of this world's goods, besides earning a reputation which has never been

clouded by the commission of a single unworthy act, for he believes in making the Golden Rule his guide in his every-day life and in assisting his neighbors and friends on the onward march through the vales and over the steeps where the path of life leads for everyone. Because of his generous and kindly nature, he has won and retained the good will and esteem of all who have contact with him. He hails from the old Empire state, which great domain has sent such a vast horde of enterprising and worthy citizens to this and other sections of the great new West and reclaimed the same from the primeval state.

Mr. Erwin was born on March 29, 1842, in Franklin county, New York, and he is the son of P. A. and Jane (Erwin) Erwin. The father of the subject was a native of Vermont and he grew to manhood, married and spent the earlier part of his life in his native state and New York. He came to Minnesota in 1862 and settled in Wauseca county, where he engaged in farming until his death. He was a hard working man and led a quiet home life, not participating in public affairs.

To Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Erwin eleven children were born, namely: David A., who lives in Minnesota; Eugene and Sydney make their home in Montana; James A. lives in Minnesota; Mrs. Catherine Ballard lives in Minnesota; William A., of this review; Fin is deceased. The other five of the family reside in Adams county, Wisconsin, P. A. Erwin being dead.

William A. Erwin came west with his parents in 1862, being then twenty years of age, having grown to manhood and received his education in Franklin county, New York. He was married on July 31, 1866, to Amanda R. Lockwood. Six children were born to them, namely: Lee Lewis, deceased; Rena R., deceased; Cora Wilday lives at Cumberland, Wisconsin; Nanie Bardeneo, who resides in Kansas; Allen N. Erwin lives in Chicago; Amanda Mills lives in Watertown, South Dakota. Mr. Erwin remained in the state of Minnesota for a period of twenty-two years engaged in general farming, developing a fine farm there and making a success of his chosen life work. Selling out his farm there, he came to Wisconsin and settled at Delavan Lake, Walworth county, where he ran a resort for about nine years, which became a favorite gathering place each summer for hundreds of tourists and visitors to the beautiful lake region, his place being known as Strow's Park, the present location of Woodlawn Bay Hotel. He sold out to August Melges, who still runs the place. Mr. Erwin then went to Green Lake, Walworth county, where he resumed farming, remaining there about thirteen years, with his usual success as a husbandman, then he located at Turtle

Lake, where he continued farming for about three years, then sold out and bought a farm in Darien township. It consisted of one hundred acres, and here he was repaid with abundant harvests from year to year for his patient industry, having improved one of the best farms in this part of the county. On October 25, 1911, he moved to Adams county, locating ten miles north of Kilbourne City, which is his present home, being a pleasant location.

Mr. Erwin was married the second time on September 21, 1875, to Susie Higgins, daughter of Richard and Ann Higgins, of Minnesota, whose family consisted of nine children. Mr. Higgins is now deceased, and his widow lives in Janesville, Waseca county, Minnesota.

To Mr. and Mrs. Erwin eleven children were born, named as follows: Jannette, now Mrs. G. I. Saunders, of Lagrange, Wisconsin; Ethel May; Elizabeth is deceased; Honard R., Wilbur E., Bennie H., Dale William; George S. is deceased; Bruce H.; the next child, a daughter, died in infancy; Marian was the youngest.

Politically, Mr. Erwin is a Republican, but he has never been specially active in public affairs. He is a member of the Presbyterian church.

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#### MILTON M. MAYHEW.

For more than a half century the honored and venerable pioneer and substantial agriculturist whose name appears above has been a resident of Walworth county and a prominent factor in its material growth, playing well his part in the material, civic and moral upbuilding of the same. Few have been here longer than he and none have been more active during the past fifty-six years in making Spring Prairie township one of the most enterprising and progressive sections of southeastern Wisconsin. He has noted many wonderful changes since he made his advent into the wilderness here and he talks interestingly of the early days when the great northern woods were still the homes of Indians and the haunts of many varieties of wild beasts. Originally the Mayhews were natives of the old Empire state, where the family was widely and favorably known during the ante-Civil-war period. In their veins flows the blood of English nationality, and the descendants of the present day exhibit many of the sterling qualities of that strong and virile people.

Milton M. Mayhew was born in Oneida county, near Utica, New York, on December 24, 1834. He is the son of William and Annie (Cook) May-

hew, the father a native of England and the mother of New York. The father emigrated to the United States when young in years and located in the state of New York, where he met and married Annie Cook and there they spent most of their lives on a farm, finally coming to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1876, and here the death of the father occurred in June, 1887, at the advanced age of ninety-two years, his wife dying in January, 1866. They were the parents of five children, Milton M., of this sketch, being the only surviving member. Politically, the elder Mayhew was a Democrat, and was a member of the Baptist church. He led a quiet, retired life and was known for his sterling honesty and old-time hospitality.

Milton M. Mayhew was reared on the home farm, where he began assisting with the general work when but a small lad. He received such education as the early schools of his locality in New York state furnished, and when a young man took up farming for a livelihood. Seeking a newer country, he came to Walworth county in 1856 and bought one hundred acres of good land in Spring Prairie township, and in 1857 settled on the same, began clearing and improving it, and by hard work and wise management had a good farm and a comfortable home in due course of time. Here he prospered and added to his original purchase until he owned one of the best farms in the eastern part of the county, consisting of two hundred and forty acres. For many years he engaged in general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale, during which he accumulated a competency, and, as age advanced, not caring to be burdened with too much to look after, he gave his farm to his children until he now has but ninety acres and lives practically retired from the active duties of life, having laid away enough of this world's goods to insure freedom from want the rest of his days. He is also the owner of two cottages at Mill lake, and he was one of the first to be attracted by the beauties of that now favorite resort and one of the earliest to live there.

Politically, Mr. Mayhew is a Democrat and has kept well posted on political and current topics. He has served on the town board for two terms. In religious matters he belongs to the Baptist church and has long been a liberal supporter of the same.

Mr. Mayhew was married on March 10, 1857, to Eliza Paden, who was born in Oneida county, New York, August 10, 1838. She is the daughter of George and Elizabeth (Bolton) Paden, the father a native of Scotland and the mother of the state of New York. Mr. Paden was but a child, seven years old, when he emigrated to New York, and there he grew to manhood and married, finally coming to Walworth county, Wisconsin, locating in

Spring Prairie township, buying forty acres of land here, on which he made his permanent home and on which he and his wife spent the balance of their lives.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Paden, two of whom are living at this writing.

To Mr. and Mrs. Mayhew five children have been born, named in order of birth as follows: Emma, Anna (deceased), Earnest, Eddie and Chester.

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### WILLIAM H. JOHNSTON.

One of the progressive and scientific farmers and stock raisers of Troy township and one of Walworth county's representative citizens is William H. Johnston, a worthy native son and creditable representative of an excellent old family. He was born in 1864 two miles from Troy Center, this county. He is the son of William P. and Susan (Kerin) Johnston, the father born in Scotland and the mother in Canada. The former was about four years old when he accompanied his parents to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1840. His mother was known in her maidenhood as Margaret Porter. The father, Alexander Johnston, started the Johnston Bakery of Milwaukee, which has been well known there for many decades, and there he followed this business until his death.

The father of the subject began life as a baker, in which business he continued many years. When seventeen years old he came to Walworth county, and here worked for his uncles on the mother's side, who were pioneer farmers here. Mr. Johnson later returned to Milwaukee and was there married to the matron who accompanied his family to Milwaukee. The father of the subject then came back to Walworth county and located two miles west of Troy Center, buying a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He later changed locations several times, and for many years lived retired in East Troy. He was a general farmer and raised sheep extensively. He was a Democrat, but would never accept public office. He was a Catholic in his religious relations. His family consisted of eight children.

William H. Johnston was educated in the district schools of Troy Center and at Sacred Heart College, at Watertown, Wisconsin. He then returned home and remained there until he was twenty-two years old, then went to North Dakota, where he spent four years, then spent four years at Spokane, Washington, farming in the former state and engaged in the com-

mission business at Spokane. He then returned to East Troy and teamed between that town and Milwaukee for six years. He then bought the fine farm where he now lives in 1900, consisting of two hundred and twenty acres, and here he has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. For some time he made a specialty of raising sheep; now he carries on dairying on a large scale, and is well fixed for the same. He has kept his farm well improved and well cultivated and he has a pleasant home and good outbuildings. For a time he was treasurer of the local creamery.

Mr. Johnston was married in October, 1894, to Anna Kessler, who was born at Port Washington, and to this union the following children have been born: William, Francis, Charles, Margaret and Robert.

Mr. Johnston belongs to the Catholic church and he is a Democrat, but he has never accepted public office, except that of membership of the local school board.

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### JOHN COLBO.

One of the scientific farmers of Spring Prairie township, Walworth county, is John Colbo, whose thrift, however, is not to be wondered at since he comes of a race that produced the famous "Iron Chancellor," the greatest statesman, all things considered, that ever walked this footstool. He comes of a race that is famous for its original investigations in the problems of civilized life and such men as Goethe and Haeckel, Schiller and Beethoven. The Germanic blood is found in many of the greatest men and women of this and former years, and the subject of this sketch may well be proud of his descent from such a race.

John Colbo is of the second generation of Germans in this country, his birth having occurred in Racine county, Wisconsin, on October 16, 1863. He is the son of William and Sophia (Kreger) Colbo, both born in Germany, where they spent their childhood, and from there they emigrated to Racine county, Wisconsin, in 1855, and settled on a farm. In 1863 the elder Colbo purchased forty acres, to which he added twenty acres, and this he developed and had a very comfortable home here, where he spent the balance of his days, dying in 1883, his widow following him to the silent land in 1884. They were the parents of six children, three of whom are living at this writing. The father was a soldier in the Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry for nine months in the Civil war.

John Colbo was reared on the home farm, where he worked when he became of proper age, and he received his education in the country district schools. He took up farming for a livelihood and in the early eighties came to Spring Prairie township, and in 1887 bought a farm here of sixty acres, to which he later added twenty acres. He has made practically all the improvements on the same and has one of the choice farms of the locality. He has made his own property through his own industry. He has a good home and is a successful general farmer and stock raiser, though much of his attention is now given to masonry, the bulk of the farm work devolving upon his sons. Politically, Mr. Colbo is a Republican.

Mr. Colbo was married in 1883 to Julia Bendixen, who was born in Racine county, Wisconsin, on April 29, 1863. She is the daughter of Hulver and Anna (Andersen) Bendixen, the father a native of Norway and the mother of Racine county, Wisconsin, the daughter of Ole and Isabel Andersen, pioneers in Racine county, where the father spent the rest of his life, dying there on July 15, 1902; the mother is still living. To Mr. and Mrs. Colbo seven children have been born, named as follows: Roy, Mabel, Ella, Lester, Harvey, Ira and Frank, all living.

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#### BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MITCHELL.

Among the farmers of Walworth county, Wisconsin, who believe in following twentieth-century methods is B. F. Mitchell, of the vicinity of Honey Creek. He comes of a splendid family, one that has always been strong for right living and industrious habits, for education and morality, and for all that contributes to the welfare of the commonwealth. Such people are welcomed in any community, for they are empire builders and as such have pushed the frontier of civilization ever westward and onward, leaving the green wide-reaching wilderness and the far-stretching plains populous with contented people and beautiful with green fields; they have constituted that sterling horde which caused the great Bishop Whipple to write the memorable line, "Westward the course of empire takes its way."

Mr. Mitchell was born in East Troy, Walworth county, Wisconsin, on June 2, 1869, and here he has been content to spend his life, the fields of his fathers having greater charms for him than the allurements of distant climes, and here he grew to maturity on the home farm, which he worked when young, and here he was educated in the common schools. He is the son of

Edward Mitchell and wife, a well known and highly respected pioneer family, a complete sketch of whom is to be found on another page of this work, to which the reader is respectfully referred for a further history of the family.

Early in life B. F. Mitchell took up farming for a livelihood and he is now the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and fifty acres, which he has placed under a high state of improvement and cultivation, and here he has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, having a pleasant home and convenient outbuildings.

Politically, Mr. Mitchell is a Republican, but he has never been especially active in party affairs. In religious matters he is a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

On February 26, 1896, Mr. Mitchell was united in marriage with Clara Louise Parker, who was born in Waterford, Racine county, Wisconsin, April 5, 1870. She is the daughter of Carl Barker and wife, a highly respected family, a complete sketch of whom is to be found on another page of this volume. To Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell two children have been born, namely: Oliver Chester, whose birth occurred on February 19, 1897, and Lester Warren, who was born August 23, 1905.

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#### CHARLES H. GAGE.

The subject of this review has long enjoyed distinctive prestige as one of Richmond township's most enterprising and successful agriculturists and stock raisers. Additional interest attaches to his career in view of the fact that he has spent his entire life in his home community, which he has seen transformed from a vast forest to fine farms and the log cabins give way to pretentious dwellings. The Gages have been well known in Walworth county since the early days.

Charles H. Gage was born in this township, February 9, 1855. He is the son of Emory and Margaret (Farquer) Gage, the father born in Chautauqua county, New York, December 28, 1822, and the mother was born in Ireland in 1821. The paternal grandparents, Jonas and Philena (Cook) Gage, the former born in New York, March 4, 1787, came to Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1843, and in 1844 they located in Richmond township, Walworth county, and here spent the rest of their lives, the death of Philena (Cook) Gage occurring on March 19, 1846, and that of Jonas Gage on Feb-

ruary 23, 1868. The father of the subject came to Richmond township about 1844 and settled on a farm and here established a good home in which he spent the remainder of his life, dying on December 31, 1893, his widow surviving until February 25, 1902. They were the parents of six children, five of whom are living. Politically, Emory Gage was a Republican and a member of the Methodist church.

Charles H. Gage grew up on the home farm where he worked hard when a boy and he was educated in the common schools. He has devoted his life to farming and has now a well improved and productive place of two hundred and forty acres. He has a good home and such farm buildings and up-to-date machinery as his needs require. He has long kept fine live stock, now making a specialty of Guernsey and Jersey cattle. He has accumulated a competency and is living retired. He started out for himself with little assistance and he has made what he has himself.

Politically, Mr. Gage is a Republican and, while he is interested in the general good of his county and state, he has never taken a very active part in public matters.

On August 2, 1884, Mr. Gage was married to Mary E. Gage, a native of this county, born on October 22, 1857. She was the adopted daughter of R. H. Gage, an early settler of Walworth county, whose death occurred on January 14, 1910. His widow, known in her maidenhood as Betsey A. Humphrey, is still living, making her home with the subject.

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#### WILLIAM H. HAMMERSLEY, SR.

In the death of William H. Hammersley, Sr., Lake Geneva and vicinity lost one of its most valued citizens. The latter part of his life, covering over forty years, was spent here and during that time he took an active part in the general progress of the county. He belonged to that type of progressive business men who believe in carrying the Golden Rule into their everyday affairs. Always quiet and unostentatious in manner, he nevertheless left a strong impress of his individuality upon all whom he met. He had the happy faculty of seeing the beautiful things of the world, enjoyed nature, loved flowers, appreciated noble traits in mankind and had an optimistic outlook on life, so that to know him was to respect and admire him for his exemplary characteristics.



WILLIAM H. HAMMERSLEY, SR.

1891  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ASTOR, LENOX  
TILDEN FOUNDATION

Mr. Hammersley was born January 8, 1832, in Hanley, England, and was the son of William S. and Ann (Pedley) Hammersley. His paternal grandfather, Ralph Hammersley, died in England when about seventy-five years old. He was a man of strict integrity, a consistent Christian and for many years was a deacon in the Congregational church.

William S. Hammersley, father of the subject, was a manufacturer of chinaware in England, which business he followed until 1843, in which year he emigrated to America, locating in New York city, where he became an importer of china and earthenware. In 1855 he moved to Flint, Michigan, and retired from business, and now he and his wife are both deceased; they were members of the Presbyterian church. They were the parents of the following children: Ann Jane, widow of Henry C. Walker, lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan; William H., of this review; Lucilla Oakley is the wife of Edward M. Mason, of Girard, Kansas; Fannie is the wife of W. B. Buckingham and lives at Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

William H. Hammersley, Sr., was twelve years old when his family brought him to the United States. He had attended school in his native land, and soon after coming to New York he began clerking in his father's store. When he reached manhood he became associated with his father in business and so continued until 1853. On October 6th of that year he was united in marriage with Elizabeth S. Smith, daughter of Henry and Phoebe Ann (Barker) Smith. She was born in Erie county, New York, near Buffalo, and in her early life the family moved to New York city, where she lived until her marriage. Her parents had come from Saybrook, Connecticut, to New York state and settled at Butterworth Falls, near West Point, subsequently moving to Erie county, where Mrs. Hammersley was born.

In 1863 Mr. Hammersley and family came to Walworth county and lived a year on the farm. He then went to Lake Geneva and went into business as a dealer in drugs, books and stationery. He had a well stocked store and enjoyed a large trade. In later years he also engaged in the floral business, having charge of the Lake Geneva Floral Company. He was very successful as a business man and was known to all with whom he had dealings as a man of the highest integrity.

Politically, Mr. Hammersley was a Republican and he took more than a passing interest in public affairs, and held a number of township offices, such as township clerk, and he was chairman of the board of supervisors.

Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hammersley: Grace C. is the wife of C. D. Gilbert, a grocer of Lake Geneva, and they have one daughter,

Lizzie; Charles H., who was a florist in Lake Geneva, married Ida C. Gilbert, which union was without issue, and his death occurred in 1894; William H. married Emma M. Seymour and they have three children, Seymour, Henry and Evelyn; he is in the drug business in Lake Geneva, having succeeded his father.

William H. Hammersley, Sr., was a Royal Arch Mason, a prominent member and officer of the Congregational church, and an earnest Christian. He was one of the prominent and influential men of the southern part of the county, being a man of steadfast purpose in all the relations of life, whether religious or secular, conscientious and faithful to every trust. He was summoned to his reward on April 14, 1906.

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#### CLARENCE MERENESS.

One of the worthy native sons of Walworth county is Clarence Mereness, a progressive farmer of Sharon township, who is easily the peer of any of his fellows in the qualities that constitute correct manhood and good citizenship. He is what he is from natural endowment and self-culture, having attained his present standing solely through the impelling force of his own strong nature. He possesses not only those powers that render men efficient in the material affairs of the community, but also the gentler traits that mark genial and helpful social intercourse. In his daily affairs he manifests a generous regard for his fellows, and he therefore commands the good will of the people of the southwestern part of Walworth county, where he has made his home since the pioneer epoch, in fact, has spent his life.

Mr. Mereness was born on September 30, 1852, in Sharon township, this county. He is the son of Gerit and Elizabeth M. (Seber) Mereness, both natives of the state of New York, who came to Wisconsin and settled in Sharon township in 1842, buying a farm of one hundred acres, when the country was new and sparsely settled, and here they established a good home through close application and hard work, remaining on the place until 1852, when they sold out and bought another farm, where the subject now lives, and this was the family home until 1880, when the father retired from work and moved to Delavan, and there remained quietly until his death in 1890, his widow surviving until February 7, 1901.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gerit Mereness, named as follows: Mrs. Emma F. Farnsworth, of Delavan, this county; John L. is

living in Oklahoma; William Newton died in 1864; James Edward lives in Iowa; Wilbur died in 1907; Clarence, of this sketch; Dayton died in 1858; Fayette died in 1858 also; Dwight died May 30, 1900.

Clarence Mereness, of this sketch, was reared on the home farm, where he worked hard when a boy in the summer months, attending the district schools in the winter time in Sharon township, and later at Ripon College, Ripon, Wisconsin. He began life by teaching school, which he followed successfully for a period of twelve years, and then he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, which he has continued to the present time. He owns one hundred and fifty-two acres of well improved and well tilled land in Sharon township, where he carries on general farming and stock raising. Politically, he is a Republican and is a member of the Congregational church.

Mr. Mereness was married on July 25, 1888, to Luella J. Spooner, daughter of Alfred S. and Sarah M. (Bristol) Spooner, and to this union two children have been born: Luella, whose birth occurred on June 22, 1889, is a student at Beloit; Albert N., born August 27, 1894, died October 3, 1895.

Mr. Mereness has always taken considerable interest in public affairs and while he has been a close observer and kept well posted on current and political events he has never sought public office.

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#### FERN S. TEETSHORN.

A gentleman true to the duties of citizenship, faithful to every trust reposed in him and well worthy the high regard in which he is held—such is Fern S. Teetshorn, one of Richmond township's successful young farmers and a worthy descendant of one of our sterling pioneer families.

Mr. Teetshorn was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, March 30, 1871. He is the son of Orlando A. and Ann M. (Stone) Teetshorn, the father born in this township on December 30, 1838. The paternal grandparents, John and Margaret (Saxe) Teetshorn, were natives of New York, from which state they came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in October, 1838, locating in Richmond township. Here Mr. Teetshorn bought a claim and he had a farm of four hundred acres on which he spent the rest of his life, dying on September 6, 1855, his widow surviving until in February, 1880, being eighty-two years old, he having been sixty-three.

Orlando A. Teetshorn grew up on his father's farm here and he was educated in the rural schools, later attending Milton Academy, and he de-

voted his life to farming. He had sixty-five acres of land in Rock county, this state, living on land which his father had bought, since he owned land both there and in Walworth county. He spent his last days with his son, Fern S., of this sketch, his death occurring on August 22, 1908, his wife dying April 8, 1901. They had but one child, Fern S. The father was a Democrat. The mother of the subject was born in Linn, Walworth county, February 4, 1844, the daughter of Randall and Maria (Johnson) Stone, the father a native of Vermont and the latter of New York. She came to Walworth county in 1838 and soon married Christopher Chesebro, who died shortly afterward; then she married Randall Stone. The maternal grandmother of the subject was the first postmistress of Delavan, and in that town her death occurred in July, 1901, Mr. Stone having died in August, 1885. The maternal grandfather, Porter Johnson, came to Walworth county in pioneer days and here spent the rest of his life.

Fern S. Teetshorn was educated in the public schools of Rock county, and he turned his attention to farming early in life, and he is now the owner of a good farm of one hundred and twelve acres in Richmond township, Walworth county. He came here on March 1, 1901, and has met with success as a general farmer and stock raiser, in connection with which he is making a specialty of dairying.

Mr. Teetshorn is a Democrat. He was married on March 27, 1895, to Alice Sprackling, who was born in Whitewater, Wisconsin, July 31, 1867, the daughter of George and Susan (Hewlett) Sprackling, who came from England to Walworth county in the forties. Her father died in October, 1877, and her mother is still living, now advanced in years. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Teetshorn, Evelyn M., Emily A. and Howard Fern.

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#### GEORGE W. ELLS.

The gentleman whose life history is herewith outlined is a man who has lived to good purpose and achieved a large degree of success, solely by his individual efforts. By a straightforward and commendable course Mr. Ells has made his way to a respectable position in the agricultural world of Walworth county, winning the hearty admiration of the people of his community and earning a reputation as an enterprising, progressive man of affairs which the public has not been slow to recognize and appreciate, and those who know him best will acquiesce readily in the statement that he is eminently deserving

of the material success which has crowned his efforts and of the high esteem in which he is held, representing, as he does, one of the honored old families of western Walworth county, members of which have done much for the general upbuilding of the same from the pioneer epoch to the present time.

George W. Ells was born on January 15, 1853, in Richmond township, this county. He is the son of George and Eliza (Borden) Ells, natives of Nova Scotia, where they grew to maturity, were educated and married; they came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1851, and settled in Richmond township, and spent the balance of their lives on a farm there, becoming well situated through their industry.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. George Ells, namely: William is deceased; George W., of this sketch; H. A. lives at Sherburn, Minnesota; Jesse lives in Sycamore, Illinois; Margaret married a Mr. Moses and they live in Dekalb, Illinois; B. F. lives in Rockport, Illinois; Mrs. Mary Boardman lives at Dekalb, Illinois; Mrs. Catherine lives at Sycamore, Illinois; Nellie is deceased.

George W. Ells, of this sketch, received his education in the district schools of Walworth county and here grew to manhood. He has followed farming most of his life and has been very successful. He spent some time engaged in digging wells and in carpentering. He is now the owner of one hundred and twenty acres in section 22, Darien township, which he has placed under a high state of improvement and cultivation. He has a substantial dwelling and good outbuildings, and he always keeps an excellent grade of live stock.

Mr. Ells was married to Edna Barker, daughter of Timothy and Alvira Barker, natives of the state of New York. Three children have been born to this union, namely: Myron lives in Delavan; Ross and Genevieve both live at home.

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### JOHN SAMUEL ALLEN.

John Samuel Allen, well known electrical engineer of Lake Geneva, has spent most of his life in Walworth county. He is a man who is entitled to the respect of his fellow men owing to the well ordered life he has led.

Mr. Allen was born on February 28, 1872, at Bloomfield, this county. He is the son of George R. and Mary (Grier) Allen, the father a native of Washington county, New York. The paternal grandparents, Samuel Allen and wife, were natives of England, from which country they emigrated to

the state of New York in an early day, where they settled and lived for some time. George R. Allen came west with his parents in 1841 and located in Bloomfield township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, which locality was new and sparsely settled and here his father entered a homestead from the government and established the family home and this land has been in the possession of the family ever since, never having been conveyed since it was taken from the government, except by inheritance from father to son. George R. Allen was much in public life in his community and was influential in public affairs. He was a member of the Assembly in 1880. He was a man of sterling qualities, and was esteemed by all who knew him. For many years he was a director in the First National Bank at Lake Geneva, and was president of the Farmers Insurance Company. His family consisted of three children, John S., of this review; James G. and Mary C.

The mother of the above named children is still living in Lake Geneva. George R. Allen having passed away on September 20, 1901. A complete sketch of his life will be found on another page of this work.

John S. Allen spent his boyhood on the home farm, but much of the time he was away at school. He attended high school at Lake Geneva, from which he was graduated in 1890, after which he spent two years at the normal school at Whitewater, then he taught school a year, after which he went to the State University at Madison, taking the course in electrical engineering, from which department he was graduated in 1897. After leaving school he worked a year as electrician at the state prison at Waupun, then built the electric light plant at Geneva Junction, Walworth county, after which he built a similar plant at Elkhorn. He then took a position as manager of the Beloit Electric Company, which he held for five years. Leaving there in 1906, he came to Lake Geneva where he took charge of the electric light plant and he has remained here to the present time, discharging his duties in his usual successful and conscientious manner. He is regarded as one of the best men in his line in southern Wisconsin, for he not only laid a good foundation for his work, but has kept well abreast of the times in all that pertains to his profession, and wherever he has been he has given the utmost satisfaction. He is a member of the Wisconsin Electrical Association, the National Electric Light Association and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. Fraternally, he belongs to the Masonic order, Geneva Lodge No. 44, of which he was master for three years. He was the first exalted ruler of the Beloit Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He is a director of the First National Bank at Lake Geneva. He and his wife are members of the Episcopal church.

Mr. Allen was married on May 18, 1898, to Emma J. Gibbs, of Randall township, Kenosha county, the daughter of Charles G. and Alice (Owen) Gibbs. Her father was born on the same farm on which Mrs. Allen's birth occurred, and the mother was born in McHenry county, Illinois. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Allen, Harris Gibbs Allen, born July 28, 1900, and Gibbs Rue Allen, born September 8, 1905.

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### WILLIAM FEBRY.

The people who have come to the United States from England have done more for the advancement of our civilization than those of any other Old World country. Her strongest blood has coursed through the veins of her sterling sons who have cast their lots with us, and their descendants are noted for their thrift and honesty, and those two qualities in the inhabitants of any country will in the end alone make that country great. When with these two qualities is coupled the other quality of sound sense, which all the English people possess, there are afforded such qualities as will enrich any land and place it in the front rank of the world's nations. Of this excellent people came William Febry, farmer of Darien township, Walworth county. He comes of a race that produced the famous Gladstone, one of the three greatest statesmen, all things considered, that ever walked this terrestrial footstool. He comes of a race that is famous for its original investigations in the problems of civilized life—such men as Newton, Davy, and the “thousand souled Shakespeare,” as well as Bacon, Nelson, Wellington, and a host of others, renowned in their separate spheres.

William Febry was born on June 10, 1867, in England. He is the son of Francis and Sebina (Kingston) Febry, both natives of England, where they grew to maturity and were married. The mother is now deceased, but the father is living at Chippanham, England. He has engaged in farming all his life.

William Febry grew to manhood in his native land and there received his education in the public schools. He emigrated to the United States in 1883, and first settled in Janesville, Wisconsin, hiring out on a farm near there for about five years, in order to get a start in life. He then came to Beloit, Wisconsin, where he remained a few years, thence to Darien township, Walworth county, where he has remained for about twenty-two years, engaged in farming all the while. He is the owner of a good farm in Darien

township of seventy-five acres, and has a very comfortable home here, all as a result of his individual efforts.

Politically, Mr. Febrý is a Republican, and he has been a director in the local school board for the past fourteen years, in No. 21 district, Darien township. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen and the Episcopal church.

The subject is one of a family of ten children, five of whom are deceased; those living are Daniel, Kate, Anna, Mable and William.

William Febrý was married to Susan Pope, January 25, 1891. She is the daughter of William and Ann (Meddleton) Pope, natives of England, where they grew up and were married and there the death of the mother occurred many years ago. The father emigrated to America in the spring of 1884 and first settled in Walworth county, where he spent the balance of his life, dying in December, 1896. He had spent his life in agricultural pursuits.

To the subject and wife five children have been born, one of whom died in infancy, namely: Floyd, born April 13, 1892; Frank, born September 18, 1893, is deceased; Ruby, born May 13, 1896; William, born October 16, 1901; George Albert, born July 5, 1911.

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#### MARTIN MORAN.

Another of the worthy sons of the county of which this history treats, who has been content to spend his life here, is Martin Moran, farmer of Darien township. He is the scion of a thrifty old family of the Emerald Isle who came to the Badger state in early days and here, although the country was new and conditions not altogether promising, they had the sagacity to foresee a great future for the section in which they settled and finally became very comfortably established through hard work and economy. In fact, it is to such people that the county owes a debt of gratitude for having brought it up to such an advanced state of development.

Martin Moran was born on October 19, 1854, in Walworth county, Wisconsin. He is the son of Thomas and Marguerite (Mahan) Moran, both natives of Ireland, where they spent their earlier years. The father emigrated to America in 1848 and settled at Cazenovia, New York, and there he engaged in farming for some time. He came to Wisconsin in 1852 and settled in Lafayette township, Walworth county, where he lived about two years, then moved to Delavan township, where he continued farming, later

buying a farm and there he established a good home in which he lived until two years prior to his death, which occurred on March 16, 1908, at the town of Sharon, this county.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Moran, namely: Bridget; Martin, of this sketch; Michael, Mary, Maggie, Kate, Ella and William, all living.

Martin Moran grew to manhood on the home farm, where he worked during his boyhood, and he received his education in the common schools of this county. He has farmed all his life and is now the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres in sections 25 and 36, Darien township, which he has brought up to a high state of cultivation and improvement, and on which he is carrying on general farming and stock raising on a large scale. He makes a specialty of breeding Percheron horses, which, owing to their superior quality, are greatly admired. He has a large, pleasant home in the midst of attractive surroundings, and a convenient set of outbuildings.

Politically, Mr. Moran is a Democrat, but has never been especially active in public affairs. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of Darien, and he is a worthy member of the Catholic church.

Mr. Moran was married on October 12, 1881, to Mary Cusack, daughter of Patrick and Ellen Cusack, a highly respected family of Walworth county, where Mrs. Moran grew to womanhood and received her education in the common schools.

To Mr. and Mrs. Moran have been born six children, named in order of birth as follows: May, born August 6, 1886; Frank, born September 5, 1890, is now twenty-two years old; Marguerite, born February 13, 1892, is now twenty years old; Martin, Jr., born December 18, 1894, is now seventeen years of age; Agnes, born February 12, 1897, is now fifteen years old; and Arthur, born December 17, 1901, is eleven years old. They are all at home with their parents.

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#### GEORGE RUE ALLEN.

Change is constant and general, generations rise and pass unmarked away, and it is the duty of posterity as well as a present gratification to place upon the printed page a true record of the lives of those who have preceded us on the stage of action and left to their descendants the memory of their struggles and achievements. The years of the honored subject of this memoir are a part of the indissoluble chain which links the annals of the past to those

of the latter-day progress and prosperity, and the history of Walworth county would not be complete without due reference to the long, useful and honorable life Mr. Allen lived and the success he achieved as an earnest, courageous laborer in one of the most important fields of endeavor.

George Rue Allen was a scion of a sterling pioneer family and was born on the 9th day of August, 1838, in a hotel kept by his father at Hartford, Washington county, New York. He was the son of Samuel and Maria (High) Allen, the father born in Gloucester, England, June 30, 1789, and died in Bloomfield, Walworth county, Wisconsin, on November 20, 1866, and here his wife, who was born April 14, 1798, joined him in the spirit land on June 11, 1880. Samuel Allen was an innkeeper in Washington county, New York, until he came to Wisconsin in 1841. His wife, known in her maidenhood as Maria High, was the eldest daughter of Charles and Christina (Harris) High; she was born June 23, 1780, and her death occurred on August 11, 1841. Christina Harris was the daughter of Samuel and Hannah Barbara (Hufnagle) Harris. He died at Rutland, Vermont, in 1819, and her death occurred in 1847. Samuel Harris was the son of John and Rachel (Moss) Harris, the former born in 1720. John Harris was the son of Daniel Harris, who was born in 1688; his mother's given name was Abigail. Daniel Harris was the son of Daniel and Abigail (Barnes) Harris, and he was born in 1653. Daniel Harris was the son of Daniel and Mary (Weld) Harris, born about 1618. Daniel Harris was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Harris. Thomas Harris kept the ferry that plied from Boston to Winnisimmet and Charleston in 1631. Moses Harris, brother of John Harris, was a celebrated scout in the French and Indian war and he was the original of J. Fenimore Cooper's famous "Leather Stocking" tales. Townsend Harris, a grandson of Samuel Harris, was the first United States minister to Japan, and his career is given at length in Dr. Griffi's "Townsend Harris—First Envoy to Japan." On September 21, 1775, Samuel Harris was recommended by the county of Kingsbury, New York, to be commissioned as ensign, "he being a friend to the present cause and having signed the general association." This commission was issued the same month by the provincial congress of New York. Israel Harris, a brother of Samuel Harris, was with Ethan Allen at the storming of Ticonderoga. Samuel Harris was the great-grandfather of George Rue Allen. The family on both sides of the house has figured conspicuously in American history for over two centuries.

George Rue Allen was about a year old when his parents left New York and located in South Bend, Indiana, and he was about three years old when, in 1841, the family came to Bloomfield township, Walworth county, Wisconsin.

sin, and there the boy grew to manhood on the farm and remained there until 1898 when he moved to Lake Geneva, where his death occurred on September 20, 1901. His schooling was very meager, consisting of a short period in the country schools near his boyhood home, one term at Lake Geneva and one term at Kenosha. But he was always more or less a student and in after life made up for his lack of schooling when a boy. On February 15, 1871, he was united in marriage with Mary Grier, daughter of James and Mary (Woods) Grier. James Grier was born on February 2, 1808, at Emmiskillen, county Fermanaugh, Ireland, and his death occurred on June 3, 1886; he emigrated to America in 1824. Mary Woods was born in 1808 in Carrickmacross, county Monagan, Ireland, and her death occurred on February 14, 1887. They came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1843.

Three children were born to George Rue Allen and wife, namely: John Samuel, born February 28, 1872; James Grier, born January 15, 1875, and Mary Christeen, born July 9, 1877.

Mr. Allen always took much interest in public affairs. He was assessor of Bloomfield township for a great many years. He was chairman of the town board for about fifteen years, during the greater part of which period he was chairman of the county board. In 1880 he was sent to the Legislature and as a public servant he discharged his duties in a manner that reflected much credit upon himself and to the satisfaction of the people.

Mr. Allen was a director in the First National Bank at Lake Geneva, from 1892 to his death, which duties he discharged with exceptional fidelity and business ability, as is attested by the beautiful hand-engraved memorial presented by the bank to his widow upon his death. The following resolution was adopted at the annual meeting of the stockholders of the bank:

"We have ever found him a safe, prudent and capable business man, endowed with practical common sense, and honest in his transactions with his fellow men. To his friends he was cordial and warmly attached and never more happy than when in their society. As a citizen he has held many important public positions of honor and trust which he has discharged with scrupulous fidelity; and in the closer relations in which it was our privilege to know him, the innate qualities of a warm and generous heart, an honorable and upright character and an amiable nature and disposition were fully revealed. He was universally regarded as 'An honest man, the noblest work of God.'"

The following is an interesting incident in connection with the Farmers Insurance Company, a mutual association, of which he was president: There

were two families of Allens, both prominent and with many Christian names alike. The first president of the above-named association was George Allen, a member of the other family of Allens of Linn township and he served in this capacity until his death, then George R. Allen of Bloomfield township, the subject of this sketch, succeeded him and held the place until his death, then Dwight S. Allen, one of the Linn township Allens, succeeded to the position which he held until his death, and was succeeded by James G. Allen, the brother of the present incumbent.

George Rue Allen was very successful in a business way and was for many years rated as one of the substantial citizens of this part of the county. The death of this worthy and influential citizen occurred on September 20, 1901. His widow survives and makes her home in Lake Geneva, where she has a host of warm friends.

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### JOHN WELCH.

Among those in this county who have built up a highly creditable reputation and have distinguished themselves by right and honorable living is John Welch, farmer of Darien township, another of the large band of foreign-born citizens who have done such a commendable work for the upbuilding of Walworth county. His prominence in the community is conceded and his deeds will speak for themselves, for he has been a man who has believed in helping others in a general way, at least, while laboring for his own advancement along material lines. He has much of the characteristic thrift, wit and energy of the Celtic race, of which he is a very creditable representative, and while he reveres the old Emerald Isle, as is natural and right, he nevertheless has been loyal to the western republic in which he has cast his lot and has taken about as much interest in our affairs, domestic and national, as we who are native born.

John Welch was born in Ireland in 1839. He is the son of Michael and Mary (Brazdel) Welch, both natives of Ireland, where they grew up and were married and where they have spent their lives, neither having ever come to America. They were the parents of twelve children, most of whom remained in Ireland, one other coming to America and now living in Pennsylvania.

The subject grew to manhood in Ireland and received his education in the public schools there, and when he was twenty-four years old he emigrated to the United States, settling first in Allegany county, New York, where he en-

gaged in farming, which has been his life work. He came on to Wisconsin in 1869, and in order to get a start he worked out by the month and on the shares for about seventeen years, finally buying a farm of two hundred and thirty-seven acres in Darien township, Walworth county, where he has continued to reside. He has added many modern improvements and has kept his land well cultivated, having been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. He has been a diligent and persistent worker and his efforts have been crowned with success, as his abundant harvests from year to year will attest. He has a pleasant home and a good set of outbuildings, and he keeps an excellent grade of stock.

Mr. Welch was married in Ireland, in 1861, to Alice Kennedy, daughter of Edward and Mary (Powers) Kennedy, both natives of Ireland. Fourteen children were born to the subject and wife, named as follows: Michael, who is farming in Darien township, this county; Mary lives at Chicago, Illinois; William is farming in Delavan township, this county; Mrs. Katie O'Brien and Mrs. Ellen Morrissey both live in Delavan township; Edward lives in Darien; Maggie married a Mr. Bradford and lives in Chicago; Mrs. Alice Sanders lives in St. Paul; Bee is at home; Mrs. Julia Kinney lives in Delavan; John also lives in Delavan; Mrs. Bessie Scannell lives in Chicago; Agnes married a Mr. Stocking and they live in Michigan; Josie lives at home.

The wife and mother passed to her rest on September 29, 1909.

Politically, Mr. Welch is a Democrat. He has served as road commissioner and school director, having been a member of the board for a period of fourteen years.

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#### CLARENCE EDWARD BILYEA.

It is always pleasant as well as profitable to study the life record of such a character as Clarence Edward Bilyea, for therein lie lessons which cannot fail to benefit the reader if properly pondered, for he always held before him the principles of the Golden Rule and lost no opportunity to better his own condition and that of the community.

Mr. Bilyea was born on October 24, 1864, in Otsego county, New York, the son of Orson and Fannie (Litts) Bilyea. Orson Bilyea was born in that county on January 7, 1837, and was the son of Nathaniel and Polly (Southworth) Bilyea. Nathaniel's father was a sailor and his grandfather, a German, owned three hundred acres of land where Sing Sing, New York, is located. Orson Bilyea grew to manhood in New York and in the fall of 1863

he and Fannie Litts were married. She, too, was a native of Otsego county, the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Fox) Litts. Her father was born in New York, probably near Albany or Schenectady. Elizabeth Fox was born and reared in Otsego county. The only child born to Orson Bilyea and wife, was Clarence E., of this sketch.

Clarence E. Bilyea was nine months old when his parents brought him to Walworth county, Wisconsin, the father thereupon buying the farm of one hundred acres where the son now lives in section 25, the eastern part of Walworth township, this county, and here the subject grew to manhood and assisted with the work on the place. He received his education in the common schools and in the Jennings Seminary at Aurora, Illinois. On February 8, 1888, he was united in marriage with Carrie Smith, a native of Linn township, this county, where she was reared and educated. She is the daughter of Richard and Emma (Brand) Smith, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work.

Clarence E. Bilyea has devoted his life to farming and is now operating his father's place, two miles southeast of Walworth, his father having moved into Walworth in 1902, retiring from active life. After his marriage the father farmed thirteen years, then moved to Walworth village. He lives in a modern, elegant home in the village, which he built.

To the subject and wife four children have been born, named in order of birth as follows: Jessie Maude, Ray Clarence, Carrie Pearl and Ruth Edna.

After the marriage of Clarence E. Bilyea and wife they lived on the farm thirteen years, then moved to the village of Walworth where they made their home seven years, then moved back to the farm where they now live. He has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. Fraternally, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen.

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CHARLES H. POTTER.

Could the lives of the first settlers be fully and truthfully written what an interesting, thrilling and wonderful tale it would be. Think of the journey to the West, of the hardships of clearing the soil and the pleasure of rearing the family. Think of the pioneer gatherings, of the shooting matches, the old subscription schools, the first churches under the branches of the trees, the camp meetings, the famous old circuit riders, the husking matches, the coon, wolf, fox and bear hunts with dogs, and then presume to say that the old

settlers did not live happy lives. Such were the experiences of the progenitors of Charles H. Potter, well known farmer of the northeastern part of Walworth county, who is the scion of a worthy old family, whose honored name he has striven to keep untarnished.

Mr. Potter was born in Rochester, New York, June 17, 1849. He is the son of Woodruff and Ann (Hadley) Potter, the father a native of Wayne county, New York, and the mother of New Hampshire. They grew up in their respective communities and were married in 1835 and soon afterward came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, locating on one hundred and forty acres of land, now owned by the subject of this sketch, and here they spent the balance of their lives, the father dying in July, 1896, and the mother in 1899. They were the parents of two children, Harrison and Charles H., of this review; the former went to Texas in 1859, and during the Civil war he served three years in the Confederate army, and he still lives in Texas, making his home at Beaumont. Politically, the father was a Republican, and active in local party affairs, serving in a number of the township offices, such as supervisor and trustee of Spring Prairie township. He and his wife were members of the Free Will Baptist church at Honey Creek and were active in church work.

Charles H. Potter was reared on the home farm where he worked when a boy, attending the common schools in his neighborhood during the winter months, later taking a course in the Bryant & Stratton Business College in Milwaukee. Early in life he took up farming for a livelihood and has followed this to the present time, having been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, owning at present one of the choice farms of the township, consisting of two hundred and twenty acres, which he has placed under a high state of improvement and cultivation. In connection with general farming he makes a specialty of dairying, being well equipped for this line of endeavor. He keeps an excellent grade of live stock, especially cattle. He has an attractive and modern home and a good set of farm buildings.

Politically, Mr. Potter is a Republican and he has been assessor of his township for a number of years, being still incumbent of that office. He was at one time township clerk, and was a member of the township board. As a public servant he has always performed his duties faithfully and accurately, to the satisfaction of the people.

Mr. Potter was married in 1878 to Catherine Schaub, who was born in Spring Prairie township, this county, on March 1, 1860. She is the daughter of Conrad and Elizabeth (Diest) Schaub, both born in Germany, where they

spent their early lives, coming from there to Virginia, thence to Walworth county, Wisconsin, about 1855, and settled on a farm in Spring Prairie township and here they spent the balance of their lives.

To Mr. and Mrs. Potter six children were born, named as follows: Jessie, deceased; Harry, Sidney, Archie, Ray and Fannie. The wife and mother was called to her rest in 1903 and in 1906 Mr. Potter was united in marriage with Emma Stelter, who was born in Minnesota on November 13, 1875, the daughter of Charles and Elizabeth (Bartholomew) Stelter, both born in Germany, from which country they came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, she in 1858, he at a later date. Then they went to Minnesota, and in 1876 returned to Walworth county, where the father's death occurred in 1901; his widow still survives.

Mr. Potter has resided in Spring Prairie township since he was six years of age with the exception of two years, 1871 and 1872, spent in Beaumont, Texas.

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#### EMIL PAPENFUS.

Another of the young Germans who have benefited alike themselves and the community in general, since taking up their residence in Walworth county, is Emil Papenfus, one of Geneva township's skillful farmers, who believes in keeping up-to-date in all that pertains to his calling. He manifests the characteristic thrift of his race, and is of that nature to win success wherever he might desire to cast his lot.

Mr. Papenfus was born in Pommerania, Germany, December 20, 1875. He is the son of Albert and Henrietta (Klatt) Papenfus, a highly respected old family of Germany. The subject's childhood was spent in his native land, and when only fourteen years old he came alone to America, and for a short time lived in Ohio, where he took up railroading, working on the road between Columbus and Toledo until about 1898, during which time he became one of the company's most trusted employes.

Turning his attention from railroading, he came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and took up farming, working out as a farm hand. About 1904 he began farming for himself in Geneva township, renting land for about six years, and thereby he got a good start, then in 1910 he bought the farm where he now lives, consisting of one hundred sixty-two and one-half acres, which he has kept up to a high state of improvement and cultivation, and is making a marked success as a general farmer and stock raiser, keeping a good grade of various kinds of live stock.



MR. AND MRS. EMIL PAPERFUS

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ASTOR, LENOX  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

Mr. Papenfus was married in 1903 to Anna Schultz, who was born at Turin Lakes, Kenosha county. She was the daughter of William and Minnie (Steffen) Schultz, an excellent family, now living in this township, a sketch of whom will be found on another page of this volume. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Papenfus, namely: Alvin died when about two years old; Irving was born in June, 1907; Gertrude was born in 1908; and Margaret was born in 1910.

Mr. Papenfus and his family are faithful members of the Lutheran church. The subject is energetic and is deserving of the success that has attended his efforts, for he started empty handed and what he has he earned by hard, honest work, pluck and perseverance, always doing his best. He is a fine type of the energetic, self-made man.

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#### ELIJAH TRACY HIBBARD.

It is a well attested maxim that the greatness of the state lies not in the machinery of government or even in its institutions, but in the sterling qualities of its individual citizens, in their capacity for high and unselfish effort and their devotion to the public good. To this class belongs Elijah Tracy Hibbard, one of the best known citizens of Bloomfield township, Walworth county. He has always been actuated by the highest motives and the most lofty principles.

Mr. Hibbard was born near Marengo, Morrow county, Ohio, March 26, 1845. He is the son of Lucius and Fanny (Harvey) Hibbard. This family is descended from Robert Hibbard, who was baptized at Salisbury, England, March 13, 1613, and who emigrated to America between 1635 and 1639. According to tradition he came over with Governor Winthrop. He was a salt-maker, and he settled at Salem, Massachusetts. Coming on down the line of descent through Samuel, Jonathan and Seth Hibbard, we come to Aaron, father of Lucius. Aaron Hibbard was born January 17, 1761, at Woodstock, Connecticut, and his death occurred on February 12, 1835, at Bath, New Hampshire. His father died when he was an infant and when eight years old he was bound out or apprenticed. His term of apprenticeship, however, was cut short by the American Revolution. In April, 1777, when he was sixteen years old, he enlisted in the patriot army as fifer, in Col. Philip B. Braley's regiment of Connecticut troops, under Capt. Josiah Childs and

Lieut. Elijah Chapman. He wintered with Washington at Valley Forge in 1777 and 1778 and shared with other troops the terrible privations. He was in the battles of Germantown and Monmouth. He was discharged in April, 1780. He went to Bath, New Hampshire, in 1784, where he followed farming and surveying. He married Sarah (Hazen) Merrill, of Haverhill, New Hampshire, later of Piedmont. She was the daughter of Capt. John Hazen, who served in the French and Indian war in 1757, in Colonel Hart's regiment, and in 1760 in Colonel Goff's regiment for the invasion of Canada. His brother, Col. Moses Hazen, was prominent in the Revolutionary war. On June 26, 1809, Aaron Hibbard was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the Thirty-second Regiment, New Hampshire state militia, which office he held many years and was addressed as colonel the remainder of his life. His family consisted of fourteen children, of whom Lucius was the seventh.

Lucius Hibbard, father of the subject, was born in Bath, New Hampshire, May 29, 1802. He went to New York about 1831 and there married Fannie Havey about 1832. She was born near Utica, New York, April 4, 1815, and her death occurred November 26, 1853, at Marengo, Ohio, to which place she and her husband had moved about 1840. Mr. Hibbard subsequently married Mary Ann Burnett, who died in 1874. He had preceded her to the grave at Marengo on July 24, 1865. There were the following five children born of his first marriage who grew to maturity: George, who lives at Petoskey, Michigan; Diana, who married Charles T. Grant, died at Ashley, Ohio, July 12, 1907; Mary Elizabeth, who married William C. Cole, now deceased, lives in Kansas City, Missouri; Matilda, who married John Van Sycle, lives at Marengo, Ohio, and Elijah Tracy, of this review.

The subject grew up on the farm at Marengo, Ohio, and received his education in the common schools. He was one of the first to offer his services in suppressing the rebellion in the early sixties, having enlisted on April 19, 1861, in Company C, Twenty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for the three-months service, but about May 1st he was mustered into service for three years. The regiment went first into Virginia under Rosecrans, but was transferred to the Army of the Cumberland the following winter and remained in the same during the rest of the war. Mr. Hibbard saw much hard service, participating in nearly every battle in which that division of the army was engaged, and was in nearly all the battles of the Atlanta campaign. He was wounded at Missionary Ridge, November 25, 1863, and again on a charge at Kenesaw Mountain, June 27, 1864. He re-enlisted on February 20, 1865, and he remained in the service until January 20, 1866. He was in the South nearly a year during the turbulent times at the close of the war and he saw

more active service than most men did in the war. He was in command of his company during most of the winter of 1865 and 1866. After his long career as a soldier and his final discharge Mr. Hibbard returned to Marengo and attended school a year. He moved to Kansas in 1869, bought land and farmed there, going through the terrible scourge of grasshoppers that caused so much damage and suffering in that state.

Mr. Hibbard was married on December 24, 1874, to Hattie M. Olden, a native of Bloomfield township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, who was in Kansas on a visit to her sister at that time. She is the daughter of Enos Hanchett Olden and Julia Ann (Griggs) Olden, the father born at Pompey, Otsego county, New York, and the mother was born at Springfield, New York. Mrs. Hibbard's father came to Walworth county and entered land from the government north of Geneva. He later sold out and bought a place in Bloomfield township, also entered land there from the government. Then he returned to New York where he was married and brought his wife here about 1843, coming by way of the Great Lakes to Milwaukee, and by ox team from Kenosha. He endured the usual hardships and privations in developing his land from the wild state in which he found it, he being one of the pioneers of the county. He held various township offices, and was prominent in the affairs of this part of the county for some time.

Mr. and Mrs. Hibbard came to Walworth county soon after their marriage, locating first in Lake Geneva, where they built a home, and he soon began farming at the edge of town; later he and his wife's brother engaged in dairying, and he ran a milk route for five years. He then rented his wife's father's farm in 1885 and finally bought the same after the death of her parents. They are now the owners of three hundred and thirty-four acres of choice and productive land, and he has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser.

Mr. Hibbard has held various township offices, and has been town chairman for three terms, and he was treasurer for one term and is now a member of the county board of supervisors. For five years he was president of the Bloomfield Center Creamery. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic, J. B. McPherson Post No. 27, at Lake Geneva.

Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hibbard, namely: Arthur Garfield, born in Bloomfield November 2, 1880, married Monna M. Yost and lives on his father's farm; Carrie M., born at Lake Geneva July 20, 1882, married Frank A. Grout, then of Bloomfield township, and they live in Lake Geneva where he is a rural mail carrier, and they are the parents of two children, Frances, born April 1, 1908, and Edith, born February 23, 1911; George

Elmer Hibbard, born at Lake Geneva, April 7, 1885, is an electrical engineer at Kansas City, Missouri, in the water and light company; Frances Ruby, born in Bloomfield, October 2, 1887, works in the *Herald* office, in Lake Geneva; Lucius O., born February 10, 1890, in Bloomfield township, lives on the farm with his brother Garfield; Leonidas Carleton, born in Bloomfield township, September 10, 1891, is also working as an electrical engineer for the same company as his brother George.

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### MERRICK WRIGHT.

One of the worthy native sons of Walworth county who has been content to spend his entire life here at home, wisely deciding that it were useless to go in search of a better community for one who desired to make general farming his vocation, is Merrick Wright, who is justly proud of the fact that his parents were numbered among those sterling first settlers who endured with commendable fortitude the many perils and obstacles which beset those who sought to establish homes in the great northern woods, assisting in laying the foundation for physical, civic and moral advancement in this favored country in earlier days. They were people who believed in keeping in touch with human events and in assisting in every way possible in furthering the upbuilding of the community which they selected as the most eligible for the permanent home of the family and in which to rear their children.

Merrick Wright was born on October 23, 1851, in the town of Sharon, Walworth county, Wisconsin. He is the son of Justin and Pamela (Van Horn) Wright, both natives of the state of New York, where they grew to maturity and were married, coming to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1847 and locating in Sharon township, buying a farm of forty-six acres. Here they established a good home, and prospered by hard work, adding to the original purchase until they had a farm of two hundred and eighteen acres, and there the father resided until his death, on May 28, 1895.

Six children constituted the Wright family, two of whom died in infancy; the others were Charles, who is now deceased; Lucius is living in Darien; Merrick, of this sketch being the fifth in order of birth; Eugene is deceased.

Merrick Wright was reared on the home farm, where he worked when a boy in the summer months, and he received his education in the district schools of Darien township. For a number of years he engaged in the imple-

ment business at the town of Darien, enjoying a good trade with the surrounding country. He retired from active work eight years ago. He quit the implement business in 1895 and went on the road for a harvester company, with which he remained until 1903, becoming one of their most trusted and valued salesmen. He was then compelled to give up the active duties of life on account of failing health. He is now living quietly in his modern and attractive residence in Darien.

Fraternally, Mr. Wright belongs to the Masonic order, the Eastern Star and the Woodmen. Politically, he is a Republican, but he has never had time to take a very active part in public affairs, though keeping well informed on current events.

Mr. Wright was married on September 30, 1874, to Lola M. Potter. She is the daughter of Jonathan and Sylvia (Goodspeed) Potter, natives of Vermont. This union has resulted in the birth of one child, Glenn E. Wright, who is living in Chicago, being in the employ of the Steiger Piano Company of that city, as salesman. He has been well educated and is a young man of much promise.

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#### GEORGE HEMAN MERWIN.

The record of George Heman Merwin is eminently entitled to representation in a history of the nature of the one in hand, for it has been an eminently honorable and successful one, resulting in good both to himself and immediate family and to the community at large.

Mr. Merwin was born in Scriba township, Oswego county, New York, five miles east of Oswego, April 1, 1845. He is the son of Benjamin Smith Merwin and Lucy L. (Paddock) Merwin. The father was the son of Daniel and Rhoda (Smith) Merwin. He was born in 1805, and on June 12th of that year occurred the birth of Lucy L. Paddock. The death of Daniel Merwin occurred on October 29, 1836, his wife having preceded him to the grave on October 27, 1807. Lucy L. Paddock was the daughter of William and Mehetable (Johnson) Paddock. Mr. Paddock was born April 23, 1784.

Benjamin S. Merwin and family came to Walworth county in September, 1857, and located one and one-half miles north of Williams Bay in Geneva township, where they bought a farm and made the family home until 1868, then sold out and purchased a farm at the edge of the village of Walworth and lived there until the spring of 1877, then moved to Delavan, where the death of the subject's mother occurred on December 11, 1877. Benjamin S.

Merwin then returned to Walworth, where his death occurred on May 20, 1896, at the advanced age of ninety years, ten months and eighteen days. Their family consisted of nine children, namely: William D. lived in the state of New York all his life, dying there on March 17, 1911; Mehetable Ann came here with her father, married Isaac Moreny and lived in Delavan township, and here she died on May 3, 1895, at the age of sixty-three years and four months; Amith E., born October 17, 1833, lives in the state of New York, and he was a soldier in the Union army all through the Civil war; Helen M., born March 19, 1837, married Albert Freeman, and died in Kansas in November, 1876; Martha M., born February 19, 1839, married David Gorsline and lives at Oswego, New York; Lucy Emma, born December 11, 1840, married Harris Cooper and lived and died in Oswego, New York; Benjamin H., born November 9, 1842, came here with his parents, and he now owns a farm in Delavan township, but lives in the village of Walworth; George H., of this sketch; James H., born in the state of New York, May 5, 1847, lived in Delavan, this county, married Cynthia Paddock Willis, and here he died on November 28, 1897.

George H. Merwin, of this sketch, made his home on the farm in Geneva township until his marriage, on November 21, 1867. The following year he moved to Walworth township and farmed his father's place on the shares for four years, then rented it for four years more, then purchased it, and continued to reside there until 1895, when he moved into the village of Walworth, where he has since resided.

Mr. Merwin was deputy sheriff about ten years and was on the town board of supervisors two or three terms. He still owns his farm and engages in the insurance business to some extent.

Mr. Merwin's wife was known in her maidenhood as Mary A. Barnes, and she was born in Geneva township, this county, the daughter of Thomas and Sarah A. (Brewster) Barnes, the father a native of Oneida county, New York, and the mother of Rutland, Vermont. She came here with her parents in 1836 or 1837, among the earliest settlers, and they located on Spring Prairie in the northeast part of Geneva township, and there her parents, Deodat and Lois (Drury) Brewster, worked hard to develop a farm and establish a home in the new country. She had a sister, Mary, who was the first school teacher in Geneva township. She afterwards married Mr. Pentland. Deodat Brewster and wife spent the rest of their lives on their farm here.

Thomas Barnes came here among the very first settlers, locating in the west part of Geneva township, entering land where Jacob Fry now lives. This

land he developed and farmed until he moved to Seneca, McHenry county, Illinois, where his death occurred on July 27, 1883, his widow surviving until November 22, 1906. Mrs. Merwin lived on the farm her father entered from the government until her marriage.

Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Merwin, namely: Florence M. is the wife of George B. Crandall, a farmer of Linn township, and they have three daughters, Glenna Belle, Vivian Iola and Marian Irene; Thomas B. lives in Woodstock, Illinois, where he has built up an extensive business as a blacksmith; he married Emma Becking, and they have two children, Clifford L. and Stella Irene. He served as bugler during the Spanish-American war in Porto Rico, being a member of Company G, Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Sarah Rosetta Merwin married Walter D. Crandall, a farmer of Seneca township, McHenry county, Illinois, and they have three children, Leslie B., Emory D. and Thelma Lucille; Ernest L. is at home with his parents in Walworth. Mr. Merwin belongs to the Modern Woodmen.

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#### A. E. MCKINNEY.

If any of the people who go to make up our cosmopolitan civilization have better habits of life than those who came originally from far-away Scotland, the biographer is in ignorance of it. One will find upon making a study of these people that the qualities of thrift, stability, honor, soundness of judgment, form the principal basic elements. Such qualities in the inhabitants of any nation will in the end alone make that nation great, affording such qualities as will enrich any clime and place any land at the top of the countries of the world, in the scale of elevated humanity. Of this excellent people came A. E. McKinney, farmer of Darien township, Walworth county. He comes of a race that produced such giant intellects as Scott, Miller, Burns, Wallace and Bruce. He comes of a race that is famous for its original research in the various realms of science, invention, art, literature, to say nothing of the practical every-day things of life. The Scotch blood is found in many of the leaders in every state and almost every section of the country.

Mr. McKinney was born on August 27, 1862, in Greenup, Scotland. He is the son of William and Margaret (Taggart) McKinney, both natives of Scotland, where they grew to maturity, received their educational training and were married. They emigrated to America in 1886, first settling in Allen's Grove, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where they established a good

home and there the mother still resides, the death of the father having occurred on July 14, 1893. He has long been engaged in railroad work, but most of his life was spent in farming.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. William McKinney, named in order of birth as follows: A. E., subject of this sketch; E. is deceased; Alex. lives at Capron, Illinois; William was next in order; James lives at Allen's Grove, this state, as do also Mrs. Mary Evans and Mrs. Anna Siddle; Mrs. Sarah Barnhart lives at Joliet, Illinois; Mrs. Lillie Evans lives at Freeport, Illinois.

A. E. McKinney, of this sketch, grew to manhood in Scotland and there he received his education. When nineteen years old he emigrated to America, in 1881, first settled at Greensburg, New Jersey, where he worked as a gardener, spending about a year there, then, in 1882, he came to Wisconsin and settled at Allen's Grove, Walworth county, and here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of good land in Darien township, section 10, where he has since resided. He has added many excellent improvements on the place from time to time and kept it well tilled. He keeps a good grade of live stock and has a splendid set of buildings on the place.

Mr. McKinney is a Republican in his political belief and while he takes the interest of a loyal citizen in public affairs he has never sought political honors. In religious matters he belongs to the Presbyterian church, and in fraternal he holds membership with the Woodmen.

Mr. McKinney was married on November 18, 1890, to Lizzie Gregg, daughter of John and Ann Gregg, a highly respected family of Darien township, and to the subject and wife four children have been born, named as follows: Archie, Jr., Earl, May and Lillian.

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#### GEORGE L. HARRINGTON.

George L. Harrington was born in Chautauqua county, New York, January 13, 1864. He is the son of Delos and Rebecca (Scott) Harrington, both natives of the state of New York, the father born in 1830, and the mother in 1833. There they grew up and were married and established the family home. Grandfather Riley Harrington was born in Otsego county, that state, and he came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1837 among the earliest settlers when the country was a wild native forest, the home of the Indian and wild beasts. He settled in Lafayette township, where, through hard work and economy, he

developed a good farm. His wife died soon after coming to this county, leaving three sons, and he was again married, and one child, a daughter, was born to his second union. Riley Harrington spent the rest of his life here and was well known among the pioneers.

Delos Harrington, father of the subject, left home when sixteen years old and for a time lived with Doctor Ellsworth at Hale's Corners. He then returned to the place of his birth. He made the long overland journey across the great western plains to California in 1852, remaining three years in the gold fields, where he saved some money. Returning to the state of New York, he engaged in merchandising and other business. He was married in 1857 and in 1870 returned to Walworth county and purchased the old homestead in Lafayette township, where he successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising until his death, in 1896. His widow survives. They were the parents of two children, Frances and George L. The former married Henry Katchpaw. They made their home in Sugar Creek township, this county, where her death occurred, leaving two children, Maud and Erma.

George L. Harrington, of this sketch, was six years old when his father returned to Wisconsin, and here he grew to manhood and received his education in the public schools. He made himself useful on the old homestead during his boyhood days, and early in life turned his attention to farming, after completing his higher educational training at the high school at Elkhorn and Beloit College. He became owner of the old homestead, which he has kept under a high state of improvement and cultivation and carried on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale, owning two hundred and twenty acres of as choice land as the county affords.

Mr. Harrington has always taken much interest in public affairs, and he served as chairman of the town board in Lafayette township for several years. He was secretary of the Walworth County Agricultural Society, from 1896 to 1902, his influence resulting in the rapid growth of that organization. He was elected sheriff of Walworth county in 1904 and served one term with eminent satisfaction to his constituents, discharging his every duty faithfully and ably. In December, 1909, he was appointed by Governor Davidson to fill out an unexpired term of sheriff, a vacancy having been caused by the death of Joseph T. Flanders. According to many of his supporters, he is one of the best sheriffs in every respect the county has ever had, and he enjoys the confidence and good will of all concerned. He is an active Republican, ever loyal to its principles.

Fraternally, Mr. Harrington is a Knight of Pythias and a Knight Templar Mason and has served as master of Elkhorn Lodge No. 77, Free and Accepted Masons, and as high priest of Elkhorn Chapter, Royal Arch Masons. He stands high in fraternal circles in this section of the state.

Mr. Harrington has been twice married, first, in 1888, to Mary E. Potter, whose death occurred in 1896, leaving two children, Percy and Mary. In 1898 he contracted a matrimonial alliance with Rebecca Minshall, and to this union one child, a son, Delos, has been born.

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#### RICHARD SMITH.

The life of Richard Smith, long a well known and industrious citizen of Walworth county, is well deserving of mention in a work of the nature of the one in hand, for it was led along honorable and conservative lines and resulted not only in good to himself and family but to the community as well.

Mr. Smith was born at Floyd, Oneida county, New York, November 5, 1838, and when ten years old he came with his parents to Wisconsin. His privations and hardships after the death of his father helped build his rugged character, and through a long and industrious life he continued to work with that zeal and energy that marked the days of his young manhood. He spent his life in agricultural pursuits, in which he met with large success, retiring from active life about 1894, selling his farm and moving to Harvard. However, he could not be contented with idleness, and he continued to work at various things until ill health prevented further labor. He had a wide and favorable acquaintance and was esteemed and respected for his many good qualities. He was a gentleman of the strictest integrity and loyal friendship. He was sick a year and a half prior to his death.

Richard Smith was the son of James and Elizabeth (Bailey) Smith, both natives of England, where they grew to maturity and were married, probably near Ely in Cambridgeshire. When Richard Smith was about eight or nine years old his parents brought him to Walworth county, locating on a farm in Linn township, first settling in section 29, later moving to section 26. He was about eleven or twelve years old when his father died, leaving the mother with seven children, none of whom were old enough to make their own way. Richard and his brother James, who was thirteen years old, and who now lives at Geneva, tried to care for the family, but finally found they were too young and the family was compelled to live among relatives. However, the two sons

earned considerable money and assisted in the support of the mother and younger children. Richard worked out until he was married, in 1862, to Emma Brand, daughter of William and Mary (Hawkes) Brand and a native of Oneida county, New York, her parents and those of Mr. Smith coming from the same place in Cambridgeshire, England, to America together and located in New York where the Brand family remained until 1856. About 1851 her father bought a farm at Clinton, Wisconsin, and in 1856 moved the family there, the parents spending the rest of their lives on that place and there Mrs. Smith's brother, Joseph Brand, still lives.

In the spring of 1862 Richard Smith bought a farm in the northeast quarter of section 32, Linn township, and there resided for a period of thirty-two years. In 1894 he sold his farm and moved to the town of Harvard where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in June, 1909.

Two daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Cora and Carrie, the latter being now the wife of Clarence E. Bilyea, of Walworth, a sketch of whom appears in this work. Cora married Rolland Pierce, a brother of Delos Pierce, of Walworth. One son, Clifford, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Pierce, his birth occurring in August, 1892, in Hebron township, McHenry county, Illinois. His father died when he was about nine months old, and he was ten years old when his mother died. After his father's death he and his mother lived with Richard Smith and wife, of this sketch, and after the death of the mother Clifford Pierce remained with his grandparents.

In 1911 Mrs. Richard Smith purchased a small farm in the south edge of Walworth township, this county, a mile and a half east of Big Foot, where she and her grandson, Clifford Pierce, now reside.

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#### GEORGE B. CRANDALL.

The subject of this sketch is one of the substantial and well known agriculturists and stock men of the southern part of Walworth county, owning a finely improved and valuable farmstead in Linn township, his place representing much hard labor and the exercise of sound judgment and good taste; but Mr. Crandall is a man of well known energy and determination, indolence and idleness being entirely foreign to his nature, and his continued activity in the management and development of this property has made his one of the most desirable farms in this locality.

George B. Crandall, who is the scion of a worthy old family, was born, on the farm where he now lives, in the southwestern part of Linn township, this county, November 21, 1871, and here he has been content to spend his life, well knowing that it were indeed useless to seek a country of larger opportunities. He is the son of William Henry and Martha Lodicia (Greene) Crandall. The father was born in Otsego county, New York, March 16, 1832, the only son of Riley and Maria (Clark) Crandall. When William H. Crandall was about ten years old he went to live with his uncle, George Clark, in the same community and there he grew to manhood on a farm. In 1856 he came west and located on a farm about two miles east of Walworth, where he worked for a Mr. Burdick about a year, then worked about five miles east of there for a former schoolmate, Deacon Lucien Covey. In 1859 he married Martha L. Greene, daughter of Daniel and Lois (Johnson) Greene. She, too, was a native of Otsego county, New York. Her father was the son of Daniel and Rebecca (Conant) Greene, who came from Boston; Daniel Greene was a soldier in the war of 1812. His father, Daniel Greene, Sr., was born in 1758, and was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, after which he drew a pension, and lived with his son in 1840 at Edmeston, Otsego county, New York. Rebecca (Conant) Greene was many years a widow. Her death occurred at Walworth, this county, August 11, 1882, lacking three days of her ninety-seventh birthday. She had come here from Otsego county, New York, in 1846, with her son, and had buried ten children, being the last of her family. Lois (Johnson) Greene, mother of Martha L. (Greene) Crandall, was born at Mexico, New York. Martha L. Greene came to this county with her parents when she was a girl. They located in the southern part of section 30, Linn township, later moving to the west side of the same section and there the father died in 1871 and her mother some years later.

After William H. Crandall was married he rented a farm for three years. They began life in typical pioneer fashion, living in a house of only two rooms, one above the other, which were whitewashed, and just outside the door was the well-sweep and "old oaken bucket." They were young, optimistic and happy. Mr. Crandall then bought forty acres and built a house on it and there made his home for twenty-eight years. He prospered by hard work and close application and later added forty acres to his original purchase, later other forties until he became the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He left the farm in October, 1892, and moved to Walworth, having accumulated a competency; but he did not retire from active life, but took up quite a different line of work and for the next fifteen years was on the road as a traveling salesman, failing health finally

compelling him to give it up. He remained in the village of Walworth the rest of his life, his death occurring on January 5, 1910. He was an active member of the Seventh-Day Baptist church, a Sabbath school teacher for many years and a deacon for fifteen years. Mrs. Crandall is also a faithful member of that church.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. William H. Crandall, namely: Effie married Stephen Wickham, of Walworth, and they have three children, Benjamin, Floyd and Gertrude; Charles Henry married May Rodman and lived in Walworth until his death in 1892, leaving two children, Lyle and Pauline. William Crandall, who is in the furniture and undertaking business in Walworth, married Ada Humphrey, of Albion, and they have two children, Lester and Adeline; William Crandall is a man of unusual strength of character in the face of a great trial. After years of active life on the farm and as a traveling salesman he was being educated for the ministry, when he suddenly became hopelessly blind. He spent three months at the State School for the Blind, then took a place in a furniture store and gradually worked up a business at Walworth for a non-resident undertaker, worked into the practical work himself, started business in a small way, and, inducing his wife to help him, they in time became expert embalmers and are now well established in the furniture and undertaking business. He does not lament over his affliction, but is a cheerful, companionable man, successful in business and has a pleasant home life. Ellen Crandall, the fourth child born to William H. Crandall and wife, married Leonard Lyons, lives in Fontana, and they have one son, Owen, who is now attending the State University at Madison; George B., of this review; Nellie married Charles Babcock, of Walworth, and they have six children, Ernest, Kendall, Lulu, Henry, Ambrose and Victor.

Mrs. William H. Crandall, mother of the above named children, lives in Walworth. She has the satisfaction of knowing that her children have been well reared. While living on the farm five miles away the family was very regular at church services. The father was a God-fearing, reliable, earnest man, always doing what he could for the good of his community, where he was held in the highest esteem by all who knew him.

George B. Crandall, the immediate subject of this sketch, grew to manhood on the home farm and received his education in the public schools, and he remained on the home place until about 1892. On August 16, 1893, he married Florence May Merwin, daughter of George H. Merwin and wife, of Walworth, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. She was educated in the high school at Walworth and was a successful teacher in the

public schools of this county until her marriage. A year preceding his marriage, Mr. Crandall went to Walworth and took up painting, paper hanging and decorating, and the year after his marriage was spent at Fontana in the same line of work. In 1894 he returned to the home farm, which he has conducted ever since, keeping the old place well improved and well cultivated. The place consists of one hundred and thirty-nine acres.

Mr. Crandall is not a politician and he has never been an aspirant for public office. However, he has been a member of the local school board since 1896 and has been clerk of the board for some time.

Three children have been born to the subject and wife, namely: Glenna Belle, Vivian Iola and Marian Irene. The two eldest are attending high school at Walworth. Mr. Crandall is a member of the Modern Woodmen and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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#### HUGH D. LONG.

The biographer is always glad to write of a family like the Longs, members of which have been known in the locality of which this history treats for a period of nearly three-quarters of a century, for the father of the subject braved the wilds and settled in Darien township when the country was very sparsely settled and indeed gave no promise of the wonderfully fine farming section that is here seen today. Members of this old family have done much for the advancement of this community, having been altruistic enough to labor not only for their own good but also for the good of their neighbors and the general public and they have lived such correct lives and been so public-spirited that they have ever been held in high esteem by all classes in Walworth county. It is to such people as these that civilization in the North and West today especially owes its great advancement.

Hugh D. Long was born on October 24, 1854, in Darien township, this county. He is the son of Chester D. and Laura A. (Lee) Long. The father was a farmer and insurance agent, and early in his career he came west and first settled in section 28, Darien township, in the year 1839, and there he developed a good farm in true pioneer fashion and spent the rest of his life. He took an active interest in public affairs and for a period of four years he held the office of recorder of deeds in Elkhorn, discharging his duties very capably, after which he returned to his farm, and carried on general farming

and stock raising successfully until summoned to close his earthly career on June 15, 1884. His boyhood was spent at Pembroke, New York, where his birth occurred.

Hugh D. Long, of this sketch, was reared on the home farm and when but a lad he assisted with the general work on the same, finding time to attend the district schools of Darien township. Early in life he took up farming for a livelihood and this has been his life work continuously to the present time, and he has met with encouraging success as a general farmer and stock raiser, in connection with which he has been engaged in the insurance business, representing the Northwestern National Insurance Company, of Milwaukee, and the Continental Insurance Company of New York. He has built up a large and constantly growing business in this line of endeavor.

Fraternally, Mr. Long is a member of the Masonic order and the Woodmen, and he is well known and active in local lodge circles.

Mr. Long was married on November 18, 1875, to Abbie Blakely, daughter of William Blakely, a highly respected family who have been well known in Walworth county for many years. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hugh D. Long, namely: William H. and Minnie Louise, who are still with their parents.

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#### ALBERT J. NOKES.

The climate, soil and general conditions prevalent in southeastern Wisconsin are well adapted to the general conditions of farming and stock raising. One of the men who has shown by his success that he is a master of the art of farming in Troy township, Walworth county, is Albert J. Nokes, who was born in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, September 12, 1869. He is the son of Charles E. and Julia (Condon) Nokes. Joseph Nokes and wife, the paternal grandparents, were early settlers in Jefferson county and there the mother of the subject was born and reared. The maternal grandparents, Isaac Condon and wife, were also early settlers in Jefferson county and there they spent the rest of their lives. In that county the father of Albert J. Nokes was reared and educated. He was a mason by trade, and he is now living in South Dakota, where he owns one hundred and sixty acres. Politically, he is a Republican and he belongs to the Methodist church. His family consisted of ten children, of whom eight are living. Albert J. Nokes spent his childhood at the town of Palmyra, Wisconsin, and attended school there. He went to South Dakota when fourteen years old, and when nineteen years of age he

returned to Palmyra, Wisconsin, where he attended graded school, and took a special course in dairying at the University of Wisconsin. Then for several years he followed butter making, turning his attention to general farming in 1900. He bought the fine farm he now owns in 1904. It consists of one hundred and eighty-six acres, and is known as the "Maple Street Stock Farm." He has placed it under a fine state of improvement and cultivation, paying special attention to stock raising, keeping large numbers of Guernsey cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. He has been very successful and has one of the choice farms of the township. He has erected the buildings, and his father-in-law set out the trees about the place.

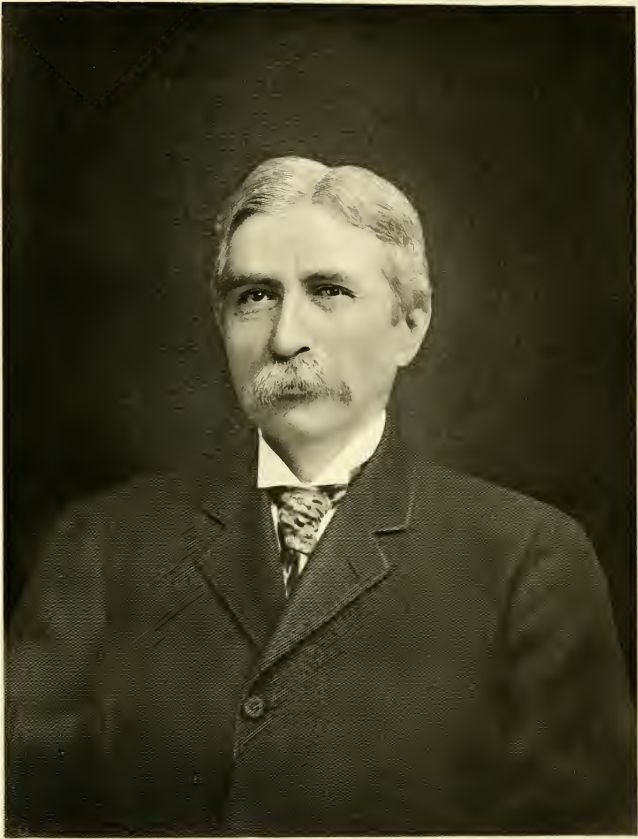
Politically, Mr. Nokes is a Prohibitionist, and he belongs to the Methodist church. On April 20, 1892, he was united in marriage with Maud E. Cook, a native of Troy township, this county, born here on the farm they now own, on April 3, 1870. She is the daughter of Henry Smith Cook and Catherine Young (Morrison) Cook, the father a native of Florence, Oneida county, New York, born there in 1829, and she was born in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1840. Mr. Cook came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1856, while Katherine Morrison came in an early day and here they were married in 1861 and settled in Troy township on the hundred and eighty-six acres that they now own. He went to Palmyra, Jefferson county, in 1882 and there he died in 1899; Mrs. Cook's death occurred in 1900. They were the parents of five children, three of whom are living. In politics he was a Republican and a member of the Congregational church, and for a number of years he was a deacon in the same.

To Mr. and Mrs. Nokes the following children have been born: Douglas A., deceased; Kenneth Lyle, Katherine Morrison, Thelma Maud, Albert Colon, Valeria and Marguerite, deceased.

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#### CHARLES M. BLACKMAN.

Charles M. Blackman was born in Bridgewater, New York, on October 10, 1833. He was the son of Alva and Almira (Briggs) Blackman, who spent their lives engaged in agricultural pursuits, moving from New York to Wisconsin in 1846, when their son, Charles M., was thirteen years old, and settled in Johnstown, Rock county. Alva Blackman became the owner of a large farm on Rock Prairie, in the vicinity of Johnstown. Both the parents were from old New York families and received good educations. Three chil-



C. M. B. ACKLEY



dren were born to Alva Blackman and wife, namely: Henry Harrison, Charles M., the subject, and Harriet Almira.

Charles M. Blackman grew to manhood on the home farm in Rock county, where he assisted with the general work about the place and he attended the common schools there. When a youth he came to Whitewater and entered the employ of Marsh & Partridge, dealers in general merchandise, and while in the capacity of clerk for this firm he mastered the ins and outs of merchandising, and in the year 1856 he went to Stoughton, Wisconsin, where he remained until 1863, engaging in the mercantile business for himself during those seven years. He had built up a good business, but, seeking a wider field for the exercise of his talents, he returned to Whitewater, where he and Sanger Marsh organized the First National Bank, which opened for business January 2, 1864. This was the second national bank in Wisconsin, and which, because of its clean and careful management, has earned a high and honorable position among the banking institutions of the country. And Mr. Blackman became an ideal banker. He carried his sound and popular institution safely through every financial panic since the Civil war. Any business man knows what this means, and can thus understand something of the exceptional financial ability of the subject. During the past fifty years Mr. Blackman assisted many business men, not only in prosperous times, but also in periods of financial depression and danger. He had many large transactions with men outside of Whitewater and gained some of his warmest personal friends on a strict business basis, and in conservative business relations.

On August 13, 1860, Mr. Blackburn was married to Mary E. Billings, a representative of one of the prominent old families of Whitewater, and here she grew to womanhood and was educated and proved a worthy companion and helpmeet. Four children blessed this union, namely: Edith, wife of F. K. Sanders, president of Washburn College at Topeka, Kansas; Jessie, wife of William H. Breese, a business man of Portage, Wisconsin; Mary, wife of Rev. H. T. Sell, formerly of Chicago, now of Jacksonville, Florida; and T. M. Blackman, of Whitewater, who is vice-president of the bank of which his father was so long the head. These children all received the advantages of good educations and are well situated in life.

Mr. Blackman was always ranked among the county's foremost citizens. Every worthy public cause had his sympathy and support in a substantial way. For the sake of some unpopular movements he often was in the minority, and sometimes alone. His unconscious influence was even then so great

that his presence, without a word, was sufficient to rebuke, and, at times, silence a false public measure. In any case no one dared to approach him to advocate a wrong thing in public life. His example was his argument. He was always prominent in temperance work.

Mr. Blackman was well known as a worker in the interest of the Young Men's Christian Association and Sunday school conventions, especially in his earlier years, and in later days in the home mission work of the Congregational church in Wisconsin, he having been an active and influential member of that denomination and a liberal supporter of the local church, in fact, a pillar in the same for many years. He was a religious man through and through, and believed in carrying his religion into his everyday life. His was of the workable and working type of religion of which the world stands in so much need. The Christian church with him was at the center of all good, public or private.

As president and director for years of the State Young Men's Christian Association, as trustee of Beloit College, as treasurer and director for a period of nineteen years of the state home missionary interests, and for a period as Wisconsin's member of the board of directors of the National Home Missionary Society, to say nothing of other positions of honor and trust, his circle of devoted friends and admirers was unusually large.

Mr. Blackman was successful in a financial way and through his unaided efforts accumulated a competency. He had a commodious and attractive home in Whitewater which was known as a place of hospitality and good cheer and here he was summoned to his reward on a higher plane of action on Friday, April 19, 1912, in the seventy-ninth year of his life, thus going down in the mellow Indian summer of his years like a sheaf fully ripened, and with every assurance of another and more glorious springtime in another world than ours.

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### J. J. READER.

One of the venerable pioneers who remains to tell the story of the days of the wolf and the Indian and the far-flung forests of Walworth county is J. J. Reader, of Delavan, a man whom to know is to honor and accord the highest esteem, for his life has been exemplary and has resulted in much good to those with whom he has been associated. The history of this locality and that of his own career are pretty much one and the same, being intertwined indissolubly, for he came here some three-quarters of a century ago and during the subsequent periods of development he has played no inconspicuous part.

Mr. Reader was born in Waterville, Oneida county, New York, April 6, 1827, and he is the son of Deacon John Reader, whose family was long a prominent one here, in fact the father played such an important part in the history of the county and was such a sterling character that it is but just that the biographer go somewhat exhaustively into his record, before proceeding with that of the immediate subject of this review.

Deacon John Reader was born in Headcorn, Kent county, England, February 21, 1803. He was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Reader, both natives of England, where they grew up and were married and where their oldest child, Elizabeth, was born. The family emigrated to America in 1824 and located in Oneida county, New York, where they followed farming until the fall of 1836, when they came to Wisconsin, locating in Sharon township, in fact were the first white settlers at what was later the town of Sharon. The elder Reader returned to the East in 1837 and brought his family here in September of that year, his son, J. J., of this sketch, having come with him on the first trip, remaining at the home of a Mr. Sanders at the head of Geneva lake. They settled on Big Foot Prairie, in section 18, Walworth township, where the father finally became the owner of over four hundred acres of land.

The following children were born to John Reader and wife, some in New York, seven daughters and three sons: Elizabeth married Edward Hall, of Beloit, and is now deceased; Phoebe married James Bending, of Chicago, and is also deceased; J. J., of this sketch; Richard, who became an electrical mechanic in the Civil war, died in 1864, from disease contracted while in the army; Mary, who married D. Searl, of Rockford, Illinois, is deceased; James, deceased; Martha married Franklin Trahern, of Rockford; Caroline married David Jacobie, of Sharon; Eliza married Robert Spinsley and she lives at Walworth; Rebecca, who married Jasper Voorhees and lived in California, is deceased; Rachael married Elias Harris, of Delavan; Stephen is now deceased; Amanda married Richard Wilson, of Delavan.

The Reader family endured many hardships after coming to this county. Having a large family, the oldest of whom were daughters, John Reader had no one on whom he could rely for assistance or who could share his responsibilities. Upon arriving here he built hastily a house of green poplar logs and plastered it with clay. A few split logs served for a floor, in part, brush covering the rest of the earthen floor. The youngest child became ill on the road and died a few weeks after coming here, the father being compelled to make the coffin and bury it with his own hands, for he had no neighbors to

assist him. In January, 1838, John Reader was obliged to go to Chicago for provisions, and, the roads being bad, he was delayed. Upon reaching home he found that his family had been without anything to eat, save a few crusts of bread, for four days. The cattle, too, became weakened from insufficient food, and he found it hard to put out his crop the following spring. The pork which he had bought in Chicago at twenty-seven dollars per barrel, had proved to be mostly hogs' heads, and the flour that cost eighteen dollars per barrel, was gone, and another trip was made to Chicago for provisions as soon as the oxen were strong enough to travel, having now for their food the green grass. This trip lasted sixteen days. Again the provisions gave out and the former experience was likely to occur again, but the mild spring had brought out the cowslips and greens were made from them, and this constituted the food for the family for a few days. They had no further trouble after the first crop was grown, for the want of provisions. In due course of time Mr. Reader prospered and became one of the leading men of the township, and enjoyed the confidence and warmest regards of his neighbors. For a period of eighteen years he served as chairman of the township and at different times held other minor offices. He became a member of the Baptist church at Delavan in a very early day, and upon the establishment of the church at Walworth he was elected deacon, which position he held until his removal to Delavan in 1864. He brought the first two settlers from Chicago, William and Samuel Phoenix, to Delavan.

In October, 1868, Deacon John Reader was called to mourn the death of his wife, his faithful and courageous life companion. He survived a little over ten years, being called to his reward on Christmas morning, 1878.

J. J. Reader, of this sketch, grew to manhood on his father's farm in Walworth county and assisted with the general work about the place, receiving such education as the early schools afforded, which he found time to attend during the brief winter sessions. He continued farming with his father until he was twenty-five years old, when he went to Minnesota, remaining in that state four months, when he was driven out by the Indians. He returned to Walworth county and engaged with Wood & Gormly in the pump business, soon becoming an expert and his services were in demand all over the country, those in position to know regarding him as the best in the state. He continued with this firm until Mr. Gormley's death, after which he engaged in business for himself until the year 1903, when he sold out and retired from active life, after a very successful business career. He has made his home in Delavan since 1863.

Mr. Reader was married on December 11, 1852, to Charlotte W. Hitchcock, of Walworth, this county, a daughter of Amos and Julia Hitchcock, an excellent pioneer family of Walworth. Mrs. Reader was born in Rochester, New York, and came here in early life. She is now eighty-three years of age, and they have been married sixty years. Six children blessed this union, namely: Ida M., now Mrs. James Davidson, of Delavan; Leonard J. lives in Pipestone, Minnesota; Amos H. and John B., both of Delavan; Edward L. lives in Pipestone, Minnesota; Gertie L., now Mrs. Clarence Engles, of Austin, Illinois.

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### JACOB BOLLINGER.

The name of Jacob Bollinger must needs go down in the history of this section of the Badger state, for he came here in pioneer times, and, having the sagacity of his race (the Swiss), saw a great future here, so cast his lot in the wilderness about our beautiful lakes and labored for his advancement and that of the community in general, setting a worthy example for right living, which could be followed without amiss by the youth whose destinies are yet matters for future years to determine.

Mr. Bollinger was born in Switzerland on June 23, 1832. He is the son of Sebastian and Barbara (Shaninger) Bollinger, natives of Switzerland, who spent their lives there, never coming to America, the father having devoted his life to mining and farming. His family consisted of four children: Jacob, of this sketch; Daniel, who lives in Sharon, this county; John is deceased; Mary still lives in Switzerland.

Jacob Bollinger grew to manhood in Switzerland and received his education in the common schools there. He came to the United States when twenty years of age, landing on our shores on May 6, 1852, in New Orleans, Louisiana. He then went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he had friends, but remained there only a short time, then came to Sharon, Walworth county, and hired out as a farm hand for eight dollars per month, and worked thus for three years, then went north and purchased eighty acres of land, but becoming dissatisfied with the same returned to Sharon, where he soon traded the eighty for ten acres, receiving one hundred dollars difference, this land lying in Sharon township. The eighty acres was good coal land. He went to work on the small farm and added to it from time to time until he owned three hundred and seventy-seven acres at the time of his retirement in 1906. He carried on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale and

had a good income from his crops from year to year, his farm being among the best in Sharon township. He sold the same to his sons and moved to the town of Sharon, where he purchased a pleasant home, one of the most beautiful in the township.

Mr. Bollinger has always voted the Republican ticket, up to two years ago, when he became a Prohibitionist. He was a member of the city council for two years, and religiously he is a member of the English Lutheran church.

Mr. Bollinger was married on November 25, 1857, to Catherine Kiteley, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Bodley) Kiteley, natives of England, and to this union seven children were born, named as follows: Rev. George, of Appleton, Iowa; Alexander, of Sharon; Mary A. lives at home; John R. lives in Boone county, Illinois; Joseph, David M. and Andrew, all live in Sharon.

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#### ALFRED MOTT.

Another of the worthy pioneers of Walworth county who has lived to see and take part in the wondrous transformation here during the past half century is Alfred Mott, of the vicinity of Delavan, one of our representative farmers, and a man against whose character no word of harm could be spoken by any one, according to those who have known him best during his long residence here.

Mr. Mott was born in Manhattan, Long Island, New York, on November 22, 1847. He is the son of Joseph S. and Mary (Thorne) Mott, the father born in 1800, both in the state of New York, where they grew to maturity and were married and where they continued to reside until the year 1848, when they moved to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and settled on Delavan lake, Delavan township, in a country that was new, consequently they worked hard to establish a home. However, their home making was principally on land which they purchased on the Big Foot Prairie road, between Delavan and Delavan lake, having remained at the place they first came to only about a year. The farm which they purchased consisted of one hundred and thirty-seven acres. This the father improved and here made a good living, continuing to reside on the place until within two years of his death, when he moved to the town of Delavan, where he died in 1881, his wife having preceded him to the grave on April 22, 1876. They were the parents of seven children, the first of whom died in infancy; Alice died on November 30, 1868; Robert died on February 19, 1879; Benjamin, born March 7, 1842, lives in Delavan;

Louise, born April 3, 1844, is living in Delavan; Alfred, of this sketch; Jennie M. died December 4, 1891.

Alfred Mott grew to manhood on the home farm, where he worked when a boy, and he received his education in the public schools. He has farmed all his life on the homestead and has kept the place well improved and well tilled. He lives in Delavan with the two remaining children, Benjamin and Louise. None of them have ever married. Alfred Mott is a Republican, but has never been especially active in public affairs. Benjamin is also a Republican and a member of the Episcopal church, in which Louise also holds membership. This trio constitutes a happy household and they take a delight in keeping the old home up to its former standard.

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#### MRS. ELIZABETH BROOKE (SEYMOUR) SMITH.

The name of this estimable lady is a familiar sound to the people of Walworth county, especially the vicinity of Delavan, where she has long maintained her home, and the brief record of her life, outlined in the following paragraphs, will doubtless be read with interest by the many friends and acquaintances who have learned to prize her for her beautiful character and useful life, which has been as an open book in which there are no pages marred or soiled by conduct unbecoming true womanhood, and whose influence has always made for the good of the large circle of friends with whom she associates.

Mrs. Smith was born in county West Meath, Ireland, and is the daughter of Rev. Donelan Bolingbroke Seymour and Harriet Ann (Brooke) Seymour. Through her father the ancestry may be traced back through Seymour, Duke of Somerset, to the Black Prince, who was near to becoming monarch of England, and whose ancestors were of the richest blood of Normandy, and who came over to England with William the Conqueror.

Rev. Donelan B. Seymour was born in Dover, England, and was the son of Col. Eyre Seymour and Catherine Bolingbroke, the latter being also of noble ancestry. Colonel Eyre Seymour received his christian name in token of his descent through the maternal line from the Eyre family of England. Jane Eyre, made famous in story and drama, was a relative of his. Many of the stories of the Colonel's own life would make good reading, as the one of the loss of the wife of his youth, who accompanied him with the British army on a forced march through France, dying of hardships on the way, and was hastily buried in a foreign land, her husband seeking in vain for her unmarked grave in after years.

Rev. Donelan B. Seymour was a child of the Colonel's second marriage. When the boy was twelve years old the Colonel was transferred from Dover to a station in Ireland and there became the owner of a beautiful estate. Donelan grew up in the Emerald Isle, was educated for the ministry and was ordained as a minister in the Church of England. His curacy was in county West Meath, Ireland, and there he spent most of his life. He married Harriet Ann Brooke, a native of Bedfordshire, England, and a daughter of Sir Joseph Brooke, baronet, and wife. Sir Joseph was a lieutenant-colonel in the British army.

Three daughters were born of Rev. Donelan Seymour's first marriage, Harriet Ann, Louise Kathleen and Elizabeth Brooke, also other children. When Elizabeth was sixteen months old the mother died. A year later the father married a Miss Grimshaw, a cousin of his first wife. Of the three daughters above mentioned, Harriet Ann married William Smith. While Elizabeth was still a young girl her married sister and husband emigrated to America and Elizabeth and Louise Kathleen came with them. Mr. Smith, Harriet's husband, had relatives near Walworth, Wisconsin, and the family came here and established their home in the county. Louise K. is now the wife of Henry Van Vechten and lives in Racine. Mrs. Harriet A. Smith and husband went to California and there she died. Elizabeth grew to womanhood in Walworth township and was self-educated, and in 1886 she married.

Mrs. Smith now resides in her cozy home in Delavan. Her daughter, Alice May, is the wife of John B. Reader, of Delavan, and William Edward Smith, only son of the subject, is an engineer on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad.

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### JOHN GOELZER.

Another of the sterling German citizens who came to Walworth county and benefited both themselves and the community was the late John Goelzer, of Sharon, a man who would have no doubt succeeded in any land and clime, for he had all the thrift, persistency and honesty of purpose of which his race is characteristic.

Mr. Goelzer was born in Germany on September 10, 1843. He was the son of John and Elizabeth (Schmidt) Goelzer, natives of Germany, where they grew up and were married, in fact spent their lives, never coming to the United States. They spent their lives on a farm and are now both deceased, dying in 1856. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Jacob,

Jacobina, and John, of this sketch, being the only ones to come to this country, who are now living; only one other, Sophia, came and she died in Los Angeles. The others were Ludwig, Fred, Louisa, who never came to this country.

John of this review grew up in Germany and received his education in the public schools there, coming to the United States in June, 1862, first settling in Peoria, Illinois, where he followed his trade as a blacksmith, which he had learned in the fatherland. Remaining in Peoria until 1865, he went to the state of New York, continuing his trade until 1867, then came to Darien, Wisconsin, and lived there until 1869 when he moved to the town of Sharon, where he lived until 1908, when he retired from business. He died January 5, 1912.

Mr. Goelzer was a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He belonged to the Reformed Lutheran church and in politics was a Democrat. He had been a member of the local election board for several years.

Mr. Goelzer was married on December 10, 1868, to Jacobina Hock, daughter of Fred and Jacobina Hock, natives of Germany, the father dying when the subject's wife was two years old. Later the mother came to the United States.

To the subject and wife seven children were born, namely: Fred lives in this county; Louis is farming on the state line; Charles is in the hardware business in Sharon; William also lives at Sharon and succeeded his father; the next child died in infancy; Paulina is deceased; Elizabeth is attending the normal school in Milwaukee.

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#### ERVIN O. SHERMAN.

If there is one thing which distinguishes the American citizen over those of any other country it is the facility with which any and all occupations are readily taken up by him and are made successful. In the older countries it was customary for the son to follow the father's pursuit. "Follow your father, my son, and do as your father has done," was a maxim which all sons were expected to adopt. It is in such countries as the United States that full swing can be given to the energies of the individual. A man may choose any business or profession he desires, and he is limited only by competition. He must meet the skill of others and give as good service as they or he will not

get the positions. Such adaptation to any work or business is well shown in the career of many of the men whose biographies are outlined in this work, among whom is Ervin O. Sherman, well known veterinary surgeon of the town of Sharon, who has also been a successful agriculturist for the major part of his life. He has turned his hand to many things and proved that farming was not the only occupation which he could make successful.

Mr. Sherman was born on March 25, 1839, in Sandy Creek, Oswego county, New York. He is the son of Benjamin and Sarah (Crandell) Sherman, both natives of the state of New York, where they grew up and were married and from there they came to Wisconsin in the fall of 1850, and first settled at Lake Geneva, but they stopped there only for the winter, when in the early spring he went to Sharon, this county, where the father soon purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Sharon township. Later he sold eighty acres of this, and developed the remaining eighty into a good farm, on which he spent the rest of his life, dying on March 12, 1884, his wife having preceded him to the grave in the fall of 1861.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Sherman, namely: D. W., of Lake Geneva; E. J., of Sharon; J. W., of Lake Geneva; and Ervin O., of this sketch.

Ervin O. Sherman was reared on the home farm and there made himself useful in his boyhood days. He received his education in the public schools of Otsego county, New York, and in Sharon, Wisconsin.

Mr. Sherman took up farming early in life and followed the same for a livelihood. He purchased the old homestead upon the death of his father and here he has continued to reside to the present time, having kept the place well improved and well cultivated, and, having prospered through close application and good management, he added to the original until he is now the owner of two hundred acres of as good land as the county can boast. He has a large, pleasant home and substantial outbuildings. He has always kept an excellent grade of live stock, of which no better judge could be found in Walworth county.

Mr. Sherman is a veterinary surgeon of wide repute, one of the most successful and best known, in fact, in this part of the state. Having retired from active farming in 1906, he moved to his pleasant home in the town of Sharon where he has since devoted his attention exclusively to veterinary work. He rents his farm, merely looking after it in a general way. He has kept well abreast of the times in all that pertains to his profession and is well equipped in every way for the successful practice of the same.

Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen, and, politically, he is a Republican, but has not been especially active.

Mr. Sherman was married on February 25, 1860, to Elizabeth Chambers, daughter of Thomas and Sophia (Reader) Chambers, who were born in England, where they spent their early lives. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Sherman, named as follows: Sarah is deceased; Benjamin is on a farm; William, Mertie and Charles.

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### JOHN LAWSON.

The name of John Lawson, of Delavan, needs no introduction to those who peruse this history, for he has spent his long, useful and industrious life here, having been closely identified with the progress of Walworth county for three-quarters of a century, so that the history of the locality and his own life record is pretty much one and the same. Heaven has bounteously lengthened out his span of years that he may yet be a blessing to the community whose interests he has so long had at heart. His life has indeed been exemplary, and might well be held up as a model to the young man, hesitating at the parting of the ways. One could not spend an hour more pleasantly than in listening to the interesting and instructive reminiscences of Mr. Lawson, for his stories of the days of the first settlers here abound in both comedy and tragedy, touching on the common joys and hardships incident to the life of the sturdy pioneer. We are glad to give him conspicuous mention in this volume.

Mr. Lawson was born at Brockville, Ontario, Canada, December 6, 1836. He is the son of Robert and Mary Ann (Riley) Lawson, the father having been a native of county Sligo, Ireland, and the mother was born in county Cavan, Ireland. They spent their early lives in the old country, emigrated to Canada in their youth and were married in Ontario. In April, 1837, when their son, John, of this review, was about five months old, they brought him to Chicago and in September, 1839, they came on to Delavan, Walworth county, the father entering forty acres of land in section 9, and forty acres in section 10, Darien township. It was heavily timbered land, and he entered it without seeing it. He never improved it, but entered another forty on Turtle prairie, which he obtained after a hard race on foot to Milwaukee, the nearest land office, having beaten another man who desired the same land, he having been on horseback. Mr. Lawson was able to take short

cuts across the ice and although the horseman passed him and taunted him about being too late, Mr. Lawson persevered and beat the horseman, thus securing the land.

Robert Lawson was a carpenter and found much work here in the early days. He lived about four years on the first tract he entered at the edge of Delavan, but made his permanent home about two miles west of Delavan. He prospered through hard work and close attention to business and became the owner of about five hundred acres of land. His family consisted of three children: John, of this sketch; Mrs. Sara A. Tyson, now of Independence, Iowa, and Mrs. Ellen Worman, deceased.

John Lawson grew to manhood on the home farm west of Delavan. When twenty-nine years old he came to Delavan and worked for the Delavan Pump Company three or four years, then went into the fanning mill business as a salesman, which he followed two years, then returned to farming, buying one hundred and sixty acres in section 17, Walworth township, and there made his home during the major part of his active life.

In 1866 John Lawson was united in marriage with Elizabeth Godfrey, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (West-Highland) Godfrey; he was a native of England, having been born in Kent in 1809, and there he grew up and married, and later emigrated to New York, Mrs. Godfrey dying soon after her arrival here, on the vessel, while it lay in quarantine in the harbor. Mr. Godfrey lived in New York a few years, then came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in June, 1837, and settled in section 19, Walworth township. He had been married a second time, in New York, to Mrs. Elizabeth (West) Highland. He lived on his place in Walworth township until his death, in August, 1878, his widow surviving until January, 1881. Eight children were born to them, Henry, Robert, Elizabeth, Charles and four others.

To John Lawson and wife four children were born: Frank E., a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume; Mary married William H. Nelson and lives at Spokane, Washington; Caroline married Glenn W. Nichols and lives a mile west of Delavan; Ruby married Homer S. Jones and lives a mile west of Delavan.

John Lawson owned his farm in Walworth township from 1866 until about 1910. In the first mentioned year he purchased eighty acres there and in 1889 added another eighty. He was very successful as a general farmer. In 1897 he moved to Delavan and has lived here ever since. His wife passed to her rest on May 8, 1910. On December 20, 1911, Mr. Lawson married Mrs. Elizabeth M. (Pounder) Burns, widow of Matthew Burns, of Delavan. She was born in Franklin township, Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, and she

was the daughter of John and Maria (Dunn) Pounder. Her parents were born and reared in Leeds, Yorkshire, England. Her grandfather was a soldier in the British army, and was honorably discharged in 1816. Some of her ancestors were in the battle of Waterloo. Her parents came to America on their wedding trip in 1838, and lived in Philadelphia two years, then came west, settling in Franklin, Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, when Milwaukee was a straggling hamlet. Mrs. Lawson lived there until the spring of 1862, when her two brothers went into the Union army, and since then she has lived in Delavan. Here she was married to Matthew W. Burns, a native of New York. He died November 4, 1907. He was a harness-maker by trade, also a carriage trimmer, which he followed until late in life then turned to farming. He owned considerable property in Delavan. He was a man who was highly respected by all who knew him.

Mr. Lawson is a Royal Arch Mason, and he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star. Mr. Lawson has lived in the county from its first settlement, in fact is one of the oldest men in the county, in point of residence. He is pleasant mannered, makes friends easily and is widely known.

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### CHARLES H. MUNSON.

"The Song of the Forge" has ever been pleasant to the ears of Charles H. Munson, one of the most skillful and popular blacksmiths of Walworth county, whose well-equipped shop at the town of Sharon draws patrons from remote parts of this locality, for here they know that they will receive prompt and careful attention. A criterion of his high-grade work is shown from the fact that many of his customers have patronized him for a number of years, refusing to have any other do their blacksmithing. It is as much of an art to shoe a horse properly as it is to fill a tooth scientifically or adjust a pair of spectacles to failing eyes, and it takes close observation and long practice to become an expert farrier. Those personally acquainted with Mr. Munson may note a similarity in Longfellow's "village smithy, a man with large and sinewy arms as strong as iron bands," not so much, perhaps, from a physical resemblance, and certainly not that he "stands under a spreading chestnut tree," for Mr. Munson has one of the most substantial and complete shops to be found, but at least from a standpoint of honesty, for "he looks the whole world in the face, and goes on Sunday to the church."

Mr. Munson was born on January 31, 1850, in Kenosha county, Wisconsin, and he is the son of William and Mary (Lockwood) Munson, the

father a native of the state of New York where he spent the early years of his life, coming to Kenosha county, Wisconsin, about 1841 when the country was new, and located there on a farm, and by hard work established a good home, continuing to engage in general farming on his place there until about 1886, when he sold out and moved to Florida, where he spent the rest of his life, dying in the summer of 1900, and in that state his widow still lives, being now advanced in years.

Six children were born to William Munson and wife, namely: Frank, Fred, Charles H., of this sketch; Rose is deceased; Ruth and Sarah.

Charles H. Munson grew to manhood on the home farm in Kenosha county and there assisted with the general farm work and he received his education in the common schools, and remained in his native county until 1888, in which year he moved to Darien, Walworth county, where he followed blacksmithing for about three years, moving to Sharon in 1891 where he established his shop and where he has since remained, successfully following his trade.

Fraternally, Mr. Munson belongs to the Masonic order, the Order of the Eastern Star and the Modern Woodmen. Politically, he is a Republican, but is not active in public affairs.

Mr. Munson was married on January 30, 1872, to Helen Rector, daughter of Henry and Mary Rector, natives of the state of New York. To the subject and wife three children have been born, namely: Maude, now Mrs. George Stocking, of Sharon; Mabel, now Mrs. C. K. Calvert, of London, Kentucky; Blanche, now Mrs. C. Hamlin, of Sharon, Wisconsin.

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#### CHARLES A. SIKES.

The subject of this sketch has spent his entire life within the borders of Walworth county and his persistent and commendable efforts have benefited alike himself and the community, for he has always had deeply at heart the well being and improvement of the county, using his influence whenever possible for the promotion of enterprises calculated to be of lasting benefit to his fellow men, besides taking a leading part in all movements for the advancement of the community along social, intellectual and moral lines. He is the scion of an excellent old pioneer family, in fact, Mr. Sikes himself may be said to have come down to us from the pioneer period, having noted the great changes that have taken place here during the past half century and seen the wilderness give way to as fine farmsteads as the state can boast.

Charles A. Sikes was born on November 4, 1849, in Sharon, Walworth county, Wisconsin, and he is the son of George and Elvira (Perkins) Sikes, natives of Connecticut and Vermont, respectively. They came to Wisconsin in the year 1843, thus being among the early emigrants, and first settled in Sharon township, Walworth county, taking up one hundred and sixty acres of government land, which they improved through years of hard work, and there established a good home and carried on general farming and stock raising. George Sikes's health finally failing, he gave up the active work of the farm and moved to Sharon, where his death occurred a few years later, in October, 1881. His widow survived until in 1906.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. George Sikes, named as follows: Mary is deceased; Martha, now Mrs. Keyes, lives in Colorado; Clara R., now Mrs. Blodgett, lives in Harvard, Illinois; George R. lives in California; and Charles A., of this sketch, who was the oldest.

Charles A. Sikes grew to manhood on the home farm in Sharon township and there he assisted with the general work during his boyhood, receiving his education in the public schools of his community—in Sharon and Walworth.

Mr. Sikes took up farming for a livelihood and followed the same successfully for several years, then engaged in the creamery business a number of years. He has long taken an abiding interest in public affairs, and he is now filling the office of supervisor of assessments of Walworth county, which position he has held for the past eleven years in a manner that reflects much credit upon himself and to the entire satisfaction of all concerned,—in fact, his long retention in this important office would prove his high standing in the county. Prior to taking this office he was township assessor and village assessor. Fraternally, Mr. Sikes is a member of the Masonic order and the Modern Woodmen.

Mr. Sikes was married to Ella Dennis, on June 1, 1874, and to this union one child has been born, Albert H., who makes his home in Milwaukee.

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#### RAY C. CHURCH.

The old-fashioned notion that hard work, patient industry and far-sightedness make for success in the various avenues of life does not seem to be accepted so unreservedly in our day. The spread of pessimism engendered by many phases of our complex civilization is in a great measure responsible for the lack of faith in the old idea. However, if we observe conditions

closely we will find that the intelligent individual who leads a practical and industrious life will reach a point of success commensurate with his efforts. The life of Roy C. Church, one of the progressive young farmers of Delavan township, will afford us an instance of this. He is the representative of one of the highly respected old families of this locality, the Churches having long been well known in Walworth county where they have been influential in promoting the general good.

Roy C. Church was born on September 8, 1884, in New Berlin, Wisconsin, and he is the son of Daniel D. and Mary (Evans) Church, both natives of this state. They were born in the town of New Berlin, reared and educated there and there they were married and continued to make their home until 1886, then moved to East Delavan, this state, buying a farm of one hundred and eighty acres near that town, and there they established a good home, worked hard and developed an excellent farm on which they continued to live until the death of Mr. Church on May 19, 1908, after which Mrs. Church moved to Delavan City, where she still resides, having a very pleasant home there. To Mr. and Mrs. Daniel D. Church one child, Roy C., of this review, was born.

The subject grew to maturity on the home farm and there assisted with the general work and he has made agriculture his life vocation. He received excellent educational advantages, having attended the public schools of his district, the high school at Delavan and the Beloit Business College. He is now operating successfully the excellent farm in section 25, Delavan township, carrying on general farming and stock raising in a manner that stamps him as a young man of enterprise and good ideas.

Mr. Church was married to Ina Gage on December 2, 1908. She is the daughter of Frank and Emma Gage, a highly respected family of Delavan, Wisconsin. This union has been without issue. Politically, Mr. Church is a Republican; he belongs to the Knights of Pythias and the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### RUSSELL E. CRUMB.

Among those of a past generation in Walworth county who distinguished themselves in the active duties of life was Russell E. Crumb, who has now long been sleeping the sleep of the just, but who is well remembered for his many estimable characteristics. He came of an excellent family, one that has always been strong for right living and industrious habits, for education and morality.



MR. AND MRS. RUSSELL E. CRUMB



Mr. Crumb was born on November 6, 1816, and he was reared at Leonardsville, Otsego county, New York. He was the son of Joseph and Susan (Clark) Crumb, the father having been the son of Joseph Crumb, Sr., who emigrated to this country from England in colonial days. The name was originally Crumbwell. Susan Clark was a sister of Dr. Harry Clark, one of the pioneers of Walworth township, this county. A sketch of him appears elsewhere in this work. It is believed that Joseph Crumb came to Leonardsville, New York, from Connecticut.

Russell E. Crumb grew to manhood in his eastern home and on September 2, 1835, he was united in marriage with Fidelia J. Richardson, who was born on August 11, 1818. They remained at Leonardsville, New York, until 1872, then emigrated to Walworth county, Wisconsin. The following children were born to them, all at Leonardsville: Helen F., born November 14, 1837, died August 1, 1840; Mary E., born January 11, 1840, married on February 7, 1861, Anson Harder, a lawyer, and lived at Redwood; New York, and there her death occurred on March 27, 1871, leaving two children, Lizzie and Mary E. The former married Herbert Townsend, who is now deceased, and she lives in Delavan, this county; she was living in Seattle, Washington, when her husband died in 1908. Mary E. Harder married Harry Judson at Redwood, New York; they live in Washington, D. C., and have one little son, Lawrence Judson. Emma Crumb lives in her own home in Walworth. Edgar D. Crumb was born on August 5, 1852, and died December 4, 1910. Alice A. Crumb married Newell L. Burton, October 27, 1868, and he died about 1895, having made his home at Delavan; they had one son, Charles R. Burton, who lives with his mother on the home farm, lying two and one-half miles east of Delavan and owned by Mrs. Burton; the son married Jessie Fairchild, and they have one little son, Ralph Burton. Eugene W. Crumb was born at Unadilla Forks, New York, in 1849, and he married in that state, on June 17, 1871, Mary Babcock, daughter of Henry and Hannah (Parmeter) Babcock. He came to Walworth county with his father and engaged in farming at the edge of the village of Walworth, and also bought and shipped live stock to Chicago for thirty-two years. He has one daughter, Mary E. Crumb, who married Oliver Putnam, undertaker and furniture dealer at Howard, Illinois. They have two sons, Russell E. and Monroe L. Putnam. Eugene W. Crumb platted about twenty acres of his farm and sold it off into city lots for addition to Walworth. Edgar D. Crumb, mentioned above, was born in Leonardsville, New York, and he came to Chicago about the time of the great fire in the fall of 1871 and there he spent the rest of his life, engaging at

first in the mercantile business, later was on the Board of Trade, then became a diamond broker. He married Hattie Eastman.

The Crumb family came to Walworth county in 1872, as before stated, Russell E. Crumb, the subject, buying a farm at the northeast edge of the village of Walworth. At that time there was no railroad nearer than Howard, and there were only two stores, a blacksmith shop, a school house and an old way-side inn, called "The Red Lion," and a few houses at Walworth. When the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad came through Walworth county it cut across Mr. Crumb's farm, as did also the Chicago, Howard & Geneva Lake electric line, and another line is now being constructed across a corner of the place. Since the family settled here a great change has taken place in this community.

Russell E. Crumb spent the major part of his life, forty years, engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was also a traveling salesman for agricultural implements in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland and the Western states, and he had a wide acquaintance and was very successful both as a farmer and salesman, accumulating a competency. His death occurred on June 5, 1883, his wife dying on January 25, 1889. They were both members of the Seventh-Day Baptist church at Leonardsville, New York. Emma Crumb still retains her membership in the old church at Leonardsville, as does also Mrs. Burton, and so did Edgar W. Crumb.

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#### ISAAC U. WHEELER.

The gentleman to a review of whose life and characteristics the reader's attention is herewith briefly called is among the most progressive business men of Walworth county, who, by energy and correct methods, has not only achieved success for himself, but has also contributed in a very material way to the industrial, civic and moral advancement of Whitewater and community where his life has been spent. During his earthly sojourn of three score and ten years in this vicinity he has seen and taken part in the wonderful transformation from a wilderness, with here and there a straggling village and now and then a cabin and a small clearing. He has a wide acquaintance among the best citizens of this and adjoining counties, many of whom are included in the circle of his best friends. He has ever tried to measure up to the standard of correct manhood, and in the course of an honorable career he has established himself in a liberally remunerative enterprise and won the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens.

Isaac U. Wheeler, cashier of the Citizens State Bank at Whitewater, was born in Chenango county, New York, in 1841, and in that year he was brought to Whitewater, Wisconsin, by his parents and here he has been a continuous resident ever since. He received his education in the local schools, and he began life for himself by clerking in the Bank of Whitewater from 1859 to 1865. He was bookkeeper in the First National Bank here from 1868 to 1882, then assumed the duties of assistant cashier in that bank and continued in that capacity until 1898. Since that date he has been cashier of the Citizens State Bank. For a period of fifty years he has been connected with some banking institution in this city, and he is one of the best known bankers in this part of the state, having ever discharged his duties faithfully and conscientiously and so honestly that he has always enjoyed the universal and undivided confidence of the thousands of patrons of these banks and the general public.

Mr. Wheeler is the grandson of Isaac U. Wheeler, mentioned in the early history of Whitewater, who was prominent here in the pioneer days, holding the office of justice of the peace many years.

Isaac U. Wheeler, of this sketch, was married to Sarah C. Vincent in 1859, representative of an excellent old family. This union resulted in the birth of five sons and one daughter, all living. Mr. Wheeler has been a Mason for the past thirty years. He has been treasurer of St. John's Lodge for the past twenty-one years continuously.

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#### NATHAN DICKINSON.

The influence of Nathan Dickinson, of Linn township, has ever made for the advancement of Walworth county in every relation of life, and, standing for upright manhood and progressive citizenship, he has long occupied a conspicuous place among the representatives of the great agricultural interests of southern Wisconsin, his life having been signally free from even the suspicion of wrongdoing, and he is known as a liberal-minded, obliging and useful citizen who has justly won large material success and the confidence and good will of all who know him.

Mr. Dickinson was born in Curtisville, Massachusetts, amid the beautiful Berkshire hills, February 6, 1848, and he is the second son of Albert F. and Ann Eliza (Anthony) Dickinson. His mother was a sister of Daniel Anthony, whose children were known throughout the country, including Susan B. Anthony, the great woman's rights advocate and authoress.

Samuel Dickinson, paternal grandfather of the subject, was the schoolmaster of the town where he lived and one of the selectmen. Albert F. Dickinson, father of the subject, was a miller in early life and he took an active interest in public affairs, finally serving in the Massachusetts Legislature. In 1854 he and his family moved to Chicago, where he engaged in the general grain, produce and seed business, and was among the oldest members of the Chicago Board of Trade. There Mrs. Dickinson was one of the founders of the First Society of Friends in Chicago.

Nathan Dickinson attended school in that city, being a student in the Dearborn high school in 1865 when he found it necessary to leave school and assist his father in business. The elder Dickinson had started his store on Kenzie street, between Dearborn and State streets. In the great fire of 1871 he lost everything except a memorandum of the debts which the firm owed. The blow was a severe one, and the father's health was failing; but in 1872 his two sons, Albert and Nathan, who had been engaged with him, together with their brother, Charles, then only fourteen years old, gathered up the remnants of the business and carried it on for a period of sixteen years under the old firm name. They did all the work themselves, their sister, Melissa, keeping the books. They paid the debts incurred by the old firm and put the business on a paying basis. The quarters on Kenzie street were outgrown and other quarters were rented for a few years, later moving to the corner of Clark and Sixteenth streets where large elevators and commodious offices were erected. In time even these were outgrown and an office was built especially for them by the Chicago Dock Company on the property in Taylor street, into which they moved May 1, 1898. The business extends over a large part of the world, and they are buyers as well as sellers in all the large foreign markets where goods in their line are handled. They make a specialty of clover, flax and grass seeds, also do an extensive business in bird seed, pop-corn, seed grain, grain bags, etc.

The business was incorporated in 1888 under the name of the A. F. Dickinson Seed & Grain Company, the incorporators being Albert Dickinson, Nathan Dickinson's eldest brother, who is president; Charles Dickinson, a younger brother, is vice-president, and Nathan Dickinson is treasurer. The business was founded on honesty and square dealing and by reason of unimpeachable record for integrity and conservative management they established a high credit in the world of business and finance.

Nathan Dickinson has been in the seed business since boyhood. He is also a director in the Chicago Dock Company. In 1883 he bought the nucleus of what later became his home farm, which lies near the southeast shore of

Lake Geneva, and he built a commodious home there and here he has resided ever since. Nathan Dickinson was married in 1889 to Louise H. Boyd, daughter of Gen. J. W. Boyd. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Dickinson, namely: Ruth B. and Albert B. Mr. Dickinson is unassuming and modest to a fault, contented with a quiet life on the farm rather than the bustle and hurry of the metropolis. He is firm in his convictions for the right, considerate of others and he values character above wealth.

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#### DR. CLINTON P. IVES.

It requires about as much painstaking effort to become a thorough veterinary surgeon as it does a general practitioner of medicine, and a proficient knowledge of the anatomy of the horse is by no means acquired by indolent methods; on the contrary, the man who becomes an expert in this line must needs spend years of painstaking effort,—study and research,—and be naturally endowed with the many qualifications of a successful veterinary, such as patience, sound judgment, steady nerve, keen observation and honesty of purpose. Dr. Clinton P. Ives, of Sharon, Walworth county, seems to be the possessor of such attributes, and he has won a wide reputation in his particular field of endeavor, being frequently called to remote parts of the county and to adjoining counties in serious cases.

Mr. Ives was born on May 14, 1856, in Darien township, this county. He is the son of Amos and Lydia (Tift) Ives, the father born in Genesee county, New York, and the mother in Trumbull county, Ohio. The father emigrated to Walworth county in 1841 when the country was new and first settled in Darien township, where he farmed for about ten years, then bought a farm of sixty acres in Richmond township and there he spent the remainder of his life, dying on October 15, 1896, having farmed all his life. His wife died in 1873. Four children were born to them, named as follows: Clinton P., of this sketch; Leamon J. and John W., both live in Richmond township; A. R. lives in Darien township.

Dr. Clinton P. Ives grew to manhood on the home farm and there made himself useful in his boyhood days, and received his education in the public schools of Ridge Prairie, Darien township. Then he began farming and studying to be a veterinary surgeon, then went to a medical school, completing his course, and was admitted to practice, which he carried on in connection with farming until October 15, 1908, when he sold his farm of one

hundred and nineteen acres in Delavan township, and moved to the town of Sharon, where he has since given all his time to his profession, which has been constantly growing for years, until today he is regarded as one of the leading veterinary surgeons in this part of the state. He has kept well abreast of the times in all that pertains to his profession, and he is well equipped in every way for prompt and high-grade service.

Doctor Ives is a Republican, and in church affairs is a Methodist and he belongs to the Mystic Workers.

The Doctor was married on June 19, 1878, to Helen E. Whaley, daughter of Lysander and Mary A. (Pease) Whaley, the father a native of Canada and the mother of England.

Four children have been born to the subject and wife, namely: Mamie L., who married Fred Hurdis, is now deceased; Elanora P., who married F. M. Willey, lives in Sharon; Mabel married R. O. Barnhart, and lives in East Delavan; Florence, who married H. Larsen, lives in Sharon.

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#### WILLARD RODMAN.

One of the enterprising native sons of Walworth county, whose varied career is one of interest and who has ever noted with growing pride the rapid advancement of this locality to one of the foremost farming and dairying communities of the great Badger state, is William Rodman. What he has achieved in life proves the force of his character and illustrates his steadfastness of purpose, for he has persistently refused to be downed by untoward circumstances.

Mr. Rodman was born on April 21, 1859, at Darien, Walworth county, this state. He is the son of Daniel and Phoebe M. (Wharton) Rodman, both natives of the state of New York, where they grew to maturity, were educated and married, and where they lived until about 1857, when they came west and settled at Darien, this county, where they established the family home and lived until 1883, the father being engaged successfully in the grain and lumber business. He then moved to Aberdeen, South Dakota, where he continued the lumber business, also followed farming, later taking up carpentering and contracting, which he had followed in his earlier years, and this he continued until he retired. He also taught school for a time when young. He is now living at Ipswich, South Dakota, enjoying the fruits of his long life of successful endeavor.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Rodman, namely: Edward lives at Watertown, South Dakota; Willard, of this review; Abina, wife of B. E. Allen, lives at Ipswich, South Dakota; a daughter died in infancy.

Willard Rodman received his education in the schools at Darien, this county, and he remained at home, assisting his father, until he was twenty-two years old, then worked for the Barnes & Persons Lumber Company in Aberdeen, South Dakota, later returning to Darien township, where he engaged in farming. He was at one time manager of the Delavan Creamery, after which he went back to Aberdeen, and was bookkeeper for the Barnes & Persons Lumber Company there. He was then on the road for the Standard Oil Company for a period of eight years, rendering them the utmost satisfaction as a successful salesman. He was also with the Crew Levick Company, and The Marshall Oil Company, of Marshalltown, Georgia. He then returned to Wisconsin in 1902, and is now located on the William Blakely farm, one mile northwest of Darien.

Mr. Rodman was united in marriage with Minnie E. Blakely, on March 31, 1885, in his home county. She is the daughter of William Blakely, a well-known and influential citizen of Darien, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Two children have been born to the subject and wife, namely: Daniel Blakely, born February 9, 1886, and Willard, Jr., born February 8, 1888. Mr. Rodman is an independent voter, and, fraternally, he belongs to the Masonic order.

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### HARVEY BAKER.

New England has sent to southern Wisconsin much of its best blood in times past and Walworth county is much indebted to that older section for much of its progress along various lines, for these sterling people have come here and put their shoulders to the wheel, as it were, and the car of civilization has moved steadily up the steeps. One of this worthy band was Harvey Baker, who was born at Arlington, Vermont, July 26, 1799. He was the son of Amos and Abigail (Royce) Baker, the father also a native of Arlington, Vermont. The paternal grandfather of the subject was Jonathan Baker, a native of Connecticut, a pioneer of Arlington, Vermont, and a prominent citizen there in the old colonial days. There he spent the rest of his life. He was a justice of the peace and he kept a hotel at Arlington, then known as a tavern

or wayside inn, and he was a most genial host to the travelers of those wilderness days.

Amos Baker and wife went from Arlington, Vermont, to Schuyler county, New York, and settled near Watkins, where he died. Their family consisted of four children, all now deceased. They were, Harvey, of this sketch; Althea, who died in infancy; Harmon, who became a music teacher, died in early manhood; Marilla married Amos Royce and she died in Watkins, New York, at an advanced age.

Harvey Baker was reared on the farm and was educated in the public schools. He taught school for some time in his young manhood days, and for some time he engaged in merchandising at Pawlet, Rutland county, Vermont, later came to Pulaski, Oswego county, New York, where he continued merchandising. He also owned a farm near Pulaski, and in 1846 he came to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where he took up land, later buying other land until he became the owner of three hundred and seventy acres of valuable land, and in 1855 he sold out and came to Rock county, locating on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, three and one-half miles southwest of Whitewater, where his death occurred in 1863.

Politically, Mr. Baker was a Whig early in life, later a Republican. He served as justice of the peace in Lima township, Rock county, but he never sought political offices. He was always active in educational affairs.

Harvey Baker was married in 1833 to Marietta Clark, who was born in Pawlet, Vermont, September 26, 1813. She was the daughter of Ozias and Rachel (Fitch) Clark, who spent their lives at Pawlet, Vermont. Marietta Clark was a sister of John Clark, father of Charles M. Clark, mentioned in this work.

Ozias Clark was the son of Capt. Elisha Clark, of the Revolutionary war, and Rachel (Fitch) Clark was the daughter of Col. William Fitch, from Lebanon, Connecticut, who was one of the earliest settlers, and most prominent citizens of the town of Pawlet. He was employed to furnish supplies to the troops raised to repel the invasion of Burgoyne in 1777.

To Harvey Baker and wife five children were born, namely: Frances, who was drowned in 1839, when five years old; Augusta M., born in Oswego county, New York, January 20, 1838, came to Wisconsin with her parents and was educated in the public schools of New York, and the Fond du Lac Seminary, and she taught school for a number of years in the county of Fond du Lac, also in Rock county and the city of Whitewater. She married, in 1867, Raymond C. Shepard, of Whitewater, and they have one son, Frank R. Shepard, born in Whitewater, on November 7, 1878. He was an agent in a

local express office for a number of years, but is now working for his uncle, Louis C. Baker, in the hardware business in Whitewater. Rollin H. Baker, fourth child born to Harvey Baker and wife, was born on November 30, 1848, at Pulaski, New York, and is now farming in Whitewater township, this county. Frances Grace Baker, the third child in order of birth, was born at Pulaski, New York, October 30, 1840, and her death occurred in Jacksonville, Florida, February 22, 1871. Louis Clark Baker, youngest of the family, is in the mercantile business in Whitewater, and he has a separate sketch in this volume.

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### FRANK L. HENN.

From the period in our history known as the colonial epoch to the present time the German citizens have been coming to our shores, and, ever finding here the gates ajar to our ports of entry, and an extended welcoming hand, they have been quick to seize the great opportunities that have ever existed here for the strong of heart and hand. They have proved to be among our very best foreign-born citizens, have not only been thrifty and industrious in whatever line they attempted, but have been true to our institutions, loyal in the support of the same and whenever the nation called for defenders in any cause they have thronged our regiments and deported themselves most admirably on the field of battle. Thus they have benefited us and we them, and our nation is further advanced today than it would have been had they not deigned to take up their homes within our borders to the extent of hundreds of thousands.

One of this vast horde who has honored Walworth county with his residence is Frank L. Henn, who, after a long, busy and successful life, finds himself very comfortably situated in the town of Sharon. He was born in Baden, Germany, on February 25, 1839. He is the son of F. A. and Catharina (Frederick) Henn, both natives of Germany, where they grew to maturity and were married, and spent their lives in the Fatherland; however, the father made a visit of two years to the United States. He was a rope-maker by trade, which he followed all his life, and at the time of his marriage he purchased a small farm, and followed farming in connection with his trade for many years. He and his wife are both now deceased.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Henn, named as follows: Franciscon, deceased; Frank L., of this sketch; Barbara lives in Germany; Louisa is deceased; Grecens lives in Germany.

Frank L. Henn, of this review, spent his boyhood in the fatherland and attended the public schools there. He was fifteen years old when he emigrated to the United States and he first settled in Burlington, Wisconsin, in 1854, remaining there about two and one-half years, then went to Racine where he spent an equal length of time, then came to Sharon, Walworth county. He learned the harness-making trade when a young man and has made it his life work, being still engaged in the same vocation in the town of Sharon. He is an expert in this line and his output has always been eagerly sought, owing to the superior quality of his workmanship.

Politically, Mr. Henn is a Democrat and has been more or less active in public affairs. He was appointed postmaster at Sharon in 1894, the duties of which office he discharged for a period of four years in a manner that reflected much credit upon himself and to the entire satisfaction of the people and the department.

Mr. Henn was married in April, 1862, to Mary Stupfel, daughter of John Stupfel, a highly respected German family of this county. Mrs. Henn is now deceased. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Henn, named as follows: Elizabeth, Ada, Katherine, all at home; Francis John and Paul are both in Chicago.

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#### WILLIAM J. MARKEL.

Among the citizens of Sharon, Walworth county, who have had an interesting career and who are eminently entitled to mention in a work of this nature is William J. Markel, partly because he is one of our sterling pioneers who came here in the days when there was much work to be done before harvests could be gathered from the primeval soil, and partly because he was one of the brave boys of the Northland who gave up the pleasures of home and business prospects and offered their services and lives if need be, to the government "in order that the nation, under God, might live," and whether in the heat of battle or in the serene duties of private citizen he has ever performed his tasks energetically and commendably.

Mr. Markel was born on August 15, 1840, in Schoharie county, New York. He is the son of Peter and Catherine (Totten) Markel, natives of the state of New York, where they grew up and married and made their home until 1844 when they emigrated to Sharon township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, and here bought a farm of twenty acres, a little later eighty acres, and on this he farmed the rest of his life, dying in 1903. His wife died at the age

of seventy-one years. They were the parents of eight children, named as follows: William J., of this review; Charles, of Sharon; George, of Sharon; Oliver lives at Rockford, Illinois; David lives at Sharon; Gilbert is deceased; John is deceased; the youngest, a daughter, died in infancy.

William J. Markel, of this sketch, received his education in the schools of Sharon and in Allen's Grove Academy. He began farming early in life and when the Civil war broke out he wanted to enlist, but it did not suit to do so before January 4, 1864, and he was mustered into service on the 12th of that month. He was not in any of the great battles, but was in a number of skirmishes. He enlisted for three years, but was discharged at the close of the war, at Nashville, Tennessee, May 23, 1865, having been a private in Company C, Thirteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.

After his career in the army Mr. Markel returned to Walworth county and resumed farming which he continued successfully until 1905, when he sold out to his son George and retired from the active duties of life, moving to Sharon, where he now resides.

Mr. Markel is a Republican, and he was treasurer in the town of Sharon for one term. He is a member of the Lutheran church. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic, Duane Patent Post No. 270, of Sharon.

On January 5, 1863, Mr. Markel was united in marriage with Lucinda Totten, daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Perkins) Totten, natives of the state of New York, and to this union three children have been born, namely: Delbert, of Sharon; George, of Sharon township; Mrs. Cora May Boyce, wife of Henry Boyce, of Sharon.

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#### HENRY CLARK BUELL.

Each man who strives to fulfill his part in connection with human life and human activities is deserving of recognition, whatever may be his field of endeavor, and it is the function of works of this nature to prepare for future generations an authentic record concerning those represented in its pages, and the value of such publications is certain to be cumulative for all time to come, showing forth the individual and specific accomplishments of which generic history is ever engendered. The record of the honored pioneer, Henry Clark Buell, of Linn township, Walworth county, is worthy of perpetuation on the pages of history as we will readily ascertain by a study of the same in the following paragraphs.

Mr. Buell was born in Plymouth, Chenango county, New York, December 20, 1832. He is the son of Ira and Chloe (Holcomb) Buell. Ira Buell was born in New Hampshire and Chloe Holcomb was a native of Connecticut. The Buell family is descended from William Buell, who was born at Chester-ton in Huntingdonshire, England, in 1610, and he came to America and settled at Dorchester, Massachusetts, then moved to Windsor, that state, where his death occurred in 1681. His son Samuel was born at Windsor, Connecticut, September 2, 1641, and his death occurred on July 11, 1720. He had a son, Gen. Samuel Buell, born at Windsor, July 20, 1663, and died March 2, 1732; his eleventh child was Joseph Buell, born at Killingsworth, August 24, 1710. Joseph's tenth child, Thomas, was born at Somer, Connecticut, May 15, 1756, and died at Lebanon, New York, October 1, 1820. He married Irene Blodgett, daughter of Capt. John Blodgett, of Hartford, Connecticut. Ira Buell was the sixth child of Thomas Buell and he was born at Newport, New Hampshire, January 10, 1791. When six years old he moved with his parents to Madison county, New York, which was then considered on the western frontier. There Ira Buell grew up and helped clear and develop his father's farm. Upon reaching manhood he moved to the adjoining county of Chenango, and located in the town of Plymouth, where he continued to reside with the exception of three years in Earlville, Madison county, until he came to Wisconsin. It was among the pleasant Plymouth hills that the greater part of his active life was spent, and there he was married in 1816 to Chloe Holcomb, a young woman of such exceptional looks and character as to win the soubriquet, "Chloe the beautiful." There their children were born and reared and there he commenced his course of Christian life, which he maintained faithfully as long as he lived. Their children were: Joseph Sidney, Harriet A., Persis A., Helen M., William Ira, Henry C. and Charles Edwin.

In 1846 Sidney Buell came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, on a visit and here he taught school for a time, then returned to New York and on September 1, 1847, he started back to Wisconsin with about five hundred sheep, which he drove all the way here, assisted by John McKibben, who was born and reared in the same place as Sidney Buell, and became a prominent citizen of this county. That was the first drove of sheep brought into this part of Walworth county. Sidney Buell located in section 30, Bloomfield township, having been ninety-six days making the journey from New York here. Sidney also located a farm for his father in section 25, Linn township, and in 1849 Ira Buell, wife and children, Henry, Edwin and Persis, the last named later becoming Mrs. Gen. J. W. Boyd, came to this country. William

had taken up his residence here in 1848, in Bloomfield township, and lived there many years.

After their arrival Ira Buell and family made their home in Linn township as long as he lived. He and his wife celebrated their silver and golden wedding anniversaries. In the autumn of 1866, they celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. At that time six of their seven children had settled near the parental home. These parents were generous, benevolent, upright people, and there was no discord in their home. Mr. Buell was a strong opponent of slavery, and he performed all his duties in the light of Christian principle.

Major Ira Buell died in 1874 and the death of Mrs. Chloe (Holcomb) Buell occurred in 1884. Sidney Buell lived in Bloomfield township for a number of years, then moved to Lake Geneva and there spent the rest of his life. Harriet A. Buell married George Allen and lived in Linn township all her life; Persis married Gen. J. W. Boyd, as before stated, and a sketch of them appears elsewhere in this work; Helen married Leander Mudge, in July, 1847; she lived at Randalia, Iowa, until late in life, then in 1893 she and her husband moved to California, where Mr. Mudge died, after which she returned to her old home in Wisconsin, on a visit, and died at the home of General Boyd in Linn township. William Ira Buell lived in Bloomfield township all his life and died in Genoa Junction; Charles Edwin and Henry C. are the only two survivors of the family; the former lives at Hollywood, California, a suburb of Los Angeles; the latter lived on his father's farm and came here in 1849 with his father, and he has lived on the old homestead in Linn township for sixty-two years. Henry C. Buell has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, and he is the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and seventy acres of well-improved and productive land, on which are two fine residences and large substantial barns and other outbuildings.

In early life Henry C. Buell began sheep raising. His sons are now raising pure-bred hogs and cattle.

Henry C. Buell was married in 1862 to Mary E. Thacher, daughter of Alfred and Susannah (Baker) Thacher. She was born August 11, 1844, at Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Susannah (Baker) Thacher was the daughter of Ebenezer and Susannah (Crowell) Baker. Through the Crowell family she traces back to John Crowell, who came to America from England in 1635 and settled in Charleston, Massachusetts, removing from there to Yarmouth in 1638, and who became a freeman in 1640; he died at an advanced age in 1673. His son John lived and died in Yarmouth. John had a son, John,

born at Yarmouth in 1662, who moved to Salem, Massachusetts, and died there. He had a son, William, who married Susanna Mercury, October 26, 1726; their granddaughter or great-granddaughter, Susanna Crowell, born at Hyanis, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod, in 1801, married Ebenezer Baker, mentioned above.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Buell have three sons, namely: Henry Clark Buell, Jr., born May 28, 1866, is superintendent of schools at Janesville, Wisconsin; he married, in 1895, Henrietta Opie and they have three children, Bessie, Harold and Donald. Ralph Buell, born April 9, 1877, lives in a house near that of his father and assists in running the home farm; he was married in 1905 to Tena Knudson, and they have two children living, Henrietta and Robert. Laurence Buell, born March 31, 1879, married, in 1904, Clara Matson, and they have two children, Thomas and Virginia; Lawrence is assisting his father and brother Ralph operate the home farm, and they are making a success as general farmers and stock raisers.

The subject and wife belong to the Congregational church at Lake Geneva in which Mr. Buell has been a deacon many years. He cast his first vote for John C. Fremont, and he has been a loyal Republican from the organization of the party in 1856. In 1866 he delivered the Fourth of July oration in his neighborhood. He is a man of good habits and he has always stood high in his neighborhood.

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#### DR. ALEXANDER SHELDON PALMER.

No name from the annals of the past in this section of Wisconsin is worthier of perpetuation on the pages of history than that of Dr. Alexander Sheldon Palmer, who has long been sleeping serenely in God's acre, a dreamless slumber from which no one ever wakes to toil or trouble, but his influence still pervades the lives of his old contemporaries who have survived, for he was a strong and commendable character and did a world of good in the pioneer days here when the country was sparsely settled, roads were bad, dangers many and hardships the rule.

Dr. Palmer was born in Connecticut, but in childhood he was brought to Schoharie county, New York, where he grew to manhood. He was the son of Dr. Hosea Palmer, of Utica, New York, under whom he studied medicine, later attending a medical college at Pen Yan, New York. Upon his graduation there he began practicing with his father at Utica and also at Whites-

boro. They also spent nearly two years at Lebanon, Illinois, about twenty-five miles from St. Louis, but they later returned to New York. This was a family of physicians. Dr. A. S. Palmer's brother, Napoleon Palmer, was president of the Kings County (New York) Medical Society at Brooklyn.

Dr. Alexander S. Palmer married Jane Sears, who came from New London, Connecticut, that being the site of the historic Fort Griswold massacre, and an ancestor of the Doctor's, Colonel Ledgard, was wounded by a cowardly thrust of a sword, and from that the old legend of the "bloody shirt" started.

Jane Sears was the daughter of James Sears, and her people were early-day settlers and merchants at New London. Her father and the mother's father, Hazzard, were in business there when Benedict Arnold made his raid on the town and destroyed the stores and business houses. Colonel Ledgard was run through with a sword by the dastardly British commander when the former presented his sword to the latter in token of surrender. Colonel Ledgard was then taken to the home of Jane Sears' ancestor. Her brother, James Sears, was also a physician.

Dr. Palmer of this review came to Wisconsin in 1847, by boat by way of the Great Lakes, landing at Kenosha, and, having brought his carriage on boat, he drove the rest of the way to Lake Geneva. Here he rented a house, intending to go to Milwaukee in a few months. However, he found practice good here, so he remained and had all he could do for nearly a half century.

Politically, Doctor Palmer was a Democrat, and in 1850 he was elected to the Legislature of Wisconsin. In 1860 he was nominated lieutenant-governor on the ticket with his friend, Harrison C. Hobart, who ran for governor, but they were defeated with the rest of the ticket that year. He served two years as president of the village board in Lake Geneva, and while living in New York he was postmaster. As a public official he performed his duties ably, conscientiously and faithfully, winning the hearty approval of all.

Doctor Palmer had no children of his own, but he adopted Jennie Hubbard, daughter of Mrs. Palmer's sister. She married Franklin Asbury Buckbee, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work.

Dr. Palmer's abilities, both in professional and private life, were early recognized by people of this vicinity, and he was a man of much influence, a leader in the political party whose principles he espoused, and sufficiently popular among men of all classes here to overcome hostile majorities on all occasions when he would consent to run for office. As a member of the General Assembly from this district in 1850 he won the hearty commendation of all classes, and as president of the village of Lake Geneva in 1857 he made

such a splendid record that he was re-elected the following year, but declined to serve. In 1859 and the two following years he was elected and served as chairman of supervisors, and in all these positions he gave entire satisfaction to his constituents. His death at the comparatively early age of fifty-five years was a serious loss to the community and was universally regretted. He passed away in September, 1864, his widow surviving until 1884. The Doctor was a member of the Masonic order and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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### WILLIAM KOEPPEN.

Among the thrifty and enterprising Germans who have left their ancestral halls in the old country and cast their lot with the people of Walworth county, Wisconsin, and through their persistency have established good homes and become a credit to the community, the name of William Koeppen, of Williams Bay, must necessarily be included, as all who know him best will readily acquiesce.

Mr. Koeppen was born in Rebelow Kreis, Anklam, Pommern, Germany, October 12, 1860. He is the son of Carl and Marie (Metzerknecht) Koeppen. Her father grew up in Germany and when a young man worked at farming. When he was twenty-two years old he emigrated to America, celebrating his birthday on the Atlantic ocean, en route to the shores of the New World. He arrived at Elkhorn, Wisconsin, in October, 1882, and began working out as a farm hand, which he continued for four years in order to get a start. On December 23, 1886, he married Minnie Desing, daughter of John Desing and wife, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. After his marriage he rented a farm on the shares and began farming for himself. He farmed on the old Desing homestead near Elkhorn until the fall of 1904, then moved to Williams Bay, where he followed teaming about four years, then went back to the farm for three years. On August 28, 1911, he bought the restaurant at Williams Bay and this he has continued to run successfully to the present time, having maintained his home here the meanwhile. They have a pleasant, well equipped and neatly kept restaurant which is well patronized, in fact there is no better in the county, and they cater to high class trade.

Three children have been born to Mr. Koeppen and wife, namely: William, born October 31, 1887; Henrietta, born November 20, 1890, and Erna, born August 13, 1892, who was married May 1, 1912, to Rudolph Johnson.



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM KOEPPEN

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Mr. Koeppen belongs to the Equitable Fraternal Union and the Modern Woodmen. He and his family are members of the Lutheran church at Elkhorn.

Mr. Koeppen's sister, Minnie, came with him to America, and here she married Ernest Gehrand and they live at the village of Springfield, this county. The rest of the Koeppen family came to the United States in the spring of 1885, and established their home north of Geneva. The mother's death occurred in July, 1888, and the father is now living on a farm in Lafayette township. The other brothers and sisters of the subject, all of whom came to America with the parents, are Frederica, now the wife of Herman Miller, lives in north Geneva; Bertha married Julius Peglow and lives in Beloit, Wisconsin; Frank, who lives in Elkhorn, married Julia Koch, and he is a carpenter by trade; Max married Emily Hensel and lives on the farm with his father in Lafayette township; Mary is the wife of Henry Belk and lives on a farm in Lafayette township.

The Koeppen family has been highly respected ever since coming to this county by all with whom they have come into contact, and they have succeeded in a material way, all now very comfortably situated.

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#### WALTER ALLEN.

Success in one of the most exacting of professions has been worthily attained by Walter Allen, representative of an excellent and well-known old Walworth county family, for he has been ambitious from the first and has labored arduously to attain the goal of his ambitions, and his career is a worthy example of what may be accomplished through earnestness, coupled with sound common sense and right principles.

Mr. Allen was born in Lebanon, Madison county, New York, March 28, 1850. He is the son of George Allen and wife, a complete sketch of whom appears on another page of this work.

The subject was graduated from the State Normal School at White-water with the class of 1873, and he has engaged in teaching during most of his life, attaining a high rank among the able educators of the state. He taught two years at Ripon, Wisconsin, after his graduation, and later he was principal of the Geneva public schools for several years. He taught seventeen terms in Walworth county, being popular with both pupils and patrons and his services were in great demand.

Mr. Allen was married to Ella M. Joslin, daughter of Albert M. and Marcia Elizabeth (Nourse) Joslin. Mrs. Allen was born in Cook county, Illinois; her death occurred on December 12, 1892, leaving one daughter, Nella.

In 1882 Walter Allen went to Milwaukee to teach in the public schools and for eleven years was assistant superintendent of the schools of that city, giving eminent satisfaction in that responsible position. He is at present principal of the largest district school in Wisconsin, having under him thirty-three assistant teachers and over twelve hundred pupils. He has always been a student himself and has kept well abreast of the times in matters pertaining to his profession.

Mr. Allen is past master of Lafayette Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, at Milwaukee, the largest lodge of Masonry in Wisconsin. He is eminent commander of Ivanhoe Commandery No. 24, Knights Templar. Religiously, he is a member of the Congregational church at Milwaukee.

Nella Allen, mentioned above, married Percy A. Himes and lives at Wauwatosa, near Milwaukee, and they have one son, Allen Munger Himes.

Albert M. Joslin, mentioned above, died on July 18, 1899, and his wife now makes her home with Mr. Allen, of this sketch, in Milwaukee.

The subject still owns a good farm in Linn township, Walworth county, and he keeps in touch with his old home and neighbors. He is a methodical, scholarly man, of exceptional executive and business ability, a man of highest integrity and honor, both an instructor and an entertainer in the classroom, courteous and obliging.

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#### GEORGE ALLEN.

It would be impossible to estimate the good resulting from the life of such a man as George Allen, now "sleeping the sleep that knows no breaking," for, like the little acorn which grows into a mighty oak, the seemingly insignificant deed, inspired by an altruistic impulse to help the unfortunate on the great highway we call life, often increases with time until its influence is potent and far-reaching. Through a long life, consistent with the truth and right as he saw and understood them, Mr. Allen was accustomed to scatter little seeds of kindness and helpfulness, the influence of which still pervade the lives of those who were in any way associated with him and who still, many with staff and the leaden steps of age, continued plodding the outermost

miles of life's uneven road, remembering with due reverence the magnanimous nature of the sterling pioneer of whom the biographer now writes.

Mr. Allen was born in Lebanon, Madison county, New York, July 23, 1820. He was the son of Walter and Harriet (Holbrook) Allen. His paternal grandfather, Elisha Allen, was a native of Worcester county, Massachusetts, and there his death occurred in 1818 at an advanced age. He was a relative of Ethan Allen, of Revolutionary fame. Walter Allen was born in the same county, March 20, 1787, and was one of a family of eight children. He lived in Massachusetts until 1815, then moved to Madison county, New York, where he spent his remaining years, dying in 1833, having devoted his life to agricultural pursuits. His wife was born in Worcester county, Massachusetts, May 10, 1790. She was the daughter of John and Lucretia (Babbett) Holbrook. Her father was born in 1750, and he died January 31, 1839. The death of Mrs. Holbrook occurred in 1832. In Walter Allen's family there were six children, namely: Mary, born May 25, 1815, died December 31, 1830; Dwight, born November 19, 1816, died September 4, 1839; Charles, born August 31, 1818, died May 19, 1862; George was the next in order of birth; Julia was born March 9, 1826, married B. W. Wylie and died at the age of twenty-two years.

George Allen, of this review, was reared and educated in his native county and there he remained until 1852. On January 12, 1842, he was united in marriage with Harriet A. Buell, daughter of Ira and Chloe (Holcomb) Buell. A history of this family is to be found in the sketch of Henry Buell. She was born in Chenango county, New York. Her family were noted for longevity and her father was one of thirteen children, twelve of whom lived to an average age of seventy-one and one-half years.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. George Allen, namely: Dwight S., born February 12, 1843; was a soldier in the Civil war from 1862 until the close of the conflict; he was in Sherman's march to the sea, and he was for some time confined in Libby prison; he married Delia Sherman, of Waukesha county, Wisconsin; he farmed until about 1903, when he became president of the Farmers National Bank of Lake Geneva and was also president of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company. Dwight S. Allen was very successful as a business man and he became the owner of six hundred and eighty-five acres of fine farm land. He was also prominent in public affairs, and served in the state Legislature from 1889 to 1891. His death occurred on May 5, 1908, leaving a wife and seven children. Mary A. Allen, the second child born to George Allen and wife, married Herman H. Curtis, a banker of Castlewood, South Dakota; Frances married Joseph Cheever, an

attorney, and she died at Brookings, South Dakota, January 3, 1909; Ira B., who was born January 11, 1852, died April 7, 1878, on the eve of graduating from the theological department of Yale University, at the close of nine years in college; he was a young man of great promise and brilliant talents; Walter, next in order of birth, is mentioned on another page of this work; John W., born October 12, 1854, was accidentally shot when twenty-three years old; Charles died in infancy; William H. is a practicing physician at Rochester, New York; Hattie C., who married Earl Farnum, lives in Antigo, Wisconsin.

The cause of education always found in George Allen a warm friend and he gave his children excellent advantages along that line. Both he and his wife were teachers in early life, and seven of their children have taught. In 1852 George Allen located in Linn township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, buying one hundred acres in section 24, and, as he prospered through close application and good management, he added to his holdings until he had over six hundred acres of fine land in one body.

His success was due almost entirely to his perseverance, industry and enterprise and came as a just reward for his honest labor. He was for years one of the leading farmers and influential citizens of the county.

From the formation of the Republican party, now some sixty-five years ago, he was a staunch supporter of it, and became a leader in this locality in public matters. He served in the Legislature in 1855, and he also held various local offices. In 1854 he was elected a member of the board of supervisors and was its chairman two years. In 1859 he was elected superintendent of schools, which position he held two years, and in 1862 he was chosen assessor and served ten successive years. In 1866 he was elected justice of the peace, which office he filled without interruption until his last years. He at one time filled the office of treasurer of Linn township. From 1863 until the close of the war he was again chairman of the board of supervisors, and he was district supervisor from 1864 until 1867. In 1873 he was once more elected assessor, filling the position fourteen years at that time, or for a period of twenty-four years out of twenty-five. His worth, fidelity and ability kept him constantly in office and in an unusual degree he had the confidence and respect of the entire community, discharging his every duty conscientiously and without any selfish motives. He was a man of noble impulses and took a delight in assisting others, and it was said of him that he started more people farming than any other man in Walworth county, helping them not only with advice and encouragement, but also in a pecuniary way. He was a very busy man in a business way, and most of his public honors came

unsought. While not a member of any church, he was yet a religious man, too broad-minded to adhere to any man-made creed, and he was a liberal supporter of the churches. His wife was an ardent Christian, and they reared their children in a most wholesome home atmosphere, insisting on them attending church regularly and following the Golden Rule in their daily contact with their fellow men.

The death of George Allen occurred on February 26, 1899, after a very busy, useful and honorable life, so pure and serene that one would be compelled to search far to find its parallel.

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#### H. F. PHILLIPS.

The history of Walworth county is not a very old one. It is the record of the steady growth of a community planted in the wilderness within the past three-quarters of a century and has reached its magnitude of today without other aids than those of industry. The people who redeemed its wilderness fastnesses were strong-armed, hardy sons of the soil who hesitated at no difficulty and for whom hardships had little to appal. It is doubtful if we of today would be willing to brave the dangers and the obstacles as they did in order to push farther westward the frontier of civilization and to establish a little spot bearing the magic word of home. All honor should be given them for their noble work and we should fully appreciate the fact that they made possible our pleasant homes and fertile fields of today. They have left us a glorious inheritance in many ways and their deeds should be blazoned in song and sung in story. Of such a race sprang H. F. Phillips, a farmer, of the eastern part of the county, who, however, hails from the Sucker state.

Mr. Phillips was born in Mt. Carroll, Illinois, on July 17, 1855. He is the son of Edmund H. and Caroline (Oakley) Phillips, both natives of the state of New York, he of Ticondaroga county and she of Whitehall, and they came to Mt. Carroll, Illinois, in an early day, among the pioneers, and settled in Mt. Carroll. Mr. Phillips was a distiller and rectifier, later a farmer. Politically, he was a Republican. He was killed while operating a corn shredder in 1898, his wife having preceded him to the grave on January 12, 1894. Their family consisted of five children, three sons and two daughters, all of whom are living.

H. F. Phillips, of this sketch, was reared on the farm and received his education in the public schools; however, his early schooling was inter-

rupted, being compelled to leave school when thirteen years of age, but nothing daunted, he has since become self-educated, having ever been a student. In early life he learned the painter's trade. He came to Walworth county in 1884, from Kansas, and here he continued to work at his trade until 1899, and, being a very skilled tradesman, he found all the work he could do. But he finally turned his attention to farming, on a place owned by Mrs. Phillips, and since then has been engaged in farming and stock raising, making a specialty of breeding Poland stock for the past twelve years, also breeding Poland China hogs, and, owing to the superior quality of his fine stock, they find very ready sales whenever offered. He has also been a breeder of an excellent grade of horses. His splendid "Fairview Stock Farm Herd" is widely known and is admired by all who see it. It would be hard to find within the boundaries of this county a better judge of live stock, and he understands well the care and keeping of the same. He has a pleasant home and large, convenient outbuildings. He has frequently exhibited his fine stock at county and other fairs and has taken his share of premiums.

Mr. Phillips is an ardent Republican, but he has never been an aspirant for political offices. He is a charter member of the Mystic Workers.

Mr. Phillips was married to Mary Carpenter, who was born in Elkhorn, Wisconsin, the daughter of Dr. George Young and wife. Two children were born of this union. Edna L. and William F. On December 26, 1899, Mr. Phillips was again married, his last wife being Mrs. Uellah Webb, who was born on the farm on which the subject and family now reside in Sugar Creek. She was the daughter of Rial and Polly (Jackson) Thomas, pioneers of Walworth county, both being now deceased, Mr. Thomas having died in 1905, his wife preceding him to the grave in 1897.

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#### HENRY MOHR.

The memory of the worthy subject of this memorial biography is revered by a host of friends and acquaintances among whom he labored, having spent his energies through a life of honest endeavor to make the most of his opportunities as well as to assist as best he could his neighbors to improve their condition. Henry Mohr, one of the successful farmers and stock dealers of the eastern part of Walworth county, who has been summoned to his reward in the silent land, was a man whom everybody liked, for he possessed a social nature and by his genial and kindly attitude to those about him, won

the confidence and respect of everyone, and had no trouble in retaining the same, and the lives of such men should serve the younger generation as examples, well worth careful consideration if they would win in those things which go to make a well-rounded character and a successful life.

Mr. Mohr was born in Spring Prairie township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, on November 15, 1850, and his entire life was spent in his native locality. He was the son of John and Anna Mohr, both natives of Germany, the father born on March 22, 1815, and the mother on June 16, 1816. They spent their childhood in the fatherland and emigrated to the United States and located in Spring Prairie township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1848 and bought forty acres. The country was wild and sparsely settled and privations and hardships were the rule instead of the exception, but the Mohrs were people of vaunted hardihood and never quailed, but set diligently to work clearing and improving their land and in due course of time had a very comfortable home established, later adding twenty acres to their original purchase, and here they spent the remainder of their lives, the father dying in 1862 and the mother in 1885.

Four daughters and two sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. John Mohr, of whom three daughters and one son are living at this writing; the son, Adam Mohr, who was born in Boston in 1845, owns the homestead of sixty acres. Politically, the father was a Republican, and he belonged to the German Methodist Episcopal church, and was active in the work of the same, being one of the founders of the church of this denomination in Spring Prairie township.

Henry Mohr, the immediate subject of this sketch, was reared on his father's farm and there worked hard as a boy. He received his education in the district schools. Early in life he took up farming for a livelihood and became the owner of eighty acres of good land which he kept well improved and well tilled, and there had a comfortable home. In connection with his farming he bought and shipped live stock to the markets for a period of fifteen years, during which time he became widely known as one of the leading stock men of this locality, and was very successful in this line of endeavor, being an exceptionally good judge of all grades of stock and a good trader, for he was always fair and obliging in his dealings with his fellow men,—thus they had every confidence in him.

Politically, Mr. Mohr was a Republican, but he had no ambition to be a leader of men, preferring to devote his attention to his own affairs, leaving the emoluments of office to others. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and faithful supporters of the same.

Mr. Mohr was married in 1874 to Martha Katzman, a daughter of William Katzman, a pioneer of Spring Prairie township, this county, having come here in 1848 and here became very comfortably established on a farm. To Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mohr four children were born, namely: William, Erma, and Lena and Leah, twins. The wife and mother died on May 3, 1885, and in 1887 Mr. Mohr was united in marriage with Mary Smith, who was born in Rochester, Racine county, Wisconsin, on November 30, 1861. She was the daughter of Charley and Mary Annie (Bauer) Smith, both born in Germany, the father in October, 1821, and the mother on February 9, 1831. From their native country they emigrated to Racine county, Wisconsin, in an early day, and here they spent the balance of their lives, the father dying in May, 1874, and the mother on January 28, 1900. They were the parents of five daughters and one son, all of whom are living at this writing. Politically, Mr. Smith was a Republican and he belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church.

To Henry Mohr and his second wife ten children were born, named as follows: Adam, Morris, Chester, Cassie, Floyd, Lyle, Alice, Velda, Elmer and Bower. The death of Henry Mohr occurred on February 16, 1911, after a successful and well spent life.

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#### EDWARD MILLAR.

Among the progressive and successful agriculturists and stock men of Walworth county is Edward Millar, of Geneva township, his life having become an essential part of the history of this section, and who for years has exerted a beneficial influence on the community. His chief characteristics seem to be an indomitable courage, steadfastness of purpose, integrity and an advocate of purity in the home, social circles and public life. These attributes have enabled him not only to advance his own interests, but also largely contribute to the general development of the county.

Mr. Millar was born in Belfast, Ireland, on August 16, 1860. He is the son of David and Emily (Fitzpatrick) Millar, both of Scotch ancestry. The subject grew to manhood in Ireland and received his education there. In 1881 he left the old home and emigrated to the United States, locating first in Chicago, where he remained until 1907. He is a machinist by trade, having learned the same under his father in Ireland. Following his arrival in Chicago he secured employment at his trade with the McCormick Harvester Company,

with whom he remained six years, being one of their skilled and most trusted employes. In 1887 he engaged in the tent, awning and canvas goods business, with Murray & Baker, of Chicago, remaining with this firm until 1904, when, the firm failing, Mr. Millar took the business over, which is now running under the firm name of E. Millar Company, with factory and offices at Nos. 1223 and 1225 Lake street, Chicago. The subject is still in the business, although in 1907 he moved to Geneva township, Walworth county, on a farm he had purchased in 1901, consisting of forty-four acres in section 23, and two hundred acres in section 22, formerly part of the Curtis estate. Here he follows general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale, keeping his land under a high state of improvement and cultivation, and he has a commodious and attractive home and substantial and convenient outbuildings.

Mrs. Millar was Miss Helen May Foster before her marriage, of Canandaigua, New York. Mr. Millar has four children, two boys and two girls, Albert, Percy, Edith and Helen. Albert is now married to Mamie Donaldson and has one child, a son named Edward.

Mr. and Mrs. Millar are both Christians, being members of the Plymouth Brethren. Mr. Millar is a careful, prudent business man, slow to promise, but faithful in performance, once given. He is fond of home and family, of upright character. He has built his present success on years of persevering effort and careful management.

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#### EUGENE ADELBERT WALTERS.

One of Walworth county's widely known and progressive business men is Eugene Adelbert Walters, whose daily life has been such as to inspire the confidence of his fellow men. He was born in Linn township, this county, on April 28, 1848, and he has been content to spend his life in his native community. He is the son of Thomas and Alzina (Maxson) Walters, both of whom came here from Allegany county, New York, where they grew up and were married, and from there they moved to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1844. There Thomas Walters entered forty acres of land in the southwestern part of Linn township, a mile and a quarter from the line of Walworth township. About twelve years later he moved over into Walworth township and bought a farm of sixty-eight acres, a short distance east of the village of Walworth. There he made his home the rest of his life, devoting his attention to agricultural pursuits. He was born in Worcestershire, Eng-

land, in 1807. He was the son of William Walters, also a native of England. He came to America in 1839 and spent five years in the state of New York, engaged in mechanical work in an implement factory. He had followed gardening in England. He was married in Allegany county, New York, to Alzina Maxson, the daughter of Alfred and Mary (Clark) Maxson, her family having come to New York from Rhode Island, and in the former state she was reared, the Maxson home having been in Allegany county many years.

The family of Thomas Walters and wife consisted of six children, namely: Susan married Dwight Greene and they live in Chicago; William Herbert lives at Covert, Michigan; George Frederick lives in Albion, Dane county, Wisconsin; Eugene A., of this review; DeEtte married Warren J. Randolph and lives in the village of Walworth; Adeline Adelia died in young womanhood.

The mother of these children died in 1859, aged forty-nine years, and their father subsequently married Levina Dowse, of Allegany county, New York, and two sons were born to them, Clarence and Charlie. They both live in the village of Walworth.

Thomas Walters died in 1889, his widow surviving until 1905. He was a worthy member of the Seventh-Day Baptist church.

Eugene A. Walters, of this sketch, grew up on the home farm near Walworth. He attended the common schools and Milton College. He began his business career by farming, which he followed some time. In 1876 he invented a patent hay carrier and spent four or five years in manufacturing and selling it, then took up farming again, and also followed threshing, having continued in this line for a period of forty years, threshing every year, except one. In 1882 he moved into the village of Walworth, where he was in the hay carrier business and here he has since resided. He has a pleasant home and is also the owner of eighty acres of land in Minnesota. His wife owns a valuable farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Walworth township.

Mr. Walters was married in 1871 to Elizabeth Emma Swinney, daughter of Ephraim and Mary Ann (Ayars) Swinney. She was born at Shiloh, Cumberland county, New Jersey, and in 1852 she came with her parents to Walworth county, Wisconsin. However, they first located near Henry, Illinois, coming to Walworth six months later, and bought a farm one and one-fourth miles west of the village and there established the family home. Mrs. Walters had two sisters who died in infancy, and a brother, Edwin, who lived at Walworth until his death in 1891. She has one brother living, Joseph, of Yoncalla, Oregon. Mr. Swinney was township chairman several years. His death occurred on May 12, 1882, and his widow died in 1901.

Five children were born to Eugene A. Walters and wife, of whom, Wilbur died when eighteen months old; Harold Eugene, who married Stella Maxson, was a promoter of the local telephone company, continuing the telephone business until he was killed by an electric light wire in September, 1909. He left two children, Eleanore and Harold.

Mr. and Mrs. Walters also have three children living, Wilfred, who lives in California, and Mabel and Maude, who live with their parents. The subject and wife are faithful members of the Seventh-Day Baptist church, of which he has been clerk for the past twenty-two years.

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#### OREN E. LADD.

It is often the case that when new blood is infused into the affairs of a community a vast improvement is noticed. Old blood is slow and cold; young blood is warm and active, and the results very often surpass expectation. It is true that people should not for trivial causes turn down the old because it is old and no other objection lying against it. Neither should the new be adopted merely because it is new. All that can be stated with certainty is that young blood in any old method of doing business is almost certain to bring about good and lasting results. While Walworth county has seen many white-haired newcomers, whose experience and advice, wise counsel and cautious procedure have ever been of inestimable value in her affairs, it has been the young men who have redeemed it from the wilderness and made it what it is today, one of the foremost sections in the great Badger commonwealth.

Among those who came to Walworth county when it was new and did their part in developing the same was the father of Oren E. Ladd, farmer of Sharon township. The subject was born here on August 30, 1878. He is the son of John and Miranda (Dodge) Ladd, natives of the state of New York, where they grew to maturity and were married, emigrating to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1844, the father buying a small farm in Sharon township, which he later sold and bought another, thereby increasing his capital. He bought other land and prospered and at the time of his death, on January 30, 1892, he was the owner of two hundred and fifty acres, which he brought up to a high state of improvement and cultivation and which is now run by his son, Oren E., of this sketch, and owned by the latter's mother.

The following children were born to John and Miranda Ladd: John, who lives at Williams Bay, this county; Esther E. lives at home; Oren E., of this sketch; and Nathan Budlong, who lives in Austin, Texas.

Oren E. Ladd grew up on the home farm here and made himself useful about the place when he reached proper age. He received his education in the public schools of Sharon township and he has always lived on the home place, operating the same now in an able and successful manner, carrying out the work his father inaugurated. He has kept the land well tilled and the buildings well cared for. Politically, he is a Republican. He has remained unmarried.

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#### DWIGHT BENNETT BARNES.

The bar of Walworth county has an able representative in Dwight Barnes, whose name needs no formal introduction to the readers of this history, his long, useful and honorable career speaking for itself, being familiar with all classes in this locality, whose interests he has ever had at heart and sought to advance with succeeding years.

Mr. Barnes was born at Martinsburg, Lewis county, New York, May 15, 1846. He is one of the five children of Alanson H. and Clarissa (Hills) Barnes. His ancestry is of unusual interest on both sides of the house. His father was born in New York state, April 15, 1817, and he and Clarissa Hills were married on September 3, 1838. He was associate justice of the supreme court of Dakota Territory under President Grant, from 1871 to 1879. His death occurred on May 10, 1890, at Delavan, Wisconsin.

Alanson Hamilton Barnes, son of Abraham and Ruhamah (Kennedy) Barnes, was born at Turin, New York, April 15, 1817; he first married Clarissa Hills, who was born in 1817 and died December 10, 1856; then, on June 8, 1857, he married Sarah J. Allen, who was born October 30, 1839, and died May 10, 1880. He came to Delavan, Wisconsin, in 1855 to practice law; in 1863 he was draft commissioner at Milwaukee. After filling the office of judge of the territorial court of Dakota, he returned to Delavan, where his death occurred May 10, 1890. A county in North Dakota was named for him. His children by his first marriage were Lucien H.; Herbert H., who died in 1864; Fannie, who married Alfred D. Thomas; Dwight Bennett, of this sketch; Stella, who married a Mr. Tyler. Judge Barnes was an ingenious lawyer and was long a leader in local politics and had appreciable weight in state affairs. When opposed he was resolute and was usually victorious.

Abraham Barnes was the son of John Barnes, the son of Nathaniel Barnes, son of Thomas Barnes, son of Thomas Barnes, of New Haven. The last named came to New Haven when a boy, and came of age in 1644, sharing in the land distribution of the first settlement of New Haven, and shown by the early records of Connecticut.

The Barnes name is derived from the Norse Bjorne, meaning warrior, and was brought to England with William the Conqueror, being the name of his trusted aid. The family became numerous and spread throughout Great Britain and her colonies. This family furnished a lord mayor to London, Barnaby Barnes, a poet, whose father was Bishop of Durlham. William Barnes received lands from Henry VIII in the royal forest of Tillingham. Dame Juliana Bernier, who also wrote her names Barnes and Bornes, was a celebrated writer in the fourteenth century. Her father was created a baron by King Henry IV.

The ancestry of the subject's mother, Clarissa Hills, is even more interesting. She was born at Houseville, New York, March 9, 1817, and was the daughter of Allen and Fanny Alsmena (Yale) Hills. Her father was born at East Hartford, Connecticut, August 22, 1784. He was a son of Amos and Elizabeth (Judson) Hills. Her mother, Fanny A. Yale, was the daughter of Amasa Yale, of Southwick, Massachusetts, and Sally Baxter, of Boston. Amasa Yale was a soldier in the American Revolution. Sally Baxter was born in Boston, January 30, 1762. On December 16, 1773, her brother Paul and another brother were members of the famous Boston Tea Party, who, disguised as Indians, threw three hundred and forty-two chests of tea into the sea in defiance of the British tax levied on tea without consent of the colonists. Amasa Yale was the son of Nathaniel Yale, of Wallingford, Connecticut, afterwards of Southwick, Massachusetts, who was also a soldier in the patriot army. Nathaniel was the son of John Yale, of Wallingford, who was the son of Capt. Thomas Yale. The latter was born about 1647 in New Haven, Connecticut, and was one of the band who first settled Wallingford in May, 1670. The records show that he was one of the most prominent and active among them. He was a justice of the peace, captain of the train band, surveyor of land, moderator of their meetings and he kept their records for more than twenty years. Capt. Thomas Yale was the son of Thomas Yale, the latter born either at Chester, England, or at Plas Grono, the family estate near Wrexam, Wales, in 1616. He was the son of Thomas and Anna (Lloyd) Yale. His father died and his mother married in 1625, Theophilus Eaton, a wealthy merchant of London, and in 1637 came with him and her children to America in company with Rev. John Davenport, and

in 1638 Eaton and a few men founded New Haven and Mr. Eaton was governor of the colony for the first twenty years. He and Rev. Davenport drew up the famous "Blue Laws" of Connecticut. Thomas Yale, Mr. Eaton's step-son, became a merchant at New Haven in 1638. He was a signer of the Plantation Covenant at New Haven and he filled many offices of trust and honor there. In Great Britain this ancestry includes so many illustrious names that we cannot even mention all of them, although they have been traced with historical certainty back through various branches of the family for many centuries.

Thomas Yale, father of the Thomas Yale who emigrated to America in 1637, was the son of Dr. David Yale, D. C. L., Chancellor of Chester, son of John Yale. The last named was sometimes called John Wyn or Wynn, of Plas-yn-Ial (Plas-yn-Yale). It was about this time that surnames became established in Yale, and Dr. David Yale was also known as David Lloyd, D. C. L. He was the owner of very large estates and held various honored positions. He was the son of John Yale or John Wyn, as above stated, who was the son of David Lloyd, son of Ellis ap (son of) Griffith. Ellis ap Griffith was the son of Griffith ap Einion and wife Lowrie. Lowrie was living in 1416, and she was descended from Tudor ap Griffith Vychan and through him from three royal lines of ancestry, one of which goes back through thirty-three generations in a direct, unbroken line through many early British sovereigns to Cunedda Wledig, the first king of the Cymry (Britons) about 415 A. D. Another line of her father's ancestry goes back to Rodri Mawr (Roderick the Great), King of Wales 877 A. D. The third line goes back through Tudor ap Griffith Vychan's mother's mother, Eleanor Goch, and through various kings and princes to the same ancient ruler, Roderick the Great. From Eleanor Goch and her husband (Thomas ap Llewelyn ap Rhys) were descended Henry VII, Henry VIII, Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth. To return to the original line: Griffith ap Einion, who married Lowrie, was the son of Einion ap Griffith and was captain of the King's archers. Einion ap Griffith was the son of Griffith ap Llewelyn, who died about 1398. He was the son of Llewelyn ap Cynrik, son of Cynrik ap Osborn, son of Osborn Wyddel, son of John Fitz Thomas, Lord of Dicies and Desmond and a county palatine in 1259. John Fitz Thomas was the son of Thomas Fitz Maurice, the son of Maurice Fitz Gerald, commander of the first Norman invasion of Ireland. Maurice Fitz Gerald was the son of Gerald Fitz Walter, a son of Walter Fitz Otto, son of Dominus Otho. The last named is believed to have been a member of the family of Gherardini of Florence, Italy. He was a nobleman, came from Florence, passed over into Normandy, thence to England, where he became a favorite of King Edward the Confessor.

Maurice Fitz Gerald, mentioned above, great-grandson of Dominus Otho, and commander of the first Norman invasion of Ireland, married Alice, daughter of Arnulf de Montgomery, granddaughter of Roger de Montgomery, the greatest of the Norman lords, who was the son of Roger the Great, a cousin of William the Conquerer.

The name Yale comes from the district where the family lived in Wales when surnames were adopted. The founder of Yale University was a member of this family, as are many other famous men on both sides the Atlantic.

Returning to Dwight Bennett Barnes, of Delavan, the immediate subject of this sketch: He came to Wisconsin with his parents when nine years of age, the family locating in Delavan, where he grew to manhood, and has since resided most of the time. Here he attended the public schools, after which he spent about a year as grocery clerk, then about a year in a Chicago wholesale house, then returned to Delavan and took a position in the National Bank of Delavan, in which he remained until 1879, when he wound up the business of the bank, paid every depositor in full, taking the institution safely through panics when other banks were failing.

The State Deaf and Dumb Institute burned in the summer of 1879 and Mr. Barnes was elected to the State Assembly with the purpose of getting appropriation to rebuild at Delavan. He had a bitter fight on his hands, for many other places wanted it, but by perseverance and tact he won and the institution was rebuilt at this place. He made such a commendable record that he was re-elected in 1880, going back to the Legislature for the express purpose of legislating out of office every local board of state institutions in Wisconsin. He and Senator Sutherland, of Fond du Lac county, got up the bill, and it was introduced in the senate by Mr. Sutherland, and was passed during a night session and engrossed and it was brought up in the house the following day. Mr. Barnes had the house so well organized that he fought down over thirty proposed amendments and got it through that same day, as originally passed in the senate. He and Senator Quarles also started the fight against the railroad lobby and pushed a bill to alter the mode of taxing railroads, which showed by the fall of stocks in New York that it was hitting the railroads. The fight went on through various sessions, kept up by others in later times, until it succeeded. After his career in the Legislature, Mr. Barnes engaged in a number of business enterprises.

On December 7, 1880, Mr. Barnes was admitted to the bar at Fargo, North Dakota, and in 1885 he was admitted to practice law in Walworth county, Wisconsin. On September 4, 1894, he was admitted to the bar of the Wisconsin supreme court. He began practicing at Delavan in the midst of

financial adversity, but won some very notable cases early in his practice and soon had all he could attend to. For about eighteen years he has been local attorney for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company. In 1900 he was elected president of the Walworth County Bar Association, and he has been at the head of the organization ever since. About 1905 he and E. L. Von Suessmilch organized a company to deal in lands and since then they have made a number of big deals in the Dakotas, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Mr. Barnes was married on November 17, 1897, to Alice Downs, a resident of Delavan township, and the daughter of Lemuel and Susan (Huston) Downs. Like Mr. Barnes, she had an illustrious ancestry, some of whom were in the American Revolution. Her mother was a near relative of Gen. Sam Huston, renowned in the early history of Texas and in the Mexican war.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Barnes, namely: Dwight Bennett, Jr., born May 15, 1905, and Cornelia Benita, born at San Diego, California, March 3, 1901.

Politically, Mr. Barnes is a Republican and has long been active in his party. Fraternally, he belongs to the Masonic order, the Delavan Commandery No. 33, Knights Templar. He assisted in organizing the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Delavan, and was district deputy for many years. Personally, he is a genial, companionable, obliging gentleman, able and successful both in law and business, and is very resourceful.

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#### MISS ANNA PETERSON.

To few of us it is given to come within sight of the gracious castle of our dreams, but there can be no measure of doubt that to many earnest, high-minded seekers after the truth, such as Miss Anna Peterson, the able and popular postmistress at Williams Bay, Walworth county, has been granted a tangible realization of many of the ideals of early youth,—the time of air-castle building,—which have been crystallized into worthy accomplishment in connection with the affairs of this work-a-day world. A woman of gracious presence and intellectual attainments, she is eminently qualified for the responsible position of which she is incumbent. Her commendable qualities are no doubt inherited from a long line of sterling ancestors, men and women who have been leaders in progressive movements in their day. They were Norwegians of the best type—persons characterized by strength of mind, breadth of view, high-minded patriotism.



MISS ANNA PETERSON



Miss Peterson was born at Leland, Illinois, and is one of a family of seven children born to Peter O. and Bertha (Thompson) Peterson, the others having been named Tillie, Otto, Peter, Nathaniel, Rebecca and Michael T. The subject was the third in order of birth.

The Peterson family emigrated to the United States in May, 1886, and they located at Earlville, Illinois, after spending two weeks in Philadelphia. They lived at Earlville a year and at Leland near that place, then went to Chicago, where they remained ten or eleven years. Eventually they came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and located at Williams Bay and there established a comfortable home, in which they remained until March, 1911, a period of twenty-five years, then moved to Madison, Wisconsin.

Of the children mentioned above, Tillie married Fred Rahn and they live at Lake Geneva; Otto is attending high school at Madison; Peter lives at Lake Geneva; Nathaniel lives in Fresno, California; and Rebecca lives with her parents at Madison, Wisconsin, and is attending the State University; Michael T. is in business at Williams Bay. A sketch of his life appears on another page of this work.

Miss Anna Peterson received a good education and she has long manifested an abiding interest in public affairs. She was appointed postmistress at Williams Bay in October, 1907, and has discharged the duties of the same to the present time in a manner that reflects much credit upon herself and to the eminent satisfaction of the people and the department.

Prior to her appointment to this position she had, for a period of six years, been a clerk in the local postoffice. When she was appointed she was one of the youngest postmasters in the state of Wisconsin.

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#### ARTHUR GEORGE BULLOCK.

The gentleman whose name initiates this paragraph is one of the worthy native sons of Walworth county, and we are glad to give our readers a brief outline of his life record, for he is deemed eminently worthy of representation along with the best and most industrious citizens of the locality embraced by this work, owing to the fact that he belongs to the energetic and enterprising class that has contributed to the later-day success of this favored section of the great Badger commonwealth. He enjoys distinctive prestige in financial circles, his practical intelligence, mature judgment and sound business sense winning for him the confidence and good will of all with whom he has come into contact.

Arthur George Bullock, the present efficient assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Lake Geneva, was born in this city on February 14, 1877, and he has been content to spend his life right here at home. He is the son of John and Lavinia (Barker) Bullock, both born in Staffordshire, England, and there they grew up and were married. The father was a natural artist. About 1859 he emigrated to America, locating in Philadelphia. He had been apprenticed as a potter in his native country, having lived where nearly everyone was interested in pottery work. However, his heart was in oil painting, and he became an artist of wide range of subject and style, portrait, landscape and interior views. He came of an excellent old family.

In Philadelphia John Bullock began working at photography, engaged in making daguerreotypes, photography being then in its infancy. He owned one of the first cameras in the United States made for enlarging pictures. During the Civil war he built up an enormous photographic business, employed seven operators taking sittings, and took in money in sums beyond his wildest expectations. He later moved to Chicago, where he remained until the great fire in the autumn of 1871, his studio being totally destroyed, including all his paintings, a collection covering many years; his home, too, was burned. In the spring of 1872 he came to Lake Geneva to make paintings of the beautiful scenery and was so delighted with the lake district and the village that he brought his family and here made his permanent home, and here he maintained a photograph gallery for many years and also painted portraits. But he was of too artistic a temperament to make money by it, having frequently made fine paintings and then refused to sell them, loving them even as his own children. He was truly a genius and his work was highly praised by critics.

To John Bullock and wife nine children were born, of whom Arthur G., of this sketch, was the youngest. Three died in childhood, the others are: Mrs. Ida Mozingo, Mrs. Lucy Miller; William, who succeeded his father in the photographic business, followed the same until his death in January, 1906; Mrs. Anna McGraw, who was born in England, and now lives in Chicago; Mrs. Rosa Rowley also lives in Chicago. The mother of these children passed to her rest in 1898.

Arthur G. Bullock began life for himself at a very early age. When fourteen years old he began working in Arnold's drug store, while attending school. In the fall of 1895 he went to Chicago to take a course in the Northwestern University, in the pharmacy department; by the following January he took typhoid fever which resulted in poor health for some time. In February, 1897, he accepted a position in the First National Bank at

Lake Geneva, this county, as bookkeeper. He did his work well at all times, and was promoted through years of service, and in the fall of 1903 he was made assistant cashier, which position he has held ever since, discharging his duties in an able and acceptable manner, satisfactory to the stockholders and patrons of the bank.

Politically, Mr. Bullock is a Republican and has long taken an active interest in public affairs. He was appointed city clerk in 1905 to fill an unexpired term, and he has been elected four times since, proving the confidence which the people repose in him. The books have been exceptionally well kept, according to those in position to know.

Mr. Bullock was married in 1906 to Helen Moore, daughter of Frank S. Moore, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. The subject and wife have one little son, Frank Arthur.

Mr. Bullock is first assistant fire marshal of the Lake Geneva fire department and he was also treasurer at one time. He has been connected with the department for a period of fourteen years, and he was in the tournaments when the department was winning its state championships. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, having been thirteen years in this lodge, and he is now master of the exchequer and has been representative to the grand lodge for six years.

The subject and wife have a beautiful home, containing many of the beautiful paintings of John Bullock, and this hospitable home is frequently the gathering place for the many friends of the family. There is a lake in northern Wisconsin that John Bullock found while on a sketching tour, which was not shown on the United States survey and unnamed. It was named Lake Lavinia after his wife and it is still known by that name.

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#### OLIVER LINES SMITH.

The life of Oliver Lines Smith, of Walworth, has indeed been a busy, varied and successful one and the record is eminently worthy of perusal by the student who would learn the intrinsic lesson of individuality and its influence in winning material success and also in giving character and stability to a community.

Mr. Smith was born in Walworth township, this county, January 12, 1857, and is a son of James E. and Sarah M. (Lake) Smith. The father was born in Rishfield, Oswego county, New York, October 1, 1817. He was

a son of John Isaac and Patty Smith, the former born January 14, 1770, and the latter on March 23, 1778. John I. Smith died on November 12, 1851, at Edmeston, New York, and his wife died there on September 5th of the same year, at the age of seventy-three years. James E. Smith lived in New York for some time, moving to Michigan in 1835, and from there he went to Leavenworth, Crawford county, Indiana, thence back to New York in the spring of 1838, returning to Leavenworth, Indiana, in the fall of 1842, and in the spring of 1843 moved on to Walworth county, Wisconsin, but did not settle permanently here until 1845. On March 3, 1847, he married Sarah Maria Lake, daughter of Elder Phipps W. Lake, a pioneer minister of Walworth, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work. Mr. Smith followed farming on his eighty-acre place in the east edge of Walworth township.

Five children were born to James E. Smith and wife, namely: Bradely Truman, who died when two years old; Albert Bradely died when eighteen months old; Rebecca L. married Charles H. Coon, of Walworth, and she died here on October 17, 1892, at the age of thirty-eight years; Oliver Lines, of this sketch; James E., Jr., of Walworth township, born May 4, 1862, married in 1888, Rozella DuVal, daughter of John and Rozella (LaBrec) DuVal; she was born in 1864 and was reared in Alden, Illinois. Her father was born in Quebec and her mother in Vermont, and they grew up and were married in the East, moving to Walworth county about 1878; locating on a farm in the southern part of Walworth township, and there the mother died in 1897 and the father in 1901.

James E. Smith bought land from the government, going to Milwaukee on foot to make the entry in the land office there, coming within nine miles of that city the first day. He was clerk of the Free-Will Baptist church at Big Foot, and was a very devout member of the same. His death occurred on February 22, 1890. His wife is still living, making her home with her son, James Edward, in Walworth township on land that was part of her father's estate.

Oliver L. Smith, of this sketch, grew to manhood on the home farm, and he received his education in the Bigfoot Academy. He continued on the farm until he was twenty-one years old, and in 1882 went to Chicago, where he was in the employ of the American Express Company for two years, then went to California and there engaged in milling, returning to Chicago in 1886 and working again for the American Express Company. In 1884 he married Henrietta Humason, who was born and reared at Rochester, Minnesota. Her family had moved to California, and the subject and wife followed them to that state. Oliver L. Smith remained in Chicago until 1892, then

went to Minneapolis, continuing with the American Express Company. In 1894 he went to Dodge Center, Minnesota, and again engaged in the milling business, remaining there until 1908, when he came to Walworth, Wisconsin.

The death of Mrs. Smith occurred in 1899, leaving three children: Clarence, born in Chicago, March 23, 1887, is now yardmaster for the Chicago Great Western Railroad Company at Hayfield, Minnesota; Elois, also born in Chicago, was graduated from the Whitewater Normal School in 1910 and is teaching school at Alma, Wisconsin; Raymond, born at Dodge Center, December 2, 1896, is in Walworth with his father.

Mr. Smith was again married in Walworth on June 10, 1908, to Josephine Higbee, daughter of William S. Higbee, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Mr. Smith is a member of the Modern Woodmen, Royal Neighbors, Knights of Pythias, Mystic Workers and the Equitable Fraternal Union.

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#### CYRUS CHURCH.

One of the sterling pioneer citizens of Walworth county was Cyrus Church, who is eminently entitled to a conspicuous place in his country's history. From his early years he was industrious and persevering in whatever enterprises he undertook, and by diligence and economy accumulated a competency for his declining years. His straightforward, manly course in life may well be held up as an example to the young, and it proved an inspiration to many, and even after he was removed from among us by "the reaper whose name is death," his memory is revered by a vast circle of friends and acquaintances.

Mr. Church was one of the first settlers of Walworth county, having settled in Walworth township, February 25, 1837, and there he became very influential in the early affairs of the locality. He was born in Granby township, near Hartford, Connecticut, in 1817, and was the eldest of four children born to Elijah and Violet (Holcomb) Church. His father was also a native of Connecticut, and about 1842 he came to Wisconsin, locating in Walworth township, this county, and after living there a short time he moved to Ridgefield, near Woodstock, Illinois, where he farmed until after the close of the Civil war, when he returned to Walworth county and lived here the rest of his life, dying here on May 31, 1877, at the age of eighty-four years.

The family is of English origin, but came to America in the early days of New England. Elijah Church's father, Uriah Church, was a soldier in

the Revolutionary war. Violet Holcomb, mentioned above, was born in Massachusetts and her death occurred at the age of twenty-eight years; she was also of English descent. When Cyrus Church was four years old his parents moved to Broome county, New York, and when he was sixteen years old moved on to Trumbull county, Ohio; he worked for his father until he was twenty years old, then came west. He started with a valise on his back, and he passed through Chicago and Crystal Lake, where he intended to locate, but was induced to proceed to Lake Geneva, a stranger having praised the prospects here very highly; so he came on alone, wading through ice-covered streams and undergoing many hardships, arriving here on the night of February 25th. There were only two families in Walworth township, at the head of Lake Geneva; they received him kindly and he located there. More regarding this first settlement will be found under the history of Walworth township, in the historical section of this work. Mr. Church bought a claim of government land a half-mile northwest of where the village of Walworth now stands and there established his permanent home. In the fall of 1838 he was united in marriage with Eline Russell, daughter of Elijah and Lydia (Hyde) Russell. She was born June 25, 1826, on ground which is now covered by the city of Cleveland, Ohio. It was in a Shaker community which her parents had helped organize and of which they were members. It was a thrifty, thriving society, owning fourteen hundred acres of valuable land and several factories and for many years was conducted quite successfully. When Eline Russell was nineteen years old, she and her brother, Marcus Russell, left the Shaker community and came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, arriving about 1838, and here she made her home with her brother until her marriage to Mr. Church.

Five children were born to Cyrus Church and wife, namely: Adelia, wife of J. D. Clark, lives at Harvard, Illinois; Leonard C. lives in Walworth, this county, and a sketch of him appears in this work; Hiram, who was a prominent ranchman and stock dealer in Idaho, died about 1909; Eugene, who, at the age of fifteen, invented the Church hay-carrier and who proved to be a man of exceptional inventive talent, lives at Harvard, Illinois; David, who was engaged in farming and stock dealing with Hiram until the death of the latter, is now continuing the business alone. The mother of these children died January 31, 1854.

After the death of his first wife, Cyrus Church married Mary Boorman, who was born at Maidstone, England, June 5, 1828, and who had come to America with her parents when a girl and after a time spent in New York, came on to Walworth county, Wisconsin. Three children were born of the

subject's second union, namely: Merlin H., an ice cream manufacturer at Kenowick, Wisconsin; Henry, who is in business at Spokane, Washington; Minnie, who became well educated, engaged in teaching for some time, married Cassius Bagley, a jeweler at Duluth, Minnesota.

Cyrus Church was formerly a Republican, then turned Prohibitionist. In an early day he served as tax collector and he aided in the organization of Walworth and Sharon townships, also in establishing schools and churches in this county, assisting in any way possible the early development of the same. He and his wife were members of the Baptist church. He was prominently connected with many enterprises calculated to benefit the community. He lived in this county more than sixty years, during which time he saw it develop from a wild stretch of dense woodland to one of the finest farming communities in the state, and he took no little part in this work of progress. He lived an honorable and upright life, made a competency by his own persistent efforts and honest dealings and left behind him a clean record when he died in 1899.

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#### MERRIOTT E. REYNOLDS.

In the old countries of the world, particularly those governed by kings or emperors, there is a sharp contrast drawn between persons of title and the laboring classes. The aristocratic members of these countries, from time immemorial, tried to make it appear that the kings or emperors ruled by divine authority, and the families of the nobilities attempted to establish their superiority over the working classes on much the same basis. As a consequence labor has always been looked upon in those countries as degrading, whether in the fields or the factories and mills, instead of being the highest employment to which man can turn his hand. In our country, on the contrary, it has been largely the tendency to ennoble labor, and this tendency has been largely successful, because, aside from the weak-minded aristocrats of the cities, all of us regard labor as wholly dignified and honorable. Even the President himself may have descended from the wilds of the West. Among those who have been content to spend their lives in agricultural pursuits and who have added to the dignity and respectability of labor by fair and honorable conduct in Walworth county is Merriott E. Reynolds, of Delavan township.

Mr. Reynolds was born in Sugar Creek, Wisconsin, on May 17, 1870, and he is the son of John and Margaret (Dalrymple) Reynolds, the father a

native of the state of Vermont and the mother of New York. John Reynolds came to Wisconsin in 1851 and first settled in East Delavan, Walworth county; but after remaining there a few months he went overland to California, being among the great horde that crossed the western plains to the gold fields in 1849. Remaining in the Pacific coast country two years, he returned to East Delavan where he became well established through industry and honest dealings and became well known, making this his home until his death, on June 7, 1907; his widow survives and lives in East Delavan. They were the parents of the following children: John and Amos are deceased; William Henry, Wilbur James, Louis E., Marion E. (deceased) and Merriott E., of this review, were twins.

Merriott E. Reynolds grew up on the home farm and assisted with the work on the place during the summer months, attending the public schools in the winter time at Elkhorn. On October 12, 1898, he was united in marriage with Fannie M. Smith, daughter of Augustus P. and Hannah (Bluer) Smith, a highly respected family. To this union two children have been born, Mildred DeWitt, whose birth occurred on September 1, 1903, and Marion Elizabeth, born September 30, 1907.

Mr. Reynolds has farmed all his life and has been very successful in his various operations. He is now the owner of a fertile and well improved place of eighty acres in section 10, Delavan township, and he has a very comfortable home and good outbuildings and always keeps some good live stock.

Mr. Reynolds votes the Republican ticket and he is a member of the Baptist church of Delavan. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen and he and his wife are members of the Mystic Workers.

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#### ELDER PHIPPS WALDO LAKE.

When Elder Phipps Waldo Lake, one of the pioneer preachers of Walworth county, passed away there was added to the list of honored dead whose earthly records closed with the words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant"; but as long as memory remains to those who knew him the influence of his noble life will remain as a source of encouragement and inspiration. "Our echoes roll from soul to soul and grow forever," and the good we do lives after us through all the ages, handed down from generation to generation. Who, then, can measure the results of a life work, and especially such a life work as that of Elder Lake? To the uplifting of humanity his ener-

gies were ever devoted. With unerring judgment he recognized the spark of divinity in each individual and endeavored to fan it into the flame of righteousness. Not to condemn, but to aid, he made the practice of his life, and the world is better and brighter for his having lived. But though the voice is stilled in death, the spirit of his worth and work remains as the deep under-current of a mighty stream, noiseless but irresistible. His influence was as the delicate fragrance of a flower to those who had the pleasure of his friendship. His sympathies were broad, ennobling all by his Christian character. His life was beautiful in its purity, goodness and virtues.

Elder Lake was born at Hoosick, Rensselaer county, New York, May 1, 1789. He was the son of Henry and Jemima (Waldo) Lake, the mother being a descendant of the famous Governor Phipps, who was rewarded by King George III by an appointment as governor of Massachusetts, for raising a rich Spanish galleon, or treasure ship. Henry Lake's father was one of the old patroons of the early Dutch colonists, and he owned a large tract of land on the border of New York and Vermont, but by adhering to the British side in the war for independence his estate was confiscated by the Americans and he was compelled to flee to Canada. His son, Henry Lake, was on the side of the colonists, being a soldier in the patriot army. After the close of the Revolution he settled in Otsego county, New York, in the region made immortal by the incomparable Fenimore Cooper in his "Leather Stocking Tales," and he there cleared and improved a farm in the then heavily timbered wilderness, and there he spent his active days, but in old age moved to Ames, Montgomery county, New York. He was a deacon many years in the Free-Will Baptist church and during his declining age he was familiarly known as "Father Lake."

Phipps Waldo Lake received a common school education and he studied law, but finally prepared for the ministry in the Free-Will Baptist church. He was one of the pioneers of this denomination in New York state and one of the leading ministers of the same for many years. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, serving at Sackett's Harbor.

In early life he was united in marriage at Richfield, Otsego county, New York, with Rebecca Beardsley, who was born at that place in 1792. Her parents were of English ancestry and were early colonial settlers. She lived to be ninety-two years old.

Elder Lake preached in Cortland and Montgomery counties, then settled at Ames, where he preached fourteen years. He purchased two hundred and fifty acres of land in that vicinity and became a prosperous farmer. In the spring of 1839 he became a pioneer settler on Bigfoot Prairie, Walworth

county, where he bought six hundred and forty acres in sections 34 and 35, Walworth township, one hundred acres of which had previously been broken and a crop of corn, wheat and oats planted. He made extensive improvements on this land, built a frame house and there passed the remainder of his life, becoming one of the successful farmers and substantial citizens of the locality, his death occurring on August 17, 1860, when about seventy-two years old. He was a speaker of much ability and did much good among the early settlers of this county, besides having charge of a church at Lake Geneva which he served continuously for several years. For a period of thirty-eight years he preached in the Baptist church. Politically, he was a Whig in earlier life, later voting with the Republicans when that party was organized. He became prominent in party affairs and served two years in the Wisconsin legislature.

Eight children constituted the Lake family, named as follows: Polly died unmarried; Beardsley became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres adjoining his father's farm, and he lived there until 1868, when he moved to Harvard, where his death occurred; Levi also lived at Harvard after 1867, engaged in the lumber and wagon making business, and later in life made a fortune in Wisconsin pine lands, dying in 1905 at the advanced age of eighty-nine years; Waldo spent nearly all his life on the home farm and died at Big Foot; Mary married Delaney Read and lived at Big Foot, where she and her husband both died many years ago; Rebecca, who married a Mr. Van Wagenen, lived in Dubuque, Iowa, and died April 4, 1912, aged ninety-one years and nine months; Lucretia, who married Charles Armstrong, died about fifty years ago; Sarah, who married James E. Smith, Sr., is the mother of Oliver Lines Smith, whose sketch contains a history of her family and is to be found on another page of this work.

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### JOHN HALL.

Such men as John Hall, well known hotel man now living in honorable retirement at Delavan, are eminently deserving of a place in the history of Walworth county, for they have not only led honorable lives but have done much for the general good of the community whenever opportunity presented itself.

Mr. Hall was born in Montreal, Canada, on April 15, 1845. He is the son of Robert Hall, who was a native of Ireland, and when a young man emi-

grated to the dominion of Canada, where he won a local reputation as a man of medicine, and also followed shipbuilding for a time. He had been exceptionally well educated and spoke fluently the French, Italian and German languages, as well as the English. He traveled extensively over Europe, the United States, Canada and South America. He was three times married. His last wife, Margaret Hill, was born in Canada, of French descent. They were married in the city of Montreal and to this union fifteen children were born, seven of whom are now living, namely: Henry, of Chicago; Mary, wife of Willis King, lives in Nebraska; Margaret is the wife of C. L. Sage, of Delavan, this county; Robert lives in Lexington, Illinois; John W., of this sketch; Charles lives in Nebraska; Anna is the wife of George King and they live in Nebraska.

The death of Dr. Robert Hall, father of the subject, occurred in Madison county, Nebraska, in October, 1874. He served as a captain in the war of 1812, was twice wounded, and he carried the bullets through life.

John W. Hall was six years old when his parents brought him to Walworth county. They lived for a time in Delavan, then moved to Janesville, where they lived two years, thence to Milwaukee, where they spent seven years, then returned to Delavan and this has been the family home ever since. In November, 1863, prompted by his patriotic spirit, the subject responded to his country's call for troops and became a member of the Union army, serving in the Second Cavalry, Wisconsin. He participated in the battle of Prairie Grove, Pea Ridge and Little Rock. He was under Major-General Grierson in his famous raid from Memphis, Tennessee, across the country to Vicksburg, Mississippi, during which there were many skirmishes and running fights. Mr. Hall served faithfully, escaped injury and he was honorably discharged at the expiration of his term of enlistment, having been excused from duty only one day during his entire term of service. He was discharged at Austin, Texas, November 15, 1865, and he at once returned to Delavan, Wisconsin. Mr. Hall then spent four years in the West, visiting Nebraska, Colorado and the Dakotas, and upon his return to Delavan he was united in marriage with Clarissa Tucker, the wedding being celebrated on October 11, 1869. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hall, three of whom died in infancy. Clara Belle, who married a Mr. Welsler, was born on July 24, 1871.

The subject lived on a farm at Delavan Lake, this county, which place he greatly improved and built a substantial dwelling on, and there he engaged in general farming for about ten years. During the past seventeen years he has operated a summer resort, Hall's Park, on Delavan lake, one of the

popular gathering places for tourists in this region, which is known all over the country. Here his hundreds of guests always received courteous and considerate treatment. He disposed of the same to his daughter in June, 1910, retiring from active life, and now Mrs. Welsher conducts the place with much success. Politically, Mr. Hall is a Republican, and he belongs to the Episcopal church.

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R. H. THOMAS.

It is customary for the people of the United States to look upon every boy as a possible future occupant of every or any office within the gift of the people. This is one of the main reasons that we rejoice in this country and its institutions, for all parents know that it is not an impossibility for their boy to occupy the highest positions in public and business life in the land. There is something in this thought to work for. Not merely the accumulation of dollars and cents, but the acquirement of an honored position in the civic and social circles is something worth fighting for in the great war for existence. In pioneer times people had enough to do to make a respectable living, without taking into account the higher problems of society and civilization, but that time is past and a better time has arrived, with higher hopes, promises and rewards. Accordingly where once stood the pioneer cabin is now the large and comfortable residence of the well-to-do descendant, with its organ or piano, its college graduate and its library of books and periodicals. But the children of today little reckon of the many weary steps taken by their fathers to reach this desirable state of advancement and comfort. R. H. Thomas, one of the most progressive of Delavan township's farmers, is a descendant of such a pioneer and he himself comes down to us from the pioneer epoch, having spent his busy life in Walworth county, his birth having occurred at Millard, Sugar Creek township, on March 3, 1855. He is the son of Harrison and Marjorie (Jackson) Thomas, a sturdy Canadian family who came to Sugar Creek township, this county, in an early day, developed a good farm and established a comfortable home and here the father remained until his death, in 1896; his widow survives and still makes her home in Sugar Creek township where, like her husband before her, she enjoys the friendship of a wide acquaintance. They were the parents of four children, namely: Marjorie A. married a Mr. Weaver; R. H., of this review; Lilly, who married a Mr. Edwards, is now deceased; Edward is the youngest of the family.

Mr. Thomas grew up on the home farm and assisted with the general work about the place during his boyhood days and attended the district schools and the schools at Milton, Wisconsin. On March 14, 1883, he was united in marriage with Mary Stewart, daughter of Arthur and Elizabeth Stewart, both now deceased. This union has resulted in the birth of two children, Frank S. and Walter H.

Mr. Thomas has devoted his life very successfully to agricultural pursuits and stock raising and he is now the owner of one of the choice, well improved and productive farms of this township, consisting of two hundred acres in section 14. He has a very pleasant and neatly kept dwelling and substantial outbuildings and everything about the place denotes thrift and prosperity as well as good management. He has lived to see this locality develop from a wild forest to one of the leading sections of the great Badger commonwealth and he has played well his part in the work of transformation. Politically, he is a Republican and he belongs to the Baptist church and the Mystic Workers at Millard.

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#### C. R. BRISTOL.

One of the worthy native sons of Walworth county who has been content to spend his life here at home and who is in every respect a worthy son of a worthy sire, carrying forward in a most laudable manner the work inaugurated by the elder member of this sterling old pioneer family, is C. R. Bristol, of Delavan township, who was born there on February 6, 1870. He is the son of Reuben and Sarah (Shepherd) Bristol, natives of the state of New York, the father having been born on October 31, 1828, and on July 5, 1852, he was married, having spent his youth in his native community. When twenty years of age he came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, being one of the early settlers here, developing a fine farm from the wilderness and establishing, through close application and good management, an excellent home. He was one of the strong and influential citizens whose lives have become an essential part of the early history of this locality and for over a half century his name was synonymous for all that constituted honorable and upright manhood, and he had the undivided respect and admiration of all who knew him for his clean, honest life and his industry and public spirit. He took much interest in local public affairs and an evidence of his high standing in his neighborhood is shown by the fact that he held the office of

assessor of Delavan township for a period of twenty-five years, discharging its duties most worthily and satisfactorily, failing health finally compelling him to relinquish the same. He owned a very fine farm of one hundred thirty-two and one-half acres in sections 9 and 16, Delavan township, which received his careful attention for a number of busy decades. His death occurred on August 13, 1906, his faithful life companion having preceded him to the silent land on May 6, 1900. They were the parents of six children, namely: Harry died when two years old; Marion; Clara married C. Prudames, a successful farmer of Delavan township; Stella Concello lives in Milwaukee; Lena Leach is now deceased; C. R. of this review.

The immediate subject of this sketch grew to maturity on his father's farm where he assisted with the work when a boy and attended the district schools in the winter months. He has devoted his life to farming and stock raising with very gratifying results, having bought his father's farm which he has kept well tilled and well improved and where he still resides. In connection with general farming he has added stock raising.

On August 3, 1898, Mr. Bristol was united in marriage with Nettie Nelson, the daughter of Oley and Hannah (Jansen) Nelson, both natives of Norway, both having emigrated to America when quite young, and they grew up and were educated here, marrying in Nova Scotia. In an early day they came to Wisconsin and settled at Oconomowoc, Waukesha county. Mr. Nelson is now residing in Palmyra, Wisconsin, his wife being deceased, dying on January 15, 1899.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bristol two children have been born, Sadette, whose birth occurred on July 5, 1908, and a twin son who died in infancy. Politically, Mr. Bristol is a Republican and he is a member of the Congregational church.

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#### THOMAS F. WILLIAMS.

Year has been added to year and decade to decade until nearly sixty years have been numbered with the past since Thomas F. Williams, one of the best known and highly honored agriculturists of Delavan township, Walworth county, came here with his parents from the old Empire state. Upon his arrival this section of the Badger state was largely an undeveloped region, awaiting the awakening touch of the sturdy pioneer to transform its wild lands into rich farms and beautiful homes, to found cities and towns, to

establish churches and schools, and in many other ways to reclaim the country for the use of man. As a representative of one of the early families that led the van of civilization into this favored region, Mr. Williams well deserves mention with the substantial men of the county, for he has seen and taken part in the work of development not only in a material way, but also along civic, educational and moral lines, and his reminiscences of the early days here are indeed interesting, and it is with pleasure that a review of his long, interesting and useful career is herewith presented.

Mr. Williams was born on May 2, 1837, in Albany, New York, and he was the son of J. J. and Ellen (Richardson) Williams. His father was of Welsh descent and was born near Newport News in 1798 and he went to New York in 1826, finally emigrating to Delavan township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1852, where he bought eighty acres of land and remained until his death, on June 4, 1870, having begun life here in typical pioneer fashion, but he was not permitted to long enjoy his new home, having been "gathered to his fathers" before fully developing his farm. His widow survived many years, joining him in the spirit land on June 13, 1894. They were the parents of the following children: Elizabeth, who married a Mr. Hollister, is now deceased; James R., Thomas F. and Margaret A., the last named being now deceased.

Thomas F. Wilson, of this review, was reared on the home farm and when but a lad he assisted with the arduous toil on the same, and he obtained what education he could in the early district schools of Walworth county and at Allen's Grove, state of Wisconsin. He has followed farming all his life and has been rewarded by a large measure of success. He is the owner of a well improved, well kept and productive farm in Delavan township, section 35, where, in connection with general farming, he has acquired a good annual income. In 1911 he retired from active farm life and is now surrounded by plenty as a result of his former years of activity, spending his declining age in comfort.

Mr. Williams was married on February 21, 1861, to Cynthia A. Barnes, daughter of Stephen and Emily Barnes, of the state of New York. This union resulted in the birth of one child, Ellen L., now deceased.

Mr. Williams is a Republican in politics, and, fraternally, he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having joined that lodge in 1873. He has been chairman of the Delavan township board for the past seven years and has been justice of the peace since 1877, still holding the office, having been out of office only one and one-half terms since he was first

elected to the same. He has discharged its affairs in an able and eminently satisfactory manner, his decisions being fair and unbiassed and he has given the entire community eminent satisfaction in this capacity and has proven to be a worthy and able public official. He is highly respected for his uniform courtesy and honesty. Mrs. Williams departed this life November 2, 1910, since which time Mr. Williams has boarded.

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#### HENRY FRANCIS.

A highly respected citizen of Williams Bay, who, although an American by adoption only, has had the interests of Walworth county at heart for over a half century, is Henry Francis, a man who has won success in life because he has been persistent and never permitted obstacles to thwart him in his course when once he knew he was right. He came here with no capital and, liking the country and having faith in its future, he cast his lot with the people of this locality; they soon began to admire him for his good habits and his thrifty ways and he has enjoyed their esteem and good will all the while, and thus he and they have been benefited by his long residence here.

Mr. Francis was born at Weststour, Dorsetshire, England, August 9, 1836. He is the son of Henry Francis, Sr., and Patience Francis.

The subject lived in his native land until he was about twenty-one years old, then emigrated to America in the spring of 1857, and after a very stormy voyage of forty-two days, landed at Quebec, Canada. But he did not remain there, having come on to Chicago, where he spent some six weeks, then came to Walworth county to work in the harvest fields, and here he has lived ever since. He did his work so well in the harvest fields that his employer engaged him by the year. A few weeks afterwards his employer was killed by a threshing machine, and through accepting the advice of the administrator of the estate not to file a claim for his services, Mr. Francis lost all his earnings. He engaged to another man by the year, with whom he remained three years, during which he left nearly all his wages with his employer, who took advantage of the young Englishman and would not pay him, so he lost all. In the meantime during the Civil war he was drafted, although he was still a British subject and had no vote. He was unable to get redress, so his wife borrowed three hundred dollars from Lavalette Douglass and seured a substitute. He then went to work in Douglass' mills, where he remained for eighteen years, losing only six days' time during that period and he often worked



MR. AND MRS. HENRY FRANCIS



overtime. He thus paid back what he had borrowed and saved enough of his earnings to buy a farm, in 1877, in sections 10 and 11 in Walworth township, consisting of one hundred and eighty-eight acres. There he remained until 1891, when he gave up farming and built a home in Williams Bay. He sold his farm in 1909. He had been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, and by his thrift, economy and honest dealings accumulated a competency.

Mr. Francis has taken an interest in local public affairs, and he has served very acceptably a number of times on the board of supervisors of Walworth township.

Mr. Francis was married in 1859 to Sarah Holmes, daughter of William and Anna (Mitchell) Holmes. She was born in Lincolnshire, England, and came to this county when fifteen years old, with her parents, who located in Walworth township, near the head of Lake Geneva, where Fontana is now located. The family settled there in 1855, and in that vicinity her parents spent most of their lives after that.

Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Francis, namely: William, who lives along the shore, about two miles west of Lake Geneva, married Carrie Davis, and they have two children, Earl and Herbert; Charles, a physician and the first doctor at Williams Bay, married Hettie Southwick, and his death occurred in June, 1908; Lavalette and Lafayette, twins, were next in order; the former grew up and married Jennie Southwick and farmed near the observatory until his death, December 19, 1911; Lafayette, who lives at Beloit, married Maude Dalton, and they have two children, Ruth and Harry; he is employed in the factory of Fairbanks, Morse & Company. Sarah Jane, the subject's youngest child, died when one year old.

The record of Henry Francis is an interesting one and it may be studied with profit by the discouraged young man, for it shows that one can succeed in the face of all obstacles. When seventeen years old he left home and went to the island of Alderney, where he worked on government works, building a breakwater three-fourths of a mile out into the English channel, and building fortifications also. He crossed to Plymouth, England, from there and took ship for America. He had little opportunity to secure an education, for his father died when he was a baby and his mother had a hard time to get along, and he was thrown upon his own resources early in life, being put to work picking up potatoes in potato-digging time when quite small. But notwithstanding his long life of hard work, he is remarkably well preserved, and his spirit has never been broken. He enjoys a good joke and is a man of genial nature, obliging, honest and seems to possess youthful vigor, although now past seventy-five years of age.

## H. J. WELSHER.

The history of Walworth county is not a very old one. It is the record of the steady growth of a community planted in the wilderness scarcely more than a half century ago and has reached its magnitude of today without other means than those of industry. The people who redeemed its wilderness fastnesses were strong-armed, hardy sons of the soil who hesitated at no difficulty and for whom hardships had little to appal. There was also other work to be done, work of various kinds. Their efficient efforts have been fully appreciated by those who came at a later period and builded on the foundation which they laid so broad and deep. Among the latter class is H. J. Welsher, the genial and popular manager of the Halls Park Hotel at Delavan lake, Walworth county. While his arrival was not as early as some, yet he came in the formative period and has done much toward the general upbuilding of the county which now occupies a proud position among the most progressive and enlightened sections of the great Badger state.

Mr. Welsher was born on October 24, 1868, in Rochester, New York, and he is the son of Harrison and Mariah (Whitbeck) Welsher, both natives of the state of New York, where they spent their early lives, coming to Wisconsin later in life and settling at Madison, and for some time Mr. Welsher was superintendent of the state fish hatcheries. From there the family moved to Walworth county, where they established a pleasant home and became well known, and spent the rest of their days here, Mr. Welsher dying on January 23, 1906, and four years later, 1910, Mrs. Welsher died on the same day of the same month, January 23d. They were the parents of four children, namely: Matilda died in 1906; Williard lives in Madison, Wisconsin; F. L. is living with H. J., of this review, who is the youngest of the family.

The immediate subject of this review received his educational training in the schools of Walworth, this county, including the high school. He was but a boy when he accompanied his parents to this country and here he grew to maturity and has spent the major part of his life, engaging for the most part in agricultural pursuits in which he has met with a large measure of success. He assumed the management of Halls Park Hotel in the spring of 1910 and he has so far been very successful in this new field, being courteous, considerate and obliging and an excellent manager. This hotel is one of the most popular on famous Delavan lake and is a commodious, neatly kept, attractive and altogether desirable place to spend the summer months, and here hundreds pay annual visits, coming from all parts of the country.

Politically, Mr. Welsher is a Republican. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has been a member of the Modern Woodmen of America for the past twenty-three years. For the past seven years he has been supervisor of the Delavan township board and he held the office of deputy sheriff of Walworth county for two years. As a public servant he has been faithful to every trust reposed in him, giving the utmost satisfaction to all concerned.

Mr. Welsher was married on October 30, 1896, to Clara Belle Hall, a lady of pleasing personality. This union has been without issue.

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ANDREW J. RODMAN, M. D.

The name of Dr. Andrew J. Rodman, of Delavan, has long been a household word to the people of Walworth county, where he has for the past forty years occupied a leading place in the ranks of the medical profession. He has deemed it a rare privilege to carry surcease from our multiform ills to suffering humanity and has conscientiously as well as ably gone about his work in a manner that has won both the confidence and universal esteem of all classes.

Doctor Rodman was born in Schoharie county, New York, on May 22, 1830, and there he spent his boyhood and attended New York Conference Seminary at Charlottesville, New York, and Union College, at Schenectady, from which he was graduated in 1853. He began life for himself by teaching, which he followed several years, part of the time in the New York Conference Seminary at Charlottesville, later in the academy at Perry, Wyoming county, that state, being principal of the latter for a time, and it was while living there that he began the study of medicine, which he continued after coming to Delavan, Wisconsin, in 1857. He practiced for some time in Woodstock, Illinois, later moving to Huntley, that state, practicing there sixteen years. He was graduated from the Rush Medical College in Chicago in 1865. He was appointed sanitary surgeon in the Union army during the Civil war, and, according to his comrades, he was very faithful in the performance of his duties. He returned home after the war and continued in the general practice of medicine, succeeding Doctor Sutherland in Darien, Wisconsin, in October, 1874, and was engaged in practice there about nine years. He came to Delavan, this county, in the fall of 1883, and here he has since remained, enjoying a large practice throughout the county, having been very successful as

a general practitioner, and kept fully abreast of the times in all that pertains to his profession. He maintains an office at his residence, No. 127 South Fourth street.

Doctor Rodman was married in 1858 to Helen A. Streeter, of Geneva, this county, daughter of an excellent old family, and to this union four children were born, namely: Carrie; Willis is deceased, as is also Archer; Helen was the youngest, and she is living on the Isle of Pine.

The wife and mother passed to her rest on January 10, 1894, and Doctor Rodman was married on December 3, 1907, to Mrs. Harriet Eliza Scaffin, a lady of many estimable qualities and of a highly respected family.

Doctor Rodman was alderman of Delavan for eighteen months, and he was president of the village board for three years here. He is at present ably discharging the duties of justice of the peace, having held the same for a number of years.

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#### CASSIUS F. ARNOLD.

One of the best known business men in southwestern Walworth county is Cassius F. Arnold, a man who has tried to follow the Golden Rule in his every-day life, consequently has enjoyed the confidence and good will of his fellow men, and at the same time has forged to the front in material things. He has manifested a good citizen's interest in the affairs of his community and has done his share in the upbuilding of the same.

Mr. Arnold was born in Granville, Washington county, New York, on December 30, 1847. He is the son of F. P. and Jane (Willis) Arnold. The father was born in New York in 1836, and he was educated in Poultney Academy, Vermont. He studied law in his native town. He came to Sharon, Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1850, and was admitted to the bar at Elkhorn in 1851, and here he became a man of much influence in public affairs, representing the second district in the General Assembly in 1862, and his services in the state Legislature were highly commendable. He was chairman of the town board of Sharon for sixteen years. He was a successful lawyer, although he always counseled the settlement of differences without resort to legislation and tried to bring about amicable settlements among neighbors, disregarding his own interests. He was a good and useful man and his influence in this locality will long be felt. His death occurred on January 19, 1872. He was married to Jane Willis in Washington county, New York, and five children were born to them, namely: Cassius, of this

sketch; Emma S. is the wife of W. E. Hoard; Ella is the wife of William Pearsons; Laura was the next child; Jennie is deceased. The mother of these children is now the wife of Royal Perkins, of Sharon.

Cassius F. Arnold, of this sketch, received his education in the district schools, Allen's Grove Academy and Sharon Academy. He was in the lumber business in Sharon for seventeen years, building up a large trade, then sold out and has since been a general hardware merchant in Sharon, handling a complete and well selected stock of modern hardware and farming implements and he enjoys a large and growing trade with the surrounding country.

Mr. Arnold was at one time town treasurer and he was on the city council for one term, and he is now secretary of the Town of Sharon Fire Insurance Company, having discharged the duties of this position most acceptably for the past thirty years. Politically, he is a Republican and, fraternally, a Modern Woodman.

On November 10, 1875, Mr. Arnold was united in marriage with Clara F. Weiblen, daughter of Frank A. and Mary E. (Waidley) Weiblen, the father a native of Germany and the mother of Pennsylvania. Two children have been born to the subject and wife, namely: Mrs. Roe A. Dean, of Chicago, and Mrs. Hazel Stevens, of Niagara, Wisconsin.

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### CHARLES WINTER.

Another of the sterling natives of the old Empire state who came to Walworth county in the early days and here became well established through his industry and right living, and thereby has benefited himself and the community alike is the well known retired miller and farmer, Charles Winter, of Sharon, a man who has merited in every way the success he has achieved in a material way and the esteem of his fellow citizens, which all who know him freely accord.

Mr. Winter was born on November 10, 1838, in Schoharie county, New York. He is the son of George and Sally (Little) Winter, both natives of the state of New York, where they spent their early lives and were married, and there they lived until 1842, when they came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and settled at South Grove, taking up one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government, to which they later added eighty acres, and there the father farmed the rest of his life, maintaining also at South Grove a wagon shop for thirty years, and he became well known as a wagon-maker.

He built the first store building, which was of brick, in South Grove. He was an influential man in his community and highly respected. His family consisted of eight children, namely: William, deceased; Elmira, deceased; Charles, of this sketch; Stewart is deceased; Walter lives in Racine; David is deceased; Nelson died in infancy.

Charles Winter was educated in the schools of Walworth county and here grew to manhood, being three years old upon his arrival. He grew up amid pioneer conditions and found plenty to do, for in developing a new country there is work for all. He engaged in farming and milling successfully for a period of thirty years, but retired from the active duties of life in 1891 and moved to the town of Sharon, having sold his farm and mill.

Mr. Winter is a Republican, but he has never been very active in party affairs. He is a member of the English Lutheran church.

On March 12, 1868, he was united in marriage with Sarah Josephine Wilkins, daughter of Alva and Huldah (Hotchkiss) Wilkins, the father a native of New Hampshire and the mother of Hampton, Washington county, New York. He came to Sharon township, this county, in 1863 and settled on a farm. He was a molder of stoves, etc., by profession, which he followed until compelled to give it up on account of ill health. His death occurred on December 22, 1881. His widow survives and makes her home with the subject. The subject's marriage has been without issue.

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#### HILAS H. DALRYMPLE.

A gentleman of pleasing address and quiet appearance, frank and kindly in manner, thus popular with his friends and fellow citizens, is the old soldier, Hilas H. Dalrymple, living in the city of Delavan, Walworth county. He has, according to his friends, led a singularly pure and clear life, abstaining from intoxicating liquors and other vices which drag men down. Measured by true standard of excellence, he is an honorable, upright, courteous gentleman, true to himself and to others, and his influence in the community has always been potent for good. Like many of the enterprising citizens of this county, he hails from the old Empire state, but the major part of his active life has been spent in the locality of which this history treats, having lived to see and take part in the wonderful changes that have here taken place in such a comparatively short time, for this section is as well developed, much better, in fact, than many of the older sections of the Eastern states. This has been due

partly to the richer soil of the Badger state and partly to the indomitable enterprise of the people who have settled here.

Mr. Dalrymple was born in Chautauqua county, New York, on April 12, 1840. He is the son of Marcus and Orrila (Sherman) Dalrymple, who spent the earlier years of their life in the state of New York, finally coming to Walworth county, Wisconsin, settling in East Delavan, when their son, Hilar H., of this sketch, was about twelve years of age, and there they established a good home and spent the balance of their lives.

The subject was reared on the home farm here and he assisted with the general work on the place during his boyhood, and attended the public schools in his district during the winter months.

Mr. Dalrymple has been twice married, first to Helen M. Reynolds on September 9, 1864. Her death occurred on February 10, 1898. This union was without issue. Mr. Dalrymple was then married, on July 4, 1900, to Celestia Hollister. This union also has been without issue.

Mr. Dalrymple enlisted in Company K, Forty-ninth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, on February 6, 1865, to serve one year, under Capt. A. J. Cheney. He saw no active service at the front, doing garrison duty, and he was discharged on November 8, 1865, at Benton Barracks, Missouri.

Returning to Walworth county from Missouri, Mr. Dalrymple purchased a farm of fifty acres near Lake Como, Walworth county, and here established a very good home, which he finally sold and purchased fourteen acres in the city limits of Delavan, where he has since resided. He has a pleasant home here and his land is very productive and valuable. Politically, he is a Republican, and he belongs to the Latter-Day Saints church.

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#### JOSEPH H. OSMOND.

Well directed efforts in the practical affairs of life and his capable management of his fine farm in Sharon township have brought a well deserved prosperity to Joseph H. Osmond, whose career demonstrates forcibly what may be accomplished by any man of energy and ambition who is not afraid to work and has the perseverance to continue his labors in the face of any discouragements which may seem to arise. In all the relations of life he has commanded the respect and confidence of those with whom he has been brought into contact and a biographical history of Walworth county would need to contain his record should it profess to be complete.

Mr. Osmond was born in the state of New York on February 27, 1857, and is the son of George and Ann (Salvage) Osmond, both of English descent. The father came west, locating at Richmond, McHenry county, Illinois, where he spent the rest of his life on a farm, dying there in 1901, his widow surviving until 1908. They were the parents of four children, namely: George lives in Richmond, Illinois; Joseph H., of this sketch; William John Harrison, and Mrs. Lenora Cairns, of Richmond, Illinois.

Joseph H. Osmond, of this sketch was educated in the schools at Richmond, Illinois, and he grew to manhood on the home farm there. He came to Wisconsin on December 2, 1882, and settled in Sharon township, Walworth county, buying an excellent farm of two hundred and eighty acres, acres after he had worked for a time with his father-in-law.

The subject farmed and raised live stock most successfully for a period of twenty-seven years, during which time he improved his place into one of the most desirable farms of the community. Then he purchased the feed mill in Sharon in 1907 and is now operating the same.

Politically, Mr. Osmond is a Republican, and was an official for the township of Sharon for a number of years. He has been a member of the city council of Sharon for the past four years. Fraternally, he belongs to the Masons, the Eastern Star, the Knights of Pythias and the Woodmen.

Mr. Osmond was married on December 15, 1881, to Ida Sherman, daughter of Elisha Judson Sherman and Harriet (Story) Sherman. This union has been without issue.

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### JAMES E. BRETT.

A member of one of the old and highly esteemed families of New England and the Empire state, and of Walworth county, Wisconsin, James E. Brett, of Lyons township, has stamped the impress of his individuality upon the community and added luster to the honorable name which he bears, having always been scrupulously honest in all his relations with his fellow men and leaving no stone unturned whereby he might benefit his own condition as well as that of his neighbors and friends, consequently he long ago won the favor of a great number of people of this locality where he has become one of our substantial citizens through his industry and close application.

Mr. Brett was born at Stamford, Delaware county, New York, December 12, 1843, and is the son of John F. and Sarah Ann (Davis) Brett. This

is an English family. The first to emigrate to America was William Brett in 1640, who settled with the Pilgrims in Massachusetts and helped John Alden and Miles Standish lay out the town of Duxbury. The subject is, in fact, a descendant of John Alden and Priscilla Mullens, of Pilgrim fame. Seth Brett, a grandson of the first of the Bretts in America, married a great-granddaughter of John Alden. William Brett, mentioned above, was a leader in both church and town affairs, and was often representative to the general court of the colony. He was one of the original proprietors of the town of Bridgewater, and he, together with Miles Standish, John Alden and three others, were granted lands about Saytucket, four miles each way from a center to be selected by them, they to divide and lay out the land in trust for the inhabitants of Saytucket. It was in 1640 that William Brett arrived at Duxbury. Joshua Brett was the son of Rev. Silas Brett, who preached thirty years at Freetown, Massachusetts, and when the latter came on most of his church members sided with England and discharged him for being in sympathy with the American colonists. Joshua Brett went into the Revolutionary war as surgeon's mate and later served as a surgeon. After the war he was a physician at Harpersfield, New York.

John F. Brett, father of the subject, was the son of James Brett and the grandson of Joshua Brett, the Revolutionary soldier, who served with Massachusetts troops. John F. Brett was born in New York, and his wife, Sarah Davis, also first saw the light of day in Delaware county, that state. Some of her ancestors were soldiers in our war for independence. She was the daughter of Gershon and Margaret (Vorhees) Davis.

James E. Brett spent his boyhood in his native state, and in 1853, when ten years old, he accompanied his parents to Elkhorn, Wisconsin, and here the father went into the mercantile business. In 1867 the family moved to Iowa, taking up their residence at Boonsboro, now Boone, and there the father and son engaged in the dry goods business until 1873, when James E. Brett came back to Walworth county, the father remaining in Iowa until his death, in 1877. The subject began clerking in a dry goods store in Lake Geneva upon his return here, but failing health made it necessary for him to give up clerking. After resting for a while, he moved to Sharon, where he lived about three years, but in 1876 he moved onto a farm in the western part of Lyons township, where he has since owned and successfully operated one hundred and thirty-five acres, which he has kept well improved and well cultivated. He is also a director in the Lyons State Bank. Of recent years he has been largely engaged in handling estates as administrator, having had the management or oversight of quite a number of the good farms and large

estates of the community, always discharging his duties most faithfully, conscientiously and satisfactorily.

Mr. Brett was married on September 19, 1867, to Marion E. Hill, daughter of Thomas W. and Lydia (Ferris) Hill. She was born and reared where Mr. Brett now lives, her parents having been among the earliest settlers in this vicinity. A record of the life of Thomas W. Hill appears elsewhere in this work. The death of Mrs. James E. Brett occurred on June 17, 1902.

Politically, Mr. Brett is a Republican and he has been justice of the peace since about 1895, and he has also been township assessor for six years, and he has been treasurer of the Walworth County Agricultural Society for the past fourteen years. As a public servant he has discharged his duties in a manner that reflects much credit upon himself and to the entire satisfaction of all concerned.

Mr. Brett is one of our honored veterans of the Civil war, having served in Company D, Fortieth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, enlisting at Madison, where he had been in the state treasurer's office for nearly four years. He is said to have made a very creditable soldier for the Union. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic at Lake Geneva. He is secretary of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of the town of Geneva, having held this office for the past eight years. In religious matters he belongs to the Congregational church.

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#### ANTON H. AMBORN.

Success has come to Anton H. Amborn, one of our worthy German citizens, who owns and operates scientifically a fine farm in Bloomfield township, because he has worked hard and has lived an honest, conservative life. He was born in Saxony, Germany, December 25, 1840, and is the son of Caspar and Louise Amborn. The parents and their two sons and two daughters came to America in 1847, direct to Wisconsin, the voyage across the ocean requiring seven weeks. They landed at Kenosha and the next day started for Walworth county, two days later finding them in Lyons township, and here they at once bought forty acres of land, and this was the family home until 1869, when the father sold out and moved to Burr Oak, LaCrosse county, and there the father and mother spent their last days. They were the parents of the following children: Anton, of this sketch; Henry, who went to LaCrosse county and died there; Jacob lives in LaCrosse

county; David and Rena are deceased; Bertha married John Storandt and they live at Burr Oak.

Anton H. Amborn remained in Walworth county, working out at farm work during his younger days. In 1865 he bought the LaTour farm of one hundred and twenty acres in the northern part of Bloomfield township and lived there four years, then sold out and bought one hundred and twenty acres where he now lives in section 14, this township, which he has brought up to a high state of improvement and cultivation, and here he has carried on general farming and stock raising successfully, and has a pleasant home.

Mr. Amborn was married on February 26, 1867, to Martha Kimball, daughter of David and Margaret (Young) Kimball. She was born in Saxony, Germany, and came to America simultaneously with the Amborns. There were sixteen or eighteen families in all who came at that time and settled here.

To the subject and wife ten children were born, namely: John died when sixteen years old; William married Clara Knight, and he lives at Brighton, and owns three hundred acres of land; Irene married Ed Lynch and they live at Childress, Texas; George married Anna Schulz and they live in Lyons township, where they own one hundred and sixty acres; Frank lives in Genoa Junction; Christine married Charles Schwandt and they live in Bloomfield township, northeast of the subject's farm; Toney lives in Bloomfield township, where he owns eighty acres; he married Anna Schwandt; Ella, Julius and Cora live at home. The wife and mother passed to her rest on September 24, 1911. She was a good wife and mother, industrious and kind.

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#### DR. M. V. DEWIRE.

The medical profession in southern Wisconsin has an able exponent in the person of Dr. M. V. Dewire, of Sharon, Walworth county, whose reputation has far transcended the boundary of the locality of which this history treats, and no work of the nature of the one at hand would be complete without a resume of his career. In every relation of life he has proved signally true to every trust. He possesses a sociable nature and by his genial and kindly attitude to those about him, has won the undivided confidence and esteem of all classes. He hails from the Sunflower state, where his earlier years were spent, his birth having occurred in Elsmore, Allen county, Kansas.

on February 23, 1868. He is the son of M. D. and Rebecca E. (Harris) Dewire, both natives of the state of Pennsylvania, having spent their childhood in Washington county and received their educational training in the common schools of their home community, and there they were married. They came west in 1866, locating in Kansas, obtaining a large tract of land from a stock drover who had received it from the government, and here he established a good home and engaged successfully as a general farmer and stock raiser until 1887, when he returned East, bringing his family to Ohio, and purchased a farm where he has since resided, being now advanced in years. The father of the subject was a soldier in the Civil war, spending four years in the One Hundredth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Ninth Army Corps, in which he served very gallantly, taking part in some of the most important campaigns and great battles of that greatest civil strife of history.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Dewire, named as follows: Willard C., who lives in Ohio; Elgy E. lives in Eden, Ohio; Mrs. Lulu Olmstead and Mrs. Lelia Morley, also live in Ohio; and M. V., the subject of this sketch.

Dr. M. V. Dewire received his education at Hillsdale, Michigan, and, deciding on the medical profession as his vocation early in life, he entered Rush Medical College in Chicago, where he made an excellent record and from which he was graduated. Soon afterwards, in 1894, he came to Sharon, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he began practicing and here he has since remained, having enjoyed a wide patronage and taking a high position among his professional brethren in this section of the state. He has been very successful as a general practitioner. He has kept fully abreast of the times in all that pertains to his profession, being a close student and a keen observer, and he possesses those natural qualities that are necessary to the successful man of medicine. He has been secretary of the County Medical Society for the past ten years, the duties of which he has discharged in an able manner, satisfactory to all concerned. He is also vice-president of the State Medical Association. In his fraternal relations he belongs to the Masonic order and the Knights of Pythias. He is a councilman in the town of Sharon.

Doctor Dewire was married in September, 1897, to Carrie B. Stevens, a native of Sharon, this county, where she grew to womanhood and received her education. She is the daughter of Wheeler H. Stevens, a well known citizen of this part of the county. To the Doctor and wife one child was born, Donald.

## CHARLES A. PRUDAMES.

The great task in the early years of the history of Wisconsin of clearing the land of its timber can scarcely be realized by the people of today. Not a crop could be sowed or an orchard tree planted until the timber had been cut down and removed either by fire or with horses. Even then the stumps were a great hindrance and it is doubtful if so much as half a crop could be raised until they had been eradicated in some manner. The amount of hard labor thus required to remove the timber and place the land under a high state of cultivation seems almost incredible. It was a task that never ended and all members of the family were required to assist early and late and at all seasons of the year. But the persistence in all instances brought success as the years passed, and in time the bare acres were spread out before the sun ready to produce abundant crops as soon as the seeds were deposited and the wilderness gave way to abundant harvests and browsing herds. This was the task set before Charles A. Prudames, one of the successful farmers of Delavan township, Walworth county, but perhaps not to such an extent as his father, for this honored pioneer family came here in the days of the great forest and, setting to work with a will, cleared the land and established a good home, and they have been prominent in the affairs of the community for over a half century.

Mr. Prudames was born March 24, 1860, in Dodge county, Wisconsin, and he is the son of Charles and Rachael (Sordon) Prudames, both natives of England, where they grew to maturity, were educated and married. They emigrated to America in 1849, first settling in Canada, where they remained about a year, then went to Dodge county, Wisconsin, where they made their home until 1870, when they moved to Delavan township, Walworth county, and bought the fine farm where their son, Charles A., of this review, now resides, in 1871. There the father became well established and lived until his death, on September 19, 1907, his wife having preceded him to the grave about three years. They had spent their lives engaged in agricultural pursuits and were hardy and honest people. There were four children in their family, namely: John, now deceased; Mary Ann (Winnie); Charles A., of this review; and John S., who is living in Los Angeles, California.

The subject of this sketch spent his youth on the home farm, and, as already intimated, assisted with the work on the place, attending the district schools during the winter months for a few years. On March 2, 1892, he was united in marriage with Clara S. Bristol, the daughter of Reuben and

Sabra Bristol, of this county, and to this union two children have been born, Reuben R. and Harry Charles. The Bristols are a highly respected old family of this locality.

Mr. Prudames owns and is living on the old homestead in section 2, Delavan township, which consists of one hundred and twenty-one and one-half acres, which has been well kept and carefully tilled so that the soil has retained its original fertility. He has maintained the excellent reputation of the family and has a host of friends.

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### BERNARD CONRY.

A man of naturally sound judgment and shrewd perception, characteristics of the Celtic race of which Bernard Conry, farmer of Delavan township, Walworth county, is a descendant, he has so ordered his career as to be eminently eligible to representation in a work of this kind. He has risen through his strictly moral habits, his attention to business and his desire to deal fairly, promptly and honestly with his fellow men, and his name stands high today in all business circles with which he has come into relationship. His domestic and social connections have ever been of the most pleasant character, and the fact that his surroundings are such as to make life enjoyable is due solely to his individual merits, his affable and courteous treatment of others and his strict adherence to justice in all his dealings.

Mr. Conry was born on December 8, 1852, at Clinton, Rock county, Wisconsin. He is the son of Patrick and Elizabeth (Welch) Conry, both natives of Ireland, where they grew to maturity, received such education as the common schools afforded and there they were married, and from there they emigrated to the United States in 1844, first settling in Albany, New York, where they remained about two years, then came to Clinton, Wisconsin, buying a farm near there, on which they spent the rest of their lives, the father dying on November 20, 1878, and the mother on October 15, 1879.

Nine children were born to Patrick Conry and wife, namely: John W. and Michael, both deceased; George lives in Sharon, this county; Thomas J. lives in Clinton; Mrs. Kate Newburgh is deceased; Margaret A., who lives in Delavan township, this county, is the widow of Mr. Norton; Ellen lives in Clinton; and Bernard, subject of this sketch.

Bernard Conry grew up on the home farm and there helped with the work when he was a boy, and he received his education in the common

schools. On August 18, 1897, he was united in marriage with Anna Horne, daughter of Dr. George R. and Kate (Martin) Horne, natives of England, from which country they emigrated to America when quite young and settled at Whitewater, Wisconsin, where the death of the mother occurred in 1878.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Conry, namely: Bernard A., born July 31, 1898; Eliza K., born April 6, 1900; Gladys V., born November 7, 1903.

Mr. Conry came to Walworth county in 1899 and for some time was extensively interested in the creamery business, having several different branches in both Walworth and Rock counties, and was well known in this line of endeavor. He finally turned his attention to farming and now resides on his farm of one hundred forty-eight and one-half acres in section 7, Delavan township. He has a fine farm which he has under excellent improvements and cultivation, and he keeps good live stock. He has a pleasant home and excellent outbuildings.

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#### PHILIP KLINE.

Deeds are thoughts crystallized, and according to their brilliancy do we judge the worth of a man to the country which produced him, and in his works we expect to find the true index to his character. The study of the life of the representative American never fails to offer much of pleasing interest and valuable instruction, developing a mastering of expedients which has brought about most wonderful results. The subject of this review is a worthy representative of that type of American character and of that progressive spirit which promotes public good in advancing individual prosperity and conserving popular interests. Members of the Kline family have long been prominently identified with the affairs of Walworth county, and while their endeavors along material lines have brought them success they also advanced the general welfare by accelerating industrial activity.

Philip Kline was born August 20, 1856, in Sharon township, this county, and he is the son of Christian and Katherine (Eberhart) Kline, both natives of Germany, the father having emigrated to America in 1850 and settled in Sharon township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where the subject now lives, and here, through thrift and economy, he became very comfortably established, first buying forty acres, later adding to this until he had one hundred and sixty acres. In 1881 he sold forty acres of the same to John Westphal, and in 1889 he sold the remaining one hundred and twenty acres

to the subject, which he still owns. Christian Kline was a cooper by trade and he followed the same until he came to the United States, but after arriving here he turned his attention to farming, which he continued to follow until his death on February 25, 1900. His wife preceded him to the grave twelve years, having passed away on February 22, 1888. They were the parents of five children, namely: Christina, George, Leopold, Caroline and Philip. The mother of these children was twice married, first to a brother of Christian Kline, whose first name was Nicholas, and two children were born to this first union, Christina and Nicholas.

Philip Kline, of this sketch, received his education in the district schools and the academy at Sharon. He has farmed all his life, owning and operating successfully one hundred and twenty acres in section 8, Sharon township, which he has kept under fine improvements. He is a director in the North Sharon Butter Factory and the Sharon Fire Insurance Company.

Politically, Mr. Kline is a Republican; he belongs to the Modern Woodmen and he is a member of the German Evangelical church. He was township supervisor for seven years.

Mr. Kline was married on February 27, 1890, to Christina Engelhardt, daughter of George and Sophia Engelhardt, natives of Germany, who came to the United States and settled in Sharon township, about 1850, in the pioneer days and here became very comfortably fixed. The death of Mr. Engelhardt occurred on November 15, 1910. His widow survives and is making her home in Sharon, this county. Three children have been born to the subject and wife, namely: Ralph E., Earl A. and Viola May, all at home.

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### JULIUS F. W. SCHULZ.

Whether the elements of success in this life are innate attributes of the individual or whether they are quickened by a process of circumstantial development, it is impossible to clearly determine. Yet the study of a successful life, whatever the field of endeavor, is none the less interesting and profitable by reason of the existence of this same uncertainty. So much in excess of those of successes are the records of failures or semi-failures, that one is constrained to attempt an analysis in either case and to determine the measure of causation in an approximate way. But in studying the life history of Julius F. W. Schulz, well known business man of the village of Walworth and one of the substantial and enterprising citizens of the locality of which



JULIUS F. W. SCHULZ

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this history deals, we find many qualities in his makeup that always gain definite success in any career if properly directed, as has evidently been done in his case, which has resulted in a life of good to others as well as to himself and family, all through his persistence in the pursuit of a worthy purpose. The splendid success which has come to Mr. Schulz is directly traceable to the salient points in his character, for he started in life at the bottom of the ladder, which he has mounted unaided. With a mind capable of planning he combined a will strong enough to execute his well-formulated purposes, and his great energy, sound judgment, keen discrimination and perseverance have resulted in the accumulation of a handsome property.

Like many of the thrifty citizens of Walworth county, Mr. Schulz is of Germanic blood, having been born in the village of Prohn in Pommernia, Germany, December 15, 1858. He is a son of Frederick Johann Carl Schulz and Carolina Sophia (Loose) Schulz, both natives of Germany, the mother born in Berlin and the father in Clausdorf, Pommernia. His father was a merchant in a small way, maintaining a little store in the village for some time. The parents of the subject spent their lives in the fatherland, both dying in Prohn. Their family consisted of seven children, Julius F. W., of this sketch, being the only one to come to America; four of the brothers were in the German army, and Gustave, the eldest, was in the Franco-Prussian war, and he is now engaged in the shoe business in Prohn, and from him the gentleman whose name introduces this biography learned his trade. Franz was a soldier and for about twenty-five years has held the office of sheriff of the kreis or county of Franzburg, in which he was born and reared. Richard, a twin brother of Julius, was also in the army and he now lives in Stralsund, Germany. His youngest brother, George, was also a soldier and he rose from a private to sergeant-major, which was the highest rank he could attain without attending one of the military academies of the empire. From that position he was appointed hausmeister to the ambassador to Rome. When he died at the age of forty-two he was buried with military honors and the artillery company of which he had been an officer at Spandau came to Berlin to attend his funeral. Besides the four sons who became military men and the subject, there was Frederick, next older than Julius, who died when a young man; also a sister, Adelheid, now wife of Frederick Lange. They have a large family; they conduct a hotel at Prohn and are well-to-do.

Julius F. W. Schulz grew to manhood in his native land and remained there until March, 1881, when he was about twenty-three years old. He learned the shoemaker's trade when a boy, as stated in a preceding paragraph.

and he followed his trade in Berlin and various other places in Germany for some time. Upon the last mentioned date he emigrated to Chicago, and worked there and in Racine for some time, then came to Walworth county in the summer of 1884 and started in business for himself. Even at that time his principal business was making shoes to order. But shoes that sold for ten dollars per pair in Chicago he could get only two-thirds as much for here and he found it very difficult to get a start. However, he persevered, turned out a high class of work and won the confidence of the people, and in a few years he had a good trade, having proven to his customers that he was not only a superior workman, but was honest in all his dealings, hence winning their good will. He now has a modern shop, equipped with up-to-date machinery, and carries an excellent and carefully selected stock of shoes, and he enjoys a large trade, many of his best customers having been with him for years, which would indicate that they have been well treated. He first put up a small shop on rented ground. About 1888 he purchased a small old house, for which he paid only three hundred and twenty-five dollars; it was home and he still remembers the pleasure of owning it because of the sense of possession. Having prospered, by close application and good management, his humble home gave way to a more pretentious one in due course of time. As the town grew his original property increased in value, and he sold it for just twice what it cost. He later bought another house, next door to the one he first owned and this he sold at an advance of three hundred and twenty-five dollars. In 1898 he bought the corner north of the postoffice, east from the park. He remodeled the old house on this lot, and this is now his home, and a very pleasant one. He also built the substantial concrete store room where his shop is now located. He sold part of the lot and on it is now another business building. He has been very successful in a business way, all due to his own efforts along legitimate lines, thus deserving of a great deal of credit for what he has accomplished in the face of obstacles and proving that he is a man of sterling qualities and would succeed in any environment.

On October 24, 1884, Mr. Schulz was united in marriage with Fredricka Zabel, daughter of Adolph and Carolina (Bruhn) Zabel. She was born in Prohn, Germany, and she and Mr. Schulz were schoolmates there. Her father died in Germany, and in 1882 she and her mother and younger sister, Minnie, now the wife of William Peters, emigrated to America. She had a brother in Walworth county, Wisconsin, who was working for Lavalette Douglass in the town of Walworth, and the rest of the family joined him. After coming here Mrs. Schulz worked in the home of John B. Holmes, who

treated her as a member of the family, and there she remained until her marriage.

Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Schulz, named as follows: Elsa is at home with her parents; Richard, who is in the shop with his father, married Bessie Timming, daughter of Henry Timming; Lucy Schulz married Charles Alberts and they live in Walworth, he being a railroader, baggageman and expressman on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad; they have three children, Marjorie, Charles and Charlotte, the last two being twins. Clarence Schulz, the youngest of the subject's children, is in school in Walworth.

Mr. Schulz and family are members of the German Evangelical church at Walworth; fraternally, he belongs to the Masonic order and he and his daughter Lucy are members of the Order of the Eastern Star, to which order and also the Masons the latter's husband belongs. Mr. Schulz is also a member of the Modern Woodmen and the Mystic Workers.

Mr. Schulz has refused to accept any public office, although well qualified to hold many of them, and he has been frequently importuned to accept nominations; he has even been elected against his will, consequently resigned. He has never had any ambition to be a public man, being fond of home and family and preferring to lead a quiet, unobtrusive life, devoting his attention to his business. Personally, he is kind, genial and obliging, scrupulously honest and a broad-minded, quiet citizen, who merits the high esteem in which he is universally held.

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#### WILLIAM SAILOR HIGBEE.

Such a life as that led by the late William Sailor Higbee is worthy of earnest contemplation, for it abounds in both lesson and incentive. It was a life conservatively and nobly lived, thus resulting in much good.

Mr. Higbee was born on November 9, 1830, at Shiloh, Cumberland county, New Jersey. He was the son of Thomas and Nancy Higbee. His father was the son of an old English sea captain who went down in a storm with his ship and all on board. His mother's ancestors were among the early settlers of New York and New Jersey.

William S. Higbee lived at home with his parents in Shiloh until he was thirteen years old, when his father died and he went to work on a farm. A year later he was bound out to Smith Dunham, a wagon-maker at

Shiloh, to learn the trade, and there he remained over seven years, receiving nothing for his labor but his board and clothing. After serving so long as an apprentice he was abundantly able to make his own way in the world, and on February 2, 1852, he married Emma Ann Ayars, and they continued to live at Shiloh until 1856, when they moved to Walworth. Here Mr. Higbee found it difficult in finding work at his trade, and during his search for work he made the distance to Milton and to Edgerton on foot, but without success. He returned to Walworth and his first work here was helping construct a barn for Eli Davis, Mr. Higbee hewing the timbers and doing most of the work alone. During his early residence in Walworth he formed a partnership with Welcome Crandall for the manufacture of wagons. They occupied as a shop a building that in later years Mr. Higbee used as a barn. He continued wagon-making until 1892, when his shop and all his tools were destroyed by fire. Many wagons of his make were in use throughout the country and he did a big business, his wagons being of such superior quality and workmanship that they were in great demand.

Mr. Higbee's first home here was built by him on the east side of Main street, about one hundred and fifty yards north from the park. In later years it burned down, while it was the property of Frank Pollard. Later he built two houses in the same part of the street.

During the Civil war, Mr. Higbee was a member of the Wide-awakes, and was subjected to draft, but feeling that his duty at home was greater than at the front, he hired a substitute, and he was elected treasurer of the town to receive the money for the quota. He was a public-spirited man and always stood ready to use his time and means for establishing public enterprises. He was among the stockholders that controlled the Walworth Academy building, now the public school building at Walworth, and he served with H. W. Randolph and E. R. Maxon as building committee when the Walworth Seventh-Day Baptist church was built. He was also a stockholder and was president of the Farmers Creamery Company, of Walworth, and during the year before his death he was trustee for the Chicago, Howard & Geneva Lake Railway to receive funds contributed for that enterprise. He himself gave the company the site for the power house, the right of way across his farm and three hundred dollars in cash. He made various improvements in Walworth, the most important one being the erection of the double ironclad store building in 1898.

The death of Mrs. Higbee occurred in 1890, and Mr. Higbee survived until October 29, 1903. He was a faithful member of the Seventh-Day Baptist Society. He left two children, Ezekiel J. and Josephine, the latter being

the wife of O. L. Smith, a sketch of whom appears in this work. Although not a member of the church, the subject was strong in the faith of the Seventh-Day Baptists, and helped maintain the local church of this denomination. His son has always resided in this locality and he has a fine farm near the village of Walworth. He was married on January 25, 1912, to Minnie Rennison, of Walworth. She was born in England, the daughter of John and Esther Rennison. Mrs. Rennison lives on Mr. Higbee's farm. Ezekiel J. Higbee is successfully carrying on general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of Holstein cattle and fine chickens.

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### JOHN I. MORGAN.

The life of John I. Morgan, well known merchant of the town of Sharon, Walworth county, has been characterized by industry, honesty and steadfastness of purpose, seldom if ever mistaken in matters of business. He is essentially a man of affairs, careful of his plans and exercising a judicious foresight, for he not only possesses energy by concentration of purpose and a discernment that causes a large degree of success to result from his outlay of labor in whatever line he devotes his attention to. He is public-spirited and lends his aid in the furtherance of all movements having for their object the general upbuilding of the community whose interests he has ever had at heart and where he has spent his life.

Mr. Morgan was born on February 14, 1871, in Darien township, this county. He is the son of Theron R. and Henrietta (Saxton) Morgan, the father a native of Ohio and the mother of Wisconsin. Theron R. Morgan, the father, was active in public affairs and he was township clerk for a number of years. He was in the hotel at Clinton for five years, then came to Sharon township, where he continued the hotel business for ten years, then was elected clerk of the circuit court, and he held the same in a manner that won the approval of all concerned until his death in 1905.

There were four children in the Morgan family, namely: Mrs. A. B. Truax lives in Chicago; E. H. also lives in Chicago; E. R. is a dentist at Lockport, Illinois; John I., of this sketch.

John I. Morgan received his education in the Sharon high school. He became deputy clerk of the circuit court, which position he filled for nine years, giving the utmost satisfaction in this capacity. He then engaged in the bowling alley business for two years in Elkhorn, and also in the same line

at Waupun for three months. He then came to Sharon, Walworth county, where he is now proprietor of a popular and well patronized book, notion and grocery store. He carries an up-to-date and carefully selected stock of goods and enjoys a good trade at all seasons.

Mr. Morgan has always taken an active interest in the affairs of his community, and was mayor of Sharon, his administration being marked with fairness and is doing much toward the permanent good of the town and community; he was elected to this office in April, 1911. He was president of the village in 1908 and 1909. He was school treasurer for three years. Politically, he is a Republican and loyal to his party. He belongs to the Masonic order at Sharon, and the Order of the Eastern Star, being worthy patron of the same, also is a member of the chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

Mr. Morgan was married in 1894 to Zetta Pearson, daughter of Robert and Rosetta Pearson, of Wisconsin. This union has been without issue.

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#### STEPHEN E. CONLEY.

Success has come to Stephen E. Conley, of Sharon, Walworth county, because he has diligently sought it along time-tried lines and has not held back for someone else to do his work or lay his plans, and today he finds himself very comfortably located and enjoying the respect and good will of all who know him, as did his honored father, the family having been an esteemed one here since pioneer times.

Mr. Conley was born February 2, 1869, in Sharon township, this county. He is the son of Thomas and Ann (Duffy) Conley, the father a native of Vermont and the mother of Ireland. The latter came to the United States when about three years old with her parents and here grew to womanhood and received her education. The father of the subject came to Wisconsin with his father, John Conley, in 1842 or thereabouts, and they settled in Sharon township, and here the father followed farming until his death, on June 2, 1898. His widow survives and lives on the homestead. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Conley, namely: Mary, Elizabeth, Anna, Theresa, Stephen E. (subject), George, who died in 1881; Sarah and Stella.

Stephen E. Conley received his education in the schools of Sharon township, and he grew to manhood on the home farm, where he assisted with the general work when a boy. He has always followed farming, up to twelve years ago, 1900, when he retired and moved to a pleasant home in Sharon. He had worked hard and managed well and accumulated a competency.

Mr. Conley is a member of the city council. Religiously, he is a Catholic, and is faithful in his support of the mother church, and assists in any movement looking to the betterment of his community.

Mr. Conley was married on June 27, 1900, to Agnes Kinna, daughter of Michael and Margaret Kinna, natives of Ireland, where they spent their earlier lives, coming to America when young. To the subject and wife one child has been born, William Henry, whose birth occurred on February 13, 1907.

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### J. B. STUPFELL.

The subject of this sketch was long one of the important factors in the agricultural life of Walworth county, but he is now living in retirement in his cozy and attractive home in the village of Sharon. The son of one of the pioneer residents of this locality, a man who held a record as a prominent farmer and public-spirited citizen, he is entitled by birth to a conspicuous place in the life of the community. He has lived to see and take part in the wonderful changes that have marked the passing of the years in Walworth county since the coming of the first settlers, some three-quarters of a century ago or less, and he has never regretted remaining in this favored section.

J. B. Stupfell was born on September 13, 1840, in Elizabethtown, New Jersey, and he is the son of John and Rachel (Conder) Stupfell, both natives of Germany where they spent their earlier years, emigrating to the United State in 1836, first settling in the state of New Jersey. They came to Wisconsin in 1842, after living for some time in the state of New Jersey, and settled at Sharon, taking up eighty acres of land from the government, and establishing their home in Sharon township. After living there a few years they sold out and bought a farm one mile west of where they lived before, where they continued to reside until 1880; then they retired to the village of Sharon, where the mother died in 1903, after which time the father, John Stupfell, made his home with his youngest daughter, Mrs. R. A. Lyman, who lives in Sharon. He died March 24, 1912. When advanced in age he recalled many interesting reminiscences of the early days here when the country was wild and neighbors were few and hardships were the rule. He was well known to the older residents and had a wide circle of friends.

Eleven children were born to John Stupfell and wife, named as follows: Elizabeth, John, Charles, Mary, George, Elizabeth (the second), Theresa, Joseph, Rachel, Frances, Katherine. Of these John, Mrs. Rachel Moon and Katherine Lyman are living.

J. B. Stupfell, of this sketch, grew to manhood on the home farm and there he assisted with the general work when a boy, and he received his education in the district schools and in the academy at Allen's Grove, from which he was graduated. He later taught school for some time very successfully, and then came to Sharon and went into the harness business, and soon built up an excellent trade, also handling hardware and continuing the same for three years. He then accepted a position as bookkeeper with Wolf & Brunson, at Sharon, with whom he remained for a period of thirty-two years, giving eminent satisfaction. He then retired from active business and is now living quietly in Sharon in one of the finest residences in this part of the county. He is a member of the English Lutheran church, and a liberal supporter of the same.

Mr. Stupfell was married on July 4, 1866, to Emma L. Clapp, and to this union one child has been born, Katherine B. She was married to Isaiah Weaver in 1887, and her death occurred on August 11, 1906, survived by a husband and two sons, Paul J. and Warren. Paul was graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and he is teaching in Racine College. He is regarded as a splendid scholar. Warren graduated in the spring of 1912 at the State University in Madison.

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#### BENJAMIN J. BILL, M. D.

If definite accomplishment in the utilization of subject power and ability is to be the criterion of success, then Dr. Benjamin J. Bill, of Genoa Junction, one of the best known physicians of Walworth county, certainly has achieved success in one of the noblest callings of man. Looking into the clear perspective of his career, there may be seen the strong lines of courage, persistence, determination and self-confidence—qualities which alone work forward to the goal of worthy and distinct achievement.

Dr. Bill is descended from a long line of sterling ancestors, and was born in Plainfield, Connecticut, August 24, 1850. The name Bill is an English word of Norman origin. It will be remembered that in the period of the Norman conquest of England, the invading soldiers were divided into knights, mounted and clad in full armor; battle-axe or bill-men, whose weapons had a hook or blade or bill attached; and archers. The former continued to be called bill-men long after the conquest, and when surnames came into use during the first fifty years of the fourteenth century, their descendants took

the name of Bill, and this is consequently one of the very oldest names in England, being directly traceable in a single community for about five hundred years. The first of the name of whom we have authentic record was Dr. Thomas Bill, who was born in Bedfordshire in 1490, and was a physician of great note, having attended both King Henry VIII and Edward VII, also Princess Elizabeth, afterwards Queen Elizabeth. One of the most famous of the family and one of the learned men of his day in England was William Bill, D. D., LL. D., who was born in Ashwell in Herefordshire about 1505. He became master of St. John's College, vice-chancellor of the university and one of the King's chaplains. He was ejected by Queen Mary for his pronounced faith in Protestantism, but he was recalled by Queen Elizabeth, and became her chief almoner, and was restored as master of Trinity and elected provost of Eton College. He was installed dean of Westminster, June 30, 1560, being the first incumbent of that office; on July 15th of the following year his death occurred and he was interred in Westminster Abbey. No other person ever held at the same time the three important positions enumerated above. He was an author of note and some of his writings are now in the university collections. Both his son Charles and his daughter Mary held many important positions. John Bill, born in the parish of Much Wenlock, appears in London in 1606, as a publisher to King James I. One of the earliest volumes showing the imprint of Mr. Bill is that written by the king himself, and it is now a book of great value, because of its antiquity and rarity. He was the first king's printer. From 1607 until 1700 the names of John Bill and his son, Charles, his successor, appear as publishers. Several important and successful publishing houses have been formed in America by Gurdon, Ledyard, Henry, James A., Avery Bill, and many of them have been prominent in political and civic affairs.

The first of the family to emigrate to America was John Bill and his wife, who settled in Massachusetts about 1630, making their home near Boston. It is probable that he was the son of the first king's printer. His death occurred in 1638, leaving three sons, James, Thomas and Philip, the majority of the Bills in America have descended from him, over one thousand persons bearing his name at the present time, and they are to be found in many states of the Union. John Winthrop, later governor of Connecticut, prevailed upon Philip Bill to settle on the east bank of the Thames at New London, Connecticut, the town of Groton now occupying the site of his homestead. Dr. Benjamin J. Bill, of this sketch, belongs to the eighth generation of descendants of Philip Bill. He is the son of Jephthah Gear Bill and Prudence P. (Benjamin) Bill, who were the parents of three children,

those beside the Doctor being Harriett P. Young, of Griswold, New London county, Connecticut, and Ann Isabella, who died when thirteen years old. The father, a prosperous farmer and influential citizen, still lives at Norwich, Connecticut, where he has held many public offices, including that of representative to the state Legislature. For many years both he and his wife have been members of the Methodist church, long active in church and charitable work.

The Benjamins have also been a prominent Connecticut family from pioneer times and are of English origin. Many generations are buried in the churchyard at Griswold, Connecticut, among them being Eames Benjamin, a soldier in the war of 1812. Like the Bills, they have always borne excellent reputations as citizens in all the relations of life.

Among the Bill family we find many physicians, ministers, book publishers and agriculturists, also find the names of a number of noted army surgeons, including Dr. James Howland Bill, Dr. Curtis Harvey Bill and Dr. Frederick Bill.

Dr. Benjamin J. Bill, of this sketch, grew to manhood in the east and he attended the Providence Conference Seminary, of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, and after leaving there, at the age of nineteen, he began studying medicine under Dr. R. C. Young, at Voluntown, Connecticut. In 1871 he came west and the following winter attended a course of lectures in the medical department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, later entering Rush Medical College in Chicago, from which institution he was graduated with the class of 1879.

Doctor Bill's domestic life began on September 1, 1873, when he was united in marriage with Rebecca Coggeshall, a daughter of Dr. S. W. and Mary Coggeshall, natives of Little Compton, Rhode Island. She was a devoted Methodist, in which faith she passed to her rest on December 11, 1875. Doctor Bill was again married, on September 13, 1877, to Sarah Stickland, a daughter of George and Harriet (Toms) Stickland, natives of England. To the latter union seven children were born, namely: Benjamin J., Harriet P., Ann Isabella, Luther L., Kenneth G., Ransom S. and F. Olivet.

Doctor Bill and his wife are members of the Congregational church, and he is now serving as clerk of the local congregation. They have a large, comfortable home which is the frequent gathering place for their many friends, who are always made to feel welcome. Politically, the Doctor is a Republican. He has served as a member of the school board for many years, which office he still holds. He belongs to the State Medical Society and the Ameri-

can Medical Association, and he was formerly a member of the Fox River Medical Society. He is surgeon for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company.

Doctor Bill has practiced his profession continuously at Genoa Junction for over thirty years, enjoying a large and ever-growing practice and ranking among the ablest of his compeers in the medical world in this part of the state. He has always been a profound student and has kept well abreast of the times in all that pertains to his profession.

Seven children have been born to Doctor Bill and wife, namely: Benjamin J., Jr., Harriet P., Ann Isabella, Luther Lisle, Kenneth Geer, Ransom and Francis Olivet. They are all living; the eldest who married Lotta Deignan, still resides in Genoa Junction, and they have three children, Harriet, Benjamin and Theron.

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#### WILLIAM HARRISON SOUTHWICK.

It is a good sign when a county like Walworth can boast of so many of her enterprising farmers and business men who are native sons, for it indicates that here are to be found all the opportunities necessary to insure success in the material affairs of life and that her native sons, unlike so many from various sections, have found it to their advantage to remain at home. They have been wise in doing this for nature has offered the husbandman unusual advantages here and seldom fails to reward the honest worker with gratifying results, and when the tillers of the soil are prosperous all lines of business flourish, consequently not only the farmers have succeeded in Walworth but also the merchants, millers, lumbermen, stock dealers, and many others, and the county ranks well with the thriving sections of this or any other state.

One of this worthy band of native sons is William Harrison Southwick, of Delavan township. He was born here on April 17, 1852. He is the son of Jonas G. and Mary Ann (Reese) Southwick, the father a native of Vermont and the mother of Pennsylvania. They grew to maturity in the East and were married in Ohio, from which state they came to Wisconsin in 1849 and settled on the DeWolf place, where they remained two years, west of Delavan, then moved to the farm where the subject now lives and here they established a very comfortable home and reared their children.

Jonas G. Southwick was twice married, first to Mary Brown, which union resulted in the birth of three children, Leonard, Franklin and Nelson,

all now deceased. The following children were born of his union with Mary Ann Reese: Henry and Harriet, twins; George, deceased; Charles lives at Williams Bay; James and Oliver are deceased; William H., of this review; Mary married C. M. Williams, of Chicago; Sanford died when four years old. The father of the subject died on April 2, 1894, and the mother on January 14, 1888.

William H. Southwick, of this sketch, was reared on the home farm where he worked when a boy. He received his education in the public schools of his home community and a short time in the academy at Big Foot, Wisconsin. He has devoted his life to farming. He lives on the homestead in section 36, Delavan township, which consists of eighty acres, and he has kept the land under an excellent state of improvement and cultivation. He owns the place and takes a pride in keeping it in fine shape. He has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, and his efforts have been liberally rewarded.

Mr. Southwick was married on December 14, 1861, to Marietta E. Bowsby, daughter of B. F. and Catherine Bowsby. To this union two children have been born, namely: Loran B., who died when eleven months old; and Ernest E., who married Rosina Weeks, of Chicago. He is at home with his parent. The wife of W. H. Southwick died on May 5, 1904. Politically, the subject is a Republican. With the exception of a year spent in Elkhorn, he has farmed all his life.

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#### PETER PETERSON.

One of the most painstaking and energetic farmers of Whitewater township, Walworth county, is Peter Peterson, one of the thrifty Norwegians who have found homes in our republic and have benefited alike themselves and us. He has led a quiet life here, been law-abiding and has been loyal to our institutions.

Mr. Peterson was born in Norway on April 22, 1871. He is the son of Ole and Dorothy Marie (Isaaksen) Peterson, both natives of Norway, where they grew up and were married, and there the mother's death occurred in 1885. The father finally came, in 1890, to America, locating in Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he spent his last days, dying in 1906. In 1892 he was married to Mrs. Halvor Hanson. One child was born to them. His wife owned thirty acres in Sugar Creek township. His family consisted of seven children, six of whom are living and in the United States.

Peter Peterson was reared on the farm and educated in the public schools of Norway. He emigrated to America in 1892 and settled in Walworth county, Wisconsin, at Elkhorn, and there he remained until 1910, when he moved to the farm he now owns in Whitewater township, which consists of one hundred and fifteen acres of valuable and well improved land, on which he carries on general farming and stock raising. He also owns forty acres near Elkhorn.

Politically, Mr. Peterson is a Republican, and a member of the Lutheran church. On February 28, 1900, he was united in marriage with Annie Oleson, who was born in Whitewater township, this county, May 3, 1876, the daughter of Nels and Carrie Marie (Ellisen) Oleson, both natives of Norway, and from that country they emigrated to America in 1868, settling in Walworth county, this state, owning a good farm of one hundred and fifteen acres in Whitewater and Richmond townships, which, however, has been deeded to the subject and wife with the understanding that they shall care for them as long as they live. They have one son too.

To Mr. and Mrs. Peterson six children have been born, namely: Olaf Norman, Clara D., Morris Glenn, Mildred Viola, Lester Alvin and Emma Lenora. They are all living.

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#### LOUIS C. BAKER.

The name of Louis C. Baker, of Whitewater, needs no introduction to the people of Walworth county, for here he has played a conspicuous role in the drama of present day affairs for a number of years, establishing a reputation for public spirit, integrity and industry and meriting the high esteem in which he is universally held. Mr. Baker was born in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, May 10, 1853, and came with his parents to Rock county in 1855, where he lived until a year after the death of his mother, which occurred in 1868. His father died in 1863. After a short time at Milton College he returned to Whitewater and worked for the United States Express Company. In 1874 he engaged in the grocery trade and from that time on has been active in various business enterprises. In 1878 he began work as a commercial traveler, representing one firm for nearly twenty years selling hats, caps, gloves, mittens and fur goods. In 1902 he resigned that position in order to devote more time to the mercantile business which he had established in Whitewater about 1894 and which had been under the management

of his brother, Rollin H. Baker, up to that time. He carries an up-to-date line of general hardware, china and silverware. Politically, Mr. Baker has long been a local leader in the Democratic party. In 1898 he was nominated for state senator and in 1902 was given the nomination for congressman in the first district and received 12,122 votes in this strong Republican district. At present he is serving his third term as alderman in Whitewater and is president of the city council. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America.

Mr. Baker was married in 1875 to Nellie Hurlbut, a native of Whitewater and the daughter of Frederick and Sarah (Root) Hurlbut, the father a native of Connecticut and the mother of England. Mr. Hurlbut was a dry goods merchant in Whitewater for many years, but was a traveling salesman for the last fifteen years of his life. He died January 22, 1888, and was survived by his widow until January 15, 1910. Their family consisted of three sons and three daughters, Will, Fred, Roy, Nellie, Lillian and Hattie.

For a complete sketch of Harvey Baker and wife, parents of Louis C. Baker, and the Baker ancestry, refer to another page.

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#### ORA PHELPS TAYLOR.

One of the most enterprising and painstaking of the younger generation of agriculturists of Walworth county is Ora Phelps Taylor, whose well kept and valuable farm lies just south of Elkhorn. He is a close student of everything that pertains to his vocation and has always been a wide reader on all phases of agriculture and horticulture, also stock raising, and, thus being well posted on these lines and a man of energy and determination, we do not wonder at his success thus early in life.

Mr. Taylor was born in Lagrange township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, May 14, 1884. He is a son of William Thomas Taylor, ex-register of deeds, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume.

Ora P. Taylor was four years old when his father moved from Lagrange township to the city of Elkhorn, to take office as register of deeds, and they lived there six years, moving back to Lagrange township after going out of office, and there bought a farm, on which they lived four years, then sold out and bought the Westover farm, a mile south of Elkhorn, where the subject now lives. Here Ora P. grew to manhood and finished his education, graduating from the Elkhorn high school in 1903. After leaving school he

continued farming on the home place, assisting his father. About 1905 he began working the homestead on the shares. His father died in April, 1906, and in 1907 Ora P. bought out the interests of the other heirs, and now owns the farm, which consists of one hundred eight-seven and one-half acres, on which are two dwelling houses, a good set of outbuildings and general improvements. He has kept the place under a fine state of cultivation and has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser.

Mr. Taylor was married on June 22, 1910, to Erma Louise Ketchpaw, daughter of George Henry and Frances (Harrington) Ketchpaw. Her father was the son of George and Lucina (Parks) Ketchpaw, early settlers in Sugar Creek township, this county, where he grew to manhood and lived until his marriage to Frances Harrington. The latter was a daughter of Delos and Rebecca (Scott) Harrington. Delos Harrington was born at Otsego, New York, in 1830. He was a son of Riley and Tirzy (Myers) Harrington, both of whom were from Otsego county, New York. It is said that Riley Harrington's father, probably Joe Harrington, was a soldier in the Revolution. Riley Harrington and wife came to Walworth county among the earliest settlers in 1836 when the country was a wild territory and neighbors were few and far remote and when Indians and wild animals were plentiful. The family located in Lafayette township, on the line about a mile north of Elkhorn, and here the elder Harrington entered land from the government, which he afterwards sold to Delos Harrington and which is now the property of his son, George L. Delos Harrington went to California, where he remained three years engaged in mining in the gold fields. He had lived in New York a few years before going to California. He made the long trip overland. Returning to New York, he was married to Rebecca Scott, daughter of Merrick and Betsey (Chapel) Scott. Betsey Chapel was born in Connecticut. Merrick Scott was from Chenango county, New York.

Mrs. Delos Harrington was born in Chautauqua county, New York, and taught school all over that county. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Harrington came here and lived about a year, then went to Sherman, New York, where he engaged in the mercantile business about ten years, selling out just before the Civil war and moved back to Walworth county and farmed on the old homestead, and there their daughter, Frances, grew to womanhood and married George Henry Ketchpaw. Two daughters were born of their marriage, Erma, now the wife of Ora P. Taylor, and Maude, who married Clifford Mills, of Denver, Colorado; Erma was born in East Delavan.

Mrs. Ketchpaw died when Mrs. Ora P. Taylor was five years old, and then the little daughter went to make her home with her grandmother Har-

rington. The Harringtons moved to Madison and she and her sister Maude attended college there, both graduating with the class of 1906. Then Mrs. Taylor taught two years in West DePere and one year in southern Colorado. Mr. Harrington's death occurred in 1897. He held various township offices, and he followed farming all his life. Mrs. Harrington now lives in Elkhorn. George H. Ketchpaw, father of Mrs. Ora P. Taylor, now lives in Wyoming. Ora P. Taylor and wife have one child, a little daughter, Dorothy Maude, who was born April 2, 1911. Mr. Taylor is a member of the Masonic lodge at Elkhorn.

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### THOMAS H. PUGH.

This well known citizen is another of the old soldiers who went out to fight their country's battles a half century ago. What a splendid sight it is at the present day to see a company of these honored veterans go by on Decoration day or the Fourth of July, in their blue uniforms and with their tattered flags flying. But they will all be gone in a few more years, and nothing will be left but a memory. That memory should be something more than a sound. Their deeds should be perpetuated in song and story, in monument and perpetual commemoration, so that future generations may draw inspiration from their patriotism and gallantry. After an eminently successful, active and useful business career, Mr. Pugh is now living in retirement in his pleasant home in the town of Walworth, in the general development of which he has ever stood ready to assist; and as a result of his public spirit, his genial address and obliging nature he enjoys the confidence and esteem of all who know him, having a wide acquaintance throughout Walworth county.

Thomas H. Pugh was born in Frankfort, Herkimer county, New York, April 20, 1841. He is the son of Stephen and Mary (Hamer) Pugh, both born near Newton, Wales, of a long line of sterling ancestry, and there they grew up and were married, emigrating to the United States soon afterward and located in Herkimer county, New York, where they followed farming. In 1850 the family moved to Augusta, Oneida county, that state, and established their home.

Thomas H. Pugh, of this sketch, grew up on the homestead and received such education as the public schools of his day afforded. On December 16, 1863, he enlisted in Company B, Twenty-second New York Cavalry, and was assigned to duty in the Third Division, Cavalry Corps, Army of the Potomac, and, according to his comrades, he proved to be a most faithful



THOMAS H. PUGH

THE  
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and gallant soldier, seeing much hard service. He was in the battle of the Wilderness, White Oak Swamp, Hanover, Stony Creek, and was on the famous Wilson raid and a number of battles in the Shenandoah valley, including Winchester, Cedar Creek, Fisher's Hill, Newmarket, Waynesboro, and others, finally joining Grant in front of Richmond and followed up to Appomattox and Lee's surrender. He was discharged at Winchester, August 1, 1865.

After his military career Mr. Pugh returned to Oneida county, New York, and operated the home farm for his mother, his father having died when he was eleven years old. The death of the mother occurred in 1894. To Stephen Pugh and wife were born three sons and six daughters, two of the latter dying in young womanhood.

In 1870 Thomas H. Pugh came west and located in the town of Walworth, Wisconsin. He began at the bottom of the ladder, and in order to get a start worked out by the month at farm work. He had not accumulated anything for himself during his residence in New York in view of the fact that he had worked on the home place, assisting in the support of the family. After he had been in Walworth county some time he rented land, which he worked on the shares, and, managing well, he was enabled to buy a farm of his own, of one hundred and sixty acres, in 1880, one mile west of the village of Walworth. This was the place he had been renting. Here he continued to reside until 1887, when he rented his farm and moved to Fremont, Nebraska, where he spent four or five years, then returned to the village of Walworth, and here he held various town and village offices, such as town assessor and village assessor, and president of the village board. He was also secretary and agent of the Walworth Mutual Fire Insurance Company several years. In 1903 he removed to Oklahoma, where he spent about seven months. Returning to Walworth, he remained here until the fall of 1907, then went to South Dakota, in which state he lived two years, then went to Florida, spending two winters and one summer in that genial land of flowers; he then returned to Walworth, where he has since resided. Thus, after a residence here of practically forty-two years, he is deserving of a place in the county's history and to rank as one of her representative citizens.

On September 12, 1871, Mr. Pugh was united in marriage with Mary B. McCarty, daughter of T. McCarty and wife. She was born at Glover, Vermont, and when ten years of age came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, with her uncle, James Sherburne, with the intention of making it her future

home, and she lived with him until her marriage. This union resulted in the birth of two children, namely: Mrs. Mary G. Brainard, of Walworth; she has one son, Rexford, now nine years old and in school at Walworth; and Frank T. Pugh, now residing in Alberta, Canada, engaged in farming near Edmonton; he is married and has two children, Dorothy and Thomas Holgate Pugh.

The death of Mrs. Thomas H. Pugh occurred on February 15, 1911, while she and Mr. Pugh were in Florida. She is remembered by a wide circle of friends as a woman of amiable disposition, gentle nature and of high mental endowment.

Thomas H. Pugh has figured in numerous enterprises of this community during his long residence here, and it should be known that in 1891 he helped organize the Geneva Land Company, that established Glenwood Springs, and he was president of the company two or three years, and had charge of the surveying and laying out the place, building bridges and improving the place and was largely responsible for its prestige and its excellence. He is to be highly commended for his work in this connection.

For several years he was a member of the executive committee of the Walworth County Agricultural Society, and for a time he was township assessor; he was often importuned to accept nominations for various offices, and he refused a number of township offices.

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#### WILLIAM THOMAS TAYLOR.

The death of the late William Thomas Taylor, ex-register of deeds of Walworth county, resulted in the loss of one of the county's most highly respected citizens. As the day, with its morning of hope and promise, its noontide of activity, its evening of completed and successful efforts, ending in the grateful rest and quiet of the night, so was the life of this honored man. His career was a long, busy and useful one, and he was to the end a genial, kindly friend and gentleman whom it was a pleasure to meet.

Mr. Taylor was born in Lagrange township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, January 5, 1852, the son of George and Ann (Crookes) Taylor, the father born in West Riding of Yorkshire, England, January 29, 1826. He was the son of William and Martha (Greaves) Taylor, and the grandson of Joshua and —— (Butlin) Taylor, and was born July 3, 1799. Ann Crookes

was born at Dore, Derbyshire, England, October 19, 1833, and she died September 7, 1898. Joshua Taylor was born in 1770 and his wife in 1771. George Taylor and wife came to America soon after their marriage in 1851 and settled on Heart Prairie, Lagrange township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, and there Mr. Taylor worked for a Mr. Esterley, who was making and selling reapers. George Taylor had been a cabinetmaker in his earlier life. He also worked as a carpenter for a time after coming here. Later he bought a farm in Lagrange township, near Lagrange Center, but afterwards sold it and bought a farm about a mile and a half northeast of Lagrange Center, where he spent the rest of his life, dying on April 19, 1896.

William T. Taylor grew up on the farm in Lagrange township and he received his education in the local schools, studying at the Whitewater Normal two or three years. He taught school in the winter and worked at the carpenter's trade in the summer, for about ten years. About 1875 he built a store at what is now called Lagrange Center, which he operated until 1889. In 1888 he was elected register of deeds of Walworth county, and took office the following year, and he discharged his duties so faithfully that he was twice re-elected to the same office, filling the office six years. He had previously been township clerk for a number of years while he lived in Lagrange township. After leaving office as register of deeds, during which time he lived in Elkhorn, he returned to Lagrange township and bought a farm which he operated four years, then sold out and purchased a farm a mile south of Elkhorn, where he continued farming until April 26, 1906, the time of his death. Mr. Taylor was a Mason and stood high in the lodge.

On March 20, 1877, occurred the marriage of William T. Taylor and Eliza Alice Phelps, daughter of James Harper Phelps and Hannah (Loxley) Phelps. She was born near Whitewater, this county, January 12, 1859. Her parents came here in 1857 or earlier, from Worcestershire, England. They were married on December 31, 1847, at Hallow, Worcester, in the parish of Grimley. Hannah Loxley was the daughter of Thomas and Phoebe (Hayward) Loxley. Phoebe Hayward was the daughter of William Hayward. James Harper Phelps was a maker of shoes when shoes were made by hand to order. He moved into Whitewater about 1859 and there spent the rest of his life, dying on November 19, 1862. After his death his widow and children moved to Mason City, Iowa, where Mrs. Taylor lived until her marriage to Mr. Taylor. Her mother died in that city on January 7, 1876.

Three children were born to William T. Taylor and wife, namely: Bertha Inez, born January 26, 1879, married Charles H. Bromely, December

22, 1909, and lives in Lagrange township, where her father started in the merchandise business; she has one son, William Edward, born May 28, 1911. Ora Phelps Taylor, next in order, is farming just south of Elkhorn, and a sketch of him appears elsewhere in this work. Loxley Crookes Taylor, the youngest daughter, was born March 5, 1893, and is now attending a girls' boarding school at Columbia, South Carolina. William T. Taylor loved hunting and outdoor sports and was a practical naturalist. He made friends easily and was a strong character in every sense of the word.

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#### ANGEVINE D. LOWELL.

In the course of a long, industrious and interesting life Angevine D. Lowell, now living in retirement in his splendid new modern home in Sharon, Walworth county, has learned many valuable lessons and has been of great help to those with whom he has come into contact. He has kept abreast of the times as much as possible, realizing at the outset that the wisdom of yesterday is often the folly of today and that "old occasions teach new duties, time makes ancient good uncouth, and that we must upward still and onward." And no doubt much of his material success has been due to the fact that he has been an advocate of progress in all lines, material, civic and moral, and has labored to this end in his native locality. He has thus been an interested spectator to the wonderful growth that has taken place in Walworth county, for he has spent his life right here at home and has witnessed the far-reaching forests of pine, fir, tamarack and hemlock give way to as fine a farming community as the great Badger state can boast. He represents one of our worthy pioneer families, the Lowells having established their permanent home here when it took courage and hardihood to stand the test.

Mr. Lowell was born on June 9, 1849, in Sharon township, this county. He is the son of Abram B. and Anna M. (Seever) Lowell, who were born in Decatur, New York, where they grew up and married, and there they continued to reside until 1844, when they came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and settled in Sharon township, taking up eighty acres of government land. They made a little clearing and erected their log cabin, and went to work with a will, and in due course of time they had the land improved and under cultivation and a comfortable home established, and here they spent the rest of their lives, the father dying on June 11, 1902, at an advanced age, having survived his wife some thirty-three years, her death having occurred on May 7, 1869. They were the parents of eleven children.

Angevine D. Lowell, of this review, grew to manhood on the home farm, where he assisted with the general work during his boyhood. He received his education in the public schools of his native district and at the Sharon Academy. After the death of his father he came into possession of the old homestead. This he has kept well tilled and well improved, so that it has retained its original fertility, and he has added to the original eighty, seventy-seven acres, making him now one of the choice farms of the community, consisting of one hundred and fifty-seven acres, all in section 30, Sharon township. He has devoted his life to general farming and stock raising and has met with a fair measure of success all along the line, so that, having laid by a competency, he has recently retired from the active duties of life, moving to the town of Sharon, where he had erected an attractive, commodious and modernly appointed home.

Politically, Mr. Lowell is a Prohibitionist, but he has never been especially active in party affairs. In religious matters he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Lowell was united in marriage with Juvontia Kinyon on January 29, 1873. She is the daughter of Joseph T. and Catherine (Merrill) Kinyon, a highly respected family of this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Lowell four children have been born, named as follows: Mrs. Leola E. Clement, who lives in Austin, Maine; Lloyd S. lives in Sharon, this county; Marzo T. is a clerk in the employ of the Northwestern Railroad Company; Glenn F. lives in Sharon. These children all received good educations in the local schools and are well situated in life.

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#### FREMONT P. PRAMER.

One of our retired farmers who has lived to see his early plans culminate in success, because they were carefully laid and adroitly carried out is Fremont P. Pramer, of the town of Sharon, Walworth county, a man whose life record has been without blemish, he having sought to keep untarnished the excellent name of the pioneer family which he represents.

Mr. Pramer was born on January 16, 1863, in Sharon township, this county. He is the son of George H. and Melvina (Clapper) Pramer, the former born in Carlisle, Schoharie county, New York, August 11, 1828, and when a child he came with his parents and eleven brothers and sisters to Walworth county, Wisconsin, settling in Sharon township, in pioneer days, and

here he devoted his life to farming. George H. Pramer continued to operate the home place after his father's death, finally moving to the town of Sharon, where his death occurred on April 5, 1904. He was married, first, to Margaret E. Merrill, on March 22, 1850. Her death occurred on July 8, 1857. On December 25, 1859, Mr. Pramer was married to Amanda M. Clapper, who still lives in Sharon. Two sons were born of the latter union, Fremont P., of this sketch, and Ray, a contractor in Sharon.

Fremont P. Pramer received his education in the district schools of Sharon township and he has devoted his life to farming, now owning one hundred and thirty-five acres of excellent land, eighty acres lying in Rock county, and fifty-five in Sharon township, Walworth county. Having accumulated a competency through his close application and good management, he retired from the active duties of life and moved to the town of Sharon in the spring of 1896, where he has a pleasant home.

Mr. Pramer is a member of the city council of Sharon. He was marshal for two years, and he was superintendent of the water works for seven years. He is a Republican and belongs to the Mystic Workers.

Mr. Pramer was married to Katie A. Klein on July 1, 1886, the daughter of Peter and Sophia (Peters) Klein, both natives of Germany, he having emigrated to the United States in 1847 and settled in Albany, New York. After remaining there a year he came on to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1848 and bought a farm in Sharon township, which he operated until his death. He was born in Walhanbach, canton Donlinger, Alsace, Germany, September 1, 1827, and his death occurred here on April 18, 1908. His wife was born in Weislinger, Alsace, Germany, on July 24, 1836, and she died in Sharon township, on January 11, 1905. One child has been born to the subject and wife, Ethel Iva, whose birth occurred on August 12, 1892. She is at home with her parents.

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### FRED JULIUS SMITH.

Among the enterprising farmers and representative citizens of Walworth county who have been pleased to devote their energies to agricultural pursuits in their native community is Fred Julius Smith, of Lyons township, a man widely and favorably known for his intelligence, especially in modern farming, and for the wisdom with which he has directed his life, as well as the noble purposes and high ideals he has ever had in view and sought to

impress upon those closely associated with him. He therefore merits the high regard in which he is universally held.

Mr. Smith was born on the farm in section 14, Lyons township, this county, February 18, 1867. He is the son of Fred and Henrietta (Vorpapel) Smith. The father came from Schieffelbein, Coslin, Germany, in 1854, when about thirty-eight years old, two brothers, William and John, having accompanied him. John lived here for some time, but spent the latter part of his life in Minnesota. Frederick lived in Brighton township, Racine county, until his death, in April, 1910.

Fred Smith came to Burlington and after about two months rented a farm with his brother, Frederick, south of Burlington, and they continued farming together for two or three years, then Fred moved to Lyons township and bought the farm of one hundred and twenty acres on which his son, Fred J., of this sketch, was born. He was married about 1857 to Henrietta Vorpapel, who was born in Pommern, Germany, and was a daughter of Carl and Mary (Bublitz) Vorpapel, both of whom lived and died in Germany. On April 8, 1857, she and her five brothers, one of whom was Julius Vorpapel, now of Lyons, started to America, sailing from Hamburg on April 15th and after five weeks, which was considered a good voyage in those days, they reached New York, thence came to Milwaukee, and on to Burlington; the other brothers were Fred, William and August. She had a sister, Caroline, who married August Duberstein and in 1863 came to Walworth county, Wisconsin.

Eight children were born to Fred Smith, Sr., and wife, namely: August died when about three years old; Herman F. lives south of Lyons; Annie died when about a year old; Emma married Frank Hunsbushcher and lives at Darien; Fred J., of this sketch; Paul W. lives in Lake Geneva and is in partnership with Charles Lock in the grocery business; he married Tillie Bent, of that city, and they have two children; Ida Smith died when about a year old; Hulda, who married Charles Lock, of Lake Geneva, mentioned above.

The death of Fred Smith, father of the above named children, occurred in 1896, his wife having preceded him to the grave in 1873.

Fred J. Smith, of this sketch, has lived all his life on the home farm. In 1889 he was married to Ida Radtke, a native of Schieffelbein, Germany, and a daughter of William and Henrietta (Zetlow) Radtke. She and her sister, Annie, who is now the wife of Charles Varpapel, came to America in 1882, locating at Burlington, Wisconsin, later living at various places in the

eastern part of Walworth county until her marriage. William Radtke still lives near Schieffelbein, Germany. He had been a soldier in the German army in the war with Austria-Hungary, and in one great battle his regiment was cut to pieces, all killed or wounded except seven, he being one of the seven to come out unscathed. Soon after his marriage he became a telegraph operator on the government railroads and a guardian of the road, holding that position over twenty-five years, when he retired on a pension.

Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith, namely: Clara, wife of Herman F. Schulz, a merchant of Lyons; Hattie, wife of John Madans, lives in Bloomfield township on a farm; Alma, Elsie and Gertrude are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Smith formerly belonged to St. John's Lutheran church at Burlington.

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#### JAMES S. CURRAN.

It is a well known fact, fully recognized by physicians and by all others who have made the subject a study, that a quiet life and steady habits promote longevity. In the cities where the people are falling over each other in their desperate attempts to get rich suddenly, and where they are, as a consequence, on a severe nervous strain all the time, the mortality tables are much higher than in the rural districts. The farmer may, therefore, congratulate himself that though his life may be less eventful it is certainly much longer than is that of his cousin in the city. This important fact should be borne in mind when the young men catch the fever to be clerks in some cheap grocery in a town or village or hie away to the nearest metropolis and secure employment in a smoke-sucharged, noisy machine shop or factory. How much better is the life of the farmer who has won a fine farm from the dense woods, reared a large family of healthy children, made a comfortable home and is able to spend his old age in peace and surrounded by plenty, beloved by all who have known him. Some such a man is the subject of this sketch.

James S. Curran, a well known and highly esteemed citizen of Lyons township, Walworth county, was born in Jackson county, Michigan, December 5, 1839. He is the son of Henry and Margaret (McQuade) Curran, early settlers near Lake Geneva, in Lyons township. Henry Curran was born in county Fermanagh, Ireland, about 1803, and it is believed that Margaret McQuade was from the same locality. Henry Curran was the son of John and Ellen (McNamee) Curran. He was one of a family of four children, James, John, Mary and Henry. The family came to New York in 1815

and lived for some time in New York city, where the death of John Curran, and also that of his daughter, Mary, occurred. The son, John, went to New Brunswick. The widow and the other two children, James and Henry, moved to Michigan and settled in Jackson county. Henry Curran was married in New Jersey to Margaret McQuade, before they came to Michigan. James was married in the last named state to Jane Brown, daughter of George and Anna (Dugan) Brown, she also being of Irish parentage. Her parents were from county Fermanagh, but she was born in the isle of Jersey, where her father was stationed as a soldier in the British army. She was ten years old when her parents brought her to New York, thence to Michigan.

About 1839 Henry and James Curran walked all the way from Jackson county, Michigan, to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and here they located farms, which they entered from the government, about three miles east of Lake Geneva, then returned to the Wolverine state for their families, which they brought back with ox teams, a slow journey through the wilderness, and here they began life in true pioneer fashion, clearing their land, erecting log cabins and putting out a little crop, and in due course of time they had made good homes here. James S. Curran recalls the trip with his parents through Chicago when he was only about five years old, when that city was only a straggling village in a swamp. His father squatted on a piece of land in the northeast corner of section 32, in Lyons township, Walworth county. Later selling his claim, he squatted on another farm in section 27, and this was the family home for the next fourteen years. The father later moved a little nearer Lake Geneva and farmed there the rest of his active life. During their last years both parents made their home with their son, James, who, with true devotion, chose rather to care for his parents than to marry and establish a family home for himself. At his home the mother's death occurred in 1883, and there the father passed away in 1885. The old couple had lived through the hardships of pioneer life, and although they were not numbered among the famous nor the wealthy, they performed their duties in the light of truth and right and did such good as they could, and earned the high esteem in which they were held by all who knew them. They were faithful members of the Catholic church and in the early days the vicar-general of the Milwaukee diocese occasionally came to the locality in which the Currans resided, celebrating mass at the cabin of the subject's parents in the early days. When the first Catholic church was built upon Catholic Hill in the east edge of Lake Geneva, Henry and James Curran carried timbers on their backs nearly a mile and up the long hill to where the church was built. James Curran, uncle of

James S. Curran, also spent his life near Lake Geneva, and here reared a family of ten children. He was well known and well liked, and his death occurred on August 26, 1877.

Thirteen children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Curran, of whom only four grew to maturity, namely: Ellen, who married Thomas Brennan, and died, leaving eight children; James S., of this sketch; Jane, who married William Barry, a machinist, and lives in Chicago; Henry, a machinist, lives in Chicago.

James S. Curran was reared on the home farm, where he worked hard when a boy, near Lake Geneva. He received such education as the old-fashioned schools, taught in log-houses, afforded in the days of the first settlers here. In 1863 he went to Nevada with a large number of horses, and he remained there three years, working in timber, charcoal, coal and tar, and he thereby got a very good financial start. Returning to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1866, he purchased one hundred acres of land in section 32, the south edge of Lyons township. He returned to Nevada in 1867 and remained there three years, then came back to his boyhood home in Walworth county, and in 1870 bought more land adjoining his first tract. Here he has engaged successfully in general farming and stock raising, and is now the owner of one of the choice farms of the locality, consisting of two hundred forty-two and one-half acres in sections 31 and 32, and he has lived here for over forty years. He has kept his place well developed, well improved and well tilled and he has a pleasant home. He has always been a man of great industry and endurance, and now, although past his seventy-second milestone, he still works in the fields with those who help him with the work on his large farm.

His niece, Mrs. Schlax, and her husband and family live with him, she presiding over the household and they assisting with the work on the farm. Before her marriage she was known as Julia Brennan, daughter of Thomas and Ellen (Curran) Brennan. The mother was a sister of the subject and was born in New Jersey. Thomas Brennan was from Lowell, Massachusetts. To Thomas Brennan and wife eight children were born, namely: George, of Chicago; Margaret, wife of James Knowles, of Chicago; Mary, wife of Thomas McDonald, lives at Lake Como; James lives in Chicago; Julia, wife of Mr. Schlax; William, of Chicago; Miss Jane Brennan, of the Blackstone Hotel, Chicago; Nellie, wife of John Mariga, of Chicago. The Brennan home was in Lyons township and there the children grew up and the parents died, the death of the father occurring in March, 1881, and the mother in April, 1907. They and their children were members of the Catholic church.

Julia Brennan was married on February 24, 1892, to Michael Anton Schlax. He was born in Randall township, Kenosha county, Wisconsin, July 24, 1868, and is the son of Anton and Anna (Tolley) Schlax. His father was from Germany and his mother a native of New York. His father still lives in Kenosha county, this state, on the farm where the son, Michael A., was born, and where the mother died about 1884.

Michael A. Schlax grew up on the home farm, where he remained until he was about eighteen years of age, then learned the blacksmith's trade at West Chicago. Later he went to Sycamore, Wisconsin, where he worked successfully at his trade until about 1889, then came to Lake Geneva, where he continued blacksmithing with his usual success until March 1, 1911, when he moved his family to Mr. Curran's farm, where they now reside.

Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Schlax, named as follows: Earle, Homer, Marjorie, Michael, Ellen and Dorothy Jane. Members of this family all belong to the Catholic church.

Mr. Curran is now one of the old landmarks of his community, which he has seen transformed from a wild stretch of woods to a fine farming section, and in this work of transformation he has played no inconspicuous part. He talks interestingly of the early days here and of his experiences in the far West. He is a pleasant, companionable old gentleman, who has the respect of all who know him.

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#### PERRY CALVIN RANNEY.

Among the families who left the New England states, seeking a new home in the free Northwest, were the Ranneys. The only living descendants in this county bearing that name is Perry Ranney, farmer and stock raiser of Lafayette township, Walworth county, who was born on the old homestead on March 26, 1881. He is the son of Milo Bingham Ranney and Adelaide (Wylie) Ranney, the father born at Pittsfield, Vermont, on September 9, 1850, and the mother was born on the farm on which she now resides in Walworth county, Wisconsin, on May 12, 1856. She is the daughter of Calvin Hemstead Wylie and Nancy (Badger) Bell, who came to Walworth county in 1842 and settled on one hundred and sixty acres of land in Lafayette township, this farm still being in possession of the family. Here he developed a good farm and spent the balance of his life, dying on July 9, 1906, at the

advanced age of eighty-seven years, his wife having preceded him to the grave in 1877, at the age of fifty-two years. They were the parents of three children, the mother of the subject being the only one now living. Mr. Wylie was a Republican and held a number of township offices, such as township clerk and assessor, and was chairman of the board of supervisors. He was a member of the Congregational church.

The father of the subject came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1858 with his parents, Reuben and Lucia (Rockwell) Ranney, and they settled in Lafayette township on a farm on one hundred and forty acres, later trading for a farm of ninety-three acres, and here he spent the rest of his life, dying on January 16, 1882, his widow surviving until February 22, 1889.

Milo B. Ranney, the father, was educated in the public schools and the seminary of Lake Geneva and the Rochester Academy. He then turned his attention to farming, buying the homestead, which he operated successfully, and to which he added as he prospered through close attention to his individual affairs, until he had one of the finest farms in this part of the county, consisting of four hundred acres in Lafayette township, on which he carried on general farming and stock raising on a large scale, and for years made a specialty of dairying. He was the promoter of the Grove Creamery Company, which he managed during his lifetime, making it a large success. He was very successful in a business way and one of the substantial men of his township. Politically, he was a Republican and active in party affairs. He very ably discharged the duties of township clerk for a period of fourteen years, and he was a member of the county, town and school boards, and made his influence felt for the good of the community in all. Religiously, he belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church.

Milo B. Ranney was married on April 4, 1877, to Adelaide Wylie, and to this union one child was born, Perry Calvin, of this review.

The immediate subject of this sketch was reared on the home farm, and there he made himself useful when he became of proper age. He received a good education in the common schools, and was graduated from the Elkhorn high school in 1900. A year later he entered the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1905. After finishing school Mr. Ranney returned to the home farm, where he has since devoted himself to general farming and stock raising, in connection with which he engages extensively in the commission business, handling large quantities of butter, the output of the home factories. He has never been active in public affairs, although loyal in his support of the Republican party. In religious matters, he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church.

## GEN. JOHN WILLIAM BOYD.

In almost all American communities there may be found quiet, retiring men who never ask public favors, but who, nevertheless, have honors thrust upon them and appear prominent in public affairs and who exert a widely felt influence in the community in which they live and help to construct the proper foundation upon which the social and political world is built. Such men do an incalculable amount of good by their efforts to ameliorate the condition of the human race in any way possible. They strive to eliminate evil in its many forms, eradicate suffering and leave to posterity a heritage of peace and freedom.

One of the well beloved host referred to in the preceding paragraph was the late Gen. John William Boyd, for many years a leading citizen of Linn township, Walworth county, Wisconsin. He was born in Charlton, Saratoga county, New York, September 15, 1811. His ancestry is traceable back to John Boyd, Jr., who was born in Scotland, October 8, 1758, and who was the first of the family to come to America. He married Anna Northrup on March 25, 1779, who bore him ten children, of whom the third was John Logan Boyd, the father of General Boyd, of this review.

John Logan Boyd was born in Charlton, Saratoga county, New York, October 16, 1783. He was married in 1809 to Electa Bacon, of Williamstown, Massachusetts, who was born May 5, 1788, and was the daughter of Jacob and Lois (Packer) Bacon. Mr. Boyd removed to Solon, New York, in 1811. During the war with Great Britain, he was elected lieutenant of a company of infantry, and afterwards rose to the rank of colonel. He was elected to a number of public offices, including that of justice of the peace, which he held many years. In 1827 he was elected to the New York Legislature, where he made his influence felt for the good of his community and the state. He was an active member of the Congregational church, in which he filled numerous responsible positions, and was a zealous pioneer in the early temperance reformation and an active participant in most of the social reforms of his day.

Gen. John W. Boyd, of this sketch, was the second of a family of nine children. He went with his parents in his childhood to Solon, Cortland county, New York, where he received an academic education. On November 10, 1842, he was united in marriage with Welthea Hannah Hathaway, daughter of Major-Gen. Samuel G. Hathaway, of Solon, New York. Mrs. Boyd died June 14, 1855, leaving three children, Julia A., who married Dr. Miles

G. Hyde, lives in New York City; Helen Emma married Robert T. Turner, of Elmira, New York; Carolyn Hathaway Boyd died in 1882 at Solon, New York.

General Boyd followed farming until 1840, then spent four years in the mercantile business at Cincinnati, Cortland county, New York. In June, 1844, he came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and bought a farm in section 11, Linn township, near Lake Geneva, and there made his home the rest of his life. He developed one of the finest farms in the county and was a successful general farmer and stock raiser. In 1846 he was elected a representative from this county to the first constitutional convention and he served on the committee of the executive of the state. He ranked among the substantial members of that body, exercising at all times a remarkable degree of common sense, a practical knowledge of affairs, and giving constant attention to duties, rendered him a man of large influence in shaping the organic law of the state.

The subject was commissioned major-general of the territorial militia by Governor Dodge, and was known as General Boyd throughout the West. He was the first state senator from Walworth county and he again served as senator during 1858 and 1859, rendering valuable services to the state therein, being esteemed as an able, conscientious and influential member. He was an ardent Republican from 1856. Being a man of retiring habits, he shrank from prominent official positions, although his name was frequently mentioned in connection with the chief magistracy of the state, not, however, through any movement or desire of his own, but through the desire and partiality of his friends, who knew his peculiar fitness and great worth. In his own town he always occupied a prominent position, honored and respected by all who knew him. He was four times a member of the county board and was chairman of the same in 1874. From about 1860 to 1876 he was a member of the board of directors of the Madison Mutual Insurance Company, being president of the company most of that time. He discharged his every duty with ability and fidelity, and to the eminent satisfaction of all concerned.

On September 9, 1859, General Boyd was united in marriage with Mrs. Persis Annette Mudge, widow of Abram Mudge, deceased. Mrs. Boyd was one of seven children born to Ira and Chloe (Holcomb) Buell, of Plymouth, New York. Three daughters were born to General and Mrs. Boyd, namely: Louise Harriet, who married Nathan Dickinson, a member of the well known Albert Dickinson Seed Company, of Chicago. The other daughters, Alice Isabelle and Florence May, reside on the farm where their father made his home ever since coming to Wisconsin in the early days.

General Boyd passed on to his reward January 28, 1892. He taught in the Sunday school from the age of sixteen nearly all his life. From the year after his arrival in Lake Geneva he was an advisory officer in the Congregational church. He was especially favorable to the extension of religious and educational interests of the people. He was a man of splendid personal appearance, erect, strong, of military bearing, resembling in no small degree Abraham Lincoln. He was a man of genial, happy spirit, of broad intelligence and wide reading. His home was noted for its bright, cordial hospitality.

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### GEORGE DUNHAM.

One of the successful farmers and stock men of Troy township is George Dunham, a man who has succeeded in his chosen life work because he has not waited for someone else to do his planning and his work, but has been persistent in whatever he conceived to be the right course to pursue and has not been thwarted by discouragements and obstacles which are met in the path of life by everyone, and which should always be made stepping-stones to higher things.

Mr. Dunham was born in Troy, Walworth county, on July 11, 1858. He is the son of Robert and Mary (Storeman) Dunham, who located in Troy, this county, in 1856, bought a farm here and followed agricultural pursuits successfully until retiring from the active duties of life. Their family consisted of eleven children.

George Dunham of this sketch was reared on the home farm, where he worked during the summer months when a boy, and in the winter time he went to the public schools in his community. Early in life he took up farming and has continued the same to the present time, now owning one hundred and fifty-seven acres of excellent and well improved land in Troy township, which he tills in a manner that shows him to be up to the standard as a twentieth-century agriculturist. He is a breeder of Jersey cattle, and because of their superior quality he finds a very ready market for them. He also makes a specialty of dairying, for which he is well equipped in every respect and this forms no small part of his annual income.

Mr. Dunham was married in 1882 to Grace Pierce, daughter of John and Ann (Robins) Pierce, both natives of Cornwall, England, where they spent their earlier years, finally coming to America and they are now living in

Iowa. John and Grace (Robins) Pierce came to America in 1867 and located on a farm near Cleveland, Ohio, where she died, then the rest of the family, father and six children, came to New Hampton, Iowa. The father was a brother to Richard Pierce, who is mentioned under the sketch of Frank J. Cook. Mrs. George Dunham was reared by Jerome Madison Cook, after the death of her mother. One child has been born to the subject and wife, Frank, who lives at home.

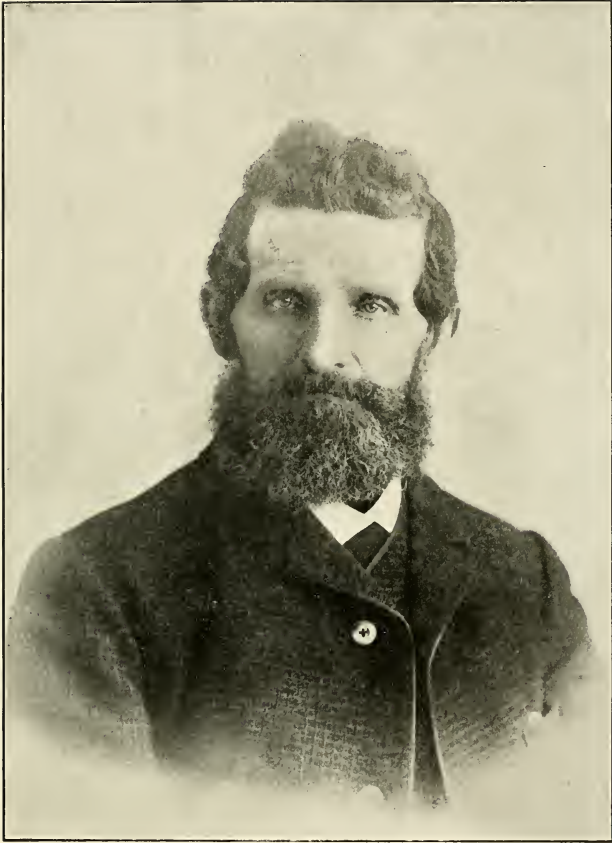
The subject is a member of the Methodist church and the Modern Woodmen of the World. Mrs. Dunham is a member of the Royal Neighbors. He is a Prohibitionist.

The parents of the subject were both born in Cambridgeshire, England, and there they grew up and came to Maine in an early day, but came on to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1856 and here they have since made their home, the father following farming many years, accumulating two hundred and twenty acres in Troy township. His family consisted of six sons and five daughters. These parents have lived retired in Troy Center for a number of years. The mother is a member of the Methodist church, and they both have many friends throughout the county.

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#### JAMES HENNESSEY.

There is nothing in the world more beautiful than the spectacle of a life that has reached its autumn with a harvest of good and useful deeds. It is like the forest in October days when the leaves have borrowed the richest colors of the light and glow in the mellowed sheen of the Indian summer, reflecting in their closing days all the radiance of their earthly existence. The man who has lived a clean, useful and self-denying life and has brought into potential exercise the best energies of his mind that he might make the world brighter and better for his being a part of it, while laboring for his individual advancement, cannot fail to enjoy a serenity of soul that reveals itself in his manner and conversation. When such a life is preserved in its strength and integrity so that even in age its influence continues unabated, it challenges the added admiration of those whose good fortune it is to be brought into contact with it. Such a life has been that of James Hennessey, for over fifty years one of the substantial and representative agriculturists of Walworth county, whose interests he has ever had at heart and sought to promote since



*James Hennessy*

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the early pioneer days, and he has played no inconspicuous part in the affairs of the community so long honored by his citizenship, and now, in the eighty-seventh year of a life that has been noted for its sterling honesty, industry and devotion to family, church and his adopted country, he can look backward with no compunction of conscience for misdeeds and forward to the Mystic Beyond with no fear. Such a life merits a record of its deeds, that the debt due it may be acknowledged and that it may serve as stimulus to others to endeavor to emulate it. But his record is too familiar to the people of the locality of which this history deals to require any fulsome encomium here, his life-work speaking for itself in stronger terms than the biographer could employ in polished periods. There is no doubt but that his long life has been due to his conservative habits, wholesome living and pure thinking. He is hospitable and charitable, his many acts of kindness springing from his largeness of heart rather than from any desire to gain the plaudits of his fellow men.

Like many of the energetic and esteemed citizens of this section of the great Badger commonwealth, James Hennessey is a native of the picturesque Emerald Isle, the light of day having first smitten his eyes at the historic village of Ballatona, county Limerick, Ireland, on June 21, 1826. He was the sixth of a family of six sons and three daughters born to Patrick and Catherine (Boland) Hennessey, each representing sturdy old families of that country.

James Hennessey grew to manhood in his native land and there received such educational advantages as the opportunities of that time afforded in the common schools. When a boy he went to Mitchellstown and became an apprentice to a baker; becoming skilled in this line of endeavor he followed the same until he emigrated to America, in 1849, when twenty-three years old, having made a tedious voyage in a sailing vessel from Liverpool to Boston. He began his career in the New World on a New England farm in Vermont, and worked as a farm hand until his marriage, on May 19, 1854, at Burlington, Vermont, to Mary Shannahan, a native of his own country, who had been in the United States about four years. As bride and groom, in the following autumn, they came west and lived about a year at Rockford, Illinois. In the summer of 1855 they joined the tide of emigration to the new Minnesota country and took a government claim at the head of Lake Leison. About 1859 the Sioux Indians manifested the troublesome disposition which soon after resulted in an uprising and the massacre and dispersal of thousands of settlers. James Hennessey abandoned the country before the climax of these

troubles, and finally located in Alabama and engaged in work under some railroad contractors. The Civil war brought this period of his career to a somewhat abrupt end, and on the day Fort Sumter was fired upon he rode on one of the last trains to leave Selma, Alabama, for the North, a portion of the railroad being destroyed on the night following his departure. He brought his family to Delavan, Walworth county, Wisconsin, and in June, 1861, settled in Richmond township, where he has spent over a half century of his well ordered and useful life. His first purchase of land was forty acres in section 26, where is his present homestead. During the early years of his residence here he was in the midst of the wooded, uncultivated conditions which characterized this portion of Wisconsin at that time, and he performed the work of a pioneer in developing the locality, enduring the hardships and privations incident to such a life, but, being a courageous and ambitious man, he permitted no obstacle to thwart him, and, persevering, soon became well established. Adding to his original purchase from time to time, as he prospered, he finally became the owner of one of the choice farms in Walworth county, consisting of about three hundred acres, which he brought up to a high state of improvement and cultivation, on which stands a commodious residence and a substantial set of outbuildings, everything about the place denoting thrift and prosperity and that a gentleman of excellent tastes has had its management in hand. Stock raising formed no small part of his life work and he is an excellent judge of all kinds of live stock. He has been a progressive farmer, a man who believed in adopting modern methods when it was clear that they were better than the old, and as a result of his research, study and close attention to general agricultural pursuits the soil of this fine landed estate today is as rich and productive as it was when first reclaimed from the primeval forest. And now as the twilight shadows gather softly about him in life's late afternoon, he finds himself in the midst of plenty as a result of his earlier years of strenuous endeavor and honest dealings.

Mr. Hennessey's wife, a faithful helpmeet, a genial, kindly, tender woman, of beautiful Christian faith, was summoned to her reward on a higher plane of action on February 12, 1906, in her seventy-first year. She was born in county Cork, Ireland, May 26, 1835, the third of a family of three sons and five daughters born to Cornelius and Margaret (O'Brien) Shannahan. She grew to womanhood and received her education in her native land. In 1850 she made the voyage from Liverpool to Boston, and lived in Vermont until her marriage to James Hennessey, which union was blessed by the birth of six children, namely: Mary Elizabeth, deceased; James T.; John E.; Patrick C.; Catherine E., deceased; and William A. The last named son pur-

chased the homestead in 1906 and he and his wife are very faithful in ministering to every want of our aged subject who lives with them.

James Hennessey has been a devoted member and faithful supporter of the Catholic church, which is his supreme comfort in the serene closing days of his happy life. In national politics he has relied for guidance upon the advice and leading of Patrick Ford, editor of the *Irish World*, a paper he has read, each successive issue, for forty years or since its first number in 1870.

Mr. Hennessey is deserving of a great deal of credit for what he has accomplished, in view of the fact that he started in life under none too favorable auspices and his early environment was all but encouraging. Coming to the practically undeveloped and sparsely settled state of Wisconsin without capital or friends, he worked at farm labor by the day until, by economy and self-denial, he got together enough money to purchase a forty-acre tract, mostly covered with timber, and he set to work with a will clearing the ground and preparing it for cultivation. The work was slow, for there were no modern implements of agriculture and oxen were used for the most part to do hauling and plowing. The early settlers depended for their meat supply principally on wild game, which was in abundance. Produce had to be traded, used as a sort of medium of exchange, as there was no money. This was during the first three years of the Civil war, and most of that time fifty cents a day was the wage scale, and that paid for in produce. But as time passed wages were increased, money became more plentiful and the pioneers lived more comfortably.

The subject has lived to see wondrous changes during his residence of a half century in Walworth county, has lived to see horses replace the oxen, the scythe give way to the mowing-machine, the reap-hook supplanted by the self-binder, and modern laborsaving machinery of all kinds doing the work of planting and harvesting formerly done by hand. He has seen the old-fashioned ox-cart and lumber wagon relegated to the rear and carriages, spring-wagons, automobiles and even airships take their places. He has lived to see vast forests melt away before the sturdy stroke of the axeman and fine farms spring up as if by magic, and the country everywhere dotted with substantial dwellings in place of the log cabin, schools and churches built in every community, and thriving towns and populous cities where once were the tepees of the red man or roamed at will the denizens of the wild, and he has seen the winding Indian trails changed into costly turnpikes and broad highways. He has not only been an interested spectator to all these vicissitudes, but has played well his part in the transformation. He can look back over it all with a clear mind (the fruits of right living) and recall many interesting reminis-

cences of the past, and recently when he celebrated his eighty-sixth birthday he was perfectly happy and in full possession of his faculties, and, in looking backward over the chequered path of life, he could recall no dishonest act, word or deed. He has often been heard to state that he is glad he never had any desire to become rich, it being his theory that a man is happiest when in moderate circumstances, and now in the evening of life he gets great comfort and peace in the thought that he bore manfully the labors and hardships of the long ago, although, indeed, often hard to bear, and little by little gained a competency that has permitted him to spend his declining years in honorable retirement. Every dollar he ever owed he paid cheerfully; he has enjoyed the confidence of those with whom he has had business dealings, his word being regarded as good if not better than the bond of most men. Every promise he ever made he fulfilled, and he discharged most worthily every trust reposed in him. He has been a loving husband, an indulgent father, his home life having been harmonious and ideal, his being a mutually happy and helpful household. He has been a great reader and has familiarized himself with current topics and the world's best literature and is a well informed man. He has always been a protectionist, a great admirer of James G. Blaine, Senator LaFollette and Colonel Roosevelt. Although a staunch Republican and usually a defender of party principles, he is not a biased partisan and frequently he voted the Democratic ticket, and he was a Greenbacker for a time. In local affairs party lines were never drawn, his support invariably going to the candidates whom he deemed best qualified to fill the offices sought. He has been a worthy and valued citizen in every respect and is eminently entitled to the high esteem which is gladly accorded by all who know him.

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#### MILEY ADSIT.

The biographies of the representative men of a county bring to light many hidden treasures of mind, character and courage, well calculated to arouse the pride of their family and of the community and it is a source of regret that the people are not more familiar with the personal history of such men, in the ranks of whom may be found tillers of the soil, mechanics, teachers, professional men, business men and those of varied vocations. Miley Adsit is one of the creditable representatives of the agricultural element in Walworth county and as such has made his influence felt in Troy township and earned a name for enterprise, integrity and honor.

Mr. Adsit was born at Palmyra, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, September 12, 1870. He is the son of Milo and Sarah (Curtis) Adsit, both natives of Ontario county, New York, the father born in 1829. There they grew up and were married, and emigrated to Jefferson county, Wisconsin, in the fifties, locating on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and there they developed a good farm and the mother is still living at the old home, the father having died on July 12, 1895. They were the parents of seven children, five sons and one daughter. Politically, Milo Adsit was a Democrat early in life, but later turned Prohibitionist. He was a member of the Methodist church.

The son Miley, of this review, was reared on the home farm where he worked when a boy and he attended the district schools during the winter months. He came to Walworth county in 1894 and in 1900 bought the farm of ninety-four acres in Troy township where he has carried on general farming and stock raising in a very successful manner. He has made most of the improvements on his place. In politics he is a Republican and he is at this writing treasurer of the school board in his district, taking quite an interest in educational affairs. Religiously, he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church.

On May 10, 1894, Mr. Adsit was united in marriage with Ida Luebke, a native of Michigan, and the daughter of Fred and Lydian Luebke. The mother is deceased, but Mr. Luebke is living in Milwaukee. Nine children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Adsit, two of whom died in infancy. Those living are, Lloyd, Lena, Lydia, Lawrence, Ruth, Rubie and Howard.

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#### SENECA BURCHARD CHATFIELD.

Troy township, Walworth county, can boast of few more progressive and successful farmers among her younger generation than Seneca Burchard Chatfield. As a citizen he is intelligent, enterprising and public-spirited, combining within himself those sterling qualities of manhood that make one not only a useful member of society, but a leader in whatever he undertakes, and there is added to this an honest determination of purpose and a kind heart, which impels him to help others while paving a path to prosperity for himself. From his boyhood his desire has been to earn every cent needed in the prosecution of his business affairs, and he has always lived up to his principle, preferring to do his own planning and execution.

Mr. Chatfield was born in Troy, Walworth county, in 1875. He is the son of Silas B. and Katherine (Kling) Chatfield, the father born in New Milford, Connecticut, on October 21, 1822, and the mother in New Hartford, Oneida county, New York, on May 10, 1832. He came from Connecticut to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in the fall of 1846 and bought eighty acres where the subject now lives, later adding forty acres to this, and here he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on February 7, 1908, and his widow is still living on the old homestead. He cleared the land and made the improvements, establishing a good home through his thrift and close application. He spent the last few years of his life in retirement. Politically, he was a Republican, but was never an office seeker. He was a member of the Baptist church, and very active in the same.

Silas B. Chatfield was married on May 6, 1849, to Mary Holcomb, of Walworth county, and to this union two children were born, Norman A. and Levi L., the former dying in 1894. The wife and mother died on May 6, 1854, on the fifth anniversary of her wedding. In 1857 Mr. Chatfield was married to Katherine Kling, daughter of Jacob and Dorothy (Gasper) Kling, the father born in New York in 1785, and the mother born in New Jersey in 1793. They spent the major part of their lives in the East and came to Walworth county, in May, 1849, settling in Troy township, and here the father's death occurred, when near the century mark, on October 12, 1883, having been preceded to the grave by his wife in 1874. They were the parents of twelve children, two of whom are living at this writing.

Seven children were born to Silas B. Chatfield and his second wife, namely: George K., born June 8, 1858; Omer C., born April 24, 1860, died in 1908; Dewitt C., born August 11, 1862; Jane E., born February 22, 1864, was burned to death on June 29, 1871; Sarah Elizabeth, born July 27, 1869, died November 29, 1901; Alice Jane, born June 22, 1873; Seneca B., subject of this sketch, is the youngest.

The father of the subject when young went with his parents from Connecticut to Otselia, New York, and here his parents died and he was bound out to Theodore Burchard. After he was eighteen years old he went to live with James Stratton, who worked the Burchard farm.

Seneca B. Chatfield of this sketch was reared on the farm and received his education in the public schools, and was graduated from the East Troy high school with the class of 1900. He spent one year in Milwaukee as book-keeper for the *American School Board Journal*, then came back to the farm in Walworth county, which he has managed since April, 1907, in a most

satisfactory manner, carrying on general farming and stock raising. Politically, he is a Republican of the progressive wing, but he has never been an aspirant for office.

Mr. Chatfield was married on December 4, 1907, to Ella M. Rhode, who was born in Mukwonago, Waukesha county, this state. She is the daughter of Fred and Amanda Rhode, an excellent family of East Troy township.

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### JAMES W. BABCOCK.

All will agree with the biographer that it is a fine thing to be able to spend one's life on the old home place, but few, through some ruling of fate, are permitted to do so. But the very atmosphere there seems different from that we encounter elsewhere, and the earlier associations and impressions received in boyhood are lasting and have, usually, much weight in shaping our careers. James W. Babcock, of Troy township, has been fortunate in this respect, in that we find him today on the place where he was born, and which he owns, just northwest of Troy Center, his birth having occurred here on January 18, 1852. He is the son of James and Lovey (Roberts) Babcock, both born in Vermont, where they spent their early lives, coming to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1840, and locating on the subject's farm, being among the pioneers, and here they established a rude home which in due course of time gave way to a comfortable one. The father owned eighty acres here. Later he built a store house in that vicinity, and there he spent the balance of his life, dying in 1865, his wife having preceded him to the grave in 1860. They were the parents of five children. The father of the subject married again, and had two children by his second wife.

James W. Babcock was reared on the home farm and received his education in the early schools. He has always farmed and with the exception of three years spent in Vermont, has lived in Troy township, this county. It was immediately after the death of his father that he went to Vermont. He now owns the home place of one hundred and twenty-three acres, which he has kept well improved and which he has farmed successfully. He has built new barns and other necessary outbuildings. He is a breeder of Guernsey cattle, and he also carries on dairying, being well equipped for the same. He retired from the active duties of life in 1906 and now lives comfortably in the splendid new dwelling which he erected in 1906, which with other substantial building occupies three acres of one corner of the farm.

Mr. Babcock was married in 1876 to Mary McGee, who was born in East Troy, daughter of Pat and Mary (Donley) McGee, both natives of Ireland, who came as very early settlers to East Troy, Wisconsin, and there they lived on a farm. They were the parents of eight children, three of whom are still living. To the subject and wife the following children have been born: Elmer, Marion, Willie and Jessie, all deceased; Flora, who married Ray Combes, lives on the home place, and they have two children, Lovey and Elizabeth; Lovey married Ray Lacey, of East Troy.

Mr. Babcock is a Democrat and he was once township treasurer. His wife belongs to the Catholic church.

The subject's oldest child, Elmer, married Gertrude Parsons, of Eagle; they are both now deceased, and their only child, Fay, lives with the subject and wife. Marion Babcock, the subject's daughter, married Greeley Parsons, the latter still living. One daughter was born to them, Marion, who now lives with her grandparents on the Parsons' side, her mother dying some years ago.

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#### E. J. CRANE.

There are few farmers of northeastern Walworth county who have met with more encouraging success here than E. J. Crane, one of those strong, sturdy characters who has contributed largely to the material welfare of the community and township in which he resides, being a modern agriculturist and as a citizen public-spirited and progressive in all that the terms imply, and for a number of years he has been an important factor in promoting the progress of this county. He is now living practically retired from the active business affairs of life, enjoying a well-earned respite.

Mr. Crane was born at Hector, Tompkins county, New York, on February 11, 1842, and he is the son of E. L. Crane and wife, both born in the state of New York, where they grew up and were married, beginning life there in their native vicinity, and in 1855 they came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and settled in Lafayette township on a farm, but they spent the last days of their life in Minnesota, his death occurring there on May 2, 1891, at the age of eighty-one years, and there the mother of the subject passed away in 1896 at the age of seventy-five. They were the parents of five children, two of whom are living.

E. J. Crane, of this sketch, was reared on the farm where he worked when a boy and attended the public schools in the winter-time, later attended the

academy at Milton, Wisconsin. Early in life he turned his attention to farming and made that his life work and he has met with encouraging success at this world-old occupation, having a good home and productive and well improved farm in Lagrange township. Politically, he is a Republican, but has never been an aspirant for public office. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Crane was married in 1869 to Susan C. Cox, of Lagrange township, daughter of a highly respected family, and here she grew up and received her education. To Mr. and Mrs. Crane two children have been born, namely: Clara A., who married O. A. Bronlee, lives in Iowa; Mary E., who married O. R. Bronlee, lives in Troy township, this county, and they have two children, Edwin C. and Lucy.

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#### HENRY EDMUND THAYER.

Success comes to such an earnest worker as Henry Edmund Thayer, farmer and stock man of Troy township, Walworth county, as a matter of course, for he has followed the right leads, having adopted excellent methods and laid out commendable plans early in life, whereby to shape his course. He was born at Troy, this county, on July 15, 1864. He is the son of Henry E. and Emma (Hibbard) Thayer, the father a native of the state of Massachusetts and the mother of Troy, this county. His paternal grandparents were Holister B. and Rebecca M. (Potter) Thayer, he a native of Massachusetts and she of Connecticut. They grew up in New England and were educated and married there, coming to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1850 and located in Troy, and in that neighborhood the elder Thayer spent the balance of his life in farming. The maternal grandparents were George and Elizabeth (Clark) Hibbard, both natives of Massachusetts, from which state they came in the thirties to Walworth county, being among the very earliest settlers, when this country was yet the domain of the red man and the wild beast. They took up government land and endured the hardships and privations incident to life at that early period, finally becoming very comfortably situated through their industry. Here the grandfather spent the rest of his life engaged in farming, reaching the unusual age of ninety-six years. He was influential in the affairs of Troy and vicinity.

Henry E. Thayer, father of the subject, grew to manhood in Massachusetts and received his education there. Early in life he came to Milwau-

kee, Wisconsin, where he engaged in the hardware business, and for some time he was superintendent of the Davis Transfer Company. He then ran a livery barn for eighteen years. For the past sixteen years he has resided with the subject. His wife died on January 13, 1895.

Henry E. Thayer, of this sketch, was educated in the Milwaukee high school. He learned the machinist's trade which he followed for three years, then was with his father in the livery business for four years. In 1888 he came to Troy, Walworth county, and bought a farm and has since been engaged in general farming and dairying. He has an excellent place of one hundred and ninety-one acres.

Mr. Thayer was united in marriage with Sarah Brown, of Milwaukee, in 1884, and three children have been born to them, namely: Ruby, now Mrs. Lewis Belk; Olive married Percy Webster; Glendora married Mrs. Arthur Healey.

Mr. Thayer is a member of the Methodist church, and politically he is a Republican. He has been township treasurer for two years, and chairman for four years, which position he still holds. He belongs to the Free and Accepted Masons and the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Thayer has been school clerk for many years.

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#### CHARLES KNEIERT.

Among the representative farmers of foreign birth, of whom such a large number have cast their lot in Walworth county, Charles Kneiery, owner of a splendid farmstead in Troy township, is deserving of special mention. He is carrying on the various departments of his enterprise with that discretion and energy which are sure to find their natural sequel in definite success, having always been a hard worker, a good manager and a man of economical habits, and being fortunately situated in a thriving farming community, it is no wonder that he has forged to the front and is comfortably situated.

Mr. Kneiery was born in Germany April 16, 1855, the son of Fred and Jennie (Orach) Kneiery, both born in Germany, in which country they grew up, married and spent their lives, both being now deceased. They were the parents of eight children, seven daughters and one son, all living.

Charles Kneiery, of this review, grew up in his native country and attended the public schools there. He emigrated to New York City in 1873,

landing there on May 12th of that year with less than five dollars in capital, but he had determination and courage and, knowing this to be a land of unlimited opportunities, he soon had a start. On July 5, 1873, he arrived at Palmyra, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, where he began working on a farm by the month, at first receiving but eight dollars per month. He was economical and saved his money and in time bought a farm which he later sold, then bought and sold another; in 1901 he purchased the farm on one hundred and sixty acres in Troy township, Walworth county, which he still owns and which he had developed into a fine farm and has been rewarded with abundant success as a general farmer and stock raiser, and he has a good set of buildings, keeping his place well improved. He has made his own property.

Politically, Mr. Kneiart is a Republican and he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church.

On December 7, 1877, Mr. Kneiart was united in marriage with Mary Witte, a native of Germany, in which country her parents lived and died. She came to America in early life. Her death occurred on February 19, 1909. To Mr. and Mrs. Kneiart six children were born, all living, namely: George, Fred and Frank, twins; Jennie, Carrie and Lottie.

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### JOHN HENRY WINN.

We are glad to give space in this history to a brief resume of the career of John Henry Winn, one of the successful farmers of Whitewater township, Walworth county, for since casting his lot with us he has been public spirited and loyal to our institutions, having always been found on the right side of questions looking to the development of his community in any way and at the same time has won a reputation for honesty and straightforward principles, advocating wholesome living.

Mr. Winn was born in England on February 21, 1851. He is the son of Robert Winn, well known pioneer citizen of this county, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

The subject came to Jefferson county, Wisconsin, with his parents. He grew to manhood in England and was educated there, and he was employed in a brewery in his native land. After arriving in America he devoted his attention to farming. He came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1879 and became the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land in Lagrange township, which he purchased in 1896. He has made a specialty of fruit

growing and dairying and has met with a large measure of success in each as well as general farming. He has a fine farm and a good home. Politically, Mr. Winn is a Republican and in religious matters he is an Episcopalian.

On January 15, 1876, Mr. Winn was united in marriage with Bertha Hansen, who was born in Norway, October 4, 1848. She came to Jefferson county, Wisconsin, with her father, Hans Hansen; her mother died in Norway. The father finally moved to Minnesota where his death occurred.

To John H. Winn and wife were born the following children: Minnie Helena married John Boltz; Frank Emory, who married Ella Fuller, works the home farm, and is carrying on the general work of the same very satisfactorily; he and his wife have three children, Emory Henry, Bertha June and Almond. Clara May, the youngest child of the subject, is the wife of James Cernahan, an electrician; they live in Lagrange township, this county. Mrs. John H. Winn was called to her rest on October 10, 1902.

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#### JAMES MEANS.

No citizen of a past generation in Lagrange township, Walworth county, was better or more favorably known than the late James Means, long an enterprising farmer and stock raiser and a citizen who, while advancing the interest of himself and immediate family, never neglected his duties to the public. Whatever of success he attained was entirely owing to his individual efforts, his energy and natural ability. From small beginnings he gradually attained a prominence in his adopted county, which entitled him to the high esteem which he enjoyed among his neighbors, all of whom reposed in him the utmost confidence.

Mr. Means was born in England in 1829 and there his parents lived and died. He spent his boyhood in his native country and was educated there. He emigrated to America when conditions at home did not seem to be encouraging and he located in Herkimer county, New York, later coming on west and taking up his abode in Walworth county, Wisconsin, in an early day and here started life on a small scale in typical pioneer fashion. He worked hard in order to get a start, carving his home from the wilderness, and here he was married in 1858 to Mary Taylor, who, like himself, was of an excellent English family, her birth having occurred in England, on August 24, 1836. She is the daughter of George and Ann (Greaves) Taylor, both natives of Eng-

land, where they grew up, were educated and married, and from there they emigrated to America in 1853 and located in Lagrange township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, on a farm of eighty acres, to which they added until they had one hundred and twenty acres and here they established a good home in which they spent the rest of their lives. Their family consisted of seven children, six of whom are living. Politically, Mr. Taylor was a Republican and a member of the Methodist church.

James Means began life for himself by renting land; later he bought eighty acres of land which he improved and here his death occurred in 1871.

To the subject and wife four children were born, namely: Abram died in 1892; George died in 1891; Ellen married Frank Bishop, of Whitewater, this county, and they became the parents of four children, George, Alma, Arthur and Frank. Mrs. Bishop's death occurred in 1894. Jennie Means died in 1889.

George Bishop married in 1905 Marion Lawton, who was born in Lagrange township, this county; she was the daughter of Grant Lawton and wife, of Antigo, Wisconsin. They have one child, Jean. Alma Bishop, who married Herbert Lawton, has two children, Harvey and Marjorie. Arthur Bishop married Irma Fry and they have two children, one living, Hazel.

George Bishop, grandson of Mrs. James Means, manages the homestead, which now consists of two hundred acres, well improved and under a high state of cultivation. He also carries on stock raising in connection with general farming.

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#### FRANCIS L. ANDRUS.

One of the substantial and progressive farmers and stock raisers in Troy township, Walworth county, is Francis L. Andrus. He belongs to that class of men who win in life's battles by sheer force of personality and determination, and in whatever he has undertaken he has shown himself to be a man of ability and honor.

Mr. Andrus was born in the state of Connecticut, near Hartford, on September 7, 1844. He is the son of Elisha Leroy Andrus and Clarissa (Dean) Andrus, the father born in Connecticut, May 31, 1813, and there he grew up and was married on August 27, 1843. They came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1845 and settled in Troy township, near Troy Center, on eighty acres. Here he began life as a pioneer and in due course of time prospered, adding to his little farm until he owned two hundred and forty-

five acres at the time of his death, on March 6, 1854. His wife survived him over a half century, dying on December 26, 1899. Three sons were born to them: Arthur Denison, born in Troy township, March 29, 1847; Aaron S., born February 22, 1853, and Francis L., of this sketch, who was the eldest of the three. Politically, Elisha L. Andrus was a Whig and he became active in local affairs, at one time holding the office of superintendent of schools in Troy township. He and his wife were members of the Universalist church.

Francis L. Andrus was reared on the home farm and, being the eldest child and his father dying early, much of the responsibility of tending the place and helping the rest of the family devolved upon him. In 1856 the mother moved to Racine and there the subject was educated in the public and high schools. In 1867 he returned to the home farm in Walworth county, but went back to Racine in 1871, returning to the farm in 1873 and here he has remained to the present time, keeping the homestead well improved and under a high state of cultivation; however, accumulating a competency, he has lived retired since 1892, in which year he built a commodious and attractive residence, also built a fine home on the farm adjoining his residence at this writing. He owned one hundred and forty acres of the old homestead which he sold in 1893 to Edgar B. Watrous.

Politically, Mr. Andrus is a Republican and he has long been active in local affairs, being now township clerk, having held this office many years. He was the first town clerk in 1869 and he became chairman of the town board. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Mr. Andrus was married on October 6, 1869, to Jennie E. Nobes, of Cleveland, Ohio, and to this union four children were born, namely: Eugene L., born June 24, 1870, lives in Troy Center; Nonna C., born February 12, 1872, in Racine, died September 7, 1872; Ida May, born November 1, 1874, died January 12, 1879; Jessie J., born August 4, 1876, died January 18, 1879; Pearl Isabel, born May 23, 1878, died January 22, 1879. The wife and mother passed to her rest on October 30, 1880, and on September 30, 1889, Mr. Andrus was married to Mary Viola Watrous, a native of Walworth county, born here September 5, 1863, the daughter of John G. and Anna (Bunker) Watrous, who came to this county in 1853 and located in Troy township, and here they spent the rest of their lives, Mr. Watrous dying on June 11, 1898, and his wife on October 16, 1892. Five children were born to Mr. Andrus and his second wife, namely: Alice May, born May 8, 1891; Sidney F., born May 14, 1893; Wallace Watrous, born March 16, 1897, died July 7, 1897; Orion E., born December 28, 1899; Elwin A., born March 28, 1904.

## KNUTE G. KNUTSON.

Among the representative farmers and stock raisers of Whitewater township, Walworth county, is Knute G. Knutson, who is successfully operating a fine farm, carrying on his line of business with that enterprise and discretion which are sure to find their sequel in the attainment of a definite end. He has spent his life here and has wisely refrained from wandering about the land seeking "a better country."

Mr. Knutson was born in Lagrange township, this county, December 12, 1856, the son of Gullick and Ambjor (Olson) Knutson, both natives of Norway, where they spent their childhood, emigrating to America while yet single in the forties, and they were married at Palmyra, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, and there began life on a farm, starting in a small way in the wilderness, taking up a homestead from the government. When the Civil war came on he went to the front, proving an excellent soldier. He was severely wounded by two minie balls in the head, from which he died while on a furlough, on February 4, 1864. His widow survived nearly thirty years, dying on November 7, 1903. After the death of the father the family came back to Lagrange township, Walworth county, after an absence of several years, the subject being at that time eight years of age.

Knute G. Knutson was educated in district school No. 9, this township, and he worked out on the farms of Lagrange township for a period of thirteen years, though part of that time he was at Palmyra and in Dane county. Then he rented for some time and in 1885 bought forty acres where his present buildings are. About 1890 he purchased one hundred and twenty acres more. He built a good barn in 1897 and a house of ample proportions in 1905, also other substantial buildings have been put up by him and he has gradually improved his land until he has one of the choice farms of the township, where he carries on general farming and stock raising. He has made his property unaided, the large success he has achieved being due to good management and hard work. He also carries on a good dairy business, and raises a fine grade of Guernsey cattle, which, owing to their superior quality, always find a ready market.

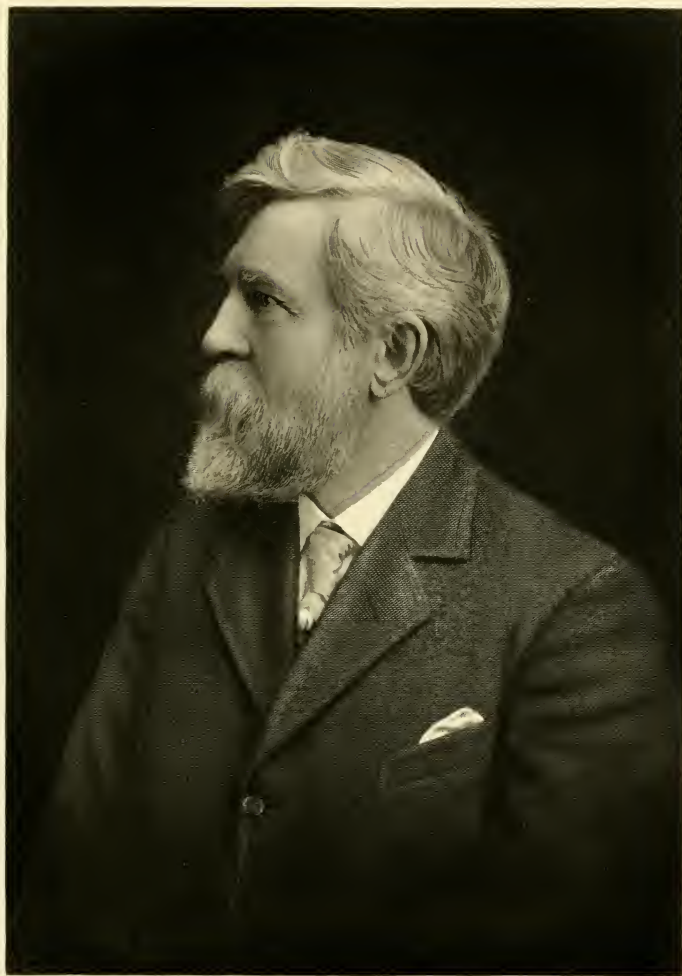
Mr. Knutson was married on March 14, 1885, to Maggie Nelson, who was born in Norway and who was two years of age, 1861, when she was brought to America. She was the daughter of Nels Gunderson and Olive Nelson. They came to Whitewater, Wisconsin, locating with Mr. Halvorsen for a while. Then moved where Tom Nelson now lives. The father of Mrs. Knutson has devoted his life to farming.

The subject and wife are the parents of three children, namely: Helena Jenette, born June 2, 1886; Gilbert, born May 13, 1890; Minerva, born August 29, 1894. Mr. Knutson is a Republican, and he has been a member of the local school board. He belongs to the Lutheran church.

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### JOHN E. BURTON.

One of the most conspicuous figures in the recent history of the state of Wisconsin is John E. Burton, too well known to the readers of this historical and biographical compendium to need any formal introduction here, a man actively identified with the industrial and business interests of Milwaukee and vicinity, widely known as one of the leading financiers of this section of the state. Equally noted as a citizen whose useful career has conferred credit upon the state and whose marked abilities and sterling qualities have won for him much more than local repute, if not, indeed, a national fame, he holds today distinctive precedence as one of the most progressive men that ever inaugurated and carried to successful termination large and important undertakings in this locality. For over thirty-three years he has been a conspicuous figure in the mining world, his extensive operations in Alaska bringing him up to the front rank of his compeers. Strong mental powers, invincible courage and a determined purpose that hesitates at no opposition have so entered into his composition as to render him a dominant factor in the business world and a leader of men in important enterprises. He is essentially a man of affairs, of sound judgment, keen discernment, rare acumen, far-seeing in what he undertakes, and every enterprise to which he has addressed himself has resulted in liberal financial returns. Mr. Burton's extensive business interests are but the legitimate fruitage of consecutive effort, directed and controlled by good judgment and correct moral principles. He has forged his way to the front over obstacles that would have discouraged and even thwarted men of less heroic mettle, gradually extending the limits of his intellectual horizon until he is not only one of our twentieth-century captains of industry, but also one of the best developed mentally, having always been a close observer and a profound student and kept fully abreast of the times. Taken as a whole, his career presents a series of continued successes rarely equaled in the state. In the most liberal acceptation of the term, he is the architect of his own fortunes and eminently worthy of the proud American title of self-made man, meriting the high esteem in which he is universally



John E. Burton  
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held. This high position in the minds and hearts of the people has been won to a considerable degree through his marked ability as a man of letters and for his public benefactions. All will agree that the men most influential in promoting the advancement of society and in giving character to the times in which they live are two classes, the men who study and the men of action. Whether we are more indebted for the improvement of the age to the one class or the other is a question of honest difference of opinion; neither class can be spared and both should be encouraged to occupy their several spheres of labor and influence, zealously and without mutual distrust. The career of Mr. Burton would indicate that he combines in his makeup both the elements of the scholar and the public-spirited man of affairs.

John E. Burton was born October 19, 1847, in New Hartford, Oneida county, New York. His ancestors were natives of Conningsby, Lincolnshire, England. His father, John Burton, emigrated to the United States in 1829. He married Ruth Jeanette Allen, the daughter of a soldier of the war of 1812. She was a devout woman, the possessor of many commendable attributes of head and heart. The father was a successful business man of exemplary character and was noted for his fortitude, courage and hospitality.

John E. Burton was reared in a most wholesome home atmosphere, and his early training beneath his parental roof-tree has no doubt contributed in no small measure to his success in later life. He was educated at the Cazenovia Seminary and at Whitestown, New York, having been graduated from the Whitestown Seminary with high honors in June, 1868. He won first prize for oratory in the Cazenovia Seminary. He began life as a school teacher at Cazenovia and during two years following was principal of the public schools in Richmond, Illinois. In 1870 he became principal of the public schools in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. In 1872 he established the *Geneva Herald* and a year later resigned from his school work to fill the position of editor of this paper. He followed journalism for four years, when he sold his paper and devoted his time to the manufacturing interests of Lake Geneva. He has been identified with nearly every public enterprise in Lake Geneva, and has acquired the enviable reputation of having done more for the promotion of this beautiful city than any other individual.

Mr. Burton's next most important work was as general agent and manager of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of New York for the state of Wisconsin. He was very successful in this field of endeavor, writing eight hundred thousand dollars of business for the company the first year. He was then promoted by the company to general manager for Wisconsin, Minnesota

and northern Michigan and increased the business to three million dollars in one year. In four years his total business exceeded six million and five hundred thousand dollars. In 1885 he resigned this position and undertook the work of promoting the iron mining interests of the Goebic and Penokee range, making an exploration of this country in February of that year, traveling by rail to the end of the railroad line and the balance of the way on foot and snowshoes. His investigation satisfied him of the value of some of the properties, which he secured, and their development within three years made him a millionaire and the acknowledged chief promoter of the Goebic range. He gave Hurley, Wisconsin, its place on the map, being its pioneer promoter, and erected the Iron Bank building, thirteen stores, thirty-five dwellings, the big foundry and the Burton hotel, two hundred feet long and four stories high, the latter building alone costing fifty-five thousand dollars, and it still stands as the best in the iron country. He also erected the Burton Manufacturing block in Chicago at an expense of one hundred and twenty thousand dollars. He purchased large amounts of property in Lake Geneva, and in almost every instance improved the poorer grades of buildings and built some fifteen or twenty new ones, including the Florence Manufacturing building, the Odell typewriter factory, many dwellings, also costly barns on the various farm properties. Seventy-five thousand dollars was put in the Aguan canal project to connect the Aguan river of Honduras with the Caribbean sea, opening up the resources of the country to the commerce of the world; a creditable scheme and one which ought yet to be carried out by some American with money and brains. It was his aim to connect the canal at Truxillo, above the rapids of the river. The object of this enterprise was to make a useless river navigable for two hundred miles and by this work control the mahogany markets of the world. By virtue of this effort Mr. Burton has the distinction of having received mention in Herringshaw's "Encyclopedia of American Biography." This work contains no paid biographical sketches of any kind, and only a few lines are devoted to men who have won distinction or have done something for the progress of our country. A large interest was taken in the Oakwood Sanitarium at Lake Geneva, a big grist mill was purchased, the Ladies' Seminary bought, the steamer line on Geneva lake was also acquired. He organized the American Fiber Company, which aims to produce merchantable fiber from any form of vegetation which contains fiber, owning the controlling interest in the same. He also purchased a book store in Chicago, undertook the stocking of seven large farms with high grade live stock, the controlling interest in the First National Bank of Lake Geneva was purchased, as well as the principal interest in the bank at Hurley. A round

million dollars' worth of various kinds of real estate was purchased for cash and iron stocks and together with the management of seven iron mines, employing nearly a thousand men. For upwards of two years his average expenses were forty thousand dollars per month, yet during that time no one went without their pay.

Mr. Burton devoted five years to mining in Calaveras county, California, developing and operating a crystal mine, taking out the largest rock crystals recorded in geology, the product of twelve tons being sold to Tiffany & Company, of New York. He also opened the Green Mountain hydraulic mine and extracted from this property gold to the value of over forty thousand dollars. Failing health forced him to return home in 1900.

Mr. Burton's attention having been directed to the northern Alaskan gold fields, he obtained all the information he could get about the Nome country, and decided that it was a promising field for exploitation, after spending the season of 1904 at Nome, Cape Prince of Wales, and visiting the graphite mine of Siberia. He accordingly acquired extensive interests of both gold placer and tin properties in this region, and thus became one of the potent factors in developing the resources of Seward peninsula. The gold mines are situated near Nome in the most promising part of the Nome district, and the tin properties are near Cape Prince of Wales on Cape Mountain. At this place the prospects for obtaining tin in commercial quantities possessed almost infinite possibilities, as Mr. Burton was quick to see, and his company at once shipped a ten-stamp mill and concentrators to its mines on Cape Mountain, and a large quantity of ore was soon obtained. This energetic initial move marked the beginning of a new world supply of commercial tin. He later succeeded, in December, 1903, in combining the tin interests of the York district in northwestern Alaska, the consolidation being to the betterment of all concerned.

Assuming nothing from rumors from the Nome country regarding the fabulous discoveries of tin, he went to Washington City and consulted the United States government geologist. He was shown accumulations in the geological department of tin ores gathered in Alaska, which showed that rich deposits were evidently there, of rich commercial tin, sixty per cent. pure tin or twelve hundred pounds to each ton of ore concentrated. He had no trouble in interesting capital in the tin fields of York which was then believed to contain deposits of tin aggregating possibly four hundred million dollars.

Mr. Burton has shown his strength in the successful culmination of the many financial enterprises in which he has been engaged. He has also shown his strength of character in other ways. At the age of twelve years he began

a collection of coins, and when he was thirty-four years old he had the most valuable collection of American coins ever owned in the Northwest. This splendid numismatic collection was sold under the hammer in New York city to supply Mr. Burton with funds to assist him in paying a security debt of twenty-eight thousand dollars. The collection was sacrificed for ten thousand and eight hundred dollars—and this was the penalty he paid for endorsing a friend's notes. A writer, in referring to this act of Mr. Burton, says:

"This was a sacrifice indeed, view it as you may. It was an act of dauntless courage, backed by a heroic sense of integrity, for it required much more than ordinary courage to give up one's cherished possessions and to severely flagellate one's self without flinching. Mr. Burton was now left to face the world empty-handed. To begin is a task, but not a severe one, for it is the common lot of all; but to begin over again is what tests the mettle of which we are made. The world smiles benignly upon the beginner, but not so friendly on him who seeks to retrieve fortune lost."

Mr. Burton has always been a student and has familiarized himself with the world's best literature, and at the same time has kept well abreast of the times on current events and latest discoveries in the world of science and invention. He owns a private library of fourteen thousand volumes which is said to be the finest in the state of Wisconsin. This library represents the careful and constant accumulations of over thirty years. It contains two thousand four hundred and sixty volumes on Abraham Lincoln and Lincolniana. Everything that has ever been published about the martyred President may be found in the splendid collection that has been gathered by Mr. Burton, who has always been an ardent admirer of the Great Emancipator. Mr. Burton has written an oration on Abraham Lincoln which is a classic. Regarding him as the best man of history, studying his character from every actual and imaginary point of view, and being absorbed with his theme, it is not surprising that his eulogy possesses the strong individuality which entitles it to live with the best thought of the age. This splendid effort has been widely praised by critics. In order to give the reader some idea of Mr. Burton's masterly style, we quote from this oration a few random paragraphs:

"The character of Abraham Lincoln stands so high above all possible wrong doing that honesty was never mentioned or thought of as a virtue in him.

"He was not only the best product of pure American civilization which his country produced, but he was, all in all, the best public man and sincerest statesman who has ever figured in the destiny of this nation or in the history of the world.

"To all right-minded Americans he is the ripe and rounded product of what every man would like to be, and he will therefore remain, through all time, the symbol of perfected character. The whole world loves Lincoln because he did what the world knows was right, and he avoided doing what the world knows to be wrong, and it is therefore doubtful if any human being will ever again hold a similar position of greatness in a similar and transcendent epoch, or ever fulfill the world's expectations so completely, as did Lincoln.

"His fame grows so steadily, so perfectly, so naturally, and so mightily, and the very fiber of his character comes out so brilliantly as the searchlight of time reveals him from every possible point of view that the fear among thoughtful men is, that, with the lapse of centuries, his fame may pass the boundary line allotted to flesh and blood and become obscured by entering the realm of the mythical, where he may be lost to the world of struggling men among the gods and the myths which always inhabit the past.

"The great dream of the centuries seems to have blossomed in his eventful life, and the more we learn of it the more we come to realize and to know that in him was the perfect man in the sane and soundest sense of the word, physically, mentally and morally. Poverty made him good; suffering made him great; circumstance made him President; fidelity made him beloved; courage made him heroic, and martyrdom made him immortal.

"You may search the minutest records of recorded time and you cannot find another character who made so few mistakes during the chaos of such trying ordeals, or who possessed on all great occasions that sublimity of faith and courage of action, as mark and make the character of Abraham Lincoln; neither can you find another man who could control, and even guide to glory, all his impetuous subordinates in the heat of conflict and yet without offense compel them to unconscious obedience in the fulfillment of a destiny which he alone could read in the dusk of deathless performance.

"The record of this world does not show another character who was schooled in almost continuous failure in youth and early manhood, in order that he might the better serve as the successful and great commander in the most momentous epoch of human progress. Nowhere in the library of nations can you find another character so varied in all experiences and yet where every experience was clearly given for the perfect formation of a character unique and matchless.

"I have seen Abraham Lincoln and heard his voice. This is to me a happy recollection. \* \* \* With other men it was literary achievement; the

triumphs of war; the aggrandizement of conquest; the glory of new discovery or the flight of imagination in the kingdom of art or song; but with Lincoln it was character, *character*, CHARACTER. This is why his name grows with each succeeding year. \* \* \* As a patriot he was ambitious, but an ambition that never crowded or even approached the limit of his patriotism, therefore absolutely safe in all emergencies; as a martyr, beautiful beyond that of saint or scientist, and as a memory he was and is the dearest, the gentlest and the most God-like."

The following extract from *The LaRue County Herald*, published at Hodgenville, Kentucky, under date of August 2, 1906, is deemed worthy of reproduction here, in connection with Mr. Burton's work relating to the martyred President:

"Mr. John E. Burton, a successful business man and a man of letters, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, though a comparative stranger to the people of this section, is greatly admired by the people of LaRue county, and especially so by those who can appreciate the patriotic spirit which once brought Mr. Burton to Kentucky and which gave him a limited acquaintance with our people.

"When the Lincoln birthplace was to be sold Mr. Burton came to Kentucky as a prospective purchaser. He stood at the court-house door in Hodgenville the day the farm was sold and bid on it until he saw that it would go to an unlimited price and he permitted Mr. Collier's agent to buy it. He was not buying it for speculation, but simply wanted the honor of possessing the place and he wanted to see that it would fall into the hands of those who would not attempt to handle it as a financial speculation. While in the town he was surprised to observe that the town made little or no attempt to impress upon the visitor the fact that it was the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, and it was his opinion that our people should give greater emphasis to the pride we take in that matter. Shortly after he went home he wrote to a friend here and repeated his surprise that the town had nothing to speak out to strangers and to tell them that Lincoln was born within two miles of the place, and in order to inspire our people with the true spirit in that respect he stated in his letter that if the people would secure sufficient funds to build a monument in the public square to the memory of Lincoln, he would contribute one hundred dollars to the fund. In this way Mr. Burton became the originator of the idea of erecting the monument which will soon be built in the public square and which the Kentucky Legislature aided by giving two thousand and five hundred dollars. For the reason that our people are manifesting great pride in the monument to be erected and for the further reason that Mr. Burton first conceived the idea, we have reason to say that he is held in the

highest esteem by our people and the *Herald* is glad to be able to print his picture herewith, as a formal introduction to those who failed to see him personally when he was here.

"As an enthusiastic admirer of the lamented Lincoln, Mr. Burton does not yield to any man. He holds Lincoln as his ideal man of all men. He has met Lincoln and has heard his voice. He has studied his life and is thoroughly familiar with his hero. He knows of everything that has been accredited to the life of Lincoln. When he hears of any incident connected with the life of the great man he 'runs the report down' and investigates it. And in this connection it can be said that Mr. Burton is the possessor of the rarest, if not the largest, private collection of works of biography upon Lincoln in existence, the volumes numbering over two thousand. He has portraits, paintings, photographs, autographs, mementoes and souvenirs of Lincoln by the hundreds. This is all the result of many years of study and labor on his part and fully illustrates the great admiration he possesses for the war President."

In speaking of Mr. Burton's fine collection of Lincoln relics, *The Chicago Evening Post*, under date of December 8, 1908, says:

"The approaching centenary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, which is arousing public interest to all phases of the life of the great American, has brought to light one of his most devoted admirers and enthusiasts, John E. Burton, of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

"Mr. Burton has devoted his life to collecting all the published literature relating to Lincoln, and as a result of his labors has amassed a collection of over twenty-three hundred volumes, together with many pamphlets and still more precious autographic documents. This is said to be the largest and finest collection of Lincolniana in existence, surpassing all public and private collections on this subject.

"Of the autograph documents one of universal interest is an authentic copy of the Proclamation of Emancipation, signed by Abraham Lincoln and William H. Seward, President and Secretary of State, and by John G. Nicolay, private secretary of the President. Of these there are only two in existence, the other being among the treasures of the state department at Washington. The original was burned in the Chicago fire of 1871. The genuineness of the signatures attached to this copy have been attested to by the late John Hay.

"Other legal documents in Lincoln's handwriting proved that he belonged to six different law firms. These date from 1838 to 1855, and discover the firms of Stuart & Lincoln, Logan & Lincoln, Harlan & Lincoln, Lincoln &

Herndon, Lincoln & Lamon and Goodrich & Lincoln. Another among the treasures is the printed copy of the debates between Douglas and Lincoln, which has been owned by Lincoln and corrected by him. The penciled interlineations or notes in the handwriting of one of the chief actors in the dramatic contest make the volume one of great interest. There also is a copy of 'The Constitutional Text-Book,' into which Lincoln had copied the thirteenth amendment. These relics are all the more rare, inasmuch as nearly all of Lincoln's books were burned in a fire in Philadelphia which destroyed a collection similar to this of Mr. Burton. Not all of Mr. Burton's Lincoln relics are books, however. The very book-case in which rest many of his most precious volumes is made from the flooring of Lincoln's bedroom in his Springfield home. It is of black stained oak, and very quaint in appearance.

"Mr. Burton, whose enthusiasm in the work of keeping green the memory of Lincoln knows no bounds, was a disappointed bidder for the farm where the President was born. On learning that its purchaser intended making of it a national park, however, he became reconciled, especially when the manager of the farm, William E. Burton, presented him the old drawing-knife used about the place, from which the wooden handles had long since rotted away and formerly owned by Lincoln's father.

"Reminiscent of the terrible close of the life of the Great Emancipator is another of Mr. Burton's relics. This is one of the checks signed by John Wilkes Booth during his stay at Washington from November till the following April, in which he matured his plans for assassinating the President. Booth deposited twelve hundred dollars in a bank and drew out the money in various sums, issuing in all twelve checks. These have become historically famous as the 'blood money checks.' The one in the Burton collection is dated December 24, 1864, and reads: 'Pay to J. Wilkes Booth or Bearer Fifty Dollars.'

"Mr. Burton has prosecuted his self-assumed task under the greatest discouragements. Once he has seen sold beneath the auctioneer's hammer every book in his collection, but he resumed the work, and after twelve years has a great historical collection.

"Mr. Burton owns the original autograph copy of the first 'Life of Lincoln' ever known. This was written and issued by John Locke Scripps, a former Chicago newspaper publisher. It is related that the book, which was read to Lincoln in proof, contained the statement that among Lincoln's favorite books was 'Plutarch's Lives.' The story goes on to say that Lincoln asked to see the final proof, and that Mr. Scripps went to Springfield and read it to him. Then, continues the tale, Lincoln said: 'The truth is, Mr. Scripps, I had

never seen "Plutarch's Lives," but since you were here last I have purchased it and read it from cover to cover—and now your statement is true.'

"One of Mr. Burton's aims is to prepare and publish a complete national bibliography of Lincoln. This would occupy three volumes and would in itself be a work of years. The collection now in Mr. Burton's hands is the natural starting point for such a work."

The one hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's birth was celebrated at Lake Geneva, February 12, 1909, at which Mr. Burton was one of the principal speakers. His oration, like that quoted from above, was a masterpiece. Space will not permit us to give more than his peroration, although the entire address is well worth quoting:

"Lincoln had no crown; but all the crowns of Europe thrown into the melting pot and the furnace of character, would not mould one good enough, pure enough, nor big enough to fit his kingly brow."

Mr. Burton has delivered many other notable orations, but we can no more than give a few of his themes here. "Address of Welcome," delivered at the twentieth annual reunion of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Association of Walworth County, at Lake Geneva, August 26, 1908; "The Unique Soldier," delivered at Lake Geneva, September 2, 1886, before the Northwestern Reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic, assembled at Camp Spence Smith; "The Secret of Luck," a lecture delivered March 22, 1893, before the Mead Association at Sheboygan, Wisconsin; "The Inspiration of Bibles," delivered at Ford's Theater, Lake Geneva, March 17, 1881; "The Birth and Death of Religions," delivered at the same place, June 2, 1881; "The Honest Dollar of America; a New Ratio and Its Benefits"; "The Old Trail to the Mother Lode; A Miner's Souvenir Sermon." The latter was issued on the latter's fifty-ninth birthday, October 19, 1906. Mr. Burton has the original manuscript of "Sweet Bye and Bye," secured after many years effort. He also has an original copy of "Home, Sweet Home."

Mr. Burton's religious training was in accordance with the Methodist Episcopal church. For sixteen years he was a member of this church, but drifted into agnosticism, and became an admirer of such men's work in this field as Ingersoll and Voltaire. He has been all his life a worker in the Republican party, but in the Bryan-McKinley campaign both his judgment and sympathy were in favor of bi-metalism. Mr. Burton is a Royal Arch Mason, and his daily life would indicate that he endeavors to carry its sublime precepts into his actions among his fellow men.

The Wisconsin State Historical Society at Madison reviewed Mr. Burton's work in the development of the state's resources, he being credited as the

chief promoter in opening and developing the Goebie iron range of northern Wisconsin and Michigan and voted him a life membership and vice-president of the society and sent him an official request, in 1888, to have his portrait hung in the state historical gallery. An excellent oil painting was accordingly made by Frank B. Carpenter, the painter of Emancipation-Proclamation fame. This was not only in recognition of Mr. Burton's efforts in developing Wisconsin's iron interests, but also for his contribution of many specimens to the society collection which he had gathered in Cuba, Yucatan, Honduras and Mexico.

On December 7, 1869, John E. Burton married Lucretia D. Johnson, of Killawag, Broome county, New York, his schoolmate at Cazenovia. She is the representative of an excellent old family and is a lady of culture and refinement, having long been a favorite with a wide circle of friends. This union has been blessed by the birth of four children, namely: Howard E., Warren E. and Kenneth E., all young business men of much promise, engaged principally in mining in Colorado; and Bonnie E., who married Prof. Edmund D. Denison.

John E. Burton is a man of strong convictions and unswerving honesty. He is very practical, and yet is an idealist. The large success he has won in business enterprise is a manifestation of the practical man; his love of books, his idealization of the strong and masterful men of history, his work in the subtle realm of thought are evidences that there are times when he is an intellectual dreamer. And notwithstanding his strenuous career, his stupendous business affairs and his public work he finds time to court the muses and has produced some exquisite verse on diverse themes, and had he devoted his life exclusively to literature, he would have, no doubt, taken a very high rank among his famous compeers as a man of letters. He has no use for the tawdry tinsel of society, or for the sham and hypocrisy of the world. If he has been assiduous in gathering gear, it has not been entirely "for the glorious privilege of being independent," but for the gratification he would derive from using wealth for the accomplishment of something that will be helpful to others.

Mr. Burton is a gentleman of pleasing personality, courteous in his relations with his fellow men and his individuality, which is very distinct, is impressed upon any work with which he is connected, and in the accomplishment of a purpose he is willing to assume any amount of labor required or any responsibility incurred. He is a broad-minded, manly man, a gentleman without ostentation whom to know is to respect, admire and honor, for he is a splendid specimen of well developed, well rounded, symmetrically poised, virile manhood, with a commanding presence, moving among his fellows as one born

to leadership. With duties that would crush the ordinary man, he has his labors so systematized that he experiences little inconvenience in doing them. Everything moves with the regularity of clock work at his Milwaukee office or in the field of his vast mining operations. He is a vigorous as well as independent thinker, a wide reader, and he has the courage of his convictions upon all subjects which he investigates. He is also strikingly original and fearless, prosecutes his researches after his own peculiar fashion, and cares little for conventionalism or for the sanctity attaching to person or place by reason of artificial distinction, tradition or the accident of birth. He is essentially cosmopolitan in his ideas, a man of the people in all the term implies and in the best sense of the word a representative type of that strong American manhood, which commands and retains respect by reason of inherent merit, sound sense and correct conduct. Measured by the accepted standard of excellence, his career has been eminently useful, and his life fraught with great good to his fellows and to the world.

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#### CHESTER A. FERRY.

The gentleman of whom the biographer now writes is widely known as one of honored citizens of northern Walworth county, for Mr. Ferry has been actively identified with the agricultural interests of Troy township. His well-directed efforts in the practical affairs of life, his capable management of his own business interests and his sound judgment have brought to him prosperity, and his life demonstrates what may be accomplished by the man of energy and ambition who is not afraid of work and has the ambition to continue his labors, even in the face of seemingly discouraging circumstances. Mr. Ferry has been content to spend his active and useful life right here at home, and he is truly a product of pioneer days, for having been born here, some sixty-two years ago, he has lived through the wonderful epoch of change that has taken place in Walworth county, and he recalls many interesting incidents of his early life in the woods when practically everything was different from what it is today.

Chester A. Ferry was born in Troy, this county, April 21, 1849, and he is the son of Loren and Hannah (Rice) Ferry, the father born in Granby, Massachusetts, in 1819 and the mother in Syracuse, New York, in 1829. They grew up and were married in the East, coming to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in an early day and settled on a farm in Troy township, of two hundred acres. This land they improved into a good farm and here spent the

balance of their days, the father dying in 1880 and the mother surviving him twenty-three years, dying in 1903. They were the parents of five children, three of whom are living at this writing. Politically, Loren Ferry was a Republican and for many years he was influential in local affairs, holding many of the township offices. He was twice married, and Charles, his oldest son by his first wife, served through the Civil war as a soldier in the Twenty-eighth Wisconsin Infantry.

Chester A. Ferry grew up on the home farm and when but a mere boy he knew the meaning of hard work in the fields. He received a common school education in his district, and when a young man started in life for himself as a tiller of the soil. He is now the owner of an excellent farm in Troy township, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, which he has kept well improved and on which he carries on general farming and stock raising. He has a pleasant home and good buildings for his stock and machinery.

Politically, Mr. Ferry is a Republican, but has never been a public man. On October 2, 1880, he was united in marriage with Mary Jane Ritchie, a native of Belfast, county Down, Ireland, the daughter of William and Mary Ann (Quale) Ritchie, both natives of Ireland, where they grew up and were educated and married, emigrating to America in 1865 and settling at once in Walworth county, Wisconsin, locating in Troy, but later moved to a farm of forty acres. To this they added until they had about seventy-five acres, and here Mr. Ritchie died on August 9, 1904, his wife having preceded him to the grave on July 31, 1895. They were the parents of twelve children, ten of whom are living. To Mr. and Mrs. Ferry, five sons, all living, have been born, namely: William, Charles, Chester, Jr., Roland and Darwin.

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#### HERBERT NEVIL LAWTON.

One of the progressive and well known agriculturists and stock raisers of Lagrange township, Walworth county, is Herbert Nevil Lawton, who was born on the farm where he now resides and which he owns on January 8, 1879. He is the son of James Howard Lawton, who was born near Manchester, England, April 23, 1836, the son of Henry A. and Betty (Holgate) Lawton, both natives of England, he born in 1794 and she in 1795. In 1841 he came to New York and in 1842 the family followed. In the spring of 1846 they moved on to Walworth county, Wisconsin, from Oneida county, New

York. Samuel Lawton, an older brother of the subject, came here in 1845. The grandparents of the subject settled in Lagrange township on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, to which they added until their place consisted of three hundred acres, and the father died on the farm he first bought, his death occurring in 1869, his wife having died in 1861. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom James Howard, father of the immediate subject of this sketch, is the only one living. The subject's father was reared on the farm and educated in the public schools, and he took two terms in the Milwaukee schools and one term in the university at Milwaukee, also studied at Milton College, thus becoming exceptionally well educated. He began teaching school when sixteen years of age and followed this for several years, then turned his attention to farming, and he bought one hundred and twenty-eight acres of land where his son Herbert H. now resides. He made a success as a general farmer and he has lived retired since 1894. Politically, he is a Republican. He was register of deeds for one term and he has also been township superintendent of schools in Lagrange township. He has also been township treasurer and chairman of the township board for five terms. He and his wife are Universalists.

James H. Lawton was married in 1861 to Ella Jane Bronson, who was born in Springfield, Pennsylvania, January 14, 1843, the daughter of Styles and Laura (Bestor) Bronson, both natives of Connecticut, from which state they came to Herkimer county, New York, later moving to Pennsylvania, and they came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1843, being among the early settlers, as were the Lawtons. They began farming in Lagrange township, and here Mr. Bronson died in 1869, his widow dying a year later in 1870. They were the parents of twelve children, only one of whom is now living. To Mr. and Mrs. James H. Lawton five children were born, named as follows: Grant H., Harvey Percy, James B., Howard Curtis and Herbert Nevil.

Herbert N. Lawton grew up on the home farm and was educated in the schools of his district, later attending the Whitewater Normal, from which he was graduated in 1902. He taught school one year, but, not taking very kindly to the school room, took up farming for a livelihood on the homestead which he now owns, as before stated, and which he has kept well improved and under a high state of cultivation, and he has kept the buildings in good repair. The place consists of one hundred and twenty-eight acres. In connection with general farming he raises and feeds live stock, and is a breeder of Poland China hogs, also handles high grade Jersey cattle. He has exhibited his fine stock at the county fairs for the past three years. Politically, Mr. Lawton is a Republican and he was township clerk for one year.

Mr. Lawton was married on March 11, 1906, to Elma May Bishop, who was born in Walworth county on January 9, 1884. She is the daughter of Frank Bishop and wife, a highly respected family of this county. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Lawton, namely: Harvey, born January 25, 1907, and Marjorie, born April 18, 1908.

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ARTHUR H. FREEMAN.

In such men as Arthur H. Freeman, a successful farmer of Lagrange township, Walworth county, there is peculiar satisfaction in offering their life histories—justification for the compilation of works of this character—not that their lives have been such as to gain them particularly wide notoriety or the admiring plaudits of men, but that they have been true to the trusts reposed in them, have shown such attributes of character as entitle them to the regard of all.

Mr. Freeman was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, March 12, 1861. He is the son of Benjamin B. and Evaline O. (Hurlburt) Freeman, natives of New York, the father born in 1816 and the mother in 1828. There they were reared and married, and from there moved to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1838, being among the pioneers here. The father broke land where the town of Whitewater now stands. In 1840 he moved to Rock county, this state, and there settled on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, but later sold this and in 1867 bought a farm in Richmond township, Walworth county, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres and there the father lived until his death in 1875, his widow surviving many years, her death occurring in 1907. Their family consisted of six children, of whom three are living. Politically, Benjamin B. Freeman was a Democrat and he held most of the township offices in Richmond township. He and his wife were liberal in their religious views, and they were highly esteemed by those who knew them.

Arthur H. Freeman was reared on the farm and educated in the public schools and he has made farming his life work; he is now the owner of one hundred and fifty-nine acres of valuable land and has made a success as a general farmer and stock raiser, in connection with which he maintains a good dairy. He came to Lagrange township in 1900. Politically, he is a Republican.

Mr. Freeman was married in 1882 to Lillian Warner, who was born in Whitewater December 1, 1858, the daughter of David and Martha Sophia (Thwing) Warner, the father born in Genesee county, New York, in 1824, and the mother's birth occurred in Pennsylvania in 1824. Mr. Warner came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1842, and was married here. His family consisted of five children. Politically, he was a Republican. He belonged to the Universalist church.

One child was born to the subject and wife, Benjamin David, whose birth occurred on August 5, 1884, and his death occurred at the age of ten months.

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#### FRANK WEST.

The honored subject of this sketch, who is now living in retirement on his excellent farm in Lagrange township, Walworth county, has lived to see this locality develop from a primeval forest inhabited by wild animals and a few pioneer settlers to its present magnificent prosperity, its elegant homes, comfortable public buildings, fertile farms and thriving towns; and Mr. West has played no small part in this work of transformation.

Frank West was born in Lafayette township, this county, on January 3, 1844. He is the son of Stephen and Diana (Barker) West, the father born in Chenango county, New York, in 1789, and the mother was born at Batavia, Genesee county, New York, on August 12, 1805. Stephen West was a hardy frontiersman and he came to Troy township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, about 1839 and about two years later he settled in Lafayette township on a farm near what was known as West Osee, owning about two hundred acres. His death occurred in 1860, his widow surviving until 1882. They had one child besides Frank of this sketch, the other being now deceased. The father of the subject was first married in New York to Rebecca Pike, by whom eleven children were born, only one of whom is living at this writing. His first wife died in New York and he was a widower when he came to Walworth county, Wisconsin. Politically, he was a Democrat and he held a number of minor offices in his community. He was a Freemason and a member of the Baptist church.

Frank West was reared on the home farm and educated in the public schools. He has devoted his life to farming and his hard toil extending over long years has met with a fair measure of material success. He and his son, John Benjamin, own one hundred and sixty acres in Lagrange township. Politically, he is a Democrat.

Mr. West was married on September 28, 1865, to Catherine Hodges, daughter of William Hodges, Sr., whose sketch appears in this work.

Seven children have been born to Frank West and wife, namely: Adelbert lives at Lake Mills, this state; Anna is the wife of William Hackett, of Lagrange township; Edna is the wife of Thomas E. Lean, of Whitewater; Louise is the wife of Warren Taft, of Whitewater; Nellie Jane married Paul Yake and they live at Whitewater; John B. is farming the place mentioned above in this township. The oldest child died in infancy unnamed.

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### LEWIS F. PHILLIPS.

Individual enterprise which is so justly the boast of the American people is strongly exhibited in the career of Lewis F. Phillips, of Walworth. While transmitting to posterity the record of such a life, it is with the hope of instilling into the minds of those who come after the important lesson that honor and station are sure rewards of individual exertion.

Mr. Phillips was born at Hebron, Illinois, June 23, 1862. He is a son of Volney B. and Melissa (Gates) Phillips. The father was the son of Otis and Olive Phillips and was born in Plymouth, Chenango county, New York, January 25, 1825. In 1836 he moved to Thorn Grove, south of Chicago, with his parents, and in 1845 the family moved to Bloomfield, this county, where the father of the subject lived until 1875, when he located in Walworth. He and Melissa Gates were married in 1852 at Bristol, Illinois. He was active in church work, contributing liberally to the support of the church, and he was a man of fine character, highly respected by all.

Lewis F. Phillips, of this sketch, lived near Hebron, Illinois, until he was about twelve years old, when he moved to the farm with the family, which place the father purchased at the south edge of the village of Walworth, and which contained about one hundred and fifty-five acres. Here the father spent the rest of his life and here the family became well established, this still being the home of the subject.

Five children were born to Volney B. Phillips and wife, named as follows: The first, a son, died in infancy; DeEtta died when nine years old; Lewis F., of this review; Nellie D. married Willis W. Browne and lives at Lagrange, Illinois; Arbin V. died when about fourteen months old.

The father of these children continued farming all his active life. When incapacitated by old age, his son Lewis F. did the work. The father lived



MR. AND MRS. VOLNEY B. PHILLIPS

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to be over eighty years old, his death occurring on January 29, 1905. He was very successful as a general farmer, and he was also engaged in cheese making, at one time owning five factories, one at Walworth; Hebron, Illinois; another south of that place, and at Milton and Johnstown, Wisconsin. He and his wife belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church, to which he was a liberal donator. His widow is now living with her daughter, Mrs. Browne, at Lagrange, Illinois.

Lewis F. Phillips grew up on the farm at Walworth and there attended the academy. He began life in a business way by engaging in cheese making in his father's factories and followed that for four or five years, then turned his attention to farming, and he has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser and has kept the old farm well improved and under a fine state of cultivation.

The wife of Mr. Phillips was known in her maidenhood as Ida Adella Springer. Lewis F. Phillips has an adopted daughter, Daisy Josephine Phillips, who lives at home. One son, Roy Byron Phillips, is farming with his father, and living on the homestead. He is making a specialty of raising fine poultry, very pure bred White Rocks and Buff Wyandottes, which have been frequent prize winners at exhibitions in Wisconsin and Illinois. He sells his eggs for fancy prices in various sections of the United States. Roy Byron Phillips married Grace Wright, daughter of Heman G. and Alice (Hornbeck) Wright, and they have three children, Russell L., Ruth A. and Ralph B.

Mr. Phillips is a member of the Congregational church, and fraternally he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen and the Equitable Fraternal Union.

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### GEORGE G. TAYLOR.

It is always pleasant and profitable to contemplate the career of a man who has made a success of life and won the honor and respect of his fellow citizens. Such is the record, briefly stated, of the well known and progressive gentleman whose name forms the caption of this article, than whom a more deserving and honorable gentleman it would be difficult to find within the limits of Walworth county.

George G. Taylor, of Lagrange township, was born at Mid Hope, York-

shire, England, May 7, 1850. He is the son of George and Ann (Greives) Taylor, both of the vicinity in England, mentioned above, where they grew up and were married. They came to America in 1854 and in July of that year arrived in Lagrange township, Walworth county, where they settled, about one-half mile from where the subject now resides, buying forty acres that fall and there they spent the rest of their lives. The place had some rude improvements on it, having been broken and a log house built on it.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. George Taylor, of whom the subject of this review was the youngest. The father became a citizen and always voted, taking much interest in public affairs. He and his wife were members of the Episcopal church.

When twenty-one years of age George G. Taylor started farming for himself, in 1875, after having attended the early schools in Lagrange township for a time. He soon had a start and purchased one hundred and sixty acres, and he has made general farming and stock raising his life work, being now very comfortably situated, having a well improved and productive farm and a pleasant home, which he built west of Lagrange in 1900. He has prospered by good management and close application until he is now the owner of two hundred and forty acres of as valuable land as this county can boast. He carries on general farming and stock raising, and an excellent grade of stock is always to be found about his place. He retained the home place up to four years ago.

Mr. Taylor was married about 1887 to Ann West, who was born in Whiteside county, Illinois, her parents having emigrated to Clyde township, that county, by wagons from Chicago in an early day. The subject and wife have had no children of their own, but they have reared Martha Gislerud. Mr. Taylor is a Republican politically, but he was never an aspirant for public office. He attends and supports the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### BERNHARD A. KROHN.

Agriculture has been the true source of man's dominion on earth ever since the primal existence of labor and has been the pivotal industry that has controlled, for the most part, all the fields of action to which his intelligence and energy have been devoted. Among this sturdy element in Walworth county whose labors have profited alike themselves and the community in which they live is Bernhard A. Krohn, one of the most substantial and in-

fluent citizens of Whitewater township, and in view of the consistent life record lived by him since coming to this section of the country, it is particularly fitting that the following record of his career be incorporated in a book of this nature.

Mr. Krohn was born in Rome township, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, August 4, 1873. He is the son of Herman and Hannah (Kuehl) Krohn, both born in Germany where they spent their childhood. The father left the empire when a young man and came to the United States, locating at Watertown, Jefferson county, Wisconsin. The mother of the subject also emigrated to that place about the same time and these parents were married in Watertown. They started in life with no capital and were subjected to the usual privations of emigrants in a new country, but they worked hard and in time had a comfortable home. Herman Krohn was one of the sturdy band of "forty-niners" who crossed the great plains to California with an ox team, the trip requiring six months. He met with considerable success as a gold miner and later returned to Watertown, Jefferson county, finally locating in Rome township, that county, on a farm of eighty acres. He is now the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and eight acres at Golden Lake, Jefferson county, and is living retired at the advanced age of eighty-three years. His wife is seventy-seven years old. They were the parents of nine children, seven of whom are living, six sons and one daughter. In politics he is a Democrat. In an early day he drove a team from Rome to Jefferson, Wisconsin, and his stories of pioneer times are interesting. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

Bernhard A. Krohn, of this sketch, was reared on the home farm where he worked when a boy and he received his education in the public schools, being educated both in German and English. When a young man he engaged in the creamery business at Cushman Mill and Palmyra. In 1910 he bought a farm two miles east of Whitewater, consisting of sixty acres, and here he has a good home. In partnership with two brothers, Gus and William, he owns one thousand and forty acres of valuable land in Langlade county, Wisconsin. Politically, he is a Democrat and a member of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Krohn was married in 1903 to Catherine Buth, a native of Sullivan, Wisconsin. She is the daughter of August and Minnie (Panske) Buth, the father a native of Germany and the mother of American parentage. They own a good farm at Sullivan and still live there. To the subject and wife two children have been born, Harvey and Elsie.

## JAMES B. DOOLITTLE.

One of the leading citizens of the southwestern part of Walworth county is James B. Doolittle, who, after a successful career as a general farmer and stock raiser, is now living in honorable retirement in his pleasant home in the town of Delavan. He is one of the connecting links between the pioneer epoch and the present, having come here when the country was wild and only sparsely settled, when wild game was in abundance and the sight of a red man was nothing out of the unusual. He has lived to see the county develop from this primitive state into one of the leading agricultural sections of the great commonwealth of Wisconsin, and no one has taken greater pride in the up-building of the same than he, for he is the scion of that sterling New York ancestry which believed in pushing forward the wheels of progress, in invading new countries, routing the Indians and clearing the fertile soil of its timber growths and making way for good farms and comfortable homes.

Mr. Doolittle was born on January 23, 1831, in Windham, Greene county, New York. He is the son of Edward and Sallie (Tompkins) Doolittle, both natives of New York, where they grew up and were married and there established the family home.

The subject grew up in his native state and there received his education, and there he remained until he was twenty-three years old, when in the fall of 1854 he came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, buying a farm of one hundred and twenty acres on Heart Prairie. His parents came two years later and there the old folks spent the balance of their lives, the father dying on July 10, 1867, and the mother on May 19, 1869.

To Mr. and Mrs. Edward Doolittle three children were born, two of whom are deceased, namely: Amzy, whose death occurred on October 30, 1890; Ira E., who died on April 15, 1904, and James B., of this review.

The subject continued to reside on the farm on Heart Prairie, southern part of Lagrange township, until 1862, when he purchased a farm of two hundred acres on Delavan Prairie, Sugar Creek township, which he operated with his usual success until 1896. He worked hard and managed well and accumulated a competency which insures his old age free from want. His health failing in 1896, he gave up active work, sold his farm and moved to the town of Delavan where he purchased a commodious residence at No. 610 Walworth avenue, and there has continued to reside quietly.

Mr. Doolittle was married to Caroline Bell, daughter of Joseph and Sallie Bell, of New York. This union was without issue. Mrs. Doolittle was called to her rest on June 24, 1902.

After the subject was married he came west, and for a period of eight years he farmed on Heart Prairie, this county, during the summer months, and taught school in the winter time. He was very successful as a teacher and his services were much in demand in those early days. He was superintendent of the Lagrange school during the years 1856 and 1857. Mr. Doolittle is a Republican, but he has never sought to be a leader in public affairs. Religiously, he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### BREWSTER B. DRAKE.

It would be interesting to make a list of the old settlers in Walworth county and to note what a large percentage of them came originally from the state of New York. Certainly no state has done so much for us, having sent her best blood into the wilderness of the Badger state to clear it up and made room for advancing civilization. That they have done their work well goes without saying, and to be convinced of this one has only to take a cursory glance over the fertile, well developed farms of the county, and at our splendid public buildings, for, while laboring for their own advancement, they have also helped the public enterprises in a general way.

One of this sterling horde is Brewster B. Drake, who, after a long and successful career as a general farmer and stock raiser, is now living in honorable retirement in the town of Delavan. He was born in Batavia, Genesee county, New York, on November 14, 1832. He is the son of Hosea and Ruth (Randall) Drake, both natives of the state of New York where they grew to maturity, were educated and married and there they continued to reside until coming to Wisconsin in pioneer days, having made the trip by boat by way of the Great Lakes from Buffalo to Racine, thence to Kenosha in 1843. There they settled, but remained there only a few months, then went to the town of Troy, and bought two hundred acres of land in that vicinity, which they developed into a good farm and there the parents spent the rest of their lives, the father dying in January, 1848, the mother surviving him nearly a half century, reaching an advanced age, dying on the homestead in 1895.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hosea Drake, namely: Brewster B., of this sketch; C. P. lives in Clinton Junction, Wisconsin; Mrs. Mary Ann Sherman is deceased; Mrs. Maria Gifford is also deceased; Mrs. Sarah Jane Jaquith is deceased, as is also Mrs. Amelia Serl, the latter dying in 1910.

Brewster B. Drake received his education in the common schools of Troy, Walworth county, and he lived on the farm until he was sixteen years old, then went to California where he spent seven years, then returned to Wisconsin and bought a farm in Lafayette township, which he operated successfully for a period of twenty-two years, then sold out and moved to Delavan, retiring from active life and here he has since resided. He spent three years in the hardware business, then began buying and selling live stock, principally horses and cattle, also conducted a wool business. He was very successful in whatever he undertook. Mr. Drake is one of the patriotic veterans of the Civil war, having enlisted in the Third Wisconsin Volunteer Cavalry in August, 1864, and he served until June 10, 1865.

Mr. Drake was married to Sarah Wolfenden on January 1, 1861. She was reared at Troy, this county, and was the daughter of Robert and Ann Wolfenden, natives of the state of New York, where they lived until emigrating to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1853 and settled at the town of Troy.

Four children have been born to the subject and wife, namely: Mrs. Georgine L. Milligan lives at Lagrange, Illinois; Nellie G., a teacher, lives in Seattle, Washington; Earl L. and Charles, both died in 1897. Mr. Drake's pleasant home is at No. 133 South Sixth street, Delavan, Wisconsin.

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### CAPTAIN JOHN SHARP.

In glancing over the list of names of the early settlers of Walworth county, that of Capt. John Sharp stands out prominently and is worthy of special mention here. He was born in Brunswick, New Jersey, February 5, 1801, and was the eldest son of Jacob and Esther (Matteson) Sharp, who were natives of New Jersey, their ancestors being Scotch and Welsh, who emigrated to America and settled in the colonial province of New Jersey some two generations prior to the Revolutionary war, and they were active participants in that weary struggle for independence. In the year 1812 Captain Sharp moved with his parents to western New York, and they spent a few years at Jacksonville, Tompkins county, that state, but subsequently settled near Watkins Glen, at the head of Seneca lake, in Steuben county. It was during his residence there that he was appointed captain of the Two Hundred and Sixth Regiment of Infantry of the state of New York, his commission dating from August 18, 1837, with rank from July 4th of that year, having received his commission from Governor William L. Marcy, and by

William H. Seward. On September 1, 1841, Captain Sharp was commissioned to command the aforesaid militia regiment and he held that commission until he moved to Wisconsin. The regiment in question was well disciplined and at that time was the pride of the state. Here it may not seem out of place to mention that many years ago one of the New York veterans who had witnessed the splendid training of the Two Hundred and Sixth Regiment said to the writer, that the regiment when in training was most picturesque and that Captain Sharp made a handsome figure when in full uniform on duty with his men. He had perfect control over them. His voice was like a silver trumpet and could be clearly heard a mile.

In June, 1850, the subject came to Wisconsin with his family and pre-empted a farm on the south shore of Delavan lake and there engaged in farming until the spring of 1867. After selling his farm he moved with his family to Delavan where his death occurred on December 20, 1871.

Captain Sharp was a quiet mannered and unassuming man, but genial and gentlemanly, a man of sound judgment, sterling integrity, scrupulous honesty and honorable in all his dealings with his fellow men. He had many warm friends and enjoyed the esteem and confidence of all who knew him.

The Captain was married on November 27, 1827, to Sarah Mather, a direct descendant of Rev. Richard Mather and Cotton Mather. Her death occurred on July 13, 1889. The following are their children: Mary Ester, widow of Charles A. Bassett; E. M., Sarah, H. T., Elisha, John Manly; **Sarah A., who is now the widow of W. M. Shepherd**; Clarisa, who lives in Delavan; Alma; Elizabeth A., who is the widow of Edward Powers. They are all living except E. M., whose death occurred on October 8, 1891; H. T. Sharp died on July 27, 1897, and Elisha Sharp, who died in the service of his country as hospital steward on March 26, 1862.

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#### CHARLES ORA BESECKER.

An honorable retirement from labor in which to enjoy the fruits of former toil and the enjoyment which life can offer is the fitting reward of a useful and active career, in which one, through keen discernment, indefatigable labor and honorable methods advanced steadily toward the goal of prosperity. Such, briefly stated, is the record of Charles Ora Besecker, who, after a varied and interesting career, is now living in honorable retirement in his splendid home in Delavan, ranking as one of the representative citizens

of Walworth county, having so managed his affairs as to acquire thereby a position among the substantial residents of this locality, whose interests he has long had at heart and sought to promulgate whenever possible.

Mr. Besecker was born on July 9, 1855, in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He is the son of Aaron and Charity (Coon) Besecker, the father a native of Pennsylvania and the mother of New York. He was a carpenter by trade, which he followed until his death. He came to Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1863, and there remained until 1870, in which year his death occurred; then the family moved to Clinton, Wisconsin, and remained there about three years, then moved to Allen's Grove, Walworth county, remaining there about four years, then moved to Delavan township, Walworth county, and here the death of the mother of the subject occurred in 1899.

To Aaron Besecker and wife were born five children, namely: Elsie, now Mrs. Sperry, of Denver, Colorado; Charles Ora, of this sketch; Ella, now Mrs. Marsellus, of California; Frank is farming in Darien township, Walworth county; George is a traveling salesman and lives in Iowa.

Charles O. Besecker, of this sketch, was educated in the district schools and in the Clinton high school. When twenty-two years old he went to Nebraska and engaged in the bakery business for about two years, then returned to Walworth county, but later went back to Nebraska in the government survey work, thence to Chicago, in which city he remained fifteen years; while there he was in the commission business for some time, later was a policeman, finally taking up the creamery business, the latter after he had come to Delavan, Wisconsin, and he continued in the same for a period of nine years, or until the fall of 1903, having been very successful, building up a very extensive patronage. Having accumulated a competency, he retired from active business in that year and has since lived a quiet life in Delavan, where he has just had completed a modern, imposing, in fact, one of the most beautiful homes in this part of the county.

Mr. Besecker was married to Martha Davis, of Brooklyn, New York. After her death Mr. Besecker married Mrs. Ela B. Hawver, widow of Orin Hawver, on June 16, 1903. Mr. Besecker has no children by this last marriage, but Mrs. Besecker became the mother of three children by her former marriage, namely: Camilla Joiner lives near Sharon; Edna M. Matteson and Erma E. Starks live at Delavan.

Mrs. Besecker is the daughter of Sidney and Alice Bell, both now deceased, Mr. Bell dying in April, 1893, and his wife in May, 1904. They spent their lives on a farm, and were highly respected in their community.

Mr. Besecker is a public-spirited gentleman, always supporting such measures as make for the general good of his county, and he has won a wide circle of friends since casting his lot with the people of Walworth county.

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### ANDREW WILLIAMSON.

A well known business man of Delavan, Walworth county, is Andrew Williamson, now engaged in the real estate business, but who has spent the major portion of his business life as an agriculturist and stock dealer. He has been content to spend his life in this vicinity, being the son of an excellent pioneer family, members of which have done much for the upbuilding of the county.

Mr. Williamson was born in Richmond, this county, on June 17, 1863. He is the son of Ole and Mary (Nelson) Williamson, both natives of Norway, the father coming to this country in 1844 and the mother in 1846. He settled in Muskego and she in Whitewater, Wisconsin. He engaged in farming here and was married in this county, then bought a farm in Richmond township, though he and his wife lived in Delavan and Whitewater a short time prior to that. Their place of forty acres was located in section 16, Richmond township, and there the father spent the rest of his life, dying on May 31, 1883; his widow survives and makes her home with our subject.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ole Williamson twelve children were born, namely: John lives at Genoa, Nebraska; Martin lives in California; Caroline is deceased, as are also Anna, Mary and Cornelius; Mrs. Sophia Palmatier; Andrew, of this sketch; Mrs. Anna McMillan; Cornelius, the second, is deceased; Gabriel is deceased; Mrs. Emma Hodson, of Fullerton, Nebraska.

Andrew Williamson received his education in the district schools of Richmond township, and early in life he turned his attention to farming, which has been his chief life work. However, of late years he has engaged in the live stock business, continuing the same for sixteen years, or until October, 1911, when he went into the real estate business in Delavan, under the firm name of Gage & Williamson.

Politically, Mr. Williamson is a Republican, and he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Woodmen and the Mystic Workers of Delavan, and the First National Accidental Company.

Mr. Williamson was married at Richmond, Wisconsin, on December 3, 1891, to Mary Adelia Gage, daughter of Irwin and Margaret (Hall) Gage, the father born in the state of New York, from which he came with his

parents in 1844 to Walworth county, Wisconsin, the family settling in Richmond township, and here the father of Mrs. Williamson grew to manhood, devoting himself to agricultural pursuits and spent the rest of his life, dying on September 10, 1908. His widow survives and lives at Richmond village.

To the subject and wife five children have been born, namely: Hazel Irene, born November 4, 1892; Harold McKinley, born March 1, 1894; Alveretta M., born August 31, 1896; Jesse Irwin, born April 26, 1900; Ruby May, born September 28, 1901.

Mr. Williamson retired from farm life in 1901 and moved to Delavan. He was appointed to the office of deputy sheriff of Walworth county in 1911. He was treasurer of Richmond township for one year and also clerk of the local school board.

Mrs. Williamson holds the office of noble grand of the Daughters of Rebekah, and she is oracle of the Royal Neighbors, and a member of the Mystic Workers and the Relief Corps of Delavan.

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#### CHARLES S. BRABAZON.

One of the leading business men and best known citizens of the south and western part of Walworth county is Charles S. Brabazon, member of the well known and popular firm of Brabazon & Bro. Implement Company at Delavan. He has succeeded in his chosen life work because he has been persistent and energetic and honorable in his dealings with the public, and he has therefore had the confidence and good will of all, which are indispensable factors if one succeeds in any line where the public has to be depended upon.

Mr. Brabazon was born on November 15, 1871, in Sugar Creek township, this county. He is the son of James and Sarah Catherine (Dunham) Brabazon, the father a native of Canada where he spent his boyhood, coming to Sugar Creek township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, when a young man and here purchased a farm, which he developed and on which he continued to reside until 1897, when he sold out and went to Delavan where he engaged in the restaurant business, continuing in the same for a period of four years, then entered the mercantile business at Jacobsville and East Delavan, this county, continuing the same several years, then sold out and moved back to Delavan, where he now resides, having been retired from active life for some time.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. James Brabazon, namely: William H., of Delavan; Charles S., of this sketch; Edith and Nellie were the daughters; and Jesse, who is engaged in business with the subject, a member of the implement firm mentioned above.

Charles S. Brabazon of this sketch received his education in the district schools, and he worked on the farm with his father until 1896, when he came to the town of Delavan and engaged in the restaurant business, then he went to Elkhorn where he remained about four years. Returning to Delavan, he went into the implement business which he and his brother have continued to the present time, having built up a large and constantly growing trade with the surrounding country. They handle an up-to-date and carefully selected line of implements, everything needed or used by the twentieth-century agriculturist, and they also handle automobiles, being agents for the Chicago-Stover Automobile Company, and they have had a good business in this line.

Mr. Brabazon was married June 3, 1896, to Mildred G. Sturtevant, of Walworth county. To them has come one child, Lloyd, born September 10, 1900.

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#### JOHN BUTLER READER.

Success as a business man is not attained by the indolent and unobservant, but by the diligent, persistent and close observer, and these qualities seem to be possessed by John Butler Reader, of Delavan, another of the worthy native sons of Walworth county, who represents an excellent old family and who has so conducted himself that he has met with a fair measure of success in a material way all along the line and at the same time has kept the good name of the family unsmirched.

Mr. Reader was born on August 17, 1861, in this county and here he has been content to spend his life. He is the son of J. J. and Charlotte W. (Hitchcock) Reader, a complete sketch of whom will be found on another page of this work.

Mr. Reader received his education in the public schools of the city of Delavan, and when twenty years of age he began his business career by accepting a position with Fairbanks, Morse & Company, of Chicago, continuing in their employ for a period of two years, giving them entire satisfaction. He then returned to Delavan in 1883 and began manufacturing windmills and tanks, which business he has continued to the present with ever-increasing success, the superiority of his products being universally recognized, hence

are eagerly sought after. He is well equipped in every respect for the manufacture of these lines and only the most skilled artisans are employed. He is also agent for the famous Fairbanks, Morse & Company's private light and pumping gasoline engine and dynamos, and enjoys an excellent business, which is rapidly growing. He has a good location at the corner of Seventh and Wisconsin streets.

Mr. Reader was married on January 8, 1891, to Alice M. Smith, daughter of Ross S. and Elizabeth (Brooks) Smith, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work. Suffice it to say here that, like the Reader family, they have long been among our highly esteemed citizens. To Mr. and Mrs. Reader two children have been born, named as follows: Frank Clifford, born November 26, 1891, died October 25, 1897; and Marliene Elizabeth, born January 29, 1901.

Mr. Reader has a commodious and modernly appointed home at the corner of Walworth and Seventh streets, and has also built several other fine houses in the city of Delavan.

Mr. Reader has also found time to perform his full duty as a public spirited citizen. He was a member of the city council six years, and for fourteen years has been a member of the board of trustees of Spring Grove cemetery, being on the executive committee of the board for the last ten years. He is also a member of the water commission in the city of Delavan, having served in that capacity several years.

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### FRED D. COWLES.

Success to such a man as Fred D. Cowles, widely known as a Shetland pony raiser, of Delavan, Walworth county, comes as a matter of course, for early in his career he adopted such methods of procedure as could hardly fail in winning the goal sought, and, having thus been imbued with correct principles and having an indomitable courage and persistency of purpose, he went forward over all obstacles and today is one of the substantial and worthy native sons of the locality of which this history deals. He was born on June 6, 1863, in North Geneva, this county, and is the son of John and Lucy (Hathaway) Cowles, who were natives of the state of New York, where they spent their earlier years, he coming to Wisconsin in 1846, and settled on a farm southeast of Elkhorn in Geneva township, with his parents, Seth and Harriet Cowles, and here the father helped develop the farm and continued to operate it until within about ten years of his death in 1902, his wife having preceded him to the grave in 1897.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. John Cowles, namely: Elmer lives at Elkhorn; Fred D., of this sketch; Mrs. Minnie Smith, who lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota; C. E. lives in Elkhorn; Dr. George H., of Woodhall, Illinois.

Fred D. Cowles received his education in the district schools of Walworth county, and he has devoted his life to farming and stock raising. He became the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres, which he brought up to a high state of improvement and cultivation. Selling his farm in Darien township in 1910, he purchased thirty acres a mile and a half north-east of the town of Delavan where he is extensively engaged in raising Shetland ponies, keeping a herd of between seventy-five and one hundred, which, because of their superior quality, are greatly admired by all and find a very ready market when offered for sale. They are shipped to all parts of the country, and having been in this business for the past seventeen years he is widely known to the horsemen of America.

Mr. Cowles' commodious home is at No. 226 South Main street, Delavan. Fraternally, he is a member of the Masonic order, the Mystic Workers, of Delavan, and, religiously, he belongs to the Congregational church. He was a member of the city council of Delavan for two terms.

Mr. Cowles was married on November 17, 1887, to Josephine Latta, daughter of Benjamin and Deborah Latta, a highly respected local family. Three children have been born to the subject and wife, namely: Daisy L., born October 8, 1888; Bessie B., born March 31, 1890, and May L., born November 17, 1892.

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#### ERASTUS H. AMES.

The life history of Erastus H. Ames, one of the well known and highly esteemed venerable veterans, now living in honorable retirement in the picturesque little town of Delavan, shows what industry, good habits and staunch citizenship will accomplish in the battle of acquiring property and rearing children to lead steady and respectable lives. His life has been one replete with duty well and conscientiously performed in all its relations. He has not been a man to shrink from his duty, however irksome or dangerous, whether in the role of private citizen, public servant or on the field of battle, and it is such traits that win in life's affairs. He has come down to us from the pioneer period and has noted the wondrous transformation from that time to this.

playing well his part in the drama of civilization. He has been an advocate of wholesome living and cleanliness in politics as well, and has ever been outspoken in his antipathy to wrong doing, whether by the humble citizen or by the incumbents of influential offices.

Mr. Ames was born on January 26, 1834, in Morgan county, Ohio. He is the son of Absolom and Margaret (Hottengohan) Ames, the father a native of the state of Pennsylvania and the mother born in Germany, from which country she came to the United States when young, and met and married Mr. Ames in the old Quaker state, where he grew to manhood, and from there they moved to Morgan county, Ohio, in an early day, settling on a farm, and in 1859 they came to Wisconsin, locating on a farm in Crawford county, where the permanent home of the family was established. Absolom Ames died there June 29, 1880, and his wife followed in November, 1881.

The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Absolom Ames, namely: Jabish, Doresey, Elizabeth, Joseph and Mary are all deceased; those living being, John, Sarah Ann, Hannah, Erastus H., Margaret, Dexter and Harriet.

Erastus H. Ames, of this sketch, grew up on the home farm in Morgan county, Ohio, and there worked with his father when a boy. He received his education in the common schools of his district, and he remained in the Buckeye state until he was twenty-two years old, then came to Wisconsin, and settled in Bad Axe (now Vernon) county, and there he was united in marriage with Pleasy Jane Davis on July 3, 1856. She was the daughter of Samuel and Emily (Ewers) Davis, of Belmont county, Ohio, an old family. In September after his marriage Mr. Ames returned to Morgan county, Ohio, where he remained about three years, then moved to Vernon county on a farm for two years, then came to Crawford county, Wisconsin, where he bought a farm of eighty acres and continued to reside there for a period of thirty-five years, when he sold out and moved to the city of Delavan, Walworth county, Wisconsin, and retired from active life.

Mr. Ames enlisted in the Fiftieth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry in 1865, in which he served very faithfully for one year, being stationed at Benton Barracks, Booneville and other places up the Missouri river, chiefly guarding against bushwhackers and Indians.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ames were born the following children: Absolom, Festus, Emma, Effie and Agnes are all living; the following are deceased: Margaret, May, Martha, Veranus and Elizabeth. He has twenty-nine grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

Politically, Mr. Ames is a Republican, and he has been a member of the Christian church for a period of fifty-four years, and very faithful in his support of the same. Mrs. Ames, too, is a member of the same church.

Mr. Ames devoted his life to farming until he retired and was very successful. He is the owner of a commodious and attractive home, where he lives a quiet life, at No. 126 South Eighth street, Delavan.

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#### DANIEL E. LABAR.

The name of LaBar is one of the best known in Walworth county, for the family has lived here since 1839, having been among the early settlers and from that day to this, through a period of seventy years and more, the name has been one to be proud of, for while they have labored for their own advancement they have also been mindful of the duties they owed to the community.

One of the best known of the present generation is Daniel E. LaBar. He was born in this township on August 21, 1857, the son of Samuel Rees LaBar and Harriet (Topping) LaBar. The father was born in Stroudsburg, Monroe county, Pennsylvania, January 17, 1820, the son of Daniel E. LaBar, who came to Wisconsin in 1839, arriving here on July 4th of that year and locating in the northwest quarter of section 7. Samuel Rees LaBar, father of the subject, accompanied his parents to this county and here he assisted in getting the home place started, and here spent his life engaged in agricultural pursuits, becoming the owner of three hundred acres, and was one of the leading farmers of his community, and here he spent his life, dying July 29, 1896. He was married at Delton, Sauk county, Wisconsin, on November 10, 1856, to Harriet N. Topping, daughter of the Rev. Henry Topping, who was one of the first settlers of Walworth county. Mrs. LaBar was born in Charleston, Montgomery county, New York, and she came to Delavan, Wisconsin, with her parents in 1839.

To Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Rees LaBar eight children were born, namely: Daniel E., of this review; Charles H., Gilbert, Nina, James, Frank, Ruth and Julia.

The father of these children was assessor of Delavan in 1845, and was supervisor in 1856 and 1857, then was re-elected, and was elected to the office of assessor in 1867, serving several years. He was appointed a member of the board of trustees of the Deaf and Dumb Institute at Delavan in 1876, serving five years.

Daniel E. LaBar grew to manhood on the home farm and received his education in the local schools, graduating in 1875. He also attended Wayland Academy at Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, graduating in 1879. He has farmed the greater part of his life. He moved to Delavan about twelve years ago. He has always taken much interest in public affairs and he was elected Mayor of Delavan in 1908 and served one term very successfully. He was elected a member of the city council in 1901, as alderman of the first ward, and he was twice elected a member of the county board. He is a loyal Republican, and has been active in the party and as a public servant has always discharged his duties faithfully and commendably.

Mr. LaBar is an active member of the First Baptist church of Delavan, and has been clerk of the church for sixteen years.

Mr. LaBar was married on April 15, 1897, to Mary Antonette Mabie, daughter of J. and Anna Mabie, and to this union two children have been born, Elizabeth M. LaBar, now deceased, and Daniel Rees LaBar, born October 11, 1905.

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#### NATHAN DWIGHT MAXON.

That the career of such a man as Nathan Dwight Maxon, the present efficient and popular postmaster at Walworth, besides being treasured in the hearts of relatives and friends, should have its public record also, is peculiarly proper because a knowledge of men whose substantial reputation rests upon their attainments and character must exert a wholesome influence upon the rising generation. While transmitting to future generations the chronicle of such a life, it is with the hope of instilling into the minds of those who come after the important lesson that honor and station are sure rewards of individual exertion.

Mr. Maxon was born in Walworth township, this county, May 15, 1857, and is the son of Henry J. and Phebe (Howland) Maxon. It is believed that the birth of the father occurred at Adams, Jefferson county, New York, and he was the son of Asa Lewis Maxon and Julia Ann (Read) Maxon, his father being of English and his mother of Scotch descent. The name was originally spelled Maxson, the present spelling being adopted by Asa L. Maxon.

Richard Maxson, the first common ancestor of the American branch of the family, came from England and he was a blacksmith by trade, and he was employed in a shop belonging to James Everell. Records show that he was a member of the Baptist church in 1634. In 1639 he went to Portsmouth, Rhode



NATHAN D. MAXON

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Island, near Newport, and there shared in the distribution of lands to the colonists of that region, and a legend says that he was killed in an Indian raid about 1640. His son, John Maxson, was born in 1639, and he and his wife were buried at Westerly, Rhode Island. Several members of the family of the third and fourth generations were soldiers in the Revolutionary war; Benjamin and Stephen of the third generation, and Col. Jesse Maxson, son of David, was of the fourth generation. He was an aid on Washington's staff, and was killed in the battle of Guilford Court House in 1781. John Maxson, son of the emigrant, was born in 1639, married Sarah Mosher. John Maxson, born on April 21, 1701, was a son of John and Judith (Clark) Maxson. The father, born in 1666, died in 1747, was the son of John Maxson, who was born in 1639. Asa Maxson, great-grandfather of Henry J. Maxson, father of the subject, was a pioneer settler of Jefferson county, New York, and he was a soldier in the Revolution and served on a vessel on Long Island sound. His son Asa, grandfather of Henry J., was a lumberman at Petersburg, Rensselaer county, New York. Asa L. Maxon, father of Henry J., was born in that county and there engaged in farming. About 1853 he moved to Big Foot Prairie, Walworth county, Wisconsin, and settled on one hundred and fifty acres of land, which he improved into a good farm and he became a prominent man in that community. While he lived in New York he served as United States revenue collector, having been appointed by President Taylor. About 1856 he came to Walworth and bought a farm a mile south of the village.

Asa L. Maxon married Julia Ann Read, July 9, 1822. He was born May 22, 1802, and he was the son of Asa and Polly (Lewis) Maxson, the father having been born on July 1, 1776. Asa Maxson was the son of Asa and Lois (Stillman) Maxson, the former having been born on March 6, 1752, and he was the son of David and Abigail (Greenman) Maxson. David Maxson was the son of John and Thankful (Randall) Maxson.

Henry J. Maxon, father of the subject, was married to Phebe Howland, who was born in South Adams, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, September 17, 1836, and she died in Walworth, January 25, 1911. She was descended from two prominent families in the early history of this country, through her father from John Howland, the last survivor of the Pilgrim band that landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620; and through her mother from the Sheldon family that came to America in 1710, the members of which family were prominent during the colonial and Revolutionary periods. When three years old she was left an orphan and with her three sisters went to live with

her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Sheldon, in North Adams, Massachusetts, and in 1845 came with them to their new home in Wisconsin, making much of the trip on the Erie canal, the rest on the Great lakes to Kenosha, thence overland to Big Foot, arriving the first of September, 1845. During the next ten years she lived with her aunt, Mrs. Asenath Fish, of Big Foot, also Mrs. Elizabeth Hayden, of White Oaks, Illinois. She married Henry J. Maxon on June 1, 1855, and they began housekeeping on the Asa L. Maxon farm one mile east and one mile south of Walworth, where they lived until they bought their prairie farm one mile south of Walworth and erected buildings thereon. In the spring of 1892 they left the farm and moved to the village of Walworth, where the death of Mr. Maxon occurred in October of that year. These parents and their family were always identified with the Seventh-Day Baptist church. The mother was an earnest Christian, a good friend and neighbor, always ready to assist anyone in need.

Eight children were born to Henry J. Maxon and wife, namely: Nathan Dwight, of this sketch; Fred J. lives in Chicago, where he is connected with the Illinois Trust & Savings Company; Charles H. died in 1886, when twenty-one years old; Cynthia A. lives in Harvard, Illinois, with her brother, Dr. Jesse G. Maxon; Myrtie married Edward Sheffer and they live in Madison, Wisconsin, where their children are attending college; Mabel lives in Harvard, Illinois, with her brother and sister; Dr. Jesse Garfield Maxon is a practicing physician at Harvard, Illinois; Lewis A. lives in Walworth; he is a painter, and he married Mary Sunnenbell, who has borne him one child.

Nathan D. Maxon, the immediate subject of this sketch, grew up on the home farm and received his education in the local schools, remaining on the homestead until December, 1896. He married, in January, 1884, Minnie McLeam, daughter of Rev. Alexander and Emily McLeam, both natives of Nova Scotia. She was born in Massachusetts. Rev. McLeam's work in the ministry brought him from his native country to Massachusetts, thence to Michigan and later to Walworth county, Wisconsin. His death occurred in 1906 at Walworth, in which town he was pastor of the Seventh-Day Adventist church, his wife having preceded him to the grave in 1886.

Nathan D. Maxon moved from the farm to the town of Walworth in 1896 and early the following year bought into a general merchandise store. In February, 1898, he was appointed postmaster at this place and he has held the position ever since to the utmost satisfaction of the people and the department. He has continued the mercantile business seven or eight years successfully, and also handles fire insurance. He has commissions signed both by Roosevelt and Taft, appointing him postmaster.

Eight children have been born to Nathan D. Maxon and wife, namely: Claire M., born January 19, 1885, is engaged in the electrical business in Walworth; Stella was the wife of Harold E. Walters and lives in Walworth, her husband being deceased, having died from an electric shock, September 14, 1909, a week after his son, Harold, was born; he also left a daughter, Eleanor; Earl D. Maxon is now attending Milton College; Rhue finished the high school course in Walworth and taught two years in that school, but she is now in California for the benefit of her health; Henry is in the office of the electric plant at Walworth, having been engaged in electrical work ever since his graduation from high school; Julia, Muriel and Marjorie are attending high school.

Mr. Maxon was for some time treasurer of the township of Walworth, shortly after he took up his residence here. He belongs to the Masonic order, the Modern Woodmen and the Yeomen lodges, being active in fraternal circles. He and his wife belong to the Seventh-Day Baptist church, and are faithful in their support of the same.

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#### WILLIAM T. PASSAGE.

As editor and publisher of the *Delavan Enterprise*, William T. Passage wields a potent influence in the affairs of the locality of which this history deals. He is a plain, straightforward man of affairs who endeavors to perform his duties as a good citizen, without fear and asking no favors.

Mr. Passage was born in Delavan, this county, August 26, 1868, and is the son of George and Anna V. (Vanderpool) Passage. The parents came here from Perry, New York, and located at Delavan in 1842. Here the father engaged in the dry goods business and general merchandise, and was in business many years. He enjoyed a good trade with the surrounding country and was a man who won the confidence and respect of his customers by his fair dealing and obliging nature. His death occurred on May 29, 1888. At that time he had been in business the longest of any man in the county, his business career here covering a period of forty-six years. He took a due interest in public affairs of the community. His wife is still living in Delavan.

William T. Passage grew up in Delavan. After leaving school he went to work for his father with whom he remained about two years, then took a position on the *Walworth County Democrat* and has been engaged in news-

paper work ever since. He went to Humboldt, Iowa, and was in a newspaper office about a year. Returning to Wisconsin he spent four years in the printing department in the State School for the Deaf and Dumb at Delavan. From here he went to Marshfield where he was with the *Marshfield News* about a year and a half. About 1897 he returned to Delavan and entered the office of the *Republican* as reporter.

Mr. Passage purchased a half interest in the *Delavan Enterprise* in 1901, and in 1903 purchased the remaining interests and since then has been sole owner and editor of the paper, which has gained constantly in prestige and circulation. He has brightened its mechanical appearance and rendered it a very desirable medium for advertisers, both local and foreign. Its columns teem weekly with the latest and most important news, the happenings of the entire world, and the paper wields much influence toward the general up-building of the community.

Politically, Mr. Passage is a Democrat, but while he is interested in public affairs in general he has not been an aspirant for public honors or the emoluments of political offices, though he has served as alderman.

Fraternally, Mr. Passage is a member of the Masonic order and the Knights of Pythias. He has remained unmarried.

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#### REV. JOHN H. BUCKLEY.

It is always a pleasure to the biographer to revert to the life of a man who has spent his active years in the service of his fellow men, who, unselfishly, has sought to minister to those in need of spiritual guidance or physical succor, who, unmindful of the praise or blame of his fellow men, goes forward from day to day in the performance of his humble duty, content to know that he is honestly following the dictates of his own conscience and doing the Master's will. Such a man is Rev. John H. Buckley, the esteemed Catholic priest at Delavan, who for many years has performed a grand work among the people whom he has elected to serve, burying the friends who pass over the mystic river, marrying the young beginning life's more serious walks, and in many ways assisting in ameliorating the condition of the public at large, and his character from his youth up has been unblemished by even the shadow of wrong, so that the community regards him as one of its most valued citizens. He is a plain, hard-working, unpretentious gentleman, who never courts publicity and who has tried hard to build up a good congregation here, and, as all will acquiesce, has succeeded admirably well.

Father Buckley was born in the city of Cork, Ireland, about sixty-four years ago, and there he grew to manhood, remaining in his native city until he was about twenty-four years of age. He was educated in the parochial schools of Ireland, then the classical school, after which he entered Missionary College of All Saints, at Dublin, and took a course in philosophy and theology. He was very studious from his early boyhood and made rapid progress in the above named institutions. About 1874 he was ordained to the priesthood, and soon afterward emigrated to the United States, and was for some time in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as assistant in St. John's cathedral. From there he went to Beaver Dam, and later to Broadhead, this state. About 1901 he came to Delavan where he has since resided, in charge of St. Andrew's parish. He has a fine congregation and the church is in a flourishing condition. He has done much to strengthen the work and upbuild the church in a general way wherever his labors have taken him, often laboring with disregard to his own welfare if thereby he might accomplish the desired end—to better the condition of his people in any way, and such unselfish application has not only been fruitful of much good, but has endeared him to all with whom he has come into contact. He is profoundly educated in languages, philosophy, theology and other subjects, and has kept well advised on the trend of modern thought.

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#### CHANCY L. SAGE.

The names of such men as the late Chancy L. Sage are those which the historian likes to see recorded, for they indicate the true history makers of a country. They were men of strong arm and brave heart, willing to forego the pleasures of advanced civilization and undergo the hardships of a new country in order that they might do the most for their families and succeeding generations. Such a man was Mr. Sage, who was born on January 22, 1828, in Oneida county, New York. He was the son of Chancy and Mary (Pattison) Sage, both natives of the state of New York where they grew up and were married and there they lived until 1848, when they came to Racine, Wisconsin, by boat and settled in Racine county where the father bought a farm and lived for several years, then sold out and came to Walworth county, settling at Delavan city, where he spent the rest of his life, dying on March 15, 1907. There were eleven children in his family.

Chancy L. Sage grew up on the home farm and received his education in the district schools of the early days. He farmed for some time in early

life, and finally came to Delavan, Walworth county, where he went into the hotel business with his brother Henry, who had preceded him here. They continued in business for some four years, then, the Civil war coming on, the subject enlisted in the Second Wisconsin Cavalry, in which he served very gallantly for a period of three years and two months. Then he returned to Delavan, Wisconsin, and moved onto a farm where he spent about two years, then was appointed night watchman in Delavan, and this position he held very faithfully for a period of thirty years, or the rest of his life.

Mr. Sage was married to Margaret Hall, on December 16, 1861. She was the daughter of Robert and Margaret (Hill) Hall, natives of the state of New York, spending their early lives at Albany and there married and devoted their lives to farming, coming to Delavan, Walworth county, in 1850, where Mr. Hall went into the mercantile business which he continued for a number of years, enjoying a good business, later selling out and went to Nebraska where his death occurred in 1880, his widow surviving fifteen years, dying in 1895. To Mr. and Mrs. Hall ten children were born, namely: Boyle is deceased; Henry lives in Lombard, Illinois; Mrs. Mary King, of Madison county, Nebraska; Richard is deceased; William is deceased; Margaret, widow of Mr. Sage of this sketch; Robert lives in Lexington, Illinois; John lives at Delavan Lake, this county; Charles lives at O'Neil, Nebraska; Mrs. Anna King lives in Los Angeles, California. Mrs. Margaret Sage was born on December 15, 1843, in Quebec, Canada, and there she spent her early childhood, and she accompanied her parents to Delavan, Wisconsin, and here still makes her home with her daughter and daughter-in-law. The death of Chancy L. Sage occurred March 15, 1907.

There were four children in the family of Chancy L. and Margaret Sage: Willard C., who lives in Racine; Eva S., who married a Mr. Richeson and lives in Delavan; Everett W. and Walter W., both deceased.

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#### ALEXANDER HAMILTON ALLYN.

The most elaborate history is perforce a merciless abridgment, the historian being obliged to select his facts and materials from manifold details and to marshal them in concise and logical order. This applies to specific as well as generic history, and in the former category is included the interesting and important department of biography. In every life of honor and usefulness there is no dearth of interesting situations and incidents, and yet in sum-

ming up such a career as that of Mr. Allyn the writer must needs touch only on the more salient facts, giving the keynote of the character and eliminating all that is superfluous to the continuity of the narrative. The gentleman whose name appears above has led an active and useful life, not entirely void of the exciting, but the more prominent have been so identified with the useful and practical that it is to them almost entirely that the writer refers in the following paragraphs.

Alexander Hamilton Allyn, of Delavan, and long one of the most substantial and representative citizens of Walworth county, was born September 1, 1835, in Hartford, Connecticut. He is the scion of a sterling old New England family, being the son of Timothy Mather Allyn and Susan Ann (Pratt) Allyn. The father was descended from one of the oldest families of New England, members of which were prominent in colonial times. Records show that in 1638 Mather Allyn purchased one-sixteenth of the town of Windsor, Connecticut, where the family, which had come from Branton, England, lived for many years. Col. John Allyn was a son of Mather Allyn. Susan Ann Pratt was the daughter of Joseph and Fanny (Wadsworth) Pratt, the later being the daughter of Rodger Wadsworth, son of William Wadsworth, son of Joseph Wadsworth, and the latter the son of Capt. Joseph Wadsworth. The last named hid the charter of Connecticut in the hollow of the famous "Charter Oak" tree, October 31, 1687 (where it remained until May 9, 1689), to protect the rights of the colony from British usurpation. The original charter is still in the office of the secretary of state of Connecticut.

Joseph Pratt, maternal grandfather of the subject, was born June 6, 1779, and he served as postmaster of Hartford. His father was Joseph Pratt, son of William Pratt, the latter having been constable of Hartford in 1729. The Pratt family goes back from William to John, son of John, son of John, the last named born in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, England, where he was baptized November 9, 1620. He was the son of Rev. William Pratt and probably came to America with Rev. Thomas Hooker's party in 1632, and in 1633 was living in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He accompanied a party of several people to Hartford, Connecticut, in 1636, where he became a proprietor of land, and he was elected a representative in 1839. His ancestry traces back to Thomas Pratt of Boldock, Hertfordshire, England, who had a coat-of-arms, a fesse dancett in chief, two lions rampant.

Various other lines of Mr. Allyn's ancestors have been traced back to the very early days in New England's history, and many members of the various branches have distinguished themselves in various walks of life wherever they have dispersed.

The subject remained in his native city until 1852, then came to Chicago, most of the way by boat, and by stage from Ann Arbor to St. Joseph, Michigan. Only one railroad ran out of Chicago at that time. While in Chicago he worked a year in the dry goods store of Cooley Wadsworth & Company, being then but sixteen years old. John V. Farwell, Marshall Field and Joseph Leiter, famous captains of industry later in life, all worked at the same store the year after he left. In 1854 Mr. Allyn went to Milwaukee where he worked for Bell, Courtney & Company, a large grain warehouse concern, remaining with this firm eighteen months. He was then in a transportation business for some time, later spent two years with the New York Central Transportation Company. He came to Walworth county in the fall of 1859 and located on a farm in Delavan township and devoted his energies to farming, purchasing an excellent place between Elkhorn and Delavan, consisting of **one hundred and eighty-four acres**. He moved to the city of Delavan in 1883. Here he was supervisor for fourteen years, and he was township supervisor while living on the farm. In 1885 he completed a handsome and commodious dwelling in Delavan, in the midst of spacious, beautiful lawns, in which he had a large fountain erected, making this one of the most desirable residences in the county, and it has long been known to his wide circle of friends as a place of old time hospitality and good cheer.

Mr. Allyn was married on January 3, 1861, in Hartford, Connecticut, to Elizabeth Humphrey Martin, daughter of Charles L. and Lydia Dean (Potter) Martin, a prominent family of that city. Mrs. Allyn's death occurred on January 5, 1870, leaving two children. Mr. Allyn was subsequently married to Mary Elizabeth Doolittle, daughter of James Austin Doolittle and Frances Eliza (Thorp) Doolittle, a fine old New York family. She was born on January 18, 1850, in Oswego, New York, and she came to Delavan, Wisconsin, with her parents during her girlhood.

The following are Mr. Allyn's children, three having been born of his first marriage and four by his second: Leonora, born December 27, 1861, died May 11, 1869; Charles Thompson, born February 7, 1863, married Katherine C. Elery, and lives in Seattle, Washington; Mary Esther, born December 27, 1869, married Edward R. Kellogg, formerly lived in the isle of Pines, is now a resident of Delavan; she has one daughter, Ruth Hilah Kellogg; Susan Frances Allyn was born January 16, 1874, married Harry Moore, May 4, 1904, and died January 18, 1905; Timothy Robert, born January 16, 1874, died November 15, 1879; Gertrude Leonora, born February 7, 1877, died November 4, 1879; Joseph Pratt Allyn was born July 15, 1883, married Louise Landis, November 17, 1903, and lives on a farm in Delavan, and they have one daughter, Josephine Landis Allyn.

Mr. Allyn endeavored to enlist for service during the Civil war, but was refused on the grounds of disability, he having broken his leg. He has been a member of the Episcopal church all his life. Personally, he is a man of genial and obliging address, of keen business discernment, sound judgment and of charitable impulses, and he wins friends easily.

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### ANSEL HASTINGS KENDRICK.

The study of the life of the representative American never fails to offer much of pleasing interest and valuable instruction, developing a mastering of expedients which has brought about most wonderful results. Ansel Hastings Kendrick, well-known president of the Wisconsin State Bank at Delavan, is a worthy representative of that type of American character and of that progressive spirit which promote public good in advancing individual prosperity and conserving popular interests. He has long been prominently identified with the business interests of Walworth county, and while his varied affairs have brought him success they have also advanced the general welfare by accelerating industrial activity.

Mr. Kendrick was born in Delavan, this county, March 13, 1851. He is a son of Phineas Dudley Kendrick and Esther Lamfire (Gilbert) Kendrick. The father's birth occurred in Heath, Massachusetts, November 26, 1820, and he died at Oak Park, Illinois, March 1, 1894. He was a son of Ansel and Dorcas (Smith) Kendrick, the former born March 7, 1796, and died December 15, 1846; he and Dorcas Smith were married on February 7, 1820; she was born August 23, 1801, and her death occurred at Oak Park, Illinois, April 20, 1890. Esther Lamfire Gilbert was born in Hamilton, New York, September 15, 1818, and her death occurred at Oak Park, Illinois, May 2, 1898. Ansel H. Kendrick had one sister, but no brothers; she was born in Nunda, New York, August 28, 1845, and she married Frank Malaby Rockwell, now deceased. She is living at Oak Park, Illinois.

Phineas D. Kendrick, wife and daughter came to Delavan, this county from Nunda, New York, about 1849. Here he followed contracting and building until old age, and his death occurred at Oak Park, Illinois, on March 1, 1894.

Ansel H. Kendrick grew to manhood in Delavan and here attended high school. His first employment was in the postoffice here, where he remained about two years, most of the time as acting postmaster, after the regular

incumbent of the office had defaulted, he taking the place temporarily, but remained at the request of the bondsmen until 1871. He then went into the National Bank of Delavan as a clerk. Later he served as assistant cashier of this bank, and when the bank went into liquidation and was succeeded by E. Lattimer & Company, bankers, in 1880, he became their cashier, continuing in this position until the firm was succeeded by the Bank of E. Lattimer & Company in 1903. Mr. Kendrick continued as cashier under the new arrangement, holding the position until July 13, 1908, when he was elected president of the bank, which position he has held to the present time, discharging his duties in a manner that has reflected much credit upon himself and to the satisfaction of the stockholders and patrons of the bank, the growing popularity of the bank being due very largely to his efforts. He has kept well abreast of the times in all that pertains to the banking and commercial world, and is a painstaking, conservative and obliging gentleman whom to know is to trust and respect.

Mr. Kendrick also handles a loan and fire insurance business, which is very successful. He also finds time to take an active part in public affairs. He has been president of the village board several terms, the last term being in 1903. He has been a member of the city council several years. He was also a member of the county board of supervisors, and for twelve or fifteen years he was treasurer of the board of education, of which he was an influential member. As a public servant he has discharged his duties in an able and conscientious manner. He is a member of the Congregational church, and was trustee of the same for many years up to January, 1911.

The domestic life of Mr. Kendrick began on September 30, 1875, when he was united in marriage with Lillian Hollister, daughter of Cyrenus N. and Maria C. (Latimer) Hollister. She was born on Rock Prairie, Darien township, this county, November 17, 1851, and there she was reared and she received her education in the local schools. Her parents came here from Slaterville Springs, Tompkins county, New York, in an early day, making the trip by boat on the Great Lakes, to Milwaukee, thence by teams to Walworth county. There were three brothers, Cyrenus, William and Lemuel Hollister.

To Ansel H. Kendrick and wife the following children have been born: Helen Hovey, born February 8, 1877, died in Delavan, February 26, 1879; Warren Dudley, born January 25, 1879, died in Delavan, March 31st of the same year; Florence, born May 15, 1880, lives at home with her parents.

The Wisconsin State Bank, of which the subject is president, was so named on November 1, 1911, being changed by the stockholders from Bank

of E. Latimer & Company, and was approved by the commissioner of banking, having been a private bank for many years. In 1903 it became a state bank under the name of Bank of E. Latimer & Company. It was first organized as the Walworth County Bank in 1855, and was succeeded by the National Bank of Delavan in 1865, the firm of E. Latimer & Company succeeding to the same in 1880. In February, 1910, the bank was moved to the elegant and substantial new building, built for the bank and occupied solely by it. It is of pressed brick and stone, finished in dark green marble inside and fine, modern furnishings, a large new vault, with up-to-date safety devices, etc. The capital and undivided profits are sixty thousand dollars, and the bank is in a flourishing condition, being one of the sound and popular institutions of this part of the state. Besides Mr. Kendrick the present officers are, G. E. Barker, vice-president; C. H. Shulz, cashier; R. C. Lillibridge, assistant cashier.

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#### WILLIAM H. TYRRELL.

Deeds are thoughts crystallized, and according to their brilliancy do we judge the worth of a man to the country which produced him, and in his works we expect to find the true index to his character. A worthy representative of that type of American business men who may properly be termed "progressive," that character which promotes public good in advancing individual prosperity and conserving popular interests, is William H. Tyrrell, well-known manufacturer and merchant of Delavan, Walworth county. He has been prominently identified with the business interests of this locality for many years, and while his varied affairs have brought him success they have also advanced the general welfare by accelerating commercial activity.

Mr. Tyrrell was born at Racine, Wisconsin, November 8, 1857, the son of Henry and Jenette (Wooster) Tyrrell. The parents came from near Fairfield, Connecticut, to Wisconsin, in 1843 and 1844 and located at Racine. The Tyrrell family may be traced back to England, where the family was one of high standing, had a coat-of-arms bearing the motto "Ventus Va Vitae." There was one of three brothers who went to Ireland and became a general, his name appearing in Irish history, and there is a place named for him, Tyrrell's Pass. Descendants of his brothers came to America in an early day and settled in the New England colonies, and some of the members of this family fought in the American Revolution.

Jenette Wooster is descended from a family that also came from England and settled in New England before the war for independence and her ancestors were also in the Revolution, one of them being an officer in the patriot army.

After coming to Racine, Wisconsin, the father of the subject engaged for a time at his trade of tailoring, then farmed for a time, later resuming tailoring, later going into the wholesale and retail grocery business, and later in life was in the real estate, loan and insurance business, and he spent the rest of his life in Racine. He took an active interest in the affairs of the city and held some public offices, notwithstanding the fact that he was a Democrat, and after the Civil war the Republicans were in the majority. He was quite active in the development of Racine, bought a large tract of land adjoining that city, platted and sold it under the name of Tyrrell and Palmerter's addition. He was one of the substantial and influential men of that section of the state, and was held in high esteem for his public spirit and exemplary life, his dealings with his fellow men having ever been above cavil.

William H. Tyrrell, of this sketch, grew to manhood at Racine, and there attended the common schools and the high school. After leaving school he worked for the People's Gas Company, finally being placed in charge of their Racine office, when only about seventeen years old. A year later, in 1876, he came to Delavan, accompanied by his mother, his father having died in 1875. He clerked three years in a grocery store here, for his brother-in-law, J. H. Goodrich. In 1879 he was united in marriage with Allie Bradley, daughter of William Wallace and Esther Ann (Larnerd) Bradley, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. After his marriage he went into partnership with Mr. Bradley, who had a dry goods and clothing store here, and also one at Clinton Junction. He took charge of the store at the latter place, and remained there about eighteen months, then returned to Delavan and two stocks were consolidated. About four years later John J. Phoenix, a brother-in-law of Mr. Tyrrell, was also taken in as a partner, and that arrangement continued until after Mr. Bradley's death; his family still continued to hold his interest in the firm until March 2, 1906, when the partnership was changed to a corporation under the name of W. W. Bradley & Company, of which Mr. Tyrrell is president, which position he is filling in a manner that reflects much credit upon his ability, and under his able management the business has continued to grow until this store is today one of the most popular in the county. They always carry an extensive, carefully selected and up-to-date stock of choice goods, and their hundreds of customers receive every courtesy and consideration.

Mr. Tyrrell has habitually endeavored to boost the interests of Delavan and he was largely instrumental in securing for this beautiful little city a knitting factory. In order to induce it to locate here, he and Mr. Phoenix and other local enterprising citizens took stock in it. The concern did not seem to be a success, the original owner finally being compelled to give it up. Messrs. Tyrrell and Phoenix, after much pressure, were persuaded to take hold of it. They secured a controlling interest and in November, 1904, assumed control. Mr. Phoenix is president and Mr. Tyrrell is secretary and treasurer. Since then the company has prospered, growing rapidly. They have had to build additions to the plant for the past three years, and in 1911 an addition of three stories, one hundred feet in length, was added, also a power house was built. The plant is managed under a superb system and is thoroughly equipped with every modern appliance necessary in turning out high-grade work promptly. They now employ about three hundred people and do an annual business of nearly a million dollars. Their goods, owing to their superior quality, find a very ready market all over the world, shipments being made to Johannesburg, South Africa, Constantinople, Hawaii, the Philippines, and they are now arranging to cover Asia and Japan. They make knit coats, jackets, caps and many other articles, one of the most popular and widely known being the "Bradley Muffler," designed and invented by the subject's son, Wallace Bradley Tyrrell, and was named for him. He is usually known as Bradley Tyrrell. He is vice-president and superintendent of the firm. The muffler is patented and was largely copied by infringers, who were finally beaten in the courts in 1911. It is admittedly the finest muffler in the world, and is sold by every representative dealer in England, in fact, may be found all over the world. This factory would be a credit to any community, and its influence on this locality has been most beneficial.

Messrs. Tyrrell and Phoenix and Bradley Tyrrell have also made several deals in Delavan real estate that are notable. In October, 1911, they put on sale a plat of seventy-five city lots known as Tyrrell's sub-division, and sold them all in two hours' time at public sale. It was not an auction, the price being previously put on the lots.

Although active in public affairs, Mr. Tyrrell would not under any consideration take any public office, preferring to devote his attention exclusively to his large business affairs. About 1895 he and Mr. Phoenix organized the Delavan Light & Fuel Company, now the United Heat & Power Company. After operating this concern about ten years in a most successful manner, they sold out. The buyer failed and Mr. Tyrrell was appointed receiver, and ran it two years, then sold it to the present company.

Two children, a son and a daughter, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Tyrrell, namely: Esther Marian and Wallace Bradley Tyrrell. The former was born October 16, 1896, and the latter October 9, 1883. He attended the schools of Delavan and was graduated from Beloit College in 1906, since which time he has been actively engaged in the business with Mr. Tyrrell and Mr. Phoenix. He was married on July 25, 1907, to Kate Root, of Elgin, Illinois, and to this union one daughter has been born, Katherine Bradley Tyrrel.

Fraternally, William H. Tyrrell belongs to the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He and his wife are members of the Episcopal church. They have a beautiful and modern home in Delavan which is known as a place of hospitality to their many friends.

Mr. Tyrrell is by nature an organizer and promoter, a man of keen business discernment, sound judgment and broad views, yet plain, unassuming and unobtrusive, a very likable gentleman in every respect.

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#### RUSSELL BROTHERS.

The Russell Brothers, Thomas and John, of Geneva township, well known business men and agriculturists and representative citizens of Walworth county, are eminently entitled to conspicuous mention in a history of this locality where they have so long labored in varied fields of endeavor. Their lives and interests have been so closely interwoven, their purposes and ideals so nearly identical and their achievements of such similar character that the history of one is practically the history of both.

Their first progenitor in America, Michael Russell, was born in Tulla, county Clare, Ireland, September 25, 1816, and there he spent his early life, coming to America in 1851, the voyage requiring nine weeks on a sailing vessel. He arrived at New York and there spent nearly a year, then came to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, by way of the Great Lakes. Leaving that city one morning with fifty pounds of baggage, he walked all the way to Elkhorn before night, he being the second or third Irishman to locate in Elkhorn, then a straggling hamlet. At that time there were no railroads and traveling was done by teams. A stage was passing through Elkhorn twice a week. The horns of elks were nailed up on a tree in the public square. Mr. Russell found work as a hostler at the hotel and remained there seven years. After he had been here two years he began paying on a farm two and one-half

miles south of Elkhorn in Geneva township. On March 13, 1854, he and his brother John bought eighty acres in partnership, for which they paid two hundred and seventy-five dollars, and on October 14th of the same year they bought eighty acres adjoining, for which they paid six hundred dollars, on which Michael Russell was able to pay two hundred dollars down. In 1856 he sold the first eighty to his brother. On July 4, 1860, he was married to Mrs. Ann Maloney, *nee* McNamara, a native of Tulla, county Clare, Ireland, who emigrated to America when seventeen years of age, having been born on May 24, 1829, and it was in 1846 that she landed at Toronto, Canada, with her parents, John and Bridget (Russell) McNamara, and the family remained in that city nearly a year, then came to Milwaukee, where the daughter Ann worked out for a time. Learning to be a tailoress, she worked at this several years, then married John Maloney, to which union two children were born, Patrick and Catherine. Mr. Maloney's death occurred in 1854, and his widow remained in Milwaukee until 1860, when she married Mr. Russell and came to live on the farm south of Elkhorn and here they established a good home. Mr. Russell was a Democrat, but not active in politics. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Russell, namely: Sarah, Mary, Thomas, John, Frank and James. The wife and mother passed to her rest on January 27, 1905, at the age of seventy-six years. The Russell family are all Catholics.

Patrick Maloney, mentioned above, was educated in Milwaukee, later taught school in Seneca county and when twenty-five years of age married and soon afterward went to South Dakota, where he took up a homestead and later engaged in the drug business, then turned his attention to real estate, which he followed until his death, in January, 1900. He had a family of eight children. Catherine Maloney made her home with her mother and step-father until her death, in June, 1911. Mary Russell married Michael Duggan and they live on the east side of Delavan lake, four miles from the old home, Mr. Duggan owning a farm of his own; his family consists of five children living and two are dead.

On March 19, 1890, Thomas and John Russell formed the firm of Russell Brothers and went into the hardware business at Elkhorn, in connection with which they operated a feed mill for three years, also dealt in implements and farming machinery. About 1898 they took Harvey Curtis as partner, he being a harness man, and added the harness business to their other lines, but this they sold out in 1902 to Charles Pipelow and the hardware business to H. C. Norris, Thomas retaining the implement business, which he conducted until 1908, when he sold out to the Elkhorn Implement Company and returned to the farm. John Russell has been engaged in cement bridge

construction for various railroads. He was general superintendent over four hundred men and elevated the tracks for all the railroads at Milwaukee and Racine. He was also superintendent of bridge work on the Panama canal two years. He spent one year in England, Ireland and Wales, then returned to Wisconsin and resumed erecting cement bridges for railroads. He is now putting in a bridge one hundred feet above the water, two spans, four hundred and two feet to a span, near Vancouver, British Columbia, on the new railroad for the Canadian government. He is an expert in his line and is widely known for his skill and industry as a builder of bridges. He has turned out many big jobs, always satisfactorily. Thomas Russell is an adept in farming implements and machinery of all kinds and is well known all over the county. He now deals in huskers and other machinery, besides his farming.

The other children of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Russell are all on the home farm.

On March 3, 1903, the Russell Brothers bought the old eighty-acre farm, for which they paid the sum of five thousand dollars; this land was bought by their father and uncle John in 1854 for the sum of two hundred and seventy-five dollars. They have since been offered nearly nine thousand dollars for it. Since the pioneer days the Russells have been among the best known and most highly esteemed families in Walworth county, public spirited and progressive men of affairs.

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#### HERBERT E. SUTHERLAND.

The scion of a worthy pioneer family of Walworth county and himself a citizen who has led a public-spirited, unselfish and useful life, Herbert E. Sutherland, of the village of Walworth, is worthy of special mention in the history of this locality.

Mr. Sutherland was born on May 8, 1852, in the western part of Walworth township, this county. He is the son of Charles and Frances (Burdick) Sutherland. The father was born in Vermont on November 4, 1816, and he moved to Edmeston, Otsego county, New York, with his parents when very young, and there grew to manhood and was married to Frances Burdick, May 7, 1843. She was born in Rhode Island, and was the daughter of Ichabod Burdick and wife, and she came with her parents to Edmeston, New York, when young. In 1843 Charles Sutherland came here and located in the east part of Walworth township, entering land from the government



MR. AND MRS. HERBERT E. SUTHERLAND



in section 24, on which he built a log cabin, then went back East for his wife and children, and here he located permanently and reared his family of four children: Jane, who married D. W. Hulbert, lived first in Kansas, then Michigan, and died in Florida, July 4, 1910; Ellis I. E. lives at Nashua, Iowa; Herbert E., of this sketch; Frank lives on the old home farm in the east part of Walworth township.

Charles Sutherland lived on the home farm until his two older children had grown to maturity, then he bought a house in the village of Sharon and there he lived a number of years. In later life he sold his home there and returned to his farm, where his death occurred on April 12, 1895. He and his wife endured many of the hardships here in the early days. At first their cabin had no chimney and they did not have enough stove-pipe to reach to the roof. Later he drove to Chicago and got additional pipe, the trip requiring two weeks. After a time he built a stone chimney, the subject now having two of the stones from the chimney in his possession, on one of which is painted a picture of the cabin as it looked in 1843, and the other as it was in 1896. Charles Sutherland was a great hunter and he loved all kinds of outdoor sports. On January 2, 1861, he and others went on a big hunt, after which they had planned an oyster supper at the village hotel. During the hunt a bullet glancing from a rail struck Mr. Sutherland, putting out an eye. What he deplored more than anything else about it was that it prevented further hunting. He was a good natured man, an excellent neighbor, kind, obliging and of genial disposition, and he was always firm in his convictions of justice and right—a typical Wisconsin pioneer and a worthy old settler. His wife, also a fine character, was a fit companion of such a sterling first settler and she bore her hardships uncomplainingly. She was jolly and charitable, one of the best of women. It is well remembered of her that often after a hard day's washing she would put on her Shaker bonnet, light her pipe, take her knitting and walk and knit all the way to Bell's Corners, three and one-half miles and back after the mail. Although their cabin had only one big room and a pantry and a loft above, it was always big enough to extend a welcome hospitality to all comers and travelers of the early days. She was a small woman, but had much endurance and she lived to be eighty years old. She and her husband had innumerable friends throughout the county, and no enemies.

Herbert E. Sutherland lived with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age, then went to Racine and learned harness making, remaining there eighteen months, when the factory in which he was employed went out

of business. He then farmed two years, after which he went to New York and engaged in butter and cheese making at Edmeston, Otsego county, remaining there most of the time for eight years, also spent eight months in Pennsylvania. He then returned to the home farm, and operated the homestead until his marriage, on February 13, 1890, to Olive L. Maxson, daughter of Clark P. and Lucy Ann (Kinney) Maxson. Her father was born in Plainfield, Otsego county, New York, and lived there until his marriage. He was the son of Deacon Alfred and Polly (Clark) Maxson. Deacon Alfred Maxson was born June 27, 1785, and he and Mary Clark were married on January 1, 1808. She was the daughter of Peckham Clark, and was born June 29, 1789. They came here about 1843 from Plainfield, New York, where he had been active in the Seventh-Day Baptist church and was one of its first deacons at Leonardsville, Madison county, and after coming here he was prominent in this church from its beginning. His son, Clark P. Maxson, married Lucy Ann Kinney, March 3, 1839. She was born in New Berlin, New York, about 1821 and when eighteen years of age taught school there. She was the daughter of Samuel and Olive Kinney. In 1844 Clark P. Maxson and wife came to Walworth county and located in the west part of Linn township. His father, Deacon Maxson, and his entire family came at the same time. Deacon Maxson was one of the organizers of the Seventh-Day Baptist church of Walworth. He was a man of strong convictions, outspoken against anything he deemed to be wrong. He was one of the strong men of his community, and was a deacon for many years of the church he helped organize. His wife was baptized into the church in her old age. Clark P. Maxson lived first in Linn township, but later moved to Walworth. Mrs. Sutherland was born in Linn township. Her only sister, Lucy Jane, was born in New York, prior to the family's removal to Wisconsin. She married Theodore Hull and lived in Walworth until her death in 1861. They had two children, Lucy Jane, called Janey, and Clark P. Hull. The mother died when the daughter was only three days old and the son was but sixteen months old. Their father died six months later and the little ones were taken by their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Clark P. Maxson, and reared to maturity. Janey married Clarence Pierce, of Walworth, brother of Delos Pierce, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. In 1891 Clarence Pierce and wife moved to Chicago, where he was in the employ of the street railway company for about eighteen years. He went South on business and while there contracted Southern typhoid fever, and returned to Chicago and on a visit to his brother in Walworth, Wisconsin, his death occurred July 24, 1902. His wife had shown herself a woman of strong determination and foresight and

stability of character, and she has made her own way, rearing her children in respectability. Her brother, Clark P. Hull, lives with Mr. Sutherland in Walworth.

After his marriage and before and up to the time of his father's death Herbert E. Sutherland continued farming east of the village of Walworth in the locality where he was born, remaining there until February 15, 1910, then he was on the Ayers farm a short time successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising, and then moved to Walworth, where he has since resided, having sold his farm and retired from active life; however, being a man of action and in his prime, he contemplates returning to agricultural pursuits.

Fraternally, Mr. Sutherland is a member of the Modern Woodmen. He is known by all to be upright and generous, industrious by nature, and he is well thought of by all who have met him.

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#### WILLIAM WALLACE BRADLEY.

In looking over the list of business men of a past generation in Walworth county whose many public-spirited acts contributed to the general good of the locality, the name of William Wallace Bradley stands out conspicuously, and although he has taken up his march with the innumerable phantom army to Shakespeare's "undiscovered bourne," his memory is enshrined in the hearts of his many friends and will long linger there.

Mr. Bradley, who was for years one of the leading merchants of Delavan, was born in the town of Groton, Tompkins county, New York, May 20, 1826. He was a son of Dr. Enos and Adah Bradley, who were Connecticut people, moving to New York in an early day, and when the subject was about six years old the family moved to Darien, Genesee county, New York, where they remained until 1845, in which year they emigrated to the state of Wisconsin, locating at Southport, known at present as Kenosha. When a young man Mr. Bradley learned tailoring, and in 1848 he located in Delavan, engaging in this business. Later he began dealing in ready-made clothing, being the first one in the county in that business. Later he added dry goods and built up the business that is now the W. W. Bradley & Company's store. He started in a small way and built well, his trade increasing with the years until he enjoyed a lucrative business. With the exception of one year, 1865, he was in business continuously until his death. During the greater part of that time he dealt in both dry goods and clothing and was one of the best known merchants in this section of the state.

Mr. Bradley was first married to Cynthia Keeler, daughter of Peter M. Keeler. Her death occurred on December 31, 1853, leaving a daughter who died when twelve years old. On April 21, 1855, Mr. Bradley was married to Esther Larnard, daughter of Elisha and Nancy (Wilson) Larnard. She was born in Tioga county, New York, in 1826, and is still living at Delavan, now nearly eighty-six years old. She came here about 1857 with her brother, Ira P. Larnard, who is still a resident of Delavan, having been one of the first settlers there, and he is now ninety years of age. Two daughters were born to Mr. Bradley's second union, Allie and Eva. The former is the wife of William H. Tyrrell, of Delavan, and the latter married John J. Phoenix.

Mr. Bradley was a man who took much more than passing interest in public affairs. He served as treasurer of Delavan during the years of 1851 and 1852, and he was a member of the village board of trustees for four years. In 1854 and 1855 he was town treasurer and was village trustee in 1873, 1875, 1880 and 1886. He was never an office seeker, what public honors he received coming unsought. He was in business in Delavan over fifty years, during which time he did much for the upbuilding of the place, and when he was called to his reward on January 1, 1900, the community felt a keen loss. He was a very likable man, honest, obliging, kind-hearted, strict integrity being a cardinal principle of his business. He was modest and unassuming, yet always friendly and sociable, thus made and retained friends easily.

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#### WILLIAM CLARENCE NORTON.

The life of William Clarence Norton, well known attorney of Elkhorn, has been one of hard study and research from his youth and since maturity of laborious professional duty, and the high position which he has attained in the affairs of Walworth county is evidence that the qualities which he possesses afford the means of distinction under a system of government in which places of honor and usefulness are open to all who may be worthy of them.

Mr. Norton was born in Lafayette township, this county, on November 5, 1874. He is the son of John H. and J. Louise (Merrick) Norton. The father was born at Chardon, Geauga county, Ohio, and when one year old his parents, Winthrop and Hannah (Cranston) Norton, brought him to Walworth county, Wisconsin. That was in 1842, in pioneer times, and here he grew to manhood and received his education in the early common schools. The mother's family was from Cranston, Connecticut, having been early settlers in the old Nutmeg state.

The Norton family located in Lafayette township upon their arrival in this county and there maintained their home until 1861, when they made the long overland trip by wagon to California. There Winthrop Norton died and was buried. John H. Norton was about twenty years old at the time of the trip to the Pacific coast. He farmed there about two years, then he and his mother returned to Lafayette township, this county. An uncle of the subject, Abram Cranston Norton, also went to California, returning a year after his brother, John H., returned, and these gentlemen bought a farm in partnership in 1866, and farmed the rest of their lives here, being widely known as the Norton brothers. Abram C. never married, and always made his home with the father of the subject.

The parents of William C. Norton were married on February 8, 1871. The mother was the daughter of Austin L. and Celestia (Cook) Merrick, and was born in the town of Spring Prairie, this county, on September 21, 1843. Her father was born in Franklin, Delaware county, New York, and he was among the very earliest settlers in Walworth county, locating in Spring Prairie township in 1836, entering land from the government, which he improved and there made his home the rest of his life, and there he was married to Esther Celestia Cook, who was born in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, in which state her parents died.

John H. Norton and wife and Abram C. Norton, mentioned above, remained on the home farm until 1888, when they retired from active life and moved into Elkhorn, which has since been the family home. Abram C. died on February 9, 1909. He had been a member of the county board of supervisors and was also an alderman in Elkhorn.

Three children were born to John H. Norton and wife, namely: Irene C., William Clarence, of this sketch, and Florence L.

William C. Norton lived with his parents on the home farm until he was fourteen years of age, and he received his education in the district schools of Lafayette township and the high school at Elkhorn, from which he was graduated in 1892. The following year he entered the State University at Madison, where he made a splendid record for scholarship, remaining there until 1896. Then he went to California, where he and the family spent a year, then returned home and he entered the law department of the State University and took the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1900. Thus well equipped for his life work, he came to Elkhorn and began practicing his profession with Joseph F. Lyon, with whom he remained up to the death of the latter, two years later, since which time Mr. Norton has practiced alone. He has been very successful and now enjoys a large and rapidly

growing practice. He has kept well abreast of the times in all that pertains to his profession and ranks with the leading attorneys in this part of the state.

Mr. Norton is an ardent Republican and has long been active in the ranks. He has served as city attorney and also as a member of the board of education, and was chairman of the Republican city committee, filling all these positions in a manner that reflected much credit upon himself and to the satisfaction of all concerned. Of recent years he has devoted his attention almost exclusively to his profession.

Like his worthy father, he is active in Masonic affairs, being a member of the blue lodge, the chapter, commandery and the Order of the Eastern Star.

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#### GRANT DEAN HARRINGTON.

Among those persons who have by virtue of their strong individual qualities earned their way to a high standing in the estimation of their fellow citizens, having by sheer force of character and persistency won their way to a place of influence in the community, Grant Dean Harrington, of Elkhorn, now serving his sixth term as county clerk, is entitled to special mention in a volume of the nature of the one in hand, partly because of his excellent record as a public servant and partly because he is a worthy scion of one of the pioneer families of Walworth county.

Mr. Harrington was born in Richmond township, this county, on October 12, 1862. He is the son of Milton S. and Fannie E. (Miltimore) Harrington, both natives of the state of New York, she the daughter of Edwin A. Miltimore and wife.

Grant D. Harrington was a small boy when the family removed to the town of Delavan, where he grew to manhood and received such educational advantages as the schools of that place afforded. He subsequently completed the scientific course of study at the University of Valparaiso, Valparaiso, Indiana, after which he taught school one year at Goshen, that state. He then went to Rock Valley, Iowa, where he published the *Register* during a period of about twelve years, during which time he was also active in other business enterprises, meeting with a fair measure of success in all that he undertook. He was one of the organizers of the State Bank and became its first vice-president. He became a leader in public affairs there and was postmaster at Rock Valley for some time. He also carried on a real estate and insurance business.

Finally returning to Delavan, Wisconsin, Mr. Harrington purchased the *Enterprise*, which he published about three years. He was clerk of the city of Delavan during its organization. In 1900 he was elected county clerk, and so well has he discharged the duties of this office that his constituents have re-elected him every two years since.

At all times an active worker in the ranks of the Republican party, he has represented his constituents in conventions and party councils, always making his influence felt for the good of his community and the party in general.

In 1886 the Masonic order at Hull, Iowa, initiated him into its mysteries and he later became a charter member of Pilgrim Lodge at Rock Valley, and was chosen its first master. In 1886 he became a member of Delavan Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, and has since received the honors of Delavan Council, Royal and Select Masters, Beloit Commandery, Knights Templar, Wisconsin Consistory, Scottish Rite, and Tripoli Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He stands high in Masonic circles in southern Wisconsin, in which he has long been active. Religiously, he and his wife belong to the Congregational church.

Mr. Harrington was married on January 5, 1886, at Osceola, Iowa, to Sadette Smith, daughter of John and Mary (Elliott) Smith, a highly esteemed family of this place. One son has graced this union, Elliott Dean Harrington.

In closing this sketch, it is deemed fitting at this place to give an account of the massacre of Edwin A. Miltimore, maternal grandfather of the subject, and six members of his family, by the Bannock and Snake Indians on August 31, 1859, near old Fort Hall, on the Snake river, in which Milton S. Harrington, father of the subject took part, fighting the red men and probably killing their chief.

The Miltimores were Eastern people and knew nothing about Indians, and they attempted to cross the plain to Oregon by way of a new trail, opened by the government, along which the Indians were supposed to be friendly. Milton S. Harrington was the main promoter of the enterprise with his father-in-law, Edwin A. Miltimore, and he was with the party from their start from Fairbanks, Iowa, and in 1907 he gave the following graphic account of the trip before the court of claims:

"I was on ahead as usual towards evening, selecting a suitable campground, when we were attacked by the Indians. Hearing their firing and whooping in the rear, I took in the situation at once, and while we were practically unarmed and defenseless, I started back, having a rifle, intending to

do what I could in driving them away. I soon met Charles N. Miltimore running in my direction with Indians following him. Upon seeing us, they fled, disappearing in the sage brush. Mr. Miltimore told me that the Indians had killed his father, Edwin A., and the rest of the family, so we retreated to the camp that I had chosen; but in a few moments the band came down upon us in full force and surrounded us except on the river side. They dismounted and closed in upon us, firing as they came. They had nearly surrounded me when I was warned by others of our party. I then secreted myself in the bottoms, where I was joined by Nathan Titus, a member of the train, who also had a rifle. The Indians then came out into plain sight when a shot from one of our rifles killed the largest of the Indians, whom we afterwards learned to be the chief of the band, when the rest of the Indians again disappeared. The killing of their chief broke up this band of marauding red men and they later scattered in all directions.

"By this time it has become quite dark and we joined the survivors of this portion of our party, and by marching all night around the country supposed to be infested by the Indians we again struck the trail the following day. All night long we could hear the whooping of the savages. We finally overtook George and Alonzo Miltimore who had gone on ahead hunting ducks, thereby making their escape, being away on the river when the attack was made. We found ourselves without a particle of food and very scantily clothed. We kept hid in the daytime, traveling the rest of the way by night, in order to escape further molestation.

"Having learned that a train was ahead of us, two of our party were sent to overtake it. On the evening of the fourth day we came upon a small government train, which had been sent out from the camp on Bear river with supplies for a party of surveyors in Oregon, and were returning. They had an escort of seven soldiers and a guide, under the command of Lieutenant Livingston, who sent a scout and a soldier back to the scene of the massacre. They found the bodies and the contents of the wagons scattered about as if a general looting had taken place. Apparently the Indians destroyed what they could not carry away. A party of dragoons went to the scene also and buried the bodies where the massacre occurred. The father, mother and five children of the Miltimore family had met death, one of the children being a baby, born en route.

"We went on with the soldier to the government camp on Bear river and were there given a tent and food by the commanding officer, Major Lynd, the soldiers soon afterwards transporting us to Camp Floyd, where we spent the winter, my wife keeping a boarding house, while I and the Milti-

more boys worked at anything we could find to do. In this manner we secured sufficient means to purchase an outfit and during the following summer I brought the survivors of the Miltimore family back to Delavan, Walworth county, Wisconsin."

It is believed that all the Miltimore family is now deceased except Charles and George. The family was practically ruined by this atrocious and unprovoked attack by the Indians, who destroyed property of the Miltimores probably aggregating seven thousand dollars.

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#### CAPT. GEORGE EDWIN WOOD.

The respect which should always be accorded the brave sons of the North who left their homes and the peaceful pursuits of civil life to give their services, and their lives if need be, to preserve the integrity of the American Union is certainly due Capt. George Edwin Wood, a well known citizen of Elkhorn. He proved his love and loyalty to the government on the long and tiresome marches in all kinds of situations, exposed to summer's withering heat and winter's freezing cold, on the lonely picket line a target for the missile of the unseen foe, on the tented field and amid the flame and smoke of battle, where the rattle of the musketry mingled with the terrible concussion of the bursting shell and the deep diapason of the cannon's roar made up the sublime but awful chorus of death. To the heroes of the "grand army" all honor is due; to them the country is under a debt of gratitude which it cannot pay, and in centuries yet to be posterity will commemorate their chivalry in fitting eulogy and tell their knightly deeds in story and song. To this rapidly vanishing host into the phantom army of the silent land belongs the subject, still left with us to thrill us with reminiscences of those stirring times in the early sixties.

Captain Wood was born at Hartford, Vermont, August 19, 1842. He is the son of Lucius and Juleta (Morse) Wood, the mother a daughter of Hiram Morse and wife. Mrs. Hiram Morse was in Boston during the Revolution, and the subject remembers her telling him of seeing the British enter that city. She lived to be ninety-nine years of age. One of her sons, Washington Morse, was a prominent Seventh-Day Adventist and lived to be one hundred and one years old. Another brother of Juleta Morse was S. F. B. Morse, famous for inventing the telegraph.

Lucius Wood, father of the subject, was left an orphan at an early age, at Brookfield, Vermont. He grew to manhood and was educated in his native state, and began life for himself by teaching school there, later in life becoming a tanner. Upon his marriage he moved to Bradford, where he had a tannery, and there his wife died, leaving the following children: Lucy, who married Luther C. Hull, of Lynnfield Center, Massachusetts; Lucinda married William H. McCausland, at one time chief inspector of detectives in Boston, and they died at Wakefield, Massachusetts; James R. Wood was a celebrated scout and a prominent officer in the government's secret service during the Civil war. He was one of two scouts who took a secret message from General Grant to President Lincoln from the battle of the Wilderness, the President showing his appreciation of the hazardous service by embracing the scouts. He and his son ran a detective agency in Boston from 1879, and he has been succeeded by his son. Elizabeth Wood died in Lowell, Massachusetts, May 14, 1850, of cholera; she was the third child in order of birth, James R. Wood being the fourth; the next was Charles P., who was born on June 18, 1840, and died in Seattle, Washington, in 1902. He was a soldier in the Civil war, serving in the First and the Fourteenth Vermont Volunteer Infantry. He was with the troops at Gettysburg which received Pickett's famous charge. For many years he was in the fire department in Boston. George Edwin, of this sketch, was next in order of birth; Pamela J., the youngest, was born February 8, 1846, married Walter C. Wigfall and she lives at Providence, Rhode Island.

The father of the above named children was for years connected with the police department of Boston, and his death occurred there on November 11, 1864. Two of his step-sons, children by a former marriage of his wife, were also in the Union army.

Capt. George E. Wood, of this sketch, spent his boyhood in Boston chiefly, where he attended the public schools, also went to a military school at Norwich, Vermont, being a student in the latter institution at the commencement of the Civil war. On May 9, 1861, he enlisted in Company D, First Vermont Volunteer Infantry, at Rutland, Vermont, to serve three months, and he was mustered out on August 15th following, but on September 19th of the same year re-enlisted, and was at once elected sergeant of Company B, Sixth Vermont Volunteer Infantry. His military record is one to be proud of and he saw much hard service, proving a most gallant soldier and faithful officer, according to his comrades. His regiment was in the battles of Warwick Creek, Lee's Mills and Williamsburg, Virginia, in the spring of 1862. On June 14th of that year he was promoted to second lieutenant. On June

27th and 28th he was in the battle of Golding's Farm, and on June 29 that of Savage Station, where he was wounded and taken prisoner. After seven days under guard he was confined in Libby Prison and from there was paroled on July 17th, and on July 23d he was promoted to first lieutenant. He was in the great battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862, although his wound was still open and running. After that battle he was made a staff officer and from then on until the end of the war he was away from his regiment, but was in every battle that engaged the Army of the Potomac, and they were many and bloody. From November, 1862, Captain Wood served on the Second Division, Sixth Corps staff, under Gen. Albin P. Howe and later under Gen. George W. Getty. In December, 1863, he was promoted to the Sixth Corps staff under John G. Sedgewick and later under command of Gen. H. G. Wright. He served on the Sixth Corps staff until June, 1865, except two months when he was temporarily on Gen. Phil Sheridan's staff. On October 29, 1864, he was commissioned captain of Company A, of his regiment, but continued to serve as a staff officer until the close of the war. He was present at Lee's surrender and was one of those detailed to bear the news of the surrender to other divisions, where he witnessed the never-to-be-forgotten enthusiasm and elation of both commanders and privates at the final victory. Captain Wood was highly commended by his superior officers for his bravery and fidelity to duty. He was mustered out on June 26, 1865.

After the war Captain Wood went to the oil regions of Pennsylvania and until 1889 was engaged in putting down oil wells. He was very successful in this line. He was married in 1866 to Maria A. McLean, of Boston, and her death occurred in 1868.

Captain Wood's family have nearly all been engaged in police and detective work, and he has been a detective most of the time since the war, proving to be a most efficient, faithful, alert and successful one. From Pennsylvania he went to Michigan in 1869, where he assisted in breaking up a very bad gang of notorious outlaws. Like nearly all detectives from habitual training, he seldom talks of his work or tells of his adventures, but enough is known that we may be sure he could give a very interesting account if he were disposed to do so. In 1896 he went to Haney, Crawford county, Wisconsin, and there filed claim to some land that for some reason or other still belonged to the government. He located there and made Haney his home until he came to Elkhorn. For many years he has taken a great interest in horse racing, and buying and selling fast horses, and has made a business of it. He came to Elkhorn first in 1901, but did not locate permanently until 1903. In that year his second marriage occurred, when he

espoused Eva S. Tubbs, sister of Willis J. Tubbs, a record of which family is to be found on another page of this work.

The Captain now makes his home in Elkhorn, and is thoroughly identified with the county's affairs. He was for many years a member of the American Detective Association. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic. He is now a justice of the peace and is discharging his duties in this office in a manner that elicits the praise of all concerned.

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### HERMAN VOLTZ.

The name of Herman Voltz has long been a familiar one in Geneva township, Walworth county, he being one of the thrifty and enterprising Germans who have deigned to cast their lot in our midst and have, by so doing, benefited themselves and us. He was born in Pomerania, Germany, on November 30, 1850, and is the son of Carl and Augusta (Karnerpp) Voltz. The subject grew up in his native land, and was educated there. When a young man he became foreman of a large farm, consisting of one thousand acres, and he discharged his important duties most faithfully. He was married in his native land to Augusta Rasch, daughter of Frederick and Louise (Janke) Rasch, also natives of Pommerania.

Mr. Voltz continued to reside in the fatherland until 1875, when he brought his wife and her mother to the United States. They located at Kenosha, Wisconsin. His wife's sister and sister's husband had settled near Wheatland, Kenosha county. Two months later they came to Bloomfield, this county, and here Mr. Voltz worked by the day for Andrew Kull, one of the leading farmers of that part of Walworth county. After remaining with Mr. Kull three and one-half years, he began farming for himself on a rented farm in Lyons township, and he continued in this manner for fourteen years, during which he got a good start, then bought two hundred acres in Linn township, and he has continued to reside here most of the time ever since. In 1905 he also purchased a farm of one hundred and eighteen acres at Como in Geneva township, but retained his residence in Linn township. He has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser and is now well fixed, having a fine home and his land well improved and under a high state of cultivation. He keeps an excellent grade of live stock.

Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Voltz, namely: William married Emma Dickman, and they had two sons, Frank and one other.

William was farming on the home place in Geneva township. His death occurred in January, 1908. Edward Voltz married Bertha Coots and they live in Lake Geneva, where he owns a good residence and some valuable lots. He is engaged in farming near that city. He has one son, Carl. Herman Voltz, Jr., married Martha Siefert and lives near Alden, Illinois, on a farm. Frank is married and lives on the same farm with Herman. Andrew Voltz is operating the farm formerly conducted by his brother William at Como.

For the past three years Herman Voltz and wife have resided on the farm at Como, but they still own the home farm in Linn township. They formerly belonged to the Lutheran church.

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### PATRICK DUNN.

One of the best remembered and most highly respected citizens of a past generation in Walworth county was the late Patrick Dunn, a man whom to know was to respect and admire for he led an exemplary life and aided in all movements looking to the material, civic and moral welfare of his community. He came to us from the Emerald Isle, which fair country has sent so many enterprising and much welcomed citizens to our shores who have aided us in pushing forward the wheels of civilization.

Mr. Dunn was born in Queens county, Ireland, in 1815, and he emigrated to America when young in years, and here spent the rest of his life. He was married about 1849 to Ann Murray, who was born in Monahan, Ireland, the daughter of John and Bridget (Finnegan) Murray.

About 1850 Mr. Dunn and wife came to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, then moved to Linn, and from there to Walworth township, where he farmed successfully until old age rendered it necessary for him to retire. He established a good home there and had a fine farm and there he reared his family, comprising six children, named in order of birth as follows: Mary Ann, who married John Kelly and reared a family of seven sons and one daughter; lived in Iowa until her death; Michael, who is living in Walworth township, this county; John married Elizabeth Hickey and lived in Lake Geneva until his death, on Christmas day, 1886, leaving a son and a daughter, John and Anna Irene, the former dying when about twelve years old, and the latter is attending school in Milwaukee; Elizabeth married James Hagan and they live in Harvard, Illinois; Catherine is the wife of Horace G. Douglas, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Edward lives in Lake Geneva, and a sketch of him appears in this work.

The death of Mr. Dunn occurred on October 23, 1897, after an honorable and successful life, during which he enjoyed the friendship and good will of all with whom he had occasion to associate or have dealings in a business or social way, for he was charitable, neighborly, obliging and public-spirited.

Mrs. Dunn lived until her death in Lake Geneva, her daughter-in-law, widow of her son, John, living with her. She would have been ninety years of age on Christmas day, 1911. She retained her faculties remarkably well, having had as good hearing as any young person up to the last, and she was very well preserved for one of such advanced years. She had a good memory and often related interesting reminiscences of pioneer times. She was a devout Christian and her example was always salutary, being a faithful member of the Catholic church. Her death occurred on October 17, 1911. She was loved and respected by all who knew her.

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#### ELMER E. COWLES.

The best farmers of the present day do not confine their whole time and attention to the cultivation of the soil, but vary their operations by raising stock for sale to other farmers. The raising of any kind of live stock, whether fancy or not, may be made very profitable by the farmer who will take the time to study the stock question as it deserves. One of the modern agriculturists of Walworth county who not only makes it his aim to raise a good grade of live stock, but, also, to employ the most approved and scientific methods in all his work, is Elmer E. Cowles, proprietor of the "City View Farm," of the vicinity of Elkhorn.

Mr. Cowles was born in north Geneva township, this county, on May 19, 1861, the son of John A. and Lucy (Hathaway) Cowles. The father, born April 29, 1832, in New Hampshire, the son of Seth and Harriet (Steel) Cowles. The latter was born on June 17, 1795, in Canaan, New York, and she died in this county on May 12, 1879. The Cowles family is descended from one of two brothers who came to America in the "Mayflower" and settled in New England in 1620, and the family has been prominent in both army and navy and in public life. Seth Cowles and family came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, about 1843 and settled in the northern part of Geneva township. Lucy Hathaway was born on May 6, 1842. She was the daughter of James and Martha (VanBurgan) Hathaway; the father was from New England and the mother from Pennsylvania, of Dutch ancestry. James

Hathaway and wife came to this county about 1847 and settled in the town of Delavan. Seth Cowles entered his land from the government, in section 9, Geneva township, owning two hundred and forty acres there. He there improved a fine farm and made a good home. He experienced the usual hardships and privations incident to pioneer life. He had to haul lumber from Milwaukee with which to build his house. Wolves and other wild animals were numerous. Here Seth Cowles spent the remainder of his life and reared his family, his death occurring on February 2, 1867, and there John Cowles and wife began their married life. They were the parents of five children, four sons and one daughter, namely: Fred, Minnie, Carl, George and Elmer E. They lived there until the children were grown up and in later life lived in Elkhorn, where the father died on November 13, 1901, his wife having preceded him to the grave on January 4, 1894.

Elmer E. Cowles, of this sketch, grew up on the home farm, and he received his education in the local schools. Early in life he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits and he farmed the home place until two years after his marriage, which event took place on April 22, 1885, to Fannie M. White, daughter of William and Emily (Shepard) White. The subject's wife was born at Hartford, Washington county, Wisconsin, and the family moved to Walworth county in September, 1878, and settled in the southwestern part of Lafayette township, and two years later moved to near Springfield, where they spent two years, then moved to section 7, Geneva township, where Mr. White bought a farm and lived a number of years. The mother of Mrs. Cowles died in 1877. Mr. White moved to Elkhorn about 1893 and has lived there ever since. Mr. White was born in Ireland, and the mother of Mrs. Cowles was born in New England, and she lived a short time in Canada, later returning to her childhood home.

About two years after his marriage, Elmer E. Cowles bought part of his father's farm and remained there about seven years, then sold out and went to Lafayette township, where he spent three years, then returned to Geneva township and rented the farm of his father-in-law in section 7, and here he has since resided, having purchased the place in 1909. It is near the city of Elkhorn and hence he named it "City View Farm." He has kept it under a fine state of improvement and cultivation and handles some good stock, carrying on general farming successfully.

Mr. Cowles was a member of the Good Templars as long as it lasted. He assisted in organizing the State Long Distance Telephone Company about 1901, and he has been president of the same for the past three years, discharging the duties of this capacity in an able, conscientious and satisfactory

manner, and much of its large success has been due to his able handling of its affairs. Religiously he is a member of the Methodist church.

Mr. and Mrs. Cowles had but one child of their own, a son, who died in infancy. They have adopted two children—Percy Weymouth and Marguerite Cocroft. The latter was the daughter of Harry and Georgia Cocroft. The former was the son of Daniel Weymouth and wife, and he was born in Texas, from which state he and his mother came to Walworth county on a visit and here she died.

Mr. Cowles is a man who delights in doing favors where they are needed, but it is always done in a quiet manner, for he does not seek the approval of his fellow men by such acts, merely that of his own conscience.

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### HIRAM SEARS BELL.

Standing today among the representative citizens of Walworth county, which has been the arena of his interesting and successful life work, Hiram Sears Bell, now living in retirement in the village of Walworth, has performed well his part in the local drama of civilization, having been active in the various stages of development here from the pioneer epoch.

Mr. Bell was born in Walworth township, a little over a mile northwest of the village of Walworth, this county, June 28, 1844. He is the son of William and Sarah (Mosher) Bell, the father born at Berne, Albany county, New York, June 20, 1806, being the fifth child of Robert and Clara Bell. Robert Bell was the third child of James Bell and he was born in Rhode Island in 1776. James Bell's father, also named James, was born near Newport, Rhode Island, and from there he moved to Rensselaerville, New York. According to family tradition he was descended from John Austin, of Scotland, who was a noted metal worker and designer and made a great improvement in the composition of bell metal and bells during the reign of James I, King of England. He was the first to make a tulip shaped bell, having discovered a process of moulding it in one piece. For his skill as a bell maker and scientific metal worker he was knighted by the King and called Sir John Bell and given a crest.

William Bell, father of Hiram S. Bell, received a good common school education and for a number of years he followed teaching in early life. In 1828 he moved to Albany, New York, where he learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked for eight years. He and Sarah Mosher were married



MR. AND MRS. HIRAM S. BELL

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

June 10, 1829. She was born at Queemans, Albany county, New York, December 14, 1808. She was of English descent and the daughter of David and Anna (Irish) Mosher, being the seventh of nine children, namely: John, Ruth, Nathaniel, Peter, Polly, Nancy, Sarah, Thankful and Harriett. Her mother died about 1818 and her father about three years later. Mrs. Bell was adopted by a Mr. Palmer, after the death of her parents, and she grew up in New York. Wisconsin was still a territory when, in 1837, William Bell and wife came to Walworth county, thus being among the earliest settlers. Locating at the head of Lake Geneva, they lived two years at what is now Glenwood Springs, then Mr. Bell entered a farm at what is now known as Bell's Corners, Walworth township, his place having contained eighty acres of prairie and forty acres of timber and later he got eighty acres of school land. He took an active interest in public affairs, and was the first justice of the peace in this locality, which office he held many years. He established the first postoffice and was postmaster at Bell's Corners for fourteen years, thus being the first postmaster in the township. He was also the first county assessor of this county. He was a member of the first constitutional convention of Wisconsin. He was very influential in public life and was a man of exemplary character, a zealous lover of liberty, an independent thinker, both in regard to religion and politics. During the Civil war he was loyal to the government. Two sons, William James and Lucius, died in the service, the former having been a private in Company A, Tenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and the latter was in the Second Regiment of Colonel Berdan's Sharpshooters. William J. was killed in the battle of Perryville, Kentucky, October 8, 1862. Lucius died at Columbia College Hospital, Washington City, January 11, 1862. The other children of William Bell and wife were Almira, born at Albany, New York, December 7, 1830, and died when sixteen years old; Robert, born at Berne, New York, August 8, 1832, died at Shenandoah, Iowa, September 27, 1881, leaving three sons and one daughter; Florence, born at Albany, New York, July 18, 1835.

Clara Anna Bell, born July 8, 1837, at Fontana, was the first white child born in Walworth township, and her death occurred here on October 21, 1858; Harriett, born at Walworth, April 1, 1839, died April 25, 1890; William J. and his twin brother, who died unnamed, were born May 10, 1840, at Walworth; this was the son that was killed in battle at Perryville; Lucius, the other soldier from this family, was born at Walworth, July 23, 1842; Hiram S., of this review; Manley and Amanda, twins, were born at Walworth on September 2, 1847; the former, who lives at Fresno, California, married Nellie

Betridge, September 17, 1875, and has two daughters, also a son who died when twenty-two years old; Amanda lived only about a month; Jane Almira, born at Walworth, February 25, 1850, died March 24, 1888; Lola Bell, born at Walworth, March 23, 1854, died in Elkhorn, April 23, 1891.

In 1870 William Bell moved to Lawrence, Kansas, and engaged chiefly in raising fruit. He was a member of the Horticultural Society, in which he took an active part. His death occurred on November 8, 1876, after an illness of several weeks.

Hiram S. Bell, the immediate subject of this sketch, lived on the home farm until he was twenty-one years old. He received his education in Big Foot Academy at Walworth, also attended the academy at Allen's Grove. He began life for himself by teaching school a year, then learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed ten years at Elkhorn. While there, on January 27, 1869, he married Lucilia C. Bailey. She was born at Walworth, this county, December 5, 1847, and she was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Catherine (Siperly) Bailey. Her father was born at Havre-de-Grace, Maryland, July 19, 1797, and he located in Walworth county probably as early as 1838, having entered a quarter section where the village of Walworth now stands and the quarter section west of it. He was a son of Aquilla and Rachel (Barnes) Bailey. Aquilla Bailey was the son of Josiah and Margaret (Osborn) Bailey, of Havre-de-Grace. Rachel (Barnes) Bailey was a daughter of Gregory and Elizabeth (Mitchell) Barnes. Catherine Siperly, born February 27, 1820, in Dutchess county, New York, was a daughter of Peter and Betsey (Fradenburg) Siperly. Betsey Fradenburg was born January 30, 1795. Peter Siperly and wife located just south of Delavan lake in this county.

Mrs. Bell was one of six children, two sons and four daughters. Her father farmed in Walworth all his life, and died October 12, 1873, his wife dying April 9, 1901.

After his marriage Hiram S. Bell lived at Elkhorn until 1876, in which year he bought a farm west of the village of Walworth, on which he lived until 1900, when he moved into the village and organized the Walworth Exchange Bank, as a private institution, and when it was incorporated as a state bank he was elected its president, remaining about six months longer, then sold out and retired. The success and prestige of this popular institution has been due very largely to his efforts. He has been very successful in a business way and has a comfortable competency. In 1904 he built a very substantial and attractive residence in Walworth, modern in its appointments and tastily furnished and this has since been his home. About eight or ten

years prior to going into the bank he was manager of the Farmers Co-operative Creamery Company. He was also president of the Lake Geneva Land Company, the founders of Glenwood Springs, for about fifteen years.

Mr. Bell has been active and influential in public as well as business affairs and for a period of sixteen years he was a member of the Walworth high school board, and was president of the village board for two terms; he was clerk of the local camp of Modern Woodmen for five years, and consul for an equal length of time. He is also a member of the Masonic order.

Mr. Bell and wife had one son, Clifford Wentworth Bell, born at Elkhorn, September 22, 1873, and he died at the Palmer Hospital, at Janesville, Wisconsin, January 9, 1895, after an illness of three years, resulting from an injury to the spine; he was just past his twenty-first birthday.

Mrs. Sarah Bell, mother of Hiram S. Bell, died October 1, 1904, at Walworth, when almost ninety-six years of age. She was one of the county's pioneer women, who endured the hardships of the first settlers. She was a grand character, charitable, obliging, always doing something for her neighbors. She was always sent for at births, in sickness of a severe nature and whenever a strong-minded and willing person was needed in times of distress, and her skill was often solely depended on in the days when doctors were scarce. She lived a very active life.

Mr. Bell has always been known as a man of broad intellect, progressive, hospitable and perhaps no one in the county has more friends.

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#### LEWIS A. CAMPBELL.

One of the substantial citizens of Lyons, Walworth county, is Lewis A. Campbell, a man who has succeeded in his life work because he has always worked earnestly and honestly, doing well whatever he undertook and keeping himself well posted on the trend of the times in material, civic and moral evolution. His conduct has been such as to inspire the confidence and respect of his fellow men. He represents one of the oldest families of the county.

Mr. Campbell was born in Lyons, this county, January 29, 1863. He is the son of Wesley J. and Harriet A. (Spoor) Campbell and the grandson of Daniel and Mary (Nichols) Campbell. Daniel Campbell was one of the pioneers of Walworth county, coming here in 1836, from Franklin county, New York, where he was born. He selected a claim in Spring Prairie township which he later sold before land came into the market, and in 1839 he

settled in section 4, Lyons township. He endured the hardships of the pioneer life and worked hard to establish a home here, but through grit and perseverance he succeeded. His death occurred on July 23, 1879, his wife having preceded him to the grave on February 27, 1872. Of their five children not any survive. They were: Mrs. Melissa R. Smith, who died December 2, 1911; Catherine, William R., Melissa, Nichols D. and Wesley J. Catherine married a Mr. Brand, lived in Montevideo, Minnesota, and died there; William R. lived at Whitmore, Iowa, where he died; Nichols D. died at Plymouth, California, where he resided up to his death.

Wesley J. Campbell was born in Franklin county, New York, January 25, 1835. He married Harriet A. Spoor, daughter of John S. Spoor, one of the early settlers of Troy township. Two children were born of the first marriage, Lewis A. and Harriet A. The latter married Robert H. Butler and lives in Minneapolis. Lewis A. is the subject of this sketch. The mother of these children died on November 13, 1868, and the father later married Marie Moran, a native of Lyons, and two daughters were born to them, Mabel and Ethel. The former married Edward Pendergast and lived in Springfield, later in Canada, where she died in June, 1910. Ethel married P. F. Siler and lives in Chicago.

The death of Wesley J. Campbell occurred on November 9, 1891, at Lyons. He had been a member of the board of supervisors and was township clerk for twelve years, and he also served as justice of the peace. He farmed in early life, spending his later years in the mercantile business in Lyons.

Lewis A. Campbell has always been a resident of Lyons. In his early life he taught school several years and for many years he engaged in the mercantile business here. He has been clerk of his township for a period of nineteen years, which is evidence of his high standing in his home community.

Mr. Campbell was married on February 20, 1895, to Tillie Emmerling, daughter of Anton Emmerling and Mary (Young) Emmerling. She is a native of Lyons. Her parents were both born in Germany. Her mother first married Michael Sherman, and she came from northern Indiana to this county in an early day, his father, Sebastian Sherman, having come to Walworth county in 1845. After Mr. Sherman's death the mother returned to Indiana and married Anton Emmerling on Christmas day, 1858, at Valparaiso, Indiana. She had a farm here and about two years after her second marriage she and Mr. Emmerling returned to Lyons and here spent the rest of their lives. Her death occurred on January 2, 1889, and that of Anton Emmerling on August 17, 1903. Mrs. Campbell was one of five children: George, who lives at Menominee, Michigan; Martin J., who lives at Henderson, Colorado;

Tillie is the wife of Mr. Campbell of this sketch; Joseph is farming in section 12, Lyons township; Agnes Catherine died in infancy about 1871. Mrs. Campbell's mother came from Germany with her widowed mother and eight children, five boys and three girls, all of whom are dead. The subject's step-mother is living in Chicago. Mr. Campbell has a pleasant home in Lyons, and personally he is an obliging, friendly gentleman who is well liked over the county.

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### WILLIAM F. RANDALL.

Success has come to William F. Randall, one of the progressive citizens of Geneva township, because he has been willing to keep plodding steadily onward even though obstacles beset his way and his surroundings were at times none too favorable. He has always been a hard worker and has lived an upright life, so that he has the friendship of his neighbors and all who know him, which, as all will readily acquiesce, is a most valuable asset in the world of business.

Mr. Randall was born at Janesville, Rock county, Wisconsin, November 17, 1863, and is the son of William F., Sr., and Mary M. (Madden) Randall. The father was born and reared in Batavia county New York, and was the son of Samuel and Sarah (Wright) Randall, also of Batavia. Mary M. Madden was born in Pennsylvania and was the daughter of Irish parents, who emigrated to America from Dublin, Ireland, in an early day.

It was in the fall of 1870 that the Randall family came to Walworth county, Wisconsin. Here the father bought a farm near Darien, and he also owned three farms nearby in Sharon township, and was one of the leading farmers and influential citizens of his community.

William F. Randall, of this sketch, grew to manhood on his father's farm and there assisted with the general work when he was a boy, and he received his education in the public schools of his community. His parents now live at Allen's Grove, his father having sold his farm, and is now retired from the active duties of life.

The subject is one of a family of five children, four sons and one daughter, namely: William F., of this sketch; Samuel F., of Darien; George W. and Clarence W., both of Darien; all have farms in that vicinity; the daughter, Mora, died when seven years old.

When the subject was only seventeen years old he worked a farm for himself and boarded at home, in fact, continued thus most of the time until

his marriage, which took place on July 3, 1886, to Bertha Steinke. She was born at Stettin, Germany, and was the daughter of Carl Steinke. She spent her childhood in the fatherland, emigrating to the United States when seventeen years of age, and located at Allen's Grove, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where she lived until her marriage.

After his marriage William F. Randall continued farming in the same community, most of the time until 1909 with singular success when he bought a farm of one hundred and eighteen acres near Como, in Geneva township, where he now resides. He is bringing his land up to a fine state of cultivation and improvement, and has a very comfortable home and convenient outbuildings. He has farmed most of his life, with the exception of about a year in which he engaged in the meat business in Elkhorn.

To Mr. and Mrs. Randall four children have been born, namely: Mary Maude, who married Frank Hoelzel, lives in Sharon township, and she has one child, Marion; William and Bessie Randall live on the home farm; Bell, who is married to John Abbott, lives in Springfield. Mr. Randall is a member of the Modern Woodmen.

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#### CHARLES HERMAN DOPKE.

The commercial system has come to recognize the importance of the farmer and has surrounded him with many conveniences and utensils unthought of one hundred years ago. The inventor has given him the self-binder, the riding-plow, the steam-thresher, and many other labor-saving devices. And the farmer has not been slow to take advantage of these blessed improvements. He everywhere has utilized them and made them add to his wealth and his comfort. It has been thus with the subject of this sketch.

Charles Herman Dopke was born near where he now lives in Geneva township, this county, a short distance north of Lake Como, March 8, 1876. He is the son of Herman and Minnie (Grossclark) Dopke. The father was born in Pommern, Germany, where he grew to manhood and married Minnie Grossclark, and there they lived until 1870, when they came to America, locating first at Burlington, Wisconsin, and there worked at farming four years, then bought part of the farm now owned by the subject, and here spent the rest of his days, dying on November 18, 1900, at the age of fifty-six years. His widow now lives in Lake Geneva. They became the parents of twelve children, nine of whom are living, namely: Albert lives at Tremelo, Clay county, Iowa; Louise married Arthur Taylor and they live at Hinton, Iowa;

Annie married Herman Bear and they live at Spring Prairie; William lives in Chicago; Charles H., of this sketch; Laura is unmarried and lives in Chicago; Minnie is the wife of Lawrence Kohn and lives in Lake Geneva; Dora married Frank Miller and they live in Chicago; Julia is unmarried and lives with her mother at Lake Geneva.

Charles H. Dopke, of this sketch, grew up on the home farm and he received his education in the public schools, and he has spent his life farming in his native community.

The subject was married on December 28, 1898, to Elizabeth Kreuger, daughter of Frank and Elizabeth (Walbrant) Kreuger, of Lafayette township. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Dopke, namely: Laura, Violet, Charles and Donald.

Politically, the subject is a Republican, and he has been assessor of Geneva township for five years, filling the office most acceptably. He is a member of the Lutheran church at Elkhorn.

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### JOHN MICHAEL KULL.

The career of the sterling pioneer, John Michael Kull, for a long lapse of years one of Walworth county's leading citizens, who is now numbered with the "innumerable caravan that moves to the pale realm of shades," but whose influence still permeates the lives of those who came into contact with him and who yet live in Walworth county, is well worth setting forth in detail here, for he was a man who believed in progress and wholesome living in all the relations of life, his career being that of a faithful and devout man, a kind husband, an indulgent father and a citizen in whom all reposed the most implicit confidence and trust.

Mr. Kull was one of the first settlers of Bloomfield township, this county, and he was an American by adoption only, his birth having occurred in Wurtemberg, Germany, November 15, 1814. He was a son of John Michael Kull, Sr. He grew to manhood in his native land and there attended school, emigrating to America in 1833 with his brother Andrew. The latter was born in Wurtemberg in 1808; he married Gertrude Pfrommer, of that place, and he emigrated to America in 1833.

John M. Kull spent six or seven years in Massachusetts after reaching our shores, working for five or six years in the woolen mills there, and one year with a gunsmith. He was married on January 8, 1841, to Synthia

Slafter. She was born May 25, 1824, and was the seventh of a family of eight children. She is descended from John Slafter, who came to this country from Great Britain, a vague tradition says from Wales, probably about 1680. He appears to have settled at Lynn, Massachusetts, and reared a family of at least ten children. He was prominent in the early settlement of the colony and took an active part in public affairs of his community. Of his descendants, sixteen are known to have been in the wars of America prior to the Civil war, some in the French and Indian war, some in the Revolution and others in the war of 1812, and there were no less than one hundred and sixty-five of his descendants in the Civil war. Among those distinguished in the world of literature and political life was John Godfrey Saxe. Calvin, Eliezer, Samuel and John were the line of her ancestry. Her father, Calvin Slafter, was the son of Eliezer, who was the son of Samuel, who was the son of John. All seem to have been substantial people and of much influence in the affairs of their respective communities.

Andrew Kull and wife and John M. Kull came west in 1837 and settled in Walworth county, Wisconsin, when the country was new and sparsely settled. Andrew located in section 4, and John M. in section 21, Bloomfield township. At that time the first settlement had just been made, probably only two or three others having preceded the Kulls. Even after John M. Kull's children were old enough to remember, there were no fences to be seen on either side of the road between their home and Geneva, and the roads were merely old trails, the principal one being that between Fort Dearborn, or Chicago, and Madison.

John M. Kull was probably the first nurseryman in Walworth county, and was an expert in this line of endeavor. He was a lover of fruit trees and kept thoroughly informed on them and all questions of horticulture, and he did much to improve the orchards throughout this locality.

To John M. Kull and his first wife one daughter, Margaret, was born November 16, 1842, and one son, Andrew, was born on April 29, 1845. On August 14th, of that year, the wife and mother passed to her rest, when Andrew was only four months old. The subject's brother Andrew and wife had no children of their own, so they took the child and became much attached to him and adopted him, rearing him as their own. About two years later John M. Kull was united in marriage with Margaret Runkle, and eleven children were born to this union, named as follows: Anthony, who died when twenty-one years old; Susan married William Slaughter and died in Iowa; Agnes is the wife of George Stockwell and lives at Salem, Kenosha county, Wisconsin; Charles J. lives at Lake Geneva, and a record of him appears here-

in; Edwin O., who was graduated from Wheaton College, taught in the public schools for some time, is now farming in Bloomfield township; he was a member of the state Legislature in 1899 and 1900; Rose married Otto Ark and they live at Elkhorn; Philip, who lives at Beloit, was for years a resident at Genoa Junction; John lives at El Paso, Texas; Gertie, who married Rev. Wheeler, formerly of Geneva, now lives at Stonington, Illinois; Frank is at Ord, Nebraska; Irene married John McDonald and she lived west of Elkhorn until her death, in February, 1904.

John M. Kull was not given to mixing in politics, but he took a deep interest in public affairs, especially in educational matters. He was thorough in all that he undertook and was a man who tried to carry into his daily life the precepts of the time-tried maxims of his forefathers, especially that of the Golden Rule, and he was therefore honored and respected by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. Mr. Kull's death occurred in 1881, at the age of sixty-seven years, his widow surviving until in December, 1891.

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#### WILLIAM BAUMBACH, JR.

Having never been seized with the roaming desires that have led many of Walworth county's young men to other fields of endeavor and other states, where they have sought their fortunes, William Baumbach, member of the well-known and successful firm of builders and concrete manufacturers, of Lake Geneva, has been content to remain in his native community and here direct his efforts and he has met with encouraging success all along the line, being a young man of industry, perseverance and correct habits, believing in doing well whatever he undertakes and in dealing honorably and squarely with his fellow men.

Mr. Baumbach was born in Lyons township, Walworth county, May 15, 1873. He is the son of William and Minnie (Freitag) Baumbach. The father was born in Saxony, Germany, and he came to America about 1868, locating at the town of Springfield, Walworth county, Wisconsin. He was a weaver by trade, which he followed in the old country, abandoning the same for farming upon his arrival in America. He was twice married, and by his first marriage three children were born, Fred and Christ, and August, deceased. The former lives near Aberdeen, South Dakota, and the latter lives in Elko, Nevada. The first wife died shortly after coming to the United States, and the elder Baumbach then married Minnie Freitag, a native of Germany, born

near the city of Hamburg. She emigrated to America about 1870 and located near Lyons, Wisconsin.

William Baumbach, Sr., purchased a farm on the road that connects Burlington and Lake Geneva, lying southwest of Lyons, and this remained the family home for about thirty years.

Five sons and four daughters were born to the elder Baumbach and his second wife, namely: William, Jr., of this sketch; George lives in Lake Geneva and owns a farm north of the city; Arthur lives at Boring, Oregon, near Portland; Augusta, wife of Max Roaker, lives a mile and a half east of Delavan; Lena married Howard Delap and they live east of Delavan; Julia is the wife of Arnold Pagle and they live in the village of Lyons; Frank lives in Lake Geneva; Florence died in childhood, January 6, 1899, when seven years old; Herman lives in Lyons. The mother of the above named children was called to her reward on March 14, 1906.

William Baumbach, Sr., continued farming about two years longer, then, about 1908, retired from active life and is now living quietly in his cozy home in Lyons.

William Baumbach, Jr., the immediate subject of this sketch, remained on the home farm until twelve years of age, when he began working out at farm work by the month. Being thus so tender in years, his experiences were conducive of much good in the way of inspiring in him courage, fortitude and self-reliance which have, no doubt, been largely responsible for his later-day success. He continued in this kind of work until he was about twenty-four years old, then learned the mason's trade and also took up cement work. Early in 1906 he went into partnership with Edward C. Reinert and Herman Malsch, under the firm name of Reinert, Malsch & Baumbach, a record of which appears in a separate article herein. The subject has been in this business ever since and has been largely responsible for the great and growing success of the firm, which is well-known throughout the southern part of the state.

Mr. Baumbach was married on April 19, 1899, to Ida Rector, who was born and reared in East Troy, Walworth county. She is a daughter of Francis and Jennie (Morrison) Rector, the father from Duaneburg, New York. He was the son of Mathew Rector and Susan (Macomber) Rector. Mathew Rector was of Pennsylvania-Dutch stock on his father's side and of Scotch-Irish on the mother's side of the house. Francis Rector was a sailor in his youth, both on the lakes and on the sea. He lived in Milwaukee before his marriage, while sailing on the Great Lakes. In 1868 he married Jennie Morrison, a native of Delhause Mills, Canada. After his marriage he lived at

Dephere for a time, then located at East Troy, Wisconsin, and made that his permanent home, although he continued sailing on the lakes until about 1880. He now lives at East Troy. Mr. and Mrs. Baumbach have one son, Herbert, who was born on June 25, 1902.

Mr. Baumbach is a man of rugged physique, direct in manner, self-made, diligent and business-like in all his undertakings. He takes active management in the erection of many buildings, some of them large public structures, and his work is always conscientiously and satisfactorily done.

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#### WILLIS P. HOLCOMB.

No more progressive agriculturist could be found within the limits of the territory embraced by the present volume than Willis P. Holcomb, who was born at Concord, Jefferson county, this state, September 22, 1855, the son of Webster and Julia (Brown) Holcomb. The father was a native of Watertown, Jefferson county, New York. The Holcombs came originally from Holland, several generations ago. The mother was from Erie county, Pennsylvania, and she came with her parents, Rufus and Syrena (Peck) Brown, to Medina county, Ohio, and she came on to Wisconsin about 1854. Webster Holcomb came to Jefferson county, Wisconsin, in 1845, and settled in section 17, Concord township, in pioneer times, and entered land from the government. When he was but sixteen years old he aided in the defense of Sackett's Harbor against the British in the war of 1812. His father, John Holcomb, was also a soldier in that war. Webster Holcomb was married in New York to Abigail Perkins, and they became the parents of ten children. After the death in 1854 of his first wife he was married to Julia Brown, of which union only one child was born, Willis P. Holcomb, subject of this sketch.

The subject was reared on the home farm in Jefferson county, and in 1878 he was united in marriage with Edith Knapp, daughter of Bartholomew and Eliza (Shephard) Knapp. The mother came to Walworth county, in pioneer times, as a bride with her first husband, John Whittaker, about 1840. She walked from Milwaukee, and she and the party of several people of which she was a member pitched their camp where the Methodist church at Concord is now located. She was the second white woman to locate in that vicinity. She was born near London, England, and when seven years old came to northern New York and lived in the Catskill mountains, also for a time at Quebec. Here in Wisconsin Mr. Whittaker died, leaving her with two children. Her

parents had been people of wealth, and when her mother came to America she had been so little used to doing her own work that she was almost as helpless as a child, trying to do housework in the new country. She was twice married, her second husband being Bartholomew Knapp, who was born at Schenectady, New York, and later came to Medina county, Ohio, and from there to Wisconsin about 1846, and located at Concord. There Mrs. Holcomb's parents followed farming and spent most of their lives, the father dying in 1865, when Mrs. Holcomb was four years old. The mother, a woman of strong characteristics, remained on the home place and raised her six children in comfort and respectability. Two other children had died in childhood. The mother's last years were spent in Clark county with a daughter. There Mrs. Holcomb grew up and was married.

After his marriage Willis P. Holcomb and wife lived on the home place for about five years. In 1884 he sold the farm at Concord and moved to Walworth county and bought a farm in sections 10, and 11, Geneva township, known as the old Chase farm, and there he has lived ever since, keeping the place well improved and well cultivated.

Three sons have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb, named as follows: Willis Roy, born on September 10, 1879, married Annie Volrath and they have two children, Verna Geneva and Edith Louise; Mr. Holcomb lives at Excelsior, Minnesota, engaged in the dairy business, but owns a fine farm in Wyandotte county; Newell Webster, the second son of the subject, was born on July 11, 1882. He married Opal Arnsmeyer and they are engaged in farming, about eight miles east of Judy, Illinois, across the state line in Wisconsin; they have one daughter, Myrleh Leone; Ellery Channing, third son of the subject, was born on August 14, 1890, and he is at home with his parents. Willis P. Holcomb is a member of the Modern Woodmen, and his wife belongs to the Mystic Workers.

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#### HARLEY C. NORRIS.

The examples such men as Harley C. Norris, efficient and popular county treasurer, furnish of patient purpose and steadfast integrity strongly illustrate what is in the power of each to accomplish. By a straightforward and commendable course he has made his way to a respectable position in the affairs of Walworth county, winning the hearty admiration of the people and earning a reputation for industry, public spirit and wholesome living.

Mr. Norris was born in Sugar Creek township, this county, on February 11, 1855. He is the son of John A. and Julia M. (Richardson) Norris, the former a native of England, his father being accidentally killed when he was a child, after which the lad was taken by his grandparents to raise. When seven years old he was brought to America and he grew to manhood in Ohio and there married Julia M. Richardson. She was a native of Connecticut, and when she was a young girl she accompanied her parents to Ravenna, Ohio, near Cleveland, where she lived until her marriage.

John A. Norris and wife were among the very early settlers of Sugar Creek township, this county, and there they entered land from the government, established a good home where the family continued to reside until about 1868, when they moved to Elkhorn, where the father spent the rest of his life, having farmed up to his removal to the county seat. He engaged in the hardware business here the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1890, his wife having preceded him to the grave in 1874. Back in the early days he took considerable interest in public affairs of his community and held some of the local offices. After the death of his first wife he married Sarah Hickson and one child was born to them, Arthur J., who now lives at Madison, Wisconsin. Mrs. Norris also lives in that city.

By the first marriage of John A. Norris, five children were born, named as follows: John E. remained unmarried and died in California; William R. died unmarried in Elkhorn; Harley C., of this sketch; Daniel R. lives in the Ozark region in Missouri; Elizabeth is the wife of George B. Spoor and lives at Cordova, Illinois.

Harley C. Norris, of this sketch, spent his childhood on the farm. He was twelve years old when the family moved to Elkhorn. Here he attended the public schools, and then began clerking in his father's hardware store, finally assuming the business and remaining there until 1904. For four years he was secretary of the Walworth County Agricultural Society. In the fall of 1908 he was elected on the Republican ticket to the office of county treasurer, which he now holds, discharging the duties of the same in a manner that reflects much credit upon himself and to the satisfaction of all concerned. He has held a number of other offices, such as village treasurer of Elkhorn for four years, president of the village board of trustees, later mayor for two terms and he was city clerk for four years, in all of which he proved to be a most conscientious and faithful public official. He has also been in the county and local organizations of the Republican party.

Mr. Norris was married in 1879 to Alice W. Allen, daughter of Lucius and Juliet (Barnes) Allen. She was born in East Troy, this county, where

her parents had settled in an early day, coming here from Ohio. Mr. Allen was originally from Pawlet, Vermont, and Juliet Barnes was a native of Ohio. Mr. Allen was a descendant of the Brewsters of "Mayflower" fame. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Norris: Edwin L., born July 8, 1880, and Lucius A., born February 10, 1890. The former lives at Mineral Point, Wisconsin, and is express messenger for the Wells Fargo Company; the latter is attending the State University. Fraternally, Harley C. Norris is a member of Masonic order, having attained the Knight Templar degree; he also belongs to the Modern Woodmen.

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#### DEWITT STANFORD.

Among the men of influence in Walworth county, who have the interest of their locality at heart and who have led consistent lives, thereby gaining definite success along their chosen lines is DeWitt Stanford, the present able and popular superintendent of the county farm. He has long been regarded as one of our most progressive agriculturists and public spirited citizens. He is managing the fertile fields of the county with that care and discretion which stamps him as a twentieth-century farmer of the highest order, everything indicating excellent system, good judgment and taste as well as executive ability.

Mr. Stanford was born at Elkhorn, this county, July 13, 1851, and is the son of Squire and Cynthia (Bassett) Stanford, the former born in 1819 in Portage county, Ohio, and there he married Cynthia Bassett, who was born in Litchfield, Connecticut, and from there came to Ohio when she was fourteen years of age. In 1846 these parents came to Racine county, Wisconsin, and located at the village of Rochester, but the following year came on to Elkhorn, Walworth county, buying a farm near there. Squire Stanford was a carpenter and builder by trade and he followed the same for many years here, building the present court house at Elkhorn in 1874, and a great many houses and other structures all over this part of Walworth county. He employed a large number of men and carried on an extensive business, in which he was very successful and became well known as a contractor. Politically, he was a Republican and took an active interest in public affairs, and he held various offices in village and township, always with much satisfaction to the people. His family consisted of five children, four sons and one daughter, namely: DeWitt, of this review; Clinton, Alma B., Vactor B. and Halbert E. P. The

death of Squire Stanford occurred on May 8, 1893, his wife having preceded him to the grave in 1887.

DeWitt Stanford grew to manhood at Elkhorn and learned to be a builder under his father, having assisted him with his various duties when but a boy, attending the public schools in the winter time. He devoted his attention exclusively to this line of endeavor from 1871 to 1903, covering a period of thirty-two years, during which time he turned over many big jobs in various parts of this locality, and here will stand for generations to come many monuments to his skill and conscientious work as a builder. In 1879 he went to Fergus Falls, in northwestern Minnesota, and there he and his brother Clinton formed a partnership in the contracting business and they erected nearly all the public buildings there. Remaining there until 1890, he returned to Elkhorn and has remained in this county. For a number of years he was a member of the city council at Fergus Falls, acting mayor one year and a half, and he was a member of the school board and held other positions, always to the satisfaction of the people and with credit to himself. After returning to Elkhorn Mr. Stanford continued building in connection with farming on his place in the edge of Elkhorn. He has also taken much interest in public affairs here, and was mayor of Elkhorn for two years and a member of the city council for some time. In March, 1903, he became superintendent of the Walworth county insane asylum and poor farm, which position he has held to the present time, discharging his duties in a most acceptable manner and winning the hearty approval of all concerned.

Mr. Stanford was married on January 24, 1875, to Dora Bell, daughter of William H. Bell, who came from New York to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1852 and he located first at Hart Prairie, but in 1867 came to Elkhorn.

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#### HERMAN SCHUTT.

The subject of this sketch, who figures as one of the leading farmers of Linn township, is very favorably known over Walworth county, although he has not long been a resident of the same, but since coming here he has demonstrated his desire to be an upright and loyal citizen and attend strictly to his individual affairs, assisting in promoting the general upbuilding of his community when occasion demanded.

Herman Schutt was born in the city of Stralsund, in Pommern, Kreis Fransburg, Germany, on May 22, 1864, and is the son of Gustave and Johanna (Brumshagan) Schutt.

The subject grew to manhood in Germany, working on a farm in his youth. He spent three years in the German army, according to the custom in that country. Believing that his rise would be more rapid in the United States, he emigrated to Cleveland, Ohio, in the year 1892, and lived there one year, then came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and located in Walworth township, and here he worked out for about four years, then rented a farm in sections 20 and 29, Linn township. After remaining on this place three years he went to Illinois in which state he spent four years, then returned to the farm in Linn township, which he purchased and began farming for himself. He has an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he has brought up to a high state of improvement and cultivation and on which he carries on general farming and stock raising in a successful manner, keeping a good herd of cattle. He also follows dairying, being exceptionally well equipped for this line of endeavor. He ships his milk to Chicago where he finds a very ready market.

Mr. Schutt was married in February, 1896, to Minnie Voss, daughter of William and Johanna (Strandt) Voss. She was born in Stralsund, Pommern, Germany, and she was a baby when her parents brought her to America. They located in Linn township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, and the father owned the farm where she and Mr. Schutt now live. The death of the father occurred in 1894. Her mother lives in the village of Walworth. A full sketch of the Voss family appears on another page of this work.

Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Herman Schutt, namely: August, Ernest, Erna and Irma. Mr. Schutt and family belong to the German Evangelical church of Walworth.

Mr. Schutt is a splendid specimen of physical manhood and he is a hard worker and well informed citizen on current events, fond of home and family, a good neighbor and faithful friend, according to those who know him well.

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#### EDGAR M. JOHNSON.

The life of such a man as the late Edgar M. Johnson is well worthy of emulation by the youth standing, as Longfellow wrote, "Where the brook and river meet," meaning the small stream of childhood with life's larger flood, often likened to a river. This is so because Mr. Johnson was a man who set a good example, his habits having been exemplary and he was also a man of courage, industry and strict integrity. Thus he was held in high esteem by all who knew him, being for years one of the worthy citizens of Walworth county.



*E. M. Johnson*



Mr. Johnson was born in Bennington, Vermont, September 20, 1846, and he was therefore one of that hardy band of New Englanders who came here in the early history of this section of the Badger state and took a leading part in its development. He was the son of Parsons and Roxanna (Littlefield) Johnson, who came to Beloit, Wisconsin, in 1855, when the subject was nine years old, and there the parents spent the rest of their lives, the father dying about 1896, the mother surviving until 1910, having reached the advanced age of eighty-nine years.

Edgar M. Johnson was educated in the public schools and the preparatory department of Beloit College. He worked for a time in the hardware store of Hibbard & Spencer, of Chicago. He then attended the Bryant and Stratton Business College in Chicago, and after finishing the course there, he secured a place with the board of public works of that city. He then went to Silverton, Colorado, where he engaged in the banking business for some time. He came to Whitewater, Wisconsin, in 1883 and organized the Second National Bank, of which he was president until the time of its consolidation with the First National Bank. He was also vice-president of both banks before the consolidation. He was very successful as a business man, was by nature an organizer and promoter, could foresee with remarkable clearness the future outcome of a present transaction, and he made few mistakes. He became one of the financially solid and influential business men of Walworth county. Accumulating a handsome competency, he retired from the active affairs of life about 1896, and his death occurred in 1898, at his fine residence on Main street, where Mrs. Johnson still resides.

Politically, Mr. Johnson was a Republican and he was a leader in local affairs. He was a delegate to the national convention in St. Louis. He was one of the regents of the State Normal School at Whitewater. Religiously, he was a member of the Congregational church. He was a Freemason.

Mr. Johnson was married in 1869 to Harriet Keep, who was born in Beloit, Wisconsin, the daughter of Judge John M. and Cornelia (Reynolds) Keep. They were married at Westfield, New York, and came to Beloit, Wisconsin, in an early day, where he became one of the leading members of the local bar and was at one time a judge. He helped lay out the town of Darlington, Wisconsin, and it was largely through his influence that the railroad was brought from Warren to Mineral Point, this state. He was prominent in this part of the state for a number of years, influential in public affairs and a lawyer of the first rank. His death occurred on March 2, 1861. Politically, he was a Republican. His family consisted of nine children, two of whom are living. His widow survived until 1895.

To Mr. and Mrs. Edgar M. Johnson two children were born: Roxanna Littlefield Johnson, who married John E. Otterson, a naval constructor at the Charleston navy yards, at Boston, Massachusetts; they have two children, John E., now six years old, and Edgar Johnson, now three years old. Lawrence Graham Johnson, the subject's second child, was educated in Whitewater, Wisconsin, and St. Paul School at Concord, New Hampshire. For some time he was with the First National Bank at Whitewater, and he is now with the Studebaker Brothers Manufacturing Company at South Bend, Indiana, being in the delivery wagon department. In June, 1911, he married Maud Terry, of Brodhead, Wisconsin.

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#### SILAS B. FISH.

Walworth county is characterized by her full share of the honored and faithful element who have done so much for the development and upbuilding of the state and the establishment of the institutions of civilization in this fertile and well favored section. Among this worthy element the Fish family must be included, one of the best known members of the present generation being Silas B. Fish, an enterprising young farmer of Geneva township, Walworth county.

Mr. Fish was born on the farm where he still resides in section 12, this township, on May 5, 1870. He is the son of Jasper N. and Temperance (Hand) Fish, a worthy old family, a record of whom will be found on another page of this work.

The subject spent most of his boyhood on the home farm and there began working in the fields when quite young. He received his education in the public schools. In 1893 he went into the meat business at Springfield, where he remained about two years, and was then in Janesville, Wisconsin, for three years. About 1898 he went to Minnesota, where he bought a farm, remaining there four years, then sold out and came back to this county. During the past seven years he has farmed on the quarter section where he was born, keeping the place under a high state of improvement and cultivation, and he has become very well established as a general farmer and stock raiser.

Mr. Fish was married on March 5, 1895, to Clara Belle Beecher, daughter of Gustave and Mary Ann (Sumpter) Beecher. She was born in Racine county, Wisconsin, and there spent her girlhood and received her education, remaining in her native county until 1894 when the family moved to Spring-

field, Walworth county, but they returned to Racine county in 1896 where they now reside. Gustave Beecher, father of Mrs. Fish, came from near Berlin, Germany, emigrating to America with his parents, John and Rebecca Beecher, in 1848, locating in Brighton, Wisconsin. John Beecher was a depot agent at Kansasville, Racine county, many years ago. He was a well educated man and was well thought of. Mrs. Fish's mother was born in England and she emigrated from her home in Lincolnshire with her parents, John and Mary Ann Sumpter, when eleven years old, in the year 1854. Mrs. Fish's father is farming in Racine county, where he located over a half century ago.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Fish, Florence Ethel, Ray John and Orton. Mr. Fish is a member of the Modern Woodmen and the Mystic Workers.

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#### CHARLES H. WURTH.

Although Geneva township, Walworth county, has many German citizens, especially numbered among her farming element, men who deserve a very first rank in the list of modern, twentieth-century tillers of the soil, no one could be found who labored with more zeal and enthusiasm than Charles H. Wurth, who has devoted his attention exclusively to his work for many years, and, being a close observer and a wide reader on whatever pertains to general agriculture, he has found himself further advanced with each passing year.

Mr. Wurth was born July 25, 1863, in Griesheim, Baden, Germany, and there, near the famous city of Strassburg, distant two and one-half hours' walk, he spent his early boyhood. He is the son of Lorenz and Mary Ann (Wiedemer) Wurth, the father born in Alsace and the mother in Appenweir, Germany. The paternal grandfather was born in France. The subject's father was in the German revolution in 1848, and the grandfather was a soldier in Napoleon's "grand army" and he was on the famous march to Moscow, where he was taken prisoner and kept two years by the Russians and did farm work. Through the winter he saved a little bread every day and when spring came he escaped one night, with his provisions, and, traveling only at night, walked to within two hundred miles of his old home. He did not dare make any inquiries until far from Moscow.

Charles H. Wurth, of this sketch, was reared on the farm, though he spent four years, from the age of sixteen to twenty, as a coachman. He came to America in 1890, landing at New York. After working a while in Phila-

delphia, he came to Chicago, but a few days later went to the country and began working on an Illinois farm. In 1892 he came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and for some time worked out on Linn township farms. On March 1, 1901, he began renting land and farming for himself, and in 1894 he bought a farm of one hundred and fifty acres half way between Elkhorn and Geneva. On this he placed important improvements, put up seven hundred rods of woven wire fencing, built a fine new barn, big hog pens, chicken houses, water tank, wind mill, and many other modern improvements, his excellent place ranking with the best in the township and is known as "Apple Grove Farm." In connection with general farming he raises short-horn cattle.

Mr. Wurth was married in 1890 to Mrs. Mary (McPherson) Frazer, widow of Alexander Frazer, deceased. She was born at Inch, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and is the daughter of William and Isabella (Nevin) McPherson. She came to America in 1893, her parents having died when she was ten years of age. She grew up in her native land and was married in Scotland to Alexander Frazer. They emigrated to Geneva, Walworth county, Wisconsin, and he became foreman for the W. J. Jones estate on the south shore of Lake Geneva, and there he remained until his death, in 1898. He and his wife had two children, Alexander, who died in Scotland, and Mary Jane, who died at Lake Geneva in 1895.

Mr. Wurth belongs to the Masonic order at Elkhorn and the Modern Woodmen at Geneva. He was reared in the Catholic faith, and his wife as a Congregationalist, but they both now attend the Como Union church. He is a fine type of the progressive, agreeable, self-made man.

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#### WILLIS J. TUBBS.

It is with a degree of satisfaction to the biographer when he averts to the life of one who has made the rough path of life smooth by his untiring perseverance, has attained success in any vocation requiring definiteness of purpose and determined action. Such a life, whether it be one of calm, consecutive endeavor, or of sudden meteoric accomplishments, must abound in both lesson and incentive and prove a guide to the young men whose fortunes are still matters for the future to determine. During his mature years Willis J. Tubbs, well known abstractor of Elkhorn, has devoted his efforts toward the goal of accomplished desire in Walworth county, of which he is a worthy native son, and by patient continuance has won more than a mediocre success and at the same time the esteem of his fellow men.

Mr. Tubbs was born in Lafayette township, this county, two miles east of Elkhorn, July 25, 1856. He is a son of James Lawrence Tubbs and Annie Rebecca (Henderson) Tubbs. James L. Tubbs was born at Augusta, Oneida county, New York, September 10, 1824, and he moved with his parents to Victor, Ontario county, that state, in 1843. He was a son of Samuel and Polly (Frost) Tubbs, both from Connecticut, he from Lynn, and she from Waterbury, his birth having occurred on August 21, 1781. He was the son of Peter Tubbs. Samuel Tubbs was a soldier in the war of 1812 under Captain Lawrence.

Annie R. Henderson was the daughter of John Mathias Henderson and Samantha (Hine) Henderson, and born at Willoughby, Ohio, December 13, 1830. Her father, Dr. John M. Henderson, who was born at Norwich, was in the war of 1812, both as a surgeon and an adjutant. He came to Cuyahoga county, Ohio, in June, 1814, and settled in the town of Willoughby, where he lived until 1849, when he emigrated to Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he spent the rest of his life practicing medicine, being one of the best known of our pioneer physicians. Dr. John M. Henderson was a son of Edward and Mary (Mathias) Henderson, the father a fur trader, who made frequent trips from New York City to Detroit, trading with the Indians, making the trips on foot and in canoe, on small streams, rivers and lakes, making the trip north one summer and returning the next. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, a captain of militia at the battle of Bennington, and he also served in many other battles. His father had been in the French and Indian war and his death occurred after drinking from a spring which had been poisoned by the Indians. Edward's wife was at one time boiling soap when a party of Tory soldiers attempted to take her prisoner, but she threw a dipper of hot soap in one's face and sent him away howling with pain. At another time she and others were besieged in a block house by Indians, and while she sallied forth to get meal from a nearby house she was shot at by the Indians.

Edward Henderson was born at Colerain, Massachusetts, in 1745 and his death occurred at Norway, Herkimer county, New York, in 1811. He grew up in Vermont and was lieutenant, later a captain under General Stark in the patriot army. His name also appears on the rolls of the New York soldiers at Albany.

Doctor Henderson left New York on horseback, May 20, 1814. He was postmaster at Chagrin, now Willoughby, Ohio, in Cuyahoga county, being commissioned in 1816. He was lieutenant of militia in New York, and Mr. Tubbs still has the commission. The Doctor was interested in starting a medical college at Willoughby. His death occurred on November 29, 1857.

Samuel Tubbs, grandfather of Willis J. Tubbs, came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, from Victor, Ontario county, New York, in 1844 and settled in Lafayette township with his wife and six of their children: Jane T. and her husband, Lot Mayo; Martha and her husband, Nicholas C. Bowers; Fannie T. and her husband, Eli Kimball Frost; Isaac P. and James L. The family all settled in and around Elkhorn. Samuel Tubbs moved into Elkhorn in the early fifties and there spent the balance of his life.

James L. Tubbs came here as a surveyor and followed surveying all his life. He was county surveyor many years, up to about 1870. His last work in surveying was running the outlines of the Delavan assembly grounds. The Tubbs family moved into their present residence in Elkhorn, December 25, 1857, and that has been the family home ever since.

The five children of James L. Tubbs and wife were as follows: Henry Henderson, who is a civil engineer, with residence in Elkhorn, married Helen M. Andrews and they have a son and a daughter; Frank W., who is with Smith Brothers' commission firm in Chicago, still maintains his residence at Darien, this county, where he has a farm; he married Blanche Smith; Eva married Capt. George E. Wood, and they reside in Elkhorn; a sketch of the Captain appears on another page. Willis J., of this review, was next in order of birth; Edward Hine is in the furniture and undertaking business at Clinton, Wisconsin; he married Julia Seaver, of Darien, she being a representative of an old family there.

The father of these children died September 6, 1898, and their mother passed away in the old home on December 25, 1904, just forty-seven years to the day from the time she moved here with the family. She was a great lover of flowers and was unusually successful with them, and this trait is quite noticeable in her son, Willis J. Tubbs. The latter was six months old when his parents brought him to Elkhorn, and here he grew to manhood and received his education in the public schools, graduating from the Elkhorn high school in March, 1877.

Mr. Tubbs began life as a farmer and surveyor, which he followed successfully, also taught school for some time. In 1898 he went into the abstract business, which he had learned by personal investigation, persistent study and close observation. He made an entirely new set of books and has continued in this business ever since, building up a large and ever-growing patronage, and is one of the best known and most reliable abstract men in this section of the state today.

Mr. Tubbs was married on December 31, 1906, to Nellie Harper, of Sharon, this county. She was born in Iowa and is the daughter of Robert and Emma C. (Carter) Harper. Fraternally, Mr. Tubbs is a member of the Masonic order.

## JOHN HENRY TAYLOR.

By words and by actions the personality reveals its quality, its force, its direction of purpose. The invisible spirit embodies itself in signs of service and in language. Words also are deeds, and actions are symbols of the inner being which we cannot see, nor touch, nor weigh. Hence the value of a biography, which writes out a life by telling a story of what one has said and done. But since speech is forgotten and actions fade away in the clouds of a distant past, we also listen to those who have been witnesses of the conduct, companions of the journey, sharers of the benefits and benedictions of those whom we have lost a little while, to find again. With such values of biography in mind, we here set forth briefly the salient facts in the life record of one of the well known and estimable citizens of Walworth county of a past generation, the late John Henry Taylor, than whom it would have been hard to have found a more obliging, high-minded and public-spirited gentleman.

Mr. Taylor was born on February 17, 1857, at Watertown, Wisconsin. He was the son of John and Sybil (Gibbs) Taylor, the father being a native of Scotland, from which country he came to America when about twenty-one years old and located at Janesville, Wisconsin, where he met and married Sybil Gibbs, whose father was a cooper of that town.

When John H. Taylor was four years old his parents moved to Missouri and were there a short time when his father died, his mother subsequently bringing the family back to Wisconsin and lived at Janesville for some time, later moving to Whitewater, and in 1873 she settled in Geneva township.

In 1875 John H. Taylor, of this sketch, was united in marriage with Elizabeth Ross, daughter of George and Clarinda (Gray) Ross. She was born and reared in the northern part of Geneva township. George Ross was born on May 1, 1825, at Pen Yan, Yates county, New York, the son of Morris and Mary (Pangborn) Ross. When George Ross was a young man nearly twenty years old, in 1838, Morris Ross and family came to Geneva township, Walworth county, and entered a large tract of land from the government, in the northeast part of the township getting a title direct from the government. The country roundabout was all new and unimproved and neighbors were far remote, the Dunlap family being really the only ones. They had come from the same part of New York state. Here these families improved their lands into excellent farms, and were among the first farmers of this part of the county.

On June 2, 1847, George Ross and Clarinda Gray were married. She was the daughter of Elihu and Elizabeth (Armstrong) Gray. The death of

the mother occurred in Geneva township on January 22, 1899, at the advanced age of ninety-two years. She was born at Ogdensburg, New York, on February 3, 1828, and in 1846 she came to Wisconsin with her parents, and they settled in Geneva township, this county. The death of Elihu Gray occurred on September 26, 1884, at the age of eighty-two years. Mrs. Elizabeth Gray was the daughter of James and Elizabeth (Gregg) Armstrong. Her father was a soldier in the war of 1812.

In early life George Ross became identified with the church at Lake Geneva, and he was an active church worker all his life. His wife was a woman of excellent Christian character. Mr. and Mrs. Ross lived on their farm in Geneva township until 1884, when they moved to Elkhorn, where the death of Mr. Ross occurred on April 22, 1898, his widow surviving until 1910, spending her last days at the home of Mrs. Taylor, having spent the last two years of her life there. Mr. Ross was well-known as a true and obliging friend, ever ready to help the sick and needy, and he was fond of his home and family.

After the marriage of John H. Taylor of this sketch he made his home in Geneva township, in section 10, and became one of the substantial farmers and influential citizens there. His death occurred, after an extended illness, in 1904. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, two of whom died in infancy. The two surviving are George and Howard. Mr. Taylor was a man of fine character, exemplary habits and genial address so that he was popular wherever he was known. The sons, mentioned above, are successfully operating the home place of one hundred and forty-two acres of well-improved and productive land.

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#### JACOB MAAS.

That grit and perseverance win in the battle for material things in this world is seen on every hand, no matter what may be the things attempted. An excellent exemplification in this line as applying to agricultural pursuits is seen in the record of Jacob Maas, one of our thrifty and deserving German citizens, who, after an exceptionally strenuous career, is now living in honorable retirement in his pleasant home in the fair city of Lake Geneva.

Mr. Maas was born in Greilsheim, Wurtemberg, Germany, January 28, 1850. He is the son of John Philip and Maria (Mayers) Maas. The father died when the subject was six years old and the mother when he was eight. He then went to live with his aunt, with whom he remained until he was sixteen. In the summers he worked on the farm and in the winter wove cloth.

When twenty years old he left home and family and emigrated to the United States, landing in New York City on July 18, 1870, and he worked for gardeners and dairymen on Long Island. In April, 1871, he came to Chicago, where he remained until the great fire the following October, then came to Lyons, Walworth county, Wisconsin, and worked out on the farms in that vicinity. He saved his earnings and about 1880 bought a farm of eighty acres in Bloomfield township, adding another eighty to his belongings four years later, and five or six years after that he bought another forty. He prospered as the years went by through his close application and good management, and he is now the owner of two hundred acres of valuable land there, on which he carried on general farming and stock raising until the year 1904 when, having accumulated a competency, he retired from the active duties of life, put one of his sons on the place and he and his wife moved to Lake Geneva, where they have since resided.

Mr. Maas's start in life was interesting. He saved eight hundred dollars by working out and this he paid on his first eighty acres, going in debt for the rest. Working on through all difficulties, he succeeded.

Mr. Maas was married in 1875 to Maria Gauger, who was born in Germany, and who came here with her parents when a young girl, being reared in Lyons township, this county. Two children were born to the subject and wife, William and Loretta. The former married Marie Ursprung, a native of Germany, who emigrated to America about 1897; they have three children, Karl, Loretta and Roy. William has a farm of his own in the northwestern part of Bloomfield township. Loretta Maas married William Vogt and they live on a farm near Bloomfield Center, this county. They have three children, Clifford, Irma and Helen.

Jacob Maas's first wife died in 1879, and in 1880 he was united in marriage with Bertha Rakow, daughter of Edward and Louise (Gauger) Rakow. She was born in Berlin, Germany, and when about six months old her parents brought her to America. Her father was a tailor in Berlin, and in 1853 he came to Burlington, Wisconsin, and established himself in an early day, being among the pioneers of that city, only a few families having settled there before his advent, and there he became influential and successful. He was the first tailor in that place. There was but one merchant, one banker and one doctor when he came. Mr. Rakow lived there the rest of his life, continuing active work until an old man. His death occurred about 1891.

To Mr. Maas and his last wife three children have been born: Edward, who is operating his father's farm in North Bloomfield, married Elsie Amborn, of Genoa Junction, and they have a daughter, Ruth; Jacob, who mar-

ried Vera Hollenbeck, is now employed on a farm in Honey Creek township, and they have one child, a daughter, Leta; Elvira, the youngest of the subject's children, lives at home in Lake Geneva.

Mr. Maas and family belong to the First Lutheran church in Lake Geneva. They have won many friends since moving to this city and stand high in all circles in which they move.

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### JAMES TREADWELL MARTIN.

No state in the Union can boast of a more heroic band of pioneers than Wisconsin. In their intelligence, capacity and loyalty to the right they have no superiors. Most of them have come from the old Empire state, and in their daring and heroism they have been equal to the Missouri and California argonauts. Their privations, hardships and earnest labors have resulted in establishing one of the foremost commonwealths in America, and one which still has great possibilities before it. A member of this worthy band is James Treadwell Martin, long one of our thrifty agriculturists, who is now living retired in Lake Geneva. Thus partly because he is a pioneer and partly because he is a veteran of the "grand army" that saved the nation a half century ago, he is worthy of our consideration here.

Mr. Martin was born in Prattsville, Greene county, New York, on February 18, 1835. He is the son of Frederick and Elizabeth (Steele) Martin, the father a native of Upper Province, Canada, and the mother of England, he being of German descent, and a man of large mental endowment, being able to speak seven languages, Latin, Greek, English, German, Indian and others. Elizabeth Steele came to this country from England when nineteen years old.

James T. Martin grew to manhood in his native county in New York and received his education in the common schools there. In 1856 he was united in marriage with Lucy Lovina Bartlett, daughter of Lock D. and Miriam (Rice) Bartlett. She was born in Chemung county, New York, near Elmira, and, like Mr. Martin, she came of a long and sturdy ancestry.

Mr. Martin enlisted in Company B, Forty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, in 1863 and saw service in Maryland for three months. He was honorably discharged in August, 1864, and he again enlisted in Company D, Fiftieth New York Engineers, and was honorably discharged on June 13, 1865, after a very faithful service.

Mr. Martin moved with his family to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1867 and bought twenty-nine acres south of the west end of Lake Como. After living there about six years he sold out and bought forty-five acres a mile northeast of Lake Geneva, in the town of Lyons, and there he lived many years. In 1902 he bought a place at Fergus Falls and lived there two years, then returned to his present home in Lake Geneva. He still owns a fine residence and other lots in Fergus Falls.

Mr. Martin's family consists of five children: Emma; Jane, wife of J. V. Seymour, a sketch of whom appears herein; Hannah Eliza is the wife of James McCrosson, of Elkhorn, and lives in North Dakota; James Franklin is on a farm of his own in the southeastern part of Lyons township, this county; George B. McClellan Martin is now in the laundry business at Howard; Nelson lives in Lake Geneva, where he has been street commissioner for four years.

James T. Martin has been married fifty-five years. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

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#### ISAAC STOPPLE, JR.

The Stopples family has long borne an excellent reputation in Walworth county and they have taken first rank among the agriculturists of this favored section of the Badger state, one of the best known of the present generation being Isaac Stopples, Jr., of Linn township, a jovial, agreeable and pleasant man to know.

Mr. Stopples was born at Town Eight, near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, May 9, 1859. He is a son of Isaac, Sr., and Susanna (Roebel) Stopples, a complete sketch of whom appears on another page of this work.

The subject grew to manhood on the home farm and received his education in the public schools. On March 18, 1908, he was united in marriage with Leona Humiston, daughter of Asahel and Maria (Partridge-Boughton) Humiston. She was born at Waupaca, Wisconsin. Her father was born May 31, 1809, in Vermont, but he lived most of his life before his marriage in Connecticut, and her mother was born December 9, 1825, at Gustavis, Trumbull county, Ohio. Maria S. Partridge first married Myron Boughton on January 1, 1851, and she married Asahel Humiston in September, 1863. She was the daughter of Wakeman and Betsey (Horn) Partridge, and she came with her parents to Winnebago county about three years before her first

marriage. She was married in Waupaca and there her first husband died, leaving four children. She subsequently married Mr. Humiston. He had also been married before, his first wife having died, leaving children. The death of Mr. Humiston occurred on April 21, 1880. In the winter of 1887 and 1888 Mrs. Humiston and Mrs. Stoppel went to Hammond, Louisiana, and there Mrs. Humiston died on March 17, 1900. Mrs. Isaac Stoppel came back to Chicago in 1903 and took a course as a trained nurse. She is one of three children of the Humiston family, the other two children having died in childhood. Mrs. Stoppel has three half sisters and brothers living: Mrs. J. W. Patterson, of Clintonville, Wisconsin; Mrs. Cyrenius Rogers, of Waupaca, Wisconsin; and James Boughton, of Oshkosh; Abbie, who married Alfred Smith, died in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in January, 1911.

Since his marriage Isaac Stoppel, Jr., has continued farming where his parents lived and died. He has lived in that neighborhood now about thirty-eight years. He has a good farm with commodious barns and well constructed outbuildings. He carries on general farming and stock raising successfully, keeping quite a herd of fine Holstein cattle. He keeps his place well improved and well cultivated.

To Mr. and Mrs. Stoppel one child has been born, Fred Isaac, whose birth occurred on September 18, 1911. Mr. Stoppel is a member of the Modern Woodmen, and Mrs. Stoppel belongs to the Seventh-Day Baptist church.

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#### PHILANDER KNAPP VAN VELZER.

The life record of such a noble character as the late Philander Knapp VanVelzer, one of the first settlers of Walworth county and for many years one of the best known and highly honored citizens of this locality, is well worth perpetuating on the pages of history.

Mr. VanVelzer was born in the state of New York. He was a son of William Henry VanVelzer, also born in New York, a descendant of one of two brothers who came from Holland and took up their residence on Long Island in the Colonial period. William H. VanVelzer was a merchant and hotel keeper and he built two large hotels in Lockport, New York. In 1835 he moved from Chautauqua county, New York, to Illinois, locating near Chicken Grove where he bought a large farm, and where his wife died. There were three children in his family, two of whom were Philander Knapp and Cornelius E.

Philander K. VanVelzer was married in the state of New York to Prudence Matteson, daughter of Hendrick Matteson, a native of New York and a life-long farmer there. The subject and wife lived in Chautauqua county, New York, until their two oldest children were born. On May 1, 1835, they, together with Mr. VanVelzer's father, Robert Wells Warren and family, Greenleaf S. Warren and others, started west, with ox teams, driving cows and other live stock before them. They reached Chicago the last of May, and they went on to DeKalb county, Illinois, where they located, near Chicken Grove, William VanVelzer buying a large farm there. In April, 1836, he was urged by a Mr. Payne to join him in establishing a settlement at the foot of Lake Geneva, Walworth county, and the former made claim to land in section 35, which is now a part of the city of Lake Geneva, but during the turbulence of the first settlement he was driven from it, and he returned to DeKalb county, where he died when eighty-seven years of age.

William VanVelzer's sons, Philander K. and Cornelius R., both came in with the first settlers and in the spring of 1836 the former built a log cabin in the woods north of what was afterwards Seminary Park in Lake Geneva. He made claim to part of the water power at the foot of the lake, but was dispossessed. In 1837 he established a brickyard in block 14, in the village of Lake Geneva. He took up one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre and he built a frame house on it about 1839, a half mile east of his first cabin. He improved this land and later sold fifty-eight acres of it. He then built a third residence half a mile east of his second residence and there reared his family. He came to Wisconsin long before it was admitted to the Union and saw it in its wildest state, when the chief inhabitants were Indians and wild beasts, bears, panthers, wolves, lynxes, deer and game of all kinds. At that time the grass grew about seven feet tall, affording hiding places for game. In the fall Indians would fire the grass over miles and miles of territory and settlers were compelled to burn a tract around their homes in order to protect them from the flames. The red men were more or less troublesome. The day before they were to be removed to their allotted reservation west of the Mississippi river, they got drunk and invaded the VanVelzer home, compelling Mrs. VanVelzer to give them a supply of newly baked bread, and demanded some salt pork, but that was too valuable to be given up and she refused, then they saw a barrel of vinegar and mistaking it for "fire-water" danced wildly around it; just then Mr. VanVelzer came home and scattered the intruders.

Ten children were born to Philander K. VanVelzer and wife, of whom William was the eldest. He was born in Chautauqua county, New York, and lived in Bloomfield township, this county, until a year or two ago, when he

moved to Waukesha, having been the oldest living settler in the county at that time. He is now seventy-six years old. Harriet VanVelzer, also born in New York, married Earl Crofoot and lives at Delavan; Caroline, the first of the family born in Walworth county, was the second white child born in this county; she married Thomas Clifton, who was a blacksmith at Lake Geneva and Darien; both are now deceased. George VanVelzer farmed all his life until about ten years ago when he retired and now lives at Williams Bay; Mary Jane, who married John Beamsley, lives at Delavan; Orcelia died when six years old; Ancil lives in Clinton, Wisconsin, and is a blacksmith; Washington is a cigar manufacturer and tobacco dealer and lives at Delavan; Sarah J., widow of William H. Lockwood, lives a short distance east of Lake Geneva; Ferdinand is in the ice business at Delavan.

Philander K. VanVelzer's brother, Cornelius R. VanVelzer, who settled in this county at the same time he did, was never married. He lived with his brother, the subject, for years. In 1844 he began working for R. W. Warren in his mill. He was well known to the people here of his day and generation. He remained in the employ of Mr. Warren for six years, then went to California with the gold seekers, where he met with a fair measure of success. He returned to Wisconsin, but later made a second trip to the Pacific coast, by way of Pike's Peak. Coming back to Walworth county, he spent his last years at the home of his brother, Philander K., until the latter's death, then he went to live with his nephew, George, at whose home his death occurred about 1904, at an advanced age. He had studied to be a lawyer, but ill health forced him to give it up.

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#### WILBUR G. WEEKS.

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

Wilbur G. Weeks, a well known business man of the town of Lyons, Wisconsin, was born in Spring Prairie township, this county, on March 23, 1859. He is the son of Otis and Charlotte A. (Vantine) Weeks, and a grand-

son of Spencer Weeks, one of our pioneers, a record of whose family appears elsewhere in this work.

The subject grew up in his home community and he attended high school at Elkhorn and the Whitewater Normal School. In his youth he learned the printer's trade in the office of the *Elkhorn Independent*, and he was for a time engaged on the *Waukesha Democrat* and later on the *Milwaukee Sentinel*. When barely twenty-two years of age he became editor of the *Delavan Republican*, and he continued at the head of that paper for nearly twenty-eight years. Even after he sold out he remained nearly a year longer. Then he came to Lyons and organized the Lyons State Bank, which he opened for business on September 20, 1909, and he has served as cashier of this popular and thriving institution from the beginning, in a manner that has won the hearty approval of the stockholders and patrons of the bank; in fact, the pronounced success of the bank has been due in no small measure to his influence and judicious management.

While at Delavan Mr. Weeks held several positions of honor. He was president of the Walworth County Press Association, and for several terms was secretary of the Wisconsin Republican Press Association, taking a very active interest in both. He was very successful in the newspaper business, having started with only one boy as assistant, and when he left the field he was employing nine people. He made money from the start, without any help from holding county and state offices, and by some he was called the Jay Gould of the Walworth County Press Association, and he ranked high among his compeers in the profession in this part of the state, being not only an able financier, but a very popular local writer and a leader in public improvements.

A year after leaving the newspaper field he engaged in the Texas land business, taking many people to the Lone Star state, locating them on farms, and made money out of it.

Mr. Weeks is active in the affairs of the Methodist Episcopal church and has held various offices in the same and has for several years been superintendent of the Sunday school. While at Delavan he was superintendent of the Aram Home for Superannuated Methodist Ministers. He designed the three cottages and had them built, and had charge of the home, to which he gave his faithful attention. He is treasurer of the school board at Lyons, which village he has been very active in improving, as he was in the upbuilding of Delavan. He was instrumental in procuring a location of the Bradley Knitting Mills at Delavan, also promoted the organization of the Delavan Assembly. He is secretary of the Delavan Lake Improvement Association, an organization composed chiefly of Chicago men, among whom are Edward

Tilden, Charles A. Stevens, E. S. Conway, H. P. Darlington and others well known in the world's affairs. This organization purchased the water rights of Delavan lake for a consideration of eight thousand dollars, and which improves and cares for the lake as a summer resort. Mr. Weeks is still retained as secretary, although now living at Lyons. He is showing his energetic public spirit at Lyons in endeavoring to induce various industries to locate there. Few men are more generous and accommodating and his integrity is unquestioned.

Mr. Weeks was married on December 24, 1910, to Mrs Bertha (Skiff) Medberry, a lady of culture and refinement and the daughter of Benjamin F. Skiff and wife, a prominent Elkhorn family, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Mrs. Weeks is a native of Lyons and she and Mr. Weeks attended school together in the seventies. Her only son, Locksley Medberry, is a member of the senior class at the Elkhorn high school, 1912. Mr. Weeks has one son by a former marriage, Fred B Weeks, now living at Isleton near Sacramento, California.

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#### FATHER JOHN JOSEPH WEINHOFF.

One of the highly esteemed citizens of Walworth county is Father John Joseph Weinhoff, of East Troy, a man who has done an incalculable amount of good in ameliorating the condition of the people among whom he has intermingled, and yet is plain, humble and unassuming, caring little for the plaudits of men, content to know that he is following in the footsteps of his Master.

The subject was born in Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, in 1865. He is the son of Gerard and Mary (Rynders) Weinhoff. The father was born in Rhine province, Germany, in 1828, and the mother was born in Holland in 1835. Gerard Weinhoff grew up in his native country and he served in the German revolution from 1848 to 1851. He came to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1853, and to this state came Mary Rynders in 1850, with her parents, Gerard and Elizabeth Rynders, and the death of the father occurred in Milwaukee in 1869.

The father of the subject was a farmer in Milwaukee county. He was a Democrat politically, but not active in public affairs. He and his wife were devoted Catholics. They were the parents of six children, two sons and four daughters, all living at this writing except one son.



ST. PETERS CATHOLIC CHURCH, EAST TROY



Father John J. Weinhoff was reared on the home farm, where he assisted with the general work when a boy, and he attended the parochial schools and the Normal School of Milwaukee, from which he was graduated. Later he attended the Normal School and St. Frances Seminary, from which he was graduated in 1889. He was assistant pastor at St. Joseph, Wisconsin, for one year, then went to Sullivan, Jefferson county, this state, where he remained from 1890 to 1896. In August of the last named year he came to East Troy, Walworth county, where he has since been pastor of St. Peter's church. He has also served as pastor at the church at Mukwonago since 1896. The church in East Troy represents one hundred and sixty-five families, and that of Mukwonago forty families. He has greatly strengthened the work in each place, building up these charges in a most commendable manner. He is known as an earnest worker, kind, obliging and willing to make any sacrifices for the betterment of his parishioners.

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#### JOHN WAGNER.

One of the earliest German families to cast their lot in the wilderness of Walworth county some three score years ago and more was the Wagners and from that day to this they have played no inconspicuous part in the affairs of the county, developing good farms and taking an interest in general public affairs. One of the best known is John Wagner, a leading business man and representative citizen of Lyons, the able and popular president of the State Bank.

Mr. Wagner was born in Alsace, formerly a province of France, now of Germany, on March 17, 1843, and in 1844 he came to America with his parents, John and Katharine (Dresch) Wagner, he being one of a family of ten children, four of whom were born in the old country. The family came directly to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and settled in Lyons township, June 1, 1844, the father buying forty acres in the northeast quarter of section 24. Two years later he sold out and bought two hundred acres in sections 13 and 24, securing a part of this land directly from the government. There he established his permanent home and, through industry and close application, developed a fine farm in due course of time and became one of the leading men of that part of the county, well known and highly esteemed. He had bought three small farms that had been partly improved, and these with the

forty acres of government land constituted his farm, one of the best in the township. The elder Wagner sold his farm in 1872 to his son John, of this sketch, and moved to Burlington where he and his wife spent their last days, his death occurring on February 6, 1884, she surviving until in September, 1888.

John Wagner grew to manhood on the home farm and received his education in the public schools. In 1861 he went into the threshing business and for three seasons he hired out to the Taylors and in 1864 bought an outfit of his own and continued threshing with much success until 1896, becoming one of the best known threshers in this part of the state, having followed this vocation for a period of thirty-five years, wearing out three machines the meantime, threshing over both Walworth and Racine counties.

Mr. Wagner was married in 1872 and the same year bought the home farm of his father, as stated above. He kept the farm six years, selling it in 1878, then bought another farm of two hundred acres, of which eighty is in section 26 and one hundred and twenty in section 23, and there he made his home until May, 1910, when, having accumulated a competency, he moved into the village of Lyons, where he purchased an attractive home and here he has since resided. In the fall of 1909 he assisted in organizing the State Bank of Lyons and in January, 1910, he was elected president of the bank, which position he still holds, discharging his duties in a manner that reflects much credit upon himself and to the satisfaction of the stockholders and the patrons of the same, the rapidly increasing success of this popular and conservative institution being due in no small measure to his able management.

Mr. Wagner was an ardent Democrat in earlier life, but in recent years has been more independent, and he has held various township offices, always to the satisfaction of the people.

The domestic life of Mr. Wagner began in 1872, as before stated, when he was married to Theresa Ursprung, a daughter of Martin and Anna (Wener) Ursprung. She was born in Bavaria and came to this county in 1847, when about a year old, with her parents, who located on the farm now owned by Mr. Wagner and here they became very well established and were highly respected. The death of Mrs. Wagner's father occurred in 1853. Mrs. Ursprung survives, living in Lyons, being now advanced in years. She remained with the subject and wife on the homestead until 1905.

Of Mr. Wagner's brothers and sisters, only four are now living, one brother and three sisters: Mrs. Elizabeth Stephen, now of Burlington, formerly lived in Montana, where her husband died; Mrs. Mary Griebel, widow of Lawrence Griebel, deceased, an old soldier, lives in Milwaukee; Mrs. Josephine

David, widow of Bennert David, also an old soldier, lives in Burlington; Joseph Wagner now lives at Clyde, Missouri. Mrs. Wagner has one sister, Agnes, wife of Jacob Hahn, of Lake Geneva.

Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. John Wagner, namely: Anna, who married Joseph Voelkering, lives with her parents in Lyons; her husband, who was the son of John and Elizabeth (Miller) Voelkering, was born in Bloomfield township, and his death occurred in 1904. Emma Wagner married Jacob Heck and they live on a farm in Lyons township, section 23, and have two sons, Joseph and Anthony. Elizabeth Wagner married John Vogt, owner of about two hundred acres of land in the southeastern part of Lyons township, and they have two children, Mary and Frederick. Agnes Wagner married Anthony Ehrhart and they live in Lyons township, section 29, and have one daughter, Marcella. Peter Wagner married Mary Meusler and lives on his father's farm.

Mr. Wagner and family belong to the Catholic church and are liberal supporters of the same. He is a leader in his community, a man in whose judgment and integrity his acquaintances and friends place the utmost confidence. He is plain and unassuming, but at once impresses the stranger as a man of force and action.

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### SPENCER WEEKS.

From an early period in the history of Walworth county the name of Spencer Weeks has appeared frequently upon its records, often in connection with important public service, for he labored most effectively in the upbuilding of the community and he was always accorded that recognition which is justly due the public-spirited and progressive citizen whose unselfish efforts in behalf of the general welfare have been attended by splendid results. He had the greatest sympathy for his fellow men, was always willing to aid and encourage those who were struggling to aid themselves; yet in this, as in everything else, he was entirely unassuming, doing what he believed to be his duty as a citizen without thought of praise from his fellow men. Nothing could swerve him from a path which he believed to be the right one; friendship was to him inviolable and the obligations of home life a sacred trust. His upright life commanded universal respect, and his memory is like the fragrance of the flower that remains after the petals have fallen.

Spencer Weeks was born at Norwich, Massachusetts, in 1797, and was a son of Samuel and Lydia (Williams) Weeks. Sammel Weeks was born at

Norwich, Massachusetts, in 1764 or 1765; he served in the Revolutionary war from 1780 to 1783 as a substitute for his father and was one of the guard over Major Andre. Samuel was a son of Hezekiah Weeks, who also was a soldier in the patriot army from Massachusetts and who owned nearly six hundred acres of land at Norwich, now Huntington, Massachusetts. Hezekiah Weeks was a descendant in the fifth generation from George Weeks, who came from Devonshire, England, to Dorchester, Massachusetts, in the same ship with the great divine, Richard Mather, in 1635, five years after the original settlement of that state. George Weeks was prominent in public affairs, and served as a surveyor, commissioner for laying out roads, town selectman, and held various other positions of trust and honor and was active in promoting free schools and other things for the betterment of the public in general. His descendants have been in general, so far as known, people of good character and useful in a quiet way in the communities in which their lot has been cast, many of them holding positions of trust.

Spencer Weeks, the head of the family in southern Wisconsin, came here in 1843, and entered land from the government. He was married on May 1, 1817, to Elvira Dimock, daughter of Thomas and Sophia Dimock. Ten children were born to the subject and wife, namely: Lewis Spencer, Almena, Maria, Elvira, Samuel Otis, Eliza, Sophia, Thompson Dimock, Harriet and George Vernon.

Lewis Spencer Weeks was born at Norwich, Massachusetts, March 3, 1818. He was married on August 22, 1841, to Elvira Florella Little, and he came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1844. He was a successful farmer and lived a worthy life. His youngest son, Edgar A., was born in Lyons, this county, July 31, 1849; he married Fannie P. Aldrich, daughter of Cyrel R. Aldrich, who came to Spring Prairie, this county, in 1857. Edgar A. Weeks lives in Lyons, and he has three children: Aurelia M., wife of Erastus M. Potter, of Lyons; Phineas S., and Grace F., who is the wife of William E. Winters, of Delavan. Lewis Spencer Weeks was one of the substantial men of his part of the county, and he accumulated the largest fortune that has been known in Lyons township. Besides his son mentioned above, he had two other children, Aurelia Maria, who died November 15, 1845, when three years old, and John Millard, who was born September 20, 1847. The latter was graduated at Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin; he married, on November 6, 1884, at Appleton, Mary E. Richmond. His death occurred on April 8, 1911; his widow and daughter, Mary Elvira, now live in Oshkosh, this state, and his son, Edgar R., lives in East Orange, New Jersey.

Samuel Otis Weeks, the second son of Spencer Weeks, was born in Norwich, Massachusetts, June 28, 1824, and he came here with his parents from Darien, New York, when he was nineteen years old. He was married on January 1, 1850, to Charlotte A. Vantine, daughter of David and Polly (Houghton) Vantine. She was born in Clinton county, New York, near Lake Champlain, and she came here with her brother, Lester, in 1843. She was the sister of A. A. Vantine, the founder of the well known firm of importers of Japanese goods, A. A. Vantine & Company, whose daughter is Lady Parker, wife of Sir Gilbert Parker, the great English novelist.

Six children were born to Otis Weeks and wife, namely: Mary Adelia, Irene Keziah, Frederick William, Hobart Orrin, Wilbur George and Sherman Harrison. The death of Otis Weeks occurred on September 3, 1903, at the age of seventy-nine years. He is remembered as a good neighbor and citizen, a man who led a cheerful, upright life.

Thompson Dimock Weeks, the third son of Spencer Weeks, was born in Norwich, Massachusetts, November 5, 1832. On June 7, 1865, he was united in marriage with Adelia M. Hall, a daughter of one of the early settlers of this section and a leading business man of Whitewater. Thompson D. Weeks became one of the foremost lawyers of Wisconsin, and he was a member of the Assembly in 1867, was state senator from 1874 to 1875, and again in 1883 and in 1895, being president of the Senate during the last year. For seventeen years he was a member of the board of regents of the State Normal School. He was a strong man in public affairs and one of the leading citizens of southern Wisconsin. A more extended account of him will be found on another page of this work. His death occurred on February 12, 1901. Two children survive, Helen L., wife of Lucius Wakely, of St. Louis, and Charles S., of Chicago.

George Vernon Weeks was the fourth son of Spencer Weeks, and is now the only one of his children living. He was born in Darien, New York, March 13, 1838. On October 26, 1859, he was united in marriage with Eliza Leadbetter Goodrich. He has devoted his life to farming and he now lives in Lyons. He is a musician of ability, and his life has won him a wide circle of friends, owing to his uprightness and public spirit. He has three children, Winthrop Goodrich, Shirley Spencer and Robert Dale.

Of the daughters of Spencer Weeks, Almena married Giles Anthony Waite and died in 1853 in Milwaukee; Maria married Lester Vantine, a brother of Otis's wife, and died April 5, 1859; Elvira married Joseph Ellicott Wait and they lived in Lyons until his demise; Eliza J. married Lorenzo

Weeks, and she died on February 15, 1855; Sophia married Clarkson Morris Ross, and she died on July 5, 1869; Harriet married Lorenzo Dow Fonda and lived at Whitewater until her death.

The death of Spencer Weeks occurred on November 5, 1859, his widow surviving until February 10, 1883.

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### JOHN L. VOSS.

A painstaking and successful farmer and stock raiser of the southern part of Walworth county, who is deserving of the success that has attended his efforts, is John L. Voss, another of the thrifty citizens from northern Germany, one of that large horde of immigrants that has done so much for the upbuilding of our county and to whom we have ever extended a hearty welcome.

Mr. Voss was born in Stralsund, Pommern, Germany, January 11, 1872, and is the son of William and Johanna (Strandt) Voss. In 1881 the family came to the United States and located in Walworth township, Walworth county, Wisconsin. About 1890 William Voss bought eighty acres of land in Linn township where Herman Schlutt now resides. He continued farming there and afterwards bought another eighty, making a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and here he became very comfortably established through hard work and close application to his individual affairs. With the exception of a year or two spent in the village of Walworth, he lived there the rest of his life. His death occurred in the fall of 1895. After this event his wife stayed on the homestead a year, then moved to Walworth where she has since lived, having a very comfortable home here.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. William Voss, named as follows: Charlie lives two miles east of Oak Grove, Illinois; William lives in the village of Walworth; John L., subject of this sketch; Minnie is the wife of Herman Schutt, a farmer of Linn township, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

John E. Voss spent his boyhood on the home farm and when of proper age he began working out. He received such education as he could in the public schools.

In February, 1896, Mr. Voss was united in marriage with Bertha Peters, daughter of Christian and Louise (Fisher) Peters. She was born in Alden township, McHenry county, Illinois. Her people were also from Stralsund, Pommern, Germany.

After his marriage Mr. Voss farmed the home place for one year, then operated John Lawson's farm in Walworth township for three years. He then lived on the Fritz Weber farm for five years, in the same township, at the outskirts of the village. In the fall of 1909 he purchased the farm where he lives at present, in section 4, Walworth township. He has an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres, well improved, good house and outbuildings, and he keeps a good grade of live stock. Two daughters have been born to Mr. and Mrs. John L. Voss, Margaret and Gladys.

Mr. Voss is a member of the Modern Woodmen, and he attends and supports the German Evangelical church of Walworth.

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#### WILLIAM SCHULZ.

Whenever we find, in passing through a country new to us, a German settlement, we at once know that here is thrift, here are clean, quiet homes, good farms and, in every respect, an admirable neighborhood. The Germans have certainly done a great work in the development of Walworth county, for they began casting their lots within its borders soon after the government placed its lands on sale here, and, having increased with succeeding years, there is now quite a large portion of the county's residents of German origin. Of this number, the Schulz family of Geneva township is deserving of mention, and the career of William Schulz is especially noted.

Mr. Schulz was born in Brandenburg, Germany, September 29, 1858. He is the son of Fred and Lizzie (Hahn) Schulz, an old family of the fatherland. William Schulz grew to manhood in his native country and there received his education in the common schools, spending his boyhood on a farm. He was married when twenty-two years old to Minnie Steffen, of Brandenburg, daughter of Fred Steffen and wife. Her mother was named Schulz before her marriage, but she was no relation of William Schulz.

In March, 1882, Mr. and Mrs. Schulz emigrated to America, coming first to Twin Lakes, Wisconsin, but after remaining there six months, moved to Burlington, this state, where he rented a farm on which he remained three years, thereby getting a good start. Then he moved to Geneva township, Walworth county, and rented a farm in sections 23 and 24. Six years later he bought the place and there established the family home, and here he has been very successful as a general farmer, making many important improvements on the place and keeping it well tilled and the soil up to its original fertility.

Nine children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Schulz, one of whom, Herman, owns one hundred acres immediately west of his father's farm, and on this the subject now lives, renting out his home place; Annie is the wife of Emil Papenfus, a farmer of Geneva township, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Emma is the wife of Charles Weed and lives on the Seymour farm, in section 24, Geneva township; Minnie is the wife of H. J. Grief and lives on his farm in section 11; they have three children, Allen, Earl and Mildred; William married Katie Schwanz and lives on Mr. Schulz's farm, and they have one son, Alvin; Thelma now lives in Lake Geneva; Otto is working on the farm of his brother-in-law, Charles Weed; Augusta and Martha are at home.

The subject is a quiet, industrious and well liked gentleman, who has been raised to work and save his money and he is, in turn, teaching his children to be frugal and economical, and as a result they give promise of successful futures.

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#### ISAAC STOPPLE, SR.

As the name would imply, the Stopples family is of Hollandish origin, and the subject of this sketch, Isaac Stopples, Sr., now deceased, seemed to inherit much of their traditional thrift and fortitude, for, through a long lapse of years, he labored to successful ends and was one of the best farmers in his community in Walworth county, having made his own property unaided, coming to a strange land with strange customs and manners, but imbued with an ambition to succeed.

Mr. Stopples was born at Santafier, Holland, June 27, 1815, and there he grew to manhood, emigrating to America when young, landing in New York, in which city he remained seven years. On December 22, 1848, he married Susanna Roebel. She was born March 18, 1827, in Holland, and after receiving an education in her own language she came to America and settled in the state of New York about 1847. In March, 1849, the spring after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Stopples came to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and established their home near there, where they carried on gardening. In the winter of 1874 and 1875 they came to Walworth county and settled on a farm in the east part of Walworth township, in section 30, and in 1885 they bought another farm over the line in Linn township, which was their home from that time until their deaths. They purchased another farm south of that in 1894. Through industry and economy they became well-to-do and had a finely im-

proved farm and a comfortable home. Five children were born to them, one of whom died in infancy. The four living are, Isaac, Jr., who owns the home farm, which he operates; Herman owns and operates the farm south of the original homestead in Linn township; Elizabeth owns the part the family had in Walworth township and lives there with Isaac; Josephine, who married Lewis A. Crawford, lived in the east part of Walworth township until April, 1911, where Mr. Crawford owned a fine farm; they now live in Twin Falls, Idaho.

The death of Mrs. Isaac Stoppel, Sr., occurred on February 13, 1904. She had been a most faithful life companion, a noble mother and earnest Christian. Her happiest hours were when the members of her family were around her to listen to her reading the Scriptures out of the old family Bible. This was a pleasant duty with her, and she loved and cared unselfishly for her family and home. After her death Mr. Stoppel led a lonely life, but the kindness of the children was a source of consolation and he was the recipient of every attention from them until his death, on December 18, 1905, at the advanced age of eighty-nine years, five months and twenty-one days. His neighbors and friends speak of him as a man who did not have a fault, and always performed his full duty to his family and all with whom he came into contact, believing in carrying into his every-day life the tangible principles of the Golden Rule. He was scrupulously honest, industriously and financially successful. At his death he left three well improved and valuable farms at the township line of Linn and Walworth townships, besides other desirable property.

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#### JACOB CHRISTIAN FREY.

In touching upon the life history of Jacob Christian Frey, well known citizen of Geneva township, Walworth county, the writer aims to avoid fulsome encomium and extravagant praise; yet he desires to hold up for consideration those facts which have shown the distinction of a true, useful and honorable life—a life characterized by perseverance, energy, broad charity and well defined purpose. To do this will be but to reiterate the dictum pronounced upon the man by the people who have known him long and well.

Mr. Frey was born in Baden, Germany, April 12, 1852. He is the son of Michael John and Johanna (Stolzenberger) Frey, and he is one of a family of five children, three sons and two daughters, namely: Elizabeth, deceased; William Carl is now living in Nebraska; Christena married Charles Oberst

and she lives at Elgin, Illinois, he being deceased; Jacob C., of this sketch; Charles lives in Chicago.

When the subject was fourteen years of age the family emigrated to America and settled at Dundee, Illinois. The voyage to this country was a very trying one, requiring three months. They had sold their household effects and engaged passage on a steamer, but it was too crowded and they took passage on a sailing vessel; they were delayed by storms in the English Channel for twenty-eight days. They sailed the southern circuit, around through the tropics, and were becalmed many weeks in mid ocean.

When but a boy the subject went to work as a farm hand in Illinois, continuing thus for nine years, mostly on farms near Elgin. Then returned to one of the farms on which he had previously worked and rented it for two years, after which he began farming for himself. After he was there two year she bought the place, which consisted of eighty-five acres, and he continued to operate the same ten years after purchasing it, trading it in 1886 for a place in Walworth county, Wisconsin, and here he has since resided, owning the southwest quarter of section 20, Geneva township, consisting of two hundred acres, known as the "Maple Grove Farm," one of the most attractive and best improved in the township. He has here devoted his energies to general farming and stock raising for the past twenty-five years.

Mr. Frey was married on January 10, 1878, to Elizabeth Ott, daughter of Jacob and Frederica (Hager) Ott. She was born near Barrington, Cook county, Illinois. Her father was from Bavaria and her mother from Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany.

Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Frey, all of whom are living, namely: Henry, who married Emma Zietlow, has one son, Elmer; Henry Frey owns one hundred and twenty acres across the road from his father's place. George Frey, who married Susie Roth, lives in Delavan township, where he owns one hundred and fifty-six acres and he has two children, Bernita and Vida. Theodore, Melvina, Luella, Leo, Malinda and Elsie are all at home.

Mr. Frey and family belong to the Evangelical association, of which he is trustee and superintendent of the Sunday school at Delavan. Mr. Frey still has a vivid memory of the old country, and talks very interestingly of conditions and customs there as compared with ours. He was reared in the great fruit and wine country near the famous Black Forest. He has worked hard and has made his own property by honest dealing as well as industry.

## JOHN G. MEADOWS.

We are glad to give specific mention to such worthy citizens of Walworth county as John G. Meadows, of Lyons, now living retired at Lyons after an active life as a general farmer in this vicinity. He has been loyal to this, his adopted country, for he hails from "merrie England," from whence have come so many of our sterling citizens. He even sacrificed his time and offered his life, if need be, for the preservation of the Union during its days of peril fifty years ago.

Mr. Meadows was born in 1839 at Bent, England, and he is the son of George and Elizabeth (Greenwood) Meadows, both natives of England, the father born on December 26, 1804, and the mother on June 5, 1805. The father died on January 20, 1886, and the mother is also deceased. George Meadows and wife grew up and were married in their native country and there they remained until about 1841 when they brought their family to America, first settling near New Hartford, New York, where they lived for a short time, then moved to Burlington Flats, Oswego county, where they lived about four years. They then moved to Lyons, Walworth county, in 1855, where the father bought two hundred and eighty-six acres one and one-half miles from town, and this he put in a high state of cultivation. He finally sold the place to two of his sons, who divided it, and moved to Burlington where he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. They were the parents of eight children, five of whom are living. The father was a Republican in politics. He was a successful farmer and led a quiet life.

John G. Meadows grew to manhood on his father's farm and received his education in the district schools, which was limited to about three months each winter. In 1861 he enlisted in the Ninth Wisconsin Battery, Light Artillery, and he served very gallantly in the Federal army for three years, three months and twenty-six days. He was in the battles of Blue River and Weston, Missouri. He was made duty sergeant when he enlisted. He was sent home on recruiting service by special order No. 209, dated "District of Colorado, Denver, December 22, 1863." He was discharged at the expiration of his term of enlistment, January 26, 1865, at Leavenworth, Kansas. After returning home he again took up farming which he followed successfully until about four years ago when he retired from active life.

Mr. Meadows was married in 1866 to Ellen M. Hond, daughter of Nathan B. and Marcia M. (Cowles) Hond, both natives of New Lebanon, New York, where they spent their early lives, emigrating to Walworth county in a very early day, in fact, were among the pioneer settlers.

John G. Meadows and wife had five children, four of whom are still living, namely: Frank H. is deceased; Fred G. is farming and lives at Lyons; John E. lives in Walla Walla, Washington; Emma Ruth is teaching school; Roy N. lives at home.

The subject has always been a staunch Republican, and he has held several township offices; he was assessor for a period of seven years, and was also chairman. He was elected one of the commissioners of the Turtle Creek drainage district of Walworth county. He was also jury commissioner and a member of the Soldiers' Relief Corps, also of the soldiers' memorial committee. He has long been active in Masonic affairs.

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### GROVER KULL.

Among the successful farmers and stock men of Walworth county is Grover Kull, of Bloomfield township. Having grown up on a farm and handled stock all his life, he is familiar with that class of husbandry. It requires something more than carelessness to select the best animals in any herd and to rear them in such a manner that the best points will be brought out and emphasized. As the best stock brings the best price, the best farmers make it an object to raise the higher grades, knowing that the market will be the better for a given effort and outlay. These important points are borne in mind by the subject who has long been known as one of our most enterprising breeders of cattle, a man who, while yet young in years, has done much toward improving the breed of a particular brand of live stock in this section of the state and whose name has been carried to many remote localities through his fine stock, for he has been a close observer and a wide reader in order to adopt the best and most advanced methods in this, his chosen avenue of endeavor.

Mr. Kull was born in the north part of Bloomfield township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, on March 24, 1885. He is the son of Andrew and Anne (Rietbrock) Kull, a well known and influential old family of this county, a complete sketch of whom will be found on another page of this work, under the caption of Andrew Kull, to which the reader is respectfully directed for a full account of the family of the subject.

Grover Kull grew up on the home farm where he made himself useful in his boyhood days, and during the winter months he attended the district schools near his home, later the Lake Geneva high school.

When only about eighteen years of age he took up active farming for a livelihood and in order to get a start he farmed his father's place two years on the shares. In 1907 he bought the farm where he now lives, a very productive and valuable place, consisting of one hundred and forty-three acres which he has brought up to a high standard of improvement and civilization and where, annually, abundant crops are repaying him for his outlay of labor. Ever since he was eighteen years old Mr. Kull has made a specialty of studying the breeding of Guernsey cattle, and he has succeeded in getting together one of the finest herds in this locality. He has exhibited his fine stock at county and state fairs and they have been frequent prize winners everywhere they have competed and, owing to their superior quality, they find a very ready market when offered for sale. His farm is known as the "Mariondale Farm."

Mr. Kull was married on October 4, 1905, to Marion Annie Lawrie, daughter of Charles and Annie Robinson (Vipham) Lawrie, an excellent and highly esteemed family of Walworth county, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

Mrs. Kull was born in Lake Geneva and there received a high school education and grew to womanhood. One daughter, Helen Edna, has been born to the subject and wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Kull are members of the Congregational church. They are deservedly popular in the community, being hospitable and advocates of wholesome living.

Mr. Kull's farm is amply supplied with up-to-date machinery, and he has large, substantial and convenient barns and outbuildings, and is one of the progressive farmers and stock raisers in this part of the county. He is a member of the Walworth County Guernsey Breeders' Association and of the Western Guernsey Breeders' Association, taking a lively interest in both.

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#### CHARLES H. STUBBS.

An enterprising business man and public-spirited citizen of Lyons, Walworth county, is the well known merchant, Charles H. Stubbs, a man who has led a life consistent with the principles of time-tried ethics so that he has the good will and the confidence of all with whom he has come into contact.

Mr. Stubbs hails from the far-away Pine Tree state, his birth having occurred at Winterport, Waldo county, Maine, June 24, 1854. He is the

son of John and Hannah (Hardy) Stubbs, the father of English descent and the mother of Welsh ancestry. John Stubbs was the son of Benjamin and Betsey (Lombard) Stubbs. Hannah Hardy was the daughter of Joseph Putnam Hardy and Polly S. (Haskell) Hardy. Joseph P. Hardy was the son of Jonathan and Hannah (Putnam) Hardy. Hannah Putnam was a sister of Gen. Israel Putnam, of Revolutionary fame.

It was in October, 1866, that the Stubbs family came to Wisconsin, locating first in Porter township, Rock county, and lived there about two years, then came to Clinton and was there until about 1869, in which year they came on to Walworth county, locating in Darien township where they remained until 1878 when they moved to Spring Prairie township, and located in the village. Here these parents spent the rest of their lives, the mother dying at Darien and the father died at East Delavan. Two children were born to them, Charles H., of this review, and Clara, now the wife of H. W. Stubbs, of Elkhorn.

Charles H. Stubbs lived at home until 1881. In 1872 he had begun to work at the butter and cheese factory at Allen's Grove, which work he followed successfully for about forty years. In 1878 he came to Springfield and for a short time ran the factory there, and from there he went to Spring Prairie and had charge of the factory there for three years. From there he went to North Geneva and had charge of that factory about two years, then spent a year at Elkhorn, then came back to the factory at North Geneva where he spent another year. In 1886 he came to Lyons and took charge of the factory here. He owned the same up to 1909, and made a great success of it, as, indeed, he had done with all the factories with which he had previously been connected. He then sold out and retired from the manufacturing of dairy products. In the spring of 1911 he bought the general store at Lyons, of G. G. Reeve, taking charge the first of June, and he is now conducting this store and enjoying a large and rapidly growing trade with the surrounding country, carrying a large and carefully selected stock of up-to-date goods at all seasons. He was in the butter and cheese business probably longer than any other man in Walworth county, and he has a wide acquaintance.

Mr. Stubbs is a Mason, belonging to the chapter and the Order of the Eastern Star. He also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen. Politically, he is a Republican.

Mr. Stubbs was married on June 24, 1879, to Nellie Dyke, daughter of Charles R. and Mary (Kennie) Dyke. She was born in Massachusetts, and her forbears came to this country from Germany in colonial days.

Charles R. Dyke was born on December 16, 1826, and Mary Kennie was born on February 11, 1837, both in Massachusetts. The family came to Walworth county in April, 1858, when Mrs. Stubbs was a baby, and they located in Spring Prairie township. The father has followed carpentering all his life. He is now eighty-six years old and is a wonderfully well preserved man, having full use of all his faculties. His wife died on May 18, 1891, in her fifty-third year. Mr. Dyke was again married to Clara A. Hubbard. He has lived at Troy Center since the death of his first wife. Mrs. Stubbs grew to womanhood in this county and was educated here, in fact, has spent her life in Walworth county. Two children have been adopted by the subject and wife, Daisy and Wallace Stubbs. Mr. Stubbs takes an interest in public affairs, always being ready to do his part in furthering any movement looking to the general upbuilding of his community.

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#### FRANCIS G. ALLEN.

In writing of such noble characters as the late Francis G. Allen, of Lyons, there come trooping into view the children and grandchildren who inherit the good life but have no image, no memory of the author of the blessings of a worthy soul; and they are ennobled, inspired, sobered by the proud discovery of a family chief whose name was held in honor by men of sagacity and probity; they are enriched by reading the record in which their own names are linked with that of one who illumined the page of domestic annals with honorable fame.

Mr. Allen was born on June 21, 1851. He was the son of Gain R. and Amelia (Potter) Allen, his mother being a sister of Joseph Potter, of Elkhorn, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. Allen grew up on the home farm and received his education in the common schools, Elkhorn high school and Oberlin College at Oberlin, Ohio. He followed farming in his earlier life. He was married November 22, 1874, to Gertrude A. Dodge, daughter of Eugene Dodge and wife, whose sketch will be found on another page. For a time after his marriage Mr. Allen lived in Lyons, then spent about two years in Spring Prairie township, living the next ten years in Burlington, after which he moved to Madison. He became a prospector and promoter of mines upon his removal to Burlington, being interested in western mining properties, and he spent much time in the Black Hills of Dakota, being among the pioneer prospectors there. He

was later interested in mining properties in California, and afterwards for a number of years in Arizona. While he was in the West Mrs. Allen remained in Walworth county, for the most part, educating her children, Eugene and Cora; the former is a practicing physician in Seattle, Washington, and the latter is the wife of William G. John, and they also live in Seattle.

Mrs. Allen remained in Burlington ten years, until her children finished high school, then spent four years in Madison, where they attended the State University. The family then moved to Chicago, where they spent six years, while Eugene completed a course in Rush Medical College. After his graduation he was interne in the hospital of Cook County, Illinois, for two years. From there he went into the army, and was in the Philippines eighteen months as contract surgeon. He has been practicing his profession at Seattle since 1902, and is division surgeon for the Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound Railroad Company. He has two sons, Richard and Robert. He married Ethel Bagley, of Seattle. Mrs. Cora John also has two sons, Eugene Allen John and Philip William John. Mr. John is in the real estate and insurance business in Seattle and is quite prosperous.

While Mrs. Allen and the children were in Chicago, Mr. Allen also spent most of his time there, then went to Butte, Montana, where he was taken sick, and, Mrs. Allen joining him there, they went to California for his health. His death occurred on February 7, 1901, after an honorable and successful career. Mrs. Allen now lives in a pleasant home in Springfield, this county, with her mother.

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#### DANIEL BOLLINGER.

It is not strange that the people of the little republic of Switzerland should come to the United States and establish homes, for our institutions are similar to their own and they do not have such a hard time adjusting themselves here as do the emigrants from other countries of Europe, born and reared under conditions which are just about the antithesis of our own. The ports of entry to the western republic have ever been ajar for the Swiss, and, having thus extended them a hearty hand of welcome, they have been coming to our shores for two centuries or more, and their substantial homes now adorn the hills and plains of the farming communities all over the Union and there is scarcely a city of note where their homes and places of business may not be found. They have been loyal to our institutions and have proven to be splendid citizens in every respect. Thus they have aided us in pushing



MR. AND MRS. DANIEL BOLLINGER

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forward the civilization of the western hemisphere and we have helped them in material ways, giving them every opportunity, which they have not been slow to grasp, being people of thrift, tact and energy.

One of this sterling class who has honored Walworth county with his citizenship is Daniel Bollinger, who was born in Switzerland on March 18, 1835, and who, after spending most of his mature years engaged in farm work here, is now living retired in his commodious home in the town of Sharon. He is the son of Sebastian and Barbara (Schwaninger) Bollinger, both natives of Switzerland, where they grew up and were married and spent their lives, never emigrating to America. The father was born in 1800 and died in 1887, and the mother was born in 1804 and died in 1890, each reaching advanced ages.

Daniel Bollinger was reared in his native land and there received his education. Schooling there is somewhat irksome in view of the fact that the pupils are compelled to go to school the year round, from the age of five until they are eleven years old. From then until fourteen years old, they are permitted to skip the summer months. There he remained until he was twenty years old when, having heard so much of the great opportunities offered the willing young men in the United States, he emigrated to our shores in 1855, first settling in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he remained about five years. Then, the great Civil war coming on, he proved his patriotism to his adopted country by enlisting in the Thirteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, in which he served very faithfully for a period of four years and three months. Although from first to last he was in active service and took part in many skirmishes, he was not in any of the great battles.

After the war Mr. Bollinger returned to Wisconsin and bought fifty acres of land in Sharon township, Walworth county, in the vicinity of South Grove. Selling this not long afterwards, he purchased one hundred acres in the same locality, which he improved and carried on general farming and stock raising successfully until 1898, when he sold eighty acres to his son, Edward, retaining only twenty acres. He had done well in his work here and, accumulating a competency, he moved to Sharon, where he is still living in a modern and attractive home, one of the finest in this part of the county.

Religiously, Mr. Bollinger is a member of the English Lutheran church, and he belongs to Post No. 270, Grand Army of the Republic, of Sharon. He has taken more or less interest in public affairs and was a member of the city council of Sharon for a year in 1906.

Mr. Bollinger was married on June 25, 1868, to Katherine Kalb, daughter of Peter and Marguerite Kalb, natives of Germany. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bollinger, namely: Edward and Mrs. Emma Ruehlmann, both live in the town of Sharon, Wisconsin; Mrs. Marguerite Hand and Mrs. Carrie Hand both live in Lake Geneva; Frank E. lives in Laporte, Indiana; Nellie M. is teaching in the city schools at Seattle, Washington. These children received good educations in the local schools.

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### JOHN DUNPHY.

The following is a brief sketch of the life of one who, by close attention to business, has achieved marked success in the world's affairs and risen to an honorable position among the enterprising men of the city with which his interests are identified. It is a plain record, rendered remarkable by no strange or mysterious adventure, no wonderful and lucky accident and no tragic situation. Mr. Dunphy is a man of honest convictions and sincere purposes, his upright career and wholesome moral influence making him respected by all who have come into contact with him.

John Dunphy, well known lumber dealer of Elkhorn, was born in this city, April 2, 1862. He is the son of James and Mary (Golden) Dunphy, both natives of Ireland, the father born in county Kilkenny and the mother near Cork, and they spent their earlier years in Erin's green isle, emigrating to Elkhorn, Wisconsin, about 1856, and here established a good home through their industry and spent the rest of their lives.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. James Dunphy, named as follows: Mary is the wife of William Carey and lives about three miles north of Elkhorn; Edward James died at Grand Fork, North Dakota, in February, 1910; Honore died in her babyhood; John, of this sketch, was the youngest.

John Dunphy grew to manhood in Elkhorn, and here received his education in the public schools, and has spent most of his life in his home city, in which he has ever taken an abiding interest and a just pride, always ready to assist in its upbuilding and general progress. He started working for the Barker Lumber Company when he was only fourteen years old. He has been with the same establishment since he was twenty-one years old, the firm then being known as the Matheson Trading Company, beginning work with them on April 1, 1883. He took an interest in the firm five years later, in 1888. In 1904 they sold out to the Elkhorn Lumber Company, Mr. Dunphy becoming

manager of the new concern in that year and this position he has retained to the present time, his efforts resulting in building up a large and constantly growing business, rendering this one of the leading lumber firms in this section of the state. Besides his interests here Mr. Dunphy has a half interest in a lumber company at Sherland, Illinois. He understands thoroughly the ins and outs of the lumber industry and has kept well abreast of the times in all that pertains to the business. There are only one or two men in Elkhorn who have been in business here longer than he has.

Mr. Dunphy was a member of the school board of this city for a period of fifteen years, and he also served for a time as city clerk.

Mr. Dunphy was married in May, 1889, to Alice Lennon, who was born in Lafayette township, this county, three miles from Elkhorn. She was the daughter of James and Bridget Lennon. To the subject and wife one child, Edward J. Dunphy, was born. He is now attending Marquette College at Milwaukee.

The wife and mother passed away on June 8, 1891. She was a member of the Catholic church. On September 3, 1900, Mr. Dunphy was again married, his last wife being known in her maidenhood as Anne G. Monahan, of East Troy, the daughter of James and Mary Monahan. Her death occurred on June 22, 1910. She was a member of the Catholic church, to which the subject also belongs. Two children were born of the second union, John James and Anne.

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#### HENRY L. MALLORY.

This representative and honored citizen of Elkhorn, Walworth county, has been distinctively the architect of his own fortunes, has been true and loyal in all the relations of life and stands as a type of that sterling manhood which ever commands respect and honor. He is a man who would have won his way in any locality where fate might have placed him, for he has sound judgment, coupled with great energy and business tact, together with upright principles, all of which make for success wherever and whenever they are rightly and persistently applied. By reason of these principles he has won and retained a host of friends in whatever community he is known.

Henry L. Mallory was born on September 29, 1840, in Jordan, Onondaga county, New York. He is the son of Ward and Margaret (Butts) Mallory, the father born in Kent, Connecticut, April 10, 1810, and the mother in Pennsylvania January 2, 1811. The former died on November 8, 1808. In

the fall of 1844 he came by boat on the Great Lakes to Michigan where he settled and remained until December, 1847, when he came to Walworth county, moving here by ox team, several weeks being required to make the trip. He arrived in this county in February, 1848. His family consisted of two sons and two daughters. The family lived in Elkhorn until April, then went to Delavan, where Mr. Mallory opened the White Hotel on April 1st, which place he continued to conduct until 1851, when he rented it and moved to a farm in Sugar Creek township, but later returned to the hotel, the management of which he resumed until the lease expired in the fall of 1853, then went back to the farm where he lived until the spring of 1865, when he rented his farm and returned to Delavan, where he conducted the Park Hotel until January, 1870. He then went to Marshalltown, Iowa, where he conducted a livery barn for a period of six years, then came to Elk Point, Dakota, then to Sioux City, Iowa, where he lived until his death in 1898. He was a Whig in his early days, later became a Republican. He was justice of the peace for several years and a member of the town board. Four children were born to Ward Mallory and wife: Sarah E. lives in Valley City, North Dakota; Isabelle M., wife of Charles Hollinshead, also lives there; Henry L., of this sketch; Albert W., of Wakita, Oklahoma.

Henry L. Mallory, of this sketch, grew to manhood under the parental roof. He attended school in Delavan, being one of the first graduates under Professor Cheney.

In 1864 Mr. Mallory enlisted in the one-hundred-day service, Company F, Fortieth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and he was mustered out in September of the same year.

On September 27, 1865, Mr. Mallory was united in marriage with Mary Gray, who was born in Sugar Creek township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, the daughter of Dr. Harmon and Maria T. (Finch) Gray, the father a native of Bennington, Vermont, born June 29, 1806, she born in Connecticut, January 1, 1808. The death of Doctor Gray occurred on September 19, 1895, his wife having preceded him to the grave on October 20, 1887. The Doctor came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1840 and here purchased a farm in Sugar Creek township, near Millard, and he continued to reside here until his death. He practiced medicine until about 1885, being one of the well known doctors here of a past generation. To Mr. and Mrs. Mallory one child has been born, Edwin H.

Henry L. Mallory lived on his father's farm one and one-half years, then moved to Millard, on his father-in-law's farm, where he remained until the spring of 1869, then moved to Nebraska where he bought a farm and

lived until the fall of 1873. Renting his farm he returned to Millard, this county, and again took charge of the farm belonging to his father-in-law, conducting the same until the spring of 1886, when he moved to Elkhorn, where he engaged in the implement and well-drilling business, which he conducted with success until the fall of 1892 when he retired from active life.

Mr. Mallory is a Democrat, a member of the Masonic order, and of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was justice of the peace for about ten years in Sugar Creek township, discharging the duties of this office in a manner that reflected much credit upon himself and to the satisfaction of all concerned, his decisions being characterized by fairness and a broad knowledge of jurisprudence, although he had never studied law.

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#### MARTIN W. WEEKS.

This well known citizen is another of the old soldiers who unselfishly left hearth and home and went out to fight their country's battles on the sanguinary fields of the Southland a half century ago. What a splendid sight it is at the present day to see a company of those hardy veterans of the greatest civil war of all history march slowly by on Decoration Day or the Fourth of July, in their faded uniforms and with their tattered flags flying. But they will soon be gone forever, and nothing will be left but a memory. That memory should be something more than a sound. Their deeds should be perpetuated in song and story, in monument and perpetual commemoration, so that future generations may draw inspiration from their patriotism and gallantry.

Martin W. Weeks, for a long stretch of years one of the leading farmers of Lyons township, Walworth county, was born in Schenectady, New York, March 22, 1841. He is the son of Arnold and Hannah (Sperbeck) Weeks, the father born in the state of New York in 1811, and the mother in Crane's village, near Amsterdam, on the Mohawk river, in 1812. They grew up in New York and were married there, and they came to Walworth county in 1842, locating near Lake Geneva. He bought a small piece of land there, but a few years later moved to near where Springfield is now located and there he spent the rest of his life engaged in farming, also bought grain and ran a lumber yard at Springfield and built up a large business, soon after the railroad came through. He was well known and highly respected throughout the county. Politically, he was first a Whig, later a Republican, from the time that party started. His family consisted of five sons: John A. died in Michigan, leaving a widow and two children, both of whom are now married and live in

Michigan, Ernest being a farmer in Oakland county, and Harriet, who is the wife of Edward Wicks. James Henry Weeks died in Los Angeles, California, leaving a wife and four children, Lena, Dolly, Walter and William Arnold, all in Los Angeles, except William, who lived farther north in California. Levi Weeks lives at Springfield, Wisconsin, is married and has two daughters, Dora, wife of Albert Hopkins, and Kate, wife of Samuel Hoffman, of West Chicago. Martin W. Weeks, of this sketch, was the fourth in order of birth. Theodore Weeks now lives at Rockford, Illinois; his wife is deceased and he and his daughter Genevieve keep the home; he also has two sons, Melvin and Roger. The subject's parents are deceased.

Martin W. Weeks grew to manhood on the home farm near Springfield and there he assisted with the general work when a boy, attending the neighboring schools in the winter time. In 1861 he enlisted in the Fourth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and was sent to Baltimore, where he did guard duty until the spring of 1862, then went south with General Butler, and was in the capture of New Orleans and afterwards started on the Red River expedition. On the way they captured a great many Texas ponies, thus, being mounted, were later changed to a cavalry regiment. He took part in the siege of Port Hudson, the battle of Baton Rouge and other engagements. He had a great deal of skirmishing and scouting to do, and in the hard fighting the regiment lost many men. The subject was wounded by an accidental shot from a soldier's carbine, the bullet passing through both thighs. Owing to his disability he came home from Baton Rouge on a furlough and was at home when his time expired. He was discharged with his regiment in 1864, having served three years and three months.

After the war Mr. Weeks returned home and engaged in farming, which he has continued practically ever since. He was married in 1865 to Esther Booth, daughter of Edwin Booth and wife. She was a sister to Mrs. Henry Boyle, in whose sketch, on another page of this work, appears the ancestry of the Booth family.

Mr. Weeks has farmed in the neighborhood of Springfield most of his life. In 1866 he went to Kossuth county, Iowa, and bought agricultural college land and farmed there about two years.

Two children were born to Mr. Weeks and his first wife, Willard E. and Ethel. The former married Maude Russell, daughter of John Russell, of Lake Geneva, and he is farming with his father near Springfield; he has three children, Marjorie, Marian and Kenneth. Ethel Weeks married Alexander Henry and lives on the home farm just west of Springfield, and they have seven children, Willard, Mary, Ethel, Ruth, Florence, Ray and Roy.

The death of Mrs. Martin W. Weeks occurred in Iowa in March, 1869. After this event, Mr. Weeks went to Chicago, where he spent three years, then returned to the old home in Wisconsin, which he finally bought, and he has lived ever since on the old Weeks homestead which his father bought in the early history of the county. He has been very successful as a general farmer and has kept the place well improved and well cultivated.

Mr. Weeks was again married, his last wife being Helen Morrow Lockwood, sister of William Lockwood, near Lake Geneva, and daughter of one of the leading old families of the county. She died about a year and a half after their marriage. Mr. Weeks is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and McPherson Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Lake Geneva.

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#### FRANK A. HUBBARD.

Prominently identified with the industrial and civic affairs of Walworth county, where he has spent his useful and hard-working life, Frank A. Hubbard, one of the leading farmers of Troy township, where he has long resided on his beautiful farmstead, is deserving of special mention here.

Mr. Hubbard was born on the farm on which he still resides on March 29, 1849. He is the son of Edward A. and Eliza (Kinney) Hubbard. The father first bought sixty acres here and two years later purchased the place now occupied by Frank A. of this sketch, which consisted of one hundred and sixty acres, also bought forty acres elsewhere. Here he spent the rest of his life, developing a good farm. When he came here he found old log buildings and poor improvements, but in due course of time these were changed to modern, substantial ones. Here his wife spent the rest of her life, also. They were the parents of seven children, five of whom are still living. The elder Hubbard was very active in Republican politics, and for many years he was chairman in his township. He belonged to the Presbyterian church.

Frank A. Hubbard grew up on the home farm and received his education in the local district schools, later attending Beloit College two years. He returned home and farmed a few years, then followed teaming for twelve years at East Troy, then returned to the home farm, where he owns eighty acres, and for a time he operated the one hundred and sixty acres. He has built an excellent house here and kept the place under high-grade improvements. He worked hard and accumulated a competency and for the past two

years he has lived retired. He was married in 1872 to Sarah Morrison, whose death occurred on June 14, 1894. She was born in New York state and came to Wisconsin in the late forties or early fifties with her parents, William and Malinda (Pettit) Morrison, the father born at Falkirk, Scotland, and she was born in New York. They came to Walworth county in 1855 where they began farming.

To Mr. Hubbard and his first wife the following children were born: William M., Harris J., Mary E., Hattiebelle, Susie is deceased; one died in infancy unnamed. In December, 1895, Mr. Hubbard was married again, his last wife being Mary E. Morrison, sister of his first wife.

Mr. Hubbard is a Republican and active in local affairs, but he has never accepted office. Fraternally, he is a Mason and he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star.

Edward A. Hubbard, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Greene county, New York, March 12, 1824, and his death occurred in Troy, Wisconsin, January 25, 1887. He came to East Troy township, Walworth county, in 1845 and started life in the wilderness. He was the son of Alfred and Hannah (Steele) Hubbard, of Greene county, New York, and in the fifties they came to Spring Prairie, this county, purchased a farm and spent their last years in Walworth county. Eliza Kinney was born in Mt. Morris, Greene county, New York, September 15, 1826, the daughter of Ezra and Louisa (Clough) Kinney. After the former's death, the latter came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and here her last years were spent. Eliza (Kinney) Hubbard died on February 10, 1903.

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### DAVID D. JOHNSON.

It would have been hard to have found a more whole-souled or popular gentleman in Walworth county during the past generation than the late David D. Johnson, a man who lived to good purpose, ordered his course well and left behind him a good name—a thing that is more to be desired than riches.

Mr. Johnson was born in Albany, New York, August 29, 1834, the son of William and Caroline (Vrooman) Johnson, the father a native of Canada, and the latter of Mohawk valley, New York, and of Dutch ancestry.

David D. Johnson came west when nineteen years of age, and located at Polo, Ogle county, Illinois, and there engaged in farming and dairying. In 1861 he enlisted in Company B, Seventh Illinois Cavalry, and served faithfully

in the Union army four years, having re-enlisted after being out a year. He was in the battles of Shiloh and Corinth. He was taken sick and was sent to the hospital in St. Louis in the New House of Refuge. Upon recovering, he was detailed in the commissary department, remaining in the same sixteen months. He attained the rank of corporal. After the war he returned to Polo and ran a dray, remaining there until 1877, then moved to Walworth county and bought two hundred and six acres in the north part of Geneva township and lived there until the spring of 1888. He then lived one year in Geneva and in 1899 he moved to Springfield, where he spent the rest of his days, being paralyzed during the last nine years of his life and unable to do any work. His death occurred on July 5, 1904.

Mr. Johnson was married on October 25, 1854, to Miranda A. Bogardus, daughter of Jacob E. and Harriet (Coffin) Bogardus. She was born in Lysander township, Onondaga county, New York, in 1835. Her father's grandparents came from Holland and settled in Greene county, New York. Her mother was born in 1810 in Lysander, New York, and Jacob E. Bogardus was born in Greene county, New York, in 1804. In the spring of 1845 the Bogardus family came to Illinois and located near Polo, in Buffalo township, Ogle county. When the family came there they found a wild, unimproved prairie, over which one could look twenty miles and not see a house. Cattle ranged at will over the unfenced prairies. There Mrs. Johnson grew up and was married. Fourteen children were born to them, one of whom died in early infancy, one when sixteen months old, the other twelve growing to maturity, married and are still living. They are, Mrs. Sarah Hollenbeck, who lives at Burlington; Charles H. lives in Polo; James William lives in Lake Geneva; Mrs. Ida E. Palmer lives in Belmont, Wisconsin; George D. lives in Springfield; Mrs. Carrie Myers lives at St. Charles, South Dakota; Owen A. lives in Lake Geneva; John M. also lives in Lake Geneva; Bert A. lives at Gray's Lake, Illinois; Leslie J. lives with his mother at Springfield, Walworth county; Mrs. Alice M. Beham lives at Graybull, Wyoming; Mrs. Nina A. Malsch lives at Lake Geneva.

Mrs. Johnson's mother, Harriet Coffin, was the daughter of Sarah Adams (Bassett) Coffin, who was a cousin to President John Adams. Mayhew Adams, his uncle, lived to the age of one hundred fifteen years. She lived to be one hundred years old. Sarah Coffin's father, Ebenezer Bassett, lived to a very old age. Mrs. Johnson has a photograph in which she and her son and grandson, her mother and her grandmother Coffin, five generations, occur.

The Johnson children had the benefit of good schooling in Illinois, in which school each pupil must secure a first-grade teacher's certificate before

being permitted to graduate. The eldest daughter holds first-grade certificates from both Ogle and Lee counties, Illinois.

Mrs. Johnson has thirty-four grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren. She enjoys good health and strength for one of her advanced years, is able to read, hears well and keeps house. She still owns the farm in Geneva township and a home in Springfield where she now lives. She has a host of warm friends throughout the county, and is a grand old lady whom to know is to admire and accord the greatest respect, as a result of her long, useful Christian life. Mr. Johnson was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for many years. He was a man who lived honorably and was successful in business affairs until gripped by disease.

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#### LARMER GRAHAM O'DELL.

It is always a pleasure to the biographer to write of the pioneer and the old soldier, for he knows at once that they are men of superior mould. It requires courage, self-sacrifice and fortitude to be either. No man braves the wilds of a new country unless he is made of sterling mettle, for he knows there awaits him much hard toil and no little hardship before he accomplishes very much and no man goes into battle unless he has a broad patriotism and a brave heart. Such a man is Larmer Graham O'Dell, of Delavan, Walworth county, who was born on December 23, 1841, in Elmira, New York, the son of John A. and Betsy (Belton) O'Dell, natives of the state of New York, where they spent their earlier years. Coming to Wisconsin in 1843 and settling in Richmond township, the father took up forty acres from the government; and here he lived about five years, when he sold out and did general work, moving to Delavan in 1856 where he lived until 1873. Then he moved to Harvard, Illinois, and there lived until his death in 1888, his wife, Larmer O'Dell's mother, having preceded him to the grave in 1845, nearly a half century, when the subject was but two years old.

To John A. O'Dell and wife three children were born, namely: Robert, who was a soldier in the Civil war, died of disease contracted while in the army; Eugene, also a soldier in Company A, Thirty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, from August 2, 1861, till January 5, 1866, was a pension attorney and justice of the peace, and died at New Richmond, Wisconsin, February 18, 1899; during the war he was a prisoner for about three months.

Larmer G. O'Dell, the third son, grew up on the home farm in Walworth county and he received his education in the schools of Richmond township and Delavan City. After leaving school he learned the cooper's trade, continuing the same for a period of fourteen years. He enlisted for service in the war of the Rebellion, in 1861, in Company D, Thirty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, in which he served very faithfully until in October, 1863. On March 17, 1864, he re-enlisted in Company A, Thirty-eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war, taking part in many important campaigns and hard-fought engagements.

After the close of hostilities he returned home and remained in Walworth county for a while, then, in 1867, went to Nebraska, and worked in the railroad shops at Plattsmouth, remaining there until January, 1873, then returned to Delavan, Wisconsin. On the 11th of December, 1873, he was united in marriage with Alvina Hone, daughter of Amenzo and Margaret (Deremer) Hone, natives of the state of New York, who came to Wisconsin and settled in Walworth township, this county, in 1870, where Mr. Hone engaged in farming until about three years of his death, which occurred on August 7, 1892, his widow surviving about a year.

Four children have been born to the subject and wife, namely: Charles Eugene, born March 16, 1875, is now in the regular army and stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas; Mrs. Florence Shewey, born June 10, 1879, lives in Chicago; Mrs. Hattie May Tompkins, born July 23, 1881, lives on a farm in Sharon; Mrs. Pearl Felter, born March 29, 1887, lives in Chicago.

Mr. O'Dell has led a very satisfactory life and is now comfortably located as a result of his former years of industry. Mr. and Mrs. O'Dell are members of the Baptist church.

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#### WILLIAM L. MILLER.

William L. Miller, farmer and stock man of Lyons township, is a descendant of one of the first families to brave the wilds of Walworth county and undertake the task of clearing a farm and a home from the dense woods. When the family arrived here some three score and ten years ago the clearings were few and far between, and the family, children and all, were required to bestir themselves in cleaning off the timber and getting the virgin soil ready for the seed and the harvest, and they found it no easy task to remove the dense growth of brush that encumbered the soil and kept out the life-giving sunlight.

Mr. Miller was born in East Troy township, this county, on May 10, 1867. He is the son of Lewis W. and Jennie (Holmes) Miller. The father was born near Boston, Massachusetts, and was the son of Carl Miller and wife, both natives of Germany. When Lewis W. Miller was three years old, in the early forties, his parents brought him to Walworth county, and the family home was established in East Troy township, entering two hundred acres of land from the government. Later the elder Miller traded ten acres of this land for a cow. Wolves and other kindreds of the wild and denizens of the "heart of the ancient wood" were plentiful. The roads were little more than old Indian trails and the family experienced many hardships, but they let nothing stand in their way and in time had established a comfortable home. The family consisted of the following children who were reared in the pioneer home here: Lewis, Charles, Andrew, Frank, Joseph, Anton, Elizabeth and a daughter who died when two and one-half years old. There the old folks lived and died, and there Lewis Miller grew up and married Jennie Holmes, a daughter of William and Anna (O'Brien) Holmes. She was born in the state of New York and she came to Walworth county when about nine years old, her parents locating in Darien township. After their marriage Lewis Miller and wife continued to reside in East Troy township. Nine children were born to them, namely: William L., of this sketch; Mary Ann, who married Albert Grenowald, lives in Waterford township; Charles H. lives in Rochester township, Racine county; Jennie married Clarence White and lives in Rochester township; Nellie, who married Frank Medbury; Andrew married Alice White and lives in Spring Prairie township; Anna Chancey lives on the old home farm in East Troy; Florence lives at home with her father. The mother of the above named children was called to her rest in October, 1893. Lewis Miller, the father, is now living in the town of East Troy.

William L. Miller of this sketch lived on the home farm until he was about twenty-two years old, then started out for himself. He worked two years for the Wilbur Lumber Company at Honey Creek, then rented a farm in Spring Prairie township which he successfully operated for six years. In 1900 he purchased a farm in section 8, Lyons township, this county, and here he has since resided, keeping the place well improved and under a fine state of cultivation, carrying on general farming and stock raising successfully. He has one hundred and seventeen acres.

Mr. Miller was married on January 30, 1893, to Lizzie Brophy, a daughter of Philip and Ellen (Thompson) Brophy. She was born in Muskego, Wisconsin. Her father was born in county Kilkenny, Castle Komar, Ireland,

December 25, 1832, and he spent his boyhood days there, but died in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where his death occurred on May 26, 1903, at the age of seventy-three years. He was twelve years old when he accompanied his parents to America, the family locating in the state of New York. When twenty-two years old, Philip Brophy came to Muskego, Wisconsin, but the last twenty-one years of his life were spent in and about East Troy, this county. His family consisted of eleven children, namely: Mrs. Minnie Brownlee, deceased; John; Lizzie, wife of Mr. Miller of this sketch; George, Nellie, Ada, Edward, Henry, Abbie, Mrs. T. E. Dwyer, P. H., and Mrs. P. H. Lacy. Mrs. Philip Brophy now lives in east Troy. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Miller namely: Marie, Raymond, Glenn, Howard and Ella.

Mr. Miller and family belong to the Catholic church. He is an active, progressive citizen, frank and friendly.

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#### HENRY BOYLE.

Among the earliest settlers of Walworth county was the Boyle family, of whom the present generation is very creditably represented by Henry Boyle, of near Springfield, one of the best known farmers of Geneva township. He has come down to us from the pioneer epoch and has spent his long, useful and industrious life in his native vicinity, which he has done much to upbuild. He has built up a highly commendable reputation and by right and honorable living has won and retained the good will and esteem of all who know him, and that comprises about every one in the eastern part of the county.

Mr. Boyle was born in Geneva township, this county, February 28, 1848, and is the son of Charles and Margery (Brown) Boyle. The father was born in Maryland and when a boy he accompanied his father to Geneva, New York, and there he grew to manhood, and he came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, about 1838 or 1839 and entered land from the government in sections 12 and 13, Geneva township. This land has remained in the possession of the family to the present day, having never been conveyed by deed and never been mortgaged. Here the elder Boyle built a log cabin, in which the subject was born, while Wisconsin was yet a territory. The father found that he had few neighbors and that he would be required to do a great deal of hard work to establish his home in the new country; but he was a man of courage and did not permit hardships to thwart him in his plans. He developed a good farm and became one of the leading men of his community. He led a quiet life, though he always attended the township meetings and took an active part in

the affairs of his community. His wife was born in Ireland and when a child she came with her parents to America. They lived in Michigan until they came to Walworth county in the early forties, making the long overland trip with ox teams, which mired down as they were passing through Chicago, which place was then a village in practically a swamp. They located in Lyons township, this county, Mrs. Margery Boyle's brother entering land from the government.

Charles Boyle, father of the subject, spent the rest of his life on the land which he entered here. His family consisted of ten children, namely: William, who went to California when twenty-one years old; Ann married James Archer and lives at Los Angeles, California; George E. lives at Wittemore, Iowa; Henry lives on the home farm; Elizabeth married C. C. Young and they live in Los Angeles; Charles lives at Eureka, Nevada; Mary married William A. Randall, a government employe, who has been in the Philippine Islands twelve years, and there his wife died in 1906; Emma married W. A. Weaver and lives at Snohomish, Washington; James L. lives at Goodland, Kansas; John O. is in Topeka, Kansas. The father of the above named children died on May 9, 1869, after three years' illness, and his wife survived over twenty years, dying on May 25, 1891.

Henry Boyle has lived all his life on the home place. He grew up here and after the other children all went away he bought the homestead, which he has kept well improved and well cultivated and made a success of general farming and stock raising. He was married on January 1, 1870, to Rebecca Booth, daughter of Edwin and Martha (Turner) Booth. She was born in Lyons township, this county, and here she grew to womanhood. Her people came from England, her father having been born there in 1809. Emigrating to America when young, he located at Wappinger Falls, New York, where he was married to Martha Turner. They came to Walworth county in a very early day, perhaps about 1840, and settled in Lyons township, becoming well established on a farm where they spent the rest of their lives.

Henry Boyle makes a specialty of raising fine live stock, some of his horses and cattle being eligible to registry. He is a Republican, and while he takes an active interest in party affairs, he is no office seeker. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Lake Geneva.

One son, Philip, has been born to the subject and wife; he is at home, assisting with the work on the place. Henry Boyle remembers many interesting things of the early development of the county, the putting through of the railroads, the surveying, the big Indian trail which ran across the home farm, the red men being plentiful when the family first came here. He is a good neighbor, generous, broad-minded and is well thought of by all classes.

## JOHN P. INGALLS.

Nothing could have so forcibly demonstrated the unity of this nation as the recent war with Spain, when men from north and south, and east and west, flocked to the standard of the country and marched shoulder to shoulder to the scene of battle, gaining a glorious victory in the "Pearl of the Antilles," for liberty and humanity. Just thirty-seven years before, the nation was involved in a titanic struggle—the throes of the greatest civil war recorded in history. Aroused by what they believed to be a suppression of their rights, brave men from the South attempted to throw off all allegiance to the national power, but the guns of Fort Sumter awakened the loyalty and patriotism of the North, and thousands of citizen-soldiers marched forth to defend the Union and to maintain the supremacy of the Stars and Stripes. Walworth county, Wisconsin, furnished her full quota of "boys in blue," and when the clash with Spain came she placed many of her gallant sons at the disposal of the federal authorities and would have sent regiments had they been needed. One of the latter number was John P. Ingalls, now a well known and successful attorney at law in Elkhorn, a worthy representative of one of our sterling pioneer families, and a man who has won his way to top ranks of his profession through his persistent efforts along lines of endeavor which seldom fail to bring a due reward.

Mr. Ingalls was born in Linn township, this county, January 26, 1866, and here he grew to manhood and he has been content to spend his life in his native locality. He received his education in the local public schools, and early in life began bending every effort toward a legal career. He studied law in Elkhorn, then took a course in the Northwestern University Law School, where he made an excellent record and from which institution he was graduated in 1893. Thus well equipped for his lifework, he began practicing in Racine in partnership with his brother Wallace, and soon had a very satisfactory and growing clientele. Then the Spanish-American war came on in the spring of 1898, and he, having been a member of Company F, First Wisconsin Militia, at Racine, was called out with his comrades and mustered into the service of the United States for the war. The company started to the front and got as far as Jacksonville, Florida, where it remained in camp, its services not being needed in the West Indies. Being anxious for service, Mr. Ingalls regretted not being allowed to take part in the active campaigns. After the war he returned north and practiced law in Chicago several years with much success, then returned to Wisconsin and is now practicing in Elkhorn, enjoying a large clientele and ranking among the best

legal lights of the local bar. He was elected district attorney of Walworth county in 1904, was re-elected in 1906 and again in 1909, taking office the following January, and he served in this capacity until January, 1911. He has also served as justice of the peace. Politically, he has always been active in the Republican ranks. As a public servant he has discharged his every duty in a manner that has reflected much credit upon himself and to the eminent satisfaction of the people, winning the hearty approval of all concerned, irrespective of party alignment, enjoying the confidence and esteem of all classes.

As an attorney Mr. Ingalls has kept fully abreast of the times in all that pertains to his profession, having always been a close student and an original investigator, cautious, painstaking, ever alert for the interest of his clients. He believes in going into court fully prepared, with his case well in hand, and his cases are always correctly drawn and he has great weight with the jury and the court.

Mr. Ingalls has remained unmarried. A complete sketch of his parents, Silas Ingalls and wife, and his ancestry appears on another page of this volume.

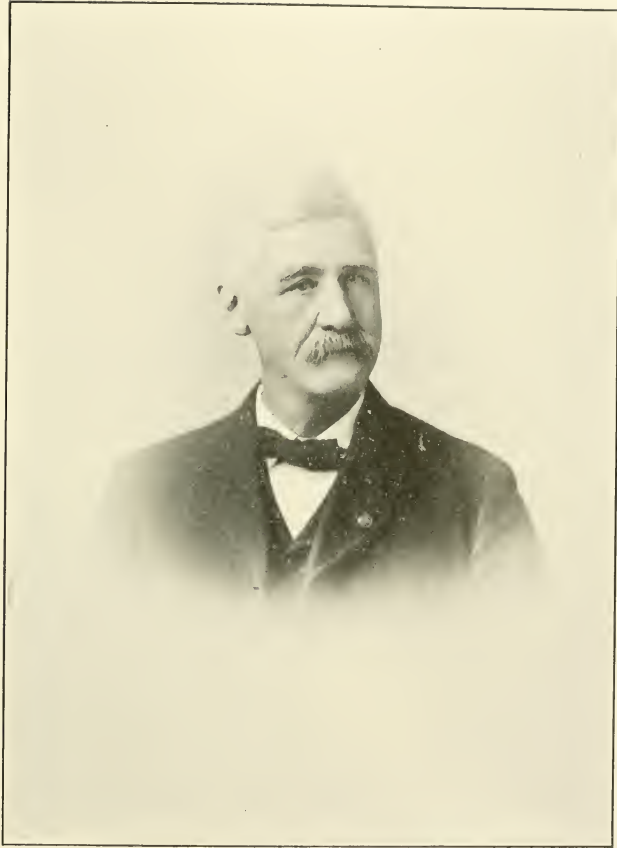
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### LEONARD C. CHURCH.

Although no section of the Badger state is richer in opportunities or offers greater advantages to its citizens than does Walworth county, success is not here to be obtained through desire alone, but is to be persistently worked for. Leonard C. Church, of Walworth, may be recorded among our worthiest native sons, having come down-to the present day from the pioneer epoch, spending his useful and busy life within the borders of this county, preferring to remain on his native hills, and he has here worked his way to success and prosperity while he has so ordered his course in all the relations of life as to command the confidence and esteem of his fellow men.

Mr. Church was born on a farm about a half mile northwest of the present village of Walworth, on January 31, 1846. He is the son of Cyrus and Emeline (Russell) Church, whose record appears at length in another part of this history.

Leonard C. Church spent his boyhood on the farm where he was born and where his father had settled when white men first came to live in this section of the Badger state. On January 31, 1854, occurred the death of the



LEONARD C. CHURCH

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mother, when Leonard C. was eight years old. When he reached the age of sixteen he obtained his father's written consent, and enlisted in the Union army, Company L, Third Wisconsin Volunteer Cavalry, at Madison. He was sent southwest and saw much active service in Missouri, Arkansas, Indian Territory and Texas, taking part in the battles of Prairie Grove, Elkhorn Tavern, Fort Smith, Little Rock, Dardanelle, and others, and he was on the Red River expedition; co-operating with General Banks, on what proved a rather disastrous campaign. They afterwards returned to Little Rock and spent a great deal of time chasing guerrillas and bushwhackers. Being a cavalry regiment they were kept on the move and saw much fighting in many small engagements. Mr. Church made a very faithful soldier, according to his comrades, and he was honorably discharged in February, 1865. He and two other boys had quit school here to go to the front, and he was the only one to return.

After his army career Mr. Church returned to Walworth county and resumed his studies, attending the academy at Allen's Grove. After leaving the academy he went to St. Anthony's Falls, Minnesota, and worked in a lumber mill and was there a year, then came home and worked on the farm until 1871, then went into the firm of S. P. Savage & Company in the commission business in Chicago, where he remained three years. While there, in 1872, he was married to Adeline M. Porter, daughter of Doric C. and Nancy J. (Hanchett) Porter. She was born in Walworth township, this county. Her parents were also among the first settlers here, and their record appears in this work.

After three years in Chicago, Mr. Church returned to the farm in Walworth township. In 1886 he was elected county treasurer and thereupon moved to Elkhorn, taking office on January 1, 1887. He was re-elected in the fall of 1888 and again in the fall of 1890, holding the office for six years, then returned to the old homestead. He was elected a representative to the Legislature and was a member of the General Assembly in 1897 and 1898. In 1890 he was appointed a member of the soldiers relief commission, having held the position ever since. He was president of the school board at Walworth for many years, finally refusing to hold the office any longer.

In 1899 Mr. Church engaged in the lumber business in the village of Walworth, as a member of the Walworth Lumber Company, of which he and his son and H. M. Thompson and Mr. Desert were members. They formed a corporation and established three yards, one at Walworth in 1899 and one

at Zendon and one at Shirland, Illinois, in 1911. They deal in lumber, coal and feed, and in this connection they own and operate a feed mill at Walworth. Mr. Church has been manager of the company ever since its organization and he has made it a great success. He organized the Walworth State Bank when it was incorporated and was president of the same for a period of five years, then sold out his interest there and retired from banking. He sold his farm in 1909 and now lives in Walworth.

Mr. and Mrs. Church are the parents of four children; Grace lived to be thirty-four years old, dying on July 15, 1908; she was an accomplished musician; Wells D., born November 1, 1873, was educated at Walworth and Elkhorn and the Atheneum Commercial College in Chicago; he worked in Marshall Field's store for a time, then taught school a while, farmed on the home place and when the Walworth Lumber Company was organized he became a partner in the same; he is clerk of the school board, and he helped organize the local telephone company, of which he is secretary; he has been village supervisor for several years; he was married to Effie E. Dake, of McHenry county, Illinois, and he has four children, Leonard C., Jr., Gilbert, Ruth and Adeline. Nancy J. Church was graduated from the Whitewater Normal and she has been teaching school successfully about fourteen years; Hattie E. was graduated from the Walworth high school and has been in charge of the books of the Walworth Lumber Company from the beginning; Emeline E. also graduated from the Walworth high school, and in 1907 from the Whitewater Normal, has been teaching ever since and is known to be a very able instructor.

Mr. Church has been very successful in a business way, and as a public servant his record is highly commendable to all classes, irrespective of party alignment. He has always performed his duties faithfully, having the interests of his locality at heart.

Mr. Church is a member of the Masonic order and the Modern Woodmen, also the Grand Army of the Republic. He was one of the organizers of the Walworth county soldiers and sailors annual organization, which for about twenty-five years has been holding annual reunions, and last year he was president of the organization, much of whose success has been due to his efforts.

Mr. Church is a man of progressive ideas, sound judgment and wise discernment, well posted on current events and a leader in local affairs, yet plain and unassuming, obliging, friendly and of pleasing address, his opinion ever carrying weight with his fellow men.

## G. HART HOLLISTER.

The gentleman whose name appears above is one of Delavan's enterprising business men and a worthy native son of Walworth county, who has done much to advance the prosperity of the same during his active career, most of which has been spent here. He has evinced much more than a passing interest in the improvement of public works and conveniences such as conduce to or are necessary for the comfort and health of the community. Mr. Hollister is recognized as a gentleman of strict integrity and business honor, and his social standing and that of his wife and family is with the best people of the community.

G. Hart Hollister was born on August 26, 1861, in East Delavan, Walworth county, Wisconsin. He is the son of Mason and Matilda (Dalton) Hollister, both natives of the state of New York, where they spent their earlier years and in 1841 they came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, first settling in the vicinity of East Delavan, buying a farm there of one hundred and sixty acres, and there they established a comfortable home and improved a good farm, and there the parents spent the rest of their lives, the father dying on June 30, 1884, and the mother on November 30th of the same year. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Mason Hollister, namely: G. Hart, of this sketch; Guy R., of Delavan; two children who died in infancy.

G. Hart Hollister grew up on the home farm and there assisted with the general work when young, and he received his education in the common schools of Delavan township and the high school in Geneva. He engaged in farming until he was about twenty years old, then went to South Dakota in 1882 and continued to reside there until 1890, when he returned to Walworth county, Wisconsin, having been very successful in his ventures in the land of the Dakotas.

Upon his return here he took up the stone masonry business and has continued the same to the present time, having built up a very satisfactory business, which is constantly growing. He has a pleasant home at No. 313 South Second street, Delavan.

Fraternally, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Delavan. He is alderman from the second ward. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Hollister was married to Libbie Williams on February 20, 1884, she being the daughter of James R. and Ann Williams, of Walworth county. To the subject and wife one child has been born, Harriett E., who has received a good education and is a successful teacher. She is living at home with her parents.

## ALBERT EUGENE SMITH.

Another of the sterling old soldiers and pioneers of Walworth county whose life has been such as to be eminently worthy of recording in the pages of this work is Albert Eugene Smith, of Delavan, a man who has sought to do his full duty in all the relations of life, whether on the field of battle in attempting to save the nation from disgrace or in the humble sphere of private citizen, and he has ever borne himself in such a manner as to gain the respect and esteem of his fellow men.

Mr. Smith was born on October 28, 1836, at Cape Vincent, Jefferson county, New York. He is the son of John and Lucy (Andrews) Smith, the father born in England, from which country he emigrated to America when about sixteen years of age and settled at Cape Vincent, New York, and there engaged in farming. His wife was born in New York and there grew to womanhood and was married. These parents came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, when the subject was about twelve years old, and they settled in Geneva township, buying a farm there, which they later sold and moved to Delavan, where the parents of the subject spent the rest of their lives.

Albert E. Smith received his education in the district schools of New York. Leaving home when sixteen years of age, he worked in the pinery in winter and on the lakes in the summer. He then became a deep sea sailor. Both on the lakes and on the ocean he became second mate of the vessel, sailed to South America, Spain, Liverpool, England, and had a terribly stormy voyage. About a year before the breaking out of the Civil war he returned to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and in 1861 he enlisted in Company K, Eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, in which he served very faithfully and participated in fourteen battles, including the siege of Vicksburg, Corinth, Black River Bridge, Jackson, Henderson Hill, Fort Drussey, the Red River Expedition and others. Soon after enlistment he was commissioned first lieutenant, and in 1862 he was promoted for coolness and bravery in action on the 9th and 28th of May to be captain of Company B, same regiment. He was mustered out in January, 1865. After the war he returned to Wisconsin and engaged in farming for about a year, then went to Colorado and engaged in mining for a year, then undertook to go up into the Wind River country in Montana, but he and his companion were captured by the Indians. The red men decided to burn them the morning after their capture, but the two captives finally induced the Indian that guarded them (by making a "good Indian" of him) to let them escape. Returning to Colorado, the subject fell in

with a mining engineer, Prof. E. E. Burlingame, with whom he remained for seven years, in Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Montana, and other states. He spent three years at Silver City, New Mexico, a thousand miles from any railroad. While there he and a sergeant and three cavalrymen were surrounded by Apache Indians in Cook's canyon, and, killing their horses, the men made a barricade and fought the Indians off (over a hundred of them) for six or eight hours, till rescued by a large troop of cavalry. Again, in 1895, in southwestern Durango, Mexico, he and one companion were attacked by bandits, nearly twenty in number. Fortunately the two were near a huge piece of rock that formed a fine barricade, and the bandits were in the open. In a few minutes they picked off eight bandits and put the rest to flight. While in charge of the Columbus quartz mill at Columbus, Colorado, he scored a signal success in the treatment of silver ores by the chlorination process, making a saving in value of ninety-five per cent. on the whole run of over two years. This record was never beaten. Mr. Smith returned to Delavan about 1906, and retired from active mining operations. His career has indeed been a varied and interesting one, fraught with much danger and hardship, but, being a man of superior mettle, he has faced it all courageously and won.

Mr. Smith was married on January 14, 1874, to Elizabeth Reek, of Linn, Wisconsin, and to this union one child was born, Mrs. Jenette Gornley, of Milwaukee.

The subject has a beautiful home on Racine street, Delavan. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and in religious matters a Universalist. He belongs to the Masonic order, having attained the thirty-second degree. He belongs to the Loyal Legion.

Both the subject's grandfather, Stephen Andrews, and his great-grandfather Andrews served through the Revolutionary war and fought at Bunker Hill.

Politically, Mr. Smith is a Republican. He was once elected president of the village board of Delavan before Delavan became a city. Since then he has served two terms as mayor of the city. In 1900 he was elected to the Legislature and was re-elected in 1902. During his two terms in the Legislature he devoted his chief energies to opposing the primary election law. He also caused the old war flags to be returned to their place in the rotunda of the state capitol, where they are permanently on exhibition to those who visit the capitol.

In another way he proved a public benefactor, when, in 1874, he and Professor Burlingame instituted the first manufacture of assayers fire-clay

goods made in the United States. Previous to that time crucibles and scorifiers used in assaying were all imported from England, France or Germany, but these men, after several months experimenting and unnumbered failures, succeeded in turning out crucibles and scorifiers equal to the very best imported ones. This was done at a little shop back of a drug store at No. 411 Laramie street, Denver, Colorado.

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#### HERMAN A. BRIGGS.

One of the best known and successful citizens of Delavan and vicinity is Herman A. Briggs, who has been content to spend his life right here at home, rather than seek uncertain fortune in other fields, wisely deciding that, nature having done so much for Walworth county, he could secure the largesses of Fortunatus here as well, if not better, than anywhere else. He is the representative of an excellent old pioneer family, members of which have done much for the general upbuilding of this section of the Badger commonwealth.

Mr. Briggs was born in Delavan on June 22, 1851. He is the son of Adam and Jane (Hollinshead) Briggs, both born in the state of New York, where they spent their early childhood, the father coming west in 1842 and the mother in 1837, while yet single, and they were married in Wisconsin. The father located on a farm in the township of Sugar Creek and here he and his wife spent the balance of their lives. They were the parents of six children, named as follows: Alice, Nettie (deceased), Ida, Jennie, Edwin H. and Herman A., of this sketch.

The subject grew to manhood in this county and received his education in the local public schools and the high school at Delavan. He was married April 20, 1880, to Elizabeth Hollinshead, daughter of William Hollinshead, who was one of the oldest settlers in Walworth county. This family has been a well known one here for three-quarters of a century and a highly respected one. Here the subject's wife grew to womanhood and received her educational training in the common schools, also at Rockford and Fox Lake Colleges.

Mr. Briggs has farmed all his life and has been very successful, owning one of the choice and valuable farms of the county, consisting of four hundred and twenty acres on the road from Delavan to Elkhorn, on one of the best sections of the county. He has brought his land up to a high state of improvement and cultivation, and Delavan township can show no more desirable

landed estate. In connection with general farming and stock raising on a large scale, Mr. Briggs has long been a fancier of Percheron and Belgian horses, and is well known among the horsemen of America, having kept at times a large and valuable assortment of horses, importing many pure bloods. It would be hard to find a better judge of a horse than he in Walworth county. After spending twenty-seven years on his farm he retired from the active duties of life and moved to a beautiful home in Delavan, which he built at No. 202 Main street. Mrs. Briggs died a short time after moving into the new home. He sold his farm and horses in 1910.

Mr. Briggs votes the Republican ticket, and religiously he is a member of the Baptist church. He cast his first vote for General Grant. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias of Delavan.

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#### HENRY JAMES DALTON.

Many of the largest farms of Walworth county were made wholly by the owners thereof, not a cent having been received from the parents of such owners. It is also true that many of the best farms were almost wholly inherited from parents. It would seem at first glance that the latter holders were the ones to be congratulated, but this is not always the case, for very often they did not receive in youth the proper training as to thrift and industry that would enable them to save and manage their large inheritance. On the contrary it may be set down as an unqualified truth that the man who by hard knocks made all his property, beginning as a poor boy, learned at the same time how to take care of it. To know how to save money, as well as to know how to make it, is of the greatest importance, in the rearing of a boy. Such training was received by Henry James Dalton, one of the best known and most highly honored pioneers of this locality, who, after a long, active, influential and useful life here, spent principally in agricultural pursuits, is now living retired in the city of Delavan. He has taken an active part in the general development of this favored section of the Badger state whose interests he has ever had at heart.

Mr. Dalton was born on June 17, 1842, in Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence county, New York, and he is the son of John and Ellen (Waddell) Dalton, the father born in England and the mother in Glasgow, Scotland. They emigrated to America when young and married in New York. They spent their lives on a farm, living in St. Lawrence county, New York, many years, mov-

ing to Wisconsin in 1844, and here they spent the balance of their lives, the father dying on January 5, 1887, at the advanced age of eighty-seven years, his birth having occurred on June 2, 1800; his wife preceded him to the grave about ten years, dying at East Delavan, Wisconsin. They were excellent people, established a good home here and had a host of friends. The following children were born to them: John, deceased; Margaret Bradley; Elizabeth West, deceased; George, deceased; Matilda Hollister, deceased; William lives in Kansas; Henry James, of this review; Ellen Redford lives in Nebraska; Nathan lives in Indianapolis; Washington makes his home in Kansas.

Henry J. Dalton, of this review, grew to maturity on the home farm, where he assisted with the general work during crop seasons, and he attended the district schools during the winter months. On June 3, 1866, he was married to Celia Yost, daughter of John and Ester (Hollister) Yost, natives of the state of New York, from which they came to the state of Wisconsin in 1844, settling at East Delavan, where they became well established and spent the rest of their lives engaged in agricultural pursuits, the father dying on July 3, 1890, and the mother on January 16, 1908.

Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Dalton, namely: Maude Frances is married and lives at Beloit, Wisconsin; Ervin is engaged in farming at East Delavan, this county; Dr. Charles lives at Albion, Wisconsin; Harold is a lawyer and lives at Bowden, North Dakota.

Mr. Dalton is one of the honored veterans of the Civil war. Having been in the West when the war broke out, he enlisted at Jacksonville, Oregon, in Company A, First Oregon Cavalry, on November 27, 1861, in which he served three years, but he was never sent to the arena of war in the East, serving only against the hostile Indians of the Pacific coast, being discharged on November 27, 1864, at Fort Vancouver, Washington, with the rank of corporal under Capt. William Rinehart, being then nineteen years of age.

After his career as a soldier, which was a most faithful one, Mr. Dalton went to Walla Walla, Washington, where he had charge of a pack train, freighting to the mines, for one year. Then he returned to East Delavan, Wisconsin, and was soon afterwards married. About this time he purchased a splendid farm in section 35, Delavan township, comprising one hundred and ten acres, which he improved and on which he successfully carried on general farming and stock raising until in August, 1910, when he sold it to his son, Erwin, and moved to his pleasant home in the town of Delavan.

Mr. Dalton is a Republican, but has never been especially active, although always interested in the welfare of the community. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

## ERNEST JACOB HOST.

The life of Ernest Jacob Host, of Lake Geneva, illustrates what one can accomplish in his earlier years through persistent application of proper methods and well-formed ideas, coupled with a proper sense of honor. He is one of our worthiest native sons, having been born in Lyons, Walworth county, on August 20, 1876. He is the son of Julius Sebastian Host and Katherine (Moran) Host. The father was born in Lyons township, this county, April 11, 1844. He was the son of Michael and Anna Maria (Westrisch) Host, he being the son of Joseph Michael Host, Sr., a native of France, and a high officer in the army under Napoleon Bonaparte, and after the defeat at Waterloo he fled to Germany to save his life and there established his home. There his son, named for him, was born and lived until about eighteen years of age, then emigrated to America and lived in New York city about ten years, engaged in carpentering. He then married Anna M. Westrisch, a native of Bavaria, who came to America when young with her parents, who now live at Frank's Postoffice, Seneca county, Ohio. It was about 1840 that James M. Host brought his wife and two children to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and bought a farm in the northeastern part of Lyons township, almost on the Racine county line, within two miles of Burlington. After living there about fifteen years he moved to a farm a mile and a half southeast of the village of Lyons and resided there probably thirty years, then retired and spent the remainder of his life in the village of Lyons, dying there about a year and a half later, at the age of seventy-six years. He was one of the early pioneers of the county and was a successful farmer and a highly respected citizen. He was the father of ten children, all sons but one, Julius S., father of the subject, being the fourth in order of birth.

Julius S. Host grew to manhood on the farm near Lyons and he lived there until 1895, with the exception of two years, which he spent in Lake Geneva. Returning to this city in 1895, he made his home here until July, 1911, when he moved to Kenosha, where he now resides. His wife, known in her maidenhood as Katherine Moran, was born in the village of Lyons in 1852, the daughter of Thomas and Katherine Moran, natives of Ireland.

Ten children were born to Julius S. Host and wife, namely: Arthur J. lives with his father in Kenosha; Ernest J., of this sketch; Nora married Albert Napper, lives in Lake Geneva and has two children, Catherine and William; Elizabeth is the wife of Richard Keyser, lives at Rudolph, Wisconsin, and has one child, Helen; Joseph M. is traveling for Roberts & Oak, meat

packers of Chicago; Dr. Walter Robert, dentist of Lake Geneva, married Theresa DeGrass, of Wheaton, Illinois, and they have one daughter, Helen Marie; Leo Julius, who lives at Williams Bay, married Nellie Carr; Ralph A. lives at Kenosha, having previously lived in Lake Geneva eighteen years; Frances lives with her parents in Kenosha, as does also Raymond.

Ernest J. Host, of this sketch, was reared at Lyons and lived there until he was eighteen years of age. When thirteen years old he began working out on the farm, following that until he was sixteen, then began working in the meat business for various parties, with Hague & Bucknall from 1896 to March 1, 1901. On March 6th of that year he went into business for himself. His brother, Arthur, started with him, but withdrew in nine months, and the subject has since continued alone. He started at first with only a meat shop. In the fall of 1903 he built a packing house southeast of Lake Geneva, near the tracks of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, and here he has since killed and butchered for the home trade and is doing a large and growing business, being well equipped in every respect for his work and dealing fairly with his hundreds of customers.

Mr. Host was married on November 26, 1902, to Tillie E. Kohn, daughter of John Kohn and wife, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere. Three children have been born to the subject and wife, namely: John Julius, born January 2, 1904; Ernest Joseph, born April 20, 1905; Katherine, born September 27, 1906.

Mr. Host and family belong to the Catholic church. He is a member of the Foresters, Knights of Columbus and Knights of the Maccabees.

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### JOSIAH BARFIELD.

The gentleman to a brief review of whose life and character the reader's attention is herewith directed is among the favorably known and representative citizens of Walworth county. Mr. Barfield has by his indomitable enterprise and progressive methods contributed in a material way to the advancement of his community during the course of an honorable career, and he has ascended through his individual efforts from the bottom of the ladder to a place of importance in financial circles in this locality, having ever been known as a man of unswerving industry, sound judgment and honesty of purpose. His career may well be studied with profit by the youth whose fortunes are yet matters for future years to determine, for it shows what

one may accomplish, although foreign born and thrown in none too favorable environment, if one has courage, fortitude and energy, backed by right principles.

Josiah Barfield, well known cashier of the First National Bank of Lake Geneva, was born March 30, 1855, in London, England. He is the son of Thomas and Esther (Clears) Barfield. His people were tillers of the soil who had lived in southeastern England for several hundred years. The parish register at Langham, near Bury, St. Ermonds, has a record of births, deaths and marriages of this family for two hundred years back.

When the subject was eight months old, he was brought by his family to Chicago, which city they reached on January 1, 1856, after a very hard journey. They went to Turner Junction, now called West Chicago, and there Josiah lived with his parents until he was fifteen years old, then became a newsboy on the Freeport passenger train on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, but he soon changed to the division from Chicago to Dixon. A year later he became brakeman on the same train, later baggageman and express messenger, and he continued railroading for ten years, during which time he was regarded as one of the company's most faithful and reliable employes. When the Westinghouse air brakes were introduced in 1874 he was transferred to the line running to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Owing to ill health he resigned in 1880 and for three years he was unable to work.

Mr. Barfield became cashier for the Equitable Life Assurance Society of New York, in 1883, at Madison, Wisconsin. A year later the office was transferred to Milwaukee and he continued there in the same position, rendering most praiseworthy service until June 1, 1886, when he came to the First National Bank of Lake Geneva as cashier, which position he has held ever since in a manner that has been eminently satisfactory to the stockholders and patrons of the bank and which has reflected much credit upon himself. He is also secretary and treasurer of the Lake Geneva Sanitariums at this place, there being three separate sanitariums, each modernly equipped and up-to-date in every respect under a superb system, popular with hundreds of patients. Fraternally, he is a Mason, a member of the blue lodge and the chapter.

Mr. Barfield was married on May 15, 1879, to Nellie M. Hale, a native of Lake Geneva, where she has spent her life. Her father, L. D. Hale, was a prominent merchant and farmer here in the early days of this vicinity.

One son was born to the subject and wife, Allen B., who is engaged in the electrical business at Lake Geneva for himself. He has been well educated and is an electrician, deals in electric supplies, and makes installations.

He is chief electrician for the electric light company here. He is a young man of much promise.

The wife and mother passed to her rest on August 22, 1909. She was a woman of beautiful attributes and Christian character, a member of the Episcopal church. Mr. Barfield is also an Episcopalian and has been treasurer of the local church for fifteen or twenty years. He is one of the founders of the Lake Geneva public library, and has been treasurer ever since it was established. He takes much more than a passing interest in every movement having for its ultimate goal the betterment of the community in any way.

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#### CHARLES G. FLEMING.

If a list could be made of the original homes of the old settlers of this portion of Wisconsin it would be found that a very large number of them came to this state from New York. Their ancestors would be found to have settled in the Empire state both before and after the Revolution, and would be found also to have come originally from the British Isles or Germany. Thousands of our best citizens are of such descent and blood.

Charles G. Fleming, retired farmer of Darien, this county, is a descendant of such a worthy old family, many of whose commendable characteristics seem to have outcropped in him. He was born in Darien township, this county, on November 28, 1865, and he has been content to spend his life here. He is the son of Henry Fleming, who was born at Lockport, Niagara county, New York, in 1830, and there he spent his boyhood and received his education in the common schools. He came to Wisconsin in 1849 and first settled in Waukesha county, where he followed teaching school for several terms. He came to Walworth county in 1855 and here worked as a farm hand for several seasons, teaching school in the winter months, finally buying a farm which the subject now owns in section 3, Darien township, and there he continued to reside until his death in 1899. He had been very successful both as a school teacher and as a general farmer. He had little desire to be a leader in public affairs and consequently led a quiet home life. He was a man of excellent character.

Charles G. Fleming, of this sketch, grew to manhood on the home farm and there assisted with the general work when he was a boy. He received his education in the public schools of his district and the high school at Delavan. Early in life he took up farming for a livelihood and continued the

same with a larger degree of success than falls to the average tiller of the soil, up to 1909, when he retired and is now living in his pleasant, substantial home in the town of Delavan. He is the owner of one of the choice farms of the county, consisting of three hundred and sixty-seven acres, which he brought up to a high state of improvement and cultivation and on which he carried on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale for a number of years.

Mr. Fleming was married on December 10, 1901, to Bertha Mulks, daughter of Washington and Elizabeth Mulks, and to this union two children have been born, Ester and Henry.

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### MORRIS ISAAC.

It is a well authenticated fact that success comes not as the caprice of chance, but as the legitimate result of well applied energy, unflagging determination and perseverance in a course of action once decided upon by the individual. Only those who diligently seek the goddess Fortuna, find her—she never was known to smile upon the idler or dreamer. The subject of this sketch clearly understood this fact early in life, so he did not seek any royal road to success, but sought to direct his feet along the well-beaten paths of those who had won in the battle of life along legitimate lines. He had their careers in mind when casting about for a legitimate line to follow, and in tracing his life history it is plainly seen that the prosperity Mr. Isaac enjoys has been won by commendable qualities, and it is also his personal worth which has gained for him the good standing among his fellow citizens in Walworth county, in which he has long been widely known.

Morris Isaac, of the city of Delavan, was born on September 25, 1831, in Montgomery county, in the north of Wales. He is the son of Thomas and Mary (Edwards) Isaac. They, too, were born in Montgomery county, Wales, and there grew to maturity and were married, and there they spent their lives.

The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Isaac: John, Jane, Thomas, Isaac, Edward and Morris. John had been a marine in the British navy, and after he came out of the navy went to India as a mate on a trading vessel, and was never heard from since. Jane remained in Wales and married a miller named Hugh Jones. Thomas enlisted in the Twenty-second Artillery in the British army and was in the Crimean war and siege of Sebastopol, and came out unscathed, after which he married a Scotch girl and went to Edinburgh. Isaac remained in Wales.

The father of these children died in March, 1854, and the mother in 1857. Thomas Isaac was a farmer and Morris Isaac grew up at the same occupation. In 1853 Morris and his brother Edward came to Turin, Lewis county, New York, where Edward died in 1854. In July, 1855, Morris Isaac came to Delavan township, this county, in the interest of Alanson H. Barnes. In the fall of 1856 Mr. Isaac went to Minnesota, but returned to Walworth county in the spring of 1857. In the spring of 1858 he began farming for himself, farming on shares two or three years. In 1862 he bought a farm of W. C. Allen in section 2, in the town of Sharon, consisting of one hundred and twenty acres. He also owned various other tracts at different times, but he made his home on the above mentioned place.

There he developed an excellent farm and continued to reside until 1902, when he removed to the city of Delavan, where he now resides. He purchased a good residence and sold his farm after coming here. He has devoted nearly all his life to agricultural pursuits and has laid by a competency for his old age. In religious matters he belongs to the Congregational church. He received a good education in his native country.

On October 28, 1858, Morris Isaac married Mary Allen, a native of Saratoga, New York, a sister of Judge W. C. Allen and daughter of Jacob and Lucy Allen. She came here with her parents about 1844 and lived in the town of Sharon. Her death occurred in 1886. This union was without issue. On December 5, 1888, he was married to Mrs. Ursula (Willard) Wright, widow of Charles R. Wright. Charles O. Willard, the father of Mrs. Isaac, was born in Vermont in 1828, and Rachel Ash, her mother, in Canada in April, 1830. The latter came to DeKalb county, Illinois, early in life. Charles O. Willard and Rachel Ash were married in Sycamore, Illinois. To this union were born the following children: Unaldo, of Darien, Wisconsin; Ursula, wife of Mr. Isaac, of this sketch; Adelbert is deceased; Helen married a Mr. Nichols and lives at Sycamore, Illinois; Ernest lives in Sycamore, Illinois; Frank lives in Richardson, Illinois; Mae lives in Sycamore, Illinois. The father of the above named children was a mason by trade, which he followed until his death, which occurred on November 29, 1905, in Minnesota. The mother died in Cass county, Iowa, in September, 1865. Mr. and Mrs. Isaac have one daughter, Ethel Adele Isaac, now wife of Thomas N. James, living on a farm in the town of Sharon.

Mr. Isaac has taken a citizen's due interest in the public affairs of his community. He is a Republican in politics, was on the board of supervisors in the town of Sharon seven or eight years, and was also on the school board for some time. He and Mrs. Isaac are members of the Congregational church.

## CHARLES BENNETT SUMNER.

Moral cleanliness or integrity, activity or industry in the every-day affairs of life will tend toward true happiness in this world and a hopeful confidence in the life to come that is assured to the possessor of these invaluable virtues. Charles Bennett Sumner, for many years a prominent practicing attorney of Delavan, Walworth county, who has now passed into the mystic silent land, was a man whose career was exemplary and whose influence on those with whom he came into contact most potent for good. He was born in New Berlin, Chenango county, New York, August 18, 1847, being the only child of George W. and Laura (Bennett) Sumner.

Teaching school as a young man, Mr. Sumner afterwards studied law in the office of his uncle, Henry Bennett, being admitted to the bar in 1869, and locating for the practice of his profession at Bainbridge, New York. In December, 1872, Mr. Sumner was married to Alice Johnstone, of New York city. Removing to Delavan in the fall of 1885, he entered into partnership with the late Silas W. Menzie under the firm name of Menzie & Sumner, and for many years that firm enjoyed a large practice and was connected with all important matters of local litigation. Upon the dissolution of the partnership, caused by the removal of Mr. Menzie to Beloit, Mr. Sumner continued the practice of his profession and was actively engaged therein until shortly before his death, July 8, 1906.

During his many years of activity the subject of this sketch formed a wide acquaintance with members of the bar of this and adjoining states and had a large circle of professional friends. He served Walworth county for two terms as district attorney, establishing for himself a most envious record as a just and fearless prosecutor. He ever took a prominent and leading part in all that tended for the civic betterment of his adopted city, and was for many years a vestryman of Christ church, Delavan, at which church he was ever a most regular attendant.

Mr. Sumner was survived by his widow and four children: Charles J., who succeeded his father in practice at Delavan and is now a member of the firm of Sumner & Bowers; Mary J., Alice W. Fisher, and Elizabeth L., daughters.

The following personal tribute from the pen of his warm friend, Wilbur G. Weeks, then editor of the *Delavan Republican*, and published in that paper July 12, 1906, most beautifully portrays the character and attributes of Charles Bennett Sumner:

"To me, it is a melancholy pleasure to think and speak of the character and attributes of Charles B. Sumner, as I knew him in the realm of business and society, where I learned to honor his judgment and love him as a friend. He was a genial, kindly gentleman, who treated all who came within the circle of his influence with rare and exquisite courtesy.

"It is said that time is the essential element of just history, and to that tribunal must be referred the final judgment of all the actions of men. Mr. Sumner is still almost one among us, his shadow has barely passed our doors, and we feel that we are almost too near him to estimate the influence of his life, but, as is true of all noble natures, the vitality of it will increase as time goes on.

"As a lawyer he won, deserved, and sustained a reputation for learning and professional skill. His brethren of the bar and the judges before whom he practiced bear concurrent testimony to his singular excellence as an advocate. When success crowned his efforts he was modest and considerate, and when the standard which he had borne went down in defeat, he was patient and serene.

"There is also comfort in the manner of his death. He died as one might wish to die who is prepared. In his own home, in the tender care of those nearest and dearest, without premonition or pain of parting, 'God's finger touched him and he slept.'

"I offer this as an humble but sincere tribute to the memory of my late friend."

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### JOSEPH PHILBRICK WEBSTER.

Who can measure the results of a life work, especially such a life work as that of the well remembered gentleman whose name forms the caption of this biographical memoir? The practice of his life was not to condemn, but to aid, devoting his best energies to the uplifting of humanity, and the world is better and brighter for his having lived. Although he has been gathered in by the scythe of the "Reaper whose name is Death," the spirit of Mr. Webster's worth and work remains as the deep undercurrent of a mighty stream, noiseless but irresistible, his influence still pervading the world, like the scent of roses after the vase which contained them is shattered. He possessed high musical ability, and his reading covered the wide realms of science, art, history and classical literature. He had a quick eye for the beautiful, the heroic, the true, the purposeful. He found all manifestations of Mother Nature

interesting, genuine, restful, always the same—found solace for the ills of life in the repose and sympathy of her solitudes. He had the taste and touch of the true artist, a versatile, a thoroughly self-made, self-educated man, having left unexplored no branch of true culture—truly one of Nature's noblemen.

Joseph Philbrick Webster, composer of a vast number of songs, many of them popular in their day, and for many years a worthy citizen of Elkhorn, was born on the shore of Massabesic Pond, near what is now the city of Manchester, New Hampshire, in 1820. He was a son of Amos and Bethia (DeCosta) Webster. His parents were poor, but came of some of the first families of New England. His paternal grandparents were Major John and Phoebe (Hazeltine) Webster, the former an officer in the Revolutionary war, and the latter was from a prominent old family, several members of which also were soldiers in the patriot army. Major John Webster was born at what was then the north part of Haverhill, Massachusetts, on October 14, 1730. A change in state boundaries put his birthplace in New Hampshire and it was called Atkinson. He was descended from John Webster, of Newbury or Ipswich, who died in 1642, leaving eight children. John Webster's wife was Mary Shatswell, sister of Theophilus Shatswell, of Ipswich, one of the most prominent of the early settlers who lived at Ipswich in 1633. John's son, Stephen Webster, was born in Ipswich, and he married Hannah Ayre, of Haverhill, and to them ten children were born, one of whom was John, whose birth occurred on March 15, 1668, in Haverhill. He married Triphena Locke, to which union ten children were born, one of whom was Israel, whose birth occurred on March 16, 1704. He married Mary Bond, and their eldest son was Major John Webster, who married Phoebe Hazeltine, as stated above; she was descended from one of two Hazeltine brothers, who were early settlers of Bradford, Massachusetts, or Rowley as it was then called.

Major John Webster bravely answered the summons to repel the British at Concord. He had been lieutenant of a militia company in his home town and although their captain was a Tory, Lieutenant Webster returned from Boston and called the company into action for the colonists. Enlisting more men, he took them into the battle of Bunker Hill and had a prominent part in that engagement under General Stark, who was a personal friend of his. In 1777, for efficient service and great bravery at the battle of Bennington, he was tendered a commission by Congress, but refused it. In all the campaign against Burgoyne he took a very active part, witnessing Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga. After being in many battles and enduring great privations, he retired from the service in 1782 and purchased an estate and mill site at the out-

let of Massabesic pond and there lived an intimate neighbor of General Stark, his mill becoming widely known as Webster's Mill. He was the first representative in the state Legislature from his district. He was a kind, genial, Christian gentleman. He built an altar under the trees near his home and there worshiped three times a day.

Bethia DeCosta, who became the mother of Joseph P. Webster, of this sketch, is described as an unusually beautiful woman, refined and strong-minded. She was the daughter of Ebenezer and Rhoda (Goffe) DeCosta, a descendant from Huguenots who fled from France to America to escape religious persecutions. He was an athlete of remarkable powers, great wit and native cunning. He ran away in his boyhood during the French and Indian war, and at the close of that war was brought home by Col. John Goffe and married the Colonel's daughter, Rhoda. In the Revolutionary war Ebenezer DeCosta again became a soldier, taking to the front with him his two sons, Bishop and Micajah, uncles of Joseph P. Webster. While confined in bed as the result of an accident, Ebenezer DeCosta composed a number of beautiful verses and set them to music.

Col. John Goffe was born in 1701. He was the father of Rhoda DeCosta, and he was a lieutenant-colonel in the French and Indian wars. He was the son of John Goffe, born in 1686.

The father of Joseph P. Webster, of this sketch, died when the subject was young, leaving the mother with a large family, in straitened circumstances. So the children were thrown very largely upon their own resources, being compelled to develop themselves and to work hard during their earlier years. The subject had an overmastering passion for music, and it is related of him that in childhood he would steal out his elder brother's violin and practice, even at the risk of being severely punished. He also made himself proficient on the flute, fife and drum. When fifteen years old he was working for his board and six pence a day and trying to obtain an education at the district school. From his meager saving he took a course of thirteen nights at a singing school. It is said that from then on he made such rapid progress that in a year he could read any piece of music, either vocal or instrumental, at sight. Before long he began teaching music and from his first singing school it was seen that he had a peculiar and intuitive knowledge of the greatest of all of the fine arts, and could impart it in an admirable manner. With money thus earned he attended Pembroke Academy. Here his love for military drill found ample opportunity and was made use of in later life during the Civil war. When about twenty-one years of age he went to Boston, as a pupil of the best teachers of music at that time. Prior to this he had not seen a piano,

organ or melodeon. He remained in Boston three years, singing, teaching and taking lessons. It was a veritable struggle against want, but he was of that stock that could lead a forlorn hope with smiling courage. People began to recognize his genius and admire his courage. In 1843 he removed to New York and formed a business connection with Bernard Covert and they gave a series of concerts both in the city and throughout the state. His experiences there were followed by six years of varied fortunes in Connecticut. About that time an attack of bronchitis resulted in the loss of his voice to such an extent that public singing had to be given up. This seeming misfortune proved to be a blessing in disguise, for it drove him to composition; and there it was seen that his peculiar genius lay and there he won his greatest fame.

Up to that time he had published no music. His first publishers were Firth, Pond & Company, of New York; then Oliver Ditson & Company published his song, "There's a Change in Things I Love." The public felt the magic of his genius and fortune began to smile on him. However, failing health compelled him to go south. He traveled extensively, finally locating at Madison, Indiana, on the Ohio river. He made friends with the most aristocratic society there, finding favor and abundant patronage. While living there the storm concerning slavery was rising toward its high tide and feeling was extremely bitter. Suspicion began to point to him as helping the negroes and he found it advisable to go north. He came to Racine, then to Elkhorn, Wisconsin, where the latter years of his life were spent. In the political campaign of 1860 he was given a gold-headed cane by the "Elkhorn Wide-Awakes," the cane being beautifully engraved on the top, "The Elkhorn Wide-Awakes to the Captain, J. P. Webster." The sides of the cane were also fittingly engraved.

Mr. Webster proved his loyalty to the Union in those trying times, and he was offered a commission as colonel by the governor, but refused it. He tried several times to enlist in the army, but was refused because he was near-sighted. He was deeply disappointed, and then offered his services as a drill master. In appreciation of his services the war governor of Wisconsin offered him the rank and pay of an officer, to which Mr. Webster replied, "I will not accept the pay if I cannot share the dangers of the service; if you wish me at any particular place I am at your command." During this period he produced some of the most stirring war songs, including "Lorena," and strangely enough it became most popular around the campfires of the Confederates. At the close of the war he wrote a patriotic drama and a cantata, but his usual compositions were ballads. He often arranged and rewrote songs composed by others. From 1865 to 1868 he composed many of his most popular songs,

the "Sweet By and By" appearing in 1868. Following are the titles of others of his well known songs: "My Margaret," "Come to Me, Memories Olden," "Lost Lomie Lane," "The Golden Stair," "Sounds of the Sea," "Under the Beautiful Stars," "The Vine Wreathed Cottage," "Drifting Into the Harbor," "Dawning of the Better Day," "Angeline," "Sister May," "Roses are Blooming," "Dog and Gun," and "Hurrah for Grant."

Mr. Webster had a fine violin of magnificent tone. He left it with Julius Bauer, a personal friend and a piano manufacturer in Chicago, also left a large number of musical compositions at Lyon & Healy's, in Chicago and they were all destroyed by fire in the great conflagration of 1871. An earlier collection of meritorious manuscript was lost in a fire at Manchester, New Hampshire. Beside all that, fully one thousand songs have been published, of which he wrote the music and the words to many. His loss in the Chicago fire was such a severe blow that he was almost heart broken, and he never fully recovered, his death occurring on January 18, 1875.

Mr. Webster had a striking personality. He was tall, erect, slender, and his auburn hair hung in wavy masses upon his broad square shoulders. His eyes were deep set under heavy eyebrows and a high forehead. His slightly Roman nose and long gray beard made a face and bearing full of character. In manner he was dignified, kind and courteous. He had an unbounded trust in human nature, a large-hearted generosity and good will to his fellow men. He was not rich, but he might have been had that been his aim. His youngest son, who was eleven years old when the subject died, remembers him, as a "slender, grave and quiet man, always very kind, never loud talking nor scolding, whose chief delight seemed to be to help someone."

The domestic life of Joseph P. Webster began when he was united in marriage with Joanna Webster, a step-child of John Goffe Webster, his oldest brother, and Mary Huse. The latter was the daughter of Isaac Huse, a soldier in the American Revolution from Massachusetts. He married Joanna Rowell, daughter of David Rowell, of Manchester, New Hampshire, who was also a soldier in the patriot army. Isaac Huse answered the call to the battle of Lexington, and he enlisted three times during the war for independence.

Mrs. Webster's ancestry, like that of the subject, may be traced back through the annals of New England to the middle of the seventeenth century, so the family must be said to be thoroughly American.

The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Webster: Joseph H., Mary H., Louie B. and Fred H. Mrs. Webster, now advanced into the mellow Indian summer of her years, is spending her declining days

in the devoted care of her son, Joseph H., at Elkhorn. Hers is a gracious, kindly, sunny personality, which has won a host of warm personal friends wherever she is known.

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### JOHN HENRY DERTHICK.

John Henry Derthick, popular ex-sheriff of Walworth county, and for a number of decades one of the leading farmers and stock men of Lafayette township, who is now living in honorable retirement in Elkhorn, was not favored by inherited wealth, or the assistance of influential friends, but in spite of this, by perseverance, industry and the exercise of sound judgment, he has attained a comfortable station in life, making his influence felt for the general good of his community and county where most of his active life has been spent, having come here when a boy in what might be called the latter part of the pioneer epoch in the history of this locality, and here he has been content to spend his life, and while laboring for his individual advancement he has never neglected his duties to the public.

Mr. Derthick was born in 1842 in Portage county, Ohio. He is the son of Julius and Esther (Monroe) Derthick. The subject spent his early boyhood in the Buckeye state, and when twelve years old, in 1854, he came with his parents to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and the family home was established in Lafayette township, the father buying a farm of three hundred and nine acres of Doctor Mills. This place he improved and carried on general farming and stock raising extensively, continuing to reside there until his death, on August 23, 1863.

John H. Derthick grew to manhood on his father's farm and he received his early education in the district schools. In the years 1861 and 1862 he attended the University of Illinois at Champaign, and in 1863 and 1864 he attended college at Milton, Rock county, Wisconsin. Upon completing his education he returned home and resumed farming, and in 1874 moved to Spring Prairie township, this county, but continued to operate the old homestead, and in 1885 he moved to Elkhorn, having been elected sheriff of Walworth county in the fall of 1884, which office he held for two years, then returned to Spring Prairie township and took up farming again, being very successful in his various phases of agriculture and becoming one of the leading farmers of his community. In 1891 he was again elected sheriff of the county and served another term of two years with his usual success, devoting himself to his official duties in a most faithful and commendable manner, eliciting the

hearty approval of his constituents. After the expiration of his second term of office he again returned to the farm, in 1894, and continued farming until twelve years ago, when, having accumulated a competency, he retired from active life and moved to Elkhorn, where he has since resided. He has always taken much interest in local public affairs, and is a loyal Republican. He served his district as school clerk for a number of years.

John H. Derthick married Lucy Elizabeth Weed at Lafayette, January 8, 1868, and to this union one child, Edna Lourene, was born. Mrs. Derthick is the daughter of Belden and Rachel Maria (Cherevoy) Weed. The father was born March 31, 1805, and the mother's birth occurred on October 18, 1820. They were married on February 27, 1844, Mr. Weed having one son, John Henry, by a previous marriage, who is now living in Vermillion, South Dakota. Belden Weed was the son of Justus Weed, of Westerlo, Albany county, New York, and his mother was known in her maidenhood as Lucy Burdick. The birth of Justus Weed occurred on November 3, 1772, and his wife was born on May 22, 1777.

The following children were born to Belden and Rachel Weed: Lucy Elizabeth, born January 8, 1845; Juliett Beman, born January 6, 1851, married Fred W. Isham, January 8, 1878.

Belden and Rachel Weed were married in New Lebanon, Columbia county, New York, at which place the latter was born, and they went to housekeeping near that town, continuing to reside there ten years, removing with their two daughters to Freehold, Greene county, New York, in 1855, and lived there a year. They came to Lafayette township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, on April 19, 1856, and located on a farm which Mrs. Weed's brother, Edmund Cherevoy, had taken up from the government in 1841. Later the father of Mrs. Weed and her brother, Charles, came to live with her here. The only buildings on the place were a toll-gate and an old school house, which had been moved there from the Derthick farm the spring before. The house now standing and occupied by a tenant was the toll-gate which Mr. Weed bought when it was abandoned and with some addition and atera-tion was converted into a home. Here they resided until April 1, 1879, when, with Mr. and Mrs. Isham and Charles Cherevoy, they moved to Elkhorn. Mr. Isham was county superintendent of schools at the time. They bought the old school house which had been converted into a residence by Dr. B. O. Reynolds. The death of Mrs. Isham occurred on May 26, 1890, and Mrs. Weed died on January 29, 1906.

The father of Mrs. Rachel Weed was Henry L. Cherevoy, a silversmith by trade, born October 24, 1789; he married Millie Abbey, who was born

February 20, 1791. His parents were Philemon and Rachel Cherevoy, the father born January 5, 1749, and the mother April 27, 1754.

Julius Derthick and Esther Monroe were married at Sharon, Connecticut, December 20, 1821. The former was born at Winchester, Connecticut, September 30, 1795, and the latter's birth occurred at Cornwall, that state, March 26, 1799. Mr. Derthick was a school teacher and they resided successively at Warren, Washington, Cornwall, Connecticut, and at Chatham, Morris county, New Jersey, and from there they moved to Shalersville, Portage county, Ohio, with their four children. There three others were born, including John Henry, the youngest, the immediate subject of this sketch. The father of Julius was Anninias Derthick and the mother was known in her maidenhood as Tryphena Skinner.

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#### LEGRAND ROCKWELL, JR.

Among the representative agriculturists of Walworth county is LeGrand Rockwell, who is the owner of a fine landed estate where he carries on the various departments of his enterprise with that tact, foresight and energy which are sure to find their sequel in a definite degree of material success, having always been a hard worker, economical and straightforward in his dealings with the world. His land, which lies in the outskirts of Elkhorn, receives his careful attention and is one of the most desirable pieces of property in the vicinity, being not only productive but well improved and conveniently situated. Mr. Rockwell has been fortunate in being able to spend his life on the old homestead, which has been the home of the family since the pioneer period.

Mr. Rockwell was born on the farm where he now lives on August 7, 1861. He is the son of LeGrand Rockwell, Sr., and Frances (Hickox) Rockwell. The father was one of the first settlers at Elkhorn, in fact, one of the most prominent and influential of this city's pioneers. A full sketch of him appears elsewhere in this work.

LeGrand Rockwell, Jr., grew to manhood in Elkhorn and here attended the public schools, later the college at Racine. After finishing school he went to Colorado and was on a sheep ranch for four years in Kansas and Colorado near Colorado Springs. He then returned to his father's farm at Elkhorn and has remained here ever since, keeping the old place under a high state of cultivation and improvement, and carrying on general farming and stock rais-

ing in a very successful manner. Politically, he is a Democrat, but he has never been specially active as a public man.

Mr. Rockwell was married in April, 1893, to Clara Kent, who died the following year, in February, 1894, and on June 7, 1899, he was married a second time, his last wife being known in her maidenhood as Mary Golder Fairchild, daughter of David Lupe Fairchild and Cornelia (Luce) Fairchild, a sketch of which family will be found on another page of this work. Mrs. Rockwell attended school at Elkhorn, then the normal school at Whitewater, from which she was graduated in 1882, then took a course in the State University at Madison, from which she was graduated in 1890. She also took a post-graduate course at the Chicago University. While at Madison she specialized in the ancient classics, and in French while at Chicago. She made an excellent record in these universities. Before her graduation at Whitewater she taught one year, and three years after her graduation from the normal. After finishing at Madison she taught Latin at Superior, Wisconsin, for seven years. She taught a year at Clinton, Iowa, after leaving the Chicago University, and the day her school closed there she and Mr. Rockwell were married. She had been very successful in educational work, being well equipped for the profession, and her services were much in demand.

Mr. Rockwell has followed farming since his marriage. He is a member of the Masonic order, and he and Mrs. Rockwell belong to the Order of the Eastern Star; they are members of the Episcopal church, of which he is senior warden.

Edward Henry Rockwell, brother of the subject, also lives on the old homestead, where he was born on March 11, 1847, and this has always been his home. Politically, he is a Democrat, and a member of the Episcopal church, in which he was a vestryman for a time. He is a successful farmer and, like his brother, is well known and highly respected as a citizen.

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#### LEGRAND ROCKWELL, SR.

Walworth county was especially fortunate in the character of her pioneers, who, save in rare instances, possessed the pluck, fortitude and genius of the true Anglo-Saxon—that race which appears to delight in difficulties, because thereby an opportunity is afforded to conquer them. The founders of this county were brave, strong-armed, far-seeing, God-fearing, law-abiding citizens, patriotic and true to their native land, and conscientious in the discharge of their every duty toward their fellow man.

Of such a stamp was the worthy early settler of Elkhorn, LeGrand Rockwell, Sr., the second son of Ard Starr Rockwell and Elizabeth (Shaw) Rockwell. He was born at Butternuts, Otsego county, New York, March 21, 1812. His brothers and sisters, who were well known at Elkhorn, Oconomowoc and Portage, were: John Starr; Elizabeth, who married Edward H. Austin; Lester Ruggles; Abilene, who married Delos W. Dean; Mary married John Russell Wheeler; David Henry and Jennie, who married Amasa Gordon Cook.

LeGrand Rockwell, Sr., grew to manhood in his native community and when a young man moved to Bainbridge, Chenango county, New York, where he engaged in merchandising for some time, then, in 1836, came to Milwaukee, where he remained until in February, 1837. He formed a company for founding a county-seat village at the central point of a county not yet created, and early the next year began the settlement at Elkhorn. He selected his own farm in the southwestern quarter of the town, and much of it is still held by his sons. In 1839 he was register of deeds and clerk of the territorial court for the county and was the earliest postmaster here. He came here with enough money and credit and his former business training enabled him to take the leadership in the early affairs of the village, and he was one of the promoters and organizers of the Bank of Elkhorn, of which he was president until its suspension and reorganization. David D. Spencer, his cashier, made his short career at Elkhorn memorable, but no taint of commercial or fiscal dishonor would adhere to Mr. Rockwell. With his brothers and J. R. Wheeler, his brother-in-law, he established a private banking house, which closed at his death, December 23, 1869. He was an exception to the rule as a banker and often accommodated the needy and irresponsible, trusting to their sense of honor for security rather than refuse them on account of inability to furnish the customary indorsement or security, and he was very seldom a loser by misplaced confidence. Of all public enterprises of merit he was a champion. His liberal efforts in behalf of the best interests of Elkhorn were well known to the people of this part of the locality. His generous nature, the purity of his public and private life commanded the respect and esteem of all who knew him. In the family circle he was a kind and loving husband and affectionate father. He was a member of the Protestant Episcopal church from its beginning and was one of the first board of vestrymen.

Mr. Rockwell was married on August 22, 1844, to Frances Amelia Hickox, daughter of John and Clarissa (Danforth) Hickox. Their oldest son, John Clinton, a promising young man, was killed accidentally in his twenty-second year; the other children were: Edward Henry; Ella Lavinna married

Oliver W. Shephard; LeGrand, Jr.; these are all living at this writing. Mrs. Rockwell was born in March, 1824, and her death occurred on February 20, 1877. Her ancestors were: William, Samuel, Stephen, John, the latter being of the sixth generation. Her sister, Catherine Jane, married Edwin Hodges. Mrs. Rockwell was born in Batavia, New York, but lived in Connecticut in her younger days with a married sister, and she came here with her sister, Mrs. Edwin Hodges.

The loss of his son and financial troubles, growing out of the robbery of his bank, weighed heavily upon the subject and undermined his health. He started the first store in Elkhorn in 1838, and in that year he was appointed postmaster, being the first at this place; he was also the first clerk of the court, having been appointed in April, 1839, and the first register of deeds, having been appointed in February, 1839. He started the first bank, August 10, 1856. The first postoffice, the first store and the first court were held in the building built by him. He was one of the first vestrymen of the local Episcopal church, that was organized in 1841. This excellent citizen was called to his rest at Elkhorn on December 23, 1869, and in his death Walworth county lost one of her foremost, influential and highly esteemed citizens.

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#### LEGRAND F. MALANY.

One of the well known and progressive young business men of Walworth county is Legrand F. Malany, of Delavan, business manager of the *Delavan Republican*, a paper that has done a most commendable work for the community and the Republican party, especially the progressive wing. Under his management the paper has grown constantly in circulation and in importance as an advertising medium, and it is universally recognized as one of the leading papers of its type in this part of the state. It was established in 1863, and is published every Thursday. It has a complete job department, modernly equipped for prompt and high-grade work of machine composition and the neatest possible printing.

Legrand F. Malaney is a native of the city of Chicago, and has been a resident of Delavan for twelve years. He received a public and high school education and became a clerk in the Delavan postoffice and later deputy postmaster. He began newspaper work three years ago, when he became business manager of the *Delavan Republican*, which is owned by Maurice Morrissey.

Mr. Malaney married Ida M. Leonard, of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and they have one child, Leonard Foster.

## DAVID LUPE FAIRCHILD.

Back to old New York state must we turn in tracing the lineage of David Lupe Fairchild, one of the influential and highly esteemed citizens of Walworth county of a past generation. That section of the country which was the cradle of so much of our national history became the home of his ancestors in early times, and he seems to have inherited many of their sterling characteristics, since his life was one of industry, integrity, forbearance, filled with good deeds to others and charitable acts through the impulses of a generous nature, rather than for any desire for the plaudits of his fellow men.

Mr. Fairchild was born in Hunter, Greene county, New York, July 2, 1830, in the Catskill mountains. He was a son of Edward and Sally (Winter) Fairchild, his parents coming from Connecticut, his paternal grandfather being John Fairchild.

When seven years of age David L. Fairchild's parents brought him to Cattaraugus county, New York, where he grew to manhood. In 1850 he went to Nashville, Tennessee, where he remained four years. On June 20, 1854, at Randolph, Cattaraugus county, New York, he was united in marriage with Cornelia Maria Luce, daughter of Robert and Philomela (Seager) Luce. She was born at Conewango, Cattaraugus county, New York, May 8, 1833. Her father was born at Binghamton, New York, and her mother at Simmsbury, Connecticut. The mother came to New York with her parents, Micah and Lois (Graham) Seager. Michael Seager's wife was the daughter of Alexander Graham, a surgeon in the American Revolution.

After their marriage Mr. Fairchild and wife moved to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1854, coming by way of the Great Lakes, while cholera was epidemic, there being cholera on board their vessel. Among other things which the subject brought on this trip was a feed-box, which was finally used as a coffin in which to bury a cholera victim, being sunk beneath the waters of the lake.

The subject and wife settled in Walworth township, this county, buying a farm which they improved and established a good home. His brother, Reuben Fairchild, and also his brother-in-law, Capt. Ira Morton, who died in the Civil war, and his father all settled there about the same time. The subject was active in the early affairs of the county and for a number of years he was superintendent of schools. He enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil war, but was rejected owing to poor health. In 1865 he moved to Elkhorn and retired from farming. He was in the school-book business a

few years. In 1868 he was elected county treasurer and held office eight years, beginning in 1869, much to the satisfaction of all concerned, for he discharged his duties faithfully. After going out of office he moved to White-water, and there his death occurred on January 7, 1885.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Fairchild, namely: Two died in infancy; Laura married Elliott Boardman and they live in Madison; David Luce Fairchild lives in Duluth, Minnesota; Mary Golder married LeGrand Rockwell, of Elkhorn, a sketch of whom appears herein.

Mrs. David L. Fairchild is still living, making her home in Madison, this state, with her daughter, Mrs. Boardman. This has been one of the leading families of Walworth county ever since they settled here some sixty years ago.

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#### HERMAN F. SMITH.

Among the self-made men of Lyons township whose efforts and influence have contributed to the material upbuilding of his section of the county is Herman F. Smith, successful farmer and thresher. He has gradually surmounted every unfavorable environment and rose to a place of importance in the industrial affairs of the community, besides winning the confidence and good will of his neighbors and acquaintances.

Mr. Smith was born in the township where he has continued to reside on February 2, 1861. He is the son of Frederick and Henrietta (Vorpapel) Schmidt (the name later being changed to Smith). The father was born in Germany in 1814 and he came to this county when about thirty-eight years old, in 1856 or thereabouts. His first wife had died in the old country and he came with his two brothers, Fred and Charles, and their father, the family locating in Brighton township, near Boner's lake, Racine county, where they spent two years, then Frederick married Henrietta Vorpapel, a native of Germany. They moved then to Lyons township, this county, and devoted the rest of their lives to farming. The subject is one of five children now living, two sisters having died in infancy and one brother died when five years old; those living are, Herman F., of this sketch; Emma, who married Frank Hunsheiser, of Darien; Fred lives in Lyons township; Paul is in the grocery business in Lake Geneva, of the firm of Smith & Lock; Hulda married Charles Lock, partner in the grocery business at Lake Geneva with Paul Smith. The mother of the above named children died on November 17, 1873, and the father joined her in the spirit land on August 15, 1896.

Herman F. Smith, of this review, grew to manhood on the home farm and was educated in the home schools. In March, 1889, he rented a farm in Lyons township on which he farmed two years, then in 1891 bought the place where he now lives a mile southwest of Lyons, owning here a finely improved and fertile farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres, on which is a nice big house, a good barn and other substantial buildings and modern improvements, and he is making a success as a general farmer and stock raiser.

Mr. Smith began the threshing business in the fall of 1899, at first with a partner, but the following year he bought out his partner and has been in the business alone ever since, and is one of the best known threshing machine men in the county.

Mr. Smith was married on July 31, 1889, to Tracy Schneider, daughter of William and Otelia (Mavis) Schneider. She was born in the east part of Lyons township, and her parents were from Germany. Mrs. Smith was one of nine children, of whom two died in infancy and four sons and three daughters are now living, namely: Wendell lives two and one-half miles south of Lake Geneva in Linn township; Mrs. John Held, of Lyons township; Valentine lives in Dover township, Racine county; Mrs. Katherine Timm, of Geneva Junction; Mary's whereabouts are unknown; Tracy, wife of Mr. Smith of this sketch; John lives in Burlington, this state. Two children have been born to the subject and wife, Della and Andrew. Mr. Smith belongs to the Lutheran church and Mrs. Smith is a member of the Catholic church.

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#### MAURICE MORRISSEY.

Among the professional men of southern Wisconsin whose efforts have contributed to the general progress of the community, the name of Maurice Morrissey is entitled to specific mention. He is a worthy representative of one of our honored pioneer families and a native son of Walworth county, whose interest he has ever had at heart and sought to promote while advancing his own. He is one of the best known attorneys at the local bar, and is also editor and proprietor of the *Delavan Republican*.

Mr. Morrissey was born on a farm in the town of Walworth and there he grew to manhood and made himself generally useful during the crop seasons in his boyhood days, attending the local schools in the winter time. He was graduated from the Walworth high school and the State Normal School at Whitewater, also from the University of Wisconsin, at Madison. He

taught in district schools at Elton, Sharon township, was principal at Fontana, Monticello high school and Boise, Idaho, as head of the department of mathematics. Mr. Morrissey is looking forward to an active legal career. He is active in the Republican ranks and is a member of the Republican state committee, and is known all over Wisconsin.

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### JEROME INGALLS.

It is no very rare thing for a poor boy in our country to become a prosperous man and occupy a commanding position in the business world, but many who have fought their way from poverty to wealth, from obscurity to prominence, retain some marks and scars of the conflict. They are apt to be narrow and grasping, even if not sordid and unscrupulous. Jerome Ingalls, of Linn township, although he did not come up from the ranks of the poverty stricken and has not reached the affluence of the rich, yet he has worked his way from a modest beginning to a comfortable station in the world of affairs, being an instance of a man who has achieved success without paying the price at which it is so often bought. His success has not removed him farther from his fellow men, but has brought him into nearer and more intimate relations with them, and, although he has led a busy life, he has yet found time to devote to those interests which develop the intellectual and moral nature of man, living not to himself alone, but laboring to aid his fellow men.

Mr. Ingalls was born in Linn township, Walworth county, May 1, 1857. He is the son of Silas and Helen (Snell) Ingalls, pioneers of the southern part of the county, a record of whom appears at length herein.

Mr. Ingalls lived on the home farm until he was seventeen years old. He went to California in 1876, remaining there a little over two years, then returned to Linn township, this county, and located where he is now living, having engaged in the boat business for the most part for the past thirty years, and is one of the best known men in this line in the county. About 1896 he purchased a place along the shore of Lake Geneva, and he has a comfortable home and several large substantial boat houses, also considerable land nearby.

Mr. Ingalls was married about 1885 to Olive Van Allen, daughter of Abraham and Olive (Ransome) Van Allen. She was born near Richmond, Illinois, and was living at Crystal Lake at the time of her marriage. Her parents were old settlers near Richmond, Illinois, having come from Herkimer county, New York. One daughter was born to the subject and wife, Edna

Blanchè Ingalls. The wife and mother was called to her rest in August, 1903, and in September, 1904, Mr. Ingalls was married again, his last wife being known in her maidenhood as Emma Munson, and she was from near Richmond, Illinois. Her parents died when she was a little girl, she being the daughter of Charles and Catherine Munson, both probably natives of Sweden. Mrs. Ingalls was born at DeKalb, Illinois. She has a brother, Charles Munson, living at Davenport, Iowa, and also three sisters, Mrs. George Hill and Mrs. Aaron Simpson, both of Richmond, Illinois, and Ellen, who married a Mr. McPherson and lived at Omaha, Nebraska, at last accounts. After the death of her parents Mrs. Ingalls lived most of her life at Richmond, Illinois, with the McConnell family and also with her sister, Mrs. Hill. Fraternally, Mr. Ingalls is a member of the Modern Woodmen.

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#### JOHN W. PENDERGAST.

Among the men of Walworth county who have appreciated present-day conditions and profited by the opportunities offered here, through their ingenuity and perseverance, is John W. Pendergast, well known hotel man of Springfield. He has been content to spend his entire life in his native locality, wisely deciding that no better country could be found for the man willing to work honestly for the material things of life.

Mr. Pendergast was born in Springfield, Wisconsin, December 11, 1856. He is the son of Patrick and Margaret (Tolan) Pendergast, both natives of county Connaught, Ireland, where they grew to maturity and were educated, and from there they emigrated to America and located in Elizabeth, New Jersey, where they were married. They came west in 1855, landing at Racine, then came on to Springfield, Walworth county. Here Patrick Pendergast worked at various employments for nearly twenty years. About 1876 he purchased the old Orrell farm, adjoining Springfield on the east, which F. P. Orrell had homesteaded from the government, and there the elder Pendergast lived until about 1889, then sold out to F. Rittman. He then moved into Springfield, where he lived the rest of his life, dying on July 18, 1902. His family consisted of four children, namely: Mary, who married a Mr. Moran, lives in Chicago; John W., of this sketch; James died at Aberdeen, South Dakota, while a young man; Edward is farming in Saskatchewan, Canada.

John W. Pendergast grew to manhood in Walworth county and here received his educational training. He went to Aberdeen, South Dakota, in

1883 and entered land from the government, between Aberdeen and Ipswich. In 1888 he was united in marriage with Flora Johnson, who was born in Canada, and in 1890 the subject and wife returned to Springfield, this county, to make their home. Her father remained in Dakota and lived there until his death, in the spring of 1911. Mrs. Johnson is still living at Rolla, North Dakota.

Upon returning to Springfield, Mr. Pendergast opened a saloon and in 1894 bought the hotel adjoining and has run it ever since, making a pronounced success of this popular hostelry, which is a favorite stopping place with the traveling public in this part of the state, for here his many guests always receive every consideration and courtesy. He sets an excellent table, which wins many compliments from the public.

About 1903 Mr. Pendergast went into the wholesale oil business, which he operates from Springfield, having built up a large business, his trade extending into several counties in this state and northern Illinois. He has been very successful in whatever he has attempted, and is now one of the substantial men of this part of the county.

Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Pendergast, namely: James H., Mary, Gladys, Marguerite and Patrick. Mr. Pendergast is a member of the Catholic church, as are also his two oldest children. Mrs. Pendergast is a Presbyterian.

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#### GUY MADISON TAYLOR.

The subject of this sketch is a representative of one of the sterling pioneer families of Walworth county and is personally identified with the agricultural interests of Troy township where he has spent his life, being the owner of a fine farming property, the old homestead, which he has kept well improved and under a high state of cultivation.

Guy Madison Taylor was born on the place upon which he now resides in 1879. He is the son of James Madison Taylor and Agnes (Beard) Taylor, the father born in Cayuga county, New York, and the mother in Walworth county, Wisconsin. The paternal grandfather, Morris Taylor, was twice married, his first wife, the mother of the father of the subject, dying when her son, James Madison, was about two years old. Morris Taylor subsequently married Serena MacMillan, sister of his first wife. Morris Taylor came from New York to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in the early fifties, settling on the place now owned by his grandson, the subject of this sketch. Later he



MR. AND MRS. GUY M. TAYLOR



returned to New York, where he remained a year, and he still lives on the farm, having kept the original one hundred and sixty acres. His family consisted of a son and a daughter, both still living, the latter making her home in Mukwonago, Wisconsin.

The maternal grandparents, James and Mary (Chambers) Beard, were natives of Scotland, he of Edinburgh and she of Glasgow, her father being an Englishman. They came to America in 1848, located in Walworth county, Wisconsin, entering the farm where George Dunham now resides. The place consisted of one hundred acres. Mr. Beard walked from here to Madison to have the papers made out. He later added sixty acres, improved it all, made a good home and there spent the rest of his life. His family consisted of four daughters and one son, all living but the mother of the subject of this sketch. Mr. Beard was an active member of the Bible Christian church. He helped build the first church at Little Prairie, and also helped rebuild it after it was burned. He was an active Republican. He was twice married, his second wife being Eliza Taylor, daughter of Morris Taylor; she is now deceased, his first wife having died in 1868. His death occurred in 1889. His mother came to America in 1852 and lived with him until her death, at the remarkable age of one hundred and two years.

The father of Guy M. Taylor grew up in New York state and was educated there. He was twenty-one years old when he came with his father to Walworth county, Wisconsin. He had learned the carpenter's trade in his native state, but after he came here he followed farming for the most part.

Guy M. Taylor was educated in the schools of his home district and here he has spent his life engaged in general farming and stock raising. He is a breeder of Berkshire hogs and a good grade of Holstein cattle, also Downs. He also breeds roadster horses of much value; in fact, his live stock are all of such superior grade and quality that he finds a very ready market for what he offers for sale. He is an excellent judge of all kinds of live stock and understands well how to raise and care for them, when and how to prepare them for market, so that no small part of his annual income is derived from this source. He has kept the home farm well improved and carefully tilled and the buildings in good repair.

Mr. Taylor was married in October, 1901, to Olive Ackley, daughter of a highly respected family here, and this union has resulted in the birth of three children, Mildred Belle, Donald Ackley and Volney Guy.

Politically, Mr. Taylor is a Republican and he and his family attend the Methodist church. A complete sketch of Mrs. Taylor's parents appears elsewhere in this work.

## EUGENE DODGE.

When a man passes away we look back over the life ended and note its usefulness—its points worthy of emulation and perpetuation. What Eugene Dodge, late of the village of Springfield, Walworth county, did for his fellow men might, in a manner, be told in words, but in its far-reaching influence it cannot be measured. He kept in touch with the progress of his locality, and from a sincere and deep-felt interest in the welfare of the people labored for all that would prove of public benefit, while advancing his own interests, until his busy, honorable and useful life was ended.

Mr. Dodge was born on November 11, 1828, at Pembroke, Genesee county, New York. He was a son of Leander and Harriet (Carter) Dodge, the father being one of the very early settlers of Walworth county, and both father and son were prominent and well known. Leander Dodge was born April 10, 1802, at Romulus, Genesee county, New York. He was a son of Josiah and Phoebe (Wilson) Dodge, the former having been born on August 20, 1771, being the son of Caleb and Merriam Dodge. Caleb Dodge was born December 14, 1726, at Boston, Massachusetts, and was the son of Joshua and Elizabeth Dodge. Joshua Dodge was born February 1, 1701, at Ipswich, and was the son of Antipas and Joanna (Low) Dodge. Antipas Dodge was born at Ipswich, September 7, 1677, and was the son of Samuel and Mary Dodge. Samuel Dodge was born in 1645 at Beverly, and was a son of Richard Dodge, who was born about 1602 in Somersetshire, England.

Leander Dodge and Harriet Carter, parents of the immediate subject of this sketch, were married while living in New York and five of their children were born there. This family emigrated to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in the fall of 1839 and located one-fourth mile from the village of Darien. He was a carpenter. The year before bringing his family to this county he walked all the way from New York here, and worked at his trade. When he brought his family he was accompanied by Orange Carter and William Carter, brothers of his wife. His children were, Eugene, Wilson, Levant, Laura, Leroy, Amelia, Clara, Bettie, Harriet, Ora and William.

Eugene Dodge came here with his parents and he grew to manhood on his father's farm and lived there until his marriage, on November 28, 1849, to Sarah Relyea. She was born September 25, 1828, at New Paltz, Ulster county, New York. She is the daughter of Lucas and Sarah (Lockwood) Relyea, and she came here with her parents in 1843 when she was fifteen years old, the family locating a mile from Darien where her father owned a farm and there she lived until her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Dodge made their home near Darien where he followed farming until October, 1865, then moved to a place, a mile northwest of Springfield, and there established the family home, where they remained until 1898, then moved into Springfield where Mr. Dodge lived until his death, January 24, 1911. He was very successful in a business way, and he took a due interest in public affairs, although he was not an office seeker, but he served some time as a tax collector for the town of Lyons. He was a member of the Masonic order from young manhood, and was a member for more than fifty years.

Mr. and Mrs. Dodge celebrated their twenty-fifth, fiftieth and sixtieth wedding anniversaries. He was quite an active man and took an interest in whatever was going on up to within a month of his death.

There were six children in the Dodge family, namely: Lillian E., who died when twenty months old; Adelaide died when seven years old; Gertrude A. married Francis G. Allen, of Lyons, a sketch of whom appears in this work; Nina L. married Amos Chase and they had two children, Florence and Eva; she lived in Springfield until her death in 1909; M. Eugenia married Walter Chase, a half-brother of Amos Chase, and lived in Lake Geneva until her death, in June, 1909, leaving two sons, Leo and Geyard; E. Maud married Henry H. White, a sketch of whom appears in this work. Mrs. Eugene Dodge now lives in Springfield with her daughter, Mrs. Allen.

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#### HERMAN ISAAC STOPPLE.

Success has been well deserved by Herman Isaac Stopple, one of the leading farmers of Linn township, Walworth county, for he has worked hard and been upright in his dealings with his fellow men.

Mr. Stopple was born near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April 20, 1809. He is the son of Isaac and Susannah Stopple, both natives of Holland, from which country they emigrated to America when young and here were married and engaged in farming all their lives near Milwaukee until about 1871, when the family came to Walworth county, locating in the east edge of Walworth township, where the father bought a farm of eighty acres in section 25. After living there about twenty years they bought another farm immediately north in the same section, partly lying in Linn township, and there they both lived until their deaths. Their family consisted of five children, one of whom died in infancy; the others were: Isaac, Elizabeth, Herman and Josephine. The first

named is farming on the second farm which the father purchased here, and Libbie lives with him; Josephine is the wife of Lewis A. Crawford and lives at Twin Falls, Idaho; she has two daughters, Mary and Alice.

The death of Isaac Stopple, Sr., occurred on December 18, 1905, his wife having died on February 13, 1904.

Herman I. Stopple lived on the home farm until he was twenty-seven years old. On May 24, 1896, he was united in marriage with Charlotte Rouse, daughter of Philander and Florence (Bell) Rouse. She was born in Walworth township, this county, and when young went to Washtenaw county, Michigan, with her parents, and lived there about twelve years, then went to Benton Harbor, where her brother lived, and about 1892 her parents also moved there and she lived with them until about the time of her marriage, when she returned to Walworth county, to her uncle Hiram Bell, of Walworth.

Philander H. Rouse was of German descent, but was reared in Washtenaw county, Michigan, near Pittsfield Junction. His parents, Harry and Beda (West) Rouse, probably came from Steuben county, New York. His mother was related to the Wests of Elkhorn. Philander Rouse grew to manhood in Michigan and engaged in farming most of his life and he was in Walworth county on a visit when he married Florence Bell, sister of Hiram S. Bell, whose sketch appears in this work. After his marriage he went to Minnesota and lived in Hennepin county for eight years. His father and brothers also went there and secured government land and there engaged in farming. Philander Rouse and wife finally came back to Walworth county and lived here about six years, then returned to Washtenaw county, Michigan, and lived there about twelve years, then went to Benton Harbor, that state, and retired from farming, living there until his death in 1900. His widow now lives with her children in their different homes. They had ten children, two of whom died when two years old, and one when seven years of age; the seven living are: Bellden N., of Kalamazoo, Michigan; Elmer E., of Benton Harbor; Howard M., of Muskegon; Winthrop B., of Benton Harbor; Myrtle B. is the wife of Fred Hendershot, of Delta, Colorado; Charlotte is the wife of Herman I. Stopple, of Linn township, this county; Roscoe R. lives at Sodus, Michigan.

After his marriage Herman I. Stopple began farming for himself on the farm where he now lives in section 30, in Linn township, also farmed forty acres directly across in Walworth township. His own farm now consists of sixty acres where he first began farming for himself. He keeps a fine herd of Holstein cattle, pedigreed stock.

Mr. Stoppie has no children of his own, but has adopted two children, Harry and Rilla, eleven and ten years old, respectively. Mr. Stoppie is a member of the Modern Woodmen, and he and his wife belong to the Congregational church at Walworth.

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#### ERNST L. VON SUESSMILCH.

Conspicuous in the roll of names of men that have conferred honor upon the legal profession in southern Wisconsin is that of Ernst L. von Suessmilch, of Delavan, Walworth county. He has a great versatility of talents, and exactness and thoroughness characterize all his attainments and work. He is regarded by all who know him well as an attorney of superior force and ability, while he has ever been an earnest worker. In all the relations of life he is an honorable, upright gentleman who has won the sincere respect of all with whom he has come into contact.

Mr. Suessmilch was born at Delavan, Wisconsin, August 1, 1868. He is a son of Dr. Frederick L. and Frances Maria (Stowell) von Suessmilch, and is descended from a distinguished German ancestry.

Dr. Frederick Ludwig von Suessmilch-Hoernig was born at Wurzen, Saxony, October 26, 1820. He is the son of Gen. Karl Frederick and Carlotta Amalia Mai Suessmilch-Hoernig. When twelve years old he went to the gymnasium at Grimma; his father being transferred to Leipzig, the son accompanied him there and entered Nicholai College. From there his father was transferred to Bautzen as commander of the district called Lusatia. There the son finished his college education, being graduated in May, 1843, after which he went to Leipzig to study medicine, and in 1845 went to the Royal Surgical and Medical College at Dresden and passed the examinations in the spring of 1848. From there he went to Wuerzburg, but being on the Republican side, which arraigned against his family all officers and Royalists, he decided to go to America, and he arrived on our shores on September 12, 1848. He spent some time in New York city, without any particular aim, then came to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, soon afterwards went to Waterford, Racine county, this state, where he practiced medicine a few months, but, having little knowledge of the English language, he found that he was at disadvantage and he returned to Milwaukee and became assistant to Dr. F. A. Luening, with whom he remained nearly two years. In 1850 he went to Burlington, where he practiced until July, 1851, then went to Darien, Walworth county, and eleven months later to Delavan, where he made his permanent home and built up an extensive practice, meeting with great success as a general practitioner.

The Doctor took an interest in local public affairs and he served nine years as trustee of the village of Delavan and one year as its president and he was treasurer of the school board for sixteen years. He was successful from a financial standpoint, and became one of the large landowners of the county, including several fine farms, aggregating five hundred acres in Delavan township.

The Doctor was married at Darien in April, 1858, to Caroline Older, daughter of John D. and Laura Older. Her death occurred in 1857.

The Doctor was married a second time, his last wife being known in her maidenhood as Frances Maria Stowell, daughter of Guy O. and Catherine G. Stowell. He died February 10, 1898.

Ernst L. von Suessmilch, the immediate subject of this sketch, grew to manhood in this county and attended the public schools here during his boyhood, later taking a course at the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, from which he was graduated in 1888, from the law department, after which he began the practice of his profession at Delavan and he has devoted himself almost exclusively to the practice ever since. He has met with uniform success and enjoyed a large and growing clientele. He has kept well abreast of the times in all that pertains to his calling and stands high in the legal profession in this locality. About 1905 he and D. B. Barnes organized a land company and since then have engaged in a number of very large operations in land in Wisconsin, the Dakotas, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

The subject was married in 1900 to Emma May Waterman, of St. Paul, Minnesota, and to this union two children have been born, Frederick Ludwig and Elizabeth Frances.

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#### JAY W. PAGE.

The Walworth county bar has an able exponent in Jay W. Page, of Elkhorn, recognized throughout this locality as one of the leaders of his profession and a man of commendable public spirit and correct principles. He was born November 17, 1872, at the town of Spring Prairie, this county. He was educated in the Burlington high school and the State University at Madison. At college he was a member of the Delta Upsilon fraternity and the Athena Debating Society, which society he represented on joint debate. Early in life he conceived a laudable ambition to enter upon a legal career, and he bent every effort in this direction, being admitted to the bar in 1898. He located for the practice of his profession in East Troy in December of that year, but came to

Elkhorn in February, 1899, desiring a wider field for the exercise of his talents, and here he at once met with encouraging success, becoming city attorney the following year. From 1904 to 1906 he was mayor of Elkhorn, and for several years past he has been a member of the library board, and a member of the light and water commission. For three years he served as president of the Wisconsin State Firemen's Association, and he has been chairman of the Democratic county committee since 1900. As a public servant he has discharged his duties with a fidelity and fairness that has reflected much credit upon himself and elicited the hearty approval of all concerned, irrespective of party alignment, having ever had the interests of the city and county at heart. Fraternally, he is a member of the Masonic order and the Knights of Pythias.

Mr. Page was married to A. Luthera Willard, May 16, 1900, daughter of George Benjamin and Arlina (Thornton) Willard, the father being now deceased, and the mother is now the wife of Henry R. DeLaplaine and is residing at Burlington, Wisconsin. She is a descendant of the Louis Lyon family of New York. George B. Willard was a son of George and Mary R. (Ayres) Willard, the latter a sister of Maurice L. Ayres. George B. Willard was of an early Connecticut and Massachusetts family, of English extraction. His ancestors, Elias Willard, was a surgeon in the Revolutionary army. The Ayres family were of Scotch extraction and they were early settlers in Monroe county, New York, removing from there to Ohio and later to Wisconsin, while the Willard family followed the familiar course of western emigration from Massachusetts, to New York, thence to Ohio, and on to Wisconsin, settling in an early day at Waterford, Racine county.

Jay W. Page, of this sketch, is the son of Edward Decatur Page and Lizzie (Fraser) Page. A complete sketch of the father appears on another page of this work. The subject's paternal grandparents were Jesse Wright Page and Huldah Roxcena (Martendale) Page. The paternal great-grandparents were Simon V. and Roxcena Page. The parents of Huldah R. Martendale were Arringa and Lucretia (Vail) Martendale. The Martendale family was originally from Massachusetts, emigrating in an early day to Vermont. The Page family first settled in Vermont, then removed to Genesee county, New York, and from there to Wisconsin. Lizzie (Fraser) Page, the mother of Jay W. Page, of this review, was the daughter of John and Jessie (Draver) Fraser, the father being long a member of the Pepin county (Wisconsin) bar, residing at Durand, this state, where his death occurred. He was a brother of Alexander and Charles Fraser, sketches of whose lives are found in this work.

As an attorney Jay W. Page is an aggressive, cautious, painstaking advocate, never failing to go into court well prepared, having his case well in hand and personal interests are ever made secondary to those of his clients. He has kept well abreast of the times in all that pertains to his profession, being ever a profound student of jurisprudence, the common law, the statutes of Wisconsin, as well as the higher and more abstruse principles of equity. In argument he is clear, logical, convincing, having great weight with juries and equally impressing the bench. Personally he is an unassuming, straightforward, genial, obliging gentleman who has won and retained the confidence and esteem of all classes.

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#### FRANK WALSH.

In the subject of this review we have a representative of one of the most honored pioneer families of Walworth county and one who is recognized as one of the most progressive farmers and creamery men of this section of the Badger state, owning and operating in a most successful manner one of the choice farms of the county. Mr. Walsh is regarded by all who know him as being a most capable and energetic man, broad-minded and sound in his business principles, and he has always ranked among the county's most representative men, being public-spirited and progressive in all that the terms imply. He has been content to spend his life right here at home, well knowing that in this nature-favored section of the state existed as great opportunities for him as could be found elsewhere, if not better. The Walsh family has been well known and influential here since the days when the pioneers were wresting this country from the savage and the wilderness and the several members of the same have played well their part in the local comedy-drama of civilization from that remote day to this.

Mr. Walsh was born in the southwestern part of Linn township very near where he now lives, on November 22, 1859. He is the son of John and Bridget (Welsh) Walsh, the father being a native of county Meade, Ireland, near Dublin, and there he spent his youth, emigrating to America in 1846, first to Kenosha, or Southport, Wisconsin, as it was called then, later on to Linn township, Walworth county. There he worked two or three years, then bought forty acres in section 21, on which he settled and spent the rest of his life. He and Bridget Welsh were married about 1850. She was born and reared in the same locality in Ireland as was John Walsh, and she emigrated from there to the United States in 1848, when she was young, and she worked in Lake Geneva until her marriage.

Frank Walsh, of this sketch, is one of a family of five children, namely: Jackson, the eldest, lived in Chicago, and was for thirty years employed in the Lake Shore depot; he was married and reared a family, and his death occurred on February 12, 1902; Mary and Henry live on the old homestead; Jennie lives in Chicago; Frank, subject of this sketch.

John Walsh, the father, was a loyal Democrat all his life, and a man of highest honor and integrity and everybody liked him. His death occurred on February 18, 1901, his widow surviving just ten years to the day, her death having occurred on February 18, 1911, she being about the same age as was Mr. Walsh when he died.

Frank Walsh grew up on his father's little farm, and he received such education as he could in the public schools of his vicinity. Being ambitious, he studied at home, in fact, has never ceased to be a student, and he is today a well educated man, for the most part self-educated. In his youth he was an enthusiastic baseball player, and won considerable of a reputation in this sport in his locality. The teams in various towns and villages for miles around sent for him to play with them, especially when they had a hard contest ahead, and at one time "Pop" Anson, the veteran baseball man, had his eye on the subject as a likely man for the big league.

Frank Walsh was not born with a "silver spoon in his mouth," but had to make his own way right from the ground up. When a young man he taught school in Illinois, by which means he saved enough money to enable him to purchase his father's farm. He then gave up teaching and has followed farming ever since, having been more successful as a general farmer and stock raiser than the average man. He has been a close student of everything that pertains to advanced methods of tilling the soil, and to the original forty acres he has added other land until he now owns one of the choice farms of the southern part of the county, consisting of three hundred and sixty acres, which he has kept well improved and under a high state of cultivation. He keeps a good grade of live stock and he has a pleasant home and substantial outbuildings.

Mr. Walsh has also been actively engaged in the creamery business for many years. He was secretary and manager of the Maple Ridge Creamery about ten years, and its large success was due in no small measure to his judicious efforts. About 1904 he helped organize the Zenda Milk Company, which did a large business for a local creamery and proved to be a good thing for the entire community. After about four years they leased their plant to another company, but the Zenda Milk Company still maintains its organization and Mr. Walsh has been secretary of the same for some time.

Mr. Walsh has long been active in political affairs of the town and county, and he is a leader in local politics in Linn township. For a number of years he has been a member of the Democratic county central committee. At the same time he is able to rise above party lines when he sees it is best for his community. He was treasurer of Linn township for a period of fourteen years, and has been township clerk for twelve years. He was also school treasurer for a period of twenty-five years. At present he is assessor of Linn township. As a public servant he has always discharged his every duty in a manner that reflected much credit upon his ability and loyalty and to the eminent satisfaction of all concerned.

In addition to all the above named interests, Mr. Walsh has also a number of investments in various enterprises, bank stock and other assets, all accumulated through his own enterprise, rare business acumen and foresight, good management and thrift.

Mr. Walsh was married on September 12, 1893, to Ella Welch, daughter of Edward and Catherine (Dormody) Welch, both natives of county Kilkenny, Ireland. The father was only four years old when he was brought to America by his parents, James and Margaret Welch. They lived in and near Elkhorn, Wisconsin, where Mr. Welch grew to manhood. Catherine Dormody came to America when she was about thirteen years old with her parents, James and Ellen (Welch) Dormody, and this family also settled at Elkhorn and there Edward Welch and wife spent the balance of their lives, never moving but once after their marriage, and that was only to another part of the same ground. He devoted his life to farming. His death occurred on January 7, 1896.

Mrs. Frank Walsh grew to womanhood at Elkhorn where she attended the public schools, also the high school, and she taught school for two years in Linn township, also for a time at South Grove.

Two sons have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Walsh, namely: Edward James, born January 6, 1896, and Franklin Eugene, born May 15, 1906. The former is now completing his course in high school, and the latter, now five years old, is engaged in adding his quota of sunshine to the Walsh home. The subject and wife are both faithful members of the Catholic church at Lake Geneva.

Mrs. Walsh is a well educated woman, possessing much native tact and a pleasing nature which renders her popular with a wide circle of friends. She and Mr. Walsh are known for their hospitality, charitable and neighborly attributes.

## SYLVESTER TANNER WEBB.

Of the many New Yorkers who came to Walworth county in the days of the logging camp and the "new ground," of the log cabin and the primitive methods of tilling the soil, Sylvester Tanner Webb has profited by the change, for through his individual efforts he forged to the front in the midst of discouraging surroundings, developed a fine farm and is today enjoying the fruits of his earlier years of toil and spending his old age in quiet in his cozy home in the town of Springfield.

Mr. Webb was born on August 26, 1824, at New Lebanon, Columbia county, New York. He is the son of Sylvester P. and Julia Wickem (Tanner) Webb, the father a native of the state of New York and the mother of Rhode Island. The father came west in 1846 and settled in Columbia county, Wisconsin, where he resided for two years, then moved to Walworth county, locating in Lafayette township, where he spent the remainder of his days, being well known among the pioneers here.

Sylvester T. Webb, of this sketch, grew to manhood in his native state and there received such education as the early times afforded, and there he was married to Eliza Harrington, daughter of Alonsen and Bettys (Wright) Harrington, both natives of the state of New York, of which state her grandfather, James Harrington, was also a native.

Mr. and Mrs. Webb lived in their native state until 1849 when they emigrated to Geneva township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, arriving here in September of that year and there they began farming. The country was new and accommodations not what they are today and here the death of Mrs. Webb occurred in 1855. Three children had been born to this union, namely: Robert Bruce, who lives in Clay county, Minnesota; William is now deceased; Silas O. lives in Forest City, South Dakota.

After farming in Geneva township for six years, Mr. Webb moved to Lafayette township where he met and married Elizabeth Clark, daughter of William and Ollie (Smith) Clark, who came to Walworth county in an early day from the East, though they had first settled in Michigan, before coming here. The subject purchased land in Lafayette township, owning at one time over two hundred acres, later purchasing a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, for which he paid fifty dollars per acre, it being a well improved farm. Here he resided and successfully carried on general farming and stock raising until about eleven years ago, when he retired from active farming and moved to a pleasant home in the town of Springfield where he still resides. While on the farm he kept a large herd of sheep and also did a good dairy business.

Politically, Mr. Webb is a Republican, but he has never been much of a public man, preferring a quiet life. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Two children were born of Mr. Webb's second marriage: Mark T. is deceased; Ava married Mr. Isham, and they live on the old homestead of her mother's in Lafayette township.

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### ESEK D. SMITH.

One of our honored retired farmers who has led a worthy life and done much for the betterment of his community, while advancing his own interests, is Esek D. Smith, of Delavan. He has led a quiet life and his integrity has always been unassailable. He is one of the substantial and worthy men of this part of the county, with no ambition for anything but the sphere of private citizen, and his many friends bear willing testimony to his amiable qualities and sterling characteristics.

Mr. Smith was born on November 6, 1841, in Landingburg, New York. He is the son of Peter and Sarah (Murry) Smith, who were natives of the state of New York, where they grew up and were married, and there they lived until 1873, when they emigrated to Wisconsin and settled in Darien township, about a mile and a half west of Delavan, buying a farm there of one hundred and sixty acres. There they established a comfortable home and spent the rest of their lives, the father dying in 1892 and the mother in 1904. They were the parents of seven children, named in order of birth as follows: Mrs. Sarah Ells, of Delavan, this county; Esek D., of this sketch; Mrs. Jane Allen lives in Alhambra, California; Augustus lives in Delavan; Thomas L. lives in Nashua, Iowa; Mrs. Fannie Merrill lives in Hinkley, Illinois; Delia is deceased.

Esek D. Smith was reared on the home farm where he assisted with the general work during the crop seasons, and he received his education in the public schools of Landingburg, New York, and there he spent his boyhood, coming to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and settling on a farm in Sugar Creek township, in March, 1870, buying one hundred and twenty acres of good land there. This he improved into an excellent farm, and there he lived until 1896, when, having accumulated a competency through his good management, he retired from the active duties of life and moved to the town of Delavan, where he purchased a cozy home at No. 222 South Main street, and here he is spending his declining years in quiet and comfort.

Mr. Smith proved his patriotism during the Civil war by enlisting on August 11, 1862, although but a mere boy, in the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth New York Volunteer Infantry, in which he served with gallantry until in June, 1865. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He belongs to the Baptist church.

Mr. Smith was married on December 17, 1873, to Marion Bell, the daughter of Joseph and Sallie Ann (Reynolds) Bell, natives of the state of New York, and to this union one child has been born, Carrie E., who lives at home.

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### CHARLES RAYMOND FISH.

Americans are not hampered by shackles of class distinction and it is every one's privilege to build the structure of his life as he sees fit. This gives us what is often termed the self-made man, a good example of which is found in Charles Raymond Fish, one of the leading young farmers of Geneva township, and the creditable representative of an excellent old Walworth family, members of which have played a conspicuous part in the affairs of the county through its several stages of progress.

Mr. Fish was born in section 12, Geneva township, this county, June 4, 1878. He is the son of Jasper M. and Temperance (Hand) Fish, a sketch of whom will be found on another page of this work.

Charles R. Fish grew up on the home place and there assisted with the general work during his boyhood days, in fact he has spent nearly all his life in that immediate vicinity, being content to remain at home, which, as most will admit, is the best place after all. He received his education in the common schools of his neighborhood.

In the spring of 1901 he went to Reedsburg, Wisconsin, renting a farm near there, which he operated a year for himself. Returning to the old home farm in the spring of 1903, he farmed three hundred and twenty-one acres of his father's land on the shares, a quarter section in section 11 and one hundred and sixty-one acres in section 12. In 1903, a few months later, he bought the sixty acres in section 11 where he now lives, adjoining his father's quarter section on the south, having purchased his land here from Henry Guif. About 1904 he rented out his sixty-acre tract for three years and during this time lived with his father and in 1906 he again returned to his father's quarter section in section 11, remaining there one year. In 1907 he returned to his own farm, and his sister, Mrs. Vant, came and kept house for him, as she had done while he rented his father's farm.

On November 4, 1909, Mr. Fish was united in marriage with Elsie May Vant, daughter of Henry and Ruth (Waters) Vant. She was born and reared in Lafayette township, this county, and there received her education in the district schools. In that township both her parents were born and reared on adjoining farms, and her grandparents on both sides were very early settlers there. Mr. and Mrs. Fish have one little daughter, Olive May Fish, born October 4, 1910.

Mr. Fish is a man of energy and progressive ideas, who believes in progress in material things, as well as civic and moral, and he gives his support to the governments calculated to advance his community.

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#### BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SKIFF.

If a list could be made of all the old settlers of Walworth county it would be found that most of them came here from the state of New York. This has been a fortunate thing for southern Wisconsin, because these people have not been soldiers of fortune and adventurers, but homeseekers and builders of empire. They knew well for what purpose they came here, and they began working with a will to develop the country, and in due course of time had established good homes and also started and carried successfully onward the moral and civic upbuilding of the country, and as soon as they could take up the work, school houses and churches, court houses and other evidences of advanced civilization could be seen on every hand.

One of the worthy gentlemen who came from the old Empire state and assisted in this commendable work is Benjamin Franklin Skiff, for many years a leading farmer of Lafayette township, now living in retirement in Elkhorn. Mr. Skiff was born in 1836 in Cattaraugus county, New York. He is the son of Stephen and Melhitabel (Fisk) Skiff, both natives of New York. There they grew to maturity and were married and continued to reside until 1850, when they brought their family to Walworth county, Wisconsin, locating at Lyons, where the father followed farming and continued to live until his death, in 1863. In his early life he was a Democrat, but when the Republican party was organized he espoused its principles. He was reared in the Presbyterian faith. His family consisted of eleven children. His father and his wife's father both served through the Revolutionary war.

B. F. Skiff grew to manhood on the home farm and received his education in the district schools, and when a young man took up farming, which he

has always followed. In March, 1860, he was united in marriage with Martha Gillett, daughter of Rinaldo and Abigail (Boughton) Gillett, natives of the state of New York. Mr. Skiff was very successful as a farmer. In 1850 his father purchased one hundred and fifty acres, for which he paid eleven dollars per acre, and in 1885, B. F. Skiff, who had succeeded to the land, sold it for sixty dollars per acre, which was considered a high price for land here in those days. He then moved to Elkhorn and purchased a fine farm one mile south of that city, containing one hundred and eighty-seven acres, for which he paid fifty dollars per acre, and here he continued to reside for twelve years, then sold out for seventy dollars per acre, and bought a farm in Lafayette township, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, which he still owns and which he keeps rented. He lives now in the city of Elkhorn.

In 1904 Mr. Skiff was united in marriage with Iris Emeline Stowe, daughter of Cyrus C. and Iris W. (Arnold) Stowe, both from the state of New York. Mr. Stowe came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1848 and settled in Elkhorn where he followed his trade as carpenter, spending the rest of his life here, dying in 1895. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Skiff, one of whom died in infancy; a son died when thirty-two years old; three daughters are still living.

B. F. Skiff was a Republican until the Prohibition party was organized, since which time he has been a supporter of the same. He has been assessor of his township for three terms, and he was a member of the school board while at Lyons for a period of seventeen years. He is a member of all the local temperance societies. He is a Universalist in belief and active in the work, although there is no church of this denomination at Elkhorn.

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#### DAVID THOMAS DUNHAM.

We are always glad to meet a character like David Thomas Dunham, one of the well known farmers of Troy township, Walworth county, for he has been true to the higher ideals of life and has sought to promote the general good of his community while advancing his own interests; thereby his example is worthy of emulation.

Mr. Dunham was born on the farm which he now occupies on August 5, 1877. He is the son of Robert Dunham, an account of whose life work is given in the sketch of George Dunham, appearing elsewhere in this volume.

The subject worked hard on the home farm when he was a boy, and during the winter months attended the district schools. With the exception of three years, he has spent his life on the homestead, which he has kept well improved and well tilled. He has two hundred and twenty acres on which he carries on general farming and stock raising. He has recently begun feeding Guernsey cattle, and he carries on dairying somewhat extensively, finding a very ready market for his products.

Mr. Dunham was married in March, 1899, to Mary Hubbard, who was born in Troy township, this county, where she was reared and educated. She is the daughter of Frank A. and Sarah (Morrison) Hubbard, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. To Mr. and Mrs. Dunham two children have been born, Roland Frank and Herschel Hubbard.

Mr. and Mrs. Dunham attend the Methodist Episcopal church, and they are both members of the Mystic Workers. Mrs. Dunham is also a member of the Royal Neighbors. Politically, Mr. Dunham is a Republican.

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#### HAROLD H. ROGERS.

One of the best remembered and most highly respected citizens of Walworth county in a past generation, who, after a successful and honorable career, have taken up their journey to that mystic clime, Shakespeare's "undiscovered bourne from whence no traveler e'er returns," leaving behind him a heritage of which his descendants may well be proud,—an untarnished name,—was Harold H. Rogers, who came to this locality when the early settlers were redeeming the rich soil from the primordial state, and here he played well his role in the drama of civilization. He was a man of industry and public spirit, willing at all times to do his full share in the work of development, never neglecting his larger duties to humanity, being obliging and neighborly, kind and genial, which made him popular with all classes and won the respect and good will of those with whom he came into contact. Thus for many reasons, not the least of which was the fact that he was one of the worthy veterans of the great army that saved the national union, we are glad to give his biography here.

Mr. Rogers was born in Oneida county, New York, on August 15, 1843. He was the son of Adam and Harriet (Wiggins) Rogers, who grew up and were married in the East and in 1853 the family came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and here established their permanent home. Here the subject



HAROLD H. ROGERS

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grew to manhood and received his education in the public schools. He began clerking for Clark, Church & Company, of East Troy, where he remained two years, and then went to Lincoln Commercial College at Milwaukee. He then clerked in Whitewater and Milwaukee, and in 1864 he enlisted in Company G, Third Wisconsin Volunteer Cavalry, and he served faithfully until the close of the war. He made such a commendable record that he was mustered out as sergeant-major.

After his career in the army Mr. Rogers returned to East Troy, Wisconsin, and clerked for H. B. Clark until 1866, and later became a partner in the firm, under the name of H. H. Rogers & Company. They sold out in 1868 to Austin & Willis. He then became proprietor of the East Troy hotel in partnership with H. B. Clark, selling out in 1893 to his brother, Oscar Rogers, now of Elkhorn. In 1881 Harold H. Rogers and John Matheson erected the Bell telephone line from East Troy to Mayhew. He was very successful as a business man, being a man of keen observation, good judgment and well posted, and he left behind him considerable valuable property, including a very pleasant home.

Mr. Rogers was a Democrat in his political relations and was loyal to the party. He took considerable interest in local affairs, and he was for some time chairman of the town board in 1881.

Mr. Rogers was one of the organizers of the State Bank at East Troy and was its first president, which position he held in a manner that reflected much credit upon his ability as a financier and to the eminent satisfaction of the stockholders and patrons, in fact, his able management and wise counsel were responsible for the rapid growth and general popularity of this sound institution. He remained head of this bank until his death. He bought and improved Beulah island and the properties thereon, from 1882 to 1885, and made this a valuable and attractive place.

Mr. Rogers was married on February 22, 1866, to Susan B. Clark, who was born in East Troy, Wisconsin, on February 22, 1846. She is the daughter of H. B. and Charlotte (Stewart) Clark, the father born in Southbury, Connecticut, May 21, 1814. He was a tailor by trade, which he followed until 1836. In 1843 he came to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, thence to East Troy, Walworth county. In 1845 he married Lottie H. Stewart, a native of Wellsville, New York. He was a merchant tailor until 1858, then engaged in general merchandising under the firm name of Clark, Church & Company, afterwards as Clark & Houghton. As stated, he remained in business until 1868, when he sold out to Austin & Willis. Mr. Clark then bought the East

Troy House, which he operated successfully until his death, on October 12, 1875.

Mr. Clark was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the encampment. The death of his wife occurred on July 23, 1896. They had one child, Susan B., widow of Harold H. Rogers, of this sketch.

To Mr. and Mrs. Rogers two children were born, namely: Henry C., born March 20, 1872, died December 11, 1880; Edgar A., born March 30, 1874, died November 1, 1906.

Fraternally, Mr. Rogers was a member of St. James Lodge No. 41, Free and Accepted Masons, and of Elkhorn Chapter, Royal Arch Masons. The death of Harold H. Roberts occurred on March 23, 1897.

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#### ALBERT H. ACKLEY.

One of the best known citizens of Troy township, and one of the pioneer children of Walworth county, is Albert H. Ackley, a man whom every one honors and likes, for his life has been fraught with much good to his native locality. He was born in this township, May 31, 1849, and received his education in the old-fashioned log cabin, later attending the Milton Academy, which finally became Milton College. He grew up on the home farm, worked hard when a boy and has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits, being now the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres, besides owning valuable property in Troy Center. He has been very industrious, has accumulated a competency and is now living retired. Politically, he is a Republican and he has been assessor of his township three terms; for a number of years he has been a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He was at one time clerk of the local school board. He attends and supports the Methodist church.

Mr. Ackley was married in 1877 to Mary J. Lockey, a native of Troy township, the daughter of Joseph and Agnes Lockey, pioneers of this township, and here Mr. Lockey died; his widow is now living in Troy Center.

To Albert H. Ackley and wife the following children have been born: Olive, who married Guy Taylor, of Troy township; Alberta married Romeo Dingman, of this county; Leila Pearl married Mike Peterson, of Williams Bay, Wisconsin.

Capt. Charles B. Ackley, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Ellensburg, New York, April 22, 1821. He was the eldest son of Gad and

Mary (Pond) Ackley. The son remained at home until he was sixteen years of age, then turned his attention to the life of a sailor on the great lakes. Coming to Wisconsin, he sailed with Captain Ripley in 1837 on the boat "Victor," which belonged to Solomon Juncau. He followed sailing for twenty years, becoming a very able and trustworthy seaman. When nineteen years of age he went to Europe and in 1841 to the West Indies, and visited many of the seaports of Europe. He spent one Christmas in London. He was a man of strong personality, courageous, adventurous and of cool nerve. His father was a brigadier-general in the war of 1812. Capt. Charles B. Ackley came to Wisconsin in a very early day, when he was a young man, and while on his way here met Louisa M. Bunker, a sister of Nath. Bunker, and they were married on March 8, 1845. Her death occurred on July 31, 1871. Two children were born to them, Mrs. William A. Logan, of Eagle, Wisconsin, and Albert H. Ackley, the immediate subject of this sketch. Captain Ackley gave up sailing after coming to Wisconsin and turned his attention to farming in Troy township, where he spent most of his life, living the last five years with his daughter at Eagle. He and his wife are buried at Evergreen cemetery. He was a picturesque character and his stories of the life on the lakes in the early days and tales of deep sea sailing are very entertaining.

The maternal grandparents of the subject were Alexander and Sarah (Mead) Bunker, early pioneers of Walworth county, where they established a home and spent the rest of their lives.

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### JOHN VOSE SEYMOUR.

The name of John Vose Seymour, of Lake Geneva, does not need to be introduced to the readers of this chronicle, for it has been intertwined with the history of this locality for a half century. The splendid success which has come to him is directly traceable to the salient points in his character. With a mind capable of planning, he combined a will strong enough to execute his well-formulated purposes, and his great energy, keen discrimination and perseverance have resulted in the accumulation of a handsome property, which places him among the substantial citizens of Walworth county. He carries to successful completion whatever he undertakes and his business methods have ever been in strict conformity with the ethics of advanced industrial codes, so that he has ever enjoyed the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

Mr. Seymour was born in Lake Geneva, this county, May 13, 1859. He is the son of John and Olivia (Vose) Seymour, both natives of Vermont. They came to Troy, this county, in the fifties where they located, becoming owners of four hundred acres of land at what is now called Turtle Lake. The farm was later sold and the family moved to Lake Geneva about 1856, and here their three children were born. They were, Fred Sanford, who lived on a farm at Winthrop, Iowa, is now living at Manchester, Iowa; Charles Everett lives part of the time in Eldorado county, California, and part of the time at Single Springs, also spends some time at Kenyon, engaged in mining; and John V., of this sketch.

The death of John Seymour occurred in January, 1859, a few months before the subject was born, and the mother afterwards, in 1861, married John Haskins, and they continued to reside in Lake Geneva or near here on Mr. Haskins' farm. He and his brother owned one hundred and sixty acres, which is now known as Crawford's addition to the city of Lake Geneva, and on this farm the subject grew to manhood. The following children were born to the subject's mother by her second marriage: William and Walter died in childhood; Mary Olivia and Herbert Eugene, who are living, the former being the widow of Frank Blakesley, deceased, and she lives in California, where Herbert E. Haskin also resides. The death of the mother of these children occurred in the fall of 1877.

John V. Seymour, of this sketch, lived on the farm with his mother and step-father until he grew to maturity. When twenty years old, in 1902, he began buying land on which there was timber and selling it. He fenced in a half acre and built a wood shed and a tread power machine for sawing the wood. He had had some experience in the old Crawford foundry after leaving high school, which he had attended two years, leaving school when sixteen years old, to go into the foundry of which his step-father was part owner. He learned pattern making, molding, foundry work and machine shop work rapidly. So he was enabled to make the castings for his wood-sawing outfit. In making the machine he cast a fly-wheel of three hundred and sixty-five pounds, dressed it down and made a good machine, cut the timber in pole lengths and cut it into stove wood, which he sold at seven dollars per cord. Later he added the cement culvert and tile business at Lake Geneva. His experience in the foundry at moulding and pattern making was excellent training for him in making the form for his work and he did a good business. He shipped his products to various parts of the country. He made concrete pipe in eighteen different sizes. While in that business he also built up a large trade in ice, which he began in 1890, and he soon had all he could properly attend to,

and finally sold out the concrete business. He had discontinued the wood business some time previously. In 1891 he bought out Gross & Brooks, who then had the retail trade here, and he combined that with the wholesale ice business, shipping principally to Chicago and vicinity. About 1899 he sold out to the Knickerbocker Ice Company for fifty-three thousand dollars, the product of nine years' work. His last year's shipment before selling out totaled twelve hundred and sixty-three car loads of ice. When he went out of the ice business, he began dealing in farm lands near Lake Geneva, buying run-down farms and swamp lands and improving them, some of these improvements being very extensive. On one of his farms he raised three squashes which he exhibited at the state fair, their combined weight being two hundred and ninety-three pounds. He has also raised prize potatoes and other things. He raises great quantities of fine potatoes, and the best corn in the county, fifty-pound watermelons and many other superb specimens of skillful agriculture. This is the result of his low lands being exceptionally rich in nitrogen. He now has over eight hundred acres of valuable land in Geneva and Lyons townships and on the east side of the city of Lake Geneva on which are valuable gravel deposits, that being one of the pieces he bought for timber. He drains and tiles the low lands and adds artificial fertilizers on the old farms, bringing it all up to a high standard.

Mr. Seymour also does some contracting. He built the two new public piers at Lake Geneva, as a side line of his work. He has traveled quite extensively in the Middle West, Northwest and Mexico, and, being a keen observer, he had profited thereby and is a good conversationalist, being well educated, self-taught, having kept well abreast of the times in current events and is not unfamiliar with various branches of the world's best literature.

Mr. Seymour was married in 1882 to Emma Jane Martin, daughter of James and Lovina (Bartlett) Martin. She was born in Pennsylvania and came here during her childhood with her parents, who located near Alden, later moving to Lake Geneva where the parents still reside. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Seymour, namely; Helen May, Myra Ethel and Eva Kathelene.

Myra E. Seymour is at Deming, Mexico, teaching music in the schools there. She attended the University of Chicago, from which she was graduated in 1909; she had been graduated from the Chicago Musical College in 1907. She has exceptional talent in music. Helen M. Seymour attended Milwaukee Downer College and the Cosmopolitan School of Music in Chicago, graduating from the latter in 1907. She, too, is a skilled musician, and has been successfully teaching in the schools of Lake Geneva for five years. Eva

K. Seymour is pursuing a musical education, giving evidence of an unusual musical ability.

Mr. Seymour has served as alderman eight or nine years in Lake Geneva, has been a member of the school board for two years, and he is supervisor of the first district at this writing. He has been a member of the Republican county committee for about ten years, and has been a delegate to state conventions, having taken part in the memorable convention when the stalwarts bolted the convention in opposition to the LaFollette forces. He is numbered among the influential stalwarts in the party and is a leader in local affairs. Fraternally, he is a Mason. He is a broad-minded, progressive man of affairs and public-spirited citizen, and in all life's relations is found true to every trust reposed in him and he is eminently deserving of the high esteem in which he is universally held.

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#### NEWTON O. FRANCISCO.

Another of the sterling sons of the old Empire state who have been of great assistance in the upbuilding of the locality of which this history treats is Newton O. Francisco, now living retired from the active duties of life in his cozy cottage in the town of Delavan. He was born on October 16, 1840, in Oneida county, New York, and he is the son of Henry and Mary E. (Horton) Francisco, the father born in Wellsville, New York, March 20, 1811, and the mother at Union, Connecticut, July 19th of the same year. They grew up, were educated and married in the East, and the elder Francisco took up farming for a livelihood, emigrating to Wisconsin in the spring of 1844 and settled in the town of Oakland, Jefferson county, taking up eighty acres of land from the government, when this country was sparsely settled. He and his wife remained on this place several years, then sold it and bought a farm between Ft. Atkinson and Whitewater. From there they moved to Lake Mills, Wisconsin, where they spent the remainder of their lives, the father dying on March 13, 1865, his widow surviving to a ripe old age, dying on March 20, 1911, having outlived her husband nearly a half century. They were the parents of eight children, namely: Philena, born September 28, 1836; Henry A., born September 2, 1838; Newton O., of this review; John J., born September 28, 1842; Charles F., born September 2, 1844; Erastus H., born November 28, 1847; Danford E., born September 28, 1851; Maly C., born September 25, 1857.

Newton O. Francisco was educated in the district schools of Jefferson county, this state, and he worked on the home farm until he was seventeen years of age, then learned the wagon-maker's trade, which he continued for a period of forty years, becoming an expert in all its details, and his products were of such superior quality that they were eagerly sought after; in fact, it was just two score years to the day that he followed this vocation. He worked in Ft. Atkinson, Whitewater, and Delavan, Wisconsin, having been in the last named town when he retired from his vocation in 1897, and he has since lived here retired.

Mr. Francisco has taken considerable interest in public affairs, and he was elected mayor of Delavan in 1906, the duties of which office he discharged to the satisfaction of all concerned. He was alderman from the second ward for several terms. He is a Republican.

Mr. Francisco was married on February 20, 1862, to Marcella Gove, daughter of Dana and Alice Gove, and to this union one child was born, Mary Alice, whose birth occurred on January 31, 1864. She is still at home with her parents.

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#### ISAAC S. LOOMER.

Another of our native sons is Isaac S. Loomer, who, after a career as a general farmer and stock man, is now living in the city of Delavan.

Mr. Loomer was born in Sugar Creek township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, on January 29, 1854. He is the son of Simeon E. and Eliza (Weaver) Loomer, both natives of Nova Scotia, where they grew up, were educated and married and there they continued to reside until 1840, when they came to Wisconsin and settled in Sugar Creek township, Walworth county. The parental grandparents of the subject also came here at that time and here the family purchased a farm and established the home in which the grandparents spent the balance of their lives. The father, Simeon E., remained on the homestead until his father's death, after which he conducted the same until his own death in 1891. They developed this farm from the wilderness, for the country was wild when they settled here, and the family was well known and influential among the early settlers.

Isaac S. Loomer grew to manhood on the home farm and he received his education in the public schools of Sugar Creek township and the Whitewater Normal School. Early in life he turned his attention to farming, which he followed with much success until 1891, when he moved to Elkhorn.

where he lived two years, then went to Millard and engaged in the mercantile business three years, then came to Delavan, taking a position with the Deering Harvester Company, which he continued in for about three years, later entering the live stock business there. He finally bought the elevator at that place which he operated for three years, selling the same in 1910, and retiring from active business, accumulated a competency and been successful in his various lines of endeavor, and he is now living in Delavan where he owns a substantial home. He is the owner of two hundred and forty acres of excellent and well improved land in the town of Bradford, Rock county, also owns a valuable farm of two hundred and twenty-one acres in Sugar Creek township, this county. He is a member of the Baptist church, and is a Republican.

Mr. Loomer was married on October 20, 1897, to Dora Koch, daughter of Daniel and Lana Koch, and to this union two children have been born, Gretchen and Beth.

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#### CHARLES M. CLARK.

This well known citizen is an excellent representative of the better class of retired farmers of the United States. He comes from an ancestry that distinguished itself in the pioneer times. When southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois were covered with an almost interminable forest of large trees and the woods filled with wild animals, he and his people came west and began to carve from the primeval forests, assist in building schools and churches, and introduce the customs of civilization in the wilderness. They were genuine pioneers, willing to take the hardships in order that they might acquire the soil and the home that was sure to rise. They were willing to work and do without many of the luxuries of the so-called effete East from which they had come and which had been the abiding place of their ancestors so long. It has been just such spirit that has caused the great West to be reclaimed and utilized, as told in Theodore Roosevelt's superb "Winning of the West."

Charles M. Clark, who after a long and strenuous life as an agriculturist, is now living in retirement in his pleasant home in the town of White-water, was born in Vermont on November 25, 1833. He is the son of John M. and Julia (Beckwith) Clark, the father born in Pollet, Vermont, in 1803, and she in Granville, Washington county, New York, in 1808. The

father came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, as early as 1839 and secured eight hundred acres of land in Whitewater township. He went back East and came again to this county in the fall of 1845, his family following in 1846. Here he became well-to-do for those early times and was a man of influence in the county. His death occurred on May 17, 1864, and his wife died in March, 1883. They were the parents of three children, namely: Charles M., of this sketch; Henry, who died in 1890, and Mrs. Gibbs of Whitewater. Politically, the father was a Whig, then a Republican. He and his wife were members of the Congregational church.

Charles M. Clark was reared on the farm in Vermont, his father having owned five hundred acres there, and he received his education in the public schools. He took up farming for a livelihood. He accompanied the family to Wisconsin and here he became well established, carrying on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale, and for years he was recognized as the leading sheep man of Wisconsin, keeping large numbers of sheep, cattle and horses, the latter of high grade. He has always liked blooded horses and is an excellent judge of them, in fact, of all kinds of live stock. His place, "The Whitewater Stock Farm," was brought up to a very high state of improvement and cultivation by his untiring perseverance and good management and was one of the "show places" of the county. He was a student of everything that pertained to his work and was one of the most up-to-date farmers this county has ever had. He managed his place so skillfully that abundant crops were produced from year to year, often as high as ninety-nine bushels per acre of corn was raised.

Accumulating a competency and feeling that a respite from toil was due him, Mr. Clark retired from active duties of life in 1903, and purchased an imposing, commodious and pleasant home on Main street, Whitewater, where he has since lived quietly. He has sold his fine farm and is investing his money in various things. Politically, he is a Republican of the progressive wing. He attends the Congregational church.

Mr. Clark was married in 1859 to Ellen Baskett, a native of Massachusetts, and to this union two children were born, Henry and Ellen, the latter dying in 1867, when three years old. The wife and mother died in 1864, and in 1866 Mr. Clark married Ellen Holbrook, who was born in Shoreham, Vermont. Her death occurred in December, 1910. To this union two children were born, Jennie H., who is living at home, and Julia B., who died on July 17, 1911.

## LEOPOLD CLINE.

Human life is made up of two elements, power and form, and the proportion must be invariably kept if we would have it sweet and sound. Each of these elements in excess makes a mischief as hurtful as would be its deficiency. Everything turns to excess; every good quality is noxious if un-mixed, and to carry the danger to the edge of ruin nature causes each man's peculiarity to superabound. One speaking from the standpoint of a farmer would adduce the learned professions as examples of this treachery. They are nature's victims of expression. You study the artist, the orator, statesman and inventor to find their lives no more excellent than that of mechanics or farmers. While the farmer stands at the head of art as found in nature, the others get but glimpses of the delights of nature in its various elements and moods. Leopold Cline, now living in honorable retirement in his beautiful home in the town of Sharon, is one of Walworth's citizens who has ever taken a delight in nature and existence, because he has been in touch with the springs of life, having spent the major part of it on the farm.

Mr. Cline is another of the natives of the old Empire state who has cast his lot with the people of the newer Badger state and has added his full quota to the work of pushing forward the wheels of civilization. He was born in the state of New York on January 27, 1842. He is the son of George and Sophia (Eberhart) Cline, both natives of Waldhambach, Germany, where they grew to maturity and were married on December 31, 1840. The father was born on April 25, 1821, and the mother on November 16, 1816. They were married in this country. They came to Wisconsin, and settled on a farm in section 9, Sharon township, Walworth county, there established a good home, and he was numbered among the community's leading agriculturists and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. George Cline, named as follows: Leopold, subject of this sketch; Caroline was next in order of birth; George, who became a soldier in the Union army, was killed in the battle of Petersburg, April 2, 1865; Sophia, Mary Ann and Lottie.

Leopold Cline was but a boy when he accompanied his parents from New York to Walworth county and here he grew to manhood on the home farm where he assisted his father with the general work, much of which fell to him, as he was the oldest of the children, but he found time to obtain a fairly good education in the public schools of Sharon. Early in life he turned his attention to farming and pursued that vocation with much success until 1908, when he retired from active work and moved to his beautiful home in the

town of Sharon and is now enjoying the fruits of his former years of activity. He is the owner of one of the choice, fertile and well improved farms of the southwestern part of the county, which lies in section 9, Sharon township. He has always been known as a man who closely applied himself to his affairs, having little inclination to be a public man. In religious matters he belongs to the German Evangelical church.

Mr. Cline was married to Jacobena Horick on January 1, 1868. She was born in Bavaria, Germany, on February 18, 1850, the daughter of Frederick and Mary (Wolf) Horick, who were born, reared and married in Germany, from which country they emigrated to America in 1866, reaching here on October 23d. They located in the town of Darien, Walworth county, Wisconsin, and there became very comfortably established.

To Mr. and Mrs. Cline nine children have been born, named as follows: Laura, born December 27, 1869; Alfred, born July 19, 1870; Ida, born July 24, 1872; Emma, born January 20, 1874; Nellie, born November 30, 1877; Alina, born September 6, 1880, is deceased; Minnie, born October 28, 1882; Nettie Leona, born January 25, 1885, and Lelah, born October 28, 1892.

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#### AUGUST KRAHN.

The chief characteristic of August Krahn, well known citizen of the town of Whitewater, Walworth county, who is now living retired after a very busy life, are keenness of perception, an unflagging energy, honesty of purpose and motive and every-day common sense, which have enabled him not only to advance his own interests, but also largely contribute to the moral and material advancement of the locality. He worked his way from a modest beginning, having landed from a foreign strand on our shores many years ago, "a youth to fortune and to fame unknown," step by step to a position of no mean importance, by his individual efforts which have been practically unaided, which fact renders him the more worthy of the praise that is freely accorded him by his fellow men, his life having been one of unceasing industry and perseverance up to a few years ago, and the honorable and systematic methods he has ever employed are commended to others, if they court the goddess Success.

Mr. Krahn was born in the province of Stetten, Prussia, Germany, on July 6, 1840. He is the son of Carl and Louisa (Yandre) Krahn, both born in Germany, where they were reared and married, and from there they

emigrated to America in 1857. They located in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, where they purchased a farm and there they spent the balance of their lives, the father dying in 1890 and the mother in 1901, she at the age of eighty-three and one-half years, his age having been seventy-eight and one-half years. Four sons and three daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Krahn; they are all living but two daughters.

August Krahn, of this sketch, was reared and educated in Germany, being seventeen years of age when he came with his parents to Sheboygan county, Wisconsin. Later he went to Milwaukee and there was united in marriage with Wilhelmena Engle, who was born in Germany, and to this union six children were born, all living at this writing, and named in order of birth as follows: Amanda, Herman, Carl, August, Oscar and Willie.

The subject came to Walworth county in 1868 and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Whitewater township. This he later sold and then went back to Milwaukee where he remained seven years, then returned to Walworth county and purchased two hundred acres, of Peter Nelson, and to this he added until he owned one of the choice farms of the county, consisting of four hundred and fifty acres. He was very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, carrying on both on a large scale. He accumulated a competency and, old age coming on, he desired to give up the active pursuits of his vocation, consequently he sold his farm to his two sons, August and Oscar, and on August 6, 1909, moved to Whitewater, where he owns a fine home, and here he has lived quietly ever since, on Franklin street, one of the choice residential sections of the city.

Politically, Mr. Krahn is a Republican, but has never been especially active in party affairs. In religion matters he belongs to the Lutheran church.

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#### HENRY D. BARNES.

The name of Henry D. Barnes should occupy a conspicuous place in the history of Walworth county's pioneer citizens. Although he did not come as early as some, he was here in time to assist in the later-day development of the county and has witnessed its growth with much more than passing interest. He has led a life consistent with the truth, and has therefore earned the high esteem in which he is held by all who know him.

Henry D. Barnes was born February 19, 1842, in the town of Sherburne, Chenango county, New York. His father, Joseph Barnes, was born

in 1795, in Washington county, New York, and his mother, Lovina (Yaw) Barnes, was born in 1797, in Colerain, Massachusetts. The family came west by way of the Great Lakes, landing at Southport (now Kenosha) in May, 1842. A short time after they bought a farm in the town of Spring Prairie, consisting of one hundred and fifty-two acres, for which they paid twenty-five hundred dollars. There he and his wife both lived until they died, he in 1870 and she in 1873. The family consisted of four children, Adeline S., who died in 1854; Davis, who died in infancy; Helen M., who died in 1903, and Henry D., who still lives on the old homestead. The latter received his education in the district school at Spring Prairie Corners. He enlisted August 21, 1862, in Company I, Twenty-eighth Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers and was mustered out August 23, 1865, at Brownsville, Texas. The regiment was assigned to the Seventh Army Corps. The regiment was in the Yazoo Pass expedition and in the siege of Fort Pemberton in the spring of 1863, and also in action at Helena, Mt. Elba and Little Rock. In January, 1865, the regiment was assigned to the Third Brigade, Third Division, Thirteenth Army Corps, and were present and took an active part in the siege and capture of Spanish Fort, Fort Blakeley and Mobile. The regiment returned to Madison after mustered out, where the men received pay and final discharge September 22, 1865.

Mr. Barnes was married April 30, 1871, to Mary L. Hay, daughter of Horace N. and Margaret Fuller Hay, natives of Livingston county, New York, who came to Wisconsin in 1842, settling in Elkhorn. Mr. Hay started for California in 1842 by the way of the Isthmus, died of yellow fever and was buried at sea off the coast of Acapulco. Mrs. Hay died in 1870.

Mr. Barnes followed the business of farming until 1892 and was also engaged for a number of years in the dressing and shipping of poultry to the eastern markets, sometimes dressing one hundred thousand pounds in a season. In 1894 he was elected register of deeds and moved to Elkhorn, where he has since resided. He was elected and held the office for five consecutive terms. In politics he has always been a Republican without qualifications, excuses or apologies, but has never hesitated to vote the Democratic ticket when demagogues and hypocrites have sought to fool the people under the pretense of trying to alleviate the suffering of "God's patient poor." He was for twenty-three years master of Spring Prairie Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, high priest of Elkhorn Chapter one year and commander of R. B. Hayes Post, Grand Army of the Republic, one year.

Mrs. Barnes died October 10, 1907. Six children were born to them, two dying in infancy. Four are still living: Herbert T., a physician, married

and lives in Pewaukee, Wisconsin; Mary L., wife of Henry Lockney, lives in Waukesha, Wisconsin; Henry D., Jr., married and lives in San Diego, California, and is in the employ of the Union Title and Trust Company; and Lovinia R. Barnes, register in probate, lives at home with her father.

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### WILLIAM HENRY DEWITT.

"Through struggle to triumph" seems to be the maxim which holds sway for the majority of our citizens, and, though it is undoubtedly true that many fall exhausted in the conflict, a few by their inherent force of character and strong mentality, rise above their environment and all which seems to hinder them, until they reach the plane of affluence toward which their face was set through the long years of struggle that must necessarily precede any accomplishment of great magnitude. Such has been the history of William Henry DeWitt, who, after a long, busy and useful life, is living in honorable retirement in his attractive home in Whitewater, spending his declining years in quiet. From his life record many useful lessons may be gleaned by the youth starting out on the road to fortune and renown, for he has been a man who believed in the old adage, "Lose no time in getting off the wrong road as soon as you discover that you are traveling it." He has been an advocate of progress in all phases of life, progress at any sacrifice.

Mr. DeWitt was born in Catskill, New York, on October 14, 1839. He is the son of DeWitt and Sarah (Eckler) DeWitt, both born in Greene county, New York. The paternal great-grandfather was one of the first settlers of the state of New York. The parents of the subject grew up and were married in the old Empire state and from there they emigrated to Black Hawk county, Illinois, in 1864, living for a time at the town of Andalusia, coming on to Troy township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, the same year, 1864, and purchasing two hundred acres, to which they later added one hundred and five acres, then sold out and moved to the town of Palmyra, Jefferson county, this state, and there they spent the rest of their lives, the father dying in 1906, at the advanced age of ninety-four years, his wife having died in 1904 when eighty-seven years old. They were the parents of ten children, four of whom are living. Politically, the father was a Whig in his earlier life, later becoming a Democrat. While he was active in political affairs he never sought office.

William H. DeWitt, of this sketch, was reared to manhood on the home

farm where he assisted with the general work as soon as he was of proper age. He received his education in the public schools of his home community in New York, later attending Greenville Academy, of Greene county, that state. He began life for himself by teaching school in his native state. He accompanied the family to Black Hawk county, Illinois, in 1864, and there taught one term of school. He came on to Troy, Walworth county, Wisconsin, in the autumn of 1864 and here engaged in buying live stock for a period of ten years, during which decade he became one of the best known stock men in this section of the state. He lived at home during this time. In 1871 he formed a partnership with a Mr. Meecham and they put up a warehouse in Troy township and engaged in buying grain for a period of six years. The subject then turned his attention to farming and purchased one hundred and eight acres, later selling sixty acres of the same, then bought forty acres more, and still later eighteen acres additional. He now owns forty acres. Having accumulated a competency through his successful management of various lines of business, he moved to Whitewater on November 1, 1908, and purchased a commodious and modern residence at No. 212 Fremont street, where he has since resided.

After selling his warehouse at Troy Center, Mr. DeWitt married, on February 14, 1877, Alice L. Bliss, who was born in Troy, Wisconsin, in 1855. She was the daughter of A. and Phila (Hibbard) Bliss, pioneers of Troy township and a highly esteemed family in this part of the county for many years.

Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt, one dying in infancy; Henry B., born August 4, 1879, died August 6, 1899. The wife and mother was called to her rest on January 21, 1888, and on January 6, 1891, Mr. DeWitt was united in marriage with Marcia L. Dibble, who was born in Troy township on October 16, 1864. She is the daughter of A. B. and Sarah (Watson) Dibble, early settlers of Troy township, and regarded by all as an excellent old family. To this second union have been born four children, namely: Harry W., born November 8, 1891; Ruby S., born July 24, 1895; Bradley W., born February 12, 1899; William P., born July 31, 1902.

In 1872 John Swartz built a store at Troy Center, and Mr. DeWitt bought him out in 1880 and he engaged in the mercantile business for fifteen years, enjoying a large trade with the town and surrounding country. Then he sold out and purchased a fine farm, known as the John Smith place, consisting of three hundred and two acres. He kept this farm three years, then traded for a farm of one hundred acres near Lake Mills, Jefferson county, also traded for a house and lot in Lake Mills, and in 1900 he moved thereto

and there turned his attention to real estate, which business he continued with success for nine years. He bought and sold thirty-six farms, but finally closed out all his lands with the exception of sixty acres west of Ft. Atkinson. He moved to Whitewater in 1908 and has since lived retired.

Mr. DeWitt has kept well informed on current events and is a business man of more than ordinary ability, honorable, genial and obliging, and he has been popular with the people among whom he has lived in the various localities where he has been in business.

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### HOMER BROOKS.

Year has been added to year and decade to decade until nearly three score and ten years have been numbered with the past since Homer Brooks, a venerable and highly honored citizen, now living in retirement in his cozy home in East Troy, came to Walworth county. Upon his arrival this section of the state was largely an undeveloped region, awaiting the awakening touch of the sturdy pioneers to transform its wild lands into rich farms and beautiful homes, to found cities and towns, to establish churches and schools, and in many other ways reclaim the country for the use of man. As one of the early settlers that led the van of civilization into this favored region, Mr. Brooks well deserves conspicuous mention with the substantial men of the county and it is with pleasure that a brief review of his long, busy and useful life is herewith presented, for the present generation owes to him and his contemporaries who paved the way by their laborious endeavor for the present advanced civilization, which we can never pay.

Mr. Brooks was born in the state of New York on September 18, 1819, and is therefore now ninety-three years of age, a very unusual span of years having been allotted to him, no doubt because of his plain, quiet, honorable living, his right thinking and abstinence from the many excesses that curse the human race. He is the son of David and Catherine (Simpson) Brooks, both natives of New Jersey. They moved to the state of New York early in life and from there came to Michigan, in which state they spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of six children, of whom Homer of this review is the only one living. The father engaged in farming in Seneca county, New York. He also bought and sold wheat and lumber for some time. Politically, he was a Democrat.

Homer Brooks, of this sketch, was reared on the farm and he received



MR. AND MRS. HOMER BROOKS

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such education as the old-time schools of his day afforded. He came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1843, driving to East Troy fifteen hundred sheep from Livingston county, New York. He brought the first separator threshing machine to this county. He was three months making the journey from his native state. Here he established a sheep farm, continuing to operate the same several years, then purchased one hundred and sixty acres, to which he later added forty acres, thus making an excellent farm of two hundred acres, in East Troy township, where he carried on general farming and stock raising successfully until 1892 when, old age coming on, and, having accumulated a competency, he moved to the town of East Troy where he has since lived retired, having built a fine house here, and he is spending his declining years in the midst of plenty.

Politically, Mr. Brooks is a Republican, and he has held the office of supervisor.

On May 15, 1849, he was united in marriage with Elmjina Burgit, who was born in Tioga county, New York, on April 28, 1829. She was the daughter of Jacob and Polly (Gardner) Burgit, both born in New York, the father on November 25, 1791, and the mother on October 21, 1796. In 1837 they emigrated to East Troy, Walworth county, Wisconsin, owning what is now the south part of this village. Here Mr. Burgit built a grist mill, also a saw mill, and he became the owner of a considerable land in this county, and farmed on a large scale. He became one of the well-to-do men of the vicinity. Politically, he was a Republican and he held a number of local offices. He and his wife were members of the Congregational church. His death occurred on January 4, 1858, and that of his wife on March 21, 1870. They were the parents of nine children, two of whom are living.

To Mr. and Mrs. Brooks three children were born, namely: Walter L. is deceased; Catherine E. is the wife of Henry Swartz, of Burlington, Wisconsin; William lives in East Troy.

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#### CHARLES M. WILLIAMS.

A member of one of the honored pioneer families of Walworth county, the name Williams has long been closely associated with the history of this section of the state, and Charles M., well known attorney of Whitewater, like his father, is numbered among the worthy citizens of this locality. In

business he has always been known to be straightforward and reliable, is patriotic in citizenship and his social relations ever wholesome.

Mr. Williams was born at Whitewater, Walworth county, on January 13, 1866. He is the son of Jonathan M. and Sarah M. (Hamilton) Williams, natives of the state of New York, from which the father came with his parents to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1839, when he was eighteen years of age. His brother Dean had preceded him here two years. They entered a farm from the government two miles west of Whitewater and here located among the pioneers, carving out a home from the wilderness. Dean Williams had already taken up three or four sections of land here. One of these farms now belongs to Frank Williams, a brother of the subject of this sketch, and another to H. O. Hamilton, a lawyer. The paternal grandparents, Asad Dean and Jennie (McGee) Williams, spent the remainder of their lives on the homestead farm, now occupied by Frank H. Williams. He was a native of Massachusetts and she was born in Connecticut. The father of the subject was married after coming to this county, and here he engaged in farming until 1886, then he went to the city of Whitewater and retired, but he spent the last seven years of his life with his son Frank on the homestead. His death occurred on March 29, 1897, his wife surviving until March 23, 1899. The paternal grandparents, Dr. Thomas and Sarah (Armstrong) Hamilton, were natives of New York. The grandmother came to this county with her daughter, the mother of the subject, in the early fifties. Jonathan Williams was an active Republican and took much interest in local affairs, but he never aspired to office. Early in life he was a Whig. He attended the Universalist church, of which his wife was a member. Their family consisted of three children.

Charles M. Williams was educated in the country schools, and later took a special course in the normal at Whitewater, then he spent three and one-half years in the liberal arts department of the University of Wisconsin and he graduated in law in 1894, having made a splendid record. He established himself at Merrillville, Indiana, but for some time turned his attention to farming and railroad work. Returning to Whitewater in 1907, he has since been engaged in the practice of his profession and has built up a very satisfactory clientele, his business gradually increasing. He has been very successful in his practice and has the confidence of all who know him. He is always careful and painstaking in his practice and in the trial of cases he is alert, fair and persistent, always going into court thoroughly prepared.

Politically, Mr. Williams is a Republican and is active in party affairs. He is at present justice of the peace, serving his second term, and he has

proven himself to be a faithful and trustworthy public servant. Fraternally, he belongs to the Free and Accepted Masons.

Mr. Williams was married on June 27, 1901, to Clara Saxton, a native of Merrillville, Indiana, where her people were prominent.

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### J. J. HOLLISTER.

There could be no more comprehensive history written of a community or even of a state and its people, than that which deals with the life work of those who, by their own endeavor and indomitable energy, have placed themselves where they well deserve the title of "progressive," and in this sketch will be found the record of one who has outstripped the less active plodders on the highway of life, one who has not been subdued by the many obstacles and failures that come to everyone, but who has made them stepping-stones to higher things and at the same time that Mr. Hollister was winning his way to the front in agricultural affairs, he has gained a reputation for uprightness and honor. He is one of the worthy native sons of Walworth county, who, having had the sagacity to foresee the great future of this locality, wisely decided to spend his life on his native soil, rather than seek uncertain fortune elsewhere, and he has thus been identified with the growth of the same and has played well his part in its development.

Job Jones Hollister was born October 9, 1854, in the town of Delavan, this county, being the representative of a sterling old pioneer family, the son of James H. and Elizabeth (Williams) Hollister, both natives of the state of New York, from which state they came to Wisconsin in their youth while yet single, the father in 1843 and the mother's arrival was in 1852, and they were married at Elkhorn. There they established a good home and to them three children were born, namely: J. J., of this review; Samuel J., of Elkhorn, Wisconsin; William H., now deceased. The father of these children devoted his life to farming, and became known as one of the best farmers of his vicinity. He was a man of many praiseworthy characteristics, his reputation being above reproach. His death occurred on March 8, 1890, his wife having preceded him to the grave on August 28, 1895. They both had a host of friends in the town of Delavan.

J. J. Hollister spent his youth on the home farm which he worked during the crop seasons and attended the public schools in the winter time. On September 22, 1878, he was married to Marinda Williams, daughter of

Jonathan and Mary Williams, and this union has been blessed with the birth of one child, Merrill Hollister. Merrill was born September 20, 1887, married Della Anderson and lives at Delavan.

Having devoted his life to agriculture pursuits, Mr. Hollister has, by hard work and good management, accumulated a competency and some of the county's choicest farming land. He formerly lived in section 16, Delavan township, where he owned a well improved and well kept farm of eighty-two and sixty-five one-hundredths acres. Some time ago he purchased seven acres in section 17, near the city limits of Delavan, and there he now resides, having a beautiful and commodious home in the midst of pleasant surroundings.

Politically, Mr. Hollister is a Republican and has been more or less active in forwarding the interests of his party locally. For nearly fifteen years he was a member of the school board, and for six years he was a member of the town board of Delavan. He has been continuously a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows since 1876.

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#### F. HENRY KISER.

In the history of Walworth county as applying to the professional interests, the name of F. Henry Kiser, of Whitewater, occupies a conspicuous place, for through a number of years he has been one of the representative men of affairs—progressive, enterprising and persevering. Such qualities always win success, sooner or later, and to Mr. Kiser they have brought a satisfactory reward for his well directed efforts, and while he has benefited himself and community in a material way he has also been an influential factor in the educational, political and moral uplift of the community. He is one of the best known lawyers of this locality.

Mr. Kiser was born in Whitewater, Wisconsin, on May 26, 1872, and is the son of Fernando C. Kiser, a well known citizen of this community, a complete sketch of whom will be found elsewhere in this work. F. Henry Kiser was educated in the public schools, and was graduated from the Whitewater high school. Early in life he decided upon the law as his vocation, consequently he entered the law department of Columbia University, where he made an excellent record and from which institution he was graduated in 1893. He was employed for a time in the census office at Washington. He then took a course in the law department of the University of Wisconsin,

from which he was graduated in 1899. He had been admitted to the bar in 1894. He has continued in active practice at Whitewater, where he has enjoyed a large and ever-growing practice, taking a place in the front rank of the legal lights of this part of the state, figuring for years in the important cases in the local courts. He has been a close student and has kept fully abreast of the times in all that pertains to his profession. He is an alert, energetic, persistent and painstaking advocate, believes in the thorough preparation of cases and he leaves nothing undone in the interest of his client. He is strong before a jury and has strong influence with the court.

Mr. Kiser has been successful in a business way and he is now a stockholder in both the bank and a director in the State Bank at Milton Junction. He is the owner of the Walworth Hotel in Whitewater, the Bower block and other extensive and valuable real estate interests in Whitewater. He has considerable land in South Dakota. He is the largest real estate owner in this city. He is a man of keen discernment, sound judgment and wise foresight, being able to foresee with remarkable accuracy the future outcome of a present transaction.

Politically, Mr. Kiser is a Republican and he has long been a leader in local public affairs. He was formerly city attorney and is now court commissioner. Fraternally, he is a member of St. John's Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, and the chapter at Whitewater. He is a member of the Delta Tau Delta, a college fraternity, also the Modern Woodmen of America. Religiously, he belongs to the Congregational church.

Mr. Kiser was united in marriage with Myra Goodhue, of Whitewater, on October 12, 1896. Her death occurred in July, 1897, and on May 28, 1900, he married Nellie Bower, also of Whitewater, and to this union one son has been born, Lawrence, whose birth occurred on October 15, 1903.

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#### FRED RENSELAER BLOODGOOD.

The press of Walworth county has an able representative in Fred Renselaer Bloodgood, of Whitewater, editor and publisher of the *Whitewater Gazette*. He was born March 6, 1870, at Vanetten, Chemung county, New York. He is the second son of S. Wiley and Mary Jane (Rumsey) Bloodgood, who also live at Whitewater. There are three brothers, Arthur C., of Aurora, Illinois; Ward W., of Whitewater; Erwin A., of Peck's Station, Wisconsin; and one sister, Mrs. Howard Chafin, of Elkhorn.

The Bloodgood family are quite numerous in New York and, having a rather migratory disposition, many of them have moved to the westward, so that the name will be found in most of the states of the Union. The Bloodgood family has been in America since 1632, coming from Holland. There is a tradition that they were Huguenots driven to Holland by persecution, but like most Americans the present members of the family are too busy or too indifferent to trace family genealogy. With a maternal ancestry of English, French, Dutch and other nationalities the subject of this sketch might reasonably claim to descend from a number of different nationalities.

At four years of age Mr. Bloodgood entered a country school and attended there for four years. The family then moved to Spencer, New York, where the father had purchased a planing mill. The mill burned three years later, without insurance. Then the family came to Wisconsin and for five years lived on Heart Prairie, where the boys all worked on the farm in the summer and attended the district school during the brief winter terms. In 1887 they moved to a farm just east of Whitewater and soon afterward Fred R. Bloodgood entered the normal school here. His education was interrupted by some farm work and teaching, but he finally finished the course in this institution and was graduated with the class of 1895, and then went to Waukesha to teach in the high school. After spending one year there and a year as principal of the village school at Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, he gave up teaching and went to Nebraska. After a short stay there he returned and purchased the *Whitewater Gazette* in 1898. Under the Bloodgood management the paper has prospered and at the present time is well equipped and enjoying a good patronage. Its mechanical appearance has been improved and its columns are filled with the best and brightest news; its editorial page is both convincing and entertaining in its discussions of the current, vital topics of the day, and as an advertising medium its value is constantly increasing. It ranks with the best sheets of its kind in southern Wisconsin in every respect and wields a potent influence for the general good of the locality which it serves.

Besides running the *Gazette*, the editor has found time to fill a number of small offices in societies, lodges, city, etc. He has represented his ward in the city council, is at this time master of the Masonic lodge of his home city, and for many years has been superintendent of the Sunday school of the Methodist Episcopal church. As diversions he plays tennis and attends political gatherings and occasionally prepares short addresses for club meetings, banquets, etc.

In 1898 Mr. Bloodgood was married to Jean Turner, who died in

1903, leaving a daughter, Margaret, a year old. In 1906 he was married to Mrs. Verna Beach, of Whitewater. Her son, Kenneth Beach, was seven years old at the time of the marriage. Another son, Fred Foster Bloodgood, was born to them in 1910.

Country editors do not get rich, they seldom win fame, and they have their share of trouble, but Editor Bloodgood would not change his occupation with anyone, and the passing years have brought to him much of pleasure and many of the things that convince one that life is worth living for, not the least of which may be counted a large number of warm friends.

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### B. R. PARKER, D. V. S.

One of the best known and most successful veterinary surgeons of southeastern Wisconsin is B. R. Parker of Whitewater, Walworth county. He has won success in life in a definite manner because he has persevered in pursuit of a worthy purpose, and is gaining thereby a most satisfactory reward. His life has been exemplary in every respect, and he has always supported those interests which are calculated to uplift and benefit his community. He is the representative of one of the honored old pioneer families of this part of the Badger state, for both his father and his paternal grandfather were early farmers here and the Parkers have been well known for a number of generations as industrious, honorable people.

B. R. Parker was born in Hebron, Jefferson county, this state, March 23, 1867. He is the son of H. A. and Lucy (Clay) Parker, the father born in Vermont and the mother in New York. H. A. Parker came to this state in 1844 and his wife came with her parents in 1849, locating at Oakland, Burnett county, where they became early farmers. The father of the subject farmed in Jefferson county and became well established through his industry. He made his home with the subject and his sister Mrs. Ernest Marsh, living a retired life and died November 13, 1911.

The subject received his education in district school No. 2, at Hebron, and he grew up on his father's farm where he worked during the crop season in his boyhood days. Later, turning his attention to the study of the ills of which the equestrian family is heir, he went to Chicago where he took a course in a veterinary college, and subsequently attended a similar institution at Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was graduated in 1901, having made an excellent record in his chosen field of study. He returned to the home

farm and began practicing there, meeting with much success from the start, remaining there three years. In 1904 he came to Whitewater and here established a veterinary infirmary which has become known throughout the country and which is very extensively patronized. It is well arranged and equipped with all modern surgical appliances and apparatus, insuring prompt and able service. For four years he was in partnership with Doctor Fay. He keeps well abreast of the times in everything pertaining to his profession and he is in every way deserving of the large success that is attending his efforts.

Mr. Parker is a Republican and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a member of the Wisconsin Society of Veterinary Graduates.

On April 18, 1889, Mr. Parker was united in marriage with Julia Wenham, of Jefferson county, Wisconsin, a member of an excellent family there.

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#### ALBERT M. HANSON.

The training and discipline which Albert M. Hanson, a young stock man of Whitewater City, Walworth county, had in his early life developed a strong, independent and sturdy manhood and a frugal and thrifty mentality which is very largely responsible for his subsequent success in life.

Mr. Hanson was born in Richmond, Walworth county, Wisconsin, February 27, 1870. He is the son of Hans and Anna (Halverson) Hanson, both natives of Norway, where they grew up and spent their early lives, emigrating to America about 1848 or 1850, locating in the village of Richmond, Wisconsin, and there the father turned his attention to farming, becoming well established, owning two hundred and eighty acres. There he and his wife spent the balance of their lives. They were the parents of three children, two sons and one daughter. Hans Hanson was a member of the Lutheran church, a hard worker and an honest man.

Albert M. Hanson, of this sketch, was reared on his father's farm and there he worked in his boyhood, attending the district schools during the winter months. He followed farming until 1898, on the homestead, also carried on dairying there, and the last two years he was on the home farm he bought and sold live stock, making a pronounced success of all his operations, and getting an excellent start in life. In the fall of 1897 he came to Whitewater and the result of his trip was the formation of a firm for the purpose of handling live stock, known as Freeman & Hanson, which partner-

ship continued most successfully until 1909, when Mr. Hanson and Mr. Zuill began dealing in all kinds of live stock. They have built up a large and constantly-growing business. They operate a sales stable and livery. On March 1, 1911, the firm name became Hanson, Zuill & Hawes. This firm is known throughout this section of the state.

Mr. Hanson is regarded as one of the best judges of live stock in Walworth county. He still owns the home farm. He has managed well, been persistent and has been successful.

Mr. Hanson is a Republican and he has always taken an abiding interest in the affairs of his home community. For two years he was supervisor of the town of Richmond and he was alderman of that city for a period of eight years. He is a Lutheran.

In 1899 Mr. Hanson was united in marriage with Clara Savel, of the town of Whitewater, this county, the daughter of a highly respected family. To this union the following children have been born: Harry, Helen and Alice.

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#### THOMAS E. LEAN.

One of the owners of valuable farming interests in Whitewater township, Walworth county, is the gentleman whose name initiates this page. Mr. Lean's valuable property has been acquired through his own efforts, his persistency of purpose and his determination, and the prosperity which is the legitimate reward of all earnest effort is today his. He is now living in retirement in Whitewater.

Thomas E. Lean was born in Cornwall, England, May 3, 1848. He is the son of William and Ann (Knight) Lean, both natives of Cornwall, England, where they grew up and were married, finally coming to Jefferson county, Wisconsin, locating north of Palmyra, where Mr. Lean began working on a farm. Subsequently he entered a farm in Waukesha county, this state, near North Prairie. After living there two years he came to Walworth county in 1865 and bought a farm in Lagrange township of two hundred acres, and here he remained until his death, on February 24, 1874, his wife dying in January, 1897. Their family consisted of five children. Politically, he was a Republican and a member of the Methodist church.

Thomas E. Lean was reared on his father's farm and educated in the public schools, and he has devoted his life to farming, now owning the old homestead, to which he once added twenty acres, later fifty-seven acres and

one hundred and twenty acres at another time, the farm now consisting of three hundred and twenty acres, all well improved and under a high state of cultivation, and on this he has made an exceptional success as a general farmer and stock raiser, everything about his pleasant home denoting good management. For several years he was in partnership with his brother, Robert Lean. They owned one hundred and seventy-five acres near Elkhorn. In 1899 he came to Whitewater and bought the attractive residence he now owns at No. 231 Fremont street, and has since that time lived retired, enjoying the fruits of his former years of toil. He was a stockholder and director in the State Bank at Elkhorn. He has been very successful as a business man, having managed well and carried the Golden Rule into his daily life, thereby winning and retaining the good will and confidence of his fellow men. Politically, he is a Republican, and for two years he was assessor of Lagrange township, also supervisor for the township for three years, supervisor in Whitewater, and one of the trustees of the insane asylum and superintendent of the poor. In all of these positions he has given the utmost satisfaction and most worthily discharged his duties. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Lean was married on December 21, 1898, to Edna D. West, who was born in Lafayette township, this county, September 14, 1875, the daughter of Frank and Catherine (Hodges) West, pioneer settlers of this county; they now live in Lagrange township and are highly respected by all who know them. Their family consisted of six children, all of whom are still living.

To Mr. and Mrs. Lean two children have been born, Howard Thomas, born November 29, 1899, and Donald William, born September 1, 1906.

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#### H. E. LINDSAY. M. D.

For over thirty years the name of Dr. H. E. Lindsay, of Whitewater, has been a household word in Walworth county, where he has built up a large and lucrative practice, being numbered among the representative citizens of this locality, having ever been known to be an able, reliable and progressive physician and patriotic in citizenship. He is esteemed for these commendable traits, together with his cordial disposition and genuine worth, and although he has been more or less active in various relations with his fellow men, his name stands out more prominently in connection with the medical profession in which he has long been a prominent figure.

Doctor Lindsay was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, May 15, 1840. He is the son of Thomas and Mary (McFatriek) Lindsay, both natives of Pennsylvania, where they grew up and were married. The grandparents on both sides of the house were of Scotland. Thomas Lindsay, the father, devoted his life to farming, and he came to Lafayette county, Wisconsin, in 1846, and began farming on a small scale in true pioneer fashion, the country then being a wilderness. Taking up government land, in due course of time he had developed a fine farm of two hundred acres near Darlington and there engaged in farming until his death. He was a very loyal Democrat and took an active part in campaigns, and although he had numerous opportunities to obtain responsible public positions he would never accept anything higher than the chairmanship of the county board. He was a good and useful man and enjoyed the esteem of a wide acquaintance.

Dr. H. E. Lindsay remained on the home farm until he was eighteen years of age, during which time he attended the district schools, also the Darlington high school, from which he was graduated. Early in life he determined upon the medical profession and with that end in view he took a course in the Rush Medical College at Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1869. Soon afterward he began the practice of his profession with his uncle at Lena, Illinois, but remained there only a short time, when he came to Avoca, Wisconsin, in 1870, and there remained ten years, building up a good practice. In 1880 he came to Whitewater, Walworth county, and here he has been practicing ever since, occupying a position second to none of his compeers. He has always been a profound student and has kept well abreast of the times in all matters pertaining to his profession and has met with a large measure of success all along the line.

Doctor Lindsay was married in 1875 to Grace Barnard, of Avoca, and to this union one child was born, Roy Barnard Lindsay, who is now living in San Francisco, representing the Johnston Service Company of Milwaukee.

When Doctor Lindsay was eighteen years of age he made the long overland journey in a wagon to California, leaving here in April, 1860. He arrived at Dayton, Nevada, while the gold excitement was on and there remained four years. There was not a railroad west of the Mississippi river at that time. During the last two years of his stay in the gold fields he was foreman of a quartz mill. Just before coming home he panned out a small hole in a gulch and obtained three hundred dollars worth of gold. He made the return trip east by way of San Francisco and the Panama route. The Doctor made a trip to Europe in 1898 and spent several months there, visiting many watering places and hospitals, making a tour of all the principal coun-

tries of Europe. Being by nature and training a keen observer, his trip abroad was very beneficial.

The wife of Doctor Lindsay passed away in April, 1902. She was popular with a wide circle of friends, being admired for her many commendable attributes of head and heart.

Doctor Lindsay is a member of the county and state medical societies and of the National Medical Association. Fraternally, he belongs to the Free and Accepted Masons, the chapter, council, commandery and the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He has long stood high in the Masonic order, and his daily life would indicate that he carries its high precepts into the same.

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### FREDERICK J. STARIN.

A man who boldly faces the responsibilities of life and by determined and untiring energy carves out for himself an honorable success exerts a strong influence upon the lives of all who follow him. Such men constitute the foundation of our republican institutions and are the pride of our civilization. To them life is so real that they find no time to plot either mischief or vice. Their lives are bound up in their duties, they feel the weight of their citizenship, and take pleasure in sowing the seeds of uprightness. Such was the career of the late Frederick J. Starin, of Whitewater, long one of the best known men in local railroad circles, and, owing to his genial disposition and open-heartedness, one of the most popular.

Mr. Starin was born in Fultonville, Montgomery county, New York, April 17, 1821. He was the son of Jacob J. and Harriet (Schermerhorn) Starin, natives of New York, in which state they grew up and were married, in fact, spent their lives.

The subject spent his boyhood in his native state and was educated in Union College, New York. When a young man he came to Whitewater, Wisconsin. He devoted his life to civil engineering and teaching, much of his time being spent in the employ of railroads. He surveyed the line for the Wisconsin Central. For a period of thirty years he was in the employ of the Northwestern railroad, as right-of-way agent, giving the company the utmost satisfaction in every respect, and being regarded as one of their most trusted employes, understanding his work thoroughly and was always conscientious.

Politically, Mr. Starin was a Republican, and in religious matters he

was a Universalist, while his wife was a member of the Congregational church. He had a pleasant home in Whitewater, where the family has resided since 1853.

Mr. Starin was married to Jane M. Groat, who was born in Montgomery county, New York, on April 25, 1821, the daughter of John and Mary Groat, who lived and died in New York. Four children were born to the subject and wife, named as follows: Margaret, who married A. D. Converse, is now deceased; H. Imogene, who married Charles Birge, the son of Leander Birge, a pioneer of Walworth county, Wisconsin; Charles Birge is now deceased, leaving one son, Charles E., an architect of New York city and a young man of much promise. The latter's mother is still living at the old homestead in Whitewater. The third child born to the subject and wife was named E. Serene and is now deceased; the youngest, Jessie G., is the widow of John W. Stump, and she, too, resides in the old Starin home here. Mr. Stump passed away some time ago, leaving besides a widow, one child, a daughter, Genevieve, now at home. The death of Frederick J. Starin occurred in Whitewater in October, 1896, his widow surviving until June 11, 1910.

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#### CHARLES E. POTTER.

The biographies of enterprising men, especially of earnest, straightforward men, are instructive as guides and incentives to others. The examples they furnish of patient purpose and steadfast integrity strongly illustrate what is in the power of each to accomplish. Some men belong to no exclusive class in life; apparently insurmountable obstacles have in many instances awakened their dormant faculties and served as a stimulus to carry them to ultimate success. The instances of success in the face of adverse fate would seem almost to justify the conclusion that self-reliance with a half chance can accomplish any reasonable object. The gentleman whose life history is here briefly outlined has lived to good purpose and achieved a greater degree of success than falls to the average man. By a straightforward and commendable course he has made his way to a position of ease and respectability.

Charles E. Potter, who is now living in honorable retirement in his cozy home in Whitewater, after a long, useful and successful career as an agriculturist, was born in Berlin, Rensselaer county, New York, March 21,

1847. He is the son of Riley and Phoebe (Green) Potter, the father born in Berlin, New York, on February 18, 1814, and the mother at the same place on August 28th of the same year. There they grew to maturity, received their schooling in the old-fashioned schools, and there they were married, subsequently coming to Cincinnati, Ohio, thence to Peoria, Illinois, where they spent the balance of their lives, both dying the same year, 1892. It is a remarkable coincidence that a couple should be born in the same year, reach such an advanced age, seventy-eight years, and die in the same year. They were a fine old couple and lived happily and let their influence for good permeate the lives of those with whom they came into contact. Religiously, they were Seventh-Day Baptists. Politically, he was a Republican. They were the parents of one son and two daughters.

Charles E. Potter, of this sketch, spent his early boyhood in Cincinnati, Ohio. When ten years old he accompanied his parents to Illinois, in 1857, and he attended the public schools in his community, later attended school at Alfred, New York, then took a course in Milton College. He returned to Illinois and took up farming for a livelihood, buying eighty acres of land. He moved to Rock county, this state, in 1881 and there continued farming. He then moved here on a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres four miles west of Whitewater, where he carried on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale until 1901, when, in the month of December, he moved to Whitewater, Walworth county, having built a fine residence, modern and attractive, on Case street, and here he has since lived retired, enjoying the fruits of his earlier years of strenuous endeavor.

Politically, Mr. Potter is a Republican, and he is now the assessor of the city of Whitewater. He belongs to the Congregational church.

Mr. Potter was married on September 16, 1868, to Ella C. Slocum, who was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, on September 16, 1849. She is the daughter of Abel and Mary C. (Haskins) Slocum, the father born on December 18, 1817, and the mother on October 3d of the same year. He came to Rock county, this state, in 1839 and she in 1840. He took up two hundred and eighty acres of land, which he developed into a fine farm, which is now owned by his daughter, Ella C., wife of the subject. Mr. Slocum also owned another excellent farm of two hundred and sixty acres. Politically, he was a Republican and he and his wife were members of the Congregational church. He was very active in church matters and was one of the founders of the local church. Mr. Slocum's death occurred on March 24, 1896, his widow following him to the grave on May 3, 1897.

Mr. Slocum was the first nursery man in southern Wisconsin and he also conducted the first lime kiln in this part of the country.

To Mr. and Mrs. Potter two daughters have been born, Flora B. and Grace R. The former was educated in the public schools, the normal school at Whitewater and the Pratt school in Brooklyn, New York. She made a specialty of art, for which she has strong natural talent, and she is at this writing supervisor of the schools in the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where she has worked for the past sixteen years. She has two hundred teachers under her supervision. Grace R. Potter is primary critic in the State Normal School at Whitewater and, like her sister, is a young lady of rare talent and is very successful in her work.

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### JOHN C. KACHEL.

A successful business man and honored citizen who has the interests of Walworth county at heart is John C. Kachel, of the Wisconsin Dairy Supply Company, one of the important business concerns of Whitewater. Mr. Kachel was born in Whitewater, Wisconsin, March 25, 1862. He is the son of John Kachel, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work.

John C. Kachel was reared in Whitewater and educated in the local high school, and when a boy he learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked until he was twenty years old. Then in 1883 he and Harvey Marr established the dairy supply business under the firm name of Marr & Kachel, the name being changed later to Marr & Kachel Brothers, and in 1893 they incorporated under the firm name of the Wisconsin Dairy Supply Company. In 1895 J. C. and Thomas Kachel bought out Mr. Marr and have since been sole owners. The firm of Kachel & Marr was established and owned about fifteen cheese factories, and this firm is one of the best known in the state in this line of business, their operations being very extensive and are constantly growing.

John C. Kachel is interested in the Platteville Creamery Company, at Platteville, Grant county, Wisconsin, of which concern he is vice-president. They employ at present from fifteen to twenty men. The subject has been president ever since the reorganization of the local company, and his brother, Thomas Kachel, secretary of the company.

The subject is also a stockholder and director in both the Citizens and the First National Banks of Whitewater, and a director and stockholder in

the Sullivan Bank. He has been very successful as a business man and is now one of the substantial citizens of his county. He has made few mistakes and his judgment is singularly sound and his plans exceptionally well laid and executed.

Politically, Mr. Kachel is a Republican, but he has never been an office seeker. The family attend and support the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Kachel was married in November, 1891, to Alice Drake, who was born near Johnstown, Rock county, this state, and there reared and educated in the common schools. One son and two daughters have been born to the subject and wife, namely: Lawrence, Marie and Eloise, all at home and constituting a happy and congenial household. Mr. Kachel has a pleasant and attractive home in one of the choice residential districts of Whitewater and here the many friends of the family delight to gather, for they find a true hospitality for which the Kachels were always noted.

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#### L. EDMUND HAWES.

Among the first to brave the wilds of Walworth county was the Hawes family, members of which have aided very materially in its development during the past three-quarters of a century, for it was in the days of the wide-stretching forest, unused to the ring of the axeman, and the days of the Indian and wild deer when this family emigrated from the old Empire state, through a country of bad roads, across unbridged streams, toiling patiently for weeks until they reached this favored section of the commonwealth of Wisconsin, and, having the sagacity to foresee here a great future, established their home in Walworth county, where they became well fixed through their industry and were well known and influential in the life of the community. One of the best known of the present generation is L. Edmund Hawes, now living in retirement in his pleasant home in Whitewater, after a life of strenuous endeavor. He comes down to us from a pioneer age, and he has lived here to note wondrous changes in everything, taking a leading part in the upbuilding of the county, so that he is today highly honored by all who know him.

Mr. Hawes was born in Chautauqua county, New York, August 14, 1829. He is the son of Morris F. and Sarah (Lormsbury) Hawes, the father born in Warrick, Orange county, New York, in 1797, and the mother born in Rutland, Vermont, in 1797. They grew up and were married in the East,



MR. AND MRS. L. EDMUND HAWES

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and in 1837 they emigrated to Walworth county, Wisconsin, locating in Richmond township, squatting on land, and in 1839 they took up three hundred and seventy-five acres. Mr. Hawes walked from Richmond to Milwaukee to attend a land sale, which was then postponed, and he went a second time. He was a successful farmer, although he had hard work clearing and improving his land here from the wild condition in which he found the country. He finally sold his farm, retired from active life and moved to Whitewater, where his death occurred in January, 1868, his wife having preceded him to the grave in July, 1869. They had a family of nine children, of whom L. Edmund, of this sketch, and Dr. Palmer Hawes are the only ones living. Their son, Francis Marion Hawes, whose birth occurred on January 5, 1838; was the first white child born in Richmond township. Politically, Morris F. Hawes, the father, was a Democrat, and was prominent in political affairs, having been a member of the state Legislature in the early days, and he was a justice of the peace for many years. His wife belonged to the Episcopal church.

L. Edmund Hawes, of this sketch, went with his parents to Lenawee county, Michigan, and his father kept a tavern between Coldwater and Au Train. He came overland to Walworth county, driving horses to Chicago and two yoke of oxen on to Walworth county, Wisconsin, living in the wagon and camping under trees until a home could be built.

The subject grew up on the home farm, which he helped to clear and improve, and he received his education in the public schools, such as there were in those early times. He began a livery business in Whitewater in the year 1852, which he continued successfully for fifteen years, then bought a farm in Whitewater township, two miles from the city, remaining there twenty-nine years. He was very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, and he added to his original holdings until his place consisted of four hundred acres of well improved and productive land, and he became one of the substantial agriculturists of the county. This land he still retains; however, retired from active life a number of years ago, moved to a pleasant home in Whitewater, where he still resides, enjoying the fruits of his former years of labor. He has bought and sold several valuable places in Whitewater.

Politically, Mr. Hawes is a Democrat, but he has never been an aspirant to office, though he was pathmaster a number of years, during which time he built many good roads.

Mr. Hawes was married in 1855 to Carrie Beamer, who was born in

1832, and to this union six children were born, namely: Stella, deceased; Harriet married Lincoln Gantt, of Tacoma, Washington; Mabel, wife of Edmund Lannan, died in 1908; Fred married Catherine Smith and they have two children, Harold and Charles; Morris J. married Ida Wagner and they have one child, Edmund; Frank married Margaret Macdonald and they have two children, Lincoln and Sarah Lounsbury.

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### JOHN H. FRYER.

The name of John H. Fryer is certainly entitled to special mention in a biographical compendium of the nature of the one in hand, for he has long been one of the influential citizens of Whitewater, Walworth county, and through his efforts this city and surrounding country have reaped lasting benefits, for his exceptional administrative capacity has been directed along lines calculated to be for the general good. A man of forceful individuality and marked initiative power, he has been well equipped for the duties of citizenship, while his probity of character and his genial personality have gained for him universal esteem and friendship in the locality where he has spent the major portion of his active and useful life.

Mr. Fryer was born in Cold Spring, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, February 11, 1850. He is the son of Nelson and Lucinda (Miller) Fryer, the father born in Princetown, Schenectady county, New York, February 22, 1816, and the mother was born in the same county on August 5, 1820, and there grew to maturity, received their educational training and were married, and from there they emigrated to Whitewater, Wisconsin, in 1842 among the pioneers. They established the permanent family home in Cold Spring township, Jefferson county, where the father purchased two hundred acres of land and there he developed a fine farm on which he lived until he was seventy years of age, when he moved to Whitewater, where his death occurred in 1896, his wife also dying here in that year. They were the parents of four children, three sons and one daughter, all of whom are living. Politically, the father was a Democrat, and held a number of local offices, including that of county treasurer and chairman of the board of supervisors, in fact held all the township offices. He was at one time a member of the General Assembly, and was a leader in local political affairs. He was a Freemason, and a Universalist in his religious belief.

John H. Fryer, of this sketch, was reared on the home farm and he

received his education in the public schools and in Milton College. When a young man he went to Colorado, where he worked in the mines for two years, then engaged in the hotel business for two years, in Racine, Wisconsin, four years in Iowa and seven years in Whitewater. Here he also engaged in the insurance business for several years, in all of which he met with encouraging success. For some time he was an organizer for the Independent Order of Foresters, then, on April 1, 1896, he was appointed postmaster at Whitewater, the duties of which he discharged for a period of four years in a manner that was eminently satisfactory to the people and to the department. He has been mailing clerk in this office for the past eleven years, still employed in that capacity, being very faithful in the performance of his duties. Politically, he is an unswerving Democrat, and has always been active in the party. He has been a delegate to state conventions.

Mr. Fryer is a member of St. John's Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons; Whitewater Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, and the Knights of Pythias.

Mr. Fryer was married in 1878 to Alma Williams, a native of Walworth county and the daughter of N. D. Williams, who came to Whitewater, Wisconsin, in 1837, among the earliest pioneers. The wife of the subject died in 1884, and in 1886 he was united in marriage with Louisa H. Loucks, of Aurora, Illinois, by which union two children have been born: John A., who was educated in the public schools, and was graduated from the Whitewater high school, and who later spent two years in the University of Wisconsin. He is now a landscape architect at Rochester, New York, under the firm name of Trautmann & Fryer. The second child, Alma L., is now attending the high school in Whitewater.

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#### T. A. KACHEL.

One of Walworth county's leading business men is T. A. Kachel, well known as one of the heads of the Wisconsin Dairy Supply Company, whose great success has been due in no small measure to his able management and judicious counsel. His methods have ever been progressive and he is quick to adopt new ideas which he believes will prove of practical value in his work. Indolence and idleness are entirely foreign to his nature, and owing to his close application to his business and his honorable methods he has won prosperity that is richly merited, while he enjoys the friendship and esteem of the people of Walworth county. He is a public-spirited citizen and with-

holds his co-operation from no movement which is intended to promote public improvement. What he has achieved in life proves the force of his character and illustrates his steadfastness of purpose. By his own efforts he has advanced to a position of credit and honor in the business circles of this locality.

Mr. Kachel was born at Whitewater, Wisconsin, on August 4, 1866. He is the son of John and Frances Kachel, both born in Germany, where they spent the early years of their lives. He emigrated to the United States in 1849, locating at Heber, Wisconsin, having walked from Milwaukee. He arrived in the new world without capital, but was a hard worker and ambitious, so in course of time he became very comfortably established. In the old country he had learned gardening and this he followed after coming to America, but general husbandry formed his chief work. He finally located at Whitewater, Walworth county, and his death occurred here in 1910. For many years he worked in the shipping department of the wagon factory at Whitewater, known as the Winchester Manufacturing Company.

The mother of the subject emigrated to America from the fatherland in 1851, coming direct to Port Agelston, Wisconsin, later to Whitewater. In this family were seven children, of whom five sons are still living.

T. A. Kachel received a good education in the Whitewater schools, and in 1883, when the Wisconsin Dairy Supply Company was organized at Whitewater, he sought and secured employment in the same and he has been connected with this concern ever since. He soon learned the ins and outs of the business, and three years later he became a member of the firm, taking the position as manager, his rise having thus been rapid. He continued to discharge the duties of this important office in a manner that reflected much credit upon his ability and fidelity, and to the eminent satisfaction of stockholders and patrons until 1893, when he became secretary and treasurer, and this position he still holds, giving his exclusive attention to the same.

This company manufactures machines and supplies for cheese factories, creameries and dairies, and, owing to the superior quality of their machines, a very large trade is carried on over a wide radius of territory and is constantly growing. They outgrew the old plant and established new modern buildings in 1896. The plant is superbly equipped with all modern machinery and appliances for the rapid and successful manufacture of the lines in which they deal, and only high-grade artisans are employed. Everything is under a splendid system and the plant would be a credit to any community.

Mr. Kachel was married in 1897 to Mary Dunn, representative of an

excellent family of White-water and as the mother these children were born, Lela, Donald and Silella.

The Kachel family are initiated members of the Catholic church, and are influential in the various circles in which they move.

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### ADDISON A. COBURN.

Another of the sterling Vermonters who has come to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and here become well established through his own efforts in an industrial way and at the same time has benefited the locality in a general way and won the good will and confidence of those with whom he has come into contact is Addison A. Coburn, one of the progressive business-men of the city of White-water in the future of which place he has ever had unbounded faith.

Mr. Coburn's birth occurred in Vermont on July 28, 1815. He is the son of Alvin B. and Christina A. (Moore) Coburn, both natives of Vermont, each representing a fine old ancestry that took a prominent part in the affairs of the colonial days in New England. These parents grew up and were educated in the old Granite state, but finally left Vermont and came to Jefferson county, Wisconsin, in November, 1835, and settled on a farm of eighty acres. They went to work energetically and, prospering, added to their original farm until they owned two hundred and fifty acres of valuable land. They moved to the city of White-water in the year 1881, retiring from active life, and here lived quietly the rest of their days, the father dying on November 5, 1904, and the mother joined him in the silent land just a year later, November 5, 1905.

Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Alvin B. Coburn of whom only the subject, Addison A. Coburn, is now living. The father was very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, becoming one of the substantial men of his neighborhood. Politically, he was a Republican and was always interested in party affairs, but made no efforts to be a politician. In religious matters he was a Universalist.

Addison A. Coburn grew to manhood on the home farm, where he assisted with the general work about the place when a boy, and he received his education in the public schools of his community and later attended the Whitewater Normal School. He started in life for himself by engaging in farming in Jefferson county. He now owns the old homestead, four and

one-half miles from Whitewater. There he met with a large measure of success as a general agriculturist and kept the old home well improved and well cultivated. Accumulating a competency, he moved to Whitewater in the year 1905, retiring from the active duties of life, and here he has since resided, having a pleasant home. However, he finds diversion in selling automobiles, having an agency for some of the standard makes and most popular cars. His fine residence is at the corner of Main and Whitten streets.

Politically, Mr. Coburn is a Republican, and he was chairman of the town board for three years. In religious matters he belongs to the Congregational church.

Mr. Coburn was married in 1876 to Alice Thayer, a native of Palmyra, this state, and to this union two children have been born, namely: Etta, who married Dr. H. C. Miller, and Orrie A., who is a dealer in live stock.

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#### HENRY F. THIELE.

The name of Henry F. Thiele, of Whitewater, needs no introduction to the people of Walworth county, where he has lived for nearly three-quarters of a century, successfully engaged in business, as the result of rightly applied principles which never fail in their ultimate effect when coupled with integrity, uprightness and a congenial disposition, as they have been done in his case, judging from the high standing he has maintained among his fellow citizens whose undivided esteem he has justly won and retained, for his life has been one of untiring industry and honorable dealings with his fellow men. Now at four score years he is hale and hearty and still active in the affairs of life, this, no doubt, being due to his careful habits and right thinking. There is much in his career that the youth could take valuable lessons from, if studied carefully, for, as those who knew him best will readily admit, he is a man of superior mould in many respects.

Mr. Thiele was born in Germany on January 23, 1832, and is the son of Henry and Caroline Thiele, who were born, reared, married and spent their lives in Germany. The father of the subject was a Liberal and his home was confiscated.

Henry F. Thiele, of this sketch, was reared in the fatherland. He was a student of the university, studying to become an architect, when he decided to come to America. In 1848 he came to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he clerked in a store and later took up contracting and building; he was also a

cabinetmaker. In 1850 he moved to the town of Franklin, near Milwaukee, where he made his first coffin, and today he enjoys the distinction of being one of the three oldest living undertakers in the United States, having been in the business sixty-two years.

He is a charter member and one of the organizers of the Wisconsin Undertakers' Association, which was organized over thirty years ago, and he was president of the same two terms. He is a member of the National Undertakers' Association, and he has attended the meetings of the association for twenty-nine years. He was appointed a delegate in 1911, but was unable to attend on account of failing health.

In 1852 Mr. Thiele went to Ft. Atkinson, and in 1855 came to Whitewater, this county, where he has since resided. In 1854 he began the manufacture of coffins and during his career as undertaker he has buried over ten thousand persons, and is still actively engaged in business at the age of eighty years. For several years he was also engaged in the manufacture of sashes. He has been very successful in whatever he has turned his attention to and he understands every phase of the undertaking business. He has been a life-long Democrat, but has never aspired to office. He is a member of Janesville Commandery, Knights Templar, in the Masonic order, also the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He also belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic at Whitewater as a social member. He is a musician of no mean ability and has been a member of several bands, and in connection with his undertaking business he has carried all kinds of musical instruments.

Mr. Thiele was married on May 27, 1854, to Barbara Loetz, who was born in Germany on September 5, 1836, at Delavan, Wisconsin, at the home of his brother, Herman Thiele, who was a civil engineer at the time of the building of the Racine & Milwaukee railroad. The brother of the subject was engaged as civil engineer with headquarters at Portland, Oregon, and he was killed by the Indians and was buried at Portland. Barbara Loetz was the daughter of Michael and Barbara Loetz, natives of Germany, from which country they emigrated to the United States in 1847, where the mother died in 1854, and the father died in Whitewater in 1888 at the advanced age of eighty-eight years. They were the parents of twelve children, three of whom are living. Her brother, Joseph G. Loetz, is a resident of Jefferson, Wisconsin, and a prominent politician of Jefferson county, having held important political positions there.

Nine children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Thiele, namely:

Henry, deceased; Jennie, deceased; Frank, deceased; William was next in order of birth; Frederick, who served in the Spanish-American war on the famous battleship "Oregon," was at both Santiago, Cuba, and at Manilla, Philippine Islands. He was also in the Chinese Boxer war. He has been in the United States navy for fourteen years and is now in the ordnance department. The four younger children of the subject are Clara, Joseph, Anna and Elizabeth.

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### EDWARD ENGBRETSSEN.

The man who has made a success of life and won the honor and esteem of his fellow citizens deserves more than passing notice. Such is the record, briefly stated, of Edward Engebretsen, well known citizen of the town of Whitewater, Walworth county. By a life of persistent and well applied energy and commendable industry led along the most honorable lines, he has justly earned the right to conspicuous mention in a work of the province assigned to the one in hand, along with the other progressive and public-spirited men of the county who have made their influence felt in their respective communities. And because of his unswerving honesty in all his dealings with his fellow men his generous and kindly nature, he has won and retained a host of warm personal friends throughout the locality long honored by his citizenship.

Mr. Engebretsen was born in Whitewater, Wisconsin, April 8, 1854. He is the son of Andrew and Esther (Evensen) Engebretsen, both born in Skien, Norway, where they were reared and educated, and where they spent their lives until 1849, when they emigrated to the United States. The father was a millwright by trade. He located in Walworth county and helped build most of the early mills in Delavan, Whitewater and other localities here. He was associated with a Mr. Montague, the leading millwright of this part of the country for many years, and they did a large business. The mother of the subject came to Palmyra, Wisconsin, with her parents, Even and Guneld (Haroldsdaughter) Evensen Gulset. This family settled on a farm in the vicinity of Palmyra, and there built a log cabin which still stands. Later the family moved to Stoughton, Dane county, this state, where the death of the father occurred on September 11, 1876, at an advanced age, his birth having occurred on October 30, 1798. His wife was born on October 30, 1798, and she died on November 22, 1877.

The parents of the subject came to this country single and they were married here in 1853. They became the parents of two sons and two daughters, all living at this writing. Upon his marriage the father of the subject settled in Whitewater and there followed his trade of millwright and carpenter, which he followed the rest of his life. He became very well-to-do and owned lands in the vicinity of Whitewater and Palmyra, also in Dane county and Waupaca, this state. Politically, he was a Republican and he was a member of the township board of Whitewater township for several years. He was an active member of the Lutheran church. His death occurred on July 6, 1907. His widow survives, still living at Whitewater.

The subject was reared in Whitewater and there received his education in the public schools, also attended Mrs. Marsh's select schools. He began life for himself as a clerk, and he engaged in the grocery business with Albert Bridge for two years, then he bought the interest of Mr. Bridge, continuing the grocery business successfully for a number of years, later adding dry goods, and still later other lines until he carried a large and carefully selected stock and enjoyed a liberal trade with the town and surrounding country, continuing the mercantile business from 1876 to 1903, when he sold out and was not actively engaged in business until 1909 when he established the dry-goods firm of Engebretsen Company, in which the subject's oldest son, Lee, is a partner. They have a large, well arranged and popular store and are doing a large and growing business.

The subject is an extensive land owner, being the possessor of two hundred acres in Waukesha county, one hundred and thirty-three acres in Jefferson county, not far from Whitewater, and four hundred and eleven acres in Wood county. He is a stockholder in both banks of Whitewater. He is also a stockholder in the Plattsville Bank, and one of the organizers of that institution. He has been very successful in whatever he has turned his attention to, being a keen observer, a man of wise discretion and foresight, by nature an organizer and promoter, and the possessor of rare business acumen.

Politically Mr. Engebretsen is a Democrat, and has been more or less active in public affairs, lending his support whenever it was needed to further the interests of the community. He was mayor of Whitewater for two terms, during which time he did much for the permanent good of the city and managed the office in a manner that reflected much credit upon himself and to the satisfaction of all concerned. He was the first treasurer of

Whitewater City and was the city's second mayor; he was also the village treasurer for two years.

Fraternally, Mr. Engebretsen belongs to the Freemasons; he has been a Mason since he was twenty-one years old, and he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He belongs to Janesville Commandery No. 2, Knights Templar.

Mr. Engebretsen was married in 1878 to Florence Steele, who was born in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, May 8, 1858. She is the daughter of Hugh and Mary (Marsh) Steele, early settlers of Jefferson county, Iowa. They are now both deceased. Five children have been born to the subject and wife, named as follows: Pearl, deceased; Lee, Fenton, Willis and Ruth.

Hugh Steele, mentioned above, was born near Bainbridge, Scotland, August 18, 1824, and his wife, known in her maidenhood as Mary Marsh, was born at Hatley, Canada, April 4, 1824. They emigrated to Jefferson county, Wisconsin, on July 23, 1850, and settled in Cold Spring township on eighty acres, on which they established the family home, and, having prospered, added to the original eighty until they had one of the choice farms of the county, consisting of three hundred and thirty acres. Later selling a portion of this, they purchased a small farm of eighty-six acres in the same township. The father died on May 16, 1898, and the death of the mother occurred on July 7, 1887. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Steele, four of whom are living at this writing, namely: Newton R., of Whitewater; Herbert B., also of Whitewater; Mrs. Engebretsen; Albert, deceased; Clarence, of Cold Springs, Wisconsin. Politically, the father was a Republican.

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#### CHARLES A. H. SPRACKLING.

One of the deserving native sons of Walworth county, whose life work has reflected credit upon the same, is Charles A. H. Sprackling, of Whitewater. In looking over his life record we are reminded of the fact that there could be no more comprehensive history written of a city or county, or even of a state and its people, than that which deals with the life work of those who, by their own endeavor and indomitable energy, have placed themselves where they well deserve the title of "progressive," and in this sketch will be found the record of one who has outstripped the less active and less able plodders on the highway of life, one who has not been subdued by the many

obstacles and failures that come to every one, but who has made them stepping-stones to higher things and at the same time that he was winning his way in the industrial affairs of life gained a reputation for uprightness and honor; in fact, all who know Mr. Sprackling intimately will say that his word has always been as good as the bond of many and that he has been faithful to every trust reposed in him.

Mr. Sprackling was born in Whitewater township, this county, on January 27, 1863. He is the son of George and Susan (Hewlett) Sprackling, who were both born in England. He was the son of Absalom Sprackling, who was also born in England and who came to America and located in Whitewater township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he took up one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government when the country was new. Forty acres of this original farm is still in possession of the family. The father of the subject was a farmer and he owned one hundred and eighty acres of land, which is still owned by the family. His death occurred in 1876, and his widow is now living with their son, Charles A. H., of this sketch. Politically, the father was a Republican.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. George Sprackling, four daughters and two sons, one of whom died in infancy.

The subject was reared on the home farm and there made himself generally useful in his boyhood days. He received his education in the public schools of his neighborhood and when young engaged in farming for a livelihood and this has been his main life work. However, for many years he was an implement dealer in Whitewater, enjoying a large trade with the surrounding country. For ten years he was in the employ of the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, of Racine, Wisconsin, and he spent one year with the Nichol & Shepard Company. He became quite an expert in the implement business and gave his employers the utmost satisfaction.

The Sprackling estate consists of one hundred and eighty acres, which the subject owns, and he also has eighty acres in Wood county, this state, two hundred and forty acres in South Dakota, and eighty acres in Florida, also valuable property in Whitewater. He has been very successful in a business way, having been a persistent worker and a good manager.

Politically, Mr. Sprackling is a Republican, and he has long been active and influential in local affairs. He was at one time alderman of his ward in Whitewater. Fraternally, he belongs to the Masonic order and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Sprackling was married on March 25, 1885, to Jennie J. Smith, daughter of Joseph and Julia (Tipple) Smith, an old and highly honored family of Walworth county, Grandfather Smith having taken up land in Richmond township from the government, when the country was new and here the family became well established and well known.

To Mr. and Mrs. Sprackling one child has been born, named George Morris, whose birth occurred on January 24, 1888. He is now engaged as railway mail clerk. He was educated in the public schools and the high school at Whitewater. He took the civil service examination in 1907.

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### JOHN W. DENISON.

One of the best known and most representative of Walworth county's business men of a past generation was the late John W. Denison, of Whitewater. He was essentially a man of affairs, sound of judgment and far-seeing in what he undertook, and with scarcely an exception every enterprise to which he addressed himself resulted in liberal financial returns. He began life poor in the world's goods, but rich in what is of far more value than material wealth, a sound mind in a sound body. He possessed concentration of purpose and energy that laughed at restraint; keen foresight and the rare executive ability that made everything undertaken accomplish the purpose for which intended. To these qualities were added scrupulous integrity, honesty and uprightness in all dealings with his fellowmen and an honor in keeping with the ethics of business life, while behind all and controlling all were the great principles embodied in the Golden Rule, without which no man, however great his wealth and however distinguished his name, can be truly successful.

Mr. Denison was born in Durham, Greene county, New York, April 6, 1819. He was the son of John and Martha (Coe) Denison, both born in Connecticut, the father on October 14, 1778, and the mother on July 21, 1781. They spent their earlier days in Connecticut, but their last years in the state of New York, the father dying on September 18, 1853, and the mother on October 5, 1852.

John W. Denison grew to manhood in New York and there received his education in the public schools. On March 9, 1854, he was united in marriage with Mary A. Perkins, and they remained in the Empire state

until 1857, when they came to East Troy, Walworth county, Wisconsin, and there Mr. Denison engaged in the mercantile business, also bought wool extensively. He remained there until the fall of 1866 when he came to Whitewater and engaged in the manufacture of paper, under the firm name of Denison & Farmer, which, under his able management, grew to large proportions, their plant being up-to-date in every respect and managed under a superb system. Mr. Denison continued this business until he had accumulated an ample competency and retired from the active duties of life, selling out his paper interests, and the last years of his life were spent quietly in his beautiful home in Whitewater, where his death occurred on September 8, 1897. His widow is still living here.

Mrs. Denison was born at Homer, New York. She was the daughter of Samuel and Mermod M. (Williamson) Perkins, the father a native of Connecticut and the mother of Vermont, but they spent most of their lives in the state of New York.

Politically, Mr. Denison was a Republican and was influential in local public affairs. He was a member of the Congregational church and a liberal support of the same.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Denison, namely: Mary, married Frank W. Winchester; Helen E. was next in order of birth; John J., who died in 1886; Harriet is the wife of William C. Safford, of Boston. The only grandchild is Frances Winchester, wife of Ralph W. Wells, of Menomonee, Michigan.

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#### DAVID F. ZUILL.

One of the most enterprising and up-to-date business and stock men of Walworth county is David F. Zuill, who has succeeded as a result of well applied energy and a persistent zeal that knew no defeat, in fact, opposition and adversity seemed to foster in him new determination and courage, and while laboring for his own advancement he has not been neglectful of his duties as citizen, being the present popular mayor of Whitewater.

Mr. Zuill was born at Johnstown, Rock county, Wisconsin, May 4, 1861, the son of John and Elizabeth (Purvis) Zuill, both natives of Scotland, from which country the father came with his parents to Johnstown, Wisconsin, when young, they being pioneers there. Locating on a farm, they broke the raw land, owning originally two hundred and forty acres.

They became well known among the early settlers and were influential. The father of the subject was the owner of six hundred and thirty acres and was considered one of the leading farmers of that locality. There he spent the rest of his life, dying on August 8, 1898, having lived the last year and a half of his life retired at Janesville. He was a man of many sterling characteristics, a good and useful man. His wife came from Scotland with her parents when a young girl and located in the same community where they were also pioneer farmers. Later the Purvis family moved to the northern part of the state, and there became well established.

David F. Zuill was educated in the common schools and he spent one year in Milton College and made a very good record. He has followed in the footsteps of his father in a business way and he farmed on the home place until 1896, carrying on the various departments of the farm in a very successful manner. His father was an extensive breeder of Shorthorn cattle and Clydesdale horses, being among the first breeders of the latter in his locality, and his sons have continued this line of work. In 1896 David F. started a creamery, which he continued until January, 1910, enjoying a liberal patronage all the while. In 1900 he entered the elevator business with a Mr. Shephard, under the firm name of Zuill & Shephard, which was continued with a fair measure of success until 1906. On January 1, 1907, he began buying live stock under the firm name of Hanson & Zuill, the firm name changing on March 1, 1911, to Hanson Zuill & Hawes, making a specialty of dairy cattle; they also handle large numbers of horses and their constantly growing business extends to all parts of the United States. They also conduct a large livery business. No better judge of live stock could be found in this locality than Mr. Zuill. In connection with his many interests in this line, he also operates two hundred and four acres of excellent farming land three and one-half miles from Whitewater, which he rents as a dairy farm. He has managed well, been progressive and alert and a large measure of success has attended his efforts.

Mr. Zuill was married on January 26, 1887, to Flora A. Wood, of Johnstown, Wisconsin, the daughter of a prominent family. To this union four children have been born, namely: J. F., who is employed by the firm of which his father is a member; Frances L., Flora A. and D. W. are at home.

Fraternally, Mr. Zuill is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. As a Republican he has been unfaltering in his allegiance to the party and has been active in local affairs. He is at present filling the responsible

office of mayor of Whitewater, and is discharging the duties of the same in a manner that reflects much credit upon himself and to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. He had been incumbent of this office prior to the term preceding the present one, and before that he was councilman for four years. As mayor he has done much for the permanent good of the town and the general upbuilding of the community.

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### F. H. WILLIAMS.

The enterprising citizen whose name introduces this sketch is one of the painstaking farmers of Whitewater township, of which he is a native, having spent his life here and taken part in the great development of the same during the past half century, for his parents came here in the pioneer epoch and established the permanent home of the family. He has been taught to do well whatever was worth doing and he is therefore very comfortably situated, having a finely developed farm, a part of the old homestead, and he has led such an exemplary life that he has won and retained the good will and respect of all with whom he has come into contact, keeping untarnished the good name of the family.

Mr. Williams was born here on September 28, 1855, and is the son of Jonathan M. Williams, a complete sketch of whom will be found on another page of this work.

F. H. Williams grew up on the home farm and assisted with the general work on the same during his boyhood days, and he received his education in the public schools of his district and in the Whitewater Normal School. Early in life he turned his attention to farming and this has continued to be his occupation. He owns one hundred and forty-five acres of the old homestead, which he has managed with such skill as to retain its original fertility, and he is one of the leading general farmers and stock raisers of his community, making a specialty of Guernsey cattle. His is the only farm between Whitewater and Ft. Atkinson which is owned by the descendants of those who entered land in this locality from the government.

Politically, Mr. Williams is a Republican and he has been more or less active in party affairs. Something of the implicit confidence in which he is held by his neighbors is ascertained from the fact that he was clerk of Whitewater township for a period of twenty-two years consecutively. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

Mr. Williams was married in November, 1885, to Lucy E. Holcombe, who was born in Lagrange township, Walworth county, this state, on September 16, 1856, the daughter of Richard and Rhoda (Newell) Holcombe, pioneers of Walworth county, both now deceased. To the subject and wife four children have been born, namely: Frank H., Jr., Wilfred H. Lawrence (deceased) and Clara B.

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### JUDGE CHARLES R. GIBBS.

For a number of years Judge Charles R. Gibbs was numbered among the representative citizens of Walworth county, and in his death the entire community felt that an irreparable loss had been sustained by the public. He was a leader in public affairs, an attorney of few peers and no superiors, and his indubitable talent resulted in the accomplishment of much good to the vicinity honored by his residence. His whole career was marked by signal integrity, justice and honor, and no word of detraction was ever heard from those who knew him well. Although he has long been a pilgrim to that "undiscovered bourne" from whence none ever return, he is well remembered here and his influence still pervades the lives of those with whom he came into contact who still fight the battle which poets have been pleased to call Life.

Charles R. Gibbs was born in Granville, Washington county, New York, in 1813. He was the son of Dr. Leonard and Lucy (Roberts) Gibbs, who were reared in New York, where they were married and spent their lives, dying at Granville. Their family consisted of three sons and four daughters, none of whom are now living.

Charles R. Gibbs was reared in his native state and was educated at the Granville Academy, and early in life he began reading law. When twenty-one years old he went to Georgia, where he practiced law, becoming a leader at the bar, and he was at one time county judge while living in that state, filling the office in a manner that reflected much credit upon himself and to the satisfaction of the people. He finally came north, locating in Rock county, Wisconsin, in the town of Janesville, where he continued practicing law under the firm name of Bennett, Cassidy & Gibbs. He remained in Janesville until 1867, enjoying a good practice, then came to Whitewater, Walworth county, locating on a farm in Whitewater township, a mile west of the city, owning there one hundred and sixty acres, on which he continued to reside until 1902, when he came to Whitewater and purchased a pleasant home on Main



JUDGE CHARLES R. GIBBS

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street, where his widow still resides, and here his death occurred on November 30, 1907, at the advanced age of ninety-four years, after a useful, successful and honorable life, one of which his descendants may well be proud.

Politically, the Judge was a Republican, and he was active in party affairs. He was a member of the state Legislature in the year 1872, making a most commendable record. Mrs. Gibbs is a member of the Congregational church.

Judge Gibbs was married in 1860 to Frances (Clark) Birge, who came to Walworth county early, being among the very earliest settlers, in fact, and she has thus lived to see the wonderful changes that have taken place here. She was the widow of Leander Birge, who came to Whitewater in the year 1836 and here devoted himself to farming. He and Frances Clark were married on April 15, 1851, and the death of Mr. Birge occurred in 1853. Julius Birge was the first white child born in Whitewater township.

One daughter was born to Judge Gibbs and wife, Fannie. The Judge had also been previously married to Martha Pope, by which union six children were born, three of whom are living, namely: Pope, John and Helen.

The widow of Judge Gibbs was born in Pawlet, Vermont, on April 25, 1831. She is the daughter of John M. and Julia (Beckwith) Clark, a complete sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

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#### CHARLES HARRIMAN WISWELL.

An enterprising and public-spirited citizen of Walworth county who believes in doing his work well and in advocating right living in the home and society and purity in public life is Charles H. Wiswell, one of the leading farmers of Sugar Creek township. He was born in Lafayette township, this county, on February 17, 1865. He is the son of Philip Stephen and Mary Louise (Harriman) Wiswell, both natives of Walworth county, he of Lafayette and she of Geneva township. The paternal grandparents were Christopher Wiswell and Almira, daughter of Stephen Gano West and Rebecca Pike, all early settlers in this county. He was a native of Worcester county, Massachusetts, and his wife of Chenango county, New York. Here he followed farming for some time. He assisted in organizing the **First National Bank at Elkhorn**, and was for many years its president, and he was also interested in the hardware business for a number of years at Elk-

horn. He was a prominent man in this locality and influential in business and public affairs. He was a staunch Republican, and held many township offices, and was a member of the county board. The maternal grandparents of the subject were Dudley and Mrs. Mary Howard (——) Harriman. Mr. Harriman was born in 1814 at Lachute, province of Quebec, of a Vermont family. He came early to a farm near Elkhorn, eastward, and died there in 1884. He was a sturdily-built man, full of sound common sense, a thriving farmer, and an excellent citizen. His wife, who was born Corbett, was married a second time in 1839. She was born in 1808 and died in 1889.

Philip S. Wiswell, father of the subject, was educated in the common schools of Walworth county and early in life began farming, later taking up merchandising, but at present he gives his entire attention to agricultural pursuits. His family consists of five sons and two daughters. He is a Republican and takes an active part in public affairs, and he and his wife have many friends throughout the county, having lived here all their lives.

Charles H. Wiswell, of this sketch, was educated in the district schools and the Elkhorn high school, and when a young man he took up farming, which he has since followed successfully, being now the owner of two hundred and five acres which he manages in a manner that brings large annual returns, having kept his place well improved and under a high state of cultivation, and he raises an excellent grade of live stock. He makes a specialty of dairying, keeping a fine herd of Holstein-Friesian cattle. He has been president and is a director of the State Long Distance Telephone Company, since its organization, and its large and growing success has been very largely due to his efforts and judicious management. He has been chairman of the township for the past three years, and has been supervisor for several years. He is president of the Walworth County Agricultural Society, and also president of the Walworth County Farmers' Protective Association, in which he has taken much interest and done a great deal for its usefulness and success.

Mr. Wiswell was married on March 19, 1889, to Julia R. Potter, daughter of Joseph Potter and Rosina Ellsworth. Her death occurred on October 5, 1902, and on September 8, 1903, Mr. Wiswell was united in marriage with Anna E. Hart, and to this union two children have been born, Florence L. and Wyman W.

Politically Mr. Wiswell is a Republican, and is loyal to his party. He is also an active worker in fraternal circles, being a member of the Elkhorn

Free and Accepted Masons, the Elkhorn chapter and council and the commandery of Delavan, Wisconsin, also the Modern Woodmen of America at Elkhorn and the Royal Neighbors of that city, and is now manager of the latter.

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### RALPH TRATT.

The Tratt family has long been one of the best known in Walworth county and, having assisted in the general upbuilding of the community and led lives of industry and integrity, they have always had the confidence and respect of all classes. A creditable representative of the present generation is Ralph Tratt, who was born in Whitewater, this county, on February 18, 1879. He is the son of Frank W. and Elizabeth (Cobb) Tratt, the father born in England, June 20, 1839, and the mother a native of the state of New York. Thomas Tratt, the paternal grandfather, was born in England, there grew up and married and in 1846 came to America and settled in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, on a farm where they spent the rest of their lives. The father of the subject was seven years old when he came to Jefferson county, and there he grew to manhood and was educated in the public schools. When young he began working for W. L. R. Stewart, of Whitewater, and later bought a team and followed teaming for some time, then rented land, later buying and selling many farms, and at his death, on January 4, 1909, he owned six hundred acres of valuable land in Whitewater township, and was one of the substantial and influential men of the county. Part of his land lay in Jefferson county. Most of his life was spent in Whitewater. He was interested in the banks of Whitewater for a number of years and was also interested in the wagon works here. He was active in all public enterprises and was a loyal Republican. He was at one time mayor of Whitewater and was a member of the Congregational church, as was also his wife. The latter's death occurred in 1885. They were the parents of eight sons, and now there are six grandchildren, all sons. Of their children, four are living, namely: Clarence W., of Whitewater; Paul, an attorney of Ft. Atkinson; Ralph, of this sketch; Julius Simeon is farming in Whitewater township.

The maternal grandfather, Simeon Cobb, came to this county in an early day and settled in Whitewater township, and here he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. The father of the subject was twice married, his second wife being Mrs. Helen M. Wright, of Whitewater, which union was without issue.

Ralph Tratt, of this sketch, was educated in the schools of Whitewater, but he worked on a farm in vacation time. He was graduated from the local high school, and he spent two years in the agricultural department of the State University. He took up farming for a livelihood and he has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, now owning an excellent farm of two hundred and eighty acres, two hundred acres lying just west of the limits of Whitewater and eighty acres in Jefferson county. In 1901 he began breeding Guernsey cattle, his fine stock being greatly admired by all. He now has eighty head, pure bred Guerneys. He is a stockholder in the Whitewater Manufacturing Company. He has made most of the improvements on his farm, and has a splendid residence and substantial outbuildings.

Politically, Mr. Tratt is a Republican, but has not been an aspirant for office. When at the university he was a member of the Beta Theta Psi, a college fraternity.

Mr. Tratt was married on August 12, 1902, to Ruth E. Salisbury, a native of Whitewater, born here on February 10, 1881, the daughter of W. S. and Mary (Earll) Salisbury, who were early settlers of Walworth county and here they still reside. To the subject and wife three children have been born, Walter Salisbury, Ralph Winfield and Earll, the last named dying in infancy.

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#### FERNANDO C. KIZER.

Among the men of sterling attributes of character who have impressed their personality upon the community of their residence and have borne their full share in the upbuilding and development of Walworth county, mention must not be omitted of Fernando C. Kizer, prominent citizen of the city of Whitewater, where he has long maintained his home and where he has exerted a strong influence for good to the entire community, being a man of upright principles, industrious in business affairs and public matters, always desirous of seeing the advancement of the town and county along moral, civic and material lines, and now, as the twilight of his years gathers around him, he can look backward over a well spent life, with no compunction for misdeeds, and forward into the land of the unknown with no apprehension.

Mr. Kizer was born in Monroe county, Pennsylvania, at the town of Chestnut Hill, April 27, 1833, and is the son of Charles and Sarah Jane (Gress) Kizer. The father was born at Ross Commons, Northampton county, Pennsylvania, in September, 1800, and the mother's birth occurred in that

county in 1809. The paternal grandparents of the subject were Valentine and Ann Elizabeth (Vonsaums) Kizer, he born at Ft. Allen, Pennsylvania, in 1766 and she in 1764. They moved to Wyoming Valley, that state, in early times and there spent their last days, his death taking place in 1845.

The father of the subject was a carpenter and millwright by trade and a very skilled workman. His death occurred in Hanover township, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, on December 23, 1862, his wife having preceded him to the grave in 1850. They were the parents of nine children, four of whom are living at this writing. Politically, he was a Democrat and, religiously, a Lutheran.

Fernando C. Kizer was reared on the farm and educated in the public schools in Pennsylvania and the Wyoming Seminary at Kingston, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania. He began life for himself by teaching school two years in his native state. He came to Wisconsin in 1854, passing through the town of Whitewater on July 4th of that year, and here he located in 1857 and this has since been his place of residence. During this period of fifty-five years he has noted wonderful changes in the town and county, playing no inconspicuous role in the comedy-drama of local civilization, having had the interests of the locality at heart all the while and unbounded faith in its future. He worked for George Esterly the first year, then, having decided to take up the study of law, he entered the office of N. S. Murphy, remaining with him until 1861. Then the war between the states coming on, he offered his services to the Union, becoming first lieutenant in Barstow's Third Wisconsin Cavalry, on August 20, 1861, and he served very faithfully in the same until in February, 1865, having participated in many important campaigns and engagements, in all of which he conducted himself in a manner befitting an officer under the Stars and Stripes. For meritorious conduct he was promoted to captain in 1863, in which capacity he served gallantly until the close of the war, principally in Missouri and the west, having taken part in the engagements at Cane Hill, Prairie Grove, and in his raid after General Price in October, 1864, lost fifty-nine horses. After being honorably discharged, he returned to Wisconsin and engaged in business with Mr. Esterly in a machine shop in Whitewater for a number of years.

Taking an active interest in political and public affairs, Mr. Kizer was elected to the Legislature in 1888 and he served two terms in a manner that reflected much credit upon himself and to the general satisfaction of his constituents, making his influence felt for the good of his community. He has been justice of the peace since the year 1892, discharging his duties most faithfully, his decisions being characterized by fairness and a broad knowl-

edge of the fundamental principles of jurisprudence. He has been a loyal Republican all his life, having cast his first vote for Fremont.

Fraternally, Mr. Kizer is a member of St. John's Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic, having been active in the local post since its organization.

On November 5, 1862, Captain Kizer was united in marriage with Artarista Caswell, who was born in Cleveland, Oswego county, New York, in 1839. She is the daughter of Horace and Lucretia (Ford) Caswell, the mother having been the daughter of Capt. John Ford, of Washington's army, thus serving in the Revolutionary war. Horace Caswell died in Cleveland, New York, and his widow came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, late in life, dying in the town of Whitewater at the advanced age of ninety-four years.

To Fernando C. Kizer and wife have been born four children, namely: Leora L., who married David Leishman, died in 1892, leaving one child, Merrill F.; Evalyn is deceased; F. Henry is mentioned elsewhere in this work; Fernando C., Jr., died on July 25, 1910, at the age of thirty-one years.

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#### ELMER A. PETERSON.

That life is the most useful and desirable that results in the greatest good to the greatest number and, though all do not reach the heights to which they aspire, yet in some measure each can win success and make life a blessing to his fellow men. It is not necessary for one to occupy eminent public positions to do so, for in the humbler walks of life there remains much good to be accomplished and many opportunities for one to exercise one's talents and influence which in some way will touch the lives of those with whom we come in contact. In the list of Walworth county's successful business men and public-spirited citizens Elmer A. Peterson, of the town of Walworth, occupies a prominent place. In his career there is much that is commendable and his life forcibly illustrates what a man of energy can accomplish when his plans are wisely laid and his actions governed by right principles and wholesome ideals.

Mr. Peterson was born at Rockford, Illinois, on June 28, 1869. He is the son of Charles G. and Sophia (Anderson) Peterson, both natives of Sweden, who emigrated to America in early life. When the subject was about a year old the family moved to Worth county, Iowa, and the father

bought land from the government at two dollars and fifty cents per acre, and lived there four years, then returned to Rockford and spent several years there. In 1879 they moved back to Iowa and there the subject grew to manhood and was educated. When the family first went there the land was just being settled and the family lived amid true pioneer conditions on the Iowa prairies. There Elmer A. Peterson lived on the farm until 1896, when the family again moved to Rockford, Illinois. The father had died in Iowa when Elmer A. was fourteen years old, and the mother died in the spring of 1903 at Rockford. They were the parents of five children, two sons and three daughters, namely: Elmer A., of this sketch; Edward A., of Rockford; Mabel married Welcome A. Brown and they live at Rockford; Lillian is the wife of John C. Brooks and they also live at Rockford; Amanda is unmarried and lives at Rockford.

Elmer A. Peterson remained at Rockford most of the time till 1901, engaged in the shoe business, building up an extensive trade. In that year he moved to Walworth, this county, and became local manager or agent for the Milwaukee Elevator Company, which owns a large number of elevators, and he has continued in that position ever since with the exception of about eighteen months, having resigned in the fall of 1908 on account of failing health. Some time afterwards the elevator at Walworth was burned and when it was decided to rebuild he again took charge of it in July, 1910, superintending the rebuilding, and is still thus engaged, giving the company entire satisfaction and being regarded by them as one of their most faithful and trusted employes.

Mr. Peterson was married in 1905 to Marie Hitchcock, daughter of Amos H. and Maria (Brown) Hitchcock, a well known and highly esteemed family of this vicinity, in which Mrs. Peterson grew to womanhood and was educated.

Mr. Peterson has manifested an active interest in public affairs and is thoroughly identified with the community. He has been president of the village board of Walworth two terms and is at present a member of the board of trustees. A number of important public improvements were made while he had part in the village government. He is vice-president and director of the Walworth State Bank and is prominent in local business and public affairs, lending his support to all movements having as their object the upbuilding of the town and community. Fraternaly, he belongs to the Walworth lodge of Masons, of which he is one of the original charter members.

## HALVERSON BROTHERS COMPANY.

The Halverson Brothers Company is one of the best known business firms in Walworth county, and for many years has stood for progress and fair dealing, and while the gentlemen who compose the firm have labored for the advancement of their own interests they have never been neglectful of their duties as citizens of one of the choicest sections of the great Badger state. Therefore they are held in the highest esteem by all classes in the locality of which this history treats, enjoying the confidence and good will of all as a result of their public spirit, fair and straightforward business methods and their exemplary characters.

G. Halverson was born in Norway, September 9, 1822, and there he grew to manhood and received a good practical education in the common schools. In 1842 he crossed the Atlantic to the shores of the western republic, and soon thereafter established himself at Richmond, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he entered government land, which, by dint of hard toil and persistent efforts, he developed into a good farm, which he operated successfully for several years, being one of the well known pioneers of that locality. He finally moved to the city of Whitewater, where he worked for the Esterly Reaper Works. He got together enough capital to launch into the clothing business here in 1861, under the firm name of G. Halverson, which he operated with continued success until about 1887, then retired and continued his residence at Whitewater until his death in 1893. He was married to Dorothy Mason before he left Norway and she accompanied him to the United States. They became the parents of seven children, two of whom died in infancy, and five are still living.

About 1887 the business conducted by the Halversons became Halverson Brothers, managed by M. G. and H. L. Halverson, they having at that time taken charge of the same, and they continued to successfully operate it up to 1897, enjoying a large and constantly growing trade, and they had incorporated as Halverson Brothers Company.

M. G. Halverson was born March 8, 1859, at Richmond and he was reared and educated in Whitewater, having attended the common and high schools here. Then he entered the family store, literally growing up with the business. He is also connected with the Union Produce Company, being president of that rapidly growing concern. He is also president of the Halverson Brothers Company, and the large success of these important business concerns is due very largely to his able management and wise foresight.

M. G. Halverson was married in 1890 to Jessie Littlejohn, of Whitewater, and they have one child, Donald L. Halverson. Mr. Halverson is one of the leading citizens of Walworth county, being well known and influential in business and public affairs.

H. L. Halverson was born in Whitewater, Wisconsin, April 7, 1863, and secured his education in high school and the academic department of the Whitewater Normal School. He is secretary and treasurer of the Halverson Brothers Company.

He was married on July 27, 1885, to Maude L. Bovee, and they have one child, Kenneth B. Halverson.

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#### LOUIS MILLER.

Among those who came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, when the country was in its primitive wildness, infested by wild animals, numerous and ferocious, and the scarcely less wild, but more savage, red men, were the parents of the gentleman whose name forms the introduction of this sketch, the Miller family having been well known here for a period of sixty-five years. They performed well their parts in the work of developing the country from a wilderness to one of the foremost agricultural sections in the great Badger state, and the elder Miller, together with the other early actors in the great drama which witnessed the passing of the old and the introduction of the new conditions in which are now the fine farms and thriving towns of this county, are deserving of every consideration. We of today cannot pay such sterling characters too great a meed of praise, in view of the sacrifices they made in order that their descendants and others of a later day should enjoy the blessings of life, only a few of which they were permitted to have.

Louis Miller, farmer and stockman of Sharon township and one of our progressive native sons, was born in this township on June 7, 1867. He is the son of Henry and Christina (Bieler) Miller, both born in Germany, in which country they grew to maturity and were married and spent their early lives, emigrating to the United States about 1846, and locating in Sharon township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where the father bought fifty acres near the town of Sharon and there established the family home. They remained there several years, then sold out, and in 1873 bought a farm of one hundred and thirty-two acres in section 14, Sharon township, and

there the father continued to reside until his death, on February 7, 1904, at an advanced age, his wife having preceded him to the grave on January 10, 1894. They had spent their lives engaged in farming and had always made a comfortable living through their industry.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Miller, named as follows: Henry, who is farming in Sharon township; Julia, now Mrs. Wolfran, lives in the town of Sharon; Caroline, now Mrs. Sherman, lives in Sharon township; Louis, of this sketch, who is the youngest.

Louis Miller was reared on the home farm and there he began working in the fields during the summer months when quite young. In the winter time, when of proper age, he attended the district schools of Sharon township and the public schools of the town of Sharon. He has devoted his life to general farming and stock raising and has been very successful.

The subject was married on September 6, 1906, to Rosetta Wolfran, daughter of William and Caroline (Rector) Wolfran, both natives of Germany. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Miller, namely: William Henry, whose birth occurred on March 21, 1908, and Howard Louis, who was born on April 2, 1910, and is now deceased.

Politically, Mr. Miller is a Republican and he has ever been loyal in his support of the same, though he has not been a seeker after public favors.

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### HENRY ROCKWELL.

Henry Rockwell, a successful agriculturist and well-known citizen, of Darien, Walworth county, was born on March 3, 1849, in Ashtabula county, Ohio. He is the son of Chester and Betsy (Spaford) Rockwell, the father a native of Ohio and the mother of Pennsylvania. They spent their lives on a farm, coming to Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, in 1849, when the subject was an infant, and there they remained, having bought a farm of eighty acres, until 1878, when they moved to Walworth county, buying a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Darien township, which is now owned by their son, Henry, of this sketch. He has since sold ninety acres of this place, retaining thirty acres as a berry farm which is well improved and under excellent cultivation. He understands well every phase of this line of endeavor. He purchased this farm from his father and has kept the old home well improved in every way.

Chester Rockwell moved to Waynesville, Missouri, in 1881, later re-

turning to Wisconsin, locating in Allen's Grove, Walworth county, where he remained about a year, then moved to Elkhorn, buying a farm near there of one hundred and fourteen acres, which he operated for three years, then sold out and moved back to Darien, which was his home for four years, after which he returned to Waynesville, Missouri, buying another farm, and there he spent the balance of his life, dying in May, 1903.

Henry Rockwell was educated in the schools of Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, and there he grew to manhood on the home farm, where he worked during the summer months when of proper age. He devoted his earlier years to general farming, for the past ten years specializing in raising berries.

Mr. Rockwell was married on December 26, 1880, to Celia J. Johnson, daughter of James and Jane (Heath) Johnson, of Sheboygan county. To them three children have been born, namely: Altha, now Mrs. Charles Beardsley, of Sharon township; Elmer, of Freeport, Illinois, where he is working as an electrician; Leah is at home.

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#### AMOS H. HITCHCOCK.

It will always be a mark of distinction to have served the Union during the great Civil war between the states. The old soldier will receive attention no matter where he goes if he will but make himself known. And when he passes away, as so many of them are now doing, friends will pay him suitable eulogy for the sacrifices he made a half century ago on the sanguinary fields of battle in the Southland or in the no less dreaded prison, fever camp or hospital. And ever afterward his descendants will revere his memory and take pride in recounting his services for his country in its hour of peril. One of the most eligible citizens for specific mention in a history of Walworth county is Amos H. Hitchcock, well known resident of the village of Walworth, partly because he is one of the old soldiers who went forth in that great crisis in the sixties to assist in saving the union of states, and partly because he has been one of our honorable and public-spirited citizens since the pioneer epoch, a plain, unassuming gentleman who has sought to do his duty in all the relations of life as he has seen and understood the right.

Mr. Hitchcock has behind him a long and worthy ancestry, traceable through the annals of time for some four hundred years, back to 1635, he being of the ninth generation in America. Nathaniel Hitchcock was the first

of the family to take up his residence on our shores, having emigrated from London, England, on the ship "Susan and Ellen" and settled in Connecticut.

Amos H. Hitchcock, of this review, was born on February 11, 1838, at Rochester, New York. He is the son of Amos H., Sr., and Julia Ann (Read) Hitchcock. The father was born at Hartford, Connecticut, in July, 1800, and the mother was born at Waterville, New York, in 1805, being the daughter of George Read. These parents grew to maturity in their native state, were educated in the old-time schools and were married there, soon after which event they moved to Rochester, where they made their home many years and where their children were born. The father was a millwright by trade and he was employed in the big flour mills for which the city of Rochester was famous in those days. In 1851 the family came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and located at the town of Walworth, and here the father purchased a farm a mile north of the village, where the family resided until about 1869, when he sold out and moved to Iowa, in which state the death of the mother occurred. Mr. Hitchcock, senior, subsequently returned to Walworth county and made his home with a daughter, Mrs. John Rader, until his death. He was a man of excellent character and industry and was well liked wherever he was known.

Amos H. Hitchcock, the immediate subject of this sketch, received a fairly good education in the public schools and he lived at home until the commencement of the Civil war, when, heeding his country's call for troops to suppress the hosts of treason, he enlisted, in 1861, in Company A, Tenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, first organized as the Walworth County Guards, but being an exceptionally well drilled company, the best drilled, in fact, of any troops in this locality, it was designated as Company A. Mr. Hitchcock was in the Central department, serving faithfully for a period of three years and three months, during which time he took part in the battles of Perryville, Bridgeport and other hotly contested engagements, being severely wounded, shot through the hand, at the battle of Perryville, Kentucky. His services were so commendable that he attained to the rank of sergeant. After the war he returned to Walworth county and became a teacher in the district school and also engaged in painting and decorating.

Ever since he came out of the army, commencing in 1865, Mr. Hitchcock has taken an active interest in public affairs. Either as town assessor, town clerk, town treasurer or chairman of the board of supervisors, he served the town of Walworth for twenty-five years. For sixteen years, from 1868 to 1884, he served as postmaster of Walworth, and since the village of Walworth was incorporated he has served two years as village assessor

and village clerk six years. He has also been justice of the peace for the past fifteen years. As a public servant he always gave eminent satisfaction to all concerned, performing his duties most faithfully.

Mr. Hitchcock was married on November 28, 1866, to Maria E. Brown, who was born in the town of Walworth, this county, on June 22, 1851. She is the daughter of William and Mary (Brown) Brown, both natives of Schoharie county, New York, and there they grew up and were married, emigrating to this county in 1845 and located in Walworth township, where they spent the rest of their lives. Mr. Brown was a carpenter by trade, which he alternated with farming. His family consisted of twelve children, Charles Brown, of Whitewater, being of the number. To Mr. and Mrs. Hitchcock six children have been born, one of whom died in infancy; Loretta J. is the wife of Lester C. Porter, who lives at Fontana, this county, and has five children, Irma, Doric, Amos, Helen and Rachael; a sketch of Mr. Porter and family appears elsewhere in this work. Lavinia, the subject's second child, married Walter J. Severance, and they live in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Dr. Amos H. Hitchcock, who is a very successful dentist at Albany, Wisconsin, married Helena Broughton; Marie B. Hitchcock married Elmer A. Peterson, a prominent business man of Walworth; Alice M., the youngest of the subject's children, married George Leslie Bond, and they live at Dundee, Illinois.

Mr. Hitchcock, in his fraternal relations, is a member of the Masonic order, whose time-tried principles he endeavors to follow in his daily life among his fellow men, his membership being at Delavan. He also belongs to George H. Thomas Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Delavan.

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#### CHRISTIAN F. W. RUEHLMAN.

The gentleman whose name heads this paragraph is widely known as one of the enterprising merchants of Walworth county, Christian F. W. Ruehlman, of Sharon, where he has lived for a number of years and has been prominently identified with the commercial interests of the southwestern part of the county. His well-directed efforts in the practical affairs of life, his capable management of his business interests and his sound judgment have brought him large rewards for the labor he has expended and his life demonstrates what may be accomplished in this free land of ours by the gentleman of foreign birth who comes here with a willingness to work hon-

estly along legitimate lines. He has shown that he is not afraid to work and that he has the perseverance to continue his labors in the face of any discouragements which may arise.

Mr. Ruhlman was born on August 24, 1849, in Germany. He is the son of Frederick William and Matilda Ruhlman, natives of Germany, the father born October 5, 1823, and the mother July 3, 1824. There they grew up and spent their early lives, emigrating to America in 1853, first settling in Chicago. The father was a marble cutter by trade and this he worked at while in that city, also engaged in the stone business, following the same until within a few years of his death, which occurred on May 8, 1907, his wife having preceded him to the grave on August 21, 1896. They were the parents of eight children, namely: Christian F. W., of this sketch; Ernest is deceased; Frank; Oscar is deceased; Louise; Charles is deceased; Mary and Bernhardt are deceased.

The subject of this sketch was a small child when he was brought to the United States by his parents. He grew to manhood in Chicago and there received his education. In 1864 he secured employment with the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, with which he remained until 1881. Then went into the grocery and general merchandise business with his father-in-law in Clinton, Wisconsin, continuing in business there until he came to Sharon, Sharon township, Walworth county, and here he has continued general merchandising, building up a large and lucrative trade with the surrounding country, carrying a complete and carefully selected stock of up-to-date goods.

Mr. Ruhlman is a member of the Christ Lutheran church and active in the affairs of the same, having been a member of the board for a number of years and was president of the same for a period of six years. Politically, he is a Republican and, while he takes much interest in public affairs, he has never found time to dabble much in politics.

Mr. Ruhlman was married to Eliza Ida Dobbins, who was born December 23, 1875. She was born in Plymouth, Wisconsin, and reared and educated there.

Four children have been born to the subject and wife, namely: Hugh Dobbins lives at Sharon; Ethel Maude (Mrs. Pearson) lives in Chicago; Charles died in infancy; Chauncey is also deceased.

The son, Hugh D., was married to Emma Bollinger, of Sharon, daughter of Daniel Bollinger, of this township. To this union four children have been born, namely: Rolland, Ralph, Lois and Arnett.

## EDWARD A. PETERS.

This well known citizen and farmer is a descendant of the old settler, Adam Peters, one of the best known pioneers of the southwestern part of Walworth county, having left his ancestral hills in the fatherland, and after a very prolix and trying voyage, in an old sailing vessel across the great Atlantic, and a no less wearisome journey from the east coast to this locality, established his cabin among the early settlers of Sharon township, the excellent farm which he began to develop sixty-seven years ago still being in possession of the family, the subject having bravely undertaken the task of clearing a farm and a home from the dense woods. When the family arrived here the clearings were few and far between and it required all members of the family to clear off the heavy timber and brush wood that cumbered the soil and kept out the sunlight. But they were thrifty and persevering and, in due course of time, succeeded, as all such people will if given a fair chance in any country, especially one so well favored by mother nature as this.

Edward A. Peters, the immediate subject of this sketch, was born on March 6, 1861, in Sharon township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, on the farm where he still resides, it having been his rare good fortune to spend his life on the old homestead. He is the son of Adam and Magdaline (Everhart) Peters, who were born and reared in Germany, from which country they emigrated to the United States in 1844. They married in this country and first settled in the town of Sharon, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where they spent six years, then purchased the farm where our subject now resides. There they established a good home where they continued to reside until about thirty-two years ago, then retired from active life and moved to the town of Sharon, where, in their cozy cottage, they continue to reside, being now advanced in years. They are a fine old couple, having now been married sixty years, and they are highly esteemed by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

Edward A. Peters began working on the home place when he was but a boy and he received his education in the district schools, and spent two years in the old academy at Sharon. His life has been spent on the home farm, as stated above, with the exception of two years spent in various parts of the West. He has kept the old place well improved and under an excellent state of cultivation and has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, for he has adopted such modern methods as were well

adapted to this locality. In connection with general farming he has always tried to keep a good grade of live stock. He is the owner of two hundred and seventy acres of land in section 10, Sharon township.

Politically, Mr. Peters is a Republican, but, like his father, he has led a rather retiring life, not being ambitious to be a leader in public affairs. For a period of eight years he was a school director in his district, and he is now chairman of the township board. Fraternally, he belongs to the Woodmen.

Mr. Peters was married to Katherine Fogel, who was born on August 17, 1884, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Fogel, natives of Bohemia. To the subject and wife have been born five children, named as follows: Herbert J., who is county commissioner and a civil engineer, is farming in Sharon township, this county; Ralph A., at Madison; Glenn E., a graduate of high school; Frederick N. and Clifford J. are all at home.

The subject of this sketch is one of a family of six children, namely: Charlotte, now Mrs. Ramsey, lives at Longmont, Colorado; Sara, now Mrs. Deidrich, lives at Zion City; John W. lives in Sharon township, this county; Edward A., of this review; Clara, who became Mrs. Piper, is deceased; Albert lives at Longmont, Colorado.

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#### CAPT. JOHN WALLACE WELD.

Fifty years ago, when the slaveholders' rebellion broke out with all its fury at Fort Sumter and when it looked as if the Union that all loved so much would be dissolved, many households became divided, some members of a family going into the National army and others casting their lots with the Confederacy; some enlisted to save the federation of states, even though they had to free their slaves in order to do so. It was a time when there could be no temporizing and no halting,—no half-way position,—for all who were not for the Union were against it, and both sides hated the man who claimed to be neutral because he did not want to risk his life on the field of battle and had no principles to sustain. The Weld family was alive to the gravity of the national conflict, and realized that the struggle impending was something more than a holiday undertaking and knew that it meant great hardship and the shedding of rivers of blood before the flag could again wave from Maine to Florida and from Florida to the states of the Pacific Northwest. But they did not hesitate, be it said to their everlasting renown.



CAPT. JOHN W. WELD



One of the gallant, self-sacrificing and loyal sons of the North who is deserving of a perpetual place in his country's history is Capt. John Wallace Weld, long a well known and highly respected citizen of Whitewater, Walworth county, Wisconsin.

Captain Weld was born in the town of Reading, Vermont, December 24, 1832. He is the son of John and Weltha (Bigelow) Weld. His father was born in Reading, Windsor county, Vermont, January 27, 1795, and was a son of Thomas and Laurana (Leavens) Weld.

John Weld, father of the Captain, learned the cooper's trade in Vermont in his youth, but his principal occupation was farming. He was married in Reading, that state, March 18, 1830, to Weltha Bigelow, daughter of Elisha Bigelow. She, too, was born in Reading, Vermont. To this union three children were born, namely: John W., of this sketch; Rhoda M. and Andrew E.

John Weld came to Wisconsin in May, 1838, and made a claim on section 1, in what is now LaGrange township, and returned to the East in the fall of that year. In 1830 he started for the West, but on reaching Orleans county, New York, he decided to live there a while, consequently that was his place of abode until early in October, 1841, when he came on to his new home here. He was one of the early pioneers who started in log cabins and cleared the raw land. Deer were plentiful and Indians were numerous, though peaceful. Here John Weld established his permanent home and spent the rest of his life, reaching the advanced age of eighty-nine years. He became one of the substantial farmers of the community and owned nearly two hundred acres of good land. He was well known, took a lively interest in public affairs and held various minor offices, spending two terms as a member of the board of supervisors. His death occurred in April, 1884, his wife having preceded him to the grave in the fall of 1878.

Capt. John W. Weld accompanied his parents to Orleans county, New York, in 1839, when he was seven years old, and to Wisconsin in 1841. He grew to manhood on his father's farm in Lagrange township and lived there most of the time until 1858, in which year he returned to Orleans county, New York, and spent two years on a farm. The Civil war coming on, he enlisted on October 2, 1861, in Battery M, First New York Light Artillery. His rise from a private was rapid owing to his meritorious service. He was promoted to duty sergeant soon after enlistment and six months later to first sergeant, then second lieutenant January 14, 1863, and assigned to Company K, and he was promoted to first lieutenant of that battery on September 27,

1863. He served until the close of the war, participating in the following battles and skirmishes: Cedar Creek, Edinburg, Newtown, Winchester, Cedar Mountain, Beverly Ford, Sulphur Springs, Antietam, Kelley's Ford, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. In some of the greatest battles of modern times he served his country well, winning the commendation of his superior officers and the confidence of his soldiers. He was honorably discharged at Elmira, New York, June 20, 1865. After returning home he received a brevet captain's commission in recognition of his meritorious conduct.

At the close of his military career Captain Weld returned North and engaged in the insurance business in New York for two years, then came to Lagrange township, Walworth county, Wisconsin. In February, 1867, he purchased a farm in section 13, Lagrange township, and moved thereto in 1868. He remained on the farm, successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1894, when he removed to Whitewater, where he has since resided, owning here a pleasant home.

Politically, the Captain is a Republican and takes an active interest in party affairs. He was a delegate to the state convention, but refused to serve and he was frequently a delegate to county conventions. He has repeatedly refused to accept public offices. He was once made a candidate against his wishes, to strengthen the ticket, and was elected, but refused to qualify.

Captain Weld was married in Orleans county, New York, in October, 1856, to Nancy Weld, daughter of Elisha and Laura (Parker) Weld. To this union two children were born, Hattie J. and Irving W. The former is a bookkeeper and stenographer in Chicago. The latter married Alice Barry and lived at Ridgeway, Orleans county, New York. His death occurred in Yates township, in 1905, leaving two children, Harriet Jane and Irving Wallace.

The Captain's first wife died on April 27, 1859, in Ridgeway, Orleans county, New York, and he was again married on December 3, 1867, in Ridgeway, to Catherine Amittai Williams, daughter of Philo and Amittai (Blake) Williams. She was born in Raynham, Bristol county, Massachusetts, and she was an infant when her mother died, being the youngest of seven children. When about two years old she was taken to New York and was reared by an aunt, for whom and her husband she cared during their old age, until their death.

Captain Weld's second marriage resulted in the birth of three children, namely: Ella Rena, who took a course in the Whitewater Normal School, is now teaching in the public schools of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Katherine

Alma married John E. Scholl and they live in Whitewater; Alice Blake married John L. Husebo, and he died in February, 1901, leaving a son, Wallace Weld Husebo, whose death occurred when twenty-three months old, in June, 1901. Alice B. now lives with her parents in Whitewater. Captain Weld is an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

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### SEYMOUR H. WELCH.

As one of the elderly citizens of Walworth county and one of her worthy native sons, one whose life has been of signal usefulness and honor, the publishers of this work realize that even more distinct representation in this connection would not do justice to this well known agriculturist and worthy scion of one of our sterling pioneer families whose examples have enriched this locality for many decades, for all the while they have labored to advance the material interests of the same, maintaining sterling traits of character, and ever standing ready to uphold righteous and just laws and, if needful, to lay down their lives upon the altar of her liberty and maintenance.

Seymour Welch was born August 7, 1847, in Sugar Creek township, this county, and he grew up under pioneer conditions, received such education as the old log school houses of his day afforded and here he has spent his life engaged in agricultural pursuits, living on the same farm a period of over thirty-five years. He is the son of Joseph and Eliza (Havens) Welch, both natives of the State of New York where they spent their childhood years and were married, coming to Walworth county in an early day. They located in Sugar Creek township in 1846, buying a farm there, which they improved by hard work and on which they spent the rest of their lives, the father dying in September, 1900, and the mother in September, 1893. They were the parents of twelve children, namely: Saphrona, Sydney and Clara, all deceased; Seymour, of this sketch; Joseph, Ida and Aaron, all deceased; Burt, Mark, Emma, William and Chet.

Seymour H. Welch began farming when but a boy and this has continued to be his life work. He is now the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres in Sharon township, which he has, through his industry and perseverance, brought up to a high state of cultivation and improvement, and on which he carries on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale. He has a pleasant home and good outbuildings.

Mr. Welch is a veteran of the Civil war, having enlisted in 1864 in Company F, Forty-second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, in which he served faithfully for one year and was mustered out at Madison, Wisconsin. He is a member of Sharon Post, Grand Army of the Republic. Politically, he is a Democrat.

Mr. Welch was married on March 9, 1870, to Sarah West, daughter of Joseph and Jane West, natives of the state of New York. Eight children have been born to the subject and wife, named as follows: Two who died in infancy; Delbert, Herbert, Grant, Louis, Pearl and Floyd.

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#### DAVID TUFT.

Among the individuals of the class that may be called progressive in Walworth county is David Tuft, farmer of Sharon township. His record is the account of a life which is uneventful, indeed, as far as stirring incident or startling adventure is concerned, yet is distinguished by the most substantial qualities of character. Like his father before him, his life history exhibits a career of virtuous private industry, performed with moderation and crowned with success. It is the record of a well balanced mental and moral constitution, strongly marked by those traits of character which are of such essential value in such a state of society as exists in this country.

David Tuft was born on September 10, 1857, in county Down, Ireland. He is the son of William and Faithful (Graham) Tuft, both born in Ireland, where they were reared and educated and there they were married and spent their lives, never coming to America, and they are now both deceased. William Tuft followed farming during his active life.

David Tuft grew to manhood in his native land and there received his education. Believing that greater opportunities existed for him in the United States, he crossed the great Atlantic in the year 1880 and settled first in the state of New York and there worked out as a farm hand for three years, then came to Wisconsin in 1884 and bought a farm of eighty acres in section 25, Sharon township, Walworth county, which place he has retained to the present time and where he still lives, having developed the same into an excellent place, carrying on general farming and always keeping some good live stock. He has rotated his crops so as to keep the original strength of the soil, and has made a careful study of modern agricultural methods.

Politically, Mr. Tuft is a Republican, but he has never been especially

active in public affairs and evinced no desire to be a politician, though he tries to cast his vote for the best men for the various offices sought. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen, and in religious affairs belongs to the Lutheran church.

Mr. Tuft was married in early life to Jane Steele, a daughter of Joseph Steele and wife, natives of Ireland, where they grew up, were married and established their permanent home, and there Mrs. Tuft was born and spent her earlier years, coming to America when young. To Mr. and Mrs. Tuft two children have been born, namely: James, who is at home, and Harry, who is studying medicine at Madison College.

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### STEPHEN RODAWALT.

There is no class of men of whom the biographer delights to write about more than the old soldier or the pioneer and when he finds a subject who is both he feels that he cannot say too much of such a character, for it took bravery, fortitude, and many of the best elements that go to make a man to induce the youth to leave the old home and go to the seat of conflict and risk his life for his country's sake. Indeed, it took but little less courage for him to brave the wilderness, where lurked many an unseen foe and still more obstacles and hardships awaiting to be subdued before his humble home could rise and he could get established in a way that would insure his happiness and freedom from want through the years to come. It is doubtful if the young men of today, we of the second generation at least, would leave the pleasures of advanced civilization and go out to fight Indians, kill the snakes, cut down the giant forest trees, drain the swamps and do a thousand and one things that this worthy hand had to do.

Of this sterling band were Stephen Rodawalt, farmer of Sharon township, Walworth county, and his honored father before him. The subject was born in Albany, New York, on February 29, 1844. He is the son of Henry and Sabiah (Walley) Rodawalt. The father was born in Germany, where he grew to manhood and was educated in the common schools, and where he spent his life until he was twenty-five years of age. He then emigrated to the United States in an old-fashioned sailing vessel which required a voyage of many weeks. He landed in New York, in which state he settled and devoted himself to farming. After remaining there a few years he came to McHenry county, Illinois, and there purchased a farm in 1856. He made

that his place of abode for about thirty years, during which time he became very well fixed from a material standpoint. He died in 1888, at the advanced age of eighty-three years. His wife reached the remarkable age of one hundred and one years and nine months. They were a fine old couple, always worked hard, lived economically and yet were hospitable and kind to their neighbors so that they were well liked wherever they lived. They had but little of this world's goods upon arriving at our port of entry, but they soon became very well established in the New World. They liked to take a new piece of land, clear it, break it and see things of their own planting grow on it. They were scrupulously honest in all their dealings.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rodawalt, named in order of birth as follows: John H., now deceased; W. J. lives at Sharon, this county; Stephen, subject of this sketch; Margarite J. is the widow of P. B. Shufelt and they live at Sharon, this county.

Of the life record of Stephen Rodawalt, of this sketch, there is little to tell, notwithstanding it has been replete with action and duty well performed. He grew up on the home farm in northern Illinois, having been about twelve years old when the family moved west from New York. He received his education in the district schools of Illinois. Early in life he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits and has continued the same to the present time with encouraging success. When the Civil war came on he enlisted in the Ninety-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, in which he served faithfully for a period of one year. Receiving an honorable discharge, he returned home and resumed farming.

Politically, Mr. Rodawalt is a Republican, but he has never been especially active in public affairs. He has never married.

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#### ELLIS S. BARRETT.

A man of strong convictions, ever ready to maintain the soundness of his opinions on any subject, but who is by no means unreasonable in his views, according every man the same rights which he claims for himself, is Ellis S. Barrett, now living in retirement at his home at Darien, after a successful life as a farmer. He came here in the pioneer days and has lived to see the great changes which have taken place during the past half century and he has been one of the active transformers. Among his fellow citizens throughout the county he is highly regarded and his life has been singularly

free from faults. Brave and daring on the field of battle, he has ever been kind and courteous in the sphere of private citizenship, and all who know him speak in high terms of his many excellent qualities and praise him for his beneficial influence in the community, whose interests he has had at heart since casting his lot in Walworth.

Mr. Barrett was born on October 20, 1836, in Bedford, Westchester county, New York. He is the son of Jesse and Margaret (Smith) Barrett, natives of New York state, where they grew to maturity and were married and where they resided until 1857, when they came to Wisconsin and settled in Green Lake county, where they remained ten years, then came to Walworth county and settled on a farm, the father dying at Sharon and the mother at Sturgeon Bay, where she had been making her home with a daughter, Mrs. Dr. MacEachan. The father was a farmer all his life.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Barrett, namely: Julia, Ellis, Phoebe, James J., Samuel, Rosco, Jennie, William J. and Carlton. Three are living, Ellis, the subject of this sketch; James J., of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and William, of Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Ellis S. Barrett was educated in the schools of the East district and Mt. Kisco Institute, New York. He came west with his parents and has remained in this locality, engaged in farming, all his life, owning eighty acres in Walworth township, which he sold in 1909 and moved to Darien, where he bought a pleasant home and now lives retired. He is filling the office of justice of the peace, to which office he was elected in April, 1910, the duties of which he has discharged in a most faithful manner, to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Mr. Barrett is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic by virtue of the fact that he enlisted for service in the Federal army in a Green Lake company, on August 12, 1862, and he served very faithfully for a period of three years, in the Army of Tennessee, taking part in many trying campaigns and hard-fought engagements. He was honorably discharged from the service on June 12, 1865, after which he returned to his home and resumed the duties of farming. Politically, he is a Republican and he voted for Lincoln.

Mr. Barrett was married on January 10, 1872, to Maria Cook, daughter of John B. and Sarah A. Cook, natives of New York state, where they spent their earlier years, coming to Darien, Wisconsin, on July 25, 1841, where they remained until 1848 when they moved to Green Lake county and from there they moved to Columbia county in 1849 where they spent the

rest of their lives. Mr. Cook was a carpenter by trade and he made the first ballot box used in Darien. He was a first cousin of General Butler, prominent in the Civil war, especially the earlier stages of the same on the Virginia coast.

There were five children in the Cook family, namely: Kneeland B., Elbert F., Maria (wife of Mr. Barrett), Seth C. and Clara E., all of whom are living. Mr. Cook tells interesting stories of conditions here when he first came to this locality, the country being wild and all kinds of game in abundance.

To the subject and wife one child has been born, a son, LaVerne Barrett, who is engaged in farming in Sharon township, this county.

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#### RUFUS COOLEY.

Those who know Rufus Cooley well are not surprised that he has won success at his chosen vocation, that of tilling the soil, for he is a man who has been a close student of whatever pertains to his chosen life work, believing that the best methods are none too good. He has kept the old home place in Sharon township in fine condition, so that it has retained its old-time richness of soil and the same abundant crops are annually gathered from its fields. He has considered himself fortunate, and indeed he might well do so, that he has been permitted to spend his life on the homestead, for, in the first place, as one of our great writers said long ago, "There is no place like home," and also because his home happened to be in a country greatly favored by nature. It is true that it took a great deal of hard work to get Walworth county in proper shape for agricultural purposes, but once in condition, there is no better.

Mr. Cooley was born in this township, on the farm which he now owns, as above intimated, on November 2, 1858. He is the son of Adam and Katherine (Peters) Cooley, pioneer settlers of Walworth county. The father was born in Germany and there grew to manhood, and received his education in the public schools. When about twenty-one years of age he emigrated to America, coming on to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and here purchased a farm of eighty-four acres in section 10, Sharon township. The land was raw, but he was a hard worker and soon had it under cultivation and in time had established a good home here, in which he spent the rest of his life,

dying on April 13, 1907, having outlived his wife thirty-seven years, her death having occurred in 1870.

Adam Cooley was a weaver by trade, but after coming to America he abandoned the same and followed farming, which he found much more to his tastes.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Adam Cooley, two of whom died in infancy, and two others, Julia and Caroline, died later in life: the two living are, Mrs. Katherine Horch, of Sharon, and Rufus, subject of this sketch.

Rufus Cooley was reared on the home farm where he worked during the summer months in his boyhood, and in the winter time he attended the district schools of Sharon township. He has devoted his life to farming, as already stated, and has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. He has a good home and is very well fixed in every way.

Mr. Cooley was married on July 17, 1884, to Mary Victoria Wilhelm, daughter of Andrew and Mary Wilhelm, both natives of Pennsylvania. To the subject and wife four children have been born, namely: Charles, deceased; Bessie May, born May 6, 1886; Frank R., deceased; the fourth child died in infancy unnamed.

Politically, Mr. Cooley is a Republican and he was at one time township treasurer and is now assessor of Sharon township. In religious matters he belongs to the German Evangelical church.

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#### HAROLD N. O'BRIEN, M. D.

The medical profession of Walworth county has an able exponent in Dr. Harold N. O'Brien, of Darien, who, although young in years, has firmly established himself in his vocation and won the confidence and esteem of the people and his professional brethren in this part of the state, for he has the natural endowments that go to make up the twentieth-century medical man, and also the necessary training, having been a close student all his life and leaving no stone unturned whereby he could advance himself, deeming it a rare privilege to be able to bring surcease for humanity's multiform ills. He has also shown a public spirit that is commendable, ever willing to do his full share in the development of his community, and so ordering his course as to keep untarnished the honored escutcheon of a worthy old family name, there

being in him the blood of sterling New England ancestors, many of whose commendable characteristics outcropping in him. He is a man of sociable nature, straightforward, obliging and unassuming.

Dr. O'Brien was born on March 25, 1876, at Plymouth, Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, and is the son of Dr. J. N. and Anna (Smith) O'Brien, the father a native of Pennsylvania and the mother of Vermont. They grew up, received their educational training and were married in the East, coming to Wisconsin in 1845, and settled in Milwaukee where the father became a well known and successful physician. The family lived for some time at the town of Plymouth, this state. The elder O'Brien was a fine type of the old-school physician and met with a greater degree of success than the average medical practitioner. A man of intelligence, perseverance, whole-heartedness and an untiring student, he was respected and admired wherever he was known.

Three children were born to Dr. J. N. O'Brien and wife, namely: Daisy, Mrs. Sarah Green, and Harold N., of this sketch.

The subject received his education in the high school of Milwaukee. Early in life he decided to follow in the footsteps of his father in a professional way and took up the study of medicine, under his direction, later taking the course of lectures at the Marquette Medical School of Milwaukee, where he made an excellent record and from which he was graduated with the class of 1900. He soon began the practice of his profession at East Troy, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he remained about two years, being successful from the first, but observing a better field at the town of Darien, this county, he came here in 1903 and has since been engaged in the practice at this place, building up a large and constantly growing patronage with the surrounding country.

The domestic life of Dr. O'Brien began on April 4, 1900, when he was united in marriage with Lydia Meist, daughter of William Meist, a native of Holland, who came to this county in an early day and here became well established. Two children have been born to the subject and wife, namely: John Nelson and Mary Stafford.

Fraternally, the Doctor belongs to the Modern Woodmen and in religious matters he affiliates with the Episcopal church, and takes more than a passing interest in both. Politically, he is a Democrat and while he keeps well advised on public issues, he does not find time from his large practice to take a very active part.

## WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS.

Eighty-six years have dissolved in the mists of the irrevocable past since William H. Williams, venerable pioneer, first saw the light of day. He has lived through one of the most remarkable, and in many respects the most wonderful, epoch in the world's history. There will never be another like it, for it embraced the period when the strong-armed homeseekers from the Eastern states invaded the great West (he being among the number) and redeemed it from the wilds, bringing it up through various stages to the present high state of civilization. To all this he has been a most interested, and by no means a passive, spectator, having sought to do his full share in the work of progress in the locality which he selected as his place of abode. He talks most interestingly of the early days when customs and manners were different, men and women were different, everything, in fact unlike what our civilization is today. He and other early settlers are of the opinion that those were better, at least happier, times than now, and this is, in the main, true.

Mr. Williams was born on November 15, 1826, in Genesee county, New York. He is the son of John and Ann (Carter) Williams, the father a native of Connecticut and the mother of Vermont, each representing old New England families, and there they grew to maturity and were married. The father devoted his life to farming and merchandising. In an early day they came West and settled in Darien township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, taking up land from the government in section 1, and here developed a good farm from the wilderness, which the elder Williams continued to operate until within a few years of his death, which occurred in Darien township. He was an honest, hardworking man who preferred to lead a quiet life on his farm or in his little store.

William H. Williams, of this sketch, grew to manhood in Genesee county, New York, and there received his education in the public schools. He accompanied his parents to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1854, first settling one and one-half miles west of Darien on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which he later sold and moved to Rock Prairie where he bought one hundred and forty acres, which he developed into a fine farm, brought up to a high state of cultivation and there continued to engage in general farming and stock raising up to about twelve years ago, when he sold out and moved to Darien, Walworth county, where he has a pleasant home in which he is spending his declining years in peace and surrounded by plenty as a result of his earlier years of activity. He has always been a hard worker and a good manager and his efforts were met with success.

Mr. Williams is a Republican and has been more or less active in party affairs. He has filled a number of local offices, such as supervisor and assessor, holding these for a number of years and discharging his duties faithfully.

Mr. Williams was married on January 1, 1850, to Margaret Vanderhoof, and to them six children have been born, namely: James is deceased; Daniel R.; Mrs. Ida Rockenbrodt; Dora is deceased; Lydia and May are also both deceased.

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### EDWARD DECATUR PAGE.

All honor is due the pioneers who braved the dangers and uncomplainingly withstood the hardships of Walworth county when it was in its primordial state. They paved the way for the present-day magnificent development, and for our happy homes and innumerable luxuries and conveniences which they knew little of. One of this sterling and honored horde from the East was the late Edward Decatur Page, whose advent in this locality was in 1848, and here he established his permanent home, developing a fine farm on which he spent the rest of his life, dying on November 15, 1904. He was born at Darien, Genesee county, New York, March 20, 1843, the son of Jesse Wright Page and Huldah Roxcenia (Martendale) Page, the father of Welsh extraction and the mother of English lineage. Both families were early settlers in Vermont, and his ancestors fought in the Revolutionary armies and in the war of 1812. His parents were married at Dorset, Vermont, and subsequently came to Genesee county, New York, finally to Wisconsin in 1845, and purchased the farm on which the subject spent his life. He was one of three children, the others being Roxcenia, who died in 1877, and Mrs. Ellen Lorain Trescott, of Fairport, New York.

Edward D. Page was a man of enterprise and he carried on general farming and stock raising on a large scale, becoming one of the leading farmers of his township.

Mr. Page was always deeply interested in the affairs of his community, and for eight years he served as chairman of the town board of supervisors and for a like number of years he was assessor of the town of Spring Prairie. He was a member of the school board from shortly after he reached his majority until 1901, and he had a potent influence on the progress of education in the eastern part of the county. He kept well informed on current events

and was a man of advanced ideas and exemplary character, meriting in every respect the high regard which was universally accorded him.

Mr. Page was married, first, on June 6, 1864, to Lizzie Fraser, whose death occurred on December 29, 1872. To this union were born two children, Jay Wright Page and Lenora Page, the daughter marrying William B. Stetson and her death occurred on June 15, 1891, when twenty-three years of age. A sketch of the son appears on another page of this work.

Edward D. Page was again married on May 10, 1875, to Frank Fraser, a sister of his former wife, who survives him and lives on the old homestead near Honey Creek, where also resides the only child of their marriage, R. Lucile McDonald, wife of Leroy L. McDonald.

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#### EDWARD KINNE, M. D.

Among the physicians of Walworth county who have risen to eminence in their chosen field of endeavor is Dr. Edward Kinne, of Elkhorn, whose career has been that of a broad-minded, conscientious worker in the sphere to which his life and energies have been devoted and whose profound knowledge of his profession has won for him a leading place among the distinguished medical men of his day and generation in southern Wisconsin.

Doctor Kinne was born in Sugar Creek township, this county, June 29, 1856, and is the son of Augustus C. and Cecilia (Rosenkrans) Kinne. The Kinne family came from England, probably through Holland, and located in Salem, Massachusetts, about 1650. Henry Kinne (born 1624) was the progenitor of the family in America. His second son, Thomas Kinne, who married Elizabeth Knight, was the ancestor of the family of this name in Walworth county. The latter's son, Thomas Kinne, Jr., married Martha Cox and in 1715 moved to Preston, Connecticut, and there his death occurred in 1756. His third child, Stephen Kinne, was born in Salem in 1705, went to Preston in 1715, and in 1740 moved to Amenia, Dutchess county, New York. Nathaniel, his fourth son, was born in 1739 in Connecticut, had a son, Elias, born at Amenia in 1764, who married Lydia Rundell, in North Norwich, Chenango county, New York. The Rundells were from an old Connecticut family. Elias came to this county and died when nearly ninety-three years old.

Of the Rosenkrans family not so much is known; they came from Hol-

land to New Amsterdam, now New York, in 1658, and in 1715 a descendant, Alexander, went over into Sussex county, New Jersey. Alexander's son, Col. John Rosenkrans, was colonel of a New Jersey regiment during the Revolutionary war.

Augustus C. Kinne, son of Elias Kinne, was born at North Norwich, Chenango county, New York, in 1808 and came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1838, among the early settlers. He spent a winter or two at Troy at Major Meacham's. He lived on Sugar Creek prairie and on Heart prairie until 1850, then bought a farm in section 1, Sugar Creek township, and lived there until his death in 1863. He represented this county in the second constitutional convention, and was a prominent man in the early days of the county, holding various local offices for many years. His wife, Cecilia Rosenkrans, was born in Sussex county, New Jersey, in 1830, and in 1850 accompanied her parents, James O. and Susannah (VanCampen) Rosenkrans, to Walworth county, Wisconsin. The family located in Sugar Creek township, and there she was married in 1854. This union resulted in the birth of four children: Mary, who married Walter E. Lauderdale, lives at Lauderdale Lakes; Herbert is a lawyer in Milwaukee; Harriet N. is the wife of Herbert C. Henderson and lives at Santa Paula, California; Edward, of this sketch, was second in order of birth. The mother of these children passed away in 1892.

Dr. Edward Kinne spent most of his boyhood on the farm, and he received his primary education in the district schools, later attending the State Normal School at Whitewater from which he was graduated in 1878. He then took a medical course in the University of Virginia, from which institution he was graduated in 1896. He practiced near Richmond, Virginia, about three years and there he was married to Lulu M. Colvin, daughter of Charles W. and Catherine P. (McMurtrie) Colvin. She was a native of Pennsylvania, and from there moved to Virginia, her father having been interested in coal mines in the latter state.

In 1899 Doctor Kinne returned to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and here has been successfully engaged in the practice of his profession to the present time, having built up an extensive practice which has ever been on the increase. He has resided meanwhile at Elkhorn. His name is well known throughout the county, and he ranks high with his professional brethren in southern Wisconsin. He has ever been a profound student of medical science and has kept fully abreast of the times. He stands well in

the community both as a man and physician. Fraternally, he is a Mason, a member of the blue lodge and the chapter.

The Doctor's wife was called to her reward in Elkhorn in 1903, leaving two children, Constance, born in 1900, and Augustus C., born in 1902, both living in Elkhorn.

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#### LEWIS L. COOK.

Few business men of a past generation left such an indelible imprint upon the minds and hearts of the people of Walworth county as the late Lewis L. Cook, of Whitewater, than whom a more whole-souled, high-minded and public-spirited character it would have been hard to find. As a result of his many estimable attributes of head and heart he was held in high esteem by all who knew him, sharing the confidence of all with whom he had dealings, for he carried the Golden Rule into his every-day life and sought to set an example of which none of his descendants could be other than proud. Such a record as his should not be passed over lightly by the youth whose destinies are yet matters for the future to determine and whose place of power in the world of affairs is yet to be determined, for therein lies many valuable lessons.

Mr. Cook was born in Homer, New York, on November 18, 1820. He is the son of Mathias and Elizabeth Cook. For a full history of the former the reader is referred to the sketch of D. S. Cook, appearing in this volume. Lewis L. Cook was educated in the public schools of New York, and he began his life work as a clerk with Jedidiah Barer at Homer, New York, where he remained six years. In 1845 he was united in marriage with Maria L. Reston, of Albany, New York, and located in Lisle, Broome county, New York, and engaged in business with Dyer & Bean, who also owned stores in other places. He was given entire management of the store at Lisle, and there he remained two years, then came to Horicon, Wisconsin, and engaged in business with Chauncey Brown, in 1848. In 1856 Mr. Cook came to Whitewater, Walworth county, as a member of the firm of Brady, Starin, Cook & Company. In 1859 the subject and his brother, D. S. Cook, sold out to Mr. Starin, and this ended his career in the dry goods business. For a period of twenty-seven years he sold goods for his brother, D. S. Cook, but refused any share of the profits, also refused to listen to thanks for his services.

Mr. Cook had been very successful in the mercantile business and in 1860 he began as a money lender. He was never known to crowd a debtor, but he often sacrificed his own interest to further the interest of those who owed

him. Many came to him for advice, and no one ever came in vain. He was a man of broad charity and humanitarian impulses, and believed in religious living. He was an ardent Republican and was active in public matters, being a successful worker in the ranks for many years. He was one of the most useful and universally beloved men that Walworth county has ever known.

The death of this splendid citizen occurred in January, 1895, his widow surviving until 1899, both receiving the summons at the family residence in Whitewater.

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### JOHN F. HENDERSON.

One of the men who has stamped the impress of his strong individuality upon the minds of the people of Whitewater and vicinity in a manner as to render him one of the conspicuous characters of this locality, is John F. Henderson, who has had a somewhat varied career, his life being spent principally in fire and life insurance, but who is now engaged in the general insurance business. Faithfulness to duty and a strict adherence to a fixed purpose, which always do more to advance a man's interests than wealth or advantageous circumstances, have been dominating factors in his life, which has been replete with honor and success worthily attained. He is a scion of one of the sterling old pioneer families of the Badger state, and many of the strong characteristics of his progenitors seem to have outcropped in him, and he has been most vigilant in keeping untarnished the bright escutcheon of the family name, for the Hendersons were noted for their sterling honesty, their hospitality and their readiness to assist in the upbuilding of their community in any way.

Mr. Henderson was born in Cold Spring, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, on December 5, 1861. He is the son of William A. and Lucinda A. (James) Henderson, the father born in Rockville, Canada, on February 13, 1832, and the mother in the state of Tennessee on October 17, 1838. The father spent his boyhood in Canada, and from there came to Jefferson county, Wisconsin, in 1846, with his father, John Henderson, the latter's wife, Betsey D. Henderson, having died in Canada; they were born natives of Scotland. The paternal grandfather, John Henderson, took up one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government in Jefferson county, and there established his home, but later in life moved to Lena, Illinois, where he spent his last days, in the home of a daughter, where his death occurred in 1872.

William A. Henderson, father of the subject, lived in Cold Spring



JOHN F. HENDERSON AND FAMILY



township, Jefferson county, until 1900, where he had established a good home, then coming to Walworth county and locating in the town of Whitewater, where he lived about four years. He died January 25, 1912, his wife having died in 1872. When a young man he started for Pike's Peak, but stopped in Missouri, where he was married on March 25, 1860. His family consisted of six children, of whom five are living at this writing. He was twice married, secondly to Caroline Petersen, and to this union one child was born. His second wife died on March 31, 1900. Politically, he was a Republican.

John F. Henderson, of this sketch, was reared on the home farm, where he worked when a boy, and he received his education in the public schools and farmed until he was eighteen years old, when he began learning the carpenter's trade, at which he worked for three years. He then followed railroading for an equal length of time, then returned to carpentering, which he continued for ten years, becoming an expert and his services were in great demand. In 1895 he engaged in the insurance business in Whitewater. He bought a farm in East Whitewater in 1899, which is a well improved and very desirable place, but his principal work for the past seventeen years has been in general insurance, fire and life, and he has built up a large and ever-growing business, and is one of the best known insurance men in this part of the state.

Politically, Mr. Henderson is a Republican and he has long been active and influential in public affairs, but has never been an office seeker. For the past eight years he has been supervisor of the first ward in Whitewater, discharging his duties in a most faithful and acceptable manner.

Mr. Henderson was married on March 3, 1886, to Alice A. Niquet, who was born in Clarence Center, Erie county, New York, February 8, 1866, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Wogan) Niquet, who came to Walworth county about 1865, locating in Whitewater township. He was a wagon- and cabinet-maker, also worked at the carpenter's trade. His death occurred in this township in 1872, his widow surviving many years, dying in January, 1903.

The wife of the subject died on May 30, 1897. To this union four children were born, named as follows: Roy, born July 21, 1889, was graduated from the Whitewater high school, and when nineteen years old engaged in the insurance business with his father, which work he is continuing at present; Neal R., born February 8, 1892, was graduated with the class of 1910 from the Whitewater high school, and he is now engaged in business with his father. He was in the South two years; Ralph A. and Ruth A.,

twins, were born on November 20, 1895, and are now students in the White-water schools.

Mr. Henderson was again married on March 12, 1899, to Mrs. Nellie M. Clemmons, who was born in Albion, Dane county, Wisconsin, April 26, 1876. She is the daughter of Asa and Sarah (Sherman) Clemmons, the father born in Troy township, Walworth county, in 1848, and the mother in Troy township in 1850. Mrs. Henderson's paternal grandfather, Harvey Clemmons, was born in Orange county, New York, in 1817, and his death occurred during the Civil war, while in the service. His wife, Emily Taylor, died in Troy township, near Little Prairie, February 26, 1908, at an advanced age. Mrs. Henderson was one of a family of five children, all living at this writing. The father of Mrs. Clemmons died on December 25, 1891; his widow still survives.

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#### CHARLES HENRY NOTT.

The career of Charles Henry Nott is too well known to the readers of this work to need any formal introduction by the biographer, for he has been prominently identified with the business and public life of Elkhorn for years and has spent his life in Walworth county, whose interests he has ever had at heart. He is progressive in all that the term implies and yet is straightforward and unassuming in all the relations of life.

Mr. Nott was born in Sugar Creek township, this county, May 11, 1857. He is the son of William and Sarah (Curl) Nott, both natives of England, the former a son of John and Elizabeth (Shute) Nott and the grandson of Edward Nott. William Nott was born near Barnstable, Devonshire, England, on January 29, 1824, and there grew to manhood. On March 1, 1849, he married Sarah Curl, embarking for America immediately afterwards, arriving in Richmond township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1850, moving from there to Lagrange township in 1851 and to Sugar Creek township in 1852. There they worked two years, each hiring out in order to get a start in life, then purchased forty acres in section 3, that township, and there by industry and economy established a comfortable home in which they remained until March 1, 1900, when Mr. Nott retired from active life. He had been very successful as a general farmer, adding to his original purchase until he had an excellent farm of two hundred and eight acres. He began voting the Democratic ticket upon arriving in the United States and he continued loyal to that party, and more or less active in its affairs. He was at one time a

member of the board of supervisors of Sugar Creek township. In religious matters he and his wife were Episcopalians. His wife, known in her maidenhood as Sarah Curl, was born on November 23, 1827. She was the daughter of John, Jr., and Mary (Babcock) Curl. Mrs. Nott's mother was the daughter of John and Bridget Babcock. The death of William Nott occurred on December 9, 1906. His widow is living in Elkhorn.

Nine children, four sons and five daughters, were born to Mr. and Mrs. William Nott, named as follows: William Edward, born June 9, 1851, purchased a farm adjoining his father's in Sugar Creek township and there lived until his death on August 21, 1895. John, born in 1853, married Addie Babcock, who died three years afterwards, leaving a daughter Nellie, also deceased. John Nott has spend his life on the home farm and now lives with his mother in Elkhorn. James was born in 1855, was graduated from the Whitewater schools, then taught school, later learning telegraphy, which he worked at in several different stations in northern Wisconsin; his health failing, he went to Dakota and there resuming teaching school; he was an enthusiastic Republican and while there made the race for county superintendent. Returning to Lagrange, Walworth county, in 1903, he clerked for his brother, Charles H., of this review, for a period of five years, then came to Elkhorn and lived with his mother until his death on February 9, 1909; he was a Mason, a member of the chapter, also the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and was very active in fraternal work. Charles Henry, of this sketch, was the next child in order of birth. His oldest sister, Sarah Belle Nott, was born in 1859, married Henry Laville, of Michigan, and two years later died at her home in Whitehall, Michigan. Lucy, who was born in 1861, married Richard Holcomb, of Lagrange, and her death occurred a number of years ago, leaving one daughter, Elsie. Mary Ann Nott, who was born in 1863, lived at home until 1910, then married Doric Southwick and now lives at Beloit. Emma, born in 1865, attended the normal school at Whitewater, taught school several years, then married M. J. Lathrop and they now live in Beloit. Elizabeth was born in 1867, attended the normal school at Whitewater, later taught school here and in South Dakota, and finally married A. S. Smythe and they now reside at Mansfield, Ohio.

Charles H. Nott was reared on the home farm, where he remained until he was twenty-two years of age; however, he had worked out from time to time during his boyhood, and after leaving home he worked by the month for several years. In 1879 he went west and took up two claims, a tree claim and a homestead in Hanson county, South Dakota, having worked out in

order to get money with which to develop the claims, which he proved up on in 1884. During that year he was married to Emogene Foster, daughter of Asa Foster, one of the pioneers of Sugar Creek township, Walworth county. They immediately went to housekeeping on their claims and soon had established a comfortable home. Mr. Nott made a specialty of sheep raising, at one time owning a drove numbering fifteen hundred. He was very active in politics there and was county commissioner for some time, also held all the various local offices. He has always been a staunch Republican.

Returning to Lagrange, Walworth county, in 1891, Mr. Nott purchased the store owned by Thomas Taylor, registrar of deeds, and he conducted this store successfully for a period of thirteen years. During that time he was also postmaster at Lagrange, and while living there he was president of the Sugar Creek Fire Insurance Company. Selling his store in 1904, he moved to Elkhorn, and here has continued his political activity. He has been supervisor from his ward for the past three years, and in a business way he has been in the real estate and loan business to some extent. He came here chiefly for the purpose of educating his two children, Ethel Ruth and William Asa; the former is now a junior at Beloit College and the latter is in school in Elkhorn. In Mr. Nott's family is also Elsie Holcomb, daughter of Richard and Lucy (Nott) Holcomb, her mother having been the subject's sister. Elsie's parents both dying when she was young, she has been a member of the subject's household since she was five years old; she is now attending the State Normal School at Milwaukee, having been graduated from the Elkhorn high school with the class of 1911.

Fraternally, Mr. Nott has been a Mason for nearly thirty-five years, belonging to the chapter and the commandery at Delavan. He was at one time master of the Elkhorn lodge.

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#### MRS. ESTHER ANN WEEKS.

This estimable lady, whose high Christian character has, like Dorcas of old, so lived that her light has been shed abroad on her many friends, having an ameliorating effect upon them, so that she has ever been held in highest esteem by all with whom she has come into contact.

Mrs. Esther Ann Weeks was born on October 14, 1837, at Morristown, New York, and she is the daughter of Alonzo Cady Wilcox and Matilda

(Stanton) Wilcox. A history of the Wilcox family will be found in the sketch of Thomas H. Wilcox, appearing elsewhere in this work.

Mrs. Weeks came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, with her parents when eight years of age and here she grew to womanhood and received her education in the early schools. On January 11, 1860, she was united in marriage with Robert Gibson McMillen, son of Andrew and Annie (Gibson) McMillen, of Sharon, Mercer county, Pennsylvania. He had come to Lyons, this county, in the early fifties. Two children were born to them, Fred Alonzo and Matilda C., the latter dying in childhood, the former growing up to be a prominent citizen of the county, serving the same as sheriff in 1898 and 1899. He married Minnie Ewing, of Whitewater, and died on April 10, 1902, leaving six children; his oldest son, Fred E., is paymaster in the United States navy, and the oldest daughter, Bessie, married Arthur Trevor, a graduate of Annapolis, and an officer in the United States navy. Another son, Donald Robert, is now a civil engineer in Philadelphia; next in order of birth were the three daughters, Nanna, Emily Stanton, and Marian, all in school at San Diego, California.

Robert Gibson McMillen was a soldier in the Twenty-second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and his death occurred on April 7, 1863, at Nashville, Tennessee, while in the Union service, en route to Libby prison as a prisoner.

On May 14, 1866, Mrs. McMillen married Perry Lewis Purdy. He was born in Delaware county, New York, and was the son of Nathan and Sally Ellwood Purdy. He came to Lyons about 1843 and was married to Orpha Kinney and to them two children were born, Charles E. and Audella Lavon Purdy. The latter is the wife of A. Booth and lives in Rockton, Illinois. The former lives at Vincennes, Indiana. His first wife died and he then married Mrs. McMillen, as aforesaid. The children of her marriage to Mr. Purdy were, Esther Louise, now the wife of George O. Kellogg, of Elkhorn, and Perry Lewis. The latter is a farmer and lives about a mile northwest of Elkhorn on the Whitewater road. He married Nellie Slavin and has two sons, Perry L. and William Harold. Mr. Purdy was a farmer. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity. His death occurred in August, 1887.

In 1891 Mrs. Purdy was married to Lewis Spencer Weeks, son of Spencer Weeks, a sketch of whom appears herein. Lewis S. Weeks was a well known and successful farmer, lived a worthy life, and accumulated the largest fortune of any man of his day in Lyons township. His death occurred in

1903. Mrs. Weeks now lives in Elkhorn in her cozy and neatly furnished home.

Elijah Stanton was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. He was born in the township of Preston, New London county, Connecticut, in 1754, enlisted in the beginning of the war for independence, and was taken prisoner at Long Island in 1776, and was confined about five months in a prison ship in Wallabont bay, where he contracted the smallpox, being taken ill on his way home. After his recovery he re-enlisted in the service and remained at the front until the close of the war, taking part in various engagements, in one of which he was wounded in the hip. He died, highly esteemed, at a good old age. One of his daughters, a sister to Mrs. Weeks' mother, was Samantha Stanton Nellis, of Naples, New York, who reached the remarkable age of one hundred and three years on November 4, 1911. She remains alert, erect, quick of step and is able to read and sew, and enjoys life generally. Through her father's side of the house she can trace her lineage back twenty-four generations to Byram, Lord of Stanton Castle, and the ninth generation brings her to Robert Washington, ancestor of George Washington.

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#### REINERT, MALCH & BAUMBACH.

The well known and popular firm of Reinert, Malch & Baumbach, of Lake Geneva, building contractors and manufacturers of concrete blocks, was formed in 1906, when Edward C. Reinert, Herman Malch and William Baumbach, all practical men and successful masons, started their present business in partnership. They manufacture concrete building material, also deal in cement building and masonry supplies. In 1908 the firm began experimenting in the building of silos made of concrete blocks and also made some improvements in the doors. Several were erected for experimental purposes and were tried two years, being found to be eminently satisfactory, and in 1911 they began their manufacture on an extensive scale. During the first year they have built them all over the southern part of the county, and have had calls for them from different cities. They also take contracts for building houses and public buildings. They built a school house at Hebron and the Gardener's Association building at Lake Geneva. They have also taken up the manufacture of a cement block, the face of which resembles granite, being coated with crushed granite. It bids fair to become very popular in the world of building.

Mr. Reinert spent some time in New York City in an effort to gain all new and practical ideas possible that would assist the firm in their business, and, being a keen observer and a close student, he has gained ideas which may revolutionize building construction. He has sought to combine those things which would make for durability, beauty and convenience.

The business of this firm is growing rapidly, in view of the fact that they understand so thoroughly every branch of their work, and seek to give satisfaction in every detail to their many patrons and customers, and they manage their affairs in a business-like way.

They are all three plain, straightforward, honorable, everyday business men, without sham or pretense. Their plant is equipped with every necessary modern apparatus for the prompt and successful manufacture of their products.

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#### D. S. COOK.

One of the best known and most highly esteemed citizens of Walworth county is the venerable merchant, D. S. Cook, of Whitewater, a pioneer who has done his full share in the development of the northwestern part of the county, which he has honored by his citizenship for more than sixty years as a citizen, having given his support to the church, the school and to all measures for the public good, and his name has ever been synonymous with honorable dealings in all the relations of life. As he has passed so many years in this locality he has a wide acquaintance among its best citizens, many of whom are included within the circle of his warm personal friends. During his long residence here he has tried to live up to the Golden Rule.

Mr. Cook was born at Homer, Cortland county, New York, August 30, 1827. He is the son of Mathias and Elizabeth (Coburn) Cook, the father a native of New York and the mother of Massachusetts. His father was a hatter for many years in Homer and there he was very active in public affairs. The subject was one of a family of six sons and three daughters. He was educated in the public schools and in the Cortland County Academy, upon leaving which he turned his attention to merchandising, becoming a clerk in a dry goods store in his home town, where he remained two years, then moved to Oneida county, New York, and was clerk for John J. Knox & Son, of Knoxboro, five years. In the fall of 1849 Mr. Cook emigrated to Wisconsin and located at Whitewater, Walworth county, where he clerked for his board until 1851. He subsequently entered the general mercantile business with two

partners under the firm name of Brady, Starin & Cook, which partnership continued until 1858. In 1860 the subject formed a partnership under the firm name of Cook & Shedd, continuing the mercantile business with his usual success, which firm lasted three years; then the firm was known as D. S. Cook & Co. for a period of twenty-four years, after which he retired to private life. His customers covered a wide territory. He always treated them courteously and fairly, and kept a good grade of carefully selected goods. He always had the confidence and good will of his thousands of patrons. In 1880 he became a stockholder in the First National Bank of Whitewater, later becoming a director, continuing as such to the present time, and he has also been a director of the Citizens State Bank at the same time.

Mr. Cook was married in July, 1853, to Rachel O. Shepard, daughter of Joseph Shepard, of Knoxboro, New York, and to this union two children were born, Cornelia E. and Seymour S. The latter is cashier of the Minnesota Loan & Trust Company of Minneapolis, and is a business man of much ability.

Mr. Cook is a member of the Congregational church and he has been clerk of the Congregational Association for fifty-eight years. In his fraternal relations he belongs to the Free and Accepted Masons. Early in life he was a Whig and since the organization of the Republican party he has voted that ticket. He has always supported such measures as made for the general advancement of his town and county and entertains an unflinching love for Whitewater and its citizens.

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#### CLARENCE EDWIN UTTER.

The name of Clarence Edwin Utter needs no introduction to the readers of this book, for much of his useful and strenuous life has been spent in Walworth county and here his conduct has been such as to merit the high esteem in which he is universally held. He was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, on September 2, 1846. He is the son of Joseph Curtis Utter and Clarissa (Keech) Utter, the father born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, on March 4, 1814, the mother was born in Great Bend, Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, on February 15, 1825. The father came to Richmond township on January 3, 1838. He located on what is known as Utter Corners, which farm lies in the corner of the township. He took up two hundred acres of government land, which he developed into a good farm and here spent the rest of

his life, dying on October 3, 1861. His wife died in Whitewater in January, 1884. Their family consisted of three children, namely: Henry Edgar, born in Loma, Rock county, this state, March 27, 1844, and here he died on a farm September 21, 1910; his wife Elizabeth survives; Clarence Edwin, of this sketch; Lydia L., born at Utter Corners, August 22, 1849, married George W. Chesebro, of this county, and they have three children, Curtis Edward, Mabel and Pearl; Mr. Chesebro lives at The Dalles, Oregon. Politically, the father of the subject was a Whig, later a Republican, and was once assessor of his township. He was a Universalist in his religious belief. When he first came to this country he walked to Madison where he worked on the *Territorial Capital*, and he set the type on the first paper published at Madison. He kept a tavern at Utter Corners for several years. He was married in 1842.

An uncle of the subject, Burch Benedict Utter, married Lydia Keech, of Bradford, Pennsylvania, about 1826, and he came with his wife and three children and settled in Richmond township at Utter Corners July 24, 1837, and there established his home.

Clarissa Utter was born here in October, 1837, being the first white child born in Richmond township. Here she grew up and married Dr. Stephen Williams, and she now lives in Missouri.

The paternal grandfather, Joseph Utter, was born in Massachusetts, May 11, 1777. He married Betsey Russell, daughter of Doctor Russell. She was born in Pike, Bradford county, Pennsylvania, in 1782. They came to Whitewater township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, in an early day and bought two hundred and forty acres at Utter Corners, and here the grandmother died on August 5, 1855, the grandfather surviving until in September, 1861.

The maternal grandfather of the subject was Stephen Keech. He married Tabitha Smith; they were both born in New York City, and they came to Utter Corners in 1840, and here spent the rest of their lives, the grandfather dying in 1843 and his wife in 1844.

Clarence E. Utter, of this sketch, grew up on the home farm and he was educated in the public schools and Milton College. He followed farming until 1882 when he moved to Whitewater, Wisconsin, where he engaged in buying grain for several years, building up a large business. Then for sixteen years he was in the grocery and cracker business, having a large trade. He sold out and has since been in the real estate and insurance business. He has been very successful and has added two hundred and forty acres to the

homestead, now owning four hundred and forty acres at Utter Corners, and he has placed this excellent land under fine improvements.

Politically, Mr. Utter is an old-line Republican. He has been assessor of Whitewater city.

Mr. Utter was married on February 15, 1883, to Elizabeth McCollins, who was born in Whitewater on November 6, 1858. She is the daughter of John W. and Mary (McMillian) McCollins, the father born in New York and the mother in Ireland. His father, William McCollins, was a pioneer of Ogdensburg, New York. The parents of Mrs. Utter came to Whitewater in an early day and here established the family home. Their two daughters are living, Elizabeth, wife of Mr. Utter, of this sketch, and Lottie, who lives with the subject and wife. They own the old homestead in New York that their grandfather bought.

To Mr. and Mrs. Clarence E. Utter two children have been born, one who died in infancy and Clarence Curtis, born April 20, 1899.

The paternal great-grandfather of the subject was Simeon Utter, a native of Rhode Island. He went to Massachusetts in 1775 and there his death occurred in 1777. His father was born in Buckinghamshire, England, and he came to Rhode Island prior to 1750, and there spent the rest of his life.

Dr. E. R. Utter, an uncle of the subject, with two sons, Frank and Charles Utter, settled in Elkhorn about 1840 and there the Doctor practiced medicine, and the son, Frank, edited the first paper printed in that town, known as the *Elkhorn Independent*. The paternal grandfather of the subject was captain of a company of state militia in Pennsylvania. The father of Mrs. Utter was at the battle of Windmill, at Ogdensburg, New York, about 1836, being captain of a company.

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#### GEORGE A. CRUMB.

The record of the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch contains no exciting chapter of tragic events, but is replete with well defined purposes which, carried to successful issue, have won for him an influential place in business circles and high personal standing among his fellow citizens. His life work has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance and the systematic and honorable methods which he has ever followed have resulted not only in gaining the confidence of those with whom he has had dealings,

but also in the building up of a profitable industry and the accumulation of a competency while yet comparatively young in years.

George A. Crumb, well known hardware merchant of Whitewater, was born in Richmond township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, on December 31, 1872. He is the son of Hiram and Mary (Bishop) Crumb, the father born in Oneida county, New York, December 27, 1826, and she was born in Rush county, Indiana, on July 13, 1832. They grew to maturity in their respective communities, and he came to Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1844. He was a carpenter by trade, and he found plenty to do here, the country being new and many settlers coming in from the Eastern states. Later he purchased eighty acres of land in Richmond township, and to this added another eighty, then sold the place and purchased another containing one hundred and ten acres, and he was one of the successful farmers of his day in this county. He spent the rest of his life here, dying at an advanced age on October 14, 1908. His widow is still living, making her home in Whitewater. They were the parents of five children, two of whom are living at this writing, George A., of this sketch, and Mrs. Lulie Calkins, of Richmond, this county. Politically, the father was a Republican, and his widow is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

George A. Crumb, of this review, was reared on the home farm where he made himself useful during his boyhood days, and he received his education in the public schools of his home district and in Milton College, and early in life he took up farming for a livelihood. He is now the owner of one hundred and fifty-six acres, which he placed under excellent improvements and carried on general farming and stock raising successfully until 1909, when he left the farm, and in 1910 he engaged in the hardware business in Whitewater where he has a popular store, well stocked with all kinds of hardware and farming implements, and he has enjoyed an excellent trade from the start. This store is under the firm name of Crumb & Winn.

Politically, Mr. Crumb is a Republican. He has taken an interest in public affairs and was township treasurer for one year. He is a member of St. John's Lodge No. 57, Free and Accepted Masons, at Whitewater.

The mother of the subject, known in her maidenhood at Mary Bishop, came to Walworth county in 1844 with her father, Solomon Bishop, and her step-mother, and they settled in Whitewater township, where Mr. Bishop became the owner of a large tract of land in Richmond and Whitewater townships, and here the father died, his wife dying in Milton, this state. There were five daughters and four sons in the Bishop family.

## HERBERT O. HAMILTON.

One of the best known of the younger attorneys of Walworth county is Herbert O. Hamilton, of Whitewater, an honored native son who has always tried to measure up to the standard of correct manhood and this locality is proud to number him among its progressive and representative men, having always maintained his home here, having the interests of the community at heart, seeking to promote the same in every way possible. In all the relations of life he has proven true to every trust reposed in him and no one is worthier of the high esteem which they enjoy.

Mr. Hamilton was born in Whitewater, Wisconsin, April 14, 1872. He is the son of one of our sterling pioneer families, Oscar T. and Sarah (Steele) Hamilton, both natives of Whitewater. The maternal grandparents, Samuel and Olive (Armstrong) Steele, came to Whitewater in early pioneer days, he having been a native of Vermont and she of the state of New York. Here they engaged in farming and spent the rest of their lives. The paternal grandparents of the subject are mentioned under the sketch of C. M. Williams.

Oscar T. Hamilton, mentioned above, grew up and spent his life at Whitewater, farming being his principal life work. He served for some time as school commissioner and as justice of the peace. Politically, he was a Republican and a member of the Methodist church. He belonged to the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In his younger days he followed teaching in the common schools. He became well known throughout the county and was a useful and highly respected citizen. His family consisted of four children, two of whom died in infancy, Herbert O., of this sketch, and one other still surviving.

Herbert O. Hamilton enjoyed the advantages of a liberal education, having attended the grade schools and the high school at Whitewater, later took a course in the normal and at the Northwestern University and spent two years in the College of Liberal Arts. He then entered the law department of the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated in 1894, having made a splendid record there for scholarship. Thus well equipped for his life work, he returned to Whitewater and began the practice of his profession in which he has met with encouraging success from the first, now enjoying a large and ever-growing patronage and taking a high rank among the professional men of this locality. He keeps well abreast of the times in all matters pertaining to the law, being ever a profound student, and he is universally regarded as a safe, conservative and able advocate and a strong man in the trial of cases.

On October 8, 1897, Mr. Hamilton was united in marriage with Mary L. Wheeler, a popular young lady and a daughter of a well known family of Whitewater. To this union two children have been born, Robert O. and Laura. The mother and children are members of the Congregational church.

Fraternally, Mr. Hamilton is a member of the blue lodge Free and Accepted Masons, the chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and the Knights of Pythias. He is a loyal Republican and active in party affairs. He has been justice of the peace and city attorney at Whitewater, also district attorney of Walworth county. He is a member of the board of regents of the State Normal School, and is a captain in the First Infantry, Wisconsin National Guards. As a public servant he has discharged his duties faithfully and worthily, winning the commendation of all concerned. Personally, he is a gentleman of refinement and genial address, unassuming and an advocate of wholesome living and high ideals.

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#### GEORGE WASHINGTON SPERBECK.

One of the enterprising citizens of Whitewater is George Washington Sperbeck, a man of excellent characteristics and true public spirit. He was born in Marion county, Indiana, on February 22, 1860. He is the son of John Romain Sperbeck and Jenetta (Thomas) Sperbeck, the father a native of New York and the mother of Indiana. They were married in the latter state at Marion, whither he had gone from New York after finishing his education. He organized a private school at Marion and Jenetta Thomas was one of his pupils. After teaching there several years he went to Richmond, Indiana, and was a wool dealer and shipper. His death occurred in 1863, his widow surviving but a few years, dying in 1866. They had two children, George Washington of this sketch, and Florence Lurenc, who died in 1863, when three years old. The father was a Republican and a Freemason, and the mother was a member of the Christian church.

The paternal grandparents of the subject came to Walworth county in an early day and settled on a farm west of Delavan, and here they spent their last days at the home of a son-in-law, John Fuller. The father of the subject came with them here and attended school, then went to Marion, Indiana. The grandparents had a family of five sons and four daughters, two of whom, a son and a daughter, are living. The father of the subject was the oldest of the family.

George W. Sperbeck was seven years old, when, in 1867, he left Marion.

Indiana, and he was reared by an uncle, Porter Calkins, a pioneer of Delavan township, Walworth county, Wisconsin. Here the subject received his education in the public schools and at Beloit College. In 1883 he came to Whitewater and was employed as clerk and painter, then engaged in business for himself as painter, and he established a store in 1897, handling paints and wall paper, and by his industry built up a large business. He also handled sporting goods. He still operates the store, and he carries one of the largest stocks of wallpaper in Wisconsin, for a town the size of Whitewater, and even larger. He also deals considerably in real estate.

Politically, Mr. Sperbeck is a Republican and he was alderman here for six years and supervisor for five years. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Mr. Sperbeck was married on February 16, 1888, to Etta M. Wells, of Whitewater, her birth having occurred here in 1863. She is the daughter of Horace and Mary M. (Thorn) Wells, early settlers of Walworth county, and here the father died in early life. The mother is living with the subject of this sketch.

Mrs. Sperbeck is a member of the Episcopal church, and he is a liberal supporter of the same.

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### HENRY WINN.

The record of the subject of this sketch is that of a man who by his own unaided efforts has worked his way from a modest beginning to a position of comfort and influence in his community. His life has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance and the systematic and honorable methods he has followed have won him the unbounded confidence of his fellow citizens of Walworth county whose interest he has ever had at heart and sought to promote when practicable, although of foreign birth.

Henry Winn was born in England on April 8, 1865. He is the son of Robert and Elizabeth (Camm) Winn, both born in England, where they grew up and were married. From that country they emigrated to America in 1871, coming to Jefferson county, Wisconsin, where they rented a farm. Then they came to Walworth county in 1886 and settled on a farm of ninety-seven and one-half acres, only fifteen rods from the line of Whitewater. This farm was bought at that time by the two sons, Henry and George, and here their father remained until his death. The mother died on April 25, 1888, at the age of sixty-nine years. They were the parents of seven children,

of whom six are living at this writing. In politics Robert Winn was a Republican, and he belonged to the Episcopal church.

Henry Winn, of this sketch, was six years of age when his parents brought him to Wisconsin, and he grew up and was educated in Jefferson county, attending the public schools and the Whitewater Normal. He has devoted his life to farming and has met with encouraging success all along the line. He is now the owner of one hundred acres of good land. For about twenty years he has been a breeder of Poland-China hogs, for which he has always found a very ready market.

Politically, Mr. Winn is a Republican, and he attends the Methodist church.

Mr. Winn was married on December 27, 1889, to Ada Catral, who was born in England in 1865, the daughter of George and Elizabeth Catral, natives of England where they grew up and were married and there the father lived until his death. The mother survives. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Winn, namely: Albert Henry, Harley E., Eldyn R.; one child died in infancy.

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#### A. K. ALRICK.

The names of those men who have distinguished themselves through the possession of those qualities which daily contribute to the success of private life and to the public stability and who have enjoyed the respect and confidence of those about them should not be permitted to perish. Such a one is A. K. Alrick, one of the sturdy sons of Norway who has found a good home and operates a popular store in the town of Whitewater, Walworth county, and here he is highly esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. Alrick was born in Norway on March 16, 1849, and he is the son of K. O. Alrick and wife. The subject grew up and received his education in his native land, and he and his father emigrated to America in 1866, locating at Cambridge, Wisconsin. A brother of the subject came five years later. The father lived here until his death a few years ago.

A. K. Alrick lived on his father's farm in Norway until he was eleven years old. At the age of thirteen he left for the city of Bergen and there became an apprentice in the shoe business for three years. He had had little schooling, but was a close observer and became practical. After coming to America he worked on the farm in the summer and at the shoe trade in the winter at Cambridge. He came to Whitewater, Walworth county, in 1868

and found employment in the shoe business in a local concern, and at this he worked for several years, then purchased part ownership in the store, the firm name becoming Arveson & Alrick, and they built up a very satisfactory business, from 1879 to 1895, when Mr. Alrick assumed full proprietorship and has since continued. He enjoys a liberal patronage with the town and surrounding country, for his honesty and courtesy have won the confidence and good will of the people and he always carries a full, up-to-date and carefully selected stock of goods which he sells at reasonable prices and a customer once gained is always retained.

Mr. Alrick was married in 1873 to Carry C. Dahl, and to this union two children were born, Clarence B., and Alma B., the latter being now deceased. Mr. Alrick has been twice married, his second marriage being with Florence Whitehead.

Mr. Alrick was reared a Lutheran. He is a Republican and is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons.

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#### ELLS BROTHERS.

One would find it necessary to search long and far to find a farm kept in better condition or managed under more up-to-date methods than that of the Ells Brothers, for they have not only worked hard and persistent in keeping everything in its proper place, but have been students of local conditions and have widely read such literature as pertains to twentieth-century methods of husbandry, so that they have been enabled to reap just rewards for their pains and labors from year to year, and, owing to the system of their operations, they accomplish more at a less expenditure of labor than do most men. They have learned that "haste makes waste" very frequently, and while they try to do everything with dispatch as well as neatness, they realize that there are times when rushing methods are not the best, when patience must be exercised. They are representatives of one of our sterling old families, members of which have sought to do their full duty in the affairs of the county since casting their lot here very many years ago.

The Ells Brothers firm, well known farmers and stock raisers, of the vicinity of Elkhorn, is composed of C. W. and F. W. Ells, sons of W. B. and Mary (Barker) Ells, the father born in Nova Scotia, February 15, 1851, and the mother born in Millard, Sugar Creek township, this county, March 25, 1855. She is the daughter of J. B. and Almeda (Barker) Barker, he a



THE ELLS FAMILY

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native of Batavia, Genesee county, New York, born August 1, 1823, and from there he came to Sugar Creek township, this county, in 1838 among the pioneers, with his parents, Joseph and Lucinda Barker, who settled on a farm here, where they spent the balance of their lives. Their family consisted of three daughters and six sons.

J. B. Barker was educated in the schools of his native community in New York and in those of Walworth county, Wisconsin. Early in life he took up farming for a livelihood and became the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land here, and here he spent the balance of his life, dying in 1898, the death of his wife occurring on November 5, 1901.

The family of W. B. Ells consisted of four sons, named as follows: E. J., born August 17, 1877; C. W., born October 11, 1879; F. W., born April 17, 1882; E. F., born June 5, 1884.

W. B. Ells was less than a year old when his parents brought him to Sugar Creek township, Walworth county, he being the son of George and Eliza (Borden) Ells, who settled on a farm here, establishing a very comfortable home in which they spent the rest of their lives, the death of the father occurring in July, 1889, and that of the mother in January, 1887.

W. B. Ells grew to manhood here and received his education in the public schools, and here he became a farmer and owned one hundred and twenty acres, which he brought up to a high state of improvement and cultivation, and on this his sons still live, ably carrying forward the work which he inaugurated. He was a strong prohibitionist, and he and his wife belonged to the Wesleyan Methodist church, which he served as local clerk and as secretary at the annual conference. He was an active member in the church, and a liberal supporter of the same.

The elder Ells was for some time secretary of the State Telephone Company, also secretary of the Silver Lake Creamery and the local cemetery. He held about all the township offices, and he attended county, district and state conventions of the Prohibitionists, always making his influence felt for the good of the party. As a public servant he was always faithful to every trust reposed in him and worthily discharged his every duty. The death of W. B. Ells occurred on November 19, 1909, after a successful and useful life. He was a man whom to know was to admire and respect and he numbered his friends only by the limits of his acquaintance.

C. W. Ells, mentioned above, was born and reared in Sugar Creek township, and here he received his education in the public schools, and when a boy worked on the home farm during the crop season. Later he attended

Wheaten College, and early in life he took up farming for a livelihood. Politically, he is a Prohibitionist, and he attends the Methodist church. He was married on June 25, 1908, to Carrie A. Kellar, who was born in Belle Plaine, Iowa, November 22, 1881. He has remained on the home place, which, as stated, he is operating successfully, with his brother, carrying on general farming and stock raising.

F. W. Ells, who, with his brother, conducts the homestead, was also born and reared in Sugar Creek township, and here he received his education in the public schools, and he has devoted his life to farming. Politically, he is a Prohibitionist. He has remained single.

The Ells brothers, in connection with general farming, are making a specialty of dairying, for which they are exceptionally well equipped, handling good stock and having excellent buildings. They keep a fine herd of thoroughbred Holstein cattle, which, owing to their superior quality, find a very ready sale when offered on the market. They are each young men of much business promise and they have led exemplary lives, so that they have the respect and good will of their fellow men.

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### WILLIAM J. COX.

The subject of this review enjoys distinctive prestige among the citizens of the town of Whitewater, Walworth county, where he now lives in honorable retirement after a life of unusual industry, which was crowned with success, and as a neighbor and citizen he is highly esteemed by all who know him. He earned the right to be called one of the progressive men of his community, having fought his way onward and upward to a position of honor in the circles in which he elected to move and in every relation of life his voice and his influence have been on the side of right as he has seen and understood the right.

William J. Cox was born in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, on August 18, 1864. He is the son of Walter and Ann (Smith) Cox, both natives of England, where they spent their childhood, and from there they emigrated to the United States in 1848, locating in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and in 1856 they bought a farm three and one-half miles north of Whitewater, in Jefferson county, consisting of one hundred and twenty acres, and there they became very comfortably established. The elder Cox was a brick and stone mason by trade and this and farming constituted his life work. He was ac-

identally killed on his farm in 1880. His widow survived many years, dying in 1899. They were the parents of five children, all of whom are living at this writing. Politically, the father was a Republican, and his wife was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. The family has long attended the church of this denomination at Whitewater.

William J. Cox, of this sketch, was reared on the home farm, where he made himself useful in his boyhood days, and he received his education in the common schools of his district. He made farming his chief life work, which he followed successfully until in March, 1909, when, having accumulated a competency through his industry and good management, he purchased an attractive residence at No. 206 South Cottage avenue, Whitewater, Wisconsin and here he has since lived retired from the active duties of life. His fine farm, which he still owns, lies two and one-half miles northeast on the county line, in the vicinity of Coldspring, Jefferson county. He has two hundred acres, which he has brought up to a high state of improvement and cultivation, and on which stand a splendid set of buildings. He formerly made a specialty of Holstein cattle.

Mr. Cox is a Republican, and he held the office of treasurer of the school board for seven years in Coldspring. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife also belongs and which the entire family attends. He is a liberal supporter of the church.

Mr. Cox was married on February 9, 1892, to Mrs. Jennie Marshall, daughter of Morris Horton, an early settler of Walworth county, who lived in Delavan and died in Whitewater on October 16, 1910, at the advanced age of eighty-four years.

To Mrs. Cox three children were born of her union with Mr. Marshall, her first husband, namely: John; Raymond, who is now operating the subject's farm, and Olive, who is at home.

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#### EMERSON A. BRIGHAM.

The biographies of enterprising men, especially good men, are instructive as guides and incentives to others. The examples they furnish of patient purpose and steadfast integrity strongly illustrate what is in the power of each to accomplish. Some men belong to no exclusive class in life; apparently insurmountable obstacles have in many instances awakened their dormant faculties and served as a stimulus to carry them to ultimate renown. The

instances of success in the face of adverse fate would seem almost to justify the conclusion that self-reliance, with half a chance, can accomplish any reasonable object.

One of the men of Walworth county who has won success when his environment seemed none too encouraging is Emerson A. Brigham, an early resident of this county, now living quietly in the town of Darien, where he owns valuable property, which he has accumulated through his individual efforts.

Early in life the subject turned his attention to farming and this has been his principal life work. However, he learned the broom-manufacturing business, which he followed for some time. He is now living practically retired from active work, and is living in the town of Darien where he owns a splendid home and twenty acres of good land, at the edge of town.

Politically, Mr. Brigham is a Republican, having voted no other ticket since reaching his majority. He is a worthy member of the Baptist church, in which he is active, and he has been superintendent of the local Sunday school for the past seventeen years, having done a most commendable work in this connection, and he was assistant superintendent for a period of seven years prior to becoming superintendent.

Mr. Brigham was married on April 5, 1871, to Rosepha Meacham, daughter of Edwin Meacham and Emeline (McCracken) Meacham, the father being an influential citizen of Troy, this county, who came to Wisconsin in 1836.

Mr. Brigham was born on November 25, 1848, in Hadley, Massachusetts, representing a sturdy old family of the great Bay state, being the son of Abel and Emeline (Hibbard) Brigham, natives of Massachusetts, where they grew to maturity, received their education and married. They came west in 1850, but did not remain long, until they went back to Massachusetts. In 1856 the family moved to Troy, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where they established their future home, buying a farm in that vicinity which they improved and on which they made a very comfortable living, remaining there the rest of their lives, the father dying in 1884, the mother of the subject surviving until 1892. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Abel Brigham, all living at this writing but two.

Emerson A. Brigham, of this review, was reared on the home farm where he assisted with the general work when a boy, and he received his education at Troy, a union of several districts, which bought a church house in which school was held.

Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Brigham, one of whom died when two and one-half years old; the living are, Fred E., a traveling salesman for the Harter Shoe Company of Chicago; Edna Pearl, the wife of Dr. J. F. Rood of Darien, this county; T. R. is a carpenter and lives at Darien; Guy is a rural mail carrier.

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### GEORGE W. HUREY.

The people who constitute the bone and sinew of this country are not those who are unstable and unsettled; who fly from this occupation to that; who do not know how to vote until they are told, and who take no active and intelligent interest in affairs affecting schools, churches and property. The backbone of this country is made up of the families which have made their homes; who are alive to the best interests of the community in which they reside; who are so honest that it is no trouble for their neighbors to know it; who attend to their own business and are too busy to attend to that of others; who work on steadily from day to day, taking the sunshine with the storm and who rear a fine family to a comfortable home and an honest life. Such people are always welcome in any community and any country. They are wealth producers, and this country is blessed with many of them, among which is that of the subject of this sketch.

George W. Hurey was born on February 26, 1856, in Delavan township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, near the place he now owns. He is the son of Martin and Katherine (Viles) Hurey, the father born in Ireland and the mother in England. The former emigrated to the United States about fifty-seven years ago, coming straight to Delavan township, this county, when the country was not very much developed. About eight months after his arrival he purchased forty acres of land in section 24, and on this he lived about seven years, then sold out and bought another farm of seventy-three acres in the same township and there he spent the balance of his life, his death occurring on November 2, 1902. He had outlived his wife some thirty-seven years, her death having occurred on May 22, 1865. They were the parents of four children, of whom only George W. of this review survives.

George W. Hurey grew up on the home farm and worked on the same during his boyhood days, and he received his education in the common schools of his district. He has spent his life in his home community and has

always engaged in agricultural pursuits. He is now the owner of a fine farm of two hundred twenty-seven and one-half acres in section 24, Delavan township, where he is carrying on the various departments of general farming and stock raising with that care and discretion which stamps him as one of the progressive farmers of his locality and his efforts are annually repaid by abundant crops. He has a pleasant, substantial dwelling and large, convenient outbuildings and all kinds of up-to-date farming implements.

Mr. Hurey was married on December 18, 1884, to Millie Young, the daughter of Nelson and Jane Young, the father a native of the state of New York and the mother of Canada. They came to Sharon, Walworth county, Wisconsin, many years ago and there they both died. To Mr. and Mrs. Hurey one child has been born, May, who married a Mr. Sutton, and she is living with her parents at this writing. Politically, the subject votes independently, and in fraternal matters he belongs to the Woodmen.

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#### GEORGE KISHNER.

It is doubtful if we of the present generation fully realize what the old soldiers of the great Union army of a million brave men had to sacrifice "in order that the nation might live, under God," in the language of Mr. Lincoln's incomparable Gettysburg speech, and it is also doubtful if we fully appreciate what they have done for us, leaving us a broad, rich, populous and beautiful country, so strongly cemented together that there will never again be any North or South, any East or West, but one splendid union, the greatest of the nations of the earth, progressing ever to one golden end, the future of which no man can see or even dream. Had it not been for the "grand army," of which George Kishner of the village of East Delavan, Walworth county, was a member, conditions would have been today far different. We therefore owe to him, and them, all the respect and gratitude possible.

Mr. Kishner was born in Oswego, New York, May 26, 1845. He is the son of George Kishner and wife, *nee* Smith. Both were born in Germany, from which country they emigrated to the United States when quite young, locating first at Oswego, New York, then they moved to Chicago where the mother of the subject died. The father subsequently moved to Wisconsin, and located in the town of Janesville, where he was interested in a meat house, also a similar business at Kenosha and Geneva, and finally set-

bled in East Delavan, and here bought a farm of sixty-eight acres which he operated until his death in 1891, having become very well established here.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. George Kishner, Sr., three of whom are deceased; those now living are, Charles, Edward, Fred, James, Emma and George, of this review.

George Kishner, Jr., received his education in the public schools of Janesville, Wisconsin, and he helped his father with his work when growing to manhood. He now lives in East Delavan. He has never married.

Politically, the subject is a Republican, but he has never been active in political affairs. In religious matters he is a member of the Episcopal church.

The subject enlisted in the Forty-ninth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, under Captain Cheney, on February 8, 1865, and he served very faithfully during the war.

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#### OLIVER PERRY SOUTHWICK.

It is a compliment worthily bestowed to say that Walworth county is honored by the life-long citizenship of Oliver Perry Southwick, of Williams Bay, for he has achieved definite success through his own efforts and is thoroughly deserving of the proud American title of self-made man, the term being one that, in its better sense, can not but appeal to the loyal admiration of all who are appreciative of our national institutions and the privileges afforded for individual accomplishment, and it is a privilege, ever gratifying in this day and age, to meet a man who has the courage to face the battles of life with a strong heart and steady hand and to win in the stern conflict by bringing to bear only those forces with which nature has equipped him, self-reliance, self-respect and integrity.

Mr. Southwick was born in Walworth township, this county, near where Yerkes Observatory now stands, August 26, 1869. He is the son of George and Emma (Russell) Southwick. The father came from Ohio with his parents, Jonas Southwick and wife, and settled in Turtle Prairie, this county.

Lawrence Southwick was the first of the family to come to America, having emigrated from Lancashire, England, in 1627, later returning to his native land and bringing over his wife Cassandra and their son John and daughter Mary, settling with his family in Massachusetts in 1630, locating with William Bradford and others at Salem. In 1639 his family was admitted as members of the First church of Salem and two acres of land were

given him by the town of Salem on which to manufacture glass and earthenware, he being one of the first manufacturers of glass in America, his land being called the "Glass House Field" and it has remained in possession of the Southwicks to this day. This entire family was fined, whipped, imprisoned and finally banished for being Quakers, and two younger children of Lawrence Southwick, Daniel and his sister Provided, were sentenced by the general court to be sold into slavery. When banished in 1659 Lawrence Southwick and wife went to Shelter Island, Long Island sound, and died there the following year of privation and exposure. Their son Joseph went to Rhode Island and established a home for himself and family. In 1660 he returned to Salem to look after his parents' property and was whipped for returning to Massachusetts. The instance of Puritan intolerance by which Daniel and Provided Southwick were sentenced to be sold into slavery in Virginia or Barbados because they were unable to pay a fine of ten pounds each for non-attendance at church, is told in John G. Whittier's poem "Cassandra," named for their mother, wife of Lawrence Southwick. An attempt was made to sell them into slavery, but no ship was found willing to take them to the West Indies and they were given their liberty.

Joseph Southwick of the second generation was born in 1632 and died in 1693. He married and reared several children. In 1659 he and John Small, also John Burton, were arrested at Deadham, Massachusetts, for being Quakers, while on their way to Rhode Island to provide homes for their families and to escape the Puritan persecutions, but being released they resumed their journey.

Solomon Southwick, who was of the third generation, was born in 1672, married in 1712 and was the father of several sons and daughters. One of his sons, Solomon, was born in 1731 and died December 23, 1797. On June 20, 1769, he married Ann Carpenter, a widow, and a daughter of Lieut.-Gov. John Gardiner of Rhode Island. This was the first member of the branch of Southwicks to become identified with the printing business. When in 1735 James Franklin, a brother of Benjamin Franklin, died, his printing office passed into the hands of his son James and the latter established the *Newport Mercury*. The paper was later transferred to Samuel Hall, and from him to Solomon Southwick, who published it until 1776, when, fearing the British, who were preparing to land on the island, would destroy his type and press, he had them buried in the rear of an old building on Broad street. Learning this fact the British had them unearthed and removed to a confiscated building where they were used to print the *Rhode Island Ga-*

*zette*. After the Revolutionary war, the *Mercury* was again issued by Henry Barbour, who bought the property. When the British took possession of the island Solomon Southwick and family tried to escape in an open boat, but in an engagement with the invaders the latter captured his wife and son Solomon. Later they were released and joined the husband and father. He was one of a committee of four appointed to receive General Washington when he visited Newport in 1781. Volumes of the *Mercury* and other mementoes, among which is a diploma from the College of Pennsylvania (now the University of Pennsylvania) for proficiency in philosophy and mathematics, dated 1757, and conferring on him the degree of Bachelor of Arts, are now in possession of his descendants at Albany. George Southwick was killed in the battle of Lexington, when he was twenty-five years old, and his name is on the marble slab erected in memory of those that fell there.

Henry C. Southwick, who was of the fifth generation, was born at Newport, Rhode Island, in 1772 and he died in 1821; he married, in 1797, Margaret Wood, daughter of Capt. Josiah Wood of the regular army and a cousin of General Wood. Henry C. Southwick was at one time associated with his brother, Solomon, in printing in Albany and there he became editor of a number of papers at different times. Solomon Southwick was twice nominated governor of New York and he was also state printer and was associated with Thurlow Weed for some time.

Henry Collins Southwick, of the sixth generation, was born in 1806 and died in 1879. In 1825 he married Mary Parkinson, of Mayfield, Fulton county, New York. He went to Albany when a child and worked as a hatter's apprentice. At one time he was collector of tolls at Albany and he was public spirited and prominent in many ways. It is believed that Caleb Southwick was a brother of Solomon Southwick, who ran for governor of New York, though he may have been a cousin; but it is known that he is of the same ancestry. The death of Caleb Southwick occurred on January 19, 1856 when eighty-two years old, his birth having occurred on June 17, 1773. He married Ann Carpenter. After living some time in Bombay, New York, he moved to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1851 and located in the southeastern corner of Delavan township. His family consisted of two sons and two or three daughters. One of his sons, Jonas G., was born at Rutland, Vermont, in 1810. He married at Bombay, New York, Mary Brown and three children were born to them. Two of the sons came to this county. Jonas G. moved to Ohio and his first wife lived there. Later he married Mary Reese, who was born in 1815 at Sinking Valley, Pennsylvania, and she

was the daughter of Thomas and Mary (Beyer) Reese. Jonas G. Southwick and family came to this county in the fall of 1849, and for two years made their home west of Delavan, then purchased the homestead in the southwestern corner of Delavan township. He had eleven children by the second marriage, namely: Henry, deceased; George, who was the father of Oliver P., of this sketch; he and Harriet were twins, the latter dying when nineteen years old; Charles lives at Williams Bay; Chauncey and Rachel died in infancy; James died March 13, 1912, in Delavan, leaving two sons; Oliver died when nineteen years old; William H. lives north of Williams Bay; he was born April 17, 1852, on the place on which he now resides. He married Marietta Bowlsby, of Winterset, Iowa, and they had two children, one of which died when eleven months old; the other, Ernest E., was born April 1, 1887, and he married Rose Weeks of Chicago and they have one daughter, Mary R. William H. Southwick has lived on the home farm all his life. His wife died on May 5, 1904. Mary married C. M. Williams and lives in Chicago; Sanford died when four years old. Jonas Southwick died in the fall of 1896 and his wife died in 1890.

William H. and Ernest Southwick raise fine Rhode Island Red poultry and took many premiums, having been awarded the first, second and third prizes at the Southeastern Wisconsin Poultry Show for Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds and second cockerel and third and fourth pullets in single comb.

George Southwick, father of the subject of this sketch, married Emma Russell, daughter of Marcus and Rebecca (Potter) Russell. George Southwick bought a farm near where the Observatory stands and there spent the remainder of his life. When he was thirty-three years old he met with an accidental injury from which he died November 10, 1870. His son, Oliver P., of this sketch, was then only fifteen years old. Emma (Russell) Southwick lived until June 18, 1906.

Oliver P. Southwick was the third child in a family of four children, the others being, Doric C., who lives in Beloit, on the Illinois side of the line; Jennie, who married Lavelette E. Francis, now deceased; she lives on part of the old homestead; Mahetabel, the youngest child, married Dr. Charles Francis, now deceased, and lives in Williams Bay. Doric C. Southwick, mentioned above, was born August 22, 1865, married Mary Nott, daughter of Charles Nott, of Elkhorn. He farmed the home place until the spring of 1910, then moved to Beloit where he is now residing.

After his father died Oliver P. Southwick lived with his grandfather Southwick and his uncle, William Southwick, north of Williams Bay. When

eighteen years old he went to work for the Chicago Northwestern Railroad and was with them eight years, having been in the service of this road at various stations; he was at Lake Geneva four years as cashier and clerk. Leaving the road in March, 1895, he turned his attention to other pursuits.

Mr. Southwick was married on March 4, 1896, to Mary A. Ladd, daughter of Wesley and Phoebe (Haley) Ladd, at Ringwood, Illinois. Wesley Ladd was born at Hebron, New Hampshire, December 5, 1810. He came to McHenry county, Illinois, in 1836 and entered land from the government and he spent the rest of his life in that county. There he married Phoebe Haley, daughter of Edmund and Lucy Haley. She was born at Byron, Genesee county, New York, and came to McHenry county, Illinois, with her parents while she was young. Mrs. Wesley Ladd died on December 28, 1894, and the death of Wesley Ladd occurred on March 25, 1897. Mary A. Ladd was born in McHenry county, Illinois, and she lived in Ringwood, Illinois, until her marriage. Her parents moved to that city in 1881 and there spent the rest of their lives. Oliver P. Southwick and wife have one daughter, Mary Arline Southwick, who was born November 3, 1904.

After his marriage Mr. Southwick entered the general merchandise business at Williams Bay, buying out C. W. Williams & Company, and he has been in business here ever since, enjoying a large trade, keeping his store well stocked with a large and carefully selected stock of goods at all seasons and he is one of the best known merchants and progressive business men in the southern part of Walworth county. He sustained a serious loss by fire in 1903, his store taking fire from the adjoining hotel. He then purchased the building where the store is now located. He has two store rooms, neatly kept and well arranged. Personally, he is a straightforward, honest and obliging gentleman who has the interests of his locality at heart.

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### JOHN W. UTTER.

That the plenitude of satiety is seldom attained in the affairs of life is to be considered a most beneficial deprivation, for where ambition is satisfied and every ultimate end realized, if such be possible, apathy must follow. Effort would cease, accomplishment be prostrate and creative talent waste its energies in inactivity. The men who have pushed forward the wheels of progress have been those to whom satisfaction lies ever in the future, who have labored continuously, always finding in each transition stage an incen-

tive for further effort. John W. Utter, farmer and stock raiser of Delavan township, Walworth county, is one whose well directed efforts have gained for him a position of desired prominence in the various circles in which he moves, and his energy and enterprise have been crowned by success, and, having ever had the interests of his county at heart and sought to promote them in every way possible, he has well earned a place along with his enterprising fellow citizens in the permanent history of Walworth.

Mr. Utter was born on December 13, 1850, in Delavan township, this county, on the farm where he still resides. He is the son of Samuel and Harriet Utter. The father was born in Washington county, New York, on January 23, 1807, the son of Abraham and Marilda Utter. He was reared on the farm and when twenty years of age he went to Castile, Genesee county, New York, where he lived until September, 1843, when he moved to Delavan township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, when the country was new and little developed, and here he became very comfortably established on the farm where the subject now lives. Samuel Utter was married on February 23, 1832, to Charlotte Ferris, and two children were born to them who died in infancy. Mrs. Utter died on September 26, 1840, and Mr. Utter was married again, in Castile, on September 9, 1841, to Harriet A. Winston, daughter of John Winston. Mrs. Utter was born in Chenango county, New York. Three children were born of this second union, namely: Amanda, Loretta and John W., of this sketch. The first named married J. S. Spencer.

The father, Samuel Utter, was supervisor for three or four terms. He was a man who enjoyed the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. His death occurred in May, 1898.

John W. Utter grew to manhood on the home farm and there he assisted with the general work when but a boy. He received his education in the common schools of his locality. Upon reaching manhood he was united in marriage with Ida Vincent, daughter of Jarvis and Sallie Ann (Waterbury) Vincent. To this union two children were born, Elma, wife of Ray Bowers, lives in Delavan township, and Earl, who lives in this county.

The wife and mother passed to her rest on January 18, 1879, and Mr. Utter was subsequently married to Ella Virgil, daughter of James and Julia (Chesebro) Virgil. The father was born November 28, 1826. He is now living with the subject, his wife having died on February 19, 1894. They were the parents of five children, namely: Frank, who is now fifty-three years old; Ella, wife of Mr. Utter of this sketch; Emeline, born July 7, 1862; Nettie, born May 16, 1865; Carrie, born June 21, 1870.

To the subject and his second wife two children were born, namely: Mae, born May 3, 1887, and Grace, born December 10, 1892.

Mr. Utter is the owner of a finely improved and productive farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 26, Delavan township, which he has managed in such a skillful manner as to bring him large annual returns. He keeps a good grade of live stock and he has a good set of buildings.

Politically, Mr. Utter is a Republican, and in religious matters he belongs to the Baptist church. He and his wife are members of the Royal Neighbors and he is a Woodman. Religiously, the family are all members of the Baptist church.

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### OSCAR E. ROMARE.

One of the successful business men of Williams Bay who is eminently deserving of the success he has attained is Oscar E. Romare, for he has forged his way to the front through obstacles, overcoming an environment that would have discouraged many less courageous; but he has in him many of the attributes of the hardy people of Sweden which never fail of success when backed by energy and ambition.

Mr. Romare was born at Lund, Skone, Sweden, May 20, 1875, and is the son of John P. and Anna C. (Göberg) Romare. The father was born in the same vicinity as was his son, on March 10, 1844, and is the son of Sven and Anna (Asserina) Sandberg. When John P. Romare was eight years old his father died, then his mother married Mangnua Romare, and the boy was ever afterward known as John P. Romare. On October 31, 1868, he married Anna Christina Göberg, daughter of Nels and Inga (Hansen) Göberg. She was born and reared at the same place as Mr. Romare, the date of her birth being November 14, 1844.

In May, 1882, Mr. and Mrs. Romare and three children came to America, locating in Chicago, where they remained until about 1903, then came to Williams Bay, this county, where he now resides. They have one son, Oscar E., of this sketch; and three daughters, Mrs. Ida Oleson, born December 25, 1871, lives in Chicago; Mrs. Mollie Holmgren, wife of August Holmgren of Lake Park, Minnesota, was born August 29, 1881; Helma, who was born November 7, 1883, married George Lane, and they live at Lake Park, Minnesota.

Seven children were born to John P. Romare and wife, all of whom died

in early life. Mr. Romare is a member of the Swedish fraternal order known as the Svtgord, holding his membership with the Chicago lodge. He and his wife are highly respected for their clean lives, kindness and neighborliness.

When Oscar E. Romare was seven years old the family came to Chicago and there the subject grew to manhood and received his education in the public schools, also took a four-years course in mechanical engineering at night school. He also took a comprehensive correspondence course in the same subject. This will show his determination to win over obstacles, and educations thus gained are always appreciated and lead to success. When sixteen years old he began as an apprentice with the Preble Wood Working Machinery Company, manufacturers of all kinds of wood working machinery. There he learned to be a machinist and tool-maker. Four and one-half years later he went with the Westinghouse-Church-Cure people, manufacturers of ice machinery, self-feeding boiler plants, etc., near Chicago, remaining with them three and one-half years, making tools and special machines. He next went with the Rambler Bicycle Company, manufacturers of bicycles and automobiles, having charge of a department there and did tool making.

In May, 1901, Mr. Romare came to the Yerkes Observatory, Walworth county, where he has since remained. Here he designs and constructs instruments and telescopes, everything but the lenses; he is called on to make special appliances for use on the big telescopes, various instruments needed in original research, much in the way of experimental work. Among them is a machine for measuring astronomical photographs microscopically, to determine the distance of stars, and other instruments never before made. He is now designing an automatic telescope that will continue all night photographing portions of the heavens, changing plates and re-setting itself, without attention from the time of starting. In 1901 he was engaged to construct the Snow telescope with a thirty-inch aperture, which he completed in 1904. Just after it was finished it was almost totally destroyed by fire, and he had to do the work over, which required another year and a half. The instrument was taken to Mt. Wilson in California where it is now in use at the observatory there.

Mr. Romare was married on May 18, 1904, to Ethel Elizabeth Stam, daughter of Joseph John Stam and wife, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work. Mrs. Romare represents an excellent family and she is a lady of culture and many winning attributes. One son and one daughter have blessed this union, Ernfred and Mildred.

Mr. Romare has recently started a machine shop at Lake Geneva where

he has installed special machinery for his instrument work and is also well equipped for automobile and marine-engine work. He is widely known in the world of science, mechanics and invention, and is deserving of a great deal of credit for the way in which he obtained his education in this field of endeavor. He is one of the very few men engaged in his line of work. He has ever been a profound student, keeping up with the trend of modern thought in the scientific world, and, being yet young in years, the future must necessarily augur much of success for him, should he continue his research work and give full sway to his inventive and mechanical genius. He is a young man of sociable instincts and agreeable personality and is fond of home and family.

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### JOSEPH STAM.

The late Joseph Stam, for many years one of Walworth county's influential and honored citizens, was a man of well rounded character, his varied interests having produced a symmetrical development; and while his energies were chiefly given to business he was a valued factor in the church and civic life of his country and in social circles, where his upright life and genial temperament made him a general favorite.

Mr. Stam was born in Montgomery county, New York, probably at Sharon Springs, October 17, 1822. He was the son of Henry and Hannah (Huffnell) Stam. Henry Stam was of Swiss parentage and his wife was a native of Switzerland.

Joseph Stam grew to manhood in New York and there followed the carpenter's trade. In 1849 he came to Sharon, this county, and there continued carpentering and building, going to South Grove a few years later and there started a wagon factory and manufactured wagons several years. He also kept a store in the early days, drawing his supplies overland from Milwaukee. He was in business both at Sharon Grove and East Delavan, building up a large trade with the early settlers roundabout. He also built and ran a saw-mill at the head of Lake Geneva, and he became one of the substantial and well known business men of the county in his day. In 1864 he bought a farm about half a mile west of Williams Bay and thereafter turned his attention to farming, continuing the same with uninterrupted success the rest of his life.

Mr. Stam was united in marriage with Elizabeth White in 1860. She was born in the state of New York, near Albany, on August 23, 1837, and

there her early life was spent and she received her education, and there she and Joseph Stam were married. She is remembered as a most exemplary woman, devoted to her home duties, and she was neighborly and charitable in her instincts. Her death occurred on November 13, 1903, Joseph Stam surviving until September 23, 1907. Three children were born to them, namely: Charles E.; Mary E. is deceased; and Ethel E., who married Oscar E. Romare, a sketch of whom will be found in this work.

Joseph Stam was a quiet, diligent, hard working man, fond of home and family, well thought of and respected. He never boasted of his own accomplishments, but his life here in the early days was replete with worthy incident, embodying not a little stirring adventure, and his activities were decidedly beneficial to his part of the county.

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#### EDGAR E. WHITE.

A well known and popular citizen of Elkhorn is the genial auctioneer, Edgar E. White, representative of another of our sterling early families, and a man who has been content to spend his life within the borders of his own county, wisely deciding that it were useless to attempt to find a better.

Mr. White was born in Spring Prairie township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, November 5, 1861. He is the son of Edgar and Dorothy (Mohr) White, a complete sketch of whom appears in the review of the subject's brother, Henry H. White, the present postmaster of Lake Geneva.

Edgar E. White grew up on the home farm, and when a young man he worked out at farm work for a time. On October 3, 1883, he was united in marriage with Louise Schaub, of Spring Prairie, daughter of Caspar and Elizabeth (Schwartz) Schaub. These parents were natives of Germany, where they spent their early lives, emigrating to America about 1852. They located in New York city, where the father conducted a meat market for a number of years. He was twice married, first to the sister of his last wife, his first wife dying after the family came to America, thus his second marriage was solemnized here, his last wife, Elizabeth, being the mother of Mrs. White.

Mr. Schaub finally came to Spring Prairie township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he bought a farm on which he spent the rest of his life. Caspar Schaub also spent about twenty years of his life in the ministry of the Methodist church, in which he did much good. He lost his life on a steamboat on Lake Michigan, the boat being burned and the passengers drowned. This was about the year 1890. Two children were born of his first union.



EDGAR E. WHITE

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Edward E. and Charles. The former, who is principal of the high school at Oconto Falls, Wisconsin, has been teaching for over thirty years and is a well known educator. The latter died at Boenna City, Michigan. Five children were born to Caspar Schaub and his second wife, namely: Kate, who is the wife of John Messersmith, lived in Spring Prairie township, where her death occurred; Louise, wife of Mr. White, of this sketch; Lucetta died in Spring Prairie township, unmarried; John is farming in Spring Prairie township, this county; Clarence C. lives at Boenna City, Michigan, and is at present city treasurer there.

Mrs. White grew to womanhood in Spring Prairie township, was educated in the public schools and there she lived until her marriage. Mr. White engaged in buying and selling live stock after his marriage, also handled poultry, continuing this line of business with success until 1892 or later. He moved to Elkhorn in 1893 and here he has since resided, with the exception of about a year, 1910, spent on a farm near Elkhorn.

Since coming here he has taken an interest in public affairs and he was assessor of Elkhorn for three years, then resigned to run for sheriff of Walworth county in 1900, and he was elected in November of that year, taking office in January, 1901. After holding the office two years, he was appointed under-sheriff, which position he held two years. He again made the race for sheriff in 1906 and was elected, serving from January, 1907, to the end of 1908. In 1909 he was appointed under-sheriff, to fill a vacancy and he held that position two years. He discharged the duties of these offices in a manner that reflected much credit upon himself and to the eminent satisfaction of all concerned, irrespective of party alignment. He was ever faithful and conscientious in the discharge of his duties and it is doubtful if the county has ever had a more efficient or satisfactory public official.

About 1890 Mr. White first began as an auctioneer, his knowledge of live stock and his experience in this line giving him a decided advantage in this work, and he has been conducting public sales ever since with a marked degree of success. He has cried perhaps one hundred sales annually.

Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. White, namely: Orvilla, who married Perry James, of Delavan township, now lives in Delavan; Carrie is the wife of Joe Itson, of Burlington, and they have one daughter, named Elizabeth; Mabel is the wife of Harry Gates, of Geneva township, the son of C. M. Gates, mentioned in this work, and she has two children, Edith and Donald; Edgar, Hiram, Charlie and Gladys are all at home with their parents. Mr. White is a member of the Masonic fraternity, prominent in the chapter at Elkhorn.

## THOMAS LACKEY.

The years of the honored subject of this sketch are a part of the indissoluble chain which links the annals of the past to those of the latter-day progress and prosperity, and the history of Walworth county would not be complete without due reference to the long life he has lived and the success he has achieved as an earnest, courageous laborer in one of the most important fields of endeavor, agriculture. He is public-spirited and lends his support to any cause that has for its ultimate object the betterment of his locality in material, civic and moral lines.

Thomas Lackey, for many years one of this county's leading farmers and stock men, now living in retirement in his pleasant home at Williams Bay, was born March 1, 1834, at Banbridge, near Belfast, Ireland. He is one of the nine children born to Hugh and Isabel (Baird) Lackey, both parents being of Scotch descent and were Presbyterians. Hugh Lackey died in Ireland, and his widow and children later came to America, the son Joseph locating, about 1850, on a school section in the town of Troy, Walworth county, Wisconsin; his two brothers, Archie and David, followed him here the next year, and the following year Hugh came, then Robert, and Thomas, of this sketch, the latter having been about sixteen years old. Their sister Mary married Thomas Morrow in Ireland and remained in that country until 1860 to sell the property, then she joined the family in America.

Thomas Lackey lived for a year on the farm of his brother Joseph, and he attended school two years after coming to Dane county, this state. Hugh learned the blacksmith's trade and the rest all followed farming. Archie moved to Dane county, where he bought a farm on which he spent the rest of his life, owning two hundred acres when he died, leaving four sons and one daughter. David, who was a soldier in the Civil war, died after the war, unmarried, at the home of his brother Thomas in Dane county. Thomas Morrow, who married Mary Lackey, died and she later married John Black and lived in Troy, where they both died. Joseph, who also lived in Troy some time, later retired and moved to Troy Center, where he died.

After spending two years in this county Thomas Lackey moved to Dane county where he ran a broom factory for about three years. On March 19, 1863, he was united in marriage with Flora Jane Rawson, who was born in Stockbridge, New York, June 20, 1845, and was the daughter of Dr. Lorenzo and Mariett (King) Rawson. Her father, who was born

in Vermont, was the first homeopathic physician in that state. Doctor Rawson was descended from Edward Rawson, who was born in Gillingham, Dorsetshire, England, in 1615. Edward Rawson married Rachel Pern, daughter of Thomas Pern and granddaughter of John Hooker, whose wife was a sister of Edmund Grindal, Archbishop of Canterbury, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, a great pro-Puritan advocate.

Edward Rawson came to Newbury, colony of Massachusetts Bay, as early as 1637 and was a grantee of that town, and he became secretary of the colony and secretary of state in 1647. Some of his descendants were prominent in the Revolution and many have been long lived. Lorenzo Rawson was born in 1810 in Bethlehem, Gratton county, New Hampshire, and he lived there until he was ten years old, when he accompanied his parents to Lyandon, Caledonia county, Vermont, where he remained until 1831. He located in Hadley, Massachusetts, soon after and lived there until 1833. In April of that year he married Mary King, of Enfield, Connecticut, then settled in South Hadley, Massachusetts. He moved to Stockbridge, Madison county, New York, in 1834, and in 1846 came to Koshkonong, Rock county, Wisconsin, and in 1848 moved to York township, Dane county, this state, and there began a pioneer life. He was one of the founders of Methodism in the town of York and was very active in church work, often taking his family in his wagon drawn by oxen and spending the entire Sunday at church.

When Mrs. Lackey was three months old her parents moved to Koshkonong, Wisconsin, and there they lived a year and a half, then moved to York, Dane county, where she grew to womanhood and lived until her marriage.

About the time of his marriage Mr. Lackey bought eighty acres of farm land in Dane county and he farmed there until 1866. Toward the close of the Civil war he enlisted in the Union army, but was not mustered into service. In 1866 he moved to Missouri where he spent five or six years, then returned to Wisconsin and purchased a farm in Troy township, this county, and lived there three years, then sold out and bought one hundred and three acres in Delavan township, where he established his permanent home and reared his children, this being his residence for forty years before he retired from the active duties of life and moved to Williams Bay.

The death of Mrs. Lackey occurred on December 9, 1908. She was

a good woman, tried to make others happy, and held firmly to her religious faith, setting an excellent example to those around her.

Seven children were born to Thomas Lackey and wife, named as follows: John T., a retired farmer, lives in Williams Bay; he married Nellie Lake, daughter of John and Ann (Byrnes) Lake: she was born at Troy, this county, at which place her father spent his life and where her mother still lives; John T. Lackey and wife have one daughter, Viola. William Archibald Lackey, second son of the subject, was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, December 9, 1865, and he lived on the home farm until he was nineteen years old, then after working out one year began farming for himself at Williams Bay, also farmed two years in Iowa, returning to Williams Bay in 1889 and went into the livery business. Six years later he also started in the lumber and coal business here, continuing these lines until 1904, when he sold to Douglass & Dunn and began building the Lackey block in Williams Bay. It is a three-story building of pressed brick, has three store rooms fronting the east and the same number fronting the south, with flats upstairs for residence. In June, 1905, he put in a stock of hardware, dry goods and other lines and has a large store. On October 7, 1897, William A. Lackey married Angie Virgil, daughter of Henry and Elma (Smith) Virgil. Her father was born in Delaware county, New York, in 1832, and is a son of William and Alma (Simpson) Virgil. William Virgil was born in Columbia county, New York, and his wife was a native of Otsego county, that state. Alma Simpson's father, William Simpson, came from Rhode Island. Elma M. Smith, mother of Mrs. William A. Lackey, was the daughter of Seth and Lucinda (Lewis) Smith and was born in Pennsylvania and came here with her parents. Mr. Virgil has a farm in section 2, Walworth township, and lives in Williams Bay. William A. Lackey and wife have one daughter, Very Evelyn.

Mary Isabel Lackey, third child of the subject, married Edwin Brown, November 6, 1888. He was born October 19, 1857, and is the son of George W. Brown and wife, a sketch of whom appears in this work. Edwin Brown went to work on his father's farm in 1886, buying a half interest in the same in 1900, remaining there until 1905 when he began running a hardware, tin work, plumbing and furnace business at Williams Bay, in which he is now engaged. Edwin Brown was town treasurer and was also a member of the board of supervisors. He and his wife have two children, Cornelia and Lyle J. The former married Fred B. Adams and lives in Williams Bay. Edwin Brown and wife also had a son that died in infancy.

Lorenzo Lackey, fourth of the subject's children, who is engaged in the furniture and undertaking business in Delavan, married Kittie Clark, daughter of George Clark; she was born in the town of Walworth, and they have two children, Mildred and Esther.

Homer D. Lackey, who is engaged in the real estate business at Walworth, married Jennie Whitiver, of Monroe, Wisconsin.

Walter Joseph Lackey, who lives in Walworth, was a farmer until recently; he married Ethel Hatch, daughter of Oliver Hatch. She was born and reared at Delavan.

Reuben Lackey, the youngest of the subject's children, lives on the Conway place at Delavan Lake, being superintendent of a large estate at a good salary. He married Lulu Hatch, sister of Walter's wife, and they have two children, Volna and Theodosia.

Thomas Lackey, the immediate subject of this sketch, is now seventy-eight years old, but is an unusually well preserved man, his hair being hardly grey, and he has the good cheer and genial humor of youth, making him an agreeable companion to his wide circle of friends. He has taken an interesting part in the growth of the county which he has seen develop from the wilderness and tells many important anecdotes of the early days.

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#### RUTHFORD DOUGLASS DAVIS.

The gentleman to a review of whose life the reader's attention is here respectfully directed is recognized as one of the energetic young business men of the southern part of Walworth county, being now engaged in milling in the village of Fontana on the western shores of Lake Geneva. In the course of an honorable career he has been successful in his chosen vocations and has enjoyed the confidence and good will of those whom he has been associated with either in a business or social way.

Ruthford Douglass Davis was born at Fontana, Wisconsin, July 12, 1880. He is the son of James Bond Davis and Ruth Warren (Douglass) Davis, the latter a sister of Carlos S. Douglass, in whose sketch, appearing elsewhere in this work, the Douglass ancestry may be found. A complete sketch of James Bond Davis and the Davis ancestry appears on another page in this volume.

When the subject was only five days old his mother died and he was reared by his grandparents, C. Lavalette Douglass and wife. After spend-

ing two years in the high school at Whitewater and half a year at Geneva, he began working in his father's store at Fontana, where he remained for a time, meanwhile making his home with his grandparents, who desired that he remain in their home, they being old. Soon after Ruthford D. Davis was twenty-one years old his grandmother died, and the Christmas following he started to California, where he joined his father, who had then a lemon ranch there.

On March 28, 1903, Mr. Davis enlisted in the United States navy, as a member of the crew of the United States steamship "Alert," having been enlisted as landsman or yeoman. About three months later he was rated as third class petty officer, and about two years later he was advanced to second class, and about nine months later he was advanced to first class, although it was customary to remain at least a year in second class before reaching first class. His duties, outside of drills, were of a clerical nature. He traveled a great deal, visiting many places of interest, all up and down the Pacific coast, from Puget Sound to Cape Horn and up the east coast of South America and in the Gulf of Mexico and among the West Indies; along the east coast of the United States; to Clerbourg, France, to convey the body of John Paul Jones to America. He then made another trip to the Mediterranean where he spent the winter. This was all valuable experience for him and, being a keen observer by nature, was educational to a high degree. The greater part of his enlistment was spent on the United States steamship "Tacoma," and while on that ship they took the Japanese peace commissioners to Oyster Bay, where President Roosevelt officially introduced the members of the commission to the members of a like commission of Russians, prior to the negotiation of the treaty of peace which closed the war between Russia and Japan.

On April 15, 1907, Mr. Davis was honorably discharged from the United States naval service at Norfolk, Virginia, with an absolutely clear record. Returning to Fontana, Walworth county, he took an active interest in the Douglass Mills Company, of which he was half owner. In February, 1909, he bought Mr. Douglass's interest and since then has owned and operated the historic old mills alone, having enjoyed a large trade and an ever-increasing business.

Mr. Davis was married on November 9, 1907, to Anna Marie Wodrich, a native of Barth, Germany, from which place she came with her parents, William C. and Frederica (Voss) Wodrich, to America in her childhood. Her father has a good farm along the south edge of Walworth county, a mile and a half east of Big Foot.

To Mr. and Mrs. Davis one child, a daughter, has been born, Ruth Frederica, whose birth occurred on January 7, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Davis are members of the Congregational church at Fontana.

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### JAMES BOND DAVIS.

One of Walworth county's well known and highly respected men of affairs is James Bond Davis, who was born at Milton, Rock county, Wisconsin, August 12, 1850, and is the eldest living son of Amos Wells Davis, native of New Jersey, and Hannah Randall Davis, native of New York, descended many generations back from Scotch-Welsh stock. On May 15, 1863, he, with his parents, left Milton, going to Marshfield postoffice (now Marshland), Gaines township, Tioga county, Pennsylvania, where they resided among the beautiful mountains clad in the evergreen of majestic pines and hemlock, the home being close to the bank of Elk run, an attractive mountain stream. The family moved again in October, 1865, going to Portville, New York, where they were dissatisfied with the environment, and decided to return west and get in touch once more with their church denomination, being Seventh-Day Baptists. They arrived at Walworth, Wisconsin, July 4, 1866, where his parents continued to reside until called to their final rest, the mother on August 27, 1899, and the father on April 9, 1909.

James B. Davis's schooling was acquired in the common schools, followed by a course in Big Foot Academy at Walworth, and following this, he passed the winter of 1871-82 in Iowa City, Iowa, and returning to Walworth in March, went from there to Chicago in November to seek some occupation, Walworth furnishing very little during the winter.

The greater part of the next four years was passed in Chicago, though he refused to acquire citizenship there by voting, claiming Walworth as his home because of the residence of his parents there and his intention to return, which he did in the summer of 1876. On tendering his ballot at the presidential election November 7, 1876, his vote was promptly challenged by Will Henry Coon, who was the watch dog of the Democratic party in Walworth, carrying that party's vote in his vest pocket. Hon. C. L. Douglass, then chairman of the board of supervisors, knowing the situation better than others present, accepted the ballot, and as he placed it in the ballot box, said, "I will vouch for the past, present and future intention of Mr. Davis as a citizen of Walworth." At eight o'clock that evening (November

7, 1876), at the home of the bride's parents, James Bond Davis and Ruth Warren Douglass, the only daughter of Carlos Lavalette and Margaret (Stewart) Douglass, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony, the Rev. L. E. Livermore officiating. Scarce four years of supreme happiness was passed by this couple when a son, Ruthford Douglass Davis, was born to them on July 12, 1880, and five days later, on July 17th, the death angel called the spirit of the mother to her eternal rest, depriving her of the joys of motherhood after only one all too short year in the new home which she had enjoyed so much with its fine view of the entire length of beautiful Lake Geneva, and this fair world became one of sorrow to the bereft husband and father with his tiny babe.

The few official positions held by him have been unsought. The makers of tickets, thinking to strengthen them in some directions, in the spring of 1882, placed his name as a candidate for town treasurer of Walworth, to which office he was elected, and re-elected in April, 1883, O. P. Clark being elected his successor in April, 1884. However, Mr. Clark resigned a few months after election, and Mr. Edgar Maxon, then chairman of the board of supervisors, came to Mr. Davis and asked him, as a favor to the board, to accept an appointment as treasurer to fill out the unexpired term, which he did, though at some inconvenience to himself.

In the spring of 1892 some highways along the shores of Geneva lake having been vacated, and it being known that there was a desire to have more vacated, the hot issue was the retaining to the people of the highways left, so they would not be entirely shut off from the water's edge. At a caucus, which was not attended by Mr. Davis, he was nominated for chairman of the board of supervisors. This came to him as a great surprise, as no thought or desire had ever entered his mind for a place on the board, and no word of intimation had been given him that his name was to be used. He was elected by a small majority, but decided to pay a fine of ten dollars and refuse to qualify as his business needed his entire attention. However, before the legal time elapsed in which to qualify, his friends brought so much pressure to bear that he yielded. The same issue being in the minds of the people, he was re-elected in April, 1893, by more than two-thirds majority, and again in 1894 without any opposition. Many of his friends insisted that he go to the front for a fourth time, but he firmly and positively refused, saying three terms and out, unlike Bryan, with McCutcheon umpiring, in the *Chicago Tribune*, who called, "Stroike three, yer out."

In October, 1885, he bought one-half interest of his father-in-law, C. L.

Douglass, in the general merchandise business of C. L. and L. C. Douglass, at Fontana, Wisconsin, and the firm name was changed to Davis & Douglass. On May 1, 1896, he bought the remaining one-half interest in the business of his partner, Louis C. Douglass, and continued the business on an enlarged scale as sole owner until December 17, 1900, when he sold his stock, fixtures and good will to Olcott & Radebaugh, resigning his commission as postmaster at Fontana, which office he had held for many years, in favor of H. L. Radebaugh, who was appointed as his successor.

Deciding to again make a home for himself and motherless boy, the marriage of James Bond Davis and Mrs. Lollie Kaye Radebaugh, of Riverside, Iowa, was solemnized at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. A. L. Kaye, at Keithsburg, Illinois, September 19, 1889. Mrs. Radebaugh had been for some years the widow of Mr. Davis's own cousin, and they brought with them to their new home at Fontana, her son Roy, who made a model step-son for Mr. Davis, as well as legal cousin, first removed, a lad of fourteen years, full of willingness and determination to do things, who soon became useful and indispensable in the store, and who, with his family, resides at Walworth, where he is a member of the firm of Cooper & Radebaugh.

During the winter of 1899-1900, Mr. and Mrs. Davis, accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Kaye, were in California with headquarters at Berkeley. On disposing of his business at Fontana, December 17, 1900, he closed his affairs in Wisconsin as quickly as possible and on February 1, 1901, left for California to locate a future home, having an orange grove hobby in his mind, and San Diego as their destination, though they investigated many other locations, including Fresno, Los Angeles, Redlands and Riverside, in the meantime concluding that there was as much health and more financial returns in raising lemons instead of oranges, and on September 15, 1901, bought a lemon orchard at Highland avenue and Twenty-seventh street, National City, California, with a beautiful view of the mountains to the east and the grandeur of the mighty Pacific to be seen across San Diego bay to the west, where it roars across the reef at Point Loam. This property was given the name of "Bide-a-Wee" ranch, was in a high state of cultivation, and produced over eighteen tons of lemons per acre the first year, with larger possibilities, and to that end he gave citrus culture much study, and as a result, got twenty-two and a half tons to the acre during his last years, the fruit being picked fifteen times during twelve months. The orchard was written up as the best lemon orchard in California by the San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco papers at different times, and experienced fruit

men who knew the state, made the same assertion while on the ground. His ambition was to make a record that could not be surpassed, twenty-five tons to the acre per year, but on February 14, 1907, he sold the property to Dr. R. J. Higings, a retired physician of Oklahoma City.

When buying this property, Mr. Davis did so with the hope that he might pass the remainder of his life there, but when the Master's call came to the home nestling among the lemon trees on August 23, 1904, it was not for him, but for the loved wife who had been his companion for fifteen years. The remains were placed temporarily at rest in La Vista cemetery at National City.

After selling the ranch in 1907, he concluded to go east, and the remains were prepared to accompany him, starting July 17th, and they were placed in their final resting place in his lot where the remains of his first wife rest in the First-Day Baptist (better known as the Brick Church) cemetery of Walworth, Wisconsin.

Among other reasons for going east that summer were to see friends, and the trip was extended to the homes of his youth in Pennsylvania and New York, where he located some of his schoolmates of forty-two years before, but the trip was mainly at that date to help repair the home where his baby was born, that the baby, Ruthford Douglass Davis, then a young man of twenty-seven, might bring a bride to it in November. After this work was done he returned to California, but only for the winter, and on July 3, 1908, started east again, expecting to be away from National City only twelve weeks, but on his arrival at Fontana, found his brother, W. S. Davis, who then owned the business that he had formerly sold to Olcott & Radebaugh, in such condition of health that he was obliged to remain sixteen months, taking entire charge of the business for ten months.

This made necessary the loss of a return ticket to California, also, what cut deeper, the loss of his presidential vote in November, 1908, the first time he had lost his vote in state or national elections since becoming of age. However, California went Republican.

Departing from Fontana October 9, 1909, he returned to the state of his adoption and only love, and for one year after his arrival took up the work of assistant city engineer of National City, but the severe strain on failing eyes in such work is too great, and he severed his connection with the city service with the close of 1910. His brothers live as follows: Edwin W., at No. 1844 West Adams street, Chicago, Illinois; C. Edgar, at Lake Mills, Wisconsin; Will S., at Fontana, Wisconsin; and his only sister, Mrs.

Ella V. Davis Robar, at Walworth, Wisconsin. Mr. Davis is now living a retired life at Highland avenue and Thirty-first street, National City, California, in the most perfect climate in this world, where the humming birds hum, the meadow larks sing, and roses bloom every day each year, and in touch with the work now progressing in preparation for the Panama-California Exposition, San Diego, 1915.

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### MICHAEL TOBIAS PETERSON.

The subject to whose life history the reader's attention is now directed has, by ceaseless toil and endeavor, attained a marked success in business affairs, has gained the respect and confidence of men and is recognized as one of the distinctively representative citizens of his community. In pursuing the history of Mr. Peterson it will be seen that he is a man of strong convictions of right and duty, and that once having made up his mind as to his proper attitude on any subject, he acts accordingly and is undeterred by opposition and difficulties.

Michael Tobias Peterson, merchant at Williams Bay, was born at Bremnes, Norway, February 18, 1885. He is the son of Peter O. and Bertha (Thompson) Peterson, who now live at Madison, Wisconsin, mention of whom is made in the sketch of Miss Anna Peterson, postmistress at Williams Bay, who is a sister of the immediate subject of this sketch.

Michael T. Peterson was about a year old when his parents brought him to America in 1886, and he grew to manhood at Williams Bay, this county, and here received his education. When only nineteen years old he came into partnership with Henry W. Granzow, under the firm name of Granzow & Peterson, dealers in general merchandise, chiefly staple and fancy groceries, gents furnishings, hats, etc. They were then in one store room, but their trade was constantly growing and about 1908 they took in the adjoining store room and they now have two good large business rooms, well arranged and neatly kept, and they carry a large and carefully selected stock of up-to-date goods, and have a high class and extensive trade, their customers coming from remote sections of this part of the county.

Mr. Peterson was married in May, 1906, to Lelia Ackley, daughter of Albert H. and Mary Ackley. She was born at Troy Center, this county, where she spent her childhood and where her parents still reside. Albert H. Ackley was born in Troy township, Walworth county, May 30, 1849,

and is the son of Charles B. and Louisa (Bunker) Ackley, the former born about 1820 in the eastern part of the United States, he having been the son of Gen. Gad Ackley, who was an officer in the Revolutionary war.

Charles B. Ackley was a sailor on the Great Lakes in his younger days. He was among the earliest settlers of Troy township, this county, and he lived there until he was about eighty-three years old. Albert H. Ackley grew up on his father's farm and he married Mary I. Lackey, a daughter of Joseph and Agnes (Murdock-Baird) Lackey. Joseph Lackey was born in county Down, Ireland, and he came to America in his youth, locating in Troy township, Walworth county, Wisconsin. Agnes Murdock was of Scotch ancestry, and she was a native of Troy township. Albert H. Ackley and wife have lived in Troy township, this county, all their lives. He had spent his life engaged in farming, and he takes a due interest in public affairs and has held various township offices.

Mrs. Peterson has two sisters, namely: Olive Louisa is now the wife of Guy Taylor, a farmer of Troy township, and they have three children, Mildred Belle, Donald Ackley and Volney Guy; Agnes Alberta is the wife of Romeo Dingman and lives on a farm in Troy township, and they have three children, Isabel Rominia, Helen Alberta and Oscar Lyle.

Three daughters have been born to Michael T. Peterson and wife, of this sketch, namely: Marian, Gladys and Vivian. Mr. Peterson belongs to the Modern Woodmen, the Masons and the Mystic Workers.

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#### GEORGE W. BROWN.

The life of an honest, industrious and fair-minded man is always an example worthy of imitation by the younger generation for it cannot but contain many valuable lessons which, if studied rightly, will save others many a pitfall and many a heart-break as they go through this cold, indifferent, battle-arrayed world, where one must indeed be a fighter to win. Thus the career of George W. Brown is most commendable.

Mr. Brown was born in Carlisle, Schoharie county, New York, November 24, 1824. He is the son of Charles and Nancy (VanDresser) Brown, the father probably a native of Rhode Island, and was the son of George and Susan Brown, who came from England. Nancy VanDresser was born in Cobalskill township, Schoharie county, New York, and was the daughter

of John and Annie (Ferguson) VanDresser, her ancestors having been Hollanders, Scotch, English and French.

George W. Brown's parents came to Michigan in 1836 and on to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1841, and settled in Walworth township, in section 3, which land he entered from the government, and there the subject's parents spent the rest of their lives. The father had been a blacksmith in New York, but later in life he followed farming. His family consisted of seven children: George W., of this sketch; Henry lived all his life in Walworth township engaged in farming, married and reared his family here; Rial Brown died when thirteen years old; Charles K. lived in Chippewa City, Wisconsin, until his death in 1908, at the age of seventy-seven years; Joseph I., who is now about sixty-eight years old, lives in Colorado; Lucy married Reuben Wessel and first lived in Elkhorn, then Walworth, later in Sharon, where her death occurred; Helen Marr, the youngest of the children, married Lewis Getty, now deceased, and she lives in British Columbia, being now seventy-six years old.

George W. Brown grew up in section 3, Walworth township, and assisted with the general work on the home farm. He married Cornelia A. Conant, daughter of Caleb H. and Deborah (Clute) Conant. She was born at or near Syracuse, New York, and came here with her parents about 1840, locating in Walworth township.

George W. Brown got an excellent helpmate in his marriage and his later success in life was due in no small measure to her counsel and sympathy. He bought a farm adjoining his father's and made his home there, on the west half of section 3, Walworth township, and he lived in the same section practically all his life up to about 1905, and he followed farming from the time he was old enough to drive an ox. He was very successful as a **general farmer**.

To George W. Brown and wife the following children were born: Adelaide died in infancy; Francis E., born December 8, 1847, lives in Williams Bay, formerly followed farming; he married Lillian Mink; Ella M. Brown, born March 17, 1851, married Marshall Mink and they live at Darien; Lydia Ann, born January 21, 1854, married Stephen Carl Goff and they live in Darien; Edwin Brown lives in Williams Bay and is engaged in the plumbing business; he was born October 19, 1857, and he married Matie Lackey, November 6, 1888; Jane Brown was born May 3, 1860, and died August 5, 1868. The death of George W. Brown's wife occurred on February 6, 1886.

George W. Brown remained on the farm until the fall of 1905 when he moved to Williams Bay, where he now resides with his son Edwin, being now eighty-seven years old. He has a remarkable memory of early days and recalls many interesting incidents of pioneer times. He still takes quite an interest in historical lore and public questions.

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### HARLOW M. COON.

History and biography for the most part record the lives of only those who have attained military, political or literary distinction or who in any other career have passed through extraordinary vicissitudes of fortune. But the names of men who have distinguished themselves in their day and generation for the possession of those qualities of character which mainly contribute to the success of private life and to the public stability—of men who, without brilliant talents, have been exemplary in all their personal and social relations, and enjoyed the esteem, respect and confidence of those around them—ought not to be allowed to perish, for all are benefited by the delineation of those traits of character which find scope and exercise in the common walks of life. Among the individuals of this class of a past generation in Walworth county was Harlow M. Coon, for many years a well known agriculturist, merchant and public official, who had the interests of the village of Walworth at heart, which he sought to promote whenever possible. His life history was distinguished by the most substantial qualities of character and exhibited a long and virtuous career of private industry, performed with moderation and crowned with success, and his memory will long be revered by the people of this locality.

Mr. Coon was born at West Edmeston, Otsego county, New York, on February 14, 1819. He was the son of Ezra and Cyrena (Burdick) Coon. The Coon family is descended from the McCoons of Scotland. The first of whom we have record to emigrate to America were Daniel and Rhoda (Stillman) McCoon, who came from Aberdeen to Hopkinton, Rhode Island. Their son Joshua was the father of Daniel, who had a son also named Daniel, who in turn was the father of Ezra, the latter being the father of Harlow M., father of H. Irving. The house in which this family lived in Rhode Island was one hundred and fifty years old and still habitable in 1900. They moved to the state of New York in 1798, when Ezra Coon was three years old.

Harlow M. Coon emigrated to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1843, and taught school in Walworth township two years, then bought a farm three miles east of the village of Walworth on which he lived ten years. His health failing, he rented his farm and moved to the village of Walworth and built a store where he engaged in general merchandizing, building up a very satisfactory trade with the surrounding country. Two years later he bought a farm on the southern outskirts of Walworth; to this he added from time to time and there spent the balance of his life, successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. The village now covers a part of the farm.

Mr. Coon was married in December, 1844, to Harriet Crumb, daughter of Joseph and Harriet (Dowse) Crumb. She was born in Leonardsville, Madison county, New York, and she came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, with her parents in 1842. Her parents were both natives of Leonardsville and there they spent their earlier lives. They were of English descent. The Crumb family settled a mile east of the village of Walworth and took up five hundred and sixty acres of land, part in prairie and part in timber. This was improved and Mr. Crumb became one of the leading farmers of the county, continuing to reside on his farm here until his death. His family consisted of seven children, who lived to maturity.

Harlow M. Coon took a leading part in public affairs, and for nine years he served as town clerk, and was justice of the peace for many years, giving eminent satisfaction in both offices, as might be inferred from his long retention in them. He was always actively interested in promoting the cause of education and religion. He took part in the original organization in the Seventh-Day Baptist Church society; he was church clerk for many years and was a deacon until his death. He was a man of exemplary character and enjoyed the esteem and respect of all who knew him. The death of this excellent citizen occurred on April 13, 1899, after an eminently successful, useful and honorable life, the uplifting influence of which will be felt for many a day.

The death of Mrs. Harlow M. Coon occurred in November, 1884. She was a woman of beautiful Christian character. Their family consisted of three children, namely: Phoebe S. was the eldest; Harriet Evaline married Rev. Alexander McLearn, for some time pastor of the Seventh-Day Baptist church, and his death occurred on March 17, 1907; she and her brother and sister now live in the south edge of the village of Walworth. H. Irving, the youngest of the children, was born on April 19, 1855, and he has lived most

of his life on the farm in the southern part of Walworth. He built the present modern handsome residence of the family in 1908. For several years he has engaged in the fire insurance business, having the agency for a number of the leading American companies, and has built up a large patronage. He has been very successful as a man of affairs and is a worthy successor of his noble father in public and social life. He is now in his third term as president of the village, and he has done much for the permanent good of the town and vicinity. During his administration the present superb water works system was installed and the village administration has been a progressive one. He and his sisters are all influential members of the Seventh-Day Baptist church.

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#### HENRY HARPER WADE.

One of the honored farmers and stock raisers of Richmond township, Walworth county, is Henry Harper Wade, who hails from England, but who has ever been loyal to his convictions of right and has discharged his duties as a neighbor and citizen with the object in view of making his friends happier and the community better. Blessed with a sufficiency of worldly wealth, all of which has been acquired by his own unaided efforts, he has not been selfish; on the contrary, his benefactions have been many, for it is not his custom to withhold his support from worthy movements or causes, consequently he is eminently deserving of the esteem in which he is held.

Mr. Wade was born in England, September 19, 1840, and there he grew to manhood and was educated. Coming to America in 1859, he arrived at Lockport, New York, on May 3d of that year, and on June 20th he found himself in Milwaukee, having come to Wisconsin by water. He came to Lagrange township, Walworth county, on March 14, 1861, working for John Taylor Wade, a brother, at fourteen dollars per month. Later he bought an acre of ground in the village of Lagrange and he lived there three years, when he moved to Sharon, Wisconsin, where he also spent three years. While there he bought forty acres of Job Harrison, and three years later he added forty acres to his original purchase, and in the spring of 1880 he sold out to Mary Means, a sister of his wife, and in the fall of that year he came to Richmond township, and bought one hundred and twenty acres for which he paid seven thousand and two hundred dollars. To this he added eighty acres in 1891, and in 1909 he bought thirty-five acres more, now owning four hundred acres.



MR. AND MRS. HENRY H. WADE

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one hundred and fifty-nine acres lying in Rock county, the whole comprising a choice farm, which he has placed under a high state of improvement and cultivation, and he has a large, comfortable home and excellent outbuildings, all these improvements having been made by his own hands. He has always been a hard worker and a good manager and a large measure of success has attended his efforts. He keeps a good grade of live stock and he still manages his farm, although his sons, Frank W. and Charles Henry, rent the land. He had only two dollars and fifty cents when he reached this country from England, and without the influence of others or assistance he has forged to the front through his own efforts.

Politically, Mr. Wade is a Republican and he and his family are members of the Methodist church.

On January 1, 1863, Mr. Wade was united in marriage with Martha Taylor, daughter of George Taylor, a complete sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wade, namely: Adelbert Wilkinson is deceased; Anabel is deceased; Charles Henry, born August 26, 1867, was educated in the public schools and at the Whitewater Normal; he has remained single, and, as stated above, is assisting with the work on the homestead; politically, he is a Republican. Frank William, the youngest of Mr. Wade's children, was born in Walworth county, November 16, 1873, and he was educated in the public schools and at the Whitewater Normal, and he, too, is farming on the home place. He is Republican in politics. He was married on March 10, 1908, to Myrta Acker, of Richmond township, and they have two children, Howard Henry, born March 12, 1909, and Anabel Irene, born May 10, 1910.

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### BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WRIGHT.

The late Benjamin Franklin Wright is deserving of mention in this work, partly because of the fact that he led a life of uprightness and industry and partly because he was one of the defenders of the National Union during its days of peril in the great rebellion. He was well known in Walworth county where he long maintained his home and he is still well remembered by a host of close friends.

Mr. Wright was born October 7, 1838, in Berne, Albany county, New York. When fifteen years old he left home and came west alone, stopping

a few days in Michigan, but came on to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and located in Delavan, in 1855, being thus one of the county's early settlers. In 1859 he purchased a farm at Bell's Corners, where he continued to reside most of the time during his active life. He was the son of David and Phoebe (Gardiner) Wright, both natives of New York, and in Dutchess county, that state, the father spent his boyhood, and when a young man moved to Albany county, where he was married and he spent his remaining days there and in Schoharie county, engaged in farming. His wife was an aunt of Judge Bradley, an associate judge of the United States court.

Benjamin F. Wright started out in life for himself early, and he was truly a self-made man, achieving success solely by his own efforts. He was only fourteen years old when he came to Monroe, Michigan, and there he worked a year as a farm hand, then came to Delavan in 1855. After a short time he took up the carpenter's trade in this county which he followed for a year, then moved to Madison, Wisconsin, where he continued carpentering and also clerked in a retail store until 1859, then returned to Walworth township and worked as a farm hand until August 15, 1862, when he enlisted in the Twenty-eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. For meritorious service he was promoted to corporal the following year. He took part in many engagements, including that at Helena, Arkansas, Mobile, Alabama, and others, and he escaped without being wounded or taken prisoner, and was honorably discharged August 20, 1865. He then returned to Walworth county and worked at the carpenter's trade until 1881. For the next eight years he carried on a summer resort on Lake Geneva.

Mr. Wright was married on March 7, 1861, to Maria A. Huntley, of Walworth county, who died on December 6, 1881, leaving one son, John D. There were three other children, two of whom died in infancy, and Cora May died in 1885, when about twenty-two years old. John D. Wright lives in Washington.

On March 2, 1892, Benjamin F. Wright married Mrs. Mary (Holmes) Blackwell, widow of William Blackwell, deceased, and a sister of Mrs. Henry Francis, of Williams Bay, with whom she makes her home. She was a daughter of William and Anna (Mitchell) Holmes and was born in Lincolnshire, England, and came here with her parents when thirteen years old. On November 18, 1885, she married William Blackwell and they lived in Fontana, this county. Mr. Blackwell was an old resident of Walworth township and he kept a store at Fontana for about twenty years. He died about two years after his marriage.

Mr. Wright's second marriage was without issue, but he and Mrs. Wright took Lydia Benzel to raise, then seven years old. Her mother was unable to care for her four children because of a long and severe illness. The girl became known as Lydia Wright, and she now lives in Howard.

The death of Benjamin F. Wright occurred on November 14, 1904. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was a man with many friends and no enemies.

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### GEORGE MONROE VAN VELZER.

It is a good sign when so many of the residents of a county are found to have been born there. It indicates that they have found right at home all the opportunities necessary for the gratification of their ambitions in a business, political or social way, and it also indicates stability. One is reminded that "A rolling stone gathers no moss." That young man is the wisest who, when conditions will permit, remains in his native locality and addresses himself to the improvement of conditions he finds there and to his personal advancement along such lines as he may choose, selecting that for which he is best fitted by nature.

One such is George Monroe VanVelzer, well known citizen of Williams Bay. He was born a short distance east of the town of Lake Geneva, this county, September 30, 1839. He has thus come down to us from the pioneer epoch and has lived to see and take part in the wonderful development of the county during the past three quarters of a century, and his reminiscences of conditions prevailing here in those early days are both interesting and instructive. He is the son of Philander VanVelzer, a sterling early settler, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work.

George W. VanVelzer grew to manhood on his father's farm and there found plenty to do as soon as he was old enough to follow the plow or wield the axe, and, in fact, he lived there the greater part of his active life. He was married on August 30, 1862, to Belle Viney Madden, daughter of Patrick and Nancy (Casey) Madden. She was born in Pennsylvania and her parents moved to near Binghamton, New York. About 1850 they moved to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and settled along Sugar Creek, moving to Richmond township four or five years later, and there the parents spent the rest of their lives, and there on the old home place lives Patrick Madden,

brother of Mrs. VanVelzer. This family became well established here and was highly respected.

George M. VanVelzer remained on the home place until about 1875, when he bought one hundred and fifty-six acres west of Williams Bay, in Walworth township, and there he lived until about 1900, when he built a neat home in the village of Williams Bay and moved thereto, selling his farm and retiring from active life. He had been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser and accumulated a competency.

One daughter has been born to the subject and wife, Olive Jeanette, who married Ulysses Grant Lockwood, a younger brother of William Lockwood, deceased, whose sketch contains the Lockwood ancestry. Mr. and Mrs. U. G. Lockwood live about a mile north of Williams Bay on a farm, and they have one son, Wesley VanVelzer Lockwood.

Mr. and Mrs. VanVelzer also took a boy to raise, George Allen VanVelzer, a son of Wardruff Owen and Helen (Madden) Owen, his mother having been a sister of Mrs. VanVelzer. She died when the boy was a baby and at the age of fifteen months he was given to the subject and wife by his father. He was born in Sugar Creek township, this county, August 18, 1872. He married Ammie Carlson, a native of Sweden, and they had two daughters, Helen Marie and Hazel May. He lives in Williams Bay, and has a farm of his own and also follows railroading on the Chicago & Northwestern road. His wife is now deceased.

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#### CHARLES McCABE.

The prosperity and substantial welfare of a town or community are in a large measure due to the enterprise and wise foresight of its business men. It is progressive, wide-awake men of affairs that make the real history of a community and their influence in shaping and directing its varied interests is difficult to estimate. Charles McCabe, for a number of years one of Walworth county's progressive agriculturists, now engaged in the implement business in the town of Walworth, is one of the enterprising spirits to whom is due the recent substantial growth of the town whose interests he has at heart. With a mind capable of planning, he combines a will strong enough to execute his well-formulated purposes, and his great energy, keen discrimination and perseverance have resulted in material success.

Mr. McCabe was born in Lafayette township, this county, on January 28, 1872. He is the son of Richard McCabe, Sr., and Bridget (Scanlon) McCabe, a well known family of Elkhorn, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

Charles McCabe was reared on the home farm in Lafayette township where he lived until he was seventeen years old when his father bought a farm south of Elkhorn in Delavan township, and there the son continued to reside until he started in life for himself. When twenty years of age he began working out by the month, then rented a farm in Walworth township when he was about twenty-six years old, and after his marriage. He moved to Darien township about three years later and rented a farm on which he remained about six years, then bought a farm a mile south of Delavan, consisting of fifty-five acres. A year later he sold out and bought the Abe Henry farm in the northern part of Walworth township; selling out a year later, he came to the village of Walworth and bought a house, which he subsequently traded for a farm in Darien township, but remained in Walworth. He soon sold the farm in Darien, and bought another in South Dakota and lived there a year, then sold out and returned to Walworth in the fall of 1907, after which he bought the Holmes farm in the south edge of Walworth township, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, which he has since divided and sold. He has owned several different properties in Walworth and in 1911 he built a residence which he intends making his permanent home. It is attractive, commodious and modern in every appointment, one of the choice residences of the village. In the fall of 1911 he went into the implement business here which he has continued with much success, building up a large trade with the surrounding country, carrying an extensive and carefully selected stock of implements and practically everything in this line used by the twentieth-century farmer.

In September, 1896, Mr. McCabe was united in marriage with Florence Anderson, daughter of Oscar and Sarah (Owen) Anderson. She was born in Richland township, this county, and here grew to womanhood. Her parents were both natives of Norway, the father born at Skein, and there spent his early life, emigrating to America in 1848 and settled near Turtle Lake, Richmond township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he bought a farm and spent the rest of his life. She was ten years old when she came to America with her parents, Knute and Maria Owen. This family also settled in Walworth county, Wisconsin, at the town of Richmond, and there Mr. Owen spent the rest of his life engaged in farming. Mrs. McCabe re-

ceived a good education in the local schools, and she taught school a year at Seatonville, a year at Richmond and a year near Elkhorn.

To Charles McCabe and wife two children have been born, namely: Ivan Lee and Sarah Bernice. The subject and wife are sociable and friendly, and since coming to Walworth have secured a wide circle of friends, standing high in the community.

The history of Richard McCabe, father of the subject, is found in a separate sketch in this volume.

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### RICHARD McCABE.

The biographer is always glad to write of a worthy character like Richard McCabe, long a well known citizen of Walworth county, because the paragraphs he weaves around the life record of such a man are calculated to be of inspiration to the youth of the locality whose careers are yet to be determined. His life has been exemplary and has resulted in much good to the locality of which this volume deals.

Richard McCabe was born November 1, 1830, along the shore of the English channel, twenty-one miles north of Dublin, Ireland. He is the son of Patrick and Bridget (Toner) McCabe. He grew up on a farm in Ireland, and when eighteen years old he emigrated alone to New York City, **making a voyage** on a sailing vessel which required fifty-two days. His uncle had come to Canada about 1830, being ninety-three days on the water. Richard McCabe roamed about considerably upon reaching this country. He spent some time in Connecticut, and was in Cincinnati when it was many times larger than Chicago. He was in Iowa before a mile of railroad had been built in that state. About 1854 he came to Janesville, Wisconsin, then a village whose inhabitants were nearly all shaking with ague. After a year there and some time spent north of Milwaukee, he located in Lafayette township, Walworth county. Not long after coming here he married Bridget Scanlon. She was born at Glinn, county Limerick, Ireland, along the historic river Shannon. She was left an orphan at an early age and was reared in the home of a gentleman in that locality, and when about fifteen years old came to America, her elder brother having located in Walworth county.

After their marriage Richard McCabe and wife lived first in Lafayette township, remaining there most of the time until 1889. Ten children were

born to them, seven in Lafayette township and three in Sugar Creek township; they are: Patrick H., who lives in Missouri; Mary Ann is the wife of Martin Clarey, of Lake Geneva; John G. lives in Chicago; Helen married James Horn and lived in Minneapolis, and they are both now deceased; Richard, Jr., lives in Elkhorn; James lives in Minneapolis; Charles lives in Walworth; Andrew L. makes his home in Elkhorn; Joseph M. is a citizen of Delavan; Lillie May married Albert Fisher and lives in Chicago.

About 1889 Mr. McCabe's family moved to Delavan township, he having sold his farm in Lafayette township and purchased another in Delavan township, near the inlet. There he lived until his wife's death, in June, 1901. She was a faithful member of the Catholic church, and always endeavored to be what a true mother should be to her children. Mr. McCabe remained on the farm three years, then came to Elkhorn, where he has since resided. He was very successful as a farmer and laid by a competency for his old age. He has been honest in his relations with the world and has many friends wherever he is known.

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#### HOWARD EDWARD FISH.

Such a life of uprightness, usefulness and industry as that led by Howard Edward Fish cannot well fail of interest and incentive to the young man who stands at the parting of the ways, for in it abound many valuable lessons.

Mr. Fish was born in Guilford township, Wyndham county, Vermont, June 13, 1836, and is the son of Edward and Eunice (Denison) Fish. The father was born at or near Halifax in the same county, and he was the son of Nathan and Susan (Lamb) Fish. His birth occurred in 1778 and he died in 1830. He was the son of Samuel Fish, who came with his wife from Groton, Connecticut, to Vermont when it was wild and unsettled, having made the trip on horseback through an almost trackless forest. Samuel's father was also named Samuel and he was born in 1751; he was a son of Nathan, born in 1727, the latter being the son of Nathan, born in 1699, he being the son of Samuel, born in 1656, the latter being the son of John Fish, the emigrant. The last named was one of three brothers, Nathan, John and Jonathan, who came from England and settled in Massachusetts, at the town of Lynn, in a very early day. In 1637 they moved from Lynn to Sandwich on Cape Cod. In 1655 we find a John Fish with wife and chil-

dren at Groton, he being one of the first settlers there, and he is the ancestor of this family. It is believed that the family name sprang from an ancient Saxon root, referred to in the records of Germany, the spelling there being Fisch, which would be pronounced as we pronounce the name Fish. At a very early date a branch of this family is found in England.

Eunice Denison, mother of the subject of this sketch, grew to womanhood in Wyndham county, Vermont, where her people had long been well known. When Howard E. Fish, of this review, was ten years old the family moved across into Massachusetts and lived there until the fall of 1850 when the family moved to Belleville, Jefferson county, New York. There the parents died, after which Howard E. returned to Massachusetts and was there about two years, then returned to Jefferson county, New York, where he remained until the fall of 1868.

Howard E. Fish was married on March 17, 1860, to Emily Barbour, daughter of Roswell and Harriet Jane (Warriner) Barbour. The Warriners is an old English family, William Warriner having emigrated to America in 1638, joining the settlers at Springfield, Massachusetts, only eighteen years after the landing of the Pilgrims; thus he was one of the first settlers of New England and owned a considerable part of what is now the heart of the city of Springfield. Harriet Jane was the daughter of Reuben and Betsy (Chittenden) Warriner, the father having been born on April 17, 1781. Emily Barbour was born near Belleville, Jefferson county, New York, and when nine years old moved into Belleville and lived there until her marriage, after which they continued to reside in that city until December, 1864, when they moved to Adams.

During his young manhood Mr. Fish was a clerk in a store at Adams Center, then went into the clothing business with his brother, but soon engaged in the confectionery business alone, also handled school books and other lines. When he moved to Adams he continued the same line of business, adding a branch room and ice cream. In 1868 he came west and in 1869 settled in Chicago, where he started in business, remaining there ten years in charge of a bakery, confectionery and ice cream business. He came to Walworth, this county, in March, 1879. He traded for a farm at the edge of what was then the little hamlet of Walworth. There was no railroad here then. He had two acres in the village and his farm consisted of one hundred acres. The village has grown and spread over part of his land, thirty-eight houses having been built on his land, which is now divided into lots, almost as many as there were in the town when he came here.

He traveled and sold Cooley creameries several years after coming to Walworth, also other supplies, later selling complete outfits for creameries. Later he engaged in the buggy and implement business for some time at Walworth. Of late years he has discontinued most of this, but he still sells buggies and engages in the livery business.

Mr. and Mrs. Fish have one daughter, Eunice Elizabeth, now the wife of Charles Sumner Cooper, of Walworth, a complete sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Mr. Fish has never been an office seeker, but he served on one of the first village boards of Walworth. Mr. and Mrs. Fish are members of the Congregational church, of which they are charter members.

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### CHARLES S. COOPER.

Few can draw rules for their own guidance from the pages of Plutarch, but all are benefited by the delineation of those traits of character which find scope and exercise in the common walks of life. The unostentatious routine of private life, although in the aggregate more important to the welfare of the community than any meteoric public career, cannot, from its very nature, figure in the public annals, though each locality's history should contain the names of those individuals who contribute to the success of the material affairs of a community and to its public stability; men who lead wholesome and exemplary lives which might be profitably studied by the oncoming generation. In such a class must consistently appear the name of Charles S. Cooper, one of the leading business men and public spirited citizens of the village of Walworth, a man who leads a plain, industrious life, endeavoring to deal honestly with his fellow men and contribute somewhat to the general public good in an unobtrusive manner.

Mr. Cooper was born in section 19, Linn township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, October 23, 1859. He is the son of Peter and Lovina (Ingalls) Cooper. The mother was born in Albany county, New York, June 5, 1829, and was the daughter of Enoch Ingalls, and a sister of Silas Ingalls, whose sketch, to be found elsewhere in this work, gives the early history of the family. She came to this county with her brothers when she was about seventeen years old. She attended school in Racine and afterwards taught there, and later at what was called the Old Basswood school, in the early fifties, and many of her pupils of sixty years ago have lived long lives of

usefulness and been prominent in that part of the county. She and Peter S. Cooper were married on March 22, 1855. His birth occurred in Onondaga county, New York, October 16, 1809. He was the son of Sylvanus Cooper and Elizabeth (Prince) Cooper, he having died when the son Peter S. was about a year old, the widow subsequently remarrying. Peter S. Cooper lived with his mother and step-father until he was fourteen years old, then was bound out to a Mr. Enos to learn the shoemaker's trade. When twenty-one years of age he received one hundred dollars and a set of shoemaker's tools. He also learned the tanner's trade, and was an expert in both and followed them in and around Little Falls, New York, until 1844, when he emigrated to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and bought a farm in section 19, Linn township. He engaged John P. Snell to build him a house, then returned to New York, returning here in 1845 for the purpose of developing his land and making his permanent home, and here he worked at his trade in the pioneer way, finally renting out his farm. He went from house to house, sometimes remaining with one family for two weeks making shoes enough to last the family a year. This line of work was followed by Mr. Cooper until his marriage, after which he settled on his farm and there spent the rest of his life and became well established. His family consisted of four children, one of whom died in infancy; George S., who started to Alaska through Alberta, has not been heard from for about ten years; Harvey lives at Pomona, California, where he is engaged in blacksmithing; Charles S., of this review, was the second of the three sons. The death of Peter S. Cooper occurred on April 10, 1893, his widow surviving until March 22, 1907.

Charles S. Cooper grew up on the home farm and he attended Big Foot Academy. He began life for himself by teaching school three winters, working out by the month part of the time at farm work, but most of his earlier life was spent at home. He was married on December 1, 1887, to Eunice Elizabeth Fish, daughter of Howard E. and Emily (Barbour) Fish, a complete record of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

After his marriage Mr. Cooper continued working the homestead for a number of years. During that time he purchased eighty acres cornering on the southeast of his father's estate. He made his home on the old homestead until in March, 1902, successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising, then sold his farm and the old home place to Edward E. Ayer and moved into the village of Walworth, where he has since resided. For some time prior to that he was manager of the Kaye's Park Creamery and at the

time he moved to Walworth he was dealing in butter, eggs and poultry. In October, 1902, he purchased a meat shop in Walworth, his shop being destroyed by fire a year later, after which he went into the grocery business, also handling meats. In January, 1909, he admitted H. L. Radebaugh as a partner, the latter having closed out a stock of shoes and groceries, and they have since been in business together, and have built up a large and growing trade with the town and surrounding country, always carrying a large, seasonable and carefully selected stock of goods and according their hundreds of customers every courtesy and consideration. Mr. Cooper has been a man of persistent industry and has been very successful in whatever he has been engaged in.

Always deeply interested in the upbuilding of his community, Mr. Cooper has always stood ready to lend assistance in movements having as their ultimate aim the general progress of Walworth county. For two years he served as clerk of Linn township, and has also been assessor of the village of Walworth. He is a member of the Walworth high school board, having held this position five or six years. He and his wife both belong to the Congregational church, and he has been clerk of the local congregation for the past ten years and for a number of years has been active in church work.

Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, one of whom, Ethel, born June 15, 1889, died in infancy; Grace Bernice, born March 14, 1891; Dorothy Beatrice, born February 17, 1894; and Howard Charles, born May 12, 1904.

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#### LESTER C. PORTER.

The true measure of individual success is determined by what one has accomplished, and, as taken in contradistinction to the old adage that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country, there is a particular interest attached to the career of the subject of this review, since he is a native son of Walworth county, where his entire life has been passed, and has so directed his ability and efforts as to gain recognition as one of the representative citizens of the vicinity, being a worthy scion of one of our sterling pioneer families.

Lester C. Porter, the present popular and efficient postmaster at Fontana and a successful merchant there, was born in Walworth township, this county, August 22, 1858. He is the son of Doric C. and Nancy J. (Han-

chett) Porter, a complete sketch of whom will be found on another page of this work.

Mr. Porter grew to manhood on his father's farm here and he made himself useful on the same during the crop seasons, attending the public schools in the winter time. Later was a pupil in the Lake Geneva Seminary. When he was about sixteen years old the family moved to the head of Lake Geneva and there the father founded Fontana Park and they lived there in the summer and in the city of Lake Geneva in the winter.

In 1883 the subject went to South Dakota and entered a claim of one hundred and sixty acres of government land, on which he lived long enough to prove up and secure a title. He then returned to Walworth county and took charge of Fontana Park, assisting his father for two years.

Mr. Porter was married May 16, 1886, to Loretta J. Hitchcock, daughter of Amos H. and Maria (Brown) Hitchcock. After his marriage he farmed for two years on the old homestead in Walworth township and from there moved to Fontana and has been there ever since. In the fall of 1902 he entered the general mercantile business at Fontana, which he still continues, having built up a large and growing trade with the surrounding country, carrying a complete and carefully selected stock of goods and by his honest and courteous treatment he has won a host of friends among his customers.

Mr. Porter has long manifested a lively interest in public affairs, and in 1904 he was appointed postmaster at Fontana, which office he still holds, discharging his duty in a manner that reflects credit upon himself and to the satisfaction of the people and the department at Washington. He was township treasurer of Walworth township for two years, 1892 and 1893. He also served two years on the board of supervisors.

Five children, two sons and three daughters, have been born to the subject and wife, named as follows: Ima, who was graduated from the Walworth high school, has been teaching in the public schools for some time; Doric C., Jr., was graduated from the Walworth high school and is now in his third year at the State University at Madison; Amos D. is in the store with his father; Helen Clara and Rachael are both at home with their parents.

Fraternally, Mr. Porter is a member of the Masonic order, the Modern Woodmen and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, also several other orders. He is a public spirited man, a good neighbor, honest and generous of heart.

## DORIC C. PORTER.

In looking over the list of Walworth county's pioneers the name of Doric C. Porter stands out conspicuously, and although he "has been gathered to his fathers," as the Bible writers said of their beloved departed, his influence will long continue to have its effect in this community, whose every interest he had at heart and so unselfishly labored to promote.

Mr. Porter was born in Ashfield, Franklin county, Massachusetts, September 16, 1815. The Porter family is of Scotch origin. Doric's great-grandfather, Rev. Nehemiah Porter, was a Presbyterian minister who served as chaplain in the Revolutionary war, and he died at the age of one hundred years in Massachusetts. His son, Joseph Porter, grandfather of Doric C. Porter, was a farmer, as was also his son Asa, father of the subject, and he died at the age of ninety-four years. The mother of the subject of this sketch was known in her maidenhood as Elizabeth Taylor, a native of Massachusetts. This family was influential in their community in the old Bay state for many generations, especially during the colonial period, and their names frequently appear in the records there.

Doric C. Porter grew to manhood in his native state and when still a young man emigrated to the wild and almost unknown West, first spending a year at Dover, Ohio, then came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he established his permanent home; however, he later returned to Ohio and in the fall of 1839 married Nancy Jane Hanchet, of Dover. He came back to Walworth county and bought forty acres of government land near Lake Geneva and this he developed into a very productive farm. Four years later he sold it and purchased one hundred and sixty acres at the head of Lake Geneva and engaged in farming there a number of years with his usual success. In 1873 he purchased sixty-six acres of timber land along the lake shore and this he developed into Fontana Park, now well known as one of the "show places" about the lake, a truly beautiful and inviting retreat. It had been Chief Big Foot's camping ground.

Mr. Porter took much interest in public affairs, as stated above, and for some time he was chairman of the board of supervisors, and he held various township offices, always discharging his public duties faithfully and satisfactorily, leading a life that won him the esteem of a large number of friends.

The death of Mrs. Porter occurred in February, 1887. Eight children were born to the subject and wife, named as follows: Dwight W., who died

in infancy; Eliza J., who married Charles Stevenson, of Oneida, Kansas, is now living in San Diego, California; Amelia N., who died when twenty-eight years old; Addie M. is the wife of Leonard C. Church; Doric and William P. are both farming in Kansas; Lester C. is a merchant and the present postmaster at Fontana; David W. lives in Walworth. The death of Doric C. Porter occurred in June, 1901.

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### MARSHALL M. FEATHERSTONE.

One of Walworth township's most diligent and painstaking farmers is Marshall M. Featherstone, a man who believes in carrying to successful issue whatever he attempts. He is a representative of one of our worthiest old families and he has been content to spend his life in this, his native county, and while laboring for his own advancement he has not neglected his duties as a general citizen.

Mr. Featherstone was born in section 8, Walworth township, this county, on February 19, 1856. He is the son of Peter and Mary (Wagorn) Featherstone. The father was born in Headcorn, Kent, England, and the birth of the mother also occurred in Kent and there they grew up and were married, emigrating to America on the coronation day of Queen Victoria. After spending about two years in the East they came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, among the pioneers, having made the trip on a sailing vessel by way of the Great Lakes, being six weeks on the water. After living a year at Sharon they entered land from the government, one hundred and twenty acres in section 8, Walworth township, and there was their home the rest of their lives. No roads were at that time laid out on the government survey, the only road near being the old Territory road. Their nearest market was Racine and they went to Chicago to mill, the trip with ox teams requiring a week. Their family consisted of the following children: George grew up in this locality and owned a farm in section 7, married Eliza Coon and they became the parents of three sons and one daughter; one of them, Frank, lives at Lake Geneva, and George died in May, 1892; Phebe Featherstone died when twenty-one years old; James married Hatty Lilley and lived in Dakota until his death, in August, 1885; one son, Fred, survives him; Jane married Edward Koonen and lives at Harvard, Illinois; Jesse died in early childhood; Marshall M., the youngest of the family, is the subject of this sketch.

The death of Peter Featherstone occurred in 1860, his widow surviving

until in March, 1886. They were among the founders of the First Baptist church of Walworth, the old brick church. Peter Featherstone's death was due to injuries received in a threshing machine. Marshall M. was three and one-half years old at that time, and the mother was left with five children to rear.

The subject grew to manhood on the home farm and he attended high school at Harvard, Illinois. In 1883 he was united in marriage with Bertha Leath, a native of Germany who came here when young with her parents. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Featherstone: Martha is the wife of Gilman Worden and lives on a farm in Sharon township; Elmer married Gertrude McNally and lives on a farm about two miles northwest of Walworth; Edward and Freddie are at home with their parents.

Mr. Featherstone has spent his entire life on the farm which his father entered from the government, consisting of one hundred and thirty-seven acres. He also bought one hundred and twenty acres in the southern part of the same section in 1893. About 1910 he bought another farm adjoining the last mentioned place, thus making a total of nearly three hundred acres, constituting one of the most desirable farms in this part of the county, and this he has placed under a high state of improvement and cultivation and has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, having extensively raised Shropshire sheep.

Mr. Featherstone is a deacon in the Walworth Baptist church. He stands high in all circles in the community, leads a quiet, industrious life and has the good will and respect of all who know him.

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#### GEORGE CHRISTIE.

One of our successful farmers and worthy native sons is George Christie, who has lived to see the county under many wonderful changes, being a boy here in a part of the pioneer period, reared in fact amidst the scenes of pioneer life, and he seems to have inherited many of the sterling traits of his father, who established himself here when he knew full well that if he established a home in this locality it was to be considerably removed from the advantages of civilization, in a dense forest, through which the wolves prowled and deer roamed. But he early became inured to hard work and knew how to appreciate honest toil at its true value, and his prominence in the community was the legitimate result of merit and ability.

George Christie was born on May 26, 1856, in Richmond township, Walworth county, and he is the son of David A. Christie, who was born in Orange county, New York, where he spent his boyhood, coming to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1843, arriving here on October 5th of that year. He worked out as a farm hand for a while, later buying land in Richmond township, which he developed through hard work into a good farm and by industry established a good home. He married Jane Stewart, daughter of Arthur Stewart, who was a native of Ireland.

David A. Christie farmed all his life and here spent the balance of his days, dying on April 20, 1893. He and his wife became the parents of only one child, George, subject of this sketch, who grew up on the home farm and received his education in the public schools of his community. He engaged in farming up to a few years ago when he began buying and shipping live stock. He has been very successful in this line and is now living in Darien.

He has been chairman of the township board in Darien township for the past ten years and was elected in November, 1911, chairman of the county board of supervisors. Fraternally he belongs to the Masonic order and the Woodmen.

Mr. Christie was married to Katie Cox, on September 15, 1884. She is the daughter of John and Mary Cox, of Troy, this county. To the subject and wife one child, Margaret, has been born.

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#### SILAS ENSLEY WEAVER.

Fame may look to the clash of resounding arms for its heroes; history's pages may be filled with a record of the deeds of the so-called great who have deluged the world with blood, destroyed kingdoms, created dynasties and left their names as plague spots upon civilization's escutcheon; the poet may embalm in deathless song the short and simple annals of the poor; but there have been comparatively few to sound the praise of the brave and sturdy pioneer who among the truly great and noble is certainly among the deserving of at least a little space on the category of the immortals. To him more than to any other is civilization indebted for the brightest jewel in its diadem, for it was he that blazed the way and acted as vanguard for the mighty army of progress that within the last century has conquered Wisconsin's wilderness and transformed it into one of the fairest and most enlightened of the American commonwealth's domains.



MR. AND MRS. SILAS E. WEAVER

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A representative of a sterling pioneer family is Silas Ensley Weaver, well known citizen of Elkhorn, who was born in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, along the bay of Fundy, February 13, 1840. He is the son of Silas J. and Sarah (Jackson) Weaver, and there he spent his early boyhood, accompanying the family to the West in 1851. They arrived in Walworth county, Wisconsin, on June 21st of that year and located in Richmond township, where they bought a farm on which the parents spent the rest of their lives. They were the parents of the following children: Eliza married Simeon Loomer and they lived in Sugar Creek township, where her death occurred in November, 1881, leaving a family; Louisa married A. I. Swan and lived at Fairfield, Illinois, until her death; Amos is a Baptist minister, of Omaha, Nebraska, now living retired on account of ill health; Silas E., of this sketch; Wellington, who lived in Missouri a number of years, now makes his home at Ord, Nebraska; Jackson lives in Detroit, Michigan, where he is superintendent of construction of dwelling houses; Hannah died in Illinois when about twenty-one years old; James, who lived at Whitewater, died there in young manhood; Bert has been a ranchman and miner, and is now farming in Montana.

Silas E. Weaver came west with his parents in his boyhood and here he grew to maturity on the home farm. When the Civil war broke out he enlisted, the last of December, 1861, in Company K, Second Wisconsin Cavalry, and he served in Missouri most of the time. Late in the war he was in Greenson's raid, when for sixteen days they were in the saddle, dashing through the enemy's country. He was in the battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas. After he had been in the service about two years he was disabled by rheumatism, which incapacitated him from duty for about six months. After his term of enlistment had expired he attempted to re-enlist, but was refused on account of disability. He was a corporal when he went to the front and for meritorious conduct was advanced to first sergeant. He was mustered into service on January 8, 1862, and was active thereafter, always faithful to the duties assigned him. He spent two and one-half years in Missouri and northern Arkansas, then went down the Mississippi river to Vicksburg, where he remained two months, then returned to Memphis, where he was discharged on January 24, 1864. While in Missouri he was guarding against bushwhackers.

After his military career Mr. Weaver returned to Walworth county and for about two years rented a farm, then moved to Johnson county, Missouri, where he bought a farm and there made his home for eleven years, then sold out, moved back to Walworth county and resumed farming, living near Delavan lake on a large farm for seven years. Then sold out and moved to

Whitewater, where his son was attending the State Normal School, and bought a home there. After the son finished school they sold their home and bought a farm in Richmond township and lived there two and one-half years, then bought a farm in Sugar Creek township, about five miles north of Elkhorn, and lived there until the children were all grown up and married. Two years later they sold the farm, and the parents spent several months visiting among their children at Beloit, Kansas, and Denver, Colorado, then came back to Elkhorn where they have since resided.

Silas E. Weaver was married July 20, 1863, to Amanda Loomer, daughter of Leonard and Asenath (Loomer) Loomer. Her parents were both born in Nova Scotia, and when her father was nineteen years old he emigrated to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and entered government land in Sugar Creek township. This was in the early pioneer days, and Indians were often seen; there were but a few houses in Milwaukee, and the country was a vast forest, full of wild game. He came here with his father, Stephen Loomer. After entering land the father returned to Nova Scotia and brought the rest of the family to this county. Stephen Loomer had been married, and there were four children by the first union, a son Leonard, and three daughters, Harriet, Hulda and Unity. Leonard's mother had died in Nova Scotia and there the father had married again, by which union there were two sons, Stephen and Simeon. All these children came back to Walworth county with their father. Asenath Loomer was the daughter of Jonathan and Sophia (Jess) Loomer, a native of Nova Scotia. She came here with her parents soon after Leonard Loomer's parents came. Her people also located in Sugar Creek township. Leonard Loomer and she were married when the former was about twenty-five years old, and she twenty, and they spent the rest of their lives in Sugar Creek township.

Silas E. Weaver was assessor of Sugar Creek township while living there. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Five children have been born to Silas E. Weaver and wife, named as follows: Sarah Asenath married Edward James and they have lived at Beloit, Kansas, since 1890, and have four children, Walter Edward, Leonard Weaver, Paul and Ruth; Elvira B. is the widow of John G. White, deceased, he having been a soldier in the Civil war.

After the close of the war John G. White lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in the employ of the government for some time, later engaging in the insurance business and was administrator of estates in Milwaukee, in which city he and his wife resided until 1903, when they moved to Elkhorn and built

a fine home, and here his death occurred in July, 1904. She had one son, Philip Weaver White, whose birth occurred on September 5, 1901.

George W. Weaver, the third child born to Silas E. Weaver and wife, lives in Sugar Creek township, five and one-half miles from Elkhorn. He married Rose Hooper, of Palmyra, this state, and they have five children, Marian, Curtis, James, Rose and Eleanor. Harriet Weaver married Dr. Frank Burton, of Lagrange township, and they live in Denver, Colorado; they have three children, Winifred Jean, John and Harriet. Edith Amanda Weaver married Horace M. Gring, a builder and real estate dealer in Denver, Colorado; their union has been without issue.

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### AUSTIN C. MAXON.

A name known to every one who has the slightest acquaintance with the history of Walworth township and the southern part of the county of which this history deals is Austin C. Maxon, a worthy scion of a prominent old family, members of which have figured in the material, civic and moral up-building of the locality. He is an energetic, farseeing man of affairs, whose judgment and discretion are seldom at fault, and who merits the high esteem in which he is held, owing to his exemplary career.

Mr. Maxon was born in Walworth township, this county, March 29, 1856. He is the son of Edgar R. and Emily W. (Rogers) Maxon, and the grandson of Asa Allen Maxon. Edgar R. Maxon was born October 17, 1823, in Petersburg, Rensselaer county, New York, and at Cape Vincent, that state, he married Emily W. Rogers, a daughter of Austin Rogers, a native of Massachusetts, from which state he came to Cape Vincent, New York, when young and there spent the rest of his life, dying when past ninety years of age.

Edgar R. Maxon was a wheelwright by trade, also followed carpentering in New York. In 1849 he came to Walworth county and lived on the farm that his father, Asa L. Maxon, had bought in Walworth township. He bought a farm of his own about 1852, eighty acres in section 33 and forty acres in section 34, also forty acres in section 35. He made his home there until about 1885, then moved to the village of Walworth in which he bought a home where he lived until his death, January 12, 1907, and there his widow still resides. He had been a member of the county board of supervisors several times, and he was for a number of years secretary of the Walworth Mutual Insurance Company, of which he was one of the originators. He was a

stanch Republican, a worthy member of the Seventh-Day Baptist church from an early date and a deacon in the local congregation for many years. He was a good and useful man, a leader in local public affairs. There were three children in his family that grew to maturity, one dying in infancy, and a daughter, Ella J. died in 1861; Austin C., of this sketch; Jenny, who married Henry B. Gregg, lives at Madison; May J., who married Prof. Henry Krueger, of Milwaukee, lives in that city, he being a teacher in the public schools there.

Austin C. Maxon grew to manhood on the home farm and received his education in the common schools of his community and in Milton College for two years. On December 31, 1877, he was united in marriage with Alice Simons, daughter of William Maxson Simons and Susan A. (Walker) Simons. Susan A. Walker was a sister of the father of Oliver H. Walker, a sketch of whom appears in this work. Mr. Simons was born in Madison county, New York, and there he and Susan A. Walker were married. She had come to Madison county in infancy with her parents from Massachusetts, and there Alice Simons, wife of the subject, was born and lived until 1864, when she came with her parents to Walworth county, Wisconsin, locating in Walworth township on April 1st of that year, her father buying a farm there on which he spent the rest of his life, dying in 1882, his widow surviving until April 23, 1903, dying in the village of Walworth.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. William M. Simons, namely: William Henry, who lives at Oakland, California; Perry was a soldier in the Civil war and he died November 3, 1864, having enlisted in the spring of 1864; Mary A. died September 12, 1862, when twelve years old; Elmer lives at Holly, New York; Alice, wife of Mr. Maxon, of this sketch, was a twin of Elmer.

After his marriage Austin C. Maxon continued farming on his father's place and here he has remained ever since, keeping the old farm well improved and well tilled, so that he has met with a large measure of success from year to year as a general farmer and stock raiser, keeping abreast of the times in everything that pertains to twentieth-century agricultural pursuits.

To the subject and wife one child, a son, has been born, Perry LaVerne, whose birth occurred January 30, 1879. He married Edith Hicks and lives on his own farm adjoining that of his father and he has a good start in life. His wife was born at Colchester, England, and is the daughter of John B. and Mary Hicks, who still live in England. LaVerne Maxon and wife have three children, Edgar, Dorothy Mary and Raymond.

Austin C. Maxon is a member of the Modern Woodmen and the Masonic

order. Mr. Maxon is probably the oldest settler, in point of continuous residence, in the southern part of Walworth township, and his fine place, known as "Maple Lawn Farm," is one of the choice landed estates in this part of the county. He is a man of splendid physique, and his manners are genial, obliging and a ready friend maker, so that he enjoys the esteem of all who know him.

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### G. DELOS PIERCE.

Success has come to G. Delos Pierce because he has worked for it along legitimate lines and has not permitted the sordid things of earth to take the place of his better and higher nature. He has dealt honestly with his fellow men and has therefore won their respect and confidence.

Mr. Pierce was born in Otsego county, New York, March 21, 1850. He is the son of Delos Pierce, Sr., and Theodosia (Collins) Pierce. The latter, born in Otsego county, New York, was the daughter of Hezekiah and Hannah (Noble) Collins.

When Delos Pierce was about eighteen years old the family moved to Paris, New York, then came to Walworth county, Wisconsin. He grew up on the home farm. The family located in the east side of Walworth township where they bought a farm, on which the parents lived until old age, then moved to Fontana and spent their last days there with their daughter. They had nine children, of whom Delos was the oldest; Libby was married to Fred Taylor and lives in Florida; Adell married Ellis Sutherland and lives at Nashua, Iowa; Rowland and Rollin, twins, are both deceased; Clarence is also deceased; Nettie married Albert Cook and lives at Nashua, Iowa; Hannah is the wife of Milton Blackford and lives in Delavan; John lives in the northern part of Walworth township. The father of these children died the last Wednesday in November, 1906, his wife having preceded him to the grave in the spring of 1905.

Delos Pierce lived on the home farm until he was married, in October, 1881, to Adelia Wilson, daughter of John G. and Charlotte (Maxon) Wilson, a sketch of which family appears on another page of this work. Mrs. Pierce was born in Boone county, Illinois, and her parents came from Jefferson county, New York. John G. Wilson was of Dutch ancestry and came from Pennsylvania to New York. Charlotte Maxon was the daughter of Asa and Julia Maxon, early settlers here, a record of whose lives is given in the sketch of N. Dwight Maxon. Mrs. Pierce's mother died when she was an

infant and she was then taken by her mother's parents here and grew up in their home.

After his marriage Delos Pierce began farming for himself on a farm just south of his father's place and there he has lived most of his life since. In the spring of 1910 he gave up farming and moved into Walworth where he bought a nice home on the east side of the village. He is a member of the Masonic order and the Modern Woodmen. One daughter was born to Mr and Mrs. Pierce, Hazel, who died when four years old.

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### JOHN GREGG WILSON.

The life of the sterling pioneer, John Gregg Wilson, may be held up as an example worthy of careful consideration by the youth of the land whose destinies are yet for the future to determine.

Mr. Wilson was born November 22, 1824, in Jefferson county, New York, being the son of Victor and Elizabeth (Carpenter) Wilson. Victor Wilson was the son of John Gregg Wilson and Sarah (Newkirk) Wilson. The father of Victor Wilson was probably born in New York City, and he was the son of Irish parents. He was a soldier in Washington's army during the American Revolution, taking part in the siege of Yorktown and he saw the surrender of Cornwallis. Often in his old age he recalled the sour looks of the Scotch Highlanders as they marched between the two lines of victorious Americans. He was only a boy when he entered the patriot army; his two brothers, both officers, got him into the army. He drew a pension after the war.

The parents of the subject were both born in 1800 in Montgomery county, New York, and soon after their marriage moved to Jefferson county, New York, where the subject lived until 1849. In the fall of that year he came west and located in this county, his parents remaining in New York and there they died, in Jefferson county. The subject was about twenty-nine years old when he came here. He worked the first year near Walworth, then bought land in Illinois south of Sharon, and lived there five years, then sold out and bought a farm in the south half of section 29, in Linn township, this county, and he lived there until in March, 1892, when he moved to Hebron; however, he kept the farm about ten years. After a year at Hebron he moved to Sharon and was there several years, then went back to Hebron. He now lives with his son-in-law, Harvey R. Hatch, of Zenda.

Mr. Wilson was married first on September 18, 1849, in New York to Charlotte Maxon, daughter of Asa L. and Julia Maxon. Her people came here and settled in Walworth, and their numerous and well known descendants still live there. Mrs. Wilson died on November 23, 1854, leaving three children, Victor, who died when eleven years old; Julia died when nine years old; Adelia is the wife of Delos Pierce and lives in Walworth, this county.

Mr. Wilson was again married in 1857 to Lucetta J. McCollum, daughter of James Alexander and Lucetta (Walker) McCollum, the latter born in Eugene, Indiana. Her father was from New Hampshire and her mother from Michigan. These parents came from Indiana to Boone county, Illinois, and there they spent the rest of their lives.

Seven children were born to Mr. Wilson and his second wife, namely: Douglass died when three years old; he and the two children of the first marriage all died within three weeks of diphtheria. Harriet Wilson married Harvey R. Hatch, of Zenda; Mary is the wife of R. H. Stewart and lives at Urbana, Illinois; James Harlan lives a mile northwest of Hebron; Ada is the wife of Duane Cornue, of Hebron; John Franklin is now superintendent of schools at Ashland, Wisconsin; Luella is the wife of W. J. Clarkson and lives at Omaha, Nebraska. The mother of these children died August 18, 1905, after nearly fifty years of married life.

Mr. Wilson has been a member of the town board several times, but has never been active in politics. He is a member of the Methodist church, as was also his wife.

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#### JESSE GARFIELD MAXON, M. D.

Some one has aptly said, "He serves the Master best who serves humanity most." There is no class to whom we owe more gratitude than the self-sacrificing, self-denying, noble-minded men whose life work is the alleviation of suffering and the ministering of comfort to the afflicted, to the end that the span of human existence may be lengthened and a greater degree of satisfaction enjoyed during the remainder of their sojourn. Among the physicians and surgeons of Walworth county and vicinity who are proficient in their chosen calling and are conscientious workers in the sphere to which their life energies are being devoted, the name of Dr. Jesse G. Maxon, of Harvard, Illinois, who, while yet young in years, has shown a profound knowledge of his profession.

Doctor Maxon was born a mile south of the village of Walworth, Walworth county, Wisconsin, June 9, 1880. He is a scion of one of the prominent old families of this locality, being the son of Henry J. and Phebe (Howland) Maxon. Phebe Howland was descended directly in the seventh or eighth generation from John Howland, the last survivor of the Pilgrims who came over in the "Mayflower" in 1620. For a complete history of the Maxon family the reader is referred to the sketch of N. Dwight Maxon, appearing on another page of this work.

Dr. Jesse G. Maxon grew to manhood on the home farm in Walworth township, this county, and he was graduated from the Walworth high school in 1897, then took a course in the normal department of the University of New Mexico, located at Albuquerque, New Mexico, from which he was graduated in 1901. He has a natural talent for music, and he studied this art at Milton College, being graduated from the musical department there in 1902, and he was also graduated from the scientific department of that institution, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1904. Thus exceptionally well equipped for the world's work, he began his career by teaching, which he followed two years at Jackson, Wisconsin, as principal of the public schools. Turning his attention to medicine, he entered Hahnemann Medical College at Chicago in the fall of 1906 where he made a splendid record, graduating in May, 1910, and in June of that year he received the degree of Master of Arts from Milton College. While in school he spent his summer vacations as assistant on the United States geological survey in Colorado and New Mexico, a very interesting work from which he received much benefit. He also put in part of the time as an assistant of the Wisconsin state fish commission, also attended a summer session at the University of Wisconsin, and he spent two summers in the hospitals while taking his medical course.

Doctor Maxon located in Harvard, Illinois, in August, 1910, and here he has devoted himself to the practice ever since with constantly increasing success, and has built up a fine practice in this locality, being thoroughly well informed in recent medical research and in up-to-date ways of treating various diseases. And the future for him will evidently be replete with success of a very high order.

The Doctor is a thirty-second-degree Mason and a member of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He is a man of refined, upright character, broad-minded, genial and is eminently deserving of the high esteem in which he is held by all classes.

## MRS. ELIZA SPENSLEY.

Wholly devoted to home and domestic duties, doing through all the best years of her life the lowly but sacred work that comes within her sphere, there is not much to record concerning the life of the average woman. And yet what situation so dignified, what relation so endearing, what office so holy, tender and ennobling as those of home-making wifehood and motherhood? A celebrated writer and biographer once said that the future destiny of a great nation depended upon its wives and mothers. May this not also be said concerning the future that is blood of her blood, and which is incalculable of results and will never be fully known until eternity solves the problem? In the settlement of the great Middle West woman bore her full share of hardships, sufferings and vicissitudes, helping man in the rugged toil of wood and field, cheering him when cast down and discouraged, sharing his dangers, mitigating his sufferings, in the end quietly and unostentatiously rejoicing in his success, yet ever keeping herself modestly in the background and permitting her liege lord to enjoy all the glory of their mutual achievements. In a biographical compendium, such as this work is intended to be, women should have no insignificant representation. As a man's equal in every qualification save the physical, and his superior in the gentle and loving amenities of life, she fully merits a much larger notice than she ordinarily receives, and the writer of these lines is optimistic enough to indulge the prediction that in a no distant future she will receive due credit for the important part she acts in life's great drama and be accorded her proper place in biography and history.

The foregoing paragraph was suggested after a perusal of the leading facts in the life record of the worthy and highly respected lady whose name furnishes the caption of this article, a lady who has done well her part in the world and whose career from the beginning has been a simple, but beautiful poem of rugged, toilsome duty, faithfully but uncomplainingly performed as maiden, wife and mother.

Mrs. Eliza Spensley, of the village of Walworth, widow of Robert Spensley, deceased, is a daughter of Deacon John Reader, one of the leaders in pioneer times in Walworth county. A complete sketch of this noble character appears on another page of this work. His daughter, the subject, well remembers the conditions prevailing here during the early settlement of Walworth and talks interestingly of life in those remote days. She was born in Oneida county, New York, and came to this county in the fall of 1837 with

her parents and the rest of the children, all constituting a large family. The father had been here in 1836 and entered land and proved it and did all he could toward erecting a log cabin and getting ready to bring his family here. Being the first settler in that part of the county, he had no neighbors, consequently no one to help him. Thus in the western part of Walworth township, which was a wilderness, the haunts of wolf, deer and other kindreds of the wild and "watchers of the trail," Eliza Reader grew to womanhood. In 1856 she was united in marriage with Robert Spensley, who was born June 14, 1825, in Lincolnshire, England. He was the son of John and Sarah Spensley, both natives of England, where they lived and died, and there their son, Robert, grew to manhood, finally emigrating to America and taking up his abode in Walworth county, Wisconsin, in the year 1850, boarding with Deacon Reader. He followed farming and after his marriage bought part of the Reader homestead and there he and his wife lived until 1884, then moved to Dell Rapids, South Dakota, where Mr. Spensley bought a farm of two hundred acres, for which he paid eleven dollars and fifty cents an acre and lived there sixteen years, reaping his usual large rewards as a general farmer and stock raiser. A church house had been erected in his neighborhood, but the congregation was heavily in debt and were discouraged, ready to give up the struggle. At this crisis Mrs. Spensley felt that she had been guided there providentially. She was much in earnest in her desire that the church continue, for she wanted her children to grow up under Christian influence. So she went back and solicited funds for this church, doing her work with a zeal befitting the motives that actuated it, and she deposited the sum of eighteen hundred dollars for the church, in her own name, in order to insure its proper use in liquidating the debt. This church is now a power for good in its community. She also took an abiding interest in the public schools and for eleven years was treasurer of the school board at Dell Rapids. Her own chances for schooling had been meager, she having learned to write from copy written for her on the ground by her mother, and these copies the young girl had practiced on while herding cattle in the early days of the family home in Walworth township. She was very earnest in assisting the children of a later generation in obtaining the advantages which she lacked.

Mr. Spensley's health began to fail and after sixteen years in Dakota he sold his farm and returned with his family to Walworth county and here spent the rest of his life, dying on June 22, 1907.

Five children were born to Robert Spensley and wife, namely: Dallas

married Ora Sawyer and they had two children, Erma and Elma; his first wife died and he married Elizabeth Tabor; the death of Dallas occurred on April 10, 1903, at Walworth, at the age of forty-five years and seven months. Deloss Spensley, who married Melissa Hunt, of this county, went to Dell Rapids in 1884 and is farming there still; his family consists of four children, Carrie, Rena, Belle and Earle. Clara Spensley married Thomas McConnell and they have three sons, Robert, Claude and Clifford; this family lives at Toma, Wisconsin. Herbert Spensley married Etta Adams of Walworth, and he is an electrician here. Frank Spensley married Edith Sizer and they have two children, Walter and Nina; he is farming at Toma. The first two children of the subject, Dallas and Deloss, were twins.

Robert Spensley was a man of upright character who took great pains in the rearing of his children. He was a worthy member of the Walworth Baptist church, to which Mrs. Eliza Spensley also belongs. Mrs. Spensley now resides in Walworth with her sons. She is a woman of strong character, neighborly, hospitable, always ready to help in times of need or distress, and she has a host of warm personal friends wherever she is known.

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#### WILLIS D. ECKERSON.

This gentleman is another of the old soldiers whom it is a delight to honor. They are getting fewer and fewer in number and their march is not as quick and full of meaning and fire as it was fifty years ago when they were fighting for the perpetuity of the Union. But it thrills one to see them in their old uniforms, with their tattered flags flying and their forms bent as they hobble along on their canes at reunions, or on Memorial Day or the Fourth of July. And how interesting it is to hear them tell the story of the dreadful hardships they endured in the hospitals or on the harassing marches, or in the battles and skirmishes, or in the prison hells of the Southern Confederacy. But their time is short now, so all persons should join in honoring them for the sacrifices they made when they were young and full of the love of life, but which was offered free on the altar of their country. Mr. Eckerson's uncle David, one of our early pioneers, came to the lake district here when it was a wild stretch of forest and unknown to the outside world, or at least very little known.

Willis D. Eckerson was born on January 24, 1847, at Ames, Montgomery county, New York, and he is the adopted son of David Eckerson, of New

York, who came to Wisconsin, and settled on a farm in Sharon township, Walworth county, in 1849, having purchased the same from the government, and here, by hard work and perseverance, he established a good home and here the elder Eckerson and his wife spent the balance of their lives, his death occurring in 1903, and the mother's in 1905, having attained ripe old ages.

The subject received his education in the district schools of Sharon township, and here grew to manhood. Early in life he took up the trade of painter and decorator, at which he has become expert and his services have always been in great demand.

Mr. Eckerson owns a beautiful modern home on the hill commanding an inspiring view of the city of Delavan and surrounding country. Politically, he is a staunch Republican and is more or less active in party affairs. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic.

Mr. Eckerson enlisted in the Thirteenth Wisconsin Infantry under Captain Crummel in the Army of the Cumberland. He was a good drillmaster and served as a private for three years. The subject was in the following battles: Fort Donelson, Nashville, Fort Henry and Lookout Mountain.

On November 18, 1861, Mr. Eckerson was united in marriage to Thersa Stupfall, of Sharon, and they had two children, Mary Elizabeth, who died May 20, 1897, and Bertha E., at home. The wife died June 30, 1906. The family attend the Episcopal church and are very active in church affairs.

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### JAY B. GOULD.

One of the most enterprising of our younger generation of farmers in Walworth county who has believed from the outset of his career that the "wisdom of yesterday is sometimes the folly of today" and that while the methods of our grandfathers in tilling the soil were all right in their day, yet in the twentieth century we are compelled to adopt new methods and farm along different lines, in view of the fact that conditions of climate, soil, grains, etc., have changed since the days of the pioneers. He has been a close observer of modern methods and is a student at all times of whatever pertains to his chosen life work and he has therefore met with encouraging success all along the line, and, judging from his past record, he will undoubtedly achieve much in the future years and take his place among the leading agriculturists of a community noted for its fine farms and adroit husbandmen.

Mr. Gould was born at Midway, LaCrosse county, Wisconsin, on Novem-

ber 28, 1880. He is the son of John and Augusta (Ayers) Gould, the father a native of the state of New York and the mother of Mineral Point, Wisconsin. The former came to the Badger state when young and here he was married.

The subject received his education in the district schools of his native state. When two years old he went to Trempealeau county, later coming to Walworth county, locating at the town of Troy. He remained on a farm three years in that vicinity, then moved south of Elkhorn, in Delavan township, where he spent four years, then moved to section 6, where he lived six years, then purchased the Wrinkleman farm, on which he lived two years, then bought the Rockwell place in section 16, Delavan township, where he still lives. Here he has met with encouraging success as a general farmer and stock raiser, and has added many important improvements on the place. He keeps a good grade of live stock, and everything about his place indicates good management.

Mr. Gould was married on May 9, 1906, to Alice Emma Conklin, who was born on December 30, 1884, the daughter of Albert H. and Elizabeth (Ball) Conklin, natives of this state. The father lives at the town of Delavan where Mr. Conklin has charge of the high school, and is known widely and greatly admired as both an educator, having made school teaching his life work. The mother of Mrs. Gould passed to her rest on September 18, 1901.

The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Albert H. Conklin: Edith died in infancy, May 8, 1877; Addie Wallace, born January 19, 1881, lives in Elkhorn; Alice Emma, wife of Mr. Gould; Ethel, who married a Mr. Williams, was born on February 26, 1888, is living at Williams Bay, this county; Mary, who was born on September 9, 1902, is living with her father in Delavan. The father of these children was born on August 24, 1853. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Conklin was married to Mary Sweet, of Allen's Grove. The subject and wife have no children. They are both members of the Rebekahs.

John Gould, father of the subject, was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil war, and he is now a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, by virtue of that fact. He was formerly a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is still living on his fine farm in the vicinity of Elkhorn, having devoted his life to agricultural pursuits and accumulated a competency thereby. He was born on April 27, 1845, and his wife was born on August 9, 1853. They are the parents of the following children: George, born May 27, 1875; Albert, born December 7, 1876; Libbie, born July 7, 1878; Jay B., subject of this sketch; Mattie, born May 28, 1883; William, born April 24, 1885; Nellie, born October 27, 1887; Ayer, born May 20, 1890

## DEACON JOHN READER.

The good resulting from such a noble, self-sacrificing and public-spirited life as that led by the well remembered pioneer, Deacon John Reader, can not be adequately reckoned or properly expressed in words; it is too far-reaching in its ameliorating effects and will continue to grow more and more bright "unto the perfect day."

John Reader, who is believed by many to have been the first white settler in the town of Walworth, was born in Headcorn, Kent, England, February 21, 1803. He was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Colison) Reader, both natives of Headcorn, the father born on February 21, 1780, and the mother on June 12, 1781.

When eighteen years old John Reader married Elizabeth Featherstone, who was born at Headcorn on October 18, 1803. Their eldest daughter, Elizabeth, was born November 1, 1822, in England. In 1824 John Reader brought his wife and daughter to America and located at Waterville, Oneida county, New York, and later his parents came over and settled at the same place. In 1836 John Reader came to Walworth township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, and entered land from the government, in the southeast quarter of section 18, also entered land in Sharon township, being the first settler there and he broke the first ground in that township, having settled first in section 27, where he built a small log cabin at what is now known as Reader's Grove. He had no neighbors and could not finish his cabin alone, so he went back to New York for his family, finishing his rude home upon his second coming when he brought his family, in the fall of 1837. The Godfrey family came at the same time and were his first neighbors, Mr. Reader helping them build their cabin, sleeping in his covered wagon meanwhile; in turn the Godfreys helped him roof his cabin. Here he prospered, having worked hard, and he became the owner of four hundred acres or more of good land, and he became prominent in various local affairs, holding a number of offices in the township. Later in life he moved into the township of Walworth. He endured all the hardships and privations incident to a life in the wilderness in those days. At one time he went to Chicago for provisions, being away from home longer than he had anticipated, being delayed on account of bad roads and other circumstances, and when he reached home his family had been four days without anything to eat but a few dry crusts of bread.

John Reader and his wife were baptized and joined the Delavan Baptist church in 1841, and in 1844 they helped organize the Walworth Baptist

church, and Mr. Reader was its first deacon, which office he held with much credit until he moved to Delavan in 1864.

Thomas and Elizabeth (Colison) Reader, parents of John Reader, came to New York in an early day and later moved on to Walworth county, Wisconsin, their son, John, building them a house in a corner of his yard and there they made their home until Thomas Reader died on June 2, 1856, his widow surviving until 1876, reaching the advanced age of ninety-six years. A family picture shows her and four generations of her descendants, the five generations in one picture being published in a number of papers. Thomas Reader was a soldier in England when his son, John, was a little boy.

Deacon John Reader was an active and influential member of the new and growing settlement and he was held in the highest honor and esteem by his neighbors and friends, and he had scarcely an enemy, for he lived a blameless life, and as a neighbor and citizen his record is without blemish, and he was a devout Christian. He was the first person baptized in Walworth county and the first person received into the church at Delavan on a profession of faith. He was one of the constituent members of the Walworth Baptist church, the building of the brick church devolving largely upon him, and to that he gave his time and attention, money and counsel, his services to the church being held in grateful remembrance. His old age was beautiful because found in the way of the righteous. His wife was called to her rest on October 22, 1868, at Delavan, in her sixty-sixth year. The death of Deacon John Reader occurred at Delavan on Christmas Day, December 25, 1878, at the age of seventy-five years and ten months.

They were the parents of a large family, fifteen children, one of whom, William, died in childhood soon after the family came here. John Reader went alone to the lake and dug the grave, burying the child in a coffin he had made himself; also an infant, Mary, died two or three years after the arrival of the family here. The other thirteen children all grew up and married. Elizabeth married Edward Hall, a merchant who kept a store in Walworth, later one at Delavan, then at Beloit and finally at Janesville, where he and his wife died. Phebe, the first of the family born in America, married James Bending of Chicago, and they lived at various places. Mr. Bending died in Chicago, and his wife died later in Beloit. John J. Reader lives in Delavan. Richard was a soldier in the Civil war, having enlisted from his home town, Rochester, Minnesota, and he died of disease while in the service. Mary married Dwight Searle and lived for years near Walworth, then moved to Beloit and there they both died. James lived a short time in Illinois, where

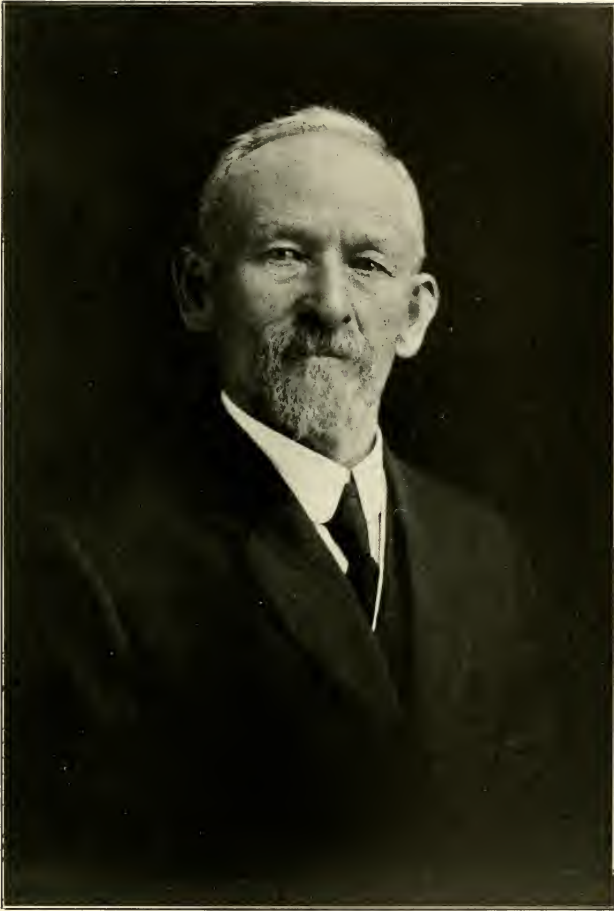
he married, and he and his wife spent the rest of their lives at Sweetland, California. Martha married Franklin Trahern, of Rockford, and there they spent their lives. Caroline married David Jacobie and they spent their lives in Sharon township on a farm. Eliza is the widow of Robert Spensley, deceased, and lives in Walworth. Rebecca married Jasper Voorhees and they spent their lives at Vallejo, California. Richael married Elias Harris, of Delavan, later moved to Rockford where he died; she now lives in Walworth. Stephen married in California and he died in Rockford. Amanda married Andrew Harris, and he died, leaving two children, and she is now the wife of Richard Wilson, of Delavan. At one time all these thirteen children lived within a day's drive of their father's home, and they all used to gather there on the 21st of February to celebrate the father's birthday. Now all are scattered, some dead. These children were reared carefully and the result of their wholesome home training is seen in their daily lives, making them popular and highly respected in the communities in which they live.

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### JOHN A. SCHWARTZ.

Of the many sterling citizens sent to Walworth county, Wisconsin, from the state of New York, few have led lives more commendable than John A. Schwartz, of Troy township, a man who believes in being of some service to his fellows while passing through the world and not in merely striving for selfish ends, and thus he has always enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the people who came into contact with him.

Mr. Schwartz, as the name implies, is of German descent, indeed he is only of the second generation in America, his birth having occurred in Celia, Holt county, New York, on April 8, 1840. He is the son of Paul and Elizabeth (Wagner) Schwartz, both natives of Germany, he of Mince and she of Worms. There they spent their early childhood, the father being eighteen years of age when he emigrated and she but a girl when she came to New York state, and they both went to the town of Celia where he found employment in the salt works. They came to Wisconsin in the spring of 1843, with the early settlers and located on a farm of eighty acres in Troy township, to which he later added until he had a fine farm of three hundred and forty acres. It was all raw land and consequently much hard work was necessary to develop it. About forty acres of one eighty had been improved before he came here, his first eighty having no improvements whatever. Here Paul Schwartz en-



JOHN A. SCHWARTZ

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gaged in general farming and stock raising on a large scale until his death, in 1894. His family consisted of nine children, seven of whom are still living. His wife died in the summer of 1881. He was a member of the Catholic church.

John A. Schwartz, of this sketch, grew to manhood on the home farm and he received his education in the public schools of this county and a commercial school in Milwaukee. After his graduation there he attended Milton Academy, working his way through school. He found plenty of work on the home farm, helping to develop the same. He remembers well the erection of their first home here, a rude log cabin, also remembers seeing his father cast the first furrow in his new farm.

The subject was a young man when the Civil war came on, but he did not go to the front, though he belonged to a local club that sent many substitutes into the army. Upon leaving school he followed teaching for six winters, then entered the mercantile business in East Troy for one year; the next year and a half was spent in trucking. In the fall of 1871 he erected a general merchandise establishment at Troy Center (the same year that the railroad was built here). He operated this store for ten and one-half years, enjoying a good trade. In the meantime he had purchased the home farm, all excepting eighty acres, in 1881, and he moved thereto in the spring of 1882 and there farmed until the fall of 1906, when he moved again to East Troy. In connection with general farming he was a breeder of thoroughbred Merino sheep, also general stock raising. While he was in the store at Troy Center he bought and sold the warehouse there, and he entered into partnership with his eldest son, Albert A., under the firm name of J. A. Schwartz & Son, and they dealt in grain, lumber, coal, lime, etc. Mr. Schwartz has been very successful in whatever he has undertaken, being a man of industry and sound judgment and always on the job.

In the spring of 1868 Mr. Schwartz was united in marriage with Elizabeth Wilmer, who was born, reared and educated in Walworth county, being the daughter of a well known old family here. This union has resulted in the birth of the following children: Albert A., Bernard F., Florence, Edna, George, John J., Susie, Roy R., Walter W. and Nellie E.

Politically, Mr. Schwartz is a Republican, and the entire family are Catholics and faithful in their support of the mother church. He has been chairman of Troy township eight different terms, clerk of the district school, and has held other local offices, always with satisfaction to the people, though he has never been an office seeker.

## WILLIAM LYMAN SEAVER.

One of the best known and most successful contractors in Walworth county is William Lyman Seaver, of Walworth, a man who has led an active and useful life in every respect and therefore enjoys the esteem of a wide circle of friends.

Mr. Seaver was born in Darien, this county, November 24, 1868. He is the son of James E. and Phoebe L. (Dodge) Seaver, the father having come from Darien, New York, in 1839, among the early settlers, being two years old when he came here with his parents, Lyman Hunt Seaver and Sallie (Woodard) Seaver. Lyman Seaver was here a year or two before bringing his family. He probably entered land from the government.

The subject grew to manhood on the farm in Darien and lived there until he was married, on March 15, 1896, to Lydia Seaver, daughter of Horace Everett Seaver and Orinda (Lippitt) Seaver. Her father was born in Darien, New York, in 1832, and when about eight years old he came here with his parents, Joseph Warren Seaver and Mary (Long-Hastings) Seaver. Joseph Warren Seaver, Mrs. Seaver's grandfather, and Lyman Hunt Seaver, grandfather of William Lyman Seaver, were brothers. They were sons of William Seaver. The last named was born in 1763 and died in 1828. He served in the Revolutionary war five different times. The original muster roll at Boston, Massachusetts, shows that he was a private in Colonel Greaton's regiment in the Continental army, and he was detailed as one of the guards at the execution of Major Andre, the British spy. William Seaver was in the sixth generation of the family in America and was educated in this county. The first one came on the ship "Mary and John" in 1634. He was a young Englishman named Robert Seaver, from near London. He landed at Boston and two or three months later married and began farming on ground that is now in the heart of Boston. His son Joshua was the father of Joshua, Jr., born in 1678, the latter a lieutenant in the state militia, and he fought the Indians. He was a weaver by trade, and was a slave holder; he kept a tavern, sold New England rum, and he was a church member. Lieut. Joseph Seaver had a son William, who had a son William, who was a potter, made wooden shoe heels, taught singing school, and was a major in the American army during our war for independence, from Massachusetts. He was very successful as a business man. He was a major in the Bristol county brigade. His son William was in the sixth generation, as mentioned above, the one who guarded Major Andre. He was also in the navy during the Revolution, then followed

a seafaring life. He was six feet tall and weighed two hundred pounds, and excelled in athletic feats, at one time defeating the champion wrestler of Vermont. At Arlington, that state, he was captain of the local military company. He is described as a man above the average in intelligence and character. Phoebe L. Dodge, the mother of William Lyman Severance, was the daughter of Josiah and Julia (Long) Dodge. She came from near Darien, New York, coming to Walworth county, Wisconsin, with her parents.

James Everett Seaver was born at Darien, New York, June 13, 1837. He was a son of Lyman H. and Sarah (Woodard) Seaver, the former born at Arlington, Vermont, October 26, 1796, and the latter was born at Hebron, New York, in April, 1797, and they were married on April 29, 1819. When James E. Seaver was two years old the family came west and located in Darien township, one mile west of the village, the father entering his land from the government. James E. Seaver grew up in Darien township, and on November 16, 1859, he was united in marriage with Phebe Dodge, daughter of Josiah and Julia (Long) Dodge. She was born at Darien, New York, June 20, 1841, and came here with her parents when she was two years old. They also located in Darien township.

After James E. Seaver was married he and his wife lived in Sharon township about seven years, he having bought a farm there, then moved back to Darien and bought a farm near the village and there he continued to reside until near the end of his life. His death occurred on April 2, 1909, his wife having preceded him to the grave on October 11, 1906. They were the parents of five children, four of whom are living; Josi died when he was eighteen years old; Marcus D. lives at Los Angeles, California; Bertha is the wife of John S. Topping and lives in Delavan; William L. lives in Walworth; Clara M. is the wife of Leander Wright and lives at Los Angeles, California. Joseph Warren Seaver was a member of the state Legislature at one time.

Orinda Lippitt was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, and came here when two years old with her parents, being among the very first settlers of Darien township. Her parents were Cyrus and Lydia (Bruce) Lippitt. The father came to this county in 1837 and settled in section 35, Darien township. Lydia (Bruce) Lippitt had two brothers, John and William Bruce, who were among the earliest settlers in Darien. Adelai Seaver, sister of Horace Everett Seaver, was one of the three earliest school teachers in Darien township.

Henry Dodge, the first territorial governor of Wisconsin, was of the same Dodge family as the subject. He was governor in 1836, also in 1845.

After his marriage the subject of this sketch moved to Richmond, Illinois, where he was manager of a lumber yard until the spring of 1903, when he went to Spring Grove, that state, where he was half owner of a lumber yard, remaining there three or four years. Then he sold out his interests there and took up contracting in concrete work. He moved to Walworth, this county, in October, 1908, and here he has since made his home, continuing contracting in concrete work. He has five children, Lucy, Everett, William, Kenneth and Stuart. He is a member of the Masonic order, both the blue lodge and the chapter.

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#### M. E. CUSACK.

One of the most progressive farmers of Walworth county is M. E. Cusack, whose large, well improved landed estate lies in Darien township. There are farmers here who farm on a more extensive scale, but few if any of them have a better idea as to the modern methods of agriculture. He has always been a close observer and a deep student of soils, climatic influences, in short, all the elements that go toward making husbandry successful, and he is well informed as to the findings of experimental stations and does not discard the government reports when they come to his mail box, for he realizes that one never knows where a good idea may be obtained, often in the place that we least expect it. He is also a public-spirited man, and while laboring for his individual advancement he lends his influence to the support of such measures as make for the general upbuilding of the community.

Mr. Cusack was born on August 24, 1863, in Darien township, this county. He is the son of Patrick and Ellen (Sullivan) Cusack, both natives of Ireland, where they spent their earlier years and from which country they emigrated to Canada in the year 1851 and there was their home until 1857, when they moved to Darien township. Mr. Cusack worked out in order to get a start until 1870 when he purchased a farm and there established a comfortable home in which he spent the balance of his life, dying in November, 1906, leaving an excellent and well improved farm on which his widow still resides.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Cusack, namely: Mary, now Mrs. Moran; John; Nellie is deceased; M. E. of this sketch; James; Julia; Frank is farming in this county; Agnes is deceased.

M. E. Cusack grew to manhood on the home farm and there he made himself useful when a boy. He received his education in the rural schools of Darien township. Early in life he turned his attention to farming for a career

and with the exception of three years spent in the grocery business in Chicago he has followed farming continuously. After his experience in Chicago he returned to his native county and purchased three hundred and seventy-five acres in section 22, Darien township, and here he is successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of breeding full-blood Holstein cattle, which, owing to their superior quality find a very ready market when offered for sale. He has brought his place up to a high standard of improvement and cultivation. He has a convenient, well furnished home.

For a period of ten years he was manager of the Darien Creamery Company, the large success of which was due to his able management.

Politically, Mr. Cusack is a Republican and has been more or less active in public affairs. He was assessor of Darien township for four years, which office he filled to the eminent satisfaction of all concerned. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen and in religious matters is a faithful member of the Catholic church.

Mr. Cusack was married on May 16, 1894, to Ella Dormody, daughter of Martin and Margaret Dormody, both natives of Ireland. To the subject and wife one child, Eileen, have been born, her birth occurring on June 19, 1901.

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### JOHN P. RIVERS.

Those who belong to the respectable middle classes of society, being early taught the necessity of relying upon their own exertions, will be more apt to acquire that information and those business habits which alone can fit them for the discharge of life's duties, and indeed it has long been a noticeable fact that our great men in nearly all walks of life in America spring from this class. The subject of this sketch, whose life history we herewith delineate, is a worthy representative of this class from which the true noblemen of the republic spring; but he has made no effort to be a leader of men, contented to lead an honest, industrious and conservative life, desiring no other title than that of a good citizen.

John P. Rivers is the genial, obliging and popular proprietor of "Riverdale," one of the leading summer resorts on famous Delavan lake, Walworth county, which is annually visited by hundreds of patrons from almost all parts of the Union, who find it such a delightful place that they invariably avail themselves of every opportunity to return again.

Riverdale hotel is a modern, substantial, neat and attractively located

hostelry, consisting of sixteen rooms, modernly equipped and tastefully arranged, and in connection with this Mr. Rivers has three beautiful cottages. This popular hotel is now entering upon its ninth season, each year having rendered this ideal resort more popular, being situated on one of the most charming spots on Delavan lake, commanding a view of its entire length and breadth. The hotel is so situated that looking from its broad verandas one has a view that is excelled by no panorama on this lake or in this section of the state. It is situated near the west end of the lake on the south shore.

Mr. Rivers is also the owner of a fertile and valuable farm of sixty acres in section 31, which he has placed under excellent improvements and cultivation, and which is one of the desirable places in Delavan township. It extends along the south end of the lake.

On December 9, 1896, Mr. Rivers was united in marriage with Inda M. Underhill, who, like himself, represents an excellent family.

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#### AUGUST MELGES.

The name of August Melges is well known to the people who reside in the southern part of Walworth county and to large numbers who visit the popular resorts here, for he has been one of the leading innkeepers at the lake for many years, and has done much to make this one of the most attractive watering places in America, so he is well deserving of a place in the history of the locality along with other enterprising and public-spirited men of the present day.

Mr. Melges was born in Demola, Westphalia, Germany, on October 5, 1839, and there he grew to manhood and received his education in the common schools, and there spent his early life; but not getting the start there that he desired and having heard so much of the great opportunities afforded by the great western republic, he emigrated to our shores in 1864, during the progress of the Civil war, and here he has since remained, having come to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in the early history of the same, and finding it to his liking, establishing his permanent home here.

Mr. Melges was married to Ida Schultz in 1872, to which union one child has been born, William A., who was reared and educated here, and who is now interested with his father in the property described in a following paragraph. He was married to Clara Feger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Feger, of Chicago, and they have two children, Harry and Elenor. Mrs. Ida Melges died on March 19, 1911.

August Melges is the owner of the popular Woodlawn Bay Hotel, at Delavan lake, this county, the site of which is one of the oldest upon that famous sheet of water, having been known as Stowe's Park away back in the days when the lake was still surrounded by a wilderness of trees, and the first summer resorters were just finding the lake. The hotel then upon the property stood back from the water farther than the present structure. It was finally destroyed by fire. This excellent property came into the possession of August Melges in the fall of 1888 and was leased by him for a number of years, having W. A. Erwin, G. W. Collins and Jacob Snyder, and others as proprietors, until 1896, when Mr. Melges moved from Chicago to his lake property and assumed active management, and here he has continued to do a large and ever-increasing business to the present time, and in 1898 he built the present commodious, attractive and neatly furnished hotel, which is modernly equipped and in the midst of beautiful surroundings, and is popular with hundreds of guests who ever find here courteous and considerate treatment.

Mr. Melges also took charge of the old "Petersburg," in 1909, this being the oldest resort upon the lake and here he has erected a modern and tastily arranged cottage.

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#### ALBERT BECKMAN.

To such enterprising and far-seeing men as Albert Beckman, the genial and obliging proprietor of "Beckman's Resort," now a favorite gathering place for hundreds of tourists to the far-famed lake region of Walworth county, is the popularity of this locality due, for he has expended every effort to advertise the place and to properly entertain the people coming here in search of recreation, health and sport. He is a lover of nature, skilled in woodcraft, could have made a landscape gardener had he directed his energies in that direction, for only a cursory glance at the splendidly-kept grounds about his resort is necessary to ascertain that he delights in keeping everything in ship-shape and spares no pain and expense in doing so. He is a man who, while laboring for his individual advancement, does not lose sight of his obligations to the general public, but heartily supports all measures having for their object the general upbuilding of Walworth county.

Mr. Beckman was born in Stockholm, Sweden, on September 20, 1862, and there he spent his boyhood days, and received his education. When but a lad he had his imagination fired by the wonderful stories of the great western world and resolved, as soon as possible, to cast his lot with the Americans, so

in the year 1879 he bade adieu to friends and relatives at the old home, and set sail across the great Atlantic. He located in the great city of Chicago, where he took the civil service examination and became a mail carrier, later becoming interested in the printing business, which he followed for some time.

Mr. Beckman was married on December 26, 1886, to Tilda Swanson, and to this union four daughters have been born, Gertie, Ebba, Teckla and Bertha.

Most desirably located upon Woodlawn bay, Delavan lake, stands "Manhattan Resort," a large, commodious hotel, which Mr. Beckman successfully conducted from May, 1905, to 1911. It stands on the site of the old Hollandale, which was built by George F. Holland. The Hollandale was burned and afterwards rebuilt upon a larger scale and was leased to Mr. Beckman, who has since made a number of important improvements thereon. In 1911 he completed a beautiful, commodious and costly residence just south of the hotel property, to which he retired in the spring of last year, his lease on the Manhattan having expired. His intention upon leaving the Manhattan was to open a boarding house and supply boats, bait and such other things as resorters require while on an outing at the lake, and his splendid new home on the lake shore is thus frequented by fishermen and sportsmen, his place being known as "Beckman's Resort."

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#### ALBERT S. HEAGMAN.

We are always glad to welcome the Swedes, partly because they are thrifty and are always doing something, and partly because they make good, loyal citizens, being honorable and law abiding in the main. Wherever we find them, whether in the so-called effete East, the unconventional West or the snowy mountains of Alaska, they are always busy; they are never among the farmers who sleep under the shade trees when the weeds are choking their crops, neither do we find them in the crowd of debaters who whittle on dry-goods boxes at the edge of the sidewalks in summer and around the stove in the rear of the store in winter, settling all questions but their own. They are with the doers wherever and whenever found. They usually come here with little or no funds, but they go to work immediately and in a few years we find them occupying homes of their own and comfortably fixed. Unlike many of our emigrant population, who send nearly everything back to the old country they earn, the class to which Albert S. Heagman, farmer of Delavan township, Walworth county, belongs, invest their earnings here and prove to be valuable citizens in every sense of the word.

Mr. Heagman was born in Sweden on October 17, 1865, and there he spent his boyhood and attended the public schools. He emigrated to the United States in 1882, locating in Chicago, where he remained one year, then came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he hired out to different farmers in Darien township until 1891, then came to Delavan township where he continued to work as a farm laborer until 1906. He had saved his money and in that year purchased eighty acres in section 26, Delavan township, and here he still resides, having developed a good farm and is making a good living, and has a comfortable home.

The subject is the son of John and Margaret Heagman, both born in Sweden and both of whom are dead. They were the parents of two children, Hilda, who married Fred Peterson, and lives in Chicago, and Albert S., of this sketch.

The subject was united in marriage with Mary Olson on November 5, 1889, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Athel, born August 6, 1890; Cora, born February 13, 1893; Bennett, born December 25, 1895; Quincy, born June 1, 1899. Mrs. Heagman is the daughter of Ole Olson, who lived in Sweden and he and his wife are dead. He was a carpenter, but lived on a farm. There were eight children in their family.

Politically, Mr. Heagman is a Republican, and in religious matters he is a member of the Lutheran church.

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#### FREDERICK C. WINTER.

If we could trace back the lineage of all the people in Walworth county we would, perhaps, be surprised to find that the larger percentage of them could claim Germanic blood, and, indeed, a very large number came direct from Germany. We owe these people a debt of gratitude which we cannot repay, for they have borne the burdens of upbuilding this locality in an admirable way, proving to be excellent citizens in every respect. Of this vast horde the Winter family is deserving of special mention, Frederick C. Winter, of Elkhorn, being an excellent representative of the present generation. He was born at Brunn, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Germany, April 17, 1851. He is the son of Christian and Maria (Stegmann) Winter, and there he spent his childhood, being twelve years old when he accompanied his parents to the United States in November, 1863. After spending five months at Youngstown, Ohio, the family came on to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and located in Lafayette

township, in what was called Hodunk neighborhood. In the fall of 1864 the father rented a farm there and soon established a comfortable home. In the fall of 1869, Christian bought a farm in Lafayette township, consisting of one hundred and sixty-five acres. This remained the family home for many years, and here he continued to engage in general farming. They came to Elkhorn in 1893 and here they spent their last days, both dying in Elkhorn, the mother on March 25, 1901, and the father on May 31, 1904.

Frederick C. Winter was reared on the farm with his father. He received his early education in Germany and finished it in this county. He bought the old home place in 1893 and was there up to the time of his retirement.

In 1899, having accumulated a competency through the able management of his farm, he retired from active life and moved to Elkhorn, where he has a good home and here he has since resided.

Mr. Winter was united in marriage on October 28, 1878, with Wilhelmina Krickow, daughter of John and Katherine (Albrecht) Krickow. She was born in Mecklenburg-Strelitz, at the village of Salow, Germany, and she emigrated to America with her parents in the spring of 1858, her second birthday occurring on June 4th of that year while she was on the ocean, during a five weeks' voyage across the Atlantic. Her parents located in Chicago where they spent the rest of their lives, the father dying in 1872 and the mother in 1873.

Mrs. Winter remained in Chicago until 1877, in which year she came to Elkhorn, Wisconsin, and lived with her sister, Mrs. John F. Lang, who now lives at Rockford, Illinois. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Winter, namely: Edward, whose birth occurred on October 17, 1879, was graduated from the Elkhorn high school in 1898, then took a course at the Metropolitan Business College in Chicago, after which he was given a place on the faculty there, and he remained in that institution about three years as instructor, giving eminent satisfaction in every respect, then went with the Northwestern Business College. In 1909 he and his father started a ladder manufacturing business in Chicago, moving their business to Momence, Illinois, in January, 1911. Frederick C. Winter is president of this concern and Edward Winter is secretary and treasurer, and the latter has the active management of the factory, which has proven to be very successful; he resides at Momence; he married Laura Vanderheiden, of Nernah. Amanda Winter, daughter of the subject of this sketch, was graduated from the Elkhorn high school in 1903, and she married Maurice West, son of Walter A. West, a sketch of which family appears in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Maurice West live in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. The subject's second daughter, Louise, was

graduated from the Elkhorn high school in 1905, and she married John H. Snyder, the present postmaster at Elkhorn, a sketch of whom appears in this volume. Louise spent three years in Morrison's abstract office before her marriage, and Amanda, the other daughter, was employed for six years in the State Bank at Elkhorn, being assistant cashier of that bank the last two years there. These children are all well educated and refined, favorites with a wide circle of friends, and of them their parents may well be proud. Mr. and Mrs. Winter are members of the Lutheran church. They are kind, hospitable people, good neighbors and stand high in the affairs of Elkhorn and the county.

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#### CHARLES R. BURTON.

It is the pride of the citizens of this country that there is no limit to which natural ability, industry and honesty may not aspire. A boy born and reared under the most adverse surroundings may nevertheless break from his fetters and rise to the highest station in the land. And the qualities do not have to be of transcendent character to enable him to accomplish this result. It is more the way he does it and his skill in grasping the opportunities presented than to any remarkable qualities possessed by him. Accordingly it is found that very often in this country the President, Governor and other high public officials possess no higher ability than thousands of other citizens. They have simply taken better advantage of their circumstances than their fellows. And this truth runs through every occupation. The farmer who rises above his fellow farmers does so because he has found out how to rise above the surroundings which hold others down. Such a farmer is Charles R. Burton, of Delavan township, Walworth county.

Mr. Burton was born in Leonardsville, New York, December 31, 1873, and he is the son of Newell and Alice (Crumb) Burton, both natives of the state of New York where they grew up, were educated and married, and they continued to reside in their native state until 1888 when the family moved to Wisconsin and settled in Walworth county, where they remained about four years, then moved to Milton, Wisconsin, where they resided a short time, then bought a farm of eighty acres in section 9, Delavan township, this county, and bought a home, where they resided and established a very pleasant home and remained here until the father's death in 1894. His widow survives, and, like her husband before her, enjoys a wide circle of friends. They were the parents of only one child, Charles R., of this review, who lives on the homestead

which he has farmed in a manner that has brought a large measure of success and stamped him as fully abreast of the times in all matters pertaining to agriculture. He grew up on the farm and when but a boy assisted his father in the work about the place. He received his education in the town of Milton, Wisconsin. He has devoted his life to general farming and stock raising.

Mr. Burton was married to Jessie Fairchild, October 11, 1899, daughter of Daniel D. and Edna (Vincent) Fairchild, both natives of Wisconsin. The father is now deceased, dying July 25, 1905; the mother is still living. They were the parents of three children: Jessie, wife of Mr. Burton; Jennie and Burton D. To Mr. and Mrs. Burton have been born one child, Ralph Fairchild Burton, born February 9, 1909. Mr. Burton is a Republican and a member of Beavers Lodge, Delavan.

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#### GEORGE HENRY RENNER.

A successful business man and public-spirited citizen who is deserving of specific mention within the pages of this history is George Henry Renner, a man who believes in keeping fully abreast of the times and in lending such aid as is possible in the general upbuilding of the community. He was born at Mt. Pleasant, Racine county, this state, on April 19, 1861. He is the son of John and Elizabeth (Gilcher) Renner. This family came here in the spring of 1866, locating on March 8th on the farm which the father had purchased, and here the family has since resided, the mother having died here on October 11, 1910. In 1884 eighty acres more was added to the place, and from year to year good improvements were added. A full sketch of John Renner appears on another page of this work.

George H. Renner, of this review, was reared on the home farm, and received his education in the public schools. He learned the carpenter's trade early in life which he followed successfully for ten years, since which time he has engaged in farming, now operating the entire three hundred acres of the home farm, carrying on general farming and stock raising on a large scale and making a specialty of dairying. He has kept the place well improved and well tilled. From 1891 to 1893 he ran a creamery at Lomira, Wisconsin, looking after the same from his farm. He understands dairying thoroughly and is well equipped for the same.

Mr. Renner was married in 1895 to Sarah Steiner, of Dodge county, Wisconsin, and to this union three children have been born, John, Laura and

George. The mother is a member of the Evangelical church. The subject's family have been identified with the church many years. Fraternally, Mr. Renner is a member of the Knights of Pythias. He is a Republican and he has been chairman of Sugar Creek township for nine years.

Mr. Renner became treasurer of the State Long Distance Telephone Company at the time of its organization in 1905, and he has since discharged the duties of this office in a manner that reflects credit upon his business ability and to the satisfaction of all concerned. He has been very successful in his various operations in a business way and is one of the progressive men of his locality. He is actively interested in all local undertakings.

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### JOHN RENNER.

Germany has sent to Walworth county a very large number of her enterprising citizens. The Germans are known as the most highly educated people in the world; their universities rank at the front, and, with the exception of fiction writers, in which she ranks among the very lowest, she has produced men who are leaders in all departments of art. The five greatest musicians of the world, past or present, bear German names, and in all walks of life they have excelled. They are not only thinkers, but people of thrift. They make a comfortable living where people of other nationalities would starve or at least eke out a miserable existence. So we are always glad to welcome them to our shores. One of this worthy number is John Renner, of Sugar Creek township, Walworth county. He was born in Baden, Germany, January 22, 1838, being the fifth of a family of eight children born to Casper and Elizabeth Renner, the father a native of Baden, Germany, where he grew up and from there he emigrated to the United States in 1848, landing in New York City, where he worked two years, on a farm near there. Then, in 1850, he came to Racine, Wisconsin, where he farmed until 1866, then came to Walworth county and made his home with his son John, of this sketch, until his death. He was buried in Tibbitts cemetery. Casper Renner was a Republican. His wife was born in Baden, Germany, and she died in Walworth county at the age of sixty-four years. They were both members of the Evangelical church.

John Renner of this sketch was ten years old when he came to America with his parents, and here he grew to manhood and attended the common schools. He proved his patriotism to his adopted country by enlisting for

service in the Union army, when he was twenty-four years old, in December, 1862, in Company K, Thirty-first Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, in which he served gallantly until the close of the war, taking part in many important campaigns and hard-fought engagements, such as the battles of Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Savannah, Bentonville, and was on Sherman's famous march to the sea.

After his army career Mr. Renner returned to Wisconsin and bought a farm in section 3, Sugar Creek township, Walworth county, and here he has since resided, having been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, having accumulated two hundred and seventy-five acres of excellent land.

Mr. Renner was married on November 6, 1859, to Elizabeth Gilcher, who was born on April 29, 1835, in Bavaria, Germany, where she grew to womanhood and received her education, coming to America when twenty years of age. Her death occurred on October 11, 1910.

To the subject and wife one child was born, George Henry, whose birth occurred on April 19, 1861, and a sketch of whom will be found on another page of this work.

Politically, John Renner is a Republican, and has long been active in local politics. He is a member of the Rutherford B. Hayes Post No. 76, Grand Army of the Republic, of Elkhorn, and he and his wife are members of the Evangelical church. Mr. Renner is one of the substantial and influential Germans of Sugar Creek township, and is highly respected by all who know him.

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#### PORTER GREENE.

The early pioneers of Walworth county, having blazed the path of civilization to this part of the state, finished their labors and passed from the scene, leaving the country in possession of their descendants and to others who came at a later period and builded on the foundation which they laid so broad and deep. Among the former class was the well remembered farmer and influential citizen by whose name this biographical memoir is introduced, his arrival being among the earliest. His career here was in the first formative period, and he did much to develop and advertise to the world the wonderful resources of a county that now occupies a proud position among the most progressive and enlightened sections of the great Badger commonwealth. Useless to say that Mr. Greene worked hard and honorably earned the reputation which he en-

joyed as one of the leading farmers and public-spirited citizens of this locality. and it is also needless to add that he was held in the highest esteem by all with whom he came into contact, for he threw the force of his strong individuality and sterling integrity into making the county what it is and his efforts did not fail of appreciation on the part of the local public. His name will ever be inseparably linked with that of the community so long honored by his citizenship, whose interests could have had no more zealous and indefatigable promoter, and his influence was ever exerted to the end that the world might be made better by his presence.

Porter Greene was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, May 9, 1813. He was educated in the public schools there, and when a young man he came to New York, and, having heard alluring tales of the great, undeveloped, wild and promising Northland, he came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, about 1836, before many settlers had dared to brave the wilds here. He entered one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government, which his widow now lives on. This he cleared and developed into a good farm and established a comfortable home and here he spent the balance of his life, dying on May 13, 1893. Politically, he was a Republican and he was active in public affairs, holding a number of township offices, such as assessor, always with satisfaction to the people. Religiously, he was an active member of the Congregational church, of which he was deacon for years, and a leader in the same.

Mr. Greene was twice married, first, to Lucina Brewer, by whom five children were born, namely: Porter, Lucinda, George, Addie (deceased) and Harvey.

The wife and mother died on March 23, 1865, and on May 27, 1866, Mr. Greene was united in marriage with Lestina M. Gould, who was born in Charlemont, Massachusetts, on June 29, 1835, the daughter of Eli and Tirzah (Smith) Gould, who came to Walworth county in 1856 and located in Troy township on a farm, but they spent their last days at Grand Rapids, Michigan. They were the parents of five children, of whom two are living. Mr. Gould died in 1885 and his widow on June 29, 1896.

To Mr. Greene and his second wife two children were born, namely: Everett A., born December 17, 1872, and he was educated in the public schools and in the East Troy and Elkhorn high schools, and he is engaged in operating the homestead. Politically he is a Republican. He was married on June 6, 1894, to Ezzie Dixon, who was born in Elkhorn on February 14, 1868, the daughter of Frank and Ann (Farrar) Dixon, who came here from Ireland, the mother being a native of England; they were early settlers in Walworth county and here they spent the rest of their lives, Mr. Dixon's death occurring in 1897

and his widow died in December, 1908. To Everett A. Greene and wife three children have been born, namely: Mabel Independence, born July 4, 1895; Porter Frank, born December 8, 1898; Percy Dixon, born October 12, 1904.

The second child born to Mr. and Mrs. Porter Greene was a daughter, Tirzah Belle, who is now the wife of Hiel M. Peck, a farmer of Lafayette township, and to them six children have been born, namely: Ora May, Jeddie Greene, Marian Winnifred, Donald Hiel, Fannie Lestina and an unnamed daughter. Hiel M. Peck is the son of C. I. Peck and wife, a complete sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

Mrs. Porter Greene was educated in the public schools and select schools of Massachusetts, and she taught school in that state for two years, and she continued this line of work in the public schools of Walworth county for some time after coming West. She is a lady of many praiseworthy attributes of head and heart and has long been a favorite with a wide circle of friends and acquaintances, and is well known throughout the community in which she resides.

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#### EDWARD B. WATROUS.

The name of Edgar B. Watrous needs no introduction to the people of Walworth county, having long been regarded as one of the representative and substantial citizens of Troy township, and his life record is well worth a careful perusal by those who have become discouraged on life's highway or who are hesitating where the ways divide.

Mr. Watrous was born at East Troy, this county, July 14, 1859, and he is the son of John G. and Ann Elizabeth (Bunker) Watrous, both natives of New York, the father of Poughkeepsie and the mother of Deruyter. The paternal grandfather was a boat builder on the Hudson river, and he also operated many boats, and freighted a great deal in the early days. When a young man the father of the subject also operated boats.

Edgar B. Watrous was educated in the public schools and he remained on the home place until he was about twenty years of age, then went to Milwaukee, soon afterwards finding employment on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, as a passenger brakeman, and he worked at this for eight years. Before taking this position he worked for C. J. Smith in his machine shop, now known as A. O. Smith, large manufacturer of auto parts. Mr. Watrous worked as a machinist for about three years. He married in Milwaukee and subsequently came to Troy township, Walworth county, and



MR. AND MRS. EDGAR B. WATROUS



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operated two hundred and twenty acres of land, then purchased in 1892 the farm of one hundred and fifty-five acres where he still lives, and in March, 1893, he moved here. He has put up excellent buildings and modern improvements and has met with success as a general farmer and breeder of thoroughbred Holstein cattle, and he also carries on dairying.

Mr. Watrous was married on January 1, 1890, to Fannie Belle Reynolds, who was born in Detroit, Michigan, October 15, 1866, the daughter of James E. and Sarah A. (Blanchard) Reynolds, the father a native of Medina, New York, and the mother a native of Troy, Walworth county, Wisconsin. Her maternal grandparents, George and Lydia Jane (Taylor) Blanchard, were born at Aurelius, near Auburn, New York. He came alone in 1836 or 1837 to Walworth county, Wisconsin, being among the earliest pioneers, and took up a farm of one hundred and sixty acres from the government, which he later added to until his place consisted of two hundred and twenty acres, which he improved and on which he spent the balance of his life. He returned to New York and there married, and spent two years in his native state, then brought his family to his farm in Walworth county and here he and his wife died.

James E. Reynolds came to Walworth county from Detroit in 1868 and located on the Blanchard farm and lived there until 1899, then moved to Troy Center, where he lived eight years, then moved to East Troy and died there two years later, since which time his widow has made her home with Mr. Watrous of this sketch. James E. Reynolds left home when sixteen years of age and began railroad work, then for many years he was an express messenger on the Michigan Central between Detroit and Chicago. After coming to Walworth county he engaged in farming and he was one of the earliest threshers here, being the first man to use a steam thresher in this county, but for some time he had used horse power. Politically, he was a very active Republican and he held various offices. Fraternaly, he was a Mason. He owned one of the very first automobiles in this county and was one of the first to run one here.

Edward B. Watrous affiliates with the Methodist church at Troy Center, and fraternaly he belongs to the Free and Accepted Masons, and he is a charter member of the Modern Woodmen of America at Troy Center, and he and his wife belong to the Order of the Eastern Star, as did also Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds, both ladies having been worthy matrons of the local lodge, and they all have held offices in these organizations. Mrs. Watrous belongs to the Royal Neighbors at Troy Center, being a charter member of that lodge and also the local Eastern Star chapter. Mrs. Reynolds organized the Eastern Star at East Troy and also at Elkhorn.

Mr. Watrous is a Republican and he has served as township treasurer for two years. He is a member of the County and American Holstein Friesian Associations.

Mrs. Watrous has been the organist of the Troy Center church since its organization and has taken the lead in that branch of the church work. For the past five years she has been president of the Ladies Aid Society in the church here. As a girl she attended Milwaukee College, known as the Milwaukee Downer College. She studied music two years, then took private lessons under Prof. H. Philmore for three seasons. Professor Philmore now conducts various conservatories in Los Angeles. Mrs. Watrous taught music successfully for fifteen years, having classes in all the nearby towns. While a student in Milwaukee she gave recitals, which she has continued at times since organizing her classes. She has unusual musical talent according to those who have heard her. She is also an artist of recognized talent, being now the only painter in oils of any note in this county.

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#### CARLOS S. DOUGLASS.

One of the best known business men of Walworth county is Carlos S. Douglass, who has spent his life in his native community, having been born in Walworth township on August 1, 1854. He is the grandson of Christopher Douglass and son of Carlos Lavalette Douglass, one of our sterling pioneers, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

The subject attended the Fontana district schools and the Big Foot Academy, also Beloit College, and was graduated from the latter in 1878. He began his business career by forming a partnership with his father in farming and milling, later adding a real estate business. They built the first full roller mill in this part of Wisconsin, and were among the best known mill men in this part of the state for many years. The death of the father occurred in 1898 and the subject continued to operate the mill with his usual success until 1908, when he sold his interest.

Mr. Douglass has been chairman of the county board for eight years. He was chairman of the town board for thirteen years, and he was three times assessor of his township. He has identified himself with many enterprises which have helped the growth of the village of Fontana, whose interests he has ever had at heart and sought to promote; not only has he assisted in the up-building of that place, but also Williams Bay and Walworth. He is now

president of the Walworth State Bank, manager of the Fontana Land Company and president of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He has been very successful in whatever he has turned his attention to, being by nature a business man of keen discernment, able to see with remarkable accuracy the future outcome of a present transaction, and he seldom makes a mistake. He keeps fully abreast of the times in all matters pertaining to commercial life, civic affairs and current literature. He has a beautiful and modernly appointed home in Fontana.

Mr. Douglass was married on September 10, 1879, to Emma Bordwell, daughter of Danthford and Jennie (Burns) Bordwell. She was born in McHenry county, Illinois, near the Walworth county line. To this union two children were born, Courtney C., born on December 26, 1880, and William LeRoy, born April 16, 1882.

The mother of these children passed away on September 9, 1901, and Mr. Douglass was united in marriage with Annabel Purl, on October 22, 1902. She came to this county from Topeka, Kansas, and she is the daughter of Filmore and Kate (Casey) Purl. She received a good education at Lewis Institute, Chicago, and she came to Fontana as a teacher. She is a lady of culture and refinement.

Mr. Douglass is a member of the Masonic order and the Modern Woodmen. He has always taken an active interest in political affairs, being an ardent Republican, and in 1909 he was nominated for state senator, and he carried his county by over one thousand votes, showing his popularity at home. He is guardian and administrator of numerous estates, some of them being very large, involving much care, judgment and close attention.

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### LEWIS CURTIS.

The late Lewis Curtis was one of the honored pioneers of Walworth county who aided in laying the foundation on which to erect the superstructure of the locality's present prosperity and progress. Through the period of early development he was an important factor in the improvement and advancement of material, civic and moral affairs. Always calm and dignified, never demonstrative, he had the greatest sympathy for his fellow men, was always willing to aid and encourage those who were struggling to aid themselves; yet, in this as in everything else, he was entirely unostentatious. Nothing could swerve him from the path which he believed to be the right one: friendship

was to him inviolable and the obligations of home life a sacred trust. His upright life commanded universal respect.

Mr. Curtis was born in Plymouth, Chenango county, New York, November 8, 1813. He was a son of Junia and Nancy (Mead) Curtis. The father was of New England ancestry, his progenitors having lived in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Junia Curtis lived in New York City for a time, where he was interested in developing a rotary engine, similar to the modern steam turbine. He was working on the problem of applying steam navigation so that it might be commercially successful. He was intimate with Robert Fulton, to whom he submitted his plans. Fulton, backed by the powerful influence of Chancellor Livingston, seemed to have a monopoly on the use of the Hudson river, appropriated the ideas already evolved, and got the credit for being the first to make steam navigation a commercial success. Mrs. Curtis's grandchildren still have many of his drawings of inventions. Junia Curtis also lived at Salina or Syracuse, New York, and there he was the first to put in steam pumps for pumping salt, having made the pumps himself. He built up an extensive business and employed many men. Some believe that he was the real inventor of the steamboat.

Lewis Curtis was just a lad when his father died, and his mother also died when he was young, and when eighteen years of age he was thrown upon his own resources. He went to Toledo, Ohio, where he engaged in the mercantile business for himself. He married Mary Elizabeth Humphrey at Chillicothe, Ohio. She was the daughter of Hiram and Mary (Blodgett) Humphrey, one of the early settlers of New England, who lived first in Massachusetts, then in Connecticut. Michael Humphrey married Priscilla Grant, from whose family Gen. U. S. Grant was descended. The Humphrey ancestry embraces a number of prominent people in the United States and also has been traced back several generations in England. Mary Elizabeth Humphreys was a sister of Benjamin Humphrey, one of the early citizens of Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

Lewis Curtis and wife started from Toledo in 1839 to drive to Chicago, where he intended entering the merchandise business, but he was unable to rent a room for his store. He was offered a large piece of land in what is now the heart of Chicago, in exchange for his team, but refused it, thinking the town was in too swampy a place to have any future. He came on to Lake Geneva, this county, arriving in January, 1840. Here he immediately went into business, opening the first drug store in Lake Geneva. Here he became a leader in business and public affairs, and for ten years he served as postmaster, his term extending all through the Civil war. He was also interested in real estate operations, particularly in the buying and selling of farms. He assisted

in all movements having as their object the general upbuilding of the community. He was one of the leading promoters and subscribers to the railroad project whose successful accomplishment was celebrated in 1856 by a great gathering on the hill now occupied by the St. Francis church. The Female Seminary also found in Mr. Curtis an appreciative and sympathetic advocate and a substantial supporter. In fact, there was hardly any public enterprise which did not know him as its staunch friend from its incipency to its final accomplishment.

Lewis Curtis owned about one thousand acres of land, as valuable as the county could boast, around Lake Como and along Lake Geneva. The ground on which the Yerkes Observatory now stands and also that of the Young Men's Christian Association camp formerly belonged to him and remained in the family until sold for the uses mentioned. They received one thousand dollars for eleven acres to the Young Men's Christian Association, also sold one hundred and forty-five acres for the observatory. By his public spirit, his business position and social standing he belonged to that select few who are always relied upon to build the institutions of a community, to direct public sentiment and mold public opinion. He was intensely loyal to the Union and during the great war of the Rebellion gave active support to the federal government. He gave liberally in helping care for the families of those who went to the front. But prominent as he was in early day public and business affairs of Lake Geneva and vicinity, his leading place in the history of Walworth county was as one of the pillars of the Congregational church, of which he was a deacon for over sixty years, a remarkable record and one fraught with the greatest good. From the time of his advent in Lake Geneva he was one of the church's most prominent members and substantial supporters, and in his earnest work for the religious welfare of the city his influence was most potent and long continued. He was familiarly known as "Deacon" Curtis, or "Uncle" Lewis Curtis. He was indeed a good and useful man and his influence for the amelioration of conditions here was far-reaching.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Curtis, named as follows: Mary Augusta died in childhood; Martha Ann died when young; Hiram Humphrey, born December 6, 1844, lives at Castlewood, South Dakota, where he is president of a bank, also a real estate dealer and an authorized abstractor; Frances Caroline married Albert A. Sawyer and resides at Oak Park, Illinois; Lewis Henry died when about ten years of age; Walter lives on the farm on the Elkhorn road, three and one-half miles northwest of Lake Geneva; Annie E. died when about six years old; Harriet and Anna Belle both live in Lake Geneva, both highly esteemed for their upright character and kindness of heart.

The death of Mrs. Lewis Curtis occurred on March 21, 1868, Mr. Curtis surviving thirty-six years, dying on July 6, 1904, at the ripe old age of ninety years, heaven having bounteously lengthened out his life until it was replete with blessings, his career having been signally long, useful and honorable, one of which his descendants, his wide circle of friends and acquaintances and the county may well be proud.

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### GEORGE HUTTON.

Another of the progressive farmers of Sharon township and one of our most sterling native sons is George Hutton, a man who has lived to good purpose because he has believed in doing well whatever he undertook and not waiting for someone else to do his work for him. He is the scion of a sterling old English family many of whose commendable traits seem to have outcropped in him, thus making him a good citizen in every sense of the word and winning for him the respect of all with whom he has come into contact.

Mr. Hutton was born on the farm which he now owns in Sharon township, this county. Here he grew to manhood, assisting with the work on the home place when he became of proper age and in the winter months attended the public schools in his home community, and here he has spent his life. He is the son of John and Bridget (Mack) Hutton, the father born in England in the year 1804 and there he spent his boyhood and attended school, emigrating to the United States when eighteen years of age on an old-fashioned sailing vessel which required several weeks for the trip. His first wife was Mary Fay, who was born in Ireland. She came to the United States when young and her death occurred in the town of Delavan, Wisconsin, on January 1, 1864.

John Hutton was one of the early settlers of the town of Geneva. He came to Delavan about 1858. He was married a second time, his last wife, who was born in Ireland, being named Mack. From her native country she came to the United States when a child with her parents. Seven children were born to John Hutton and his first wife, and there were four children by the second marriage, namely: George, Sarah, Eliza and Alice.

George Hutton, of this sketch, was married on April 18, 1906, to Fannie E. Cusick, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Campbell) Cusick, both natives of Ireland, from which country they emigrated to America when young and were married in the state of New York, where they established their home, finally coming to Walworth county, Wisconsin, where they spent the balance of their lives, the father dying on February 11, 1904, and the mother on De-

ember 19, 1893. Two children have been born to the subject and wife, one dying young; Francis John was born November 4, 1908.

George Hutton has farmed all his life. He now owns one hundred and sixty-acres in section 13 and one hundred and twenty and one-half in section 14. He has kept his land well improved and has a good home. Politically, he is a Republican. He belongs to the Catholic church at Elkhorn. He has been assessor of his township for six years, being still an incumbent of this office, the duties of which he has discharged very satisfactorily, as is indicated by his long incumbency.

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### MARK HOBERT WEST.

It seems that there is no start in life which so well prepares a man for his future career, no matter what he may choose to follow as the boyhood years spent on the farm; this is not strange to the contemplative mind, for in the first place the boy reared next to nature, to the fresh soil, surrounded by the clear air and amidst the growing, blooming vegetation will be stronger physically and mentally than his city-bred brother, and all will agree that health is the first prerequisite in the chase for success in this world; many a man has been handicapped, submerged and defeated because of lack of it. Another thing, the farmer boy knows few of the temptations that lead to ruin which the city boy has to combat from almost the very cradle; the former uses his energy in wrestling with the plow, the unbroken colt, the quick-growing sprouts, and many other things in his every-day life, while all this pent-up energy of the city lad must seek outlet in various channels, so he gets into trouble or at least neglects to properly direct his energies in life's affairs and when manhood comes he is left behind by his stronger and more self-reliant country contemporary.

Mark Hobert West, of Lafayette township, Walworth county, was born and reared on the farm and has made farming his life work and his life has therefore been healthy and happy, still living on a part of the old homestead in Lafayette township where his birth occurred on May 29, 1866. He is the son of Nelson and Anne Maria (Hodges) West, the father born in Chenango county, New York, June 23, 1829, and the mother born at Scriba, Oswego county, that state, July 5, 1834. He was ten years old when he accompanied his father, Stephen G. West, to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1839, when this country was a wilderness and the haunt of red man and wild beast. Two brothers, William and Jesse Pike, had preceded them here in

1836, having walked from Detroit, Michigan, here. The grandfather of the subject took up government land here, a part of which is now owned by his grandson, Mark H., of this review. He cleared and developed a good farm, undergoing the usual hardships and privations incident to pioneer life in the great northern woods, and the death of Stephen G. West, the grandfather, occurred at Rippon, Fond du Lac county. His wife was known in her maidenhood as Rebecca Pike, whose death occurred in Chenango county, New York.

Nelson West, father of the subject, was educated in the public schools of New York and Walworth county, Wisconsin, and he devoted his life to agricultural pursuits. He was married on February 14, 1855, to Anne Maria Hodges, the daughter of William and Mary Ann Hodges, a complete sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

To the parents of the subject nine children were born, of whom four are living, namely: Henry P., of Ripon, Wisconsin; Addie M. lives in Whitewater, Wisconsin; Mark Hobert of this sketch; Grace is the wife of George Kirchoffer, of Whitewater, this state. Politically, the elder West was a Democrat and was active in political affairs, holding a number of the township offices, and he was postmaster of Westville for many years. He was the owner of two hundred and eighty acres of excellent land, and was one of the substantial farmers and influential men of his community. He attended the Methodist Episcopal church. His death occurred on May 23, 1909.

Mark H. West of this review was reared on the homestead where he assisted with the general work when old enough, and he received his education in the district schools of his community, and in the Elkhorn high school, later attending Milton College. He turned his attention to farming early in life and is now the owner of forty-seven acres of good land on which he has made a comfortable living, this being a part of the old homestead. Politically, he is a Democrat, but has never been an aspirant for public office.

Mr. West was married on February 14, 1907, to Anna E. Stallmann, who was born in Muskego, Waukesha county, Wisconsin, on February 17, 1878. She is the daughter of August and Bertha (Hafer) Stallmann, he a native of West Alice and she of Milwaukee, and her death occurred in Sugar Creek township, this county, in 1896, and in that township he is still living at an advanced age. They came to Walworth county in 1893. To Mark H. West and wife one child has been born, Nelson A., whose birth occurred on February 14, 1911.

Personally, Mr. West is a man of charitable and kindly impulses and he is well liked by all who know him.

## ASA FOSTER.

The day of the pioneer in this country is gone and we are in the midst of a settled stability and permanency. Nevertheless as we look about us we find a few representatives of the early days who become at once the center of interest because they carry in their minds recollections of our hardy forefathers. In this connection we make reference to one of the sturdy farmers of Sugar Creek township, Walworth county, Asa Foster, who has spent over a half century here, during which time he has taken an active part in the great transformation of the country, and it is interesting to hear him recall reminiscences of the early days.

Mr. Foster was born in East Fairfield, Vermont, in 1830. He is the son of Nathaniel and Sallie (Leach) Foster, the mother born in Fairfield, Connecticut, and the father in Williamstown, Massachusetts. Nathaniel Foster devoted his life to farming. He came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, on a visit and here he died at the age of eighty-four years, his wife having died in Vermont. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, being captain of his company under General McDonald and attached to General William Henry Harrison's army. Their service was mostly about Lake Champlain. He was never wounded or taken prisoner. For his services to his country he was given a land warrant. He took an active part in the Democratic party and he was a strong Freesoiler, but he would never accept office. His family consisted of thirteen children, of whom Asa of this review is the only one living, in fact, he is the last surviving member of his family, once numerous. In religious matters he was a Universalist. Great-grandfather Foster was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. Some of the maternal ancestry were also soldiers in the Revolution.

Asa Foster was educated in the old log school houses of the early days at East Fairfield, Vermont, the work in which he finished at the early age of fourteen. Then he went into the woods, and drove two yoke of oxen about the lumber camps. When twenty years old he came west and first settled in Ohio, in 1851, later coming to Michigan and on September 20, 1852, he started with sixteen pounds of cloth in a bag for a walk of over one thousand miles, working along the way to support himself, through Ohio, Michigan, northern Indiana and Illinois, finally reaching Big Foot Prairie, Wisconsin. On Christmas day of that year he returned to his sister's home in Michigan, having walked over one thousand miles. He returned to Vermont, and in 1853 he came direct to Walworth county, Wis-

consin, and here he has resided ever since. He has bought and sold much land and once he operated over six hundred acres of his own land and three hundred acres elsewhere. In connection with general farming on a large scale he raised cattle, hogs and sheep, always handling stock of all varieties, and in an early day here he drove cattle overland to Minnesota, in fact, he has borne the reputation for several decades of being one of the leading cattle and sheep men of southeastern Wisconsin.

In 1858 Mr. Foster was married to Clarissa L. Tibbets, the daughter of Samuel and Sallie (Pattee) Tibbets, pioneers of Sugar Creek township, this county, having driven in wagons from Toronto when the wife of the subject was only one year old. This was about 1841. She got the first badge issued to the old settlers. To the subject and his first wife the following children were born: Mrs. Emma Nott, of Elkhorn; Mrs. Jennie Culver and Samuel T. The wife and mother passed away in 1891, and in February, 1898, Mr. Foster was united in marriage with Mrs. Emma (Sugden) Chafin.

For a period of sixty years Mr. Foster has been a member of the Methodist church. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was formerly an advocate of the Knownothing element. He helped organize the Republican party and was a Fremont supporter. He has been active in politics and public affairs of his county for the past fifty years, but he has never been an aspirant for public office.

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#### ALFRED D. SMITH.

In all the relations of life Alfred D. Smith, one of the successful agriculturists of Walworth county, has been true to every trust reposed in him, and because of his past honorable record, his public spirit, his genial disposition and his honesty of purpose he is held in high esteem by all who know him. He has had the good fortune to spend his life on the old home place, being content with the environments into which he was born, and in this he has shown a wise discretion, for in the first place all will agree that "home is best," as a great writer long ago said; then, too, it would be hard to find a more favored locality for the exercise of the husbandman's talent than in this locality, where nature always does her part, meeting the laborer more than half way. So Mr. Smith could have found no real excuse for hying to other climes and remote scenes in order to find a suitable locality in which to exer-

cise his talents. Judging from the success he has achieved on the home place which he is managing so tactfully, he has been wise in remaining here.

Mr. Smith was born in Lafayette township, this county, on December 24, 1855. He is the son of D. Y. and Caroline (Clark) Smith, both natives of Otsego county, New York, the father born in 1816 and the mother in 1820, and there they grew up and received such education as the early schools afforded and there they were married, emigrating to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1839, and took up one hundred and sixty acres of land where Alfred D. Smith of this review is still living. Here they began life as true pioneers, clearing the land, building a rude house and undergoing the usual hardships, and, through economy and hard work, they had a good home and a fertile farm in due course of time, and here they spent the rest of their lives, the father dying in 1899 and the mother in 1889. Politically, he was a Republican, and he took an interest in the affairs of his county, assisting in any way he could in its development. His family consisted of seven children, of whom five are living.

Alfred D. Smith, of this sketch, was reared on the home farm where he worked during the summer months when a boy, attending the district schools in the winter-time, and early in life he decided to make farming his vocation. He purchased the homestead in 1900 and here he has engaged in general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of dairying, keeping an excellent grade of Jersey cattle. He has kept the place well improved and very carefully tilled.

Politically, Mr. Smith is a Republican, but has not been specially active in public matters and has never sought office, though he has served his district as school director. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Knights of Pythias, Mystic Workers and the Equitable Fraternal Union, in all of which he takes considerable interest and stands high.

Mr. Smith was married in 1879 to Clarabel West, who was born in Lafayette township, this county, grew to womanhood and was educated here. She is the daughter of Jesse Pike West and Elizabeth (Northrup) West, who were among the first settlers of Walworth county and a well known and highly respected family here. Mrs. Smith's parents are now both deceased. One child, Clarabel, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith. She is the wife of Robert W. Knapp, and they have one child, Roberta.

The subject's first wife was called to her rest in 1885, and in 1887 he was united in marriage with Lavina Hicks, daughter of Thomas and Lavina

Hicks, both born in England and early settlers of Walworth county and an excellent family, prominent here since the pioneer days. Mrs. Smith's parents are now both deceased. Four children were born to the subject and his last wife, named as follows: Kenneth, Lucius, Harlin and Carol.

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ALBERT BROWN.

In reading over the record of the lives of many leading citizens one becomes impressed with the fact that certain families show at the outset their strong inclination toward books and learning generally or in at least keeping up with the times on current topics, especially dealing with national affairs. Among the farming community it is the rule and not the exception to find ordinary educations, but occasionally a family is met with that rises above the others in the scale of education and the capacity to grasp the larger questions of mental improvement. Such families are numerous in Walworth county, and it is a sign that this locality is equal to any in the Union in point of citizenship. One such is that represented by Albert Brown, a retired farmer of Lafayette township, where he has long been a potent factor in agricultural, civic and moral affairs, and one of the citizens who links the present opulent epoch here with the pioneer period, a man who is in every way deserving of the large success that has been his and the high esteem in which he has ever been held, for his life has been one of industry and honor.

Mr. Brown hails from New England, from whence so many of our sterling citizens have come, his birth having occurred in Vermont on April 5, 1836. He is the son of Neland and Lusannah (Hoten) Brown, both natives of Vermont, he born at Pittsfield, and there the father's death occurred in 1841 at the early age of thirty-four years, his widow surviving him many years, reaching the age of eighty-six. They were the parents of five sons, two of whom are living. The father was a carpenter by trade.

Albert Brown was reared on the farm where he worked hard when a boy and he received his education in the public schools. He left his New England home when a young man, coming to Walworth county, Wisconsin, on March 28, 1856, and here he began working on a farm and in 1862 he purchased forty acres, to which he later added until he became the owner of one hundred and eighty acres. He now owns one hundred and forty acres in Lafayette township, which he has kept well improved and well tilled and on

which he has carried on general farming and stock raising successfully, but is now living retired, having laid by a competency.

Politically, Mr. Brown is a Republican and has been active in public affairs, having been a member of the county board for three terms and clerk of the district for many terms, and while a member of the building committee built one school house. He has given general satisfaction as a public servant. He and his family attend the Congregational church.

Mr. Brown was married in October, 1857, to Julia Rockwell, a native of Ohio, born there in 1839, the daughter of Silas and Caroline (Hatch) Rockwell, who came to Lafayette township, Walworth county, in 1845 and here they both spent the rest of their lives.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Brown, two of whom died in infancy; they were named as follows: Lena died in early life; Carrie married James Cheney, a farmer of Lafayette township and they have three children, Neland, Ruby and Ira, all living. Millie Brown married Tony Belk, of Lagrange township, this county, and they became the parents of five children, Orlo, Jessie, Viola (deceased), Mariam and Hershel.

The first wife of Albert Brown died in 1905, and in that same year Mr. Brown was united in marriage with Mrs. Alice Prosser, whose maiden name was Flint, the daughter of James and Jane Flint, who were early settlers in Walworth county. They are still living, Mr. Flint being now eighty years old and his wife seventy-two years of age.

Three daughters were born to Mrs. Brown by her first husband, Mr. Prosser, namely: Ethel, Janey and Syrena.

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#### DONALD F. MATHESON.

There is a great deal in being born under a good eye, one that watches and guards off the error and folly that overtake so many young men. The parents that are able to infuse unto their children the spirit of the Spartans—the spirit that can meet any fate and make the most of the world—will see their children grow to years of maturity with excellent habits and splendid principles and see them become exemplary citizens. Donald F. Matheson, one of Walworth county's progressive farmers, was fortunate in having broad-minded, honest and painstaking parents. He was taught from the start the duties of life—not ordinary instruction, but the higher duties which all owe

to each other and to society. The result has been to give him broad ideas of life and its responsibilities and to fit him for honorable citizenship.

Mr. Matheson was born in Lafayette township, this county, October 27, 1860, and is the son of Duncan and Catherine (Buchanan) Matheson. The father was born in Ross-shire, Scotland, in 1814, and the mother was also born in that country in 1832. There they spent their early days. He came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1841, in pioneer times, and took up one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government, and, prospering by hard work and close application, he added to his original purchase until he became the owner of two hundred and twenty acres. He became one of the substantial men of his community, was well known and highly respected, and here he spent the rest of his life, dying in 1871, his widow surviving until 1905. They were the parents of eight children, six of whom are living at this writing. Politically, he was a Republican, being one of the first to ally himself with that party, and he was a strong Lincoln man. He was one of the organizers of the first Congregational church in Lafayette township, and he was always active in church matters. He and Catherine Buchanan were married in Illinois in 1855.

The paternal grandparents of the subject were John and Jessie (Macrae) Matheson, who were natives of Scotland, where they grew up and were married. John Matheson died in Scotland and the grandmother emigrated to the United States in 1841, with her four sons, and she kept house for the father of the subject for a number of years; the grandmother died in 1860, at the age of eighty-two years. John Matheson, grandfather of the subject, was born the same year that saw the advent of the great poet of the common people, Robert Burns, into this world. The subject visited the grave of his grandfather while on a visit to Scotland. He also saw the birthplaces of his parents and many places of interest.

Donald F. Matheson was reared on the home farm where he assisted with the general work when a boy, and he received his education in the district schools. Early in life he turned his attention to farming, and he is now the owner of one hundred and eighty acres, a part of the old homestead, and he carries on general farming and stock raising successfully, having kept the place well improved and well cultivated. He always keeps a good grade of live stock, and he makes a specialty of dairying, for which he is exceptionally well equipped.

Politically, Mr. Matheson is a Republican, and he has been a member of the town board. He belongs to the Congregational church and stands high in the estimation of the congregation and his neighbors. He has never married.

## THOMAS W. TURNER.

Few men of a past generation in Walworth county were held in higher esteem than the late Thomas W. Turner, who, now that life's fitful fever is over, is sleeping serenely in the "windowless palaces of rest." His memory will long be revered by the vast host of people who knew him and admired him for he was a man in whom all took a delight owing to his sterling honesty, his charitable nature and his readiness to help in the furtherance of any movement looking to the general upbuilding of the community. He was one of our sterling pioneer citizens whom we owe so much to, for he came here when the land was little more than wilderness, and, working long and hard, redeemed, with others, the fertile fields and the fine farms which we of today enjoy and which are now so valuable. We can never say too much regarding these splendid, brave and courageous pioneers who literally took their own lives in hand and, not counting the cost, cast their lot in the new country, away from the pleasant hearthstones of their childhood and the advantages of civilization.

Mr. Turner was born in Yorkshire, England, on September 9, 1822, the son of William and Mary Turner, the father born on October 17, 1790, and the mother on July 10, 1789, both in England, and there they grew to maturity and were married, and from there emigrated to New York in 1832, when the subject was ten years of age, and they came on to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1842, locating in Lyons township and there began life in true pioneer fashion. In a few years they had a good home established and there they continued to reside for many years, and there the death of the mother occurred, after which the father moved to Portage, this state, where he lived until his death.

Thomas W. Turner, of this sketch, spent his early youth in New York City where he attended school, and from there he came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, with his parents, being then a grown young man. He purchased a farm of eighty acres in Lyons township and made farming his life work. Later selling this, he purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Spring Prairie township, which he subsequently sold and moved to Lafayette township in 1891, where he bought one hundred and forty-five acres and here he met with his usual success as a general farmer and stock raiser, developing a good farm on which he spent the rest of his life, dying on March 23, 1909.

Politically, Mr. Turner was a Republican and he took a good citizen's interest in whatever pertained to the general good of the county which he selected as his permanent place of abode; however, he preferred to lead a quiet

home life, leaving the emoluments and cares of public office to others. In religious matters he supported the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Turner was married in 1856 to Hannah Gott, to which union four children were born, named as follows: Ellen Isabelle, born October 3, 1857; Mary Estelle, born March 29, 1859; Charles Lee, born June 5, 1861; Frank G., born June 20, 1864.

The wife and mother was called to her rest on July 9, 1873, and on March 19, 1874, Mr. Turner was united in marriage with Hester Toomer, who was born in Somersetshire, England, on April 5, 1839, the daughter of John and Eliza (Gadd) Toomer, both born in England, where they grew up, received their education and were married, and there they continued to reside until 1848, and the same year came on to Burlington, Racine county, Wisconsin, where Mr. Toomer purchased a farm of one hundred and thirty-five acres and here established a good home and spent the rest of his life, dying on September 7, 1887, his wife passing away in 1897. Five daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Toomer, of whom four are living, all well established in life.

Politically, Mr. Toomer was a Republican, but, while he took much more than a passing interest in the affairs of his adopted country, he was not a public man, preferring to devote his attention to his home and his individual affairs. He and his wife were members of the Episcopal church.

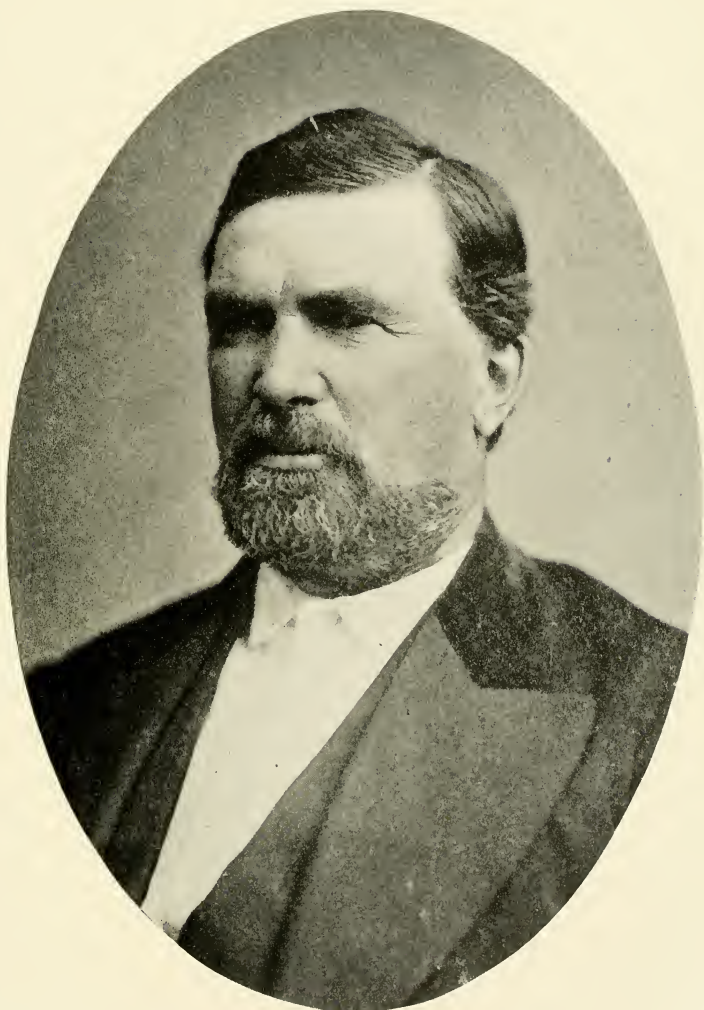
To Mr. Turner and his second wife two children were born, namely: Mary E., born September 19, 1878, and Herbert Eugene, born November 8, 1880, and died in 1892.

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### CARLOS LAVALETTE DOUGLASS.

The most enduring monument which can be erected to the memory of loved ones is not made of marble or granite, for time, alas! crumbles these away; and, precious as are the cherished memories in the hearts of friends, within a few years these associations will be sleeping in the silent churchyard. Naught endures save the written record, the page glowing with the chronicles of the noble life and kindly deeds,—these alone hand down to the generations of the future the history of the past, of the hardy pioneers whose brave patriotism and undaunted hearts paved the way to posterity and civilization.

One of this sterling band of a past generation in Walworth county was the late Carlos Lavalette Douglass, an early settler of the town of Walworth, who contributed much to its subsequent development. He was born in Cataugus county, New York, November 4, 1827. He was the son of Christo-



CARLOS LAVALETTE DOUGLASS



pher and Phoebe (Douglass) Douglass. The father was born February 22, 1787, at New London, Connecticut, and the mother was born at Chelsea, Vermont, February 28, 1787. Their ancestry has been traced in unbroken line to William and Ann (Mattles) Douglass, who came from the north of England, both born in the year 1610, and were the first of the family to come to America. Their first child was born in 1637, probably in New England, for it is known that they came to New London, Connecticut. One of their sons, Robert, had a son, Thomas, whose son, Robert, was the father of Capt. Daniel Douglass. The latter was born in 1752 and it is probable that he was with the New York troops in the Revolutionary war, but he may have been in the Vermont troops. Captain Douglass married Lydia Douglass, who, like her husband, was in the fourth generation of descent from the original William Douglass that came to this country from England. Lydia was the daughter of William, whose father was Richard, the son of William, of the second generation, who was the son of William, the emigrant from England. Capt. Daniel Douglass' son, Christopher, who headed the family in Walworth county, Wisconsin, married Phoebe Douglass, daughter of Ivory, whose father, William, was a brother to the Lydia that was the wife of Capt. Daniel Douglass, and he was therefore a son of William, descended from the emigrant. Therefore Carlos Lavalette Douglass was descended in three ways from William, the emigrant. Christopher Douglass, father of the subject of this memoir, was born in New London, Connecticut, February 22, 1787, and when a young man he moved with his parents to Vermont and was reared on a farm. He obtained a common school education and returned to Connecticut, where he taught school, and while there he was united in marriage with Phoebe Douglass. They afterwards moved to New York. Later he was a soldier in the war of 1812, then settled on a farm near Buffalo, then an almost unbroken wilderness. In the midst of the forest he cleared his land and developed a rich farm. His nearest neighbor was twenty miles away. In 1828 he moved to Macomb county, Michigan, and in the spring of 1837 he sold his farm in Michigan and for about six months rented land near Chicago. Leaving his family there, he came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and began breaking land and preparing for a home to which he brought his family in the fall of that year. Christopher Douglass broke a vast amount of wild prairie land in Walworth county in 1837 when they plowed furrows two and one-half miles long on Big Foot Prairie. He entered a farm in section 28, which he sold, later settling on another which he purchased at a land sale. Here he farmed and in 1842 established a tavern at what was soon to be known all

over this part of the country as Douglass' Corners, now called Walworth. In 1857 he sold a part of his farm and bought land at the head of Lake Geneva where Fontana is now located. In 1839 Christopher Douglass was one of three county commissioners and he continued in that capacity nearly four years and served as chairman of the board. He was one of the first judges of election in 1839 and was on the first grand jury in this county. He was a leader in local affairs and one of the best known and influential of the pioneers. His death occurred in 1866, at the age of eighty years, the community losing one of its best citizens at that time. His wife died at Fontana at the age of seventy-four years. Their family consisted of ten children, of whom Carlos Lavalette, of this sketch, was the ninth in order of birth.

The subject of this sketch was ten years old when the family moved to Walworth county, thus he grew to manhood under pioneer conditions. His early experiences developed qualities of leadership, and in 1846, at the age of nineteen, he was overseer of a gang of men in the copper mines of Superior, spending about eighteen months there. He then returned to Walworth county and took charge of the farm and business matters for his parents until they died. In 1855 he drove a herd of beef cattle from Walworth county to Houghton, Michigan, through an unbroken wilderness, inhabited only by Indians and wild animals. The following year he took another drove to the same place, crossing the lake on sail boats. He built what was known as the old Douglass homestead at the head of Lake Geneva in 1857, and, in company with his father and one brother, built the Douglass grist mill and a saw mill which became celebrated throughout all this region. Everybody for many miles around were permanent patrons of the mill until the great flour mills of the present time became overpowering competitors. He and his son repaired and greatly improved his mill in 1881, introducing the latest and most approved machinery known at that time. They operated this mill until about 1893. Besides milling, he engaged in farming and stock raising, which he followed successfully all his life. He owned an excellent farm of three hundred and sixty acres. He was one of the substantial men of this part of the county.

Carlos L. Douglass was deeply interested in public affairs and he was a member of the county board of supervisors and for many years was treasurer of the town board. In 1873 he was elected to the Assembly, in which he made a most commendable record. He was also deeply interested in the schools of the community and was a leader in local affairs for many years.

Mr. Douglass was married on August 29, 1849, to Margaret Stewart, daughter of Arthur and Jessie (Simpson) Stewart, early settlers of Rock

county, this state. To this union four children were born, namely: Ruth Warren, who married James R. Davis, died when twenty-five years of age; Carlos Stewart, born August 1, 1854, lives at Fontana; Horace Greeley, born November 12, 1857, lives at Lake Geneva; Lewis Christopher, born September 22, 1859, lives at Boise, Idaho.

Mr. Douglass was a man of courage, enterprise and energy. In 1855 he accompanied a party who drove a large herd of cattle across the country to Lake Superior. Before reaching their destination their food supply was exhausted and as there was no settlement along the trail Mr. Douglass made his way to Ontonagon to get supplies, journeying two days and two nights, sleeping in the open air. The matches he carried got damp and he could not even make a fire. He went through all the experiences and hardships incident to pioneer life, later experienced the advantages of civilization, and acquired a handsome property, all through his individual efforts. He owned a beautiful home on Lake Geneva. The death of this excellent citizen occurred on January 6, 1898, at the age of seventy-two years. He was very widely known and held in the highest esteem by all, for his life was exemplary and resulted in much good to the community in general. He was kind, obliging, hospitable and broad in his sympathies, and he did not hold malice toward anyone. He was a good citizen and faithful to every trust reposed in him. His wife was a woman of noble attributes, a fit companion of a half century to him, and his success was due in no small manner to her encouragement and sympathy. Her death occurred on November 6, 1901, at the age of seventy-three years. She was a native of county Cavan, in the ancient kingdom of Tilster.

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#### FRED LINCOLN ELLSWORTH.

The life of Fred Lincoln Ellsworth, farmer and stock raiser of Sugar Creek township, Walworth county, has been such as to elicit just praise from those who know him best, owing to the fact that he has always been true to the trusts reposed in him and has been upright in his dealings with his fellow men, at the same time lending his support to the advancement of any cause looking to the welfare of the community at large.

Mr. Ellsworth was born in Lafayette township, Walworth county, November 19, 1860, the son of Stewart D. and Elizabeth (Ramey) Ellsworth, a complete sketch of whom will be found on another page of this volume.

Fred L. Ellsworth was reared on the home farm where he worked when

a boy, and attended the public schools during the winter months, later the high school at Elkhorn. He has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits and has met with encouraging success all along the line, being now the owner of a very productive, well improved and well kept farm of two hundred and ten acres in Sugar Creek township, one and a half miles from Elkhorn. He makes a specialty of dairying and keeps about sixty cows, and no small part of his annual income is derived from this source.

Politically, Mr. Ellsworth is a Republican, but he is in no sense a public man.

On June 2, 1885, Mr. Ellsworth was united in marriage with Carrie Melina Cobb, who was born in Milwaukee, November 9, 1866, the daughter of William and Harriet (Hale) Cobb, the father a native of New York, born in 1827, and the mother's birth occurred in Milwaukee county, Wisconsin. They were married in the latter place in 1859, and three children have been born to them, all of whom are living. Mr. Cobb has spent his life engaged in farming. He has made several trips to California. Politically, he is a Republican and he was clerk of the school district for about thirty years. He now lives at Hales Corners, Milwaukee county, Wisconsin. His wife died October 9, 1883. Her father, Seneca Hale, was a pioneer of Milwaukee county. He was born on October 5, 1811, in New York.

To Fred L. Ellsworth and wife seven children have been born, namely: Cassius Melvin, born July 2, 1886; Harriet Aileen, born February 11, 1889; Myrtle Belle, born March 26, 1892; Glen Lincoln, born May 27, 1895, died September 2, 1902; Gladys Melvina, born February 5, 1901; Eugene Grant, born January 26, 1903, died May 22d of the same year; Rosina Elizabeth, born August 16, 1904.

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#### BENJAMIN H. BEACH.

It is a great privilege to be able to spend our lives on the old home place. "The roof that heard our earliest cry" has a charm and fascination for us which we cannot find elsewhere, and no matter where on earth our restless footsteps may wander we ever long to be back beneath the old roof-tree of our parents. However, this is not always the privilege of man. For many reasons, often through necessity, we leave our childhood home and seek our fortune in other countries, and seldom ever revisit the hearthstone around which we played as a child. So those who, like Benjamin H. Beach, farmer of Lafayette township, Walworth county, are fortunate enough to spend their

lives at their birthplace, are to be envied, and no doubt, being a fair-minded man, he fully appreciates the privilege, and he has labored hard to keep the old place well tilled and well improved so that it has retained rather than lost its original strength of soil, and the home has been carefully looked after and tastily kept.

Mr. Beach was born on the farm where he still resides in Lafayette township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, on June 14, 1870. He is the son of Warren W. and Clarissa (Harriman) Beach, the father born on September 28, 1821, and the mother was born on April 5, 1832. They grew up in their respective communities and he came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1845, when settlers were few and the land covered with vast forests, and here he underwent the usual privations of the newcomer, but through hard work and economy had a good farm and a comfortable home in due course of time. In 1849 he located his permanent home in Lafayette township, and here reared his family of nine children, six of whom are living at this writing. He was a carpenter by trade and, being a very skilled workman, his services were in great demand and he built about two-thirds of the older buildings, dwellings and barns, in this community. In later life he devoted his attention exclusively to farming.

Politically, the father was a Democrat and he and his wife belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church. The father died April 17, 1912.

Benjamin H. Beach was reared on the home farm and when of proper age he helped with the general work there, and he received his education in the public schools. He has devoted his life to farming and is now the owner of one hundred and thirty acres of the home farm which he tills in a skillful manner, getting abundant returns for his pains, carrying on general farming and stock raising.

Politically, Mr. Beach is a Prohibitionist and in religious matters a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Beach was married on February 11, 1891, to Hattie A. Humphrey, who was born in Lyons, Walworth county, this state, on June 13, 1870. She is the daughter of Roswell P. and Harriet (Griswold) Humphrey, both born in New York, he in 1832 and she in 1834, and there they spent their early years. She was the daughter of Rev. A. Griswold, a native of New York and a pioneer of Walworth county, Wisconsin, and his death occurred in Dayton, this state. His wife was known in her maidenhood as Hannah Sterns, and her death also occurred in Dayton, Wisconsin. They reached unusual ages, each being over ninety years old when summoned to close their earthly careers. Three children were born to the parents of Mrs. Beach, all living at this writ-

ing. Mr. Humphrey's death occurred February 1, 1874, his widow surviving until July 26, 1892. To Mr. and Mrs. Beach four children have been born, namely: Elmer Benjamin, who died when ten years old; George H. died at the age of twelve years; Hattie May and Frederick Delbert.

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### WILLIAM WARREN BEACH.

We are always glad to honor the old pioneers, and this is as it should be, for they are deserving of every consideration; they have done so much for us of this generation that we cannot begin to repay them, even in gratitude; in fact, we often lose sight of the great sacrifices they made for us, their descendants, and of the hardships they endured that the bounds of civilization might be pushed farther westward and outward. They had a hard time and no mistake, combating the root-interlaced soil, the quick-growing underbrush and weeds; combating the wild folk of the woods and the air, that sought to destroy their crops, domestic animals and even themselves; combating the skulking, treacherous red men who claimed the domain on which the pale faces settled. It is doubtful if we of today, many of us at least, would be willing to brave the wilds as did our progenitors, and wrest from a resisting nature and bloodthirsty race the fair realms now to be seen dotted with happy homes, thriving cities and schoolhouses and church-spires pointing skyward.

One of the men who had the courage to take up life in Walworth county in the pioneer epoch was William Warren Beach, a venerable and well known citizen of Lafayette township, whose death occurred April 17, 1912. He was born in Warren county, New York, on September 28, 1821, and there he grew to manhood and received such education as the old-time schools in his district afforded. When nineteen he began learning the carpenter's trade, which he made his chief life work; he also learned to be a millwright, but later returned to carpentering, also followed the joiner's trade, becoming quite skillful in both. In the fall of 1845 he came to Spring Prairie township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, and began working at his trade, and today many of the substantial residences and barns throughout the eastern part of the county stand as monuments to his skill as a builder.

On December 23, 1849, Mr. Beach was united in marriage with Clarissa Harriman, who was born in 1832. To this union nine children were born, six of whom are living at this writing.

Soon after his marriage the subject moved to Marcellon, Columbia

county, Wisconsin, where he remained three years, working at his trade, then returned to Lafayette township, Walworth county, and purchased a farm which he worked successfully. In 1906 he sold out to his son, Benjamin H., who still operates the place, but he lived with his son on the place till his death. For several years the subject employed a man to take charge of his farm while he worked at the carpenter's trade, later devoting practically all his time to farming.

Politically, Mr. Beach was a Democrat and he took more or less interest in public affairs; however, he never sought public honors. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The following are the children of Mr. and Mrs. Beach, of this sketch: Alice L., now Mrs. B. F. Frasier, of Pocahontas, Iowa; William L. lives at Norcross, Minnesota; Lucinda J., who married G. P. Humphrey, lives in New York City; Mary A., now Mrs. D. S. Edgerton, lives in North Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; Benjamin H., who owns and operates the home place; Isaac D. lives at Grand Rapids, Wisconsin.

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#### STEWART D. ELLSWORTH.

We are, or at least should be, proud of the old pioneers and accord them the greatest esteem, for they blazed the way for succeeding generations and made possible our present prosperity and pleasant homes; but we of today are apt to forget the great sacrifices they made, the privations they had to face and the years of toil and suffering they endured in order that the wilderness might give way to fertile farms and populous cities.

One of this sterling band is Stewart D. Ellsworth, long a well known citizen of Lagrange township, Walworth county. He was born in Otsego county, New York, on January 10, 1835, the son of Stukly S. and Nancy (Field) Ellsworth, both born in Otsego county, New York, the father on February 19, 1803, and the mother on August 3, 1805. There they grew up and married and from there they came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1845, when the subject was ten years old, and they settled in Lafayette township on one hundred and sixty acres of land which they improved and there spent the rest of their lives, the father dying in 1883, and the mother in October, 1880. They were the parents of four sons and two daughters, of whom Stewart D. of this sketch is the only one living.

Mr. Ellsworth of this review was reared on the home farm, which he helped develop from the wilderness, and he received such education as he could

in the old log school houses of his day, and later attended the State University at Madison. He took up farming for a livelihood and became the owner of two hundred acres of good land. In 1904 he moved to Elkhorn, after a successful career as a general farmer and stock man, and there he purchased valuable property in which he still lives, enjoying the fruits of his earlier years of toil. Politically, he is a Republican, but has not been a public man.

Mr. Ellsworth was married on January 1, 1858, to Elizabeth Ramey, who was born in Stockbridge, Windsor county, Vermont, December 7, 1840, the daughter of Silas and Martha (Sawyer) Ramey, the father born at Stockbridge, Vermont, on February 21, 1810, and the mother was born in New Hampshire, on April 23, 1810. They came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1854 and settled in Lafayette township on a farm. From there they moved to Iowa in 1869, and Mr. Ramey's death occurred in that state in 1897, his wife surviving until 1900, reaching the advanced age of ninety years. They were the parents of three sons and four daughters, of whom four are still living. Mr. Ramey was first a Whig, later a Republican. He was a member of the Methodist church.

To Stewart D. Ellsworth and wife four sons and one daughter have been born, namely: Frank R., born February 20, 1859; Fred, born November 19, 1860; Zella E., born October 18, 1862; Silas Grant was born April 2, 1869; Louie E., born October 18, 1871; Harry, born August 8, 1877.

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### JAY H. WHITE.

By indomitable enterprise and progressive methods Jay H. White, one of the pioneer citizens of Walworth county, has contributed in a material way to the advancement of his locality during the course of an honorable career in which he was always fairly successful and established a reputation for honesty of purpose as well as energy in material affairs. He now lives retired in his pleasant home in Elkhorn.

Mr. White was born in Essex township, Chittenden county, Vermont, August 25, 1854. He was the son of Forest and Rhoda (Bascome) White, both born in Vermont, in which state they grew up, were married and spent their lives, the father dying in 1906 and the mother in 1886. Their family consisted of seven children, five of whom are living. Politically, the father was a Democrat, and he and his wife attended the Methodist church.

Jay H. White was educated in the public schools of Vermont where he grew to manhood. In 1878 he came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and, in

order to get a start, worked by the month for three years, then rented land for several years and he bought a farm in 1889 of two hundred and thirty-eight acres in Lagrange township. In 1894 he traded for a farm in Jefferson county, consisting of eighty acres, which he later sold and bought one hundred and sixty acres in Sugar Creek township, Walworth county. He sold this in 1909 and moved to Elkhorn where he purchased a fine home and is now spending his declining years in comfort. He has been very successful as a general farmer. He has five acres of valuable land surrounding his home in Elkhorn.

Politically, Mr. White is a Democrat. For some time he was a member of the school board. Fraternally, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Equitable Fraternal Union. Religiously, he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church.

On June 15, 1882, Mr. White was united in marriage with Maria Parsons, who was born in Sugar Creek township in 1861, the daughter of James and Catherine (Hicks) Parsons, both born in Cornwall, England, where they grew up and were married, and from there they emigrated to America and settled in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, in an early day, later coming to Walworth county, and settled on a farm in Sugar Creek township and here the father's death occurred in 1880, his widow surviving until 1901. They were the parents of four children, three of whom are living. Politically, Mr. Parsons was a Republican and a member of the Methodist church.

To Mr. and Mrs. White four children were born, namely: Catherine is the wife of Charles H. Fountaine, mentioned in this work; James is deceased; Florence is at home; Mary is deceased.

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#### BENTON B. TAYLOR.

One of the progressive men of Walworth county is Benton B. Taylor, whose indomitable courage, persistent and aggressive efforts and his excellent management have brought to him the prosperity which is today his. He has ever stood ready to do what he could in pushing forward the wheels of progress and advancing commercial prosperity in this vicinity and his career, both private and public, has been one worthy the high esteem which those knowing him best freely accord.

Mr. Taylor was born in Walworth county, Wisconsin, at the town of Lyons on September 8, 1864. He is the son of Jay L. and Eliza M. (Shaft) Taylor, the father born in the state of New York in 1832 and the mother in

Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. She was the daughter of William Shaft, a pioneer of Sheboygan Falls. He was a miller by trade. The father of the subject came to Walworth county in an early day with his parents, Jesse L. Taylor and wife, who spent their last days here. Jay L. Taylor devoted his life to farming and became the owner of one hundred and eighty acres of land, which he later sold, and moved to Iowa, and bought one hundred and sixty acres, to which he added eighty acres and then one hundred and twenty acres, owning in all three hundred and sixty acres of excellent land which he farmed on a large scale. There his death occurred in 1901. His widow subsequently moved to Florida, where her death occurred in 1907. They were the parents of five sons and one daughter, all of whom are now living but one son. Politically, the father was a Republican, and he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was a man of influence in his community and highly respected by all who knew him.

Benton B. Taylor was reared on the home farm, where he made himself useful when a boy, and he received his education in the public schools and the high school at Elkhorn. Early in life he turned his attention to farming. In January, 1897, he went to Pasadena, California, where he engaged in the creamery business for four years, and he was also manager and one-half owner of a butter company for four years. He then engaged in the produce business for six years. He was very successful while on the Pacific coast, but he returned to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1910, and began operating his fine farm of one hundred and forty-four acres in Sugar Creek township, one mile from Elkhorn. In connection with general farming he has made a specialty of breeding Holstein cattle and dairying. He has brought his place up to a high state of improvement and cultivation, and it ranks well with the leading farms of the county. He has an attractive and comfortable home and excellent out-buildings. Politically, he is a Republican, and he belongs to the Congregational church.

Mr. Taylor was married on December 29, 1887, to Helen R. West, who was born in Sugar Creek township, Walworth county. She is the daughter of S. G. West, a pioneer of this county, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, namely: Walter P., born October 31, 1889, was educated in the public schools and was graduated from the Washington grammar schools. He also attended Throop Polytechnic School, and he was graduated from the University of California, at Berkeley, and he is now a curator at the state museum, having charge of the mammal department. He has published several books dealing with the museum, which have been very successful. He is regarded as an expert in

his line and is a man profoundly versed on such subjects. The subject's second child, Fletcher Branden Taylor, was born on January 3, 1892. He was graduated from the Washington grammar school, later attending the Throop Polytechnic School, and he is now in his sophomore year (1911-12) in the State University of California. He had taken post-graduate work at Pasadena.

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### CHARLES FOUNTAINE.

Among the successful young farmers of Sugar Creek township, Walworth county, Charles Fontaine occupies a conspicuous place and enjoys the confidence and esteem of all who know him. His record demonstrates that where there is a will there is a way and that obstacles to success may be overcome by courage and self-reliance. His career has not been devoid of good to his fellow men and his example is cordially commended to other young men of the county whose life work is yet a matter of the future.

Mr. Fontaine was born on the farm which he now owns in this township on October 23, 1878. He is the son of Thomas and Luna (Stearns) Fontaine, the father born in Lincolnshire, England, April 29, 1835, and the mother was born in Vermont in 1844. Thomas Fontaine emigrated to the United States with his parents when seventeen years of age, locating in Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he married and where his four children were born, all of whom are still living. His father was Thomas Fontaine and his mother was Sarah Fontaine, both natives of England. They came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1852 with their children, eight in number, named as follows: Joseph, Thomas, Mary, John, Isaac, William, Fred and Sarah, all of whom are deceased but Thomas and Isaac. The elder Fontaine bought sixty-four acres of land, to which he later added six acres, and here he spent the balance of his life, dying on February 26, 1857, his wife dying on June 11, 1859.

The father of the subject of this sketch was educated in England. After coming to this country, he devoted his life to farming and became very comfortably situated in this county. He owned one hundred and eighty acres of good land here. Politically, he was a Democrat, later a Prohibitionist and now he votes the Republican ticket. He has been a member of the school board for several years. He was married in July, 1869, to Luna Stearns, and to this union four children were born, namely: Mary Jane, Frankie, Charles and William. The wife and mother passed away on January 24, 1903. Mr. Fontaine is now living retired.

Charles Fountaine of this sketch, was reared on the home farm and was educated in the public schools of his district and at the Elkhorn high school. He has devoted his life to farming and has been very successful, now owning the old homestead, which he has kept well improved and under a fine state of cultivation. He makes a specialty of seed corn and he always keeps some good stock, and has bred some fine grades. Politically, he is a Republican and is at this writing clerk of the local school board. He is a member of the Equitable Fraternal Union.

On September 14, 1905, Mr. Fountaine was united in marriage with Catherine White, who was born in Sugar Creek township, this county, June 23, 1883. She is the daughter of Jay White, a native of Vermont and a pioneer of Walworth county. A complete sketch of Mr. White is to be found on another page of this work. To Mr. Fountaine and wife two children have been born, namely: Forest Charles, born June 19, 1906, and Vivian Maria, born June 28, 1908.

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#### JOHN D. CLARK.

One of the most progressive and up-to-date young farmers of the western part of Walworth county is John D. Clark, of Richmond township, and to him the future holds much of promise, for he believes in doing well whatever he undertakes and he has started out by making the Golden Rule a factor in his intercourse and relations with his fellow men, both in business and social life. Idleness and indolence seem to be entirely foreign to his nature and he refuses to permit obstacles to thwart him from his course.

Mr. Clark was born on the old homestead in this township, March 25, 1879. He is the son of Benajah and Sylvia (Stormes) Clark, the father born in New York August 2, 1833, and the mother was born in New York on July 20, 1841. Benajah Clark grew up in Wisconsin, having come to Johnstown, Rock county, with his parents, John and Martha (Tubbs) Clark, who settled on a farm there, but later came to Walworth county and in 1861 built the house on the farm where the immediate subject of this sketch now lives and here these parents both died, the father on April 11, 1885, and the mother on June 29, 1897. Benajah Clark was educated in the public schools of New York and Rock county, Wisconsin, and at Beloit College. He took up farming when a young man and made it his life work, meeting with pronounced success all along the line. He and his father owned two hundred and forty acres and he is now the owner of a good farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres, and

he now lives at Corliss, Wisconsin. His family consisted of four children, three of whom are living, namely: Nellie M., born September 14, 1863, died on October 4, 1865; Dr. William G., of Marmette, Wisconsin, born October 6, 1868, was married September 14, 1898, to Katie Killam, of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin; Martha B. was born October 3, 1871, and on April 13, 1898, she married Don C. Worthington, of Corliss, Wisconsin; John D., of this sketch.

Benajah Clark was a Republican in politics. He was a soldier in the Union army, having enlisted in Company D, Forty-ninth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, February 14, 1865, and served until the close of the war, as first corporal.

John D. Clark was reared on the home farm and when a boy he assisted with the general work about the place and he received his education in the district schools and at Milton College, later attending the University of Wisconsin, graduating from the agricultural department. He has devoted his life to farming, and, being well educated in his chosen line and a close observer by nature, he is forging rapidly to the front. He is making a specialty of breeding Guernsey cattle, and his fine stock is greatly admired by all. Politically, he is a Republican and he has been justice of the peace, also side supervisor, filling the positions with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Mr. Clark was married on October 11, 1905, to Maud C. Rosencrans, of Whitewater, Wisconsin, who was born on November 6, 1885, the daughter of Frank and Ella (DeAthey) Rosencrans, a highly respected family of Delavan. One son has been born to the subject and wife, Donald Walter, whose birth occurred on August 5, 1906.

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#### JOHN POHL.

Although John Pohl, successful young farmer of Richmond township, is a Bohemian by birth, he is everything but a "bohemian" in the sense that the word has become generally understood in English, for we are wont to allude to those individuals in our cosmopolitan population who are averse to physical exertion and prone to lead listless, lazy and, in short, unprofitable lives as "bohemians." Our Mr. Pohl has proven himself to be quite industrious, honorable and a most desirable citizen in every respect, and it is a pleasure to look over his well tilled and well kept fields.

Mr. Pohl was born in Bohemia on June 2, 1873. He is the son of John and Theresa (Houl) Pohl, both born, reared and married in that country and there they spent their lives, both being now deceased.

The subject was reared and educated in his native country, attending school seven years. He emigrated to the United States in 1887 and located in Jefferson county, Wisconsin. He came to Whitewater in 1888 and rented land in Walworth county for three years. He bought one hundred and twenty-five acres in 1902 in this township, which he improved and on which he has built a fine residence. He has kept his land well tilled and his efforts have met with decided success as a general farmer and stock raiser. Politically, he is a Republican and he belongs to the German Lutheran church.

Mr. Pohl was married on November 24, 1898, to Annie Wendorff, who was born in Germany, the daughter of August and Bertha Wendorff, both natives of Germany, from which country they came to Wisconsin about 1884 and located in Jefferson county, later moving to Walworth county where they purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Richmond township and there the Wendorff family still resides, having developed a good farm and established a comfortable home.

To Mr. and Mrs. Pohl three children have been born, named as follows: Olga Helena died in infancy; Ernest, born January 24, 1903; Vernie, born July 29, 1905.

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### JOHN W. DELANEY.

Among the well known citizens of Richmond township of a past generation, who played a conspicuous part in the agricultural affairs of Walworth county, built up a comfortable home and surrounded themselves with large landed and personal property, none attained a higher degree of success than the late John W. Delaney. With few opportunities except what his own efforts were capable of mastering and with many discouragements to overcome, he made an exceptional success of life's work in a material way and in his old age had the gratification of knowing that the community in which he had been residing for a number of decades had been benefited by his presence and his council. He was a man of energy, concentration of purpose, managing his affairs with rare foresight and executive ability, and to these qualities were added scrupulous honesty, integrity and an open candor, that won and retained the admiration and universal esteem of all who knew him.

Mr. Delaney was born in Ireland in 1836 and there spent his early boyhood and attended the primary schools, being ten years of age in 1846 when he accompanied his parents, James and Julia Delaney, to New York, where they remained until 1856 when they came on west, locating in Walworth

county, Wisconsin, and here the death of the father occurred in 1863, the mother living to a ripe old age, dying in 1907.

John W. Delaney grew to manhood in Walworth county, and early in life took up farming for a vocation and this he continued the rest of his life, becoming very successful, in fact one of the large landowners and well-to-do agriculturists of the county, owning nine hundred and twenty acres of well improved and valuable land in Richmond township, where for many years he carried on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale.

Politically, Mr. Delaney was a Democrat and was active and influential in local public affairs. He was chairman of the town board for several years. Religiously, he was a faithful member of the Catholic church. He attended the Democratic national conventions held in St. Louis and Denver.

Mr. Delaney was married on October 14, 1867, to Anna Stewart, who was born in Delaware July 5, 1850, the daughter of James and Elizabeth (Adams) Stewart, both born in Ireland, where they spent their early years, emigrating to America and settling for a time in Maryland, finally coming to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1852, and here they established a good home and spent the rest of their lives. Of their three children, two are still living.

Twelve children were born to Mr. and Mrs. John W. Delaney, named as follows: James, Mary Agnes (deceased), William J., Lizzie, Julie, Fred, Annie, Winfield J., Etta, Edward, Raymond S., and Frank, who is deceased. The death of John W. Delaney occurred on March 16, 1911.

Mr. Delaney will long be greatly missed from the business, political and social life of the county, for he was active and influential in all the relations of life and highly esteemed by all.

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CHARLES W. MACK.

Walworth county can boast of few more progressive and successful farmers and stock raisers than the well-known gentleman whose name furnishes the caption of this review. He has long been considered one of the leading agriculturists of Whitewater township and as a citizen is intelligent and enterprising, combining within himself those sterling qualities of manhood that make not only a useful member of society, but a leader in whatever he undertakes. He has ever had an honest determination of purpose and an obliging nature which impels him to assist others on the highway of life while making plain the path of prosperity for himself and family. He is a public-spirited man and has not withheld his aid from any worthy movement having for its

object the upbuilding of the county in general, and thus for his many commendable characteristics he has ever been held in high esteem by all who know him.

Charles W. Mack was born in Oakland, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, on February 19, 1857. He is the son of William and Adaline (Rockwood) Mack, the father born in Madison county, New York, February 9, 1820, and the mother in Smithfield, that county and state, on October 7, 1828. They grew up in their native community and were married there on February 18, 1847. They remained there until 1853, when they came to Walworth county, Wisconsin. They remained at Whitewater one year, where Mr. Mack followed his trade, that of cooper, then moved to Oakland, Jefferson county, and bought one hundred and twenty acres of land where the family home remained until 1864. They came to Richmond township, Walworth county, and bought eighty acres, to which the father later added other land until he owned one of the fine farms of the community, consisting of three hundred and twenty acres. He gave part of this to his daughter, Mrs. A. R. Hulse, and he now owns two hundred and forty acres in this county, and seventy-nine acres in Wood county, also three hundred and sixty-six acres in Texas. He has been very successful in a business way and is one of the substantial and influential men of this part of the county.

The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. William Mack: Mrs. A. E. Hulse; Charles is deceased; Charles W., of this sketch; Mrs. Nellie Acker, who died in 1897, leaving four children, William, Wiley is deceased, Robert and Anna. The mother of the subject died on March 10, 1895. William Mack is a Republican, but he never aspired to official positions. He attends and supports the Methodist Episcopal church.

Charles W. Mack of this sketch was reared on the family homestead and educated in the public schools. He has made farming his occupation, and is now managing the home place of two hundred and forty acres. He is a breeder of Holstein cattle, and he is very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. Politically, he is a Republican, but is not active in party affairs.

Mr. Mack was married on November 9, 1887, to Julia Hebert, who was born in Bridport, Addison county, Vermont, on December 25, 1857, the daughter of Edward and Margaret (St. John) Hebert, the father born in Canada in 1833 and she in Keeseville, New York, in 1835, and they still live at Bridport, Vermont.

To the subject and wife one child has been born, Warren L., whose birth occurred on August 3, 1889. He was educated in the public schools, the Whitewater high school and the Beloit Academy, also in the department of

agriculture of the University of Wisconsin. He made an excellent record in all the institutions and is thus exceptionally well equipped for life's duties. He is now assisting his father on the home place, taking an active interest in the breeding of Holstein cattle and in general farming. He is regarded as one of the best young farmers in the township, and it would indeed be hard to find one more scientific in the county.

The Mack family has always stood high in the estimation of the people of their neighborhood and have ever been influential in the circles in which they move.

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### OLE OLESON.

The name of Ole Oleson is well known among the leading farmers of the southwestern part of Walworth county, whither he came many years ago, and through close attention to business and unswerving industry he has met with a larger degree of material success than falls to the lot of some of our foreign-born citizens. He comes of a sturdy Norwegian ancestry, his family on both sides going far back into the annals of the mountains, valleys and fjords of Norway. So he has in him many of the elements that always win in the battle of life, no matter where fought out, and while he was fortunate in coming to a rich country where the soil was strong, competition not too fierce and where, as the English poet, Mackay, wrote a century ago, "the humblest may gather the fruits of the soil" if they be willing to put forth a little effort, yet Mr. Oleson, no doubt, would have succeeded in establishing a good home in any country where he might have settled.

Ole Oleson was born in Norway on July 28, 1844, the son of Ole and Ingebor (Halversen) Oleson, both born in Norway, where they grew up and were married and from there they emigrated to the United States in 1852, and settled in Palmyra, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, where they remained until 1858 when they moved to Richmond township, Walworth county, and bought one hundred and twenty acres near Turtle Lake, later adding forty acres, and still later forty acres more, and finally twenty acres. Here the father became prosperous and had a fine farm, carrying on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale. But old age coming on, he sold off his land, his son, Ole, of this sketch, now owning forty acres of the home place, which he has kept well improved and well tilled and here he makes a comfortable living. Politically, the elder Oleson is a Republican, and in religious matters a member of the Lutheran church.

Eight children have been born to the subject's parents, namely: Isabel, wife of James Nelson, of Minnesota, has two children, Willie and Annie; Ole, of this sketch, was second in order of birth; Martha is the wife of T. Helgeson, of Minnesota, and they have six children, Vina, Eda, Minor, Sven, Henry and Mangus; Oliver, who is farming in Richmond township, is a Republican and has held official position; John, who is at home engaged in farming, is also a Republican; Maggie, now deceased, was the wife of Gunder Haraldsen, and they have two children, Hilda and Ella; Edmund is deceased; Anna was the wife of a Mr. Johnson, and they had one child, Inez, who is now deceased, as is also her mother.

Ole Oleson, of this sketch, was but a child when his parents brought him to Wisconsin, and here he grew to manhood, assisted his father with the work on the farm, and he received his education in the public schools, and has always followed farming, owning part of the home place, as stated in a preceding paragraph. Politically, he is a Republican, and he belongs to the Lutheran church, as does the whole family.

The subject was married in 1882 to Sarah Oleson, who died in 1883 without issue, and in 1897 Mr. Oleson married Sarah Andersen, who was born in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, on February 21, 1855, the daughter of Nels and Andrena (Hanson) Andersen, both born in Norway, where they grew up and were married, emigrating to Wisconsin in an early day, and they are now both deceased, the father dying when eighty-one years old and the mother at the age of forty-four. Sarah Anderson had five children by her first husband, four boys and one girl. Mr. Oleson was in the army in the old country and was a good soldier.

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#### CARL HELLING.

Another of the thrifty farmers of Richmond township, Walworth county, who has come to us from the land of the many-castled Rhine, the realm of the great Iron Chancellor and the sage Goethe, is Carl Helling, to whom a large measure of success has come because he has worked for it along legitimate lines and has not been accustomed to depend upon others to do either his thinking or his work.

Mr. Helling was born in Germany on June 3, 1866. He is the son of Carl and Carolina (Dove) Helling, both born in Germany, where they grew up, were married and spent their lives, the mother dying on May 2, 1911, the

father still living at the old home, now eighty-four years of age. They were the parents of seven children, of whom six are living.

Carl Helling grew to manhood in the fatherland and was educated there. Having heard of the vast unimproved lands in the western part of the United States, he had a desire to try his fortune here, so he made the long trip to South Dakota, reaching there on May 18, 1890, but not finding the country altogether to his liking he came to Jefferson county, Wisconsin, six months later, remaining there until 1899 when he came to Walworth county and rented a farm in Richmond township until 1902, when he bought it and here he still resides. It consists of one hundred and seventy-four acres, which he has placed under excellent improvements and keeps properly tilled. He has a good home and every convenience, and in connection with general farming he raises stock, making a specialty of breeding Holstein cattle. He leads a quiet home life, taking little interest in public affairs, except to vote the Republican ticket.

Mr. Helling was married in 1888 to Louisa Mahmar, which union resulted in the birth of six children, namely: Anna, Augusta, William (deceased), Ella, Ernest and Louise. The wife and mother passed to her rest in 1895, and in 1896 Mr. Helling was united in marriage with Minnie Schmid, who was born in Germany, March 1, 1873, the daughter of Martin and Frederica (Ehrike) Schmid. The father died in Germany and his widow came to America after his death and settled in Walworth county, Wisconsin, and she is now living in Richmond township. The following children have been born to the subject and his second wife: Gustav, Martha, Margaret and Erna. They are members of the Lutheran church.

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#### F. J. BOEHM.

One of our thrifty German farmers and stock raisers of Walworth county is F. J. Boehm, owner of a valuable and attractive landed estate in Richmond township, which he has obtained through his individual efforts, for he has always relied upon his own resources and he is therefore very deserving of the large success he has achieved. He is one of those men who believe in doing his full duty in his public relations as well as to family and immediate neighbors and while he was reared under a different flag and different environment, he has been most loyal to our Republic.

Mr. Boehm was born in Germany, November 5, 1854. He is the son of Philip and Mary (Bolc) Boehm, both born in Germany, the father in 1820 and there he spent his life. The mother died in 1863. They had a large fam-

ily. thirteen children, five of whom are now living, F. J., of this sketch, and four who remained in Germany.

F. J. Boehm grew up in his native land and was educated there. Believing that the United States held greater inducements than his own country afforded, he set sail for our shores in 1880, arriving at Philadelphia on March 1st. Desiring to get away from the congested cities, he came to wide and newer Middle West, taking up his residence in Illinois, where he remained two years, then went to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and worked for George Wiley, Sherman Harrington and George Pierce, later renting a farm of Mr. Pierce for ten years. In this way he got a good start, was economical and in 1909 he bought an excellent farm of one hundred and eighty-four and one-half acres, in Richmond township. He had moved to this farm on March 1, 1906. Here he carries on general farming and stock raising, also dairying and he is meeting with well merited success. He has placed modern improvements on his place and has a comfortable home and all that goes to make life pleasant in the country, which, most people will agree, is the pleasantest place of all in this rushing, iron clanging age.

Politically, Mr. Boehm is a Republican. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America at Elkhorn.

The subject was married in February, 1880, in Germany, to Eliza Hartman, who was born and reared in Germany. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Boehm, namely: John, Lena, Minnie, Lillian, Robert, Sarah and Josephine.

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#### GEORGE P. PECK.

Success as an agriculturist does not come to the indolent and the careless, but to those who plan well and are persistent in the execution of their tasks, neither can large returns be expected in a short time—it takes years to do big things in any line, and one cannot develop a modern farm in a few months. Realizing that it meant hard and consecutive endeavor to become successful as husbandmen, the Pecks have sought to utilize every moment and every opportunity in their chosen vocation of farming and have therefore succeeded.

George P. Peck, one of the enterprising tillers of the soil in Lafayette township, Walworth county, was born May 17, 1863. He is the son of Jedediah and Adeline E. (Randal) Peck, the father born in Ohio and the mother in New York. They grew up and were married in the East, and the father devoted his life to farming and stock raising, and bought and sold stock for many years. His death occurred in August, 1876. He resided in Lafayette

until his death, having become one of the large landowners and substantial citizens of this part of the county, accumulating seven hundred acres of valuable land. In connection with general farming on a large scale he handled large numbers of sheep and other live stock, and, through his industry and good management, accumulated a competency.

Politically, Mr. Peck was a Democrat. He was a member of the township board, also treasurer of Lafayette township, though he was too engrossed in private affairs to take a very active interest in public matters.

Six children, five sons and a daughter, were born to Mr. and Mrs. Jed-diah Peck, all still living. A complete history of this family is found in the sketch of C. I. Peck, in this work.

George P. Peck was reared on the home farm, where he worked when old enough, and he received his education in the public schools and the high school at Elkhorn. Early in life he turned his attention to farming and this has been his life work. He is now the owner of a well improved and productive place in Lafayette township, consisting of one hundred and seventy-one acres. He also makes a specialty of dairying, for which he is well equipped, and he keeps an excellent grade of live stock, especially cattle.

Mr. Peck was married in February, 1887, to Mattie Brownlee, a native of this county, where she grew to womanhood and received her education. To this union three children have been born, namely: Howard H., Madeline and Florence A.

Politically, Mr. Peck is a Democrat, and in 1897 he was elected township clerk and served one term, and in 1910 he was again elected to this office. the duties of which he has discharged in an able and satisfactory manner.

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#### TREASURE KIPP LOVELAND.

This is an age in which the farmer stands pre-eminently above any other class as a producer of wealth. He simply takes advantage of the winds, the warm air, the bright sunshine and the refreshing rains, and with the help of the Creator and by virtue of his own skill in handling nature's gifts he creates grain, hay, live stock and vegetables, all of which are absolute necessities to the inhabitants of the world.

One of the successful farmers of Walworth county is Treasure Kipp Loveland, who was born in Bloomfield township, this county, May 29, 1859. He is the son of John and Elizabeth Katherine (LaTour) Loveland, the father born in Middletown, Connecticut, May 15, 1810, and she in New York City,

September 9, 1819. The paternal grandfather was Capt. John Loveland, who was born in Glasgo, Connecticut, in August, 1716. He married, in 1844, Susanna Miller, daughter of William and Susan (Kiburn) Miller, who was born in Glasgo, on September 28, 1721. Capt. John Loveland was a sailor all his life, and gave a street which he owned in Middletown, Connecticut, to that town and it is still known as Loveland street. He lived and died there. His father, also named John, built and owned for many years the first wharf in Middletown.

John Loveland, father of the subject, was graduated from the old brick school at Middletown. Then he served as an apprentice to a gold and silver spectacles maker in his home town. Later he followed this trade at Binghamton, Connecticut, Springfield, Massachusetts, and New York City. His health failed and he and his father-in-law, James C. LaTour, on May 1, 1837, came to Bloomfield township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, among the earliest pioneers, finding here a wilderness indeed. On May 2d of that year they entered government land, Mr. Loveland one hundred and twenty acres and Mr. LaTour eighty acres. Later the former added forty acres, and still later another forty. He became well established here and was one of our substantial farmers. His family consisted of four sons and one daughter, namely: John G., born in New York City, July 15, 1835; Henry C. M., born in Walworth county, Wisconsin, September 11, 1841; LaTour, born in Bloomfield township, this county, February 4, 1851; Treasure Kipp, of this sketch; Elizabeth E., born in Bloomfield township, July 16, 1861, died in 1878.

The father of these children was a stanch Democrat, but never aspired to political offices. In early life he belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church, and his wife was an Episcopalian.

Treasure K. Loveland, of this review, grew up on the home farm where he made himself useful in his boyhood days, and he received his education in the common schools. He took up farming for a livelihood and has since followed it; with the exception of four or five years in Illinois, he has lived in Walworth county. He has lived on the present farm nineteen years. He has an excellent place of one hundred and ten acres, carrying on general farming and stock raising successfully, making a specialty of dairying. During the past twelve years he has also been salesman for a medical concern and has met with success.

Mr. Loveland was married on July 30, 1881, to Mary C. Lennon, who was born in Lafayette township, this county, the daughter of James and Katherine (Keron) Lennon, both born in Ireland, from which country they came to America when young and settled in Pennsylvania, and about 1864 came to

Wisconsin, locating in Walworth county. They had three sons and three daughters. The father farmed his thirty-acre place in Lafayette township. He was a Democrat and religiously a Catholic.

To Mr. and Mrs. Loveland three children have been born: Eddie Kipp, born February 9, 1884; Adelbert, born June 13, 1886; and Harley Floyd, born May 18, 1891, and died June 22, 1911. Politically, the subject is a Democrat.

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### OSCAR P. COATES.

Walworth county has long been known as a center for dairying, ranking well with her sister counties of this the greatest dairy state in the union. One of the men who has shown himself to be well informed on this question and who has made a great success of the same as well as in general farming is Oscar P. Coates, of Lafayette township. He was born in Lagrange township, this county, on March 31, 1856, the son of James and Ann (Pilling) Coates, both born in England, where they grew up and were married and where they lived until 1841, when they emigrated to America and settled in New Jersey where they remained some time, in the vicinity where Washington deceived the British by kindling fires before his famous crossing of the Delaware, the night he slaughtered the Hessian troops hired to fight in the Continental army. The father of the subject learned the trade of cotton weaver in England, which he followed for a number of years in this country, at Providence and Newport, Rhode Island. Leaving the East, he came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1850 and purchased seventy acres of land in Lagrange township where he established a good home and here spent two years, then moved to Crawford county, where he bought a farm and spent the remainder of his life, dying on June 27, 1890, his widow surviving until in October, 1907. Their family consisted of eight children, who grew to maturity and three died in infancy. The father was a Democrat and took an active interest in the affairs of his party. He and his wife were reared in the Episcopal church in England. Mr. Crawford held various offices in Eastman township, Crawford county.

Oscar P. Coates, of this sketch, was educated in Eastman township, Crawford county, and early in life he turned his attention to farming. In 1880 he went to South Dakota where he took up a claim of one hundred and sixty acres and there he lived until the fall of 1894, having been successfully engaged in raising grain. He then came to Lafayette township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he has since resided, now owning one of the choice farms of the same, consisting of two hundred and twenty-five acres, which he

conducts as a dairy farm, keeping a large and excellent grade of cattle. He has been very successful as an agriculturist and stock man and he is now well fixed.

Mr. Coates was married on December 3, 1885, to Josephine Larson, who was born in Crawford county, Wisconsin, and to this union three children have been born, Zella May, Clinton and Charles B.

Mr. Coates is a Republican, and while living in South Dakota he served as constable, assessor, also clerk and dairyman of the township in which he lived. He has been justice of the peace for six years and supervisor for three years since locating in Walworth county. As a public servant he has ever performed his duties most faithfully and conscientiously, to the eminent satisfaction of all concerned.

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### JOHN G. VOSS.

It is always a pleasure to look over a splendidly kept farm, with everything in ship-shape, like that of John G. Voss, of Sugar Creek township, Walworth county, known as "Rollingdale Farm," of the choice landed estates of that community, and here the subject has devoted years of patient toil in order to bring it up to a high standard and make it productive. Such persistent care always results in favorable returns.

Mr. Voss was born in Lafayette township, this county, on August 20, 1872. He is the son of Augustus and Maria W. E. (Winter) Voss, both born in Germany, where they spent their earlier years, finally coming to Walworth county, Wisconsin, where the father bought a farm of one hundred and forty-four acres and here spent the rest of his life engaged in farming. There were seven children in this family, five sons and two daughters. Politically, the father was a Republican, and he was a member of the board of supervisors of Lafayette township. He was a very active man in the county. He was a faithful member of the Lutheran church. It was in 1858 that he came to this county. His wife came in 1863 with her parents.

John G. Voss was educated in the Elkhorn high school and the normal at Oshkosh. He began life by teaching school, which he followed two years, this being prior to going to the normal, from which he was graduated in 1898. He was very successful as a teacher and his services were in great demand. On January 1, 1899, he became county superintendent, which office he held continuously for ten and one-half years, in a manner that reflected much credit upon himself and to the satisfaction of all concerned, doing a noble work in promoting the educational standard of the county, and taking a high

rank with the leading educators of southern Wisconsin. He has always been a close student and has kept fully abreast of the times in all that pertains to his profession. While teaching, he purchased one hundred and twenty-six acres, where he now lives, his place now consisting of one hundred and thirty-five acres. He moved here in 1906 and took charge of the farm in 1909, and he has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, and he is now devoting his attention to dairying on an extensive scale, for which he is exceptionally well equipped. He raises full-blood Holstein cattle and Berkshire hogs. He is president of the County Holstein Association, and secretary of the Holstein Friesian Breeders' Association of Wisconsin, and he is a director from Wisconsin of the American Association. He is a director of the International Dairy Show at Milwaukee.

The domestic life of Mr. Voss began on August 30, 1905, when he was united in marriage with Sarah Gleason, of East Troy, this county. Here she grew to womanhood and received her education. Two children have been born to the subject and wife, John D. and Donald G.

Mrs. Voss is a member of the Catholic church. Fraternally, Mr. Voss belongs to the Free and Accepted Masons, including the chapter and the commandery.

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#### WILLIAM HARMON.

A farmer of Lafayette township, Walworth county, who has forged his way to the front and won an honored place among the substantial citizens in his vicinity is William Harmon. He is widely and favorably known as a man of high character and for a number of years his influence in the county has been marked and salutary. In starting out in life he realized that success did not come to those who idly wait, but to the faithful toiler whose work is characterized by sleepless vigilance and cheerful celerity.

Mr. Harmon was born in the township in which he now resides on November 25, 1860. He is the son of Andrew and Eliza (Howard) Harmon, both born in Ireland, where they spent their youth, and from there they emigrated to the United States, he in 1845, she coming at a later date. He came direct to Wisconsin and located in Lafayette township, where he secured land and improved a good farm, becoming very comfortably situated, and here he spent the rest of his life, dying in 1906. He had one hundred acres and was a general farmer. His family consisted of seven children.

William Harmon was educated in the district schools here and when old enough he assisted with the work on the home place and he has made farming

his life work. He is now the owner of two hundred and fifty acres which he keeps well improved and under a high state of cultivation. He has a good set of buildings and in connection with general farming and stockraising carries on dairying.

Mr. Harmon was married in 1890 to Mary Doyle, who represents a highly respected family, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Georgie, Ray, Alice and Howard.

Mr. Harmon is a Democrat and has long been active and influential in local affairs. He is at present chairman of his township. He has always supported any measure that had for its object the general improvement of his locality. He is a worthy member of the Catholic church.

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### EMERY J. BROWN.

The subject of this sketch has spent much of his life, in fact, practically all of it, in Walworth county, having been only four years of age when his parents brought him here from the old Empire state, and he has always had deeply at heart the well being and improvement of the county, whenever possible, for the promotion of enterprises calculated to be of lasting benefit to his fellow men, besides taking a leading part in all movements for the advancement of the community along social and moral lines, keeping untarnished the honored family name which he bears, the Browns having stood for upright citizenship and wholesome living since they took up their residence here, nearly a half century ago, and thus it is not surprising that he has ever stood high in the estimation of the people, being both honest in all his dealings with his fellow men and neighborly in his private life.

Emery J. Brown, successful farmer in the vicinity of Lyons, was born in Manchester, New York, on April 14, 1864. He is the son of George B. and Sarah (Lake) Brown, the father born in the state of New York and the mother born in South Carolina. They were married in the former state and began life there in the city of Manchester, but seeking a new land of better opportunities they came to Spring Prairie township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1868 and settled on a small farm, and, through hard work and economy, they in time became very comfortably established, and here the father spent the rest of his life, dying in 1905 at the age of seventy-two years; his widow survives, being now seventy years old. Three children were born to them, all living at this writing. Politically, George B. Brown was a Republican and in religious matters he was a member of the Baptist church.

Emery J. Brown, of this sketch, was reared on the farm where he worked when a boy during the crop seasons, and in the wintertime he attended the district schools in his community. Early in life he turned his attention to general farming and stock raising, and for twenty-five years he has been engaged extensively as a shipper of live stock, one of the best known stock men, in fact, in the county, being regarded as an excellent judge of all kinds of stock and fair in his dealings. He has made a specialty in dealing in poultry and veal, having shipped to Milwaukee for the past twenty years where he finds a very ready market for all that he offers for sale.

Mr. Brown is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of fertile, well improved and well cultivated land in this county, which yields abundant crops annually under his efficient management. He makes a specialty of dairying, for which he is exceptionally well equipped. He has a pleasant home and large, convenient outbuildings.

Politically, Mr. Brown is a Republican, and while he takes an interest in public affairs he has never been an aspirant for public offices.

Mr. Brown has lived in Spring Prairie township for forty-four years and hence has seen many important changes in the same. He has made most of the improvements on his place, and has always sought to keep abreast of the times in everything pertaining to his vocation. Mr. Brown has never married.

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### JOHN MAYER.

Although born under alien skies and taught to revere a flag other than the Stars and Stripes, nevertheless John Mayer, one of the venerable agriculturists and public-spirited citizens of Spring Prairie township, Walworth county, loved his adopted country so well that he risked his health, business chances, even life itself in our great Civil war that the national union might not be disrupted, and this is not to be wondered at when we learn that he comes of a sterling race that produced the redoubtable Iron Chancellor, universally regarded as one of the world's greatest statesmen, past or present; in other words, he came of a race of fighters, not merely fighters in periods of war, when the great Mars strides menacingly over the welkin, but men who have such stick-to-itive qualities that they seldom give over any undertaking until the coveted goal is reached, therefore the German people have been of great assistance to us in forwarding our civilization, in clearing the wilderness from the various states of the union, in conquering our enemies and, building solidly the foundations of our various institutions.

Mr. Mayer was born in Germany on August 12, 1838, and there he spent his early childhood, but most of his life has been lived in the western hemisphere. He is the son of Eberhardt and Magdaline (Zeek) Mayer, both natives of Germany, where they grew up and were married, and from which country they emigrated to America in 1848, locating in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but they did not remain there long, going to what is now Cudahy, settling permanently on a farm of thirty acres and there they established a very comfortable home and spent the rest of their lives, the father dying in 1870, and the mother ten years later, 1880. They were the parents of nine children, only two of whom are living at this writing. Politically, the father of the subject was a Republican, but not active, leading a quiet home life, and he belonged to the Lutheran church.

John Mayer, of this review, was ten years of age when he came with his parents to Milwaukee. He had attended the common schools in the fatherland, and he received further educational training in the public schools of Milwaukee county, Wisconsin. There he grew to manhood and worked on the farm when not in school, and when young took up farming for a livelihood, but eventually abandoned this vocation, turning his attention to engineering after the close of the Civil war, which occupation he followed successfully for twenty years, being in the Bayview Roller Mills for a period of seventeen years, and in Milwaukee three years, being regarded as an expert stationary engineer. Then he again returned to husbandry, buying a farm of one hundred and eighty acres in 1893 in Spring Prairie township, Walworth county, having previously purchased forty acres three miles from Milwaukee which he sold at a good price. Since coming to this county he has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser and has a fertile, well improved place, and a large, comfortable home and excellent outbuildings.

As intimated previously, Mr. Mayer was a soldier in the Union army during the war between the states, having enlisted early in the war, 1861, in Company D, First Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, in which he served three years and four months in a very faithful and gallant manner, seeing much hard service and taking part in many important engagements, including the great battles of Perryville, Stone's River, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, being wounded at Perryville. Politically, Mr. Mayer is a Republican and he has always been interested in public affairs, but has not sought to be a leader in public affairs.

Mr. Mayer was married in 1866 to Louisa Rohrberg, who was born in Germany about 1845, from which country she came to the United States in early life. She is the daughter of Christ and Christina Rohrberg, who emi-

grated to Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, about 1857, where they became very comfortably located and where they spent the balance of their lives. Mrs. Mayer died January 23, 1912. To Mr. and Mrs. Mayer three children have been born, all living, named as follows: Ellen, John and William.

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### GOTTLOB JOHN STRADINGER.

Among the large element of foreign-born citizens who have cast their lot with the people of Walworth county and have won success through their industry and close application is Gottlob John Stradinger, one of the progressive husbandmen of the eastern part of Walworth county. He comes of a splendid family, one that has always been strong for right living and industrious habits, for education and morality and for all that contributes for the betterment of the community in which they resided. Many years ago he, unaccompanied, crossed the great Atlantic, having bid a final farewell to the fatherland, and located in Chicago, but after residing in the great metropolis for a time, he sought a freer life in the comparatively new country of southern Wisconsin, and, liking the same, he decided to make this his permanent home, so he is still laboring diligently here, having met with encouraging success all the while, and has also gained the esteem and confidence of all with whom he has come into contact owing to his habits of industry and right living.

Mr. Stradinger was born in Wittenberg, Germany, March 19, 1866. He is the son of John and Kathrine (Brotzler) Stradinger, both born in Germany, where they grew up, were married and spent their lives. Their family consisted of eight children, only four of whom are living.

The subject of this sketch grew to maturity in his native land and there attended the common schools and learned the baker's trade. Believing that the United States held greater advantages for one of his bent, he came to Chicago in 1891 and there worked at his trade for some time, then came to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and began working on a farm by the month, then went to Michigan where he remained eighteen months in the lumber camps, also worked in a store, then worked three years by the month, and began renting land in 1904, having returned to Walworth county. He got a good start in this way, and then bought two hundred and forty-nine acres where he now lives, to which he has added forty-two and one-half acres, and he also owns one hundred and twenty acres of valuable land in Adams county, Wisconsin. He has placed his home farm under a high state of improvement and culti-

vation, and he has a splendid and attractive home, large and convenient outbuildings and everything about his place denotes thrift and prosperity. He makes a specialty of dairying, and keeps a fine grade of live stock, especially cattle. He merits the high esteem in which he is held, for, starting in life with nothing, he has accumulated a competency, a fine farmstead and is one of the substantial men of his community.

Politically, Mr. Stradinger is a Republican, but he prefers to devote his attention to his individual affairs rather than strive to be a leader in public affairs; however, his support may always be depended upon to further any movement having for its object the general public good. He belongs to the Lutheran church, while his wife and children are members of the Catholic church.

Mr. Stradinger was married on April 8, 1895, to Lizzie Molden, who was born in Germany, on December 27, 1874, and there she spent her childhood and received her education in the public schools. She is the daughter of Patrick and Josie Molden, natives of Germany, where they grew up, were educated and married and where they spent their lives. The wife of the subject emigrated to America when young, locating in Chicago when fourteen years of age, then went to Iowa where she remained for a time. She then returned to Chicago, later going to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where she was married.

To Mr. and Mrs. Stradinger eight children have been born, namely: Kathrine, Ernest, Otto, Louisa, John, Albert, Maud, Florence and Emil Joseph, all living.

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#### SIMEON FRANCIS BAKER.

Simeon Francis Baker, one of the enterprising young farmers of Spring Prairie township, Walworth county, was born on the farm where he now resides on July 17, 1877. He grew to manhood on the farm, where he worked when old enough and during the winter months attended the common schools. He is the son of Francis and Anna (Birtchard) Baker, the father born in Rutland, Vermont, and the mother in Vienna, Austria, from which country she emigrated to America with her mother and step-father and settled in Wisconsin. The father of the subject came to Spring Prairie township, this county, in 1836 with his parents, making the long journey from the East in typical pioneer fashion, and here Francis Baker became a well-to-do farmer, owning three hundred and twenty acres of fine land, a good home, and on this the subject now resides. He was a man of fine principles and helped in the

early development of the county to start the material, civic and moral progress and here his death occurred on March 16, 1897. His widow is still living in Spring Prairie, now advanced in years, and it is interesting to hear her relate incidents of the early days here. The elder Baker was a Republican, but never had much ambition to be a leader in public affairs, although ready always to assist in all movements for the general good.

Simeon F. Baker, of this sketch, was reared on the home farm where he worked hard when a boy and he received his education in the public schools, and he has always followed farming for a livelihood. He is the owner of two hundred and eighty-seven acres of excellent land which he has kept well improved and well tilled, carrying on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale, making a specialty of Holstein cattle.

Politically, Mr. Baker is a Republican and loyal to his party's interests.

Mr. Baker was married on March 19, 1902, to Maud Rousseau, of Lovilla, Iowa, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Dorothy, Theresa, Pearl Marie and one who died in infancy. Personally, Mr. Baker is a very pleasant gentleman to know, neighborly and hospitable.

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#### OTTO R. ZASPEL.

Agriculture has been the true source of man's dominion on earth ever since the primal existence of labor and has been the pivotal industry that has controlled for the most part all the fields of action to which his intelligence and energy have been devoted. In a civilized community no calling is so certain of yielding a compensatory return as that which is culled from a kindly soil, albeit the husbandman at times is sorely taxed in coaxing from mother earth all he desires or even expects; yet she is a kind mother and seldom chastens with disappointment the child whose diligence and frugality she deems it but just should be rewarded. One of those who have found a benefactress in Mother Earth is Otto R. Zaspel, one of the successful farmers in the vicinity of Honey Creek. He has never found allurements for any kind of work outside of the realm of nature, and, having been a close student of the soils, the climate, the crops and all the phases that contribute to husbandry he has profited by his observation and is today well abreast of the times as an agriculturist.

Mr. Zaspel was born in Burlington, Racine county, Wisconsin, on July 25, 1852. He is the son of Theodore and Palina Zaspel, both born in Germany, where they grew up and where the father learned the trade of rope

maker, which he followed. It was as early as 1839 that he crossed the great ocean in an old-fashioned sailing vessel which required many days, and he settled in Racine county, Wisconsin, where he followed farming. The country was new and not very thickly settled, and it was only a few miles farther west to an almost unbroken wilderness. He brought his family to Spring Prairie township, Walworth county, in 1865 and bought one hundred and twenty acres of land where the subject of this sketch now resides. He was a hard worker and became well established, and here he spent the balance of his life, reaching an advanced age, dying on February 6, 1909, when ninety-two years old; his wife had preceded him to the grave on June 3, 1891, when seventy-four years old. They were a fine old couple and had a host of good friends wherever they lived, being thrifty, honest and neighborly. They were the parents of seven children, of whom five are living. Politically, the father was a Democrat, but was not especially active in public affairs.

Otto R. Zaspel was reared on the farm where, when but a boy, he assisted with the general work during the crop seasons, and attended the public schools in his neighborhood during the winter months, in the schools of Racine county and of Spring Prairie township, Walworth county. He took up farming for a livelihood when a young man and he is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of fine land, fertile, well improved and well cultivated, and he has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, making a specialty of dairying, being well equipped for this business. He keeps a good grade of live stock, especially cattle. He has a pleasant home and good outbuildings, everything about his place being in "ship-shape." Politically, Mr. Zaspel is a Democrat, but has never been especially active in party affairs.

On September 13, 1882, Mr. Zaspel was united in marriage with Anna Griffith, who was born in Rochester, Wisconsin, on January 14, 1859. She is the daughter of John and Mary (Laird) Griffith, the father a native of Wales and the mother of Ireland. They spent their childhood in their respective countries, emigrating to the United States when young and unmarried, each locating in Racine county, Wisconsin, where they met and married, and there began life on the farm, becoming very comfortably established. The death of Mr. Griffith occurred there in 1901, at the advanced age of ninety years, his widow surviving until 1909, having reached a good ripe age also, eighty-five years. They were a grand old couple, highly esteemed by a wide circle of friends. Politically, he was a Republican. There were six children in the Griffith family, four of whom are living.

Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Zaspel, namely: William,

Alex, Nora, Clara and Ernest, all living. The above named children are being given every chance to secure a good common school education in the schools of their home community, their parents being advocates of education, in fact, all that makes for progress in any phase of life.

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### CHARLES PORTER GREENE.

One of the most conspicuous figures in the present-day history of Walworth county is Charles Porter Greene, of Elkhorn, a man actively identified with the business and industrial interests of this locality and for many years widely known as one of the representative men of the southern part of the Badger state. Equally noted as a citizen whose useful career has conferred credit upon the community and whose marked abilities and stirring qualities have won for him much more than local repute, he holds today distinctive precedence as one of the most progressive and successful men that here ever inaugurated and carried to successful termination large and important undertakings. Strong mental endowment, invincible courage and a determined will, coupled with an honesty of purpose that hesitates at no opposition, have so entered into his composition as to render him a dominant factor in the business world and a leader of men in important enterprises. He is essentially a man of affairs, sound of judgment and far-seeing in what he undertakes; and every enterprise to which he has addressed himself has resulted in liberal financial returns, while at the same time he has won and retained the confidence and esteem of all classes.

Mr. Greene was born in Muskego, Wisconsin, September 19, 1844, and is the second of eight children born to George and Sarah A. (Clark) Greene. This family has an honored and distinguished ancestry, which may be traced back to Sergt. Thomas Ellsworth, born in England in 1629, and who emigrated to America, locating at Windsor, Connecticut, where he married Elizabeth Holcomb in 1654. Their daughter, Eunice Ellsworth, born in 1665, married Timothy Greene, Sr. She was a first cousin to Capt. David Ellsworth, and was first cousin once removed of his son, the famous chief justice, Oliver Ellsworth. Her son, Timothy Greene, Jr., was, therefore, second cousin to Chief Justice Greene. Timothy Greene, Jr., was born in 1748, married Eunice Clark, and to them was born Clark Greene in Amherst, in 1776, who married Submit Hastings, daughter of Thomas and Hannah (Billings) Hastings. Hannah Billings was the daughter of Deacon John Billings, who

was born in East Amherst in 1749. Clark Greene, mentioned above, was the grandfather of Charles P. Greene, of Elkhorn. He was a farmer, genial, honest, upright and was highly respected. He and his wife were members of the Congregational church, and they reared their children to be self-reliant, honest and sincere. George Greene, one of their children, was born in Amherst, June 19, 1811, was reared on a farm and when a young man moved to New York state where he farmed and also worked in the lumber mills. In June, 1836, he came to Wisconsin when the present great city of Milwaukee was only a small village and he lived on a farm near there until 1864. On March 31, 1841, he was united in marriage with Sarah Ann Clark, who was born in Portland, New York, May 13, 1823. Her father was of English ancestry and was in the war of 1812. George Greene and wife lived on the farm there until they came to Walworth county in 1864 and here purchased a farm in section 30, Spring Prairie township, on which they lived until the death of George Greene, June 2, 1885, when he was killed by a stroke of lightning. After that his wife made her home with their son, Charles P. Greene, until her death, September 26, 1894. Both these parents were active members of the Free-Will Baptist church in Spring Prairie, the father having been clerk of the congregation there for several years.

George Greene spent his life in agricultural pursuits, and he was also a bank director for many years. He was quiet and unassuming, and was a stanch friend and good neighbor. He was not much of a public man, preferring the serenity of his home and association of his family. He was loyal to the principles of the Republican party and was decided in his views as a Christian, and he gave liberally to the church. His wife was a teacher before her marriage, having been educated in the public schools of New York. She was a woman of beautiful personal characteristics; she was a great reader, but read only the best books.

Charles P. Greene, the immediate subject of this review, spent the major part of his youth on his father's farm, where he assisted with the general work during the crop seasons, and he received his education in the common schools and the academy at Milton. Upon reaching manhood he joined his father in business, continuing with him until the death of the elder Greene, when the subject bought the interests of the other heirs in the old homestead. His careful management of his affairs, his persistency and close application brought prosperity, and he kept the old place well improved and under a high state of cultivation. He owns over three hundred acres of as choice and valuable land as the county affords, all in Spring Prairie township. He is also one of the stockholders in the First National Bank of Elkhorn, and he has been president of this popular and conservative institution

ever since about 1886, its ever growing success having been due very largely to his able and judicious management.

Mr. Greene is a Republican and has long been active in the ranks, and is regarded as a leader in local affairs, but he would never consent to run for office. The greater part of his life has been passed in Walworth county, whose interests he has ever had at heart and played well his part in prompting, and those who have known him from boyhood number him among their warmest friends, a fact which indicates that his life has been exemplary in all its relations with his fellow men.

Mr. Greene was married on September 12, 1898, to Lillian B. Webster, daughter of David Putnam Webster and Jane (Stillwell) Webster. She was born in the town of East Troy, this county, February 8, 1862. This family also has an interesting ancestry. Nathan Delano was born in Schoharie county, New York, November 16, 1764, and he married Phila Wilson for his second wife, and his death occurred on April 3, 1841. Sally Ann Delano, daughter of Nathan Delano, was born April 16, 1816, married Joseph Murray Stillwell, May 31, 1836, and died March 22, 1900. Joseph Murray Stillwell was born in December, 1812, and died on March 4, 1890. Jane Stillwell, daughter of Joseph Murray Stillwell and Sally Ann Delano, was born in Manchester, Ontario county, New York, February 11, 1838, and was married to David Putnam Webster on March 6, 1861.

Caleb Douglas Webster, descended from the same family as Noah Webster, of Webster's Dictionary fame, was born in Ontario county, New York, November 20, 1810; he married Nancy Putnam, August 20, 1832, and died January 13, 1905. He and his wife came to Wisconsin in 1846. Nancy Putnam was born in Oneida county, New York, April 16, 1812, and she died on December 5, 1904.

David Putnam Webster, son of Caleb Douglas Webster and Nancy Putnam, was born in Webster, Oneida county, New York, January 13, 1834, married Jane Stillwell, March 6, 1861, at East Troy, and they resided in that town until March 20, 1877, when they moved to Whitewater, Wisconsin, for the purpose of educating their daughters in the normal school there. They as well as their parents lived to celebrate their golden wedding. The Webster home has remained at Whitewater ever since. Mrs. Greene was graduated from the above named institution in 1886, but before completing her course she taught school for a time, and for fourteen years after her graduation she continued teaching with much success. In 1896 she came to Elkhorn and has lived here ever since. On July 25, 1896, Mrs. Greene was nominated by the Republican party as their candidate for county superin-

tendent of schools. After receiving the nomination she spent the next three months in teaching in the schools of Milwaukee. She has had experience in all kinds of school work except kindergarten up to and including high school, and she taught three years in Colorado before her nomination. She was duly elected the fall of 1896 to the office above named, and she had the distinction of being the first woman to hold that office in Walworth county. She very ably and conscientiously discharged the duties of the same for one term, winning the hearty approval of all concerned, and taking her place among the notable educators of her day and generation in southern Wisconsin. She has kept fully abreast of the times in all matters pertaining to educational work, and is a lady of talent and refinement, a profound student, familiar with all branches of literature. To Charles P. Greene and wife two children have been born, namely: George Webster Greene, born July 11, 1899, and Charles Porter Greene, Jr., born May 2, 1902.

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#### HENRY J. SHAVER.

It is a pleasure to meet an old settler, one who came here in early days when much of the Badger state was a wilderness, and then learn from his lips of the trials which were endured for the sake of the happy homes which now dot the county of Walworth. Such a man was Henry J. Shaver, the late venerable and well known merchant of Spring Prairie. Many of his earlier impressions were gained in the woods of the pioneer period in this and the old Empire state and he related many interesting reminiscences of those times. The pioneers were happy. It is singular how easily a person can adapt himself to any surroundings and derive comfort therefrom, and yet it fails to be at all singular when account is taken of the selfish desire to be comfortable. If we have enough to eat and enough to wear and little ahead and an outlook for some good books, we can manage to worry along and derive some satisfaction out of life. So the old settlers were happy; they were more sociable, neighborly, obliging, as everyone will emphatically tell you.

Mr. Shaver was born in Chautauqua county, New York, November 7, 1832, and there he grew to manhood and received such educational advantages as the early schools of the county afforded in those days. He came to Elkhorn, Wisconsin, in 1853. He learned the blacksmith's trade in early life and also engaged for some time in the manufacture of wagons and buggies. He was a very skilled workman and his services were in great demand, his

vehicles, owing to their superior quality, finding a very ready market. He came to Spring Prairie, eastern Walworth county, in 1865 and engaged in blacksmithing. He maintained his shop here many years, building up a wide trade with the surrounding country. In 1897 he bought the store building in the village of Spring Prairie and he and his son, William H., engaged in the mercantile business, in which they were successful from the first, enjoying a liberal patronage. Old age coming on, he desired to give up active business and lead a quiet life, so in 1910 he sold out to his son and lived in retirement in his pleasant home here, surrounded with the comforts of life as a result of his long years of close application and honest dealings with his fellow men.

Politically, Mr. Shaver was a Republican, and while he was always ready to support any measure looking to the general welfare of the community in which he resided, he was not a seeker after political favors.

Mr. Shaver was married in 1856 to Julia Hay, who died in Spring Prairie in 1876. She was the daughter of Horace M. Hay, and a native of the state of New York. She came to Elkhorn, Wisconsin, in early life, with her father, who engaged in the mercantile business here, in fact he was one of the early pioneers of this section. In 1852 he went to California, as a result of the gold excitement and his death occurred on the Pacific ocean the same year. Mrs. Shaver's mother was known in her maidenhood as Margaret Fuller, who was born in New York, and whose death occurred on April 8, 1870, in Elkhorn.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hay. Mr. and Mrs. Shaver had two children. One of the sons, William H. Shaver, mentioned above, was born April 8, 1870, and was educated in Spring Prairie public schools and Lawrence University. In early life he learned the blacksmith's trade under his father and became a skilled workman, but, as before stated, he took up merchandising at Spring Prairie some fifteen years ago and here he still maintains his store, carrying a carefully selected stock of general merchandise and enjoying a good trade with the surrounding country, having always done an increasing business. Politically, he is a Republican, but not an active partisan. He was married in 1894 to Ada E. Cole and they have two children, Lyle and Warren. Julius, the other child, died in infancy.

The first wife of Henry J. Shaver died in 1876 and in 1878 he was united in marriage with Martha M. Hay, a sister of his former wife, and to this second union one daughter was born, Mabel L., who married Herbert E. Ball, and they have one child, Robert K. Mr. Shaver died March 29, 1912.

## SILAS INGALLS.

For over sixty years Silas Ingalls was a prominent figure in the history of Walworth county and aided materially in its development. By a life of uprightness, industry and square dealing,—a life devoted to the support of whatever was good and true,—he won the admiration and genuine regard of a large circle of acquaintances, who sincerely mourned his loss, when, a few years ago, he was called upon to lay aside the burdens, joys and sorrows which had fallen to his share, as to all, in the journey of life.

The birth of the late Silas Ingalls occurred at Norton Hill, Greene county, New York, April 12, 1823. He was the son of Enoch and Nancy (Bishop) Ingalls. His paternal grandparents were Jacob and Susannah (Goff) Ingalls. Enoch Ingalls was born at Norton Hill, New York, June 9, 1794, and on November 11, 1819, he married Nancy Bishop, daughter of James Bishop and wife. She was born at Hemlock, New York, June 8, 1798, and her death occurred in Walworth county, Wisconsin, October 27, 1889. He moved to Wisconsin in 1850 and died here April 25, 1872. His family consisted of seven children, of whom Silas, of this sketch, was the second in order of birth.

Jacob Ingalls, mentioned above, was the son of Joseph and Roby (Norton) Ingalls, and he was born at Rehoboth, Massachusetts, June 27, 1764, and he and Susannah Goff were married on October 9, 1793; she was born July 29, 1766, and her death occurred September 23, 1839. Jacob Ingalls was a soldier in the American Revolution. He arrived in Springfield, Massachusetts, July 10, 1779, and served in several campaigns up to March 15, 1781. In 1793 he moved to Westerlo, Greene county, New York, and bought a farm, working four days out of each week for the former owner in an effort to pay for it. He cleared his land, built a cabin and then married. In 1818 he won a prize of one hundred and fifty dollars at the Albany Agricultural Society for the best farm. His death occurred at the town of Westerlo in 1841. Jacob's father, Joseph Ingalls, was the son of Joseph and Cordellay A. (Bullock) Ingalls. He was born in 1744 at Rehoboth, Massachusetts, and upon reaching manhood married Roby Norton. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war from Massachusetts, in Capt. Samuel Bliss's company in 1775, in Capt. William North's company in 1777 to 1779 and was in several other companies up to 1780. In 1791 he left the town of Rehoboth and settled at Norton Hill, Greene county, New York. Joseph's father, who also was named Joseph, was a son of Edmund and Eunice (Lud-din) Ingalls. He was born at Rehoboth in 1718, and he married Cordellay

Ann Bullock. He probably moved to Otsego county, New York, about 1790. This Joseph was the son of Edmund Ingalls, and the latter was the son of John and Elizabeth (Barrett) Ingalls, and he was probably born at Bristol or Cumberland, Rhode Island. In 1705 he was united in marriage with Eunice Luddin, daughter of Benjamin Luddin, of Braintree. Edmund was the son of John Ingalls, the latter being the son of Edmund and Ann Ingalls, and he was born at Skirbeck, England, in 1625, and in 1667 he was united in marriage with Elizabeth Barrett of Salem. He left Lynn before 1687 and settled at Rehoboth, Massachusetts, and it is recorded "Old John Ingalls died December 31, 1721." John was the son of Edmund Ingalls, who was the son of Robert and the grandson of Henry Ingalls, and he was born at Skirbeck, Lincolnshire, England, about 1598, and he emigrated to Salem, Massachusetts, with Governor Endicott's company in 1628, and with his brother Francis and four others began the settlement of Lynn, Massachusetts, in 1629, and he became a prominent citizen there. The name is found much earlier in English history and is believed to be of Scandinavian origin and meant "by the power of Thor." The Ingalls family is now a large one in the United States and wherever they have dispersed have been influential in their communities.

Silas Ingalls, the immediate subject of this memoir, grew to manhood in his native state and about 1845 emigrated to Walworth county, Wisconsin, locating in the northeast quarter of section 19, Linn township, entering land from the government. He told his children in after years that the only house between his land and Racine at that time was Seymour Hatch's residence. The country was little improved and wild game was in abundance. He started out breaking raw land all over the community and plowed with eight or ten yoke of oxen at a time. He had received a good education for those days and he taught the first school on Big Foot prairie, in a log house. He also ran the first threshing machine in that part of the country.

Here Mr. Ingalls was married to Helen Snell, daughter of John P. and Mary Ann (Sconton) Snell. She was born September 26, 1836, and died September 14, 1887. Her father, John P. Snell, was from Herkimer county, New York, and before coming here was a member of the New York Legislature. He settled in Linn township among the pioneers, and he was the first chairman of the county board of supervisors of Walworth county, and for many years he was chairman of the board of supervisors of Linn township. He had a son, Amos J. Snell, who lived in Chicago and became a millionaire, and who was mysteriously murdered by a man named Tascott, the case attracting world-wide attention.

After his marriage, Silas Ingalls continued to reside on his farm where he had first settled, and it is said that there were few if any in the county of those who entered their land from the government who lived so long a time on the same land. He became one of the leading farmers and substantial citizens of the county.

Seven children were born to Silas Ingalls and wife, namely: Jerome, who lives on the southern shore of Lake Geneva, engaged in the boat business; Wallace was a lawyer and was district attorney of Walworth county three terms and in 1888 went to Racine, where he has practiced law ever since, and from which place he served as assemblyman in the state Legislature; John P. is practicing law in Elkhorn; Henry A. is a lawyer at Bakersfield, California, having been graduated from the Northwestern University Law School; Frank is farming near Walworth; Hiram is engaged in farming in Illinois, just across the line from Wisconsin, between Harvard and Big Foot; Amos still resides on the old homestead, in which he has an interest, and he also owns an adjoining farm.

The death of Silas Ingalls occurred on August 26, 1907. He was a life-long farmer and took a great pride in keeping up his farm in a neat and attractive manner, and he aided in any way he could in making Lake Geneva the beautiful resort that it is today, spending much of his time along the lakeside. In later life he traveled a great deal, spending one winter in New York and two years in California. He enjoyed life thoroughly, and contributed to the enjoyment of others whenever possible, being a man of kindly nature, obliging, hospitable. He was a good supporter of the church at Fontana, although not a member, and his influence was always for good citizenship.

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#### ROYAL JOY WILLIAMS.

Royal Joy Williams, whose family gave the name to Williams Bay, and one of the pioneers about the shores of Lake Geneva, was born in Conway, Franklin county, Massachusetts, May 1, 1818. He was descended from Robert Williams, a shoemaker, who settled at Roxbury, Massachusetts, during the early settlement of New England. Robert's son Richard, who settled in Taunton, had a son named Daniel, who was born about 1682, and Daniel's son was named Daniel, the latter born in 1718 at Taunton, Massachusetts; Daniel, the second, married Rebecca Hunt, and one of their ten children was Ephraim, who was born December 27, 1747, old style, or January 7, 1748, new style calendar. Ephraim married Mercy Daniels, of Men-

dor, and moved to Ashfield; their eighth child, Israel, was born September 24, 1789, married Lavina Joy, and they were the parents of Royal Joy Williams and six other children, of whom William died young, while the family lived in the East; Francis, Moses Austin, Israel, Festus, Royal, Lavina and Hannah came to Walworth county, Wisconsin.

Royal J. Williams lived in Massachusetts until his nineteenth year, then, in August, 1836, he came to Walworth county with his younger brother Austin, their two brothers Moses and Israel having preceded them in July of the same year, and had entered a claim for the subject, comprising the north half of section 13, Walworth township. As soon as the subject came he took possession of his claim. Moses' wife, Lucinda S. Williams, taught the first school in the town of Walworth during the winter of 1838 and 1839. At that time no settlement had been made on the prairies, only a few claims having been made on the lake shore. In 1837 Israel Williams and wife came here and located along the south shore of the lake, opposite Williams Bay, having brought with them the rest of their children and Mrs. Lavina Williams' mother, Hannah L. Joy. Mrs. Joy died in 1839. The Williams family owned a large amount of land, and they moved to different locations, finally gathering about what has since been known as Williams Bay. About 1840 they began building the first house in what was later Williams Bay; it is still standing. For this they cut timber on the south side of the lake and rafted it down to the village of Lake Geneva and had it sawed into lumber for their house, all of oak but the floor. They added to their original holdings until they had about one thousand acres at the bay near there, some lying across the bay on the south shore.

Seven children were born to Israel Williams and wife, of whom William died when young in the East; Moses, who lived south of Walworth, later north of the lake, is now deceased, and is buried at Delavan cemetery; Austin, who lived near Williams Bay, is also deceased, and is buried at Delavan; Israel lived at what afterwards became Kayes Park on the south side of the lake, later lived in the southeastern part of Linn township on Bloom Prairie; Festus, who was the youngest of the family, lived a while at Whitewater, also in Virginia, later in life at Williams Bay and Delavan; Francis, second in order of birth, spent most of his life in Connecticut, where he engaged in the ministry; Lavina married John Fowle and lived at what is now called South Milwaukee, being now deceased; Hannah was the wife of Robert E. Russell and she died in Minneapolis.

Royal J. Williams, of this sketch, was a chairmaker by trade. He returned East in 1844, to his birthplace in Massachusetts. Early in 1848 he

married Lucretia S. Warren, a native of Conway, Massachusetts, born November 9, 1824, the daughter of Samuel and Abigail (Williams) Warren. Her father was also born at Conway and was a farmer all his life, dying in Massachusetts when eighty-four years of age. The mother of Mrs. Williams was born at Ashfield, Massachusetts, and died there when sixty-nine years old. She was of Welsh lineage. The eldest of the children of Royal J. Williams and wife was born in Conway, Franklin county, that state, November 22, 1848. In 1853 the subject and wife and son George moved back to Williams Bay, where they accumulated some land. In 1865 he moved to Virginia, and the following year moved his family there, and in 1867 moved to Connecticut where he remained three years, and there George B., the son, grew to manhood, working a while at farming and later at railroading. In the spring of 1871 the family came back to this county, and the subject farmed on his two hundred acres of land near Williams Bay; he also owned other lands. He was a painter before the war, but after the war farmed and fed live stock for the market. During the war, in 1862, the governor appointed him to enroll the township. He was also a surveyor and notary public quite a while, and he was for a number of years assessor of the township of Walworth. He was an ardent Republican and active in the ranks and worked for the general good of the community. He was always ready to extend a helping hand to the needy. He died at the old homestead at Williams Bay, August 26, 1886, when sixty-eight years old, his widow surviving until December 27, 1907, reaching the age of about eighty-three years.

Four children were born to Royal J. Williams and wife: George B., who lives in the old home; Edward F., Harley and Ellen.

George B. Williams is a man of generous nature and unassuming manner, a successful farmer and he has kept the old place well improved. He is a member of the Congregational church.

Harley Williams was born at Williams Bay August 13, 1861, and he died May 30, 1910. He married Matilda Piggins, daughter of William and Matilda (Bugg) Piggins, who was born at Racine, where her parents were old pioneers. They came from Falkenham, England, coming to Kenosha, Wisconsin (then Southport), where they were married. About two years later they moved to Racine, where the father spent the rest of his life, dying May 5, 1897, his widow surviving until February 12, 1912, being one of the oldest settlers of Racine at the time of her death. Harley Williams and wife spent two years on a fruit farm in Michigan, then returned to Racine and in the fall of 1887 came to Williams Bay. He took charge of his father's estate, and before the railroad came through platted what is now the main part of the village, and in 1893 he platted another addition, still another two

years later; now the entire farm of two hundred acres is covered by the village. In 1898 he went into the coal business, which he gave up in 1900 and entered the real estate business, which he continued until his death, May 30, 1910, as stated above. He was a member of the Modern Woodmen. His family consisted of three children, Harley Royal, born August 3, 1887, married Nettie Wankert, of Sharon and they have a daughter, Lorraine Matilda; Ellen G., now seventeen years old, and Lucretia M., aged fourteen, are at home with their mother in Williams Bay.

Ellen, the only daughter of Royal J. Williams and wife, died in Connecticut when about fourteen years old. Edward F., the middle son, is now at Beloit, but he was recently of Plainview, Texas.

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#### GEORGE E. PUFFER.

George E. Puffer, a member of the Wisconsin Butter & Cheese Company, was born in Spring Prairie township, this county, seven miles east of Elkhorn, in June, 1853, and he is now living in Waukesha. He is the son of Josiah O. and Anna M. (Whitmore) Puffer, pioneers of this county, having emigrated to this county from Montague, Massachusetts, where they grew up and were married. About 1840, or possibly soon after, they located in Spring Prairie township, this county, when the country was practically unsettled and the rich farms we see today were covered with giant forest trees. It is believed that Josiah O. Puffer entered his land from the government, and this he cleared and improved into a good farm, on which he spent the balance of his life, dying about 1898, his wife having preceded him to the grave thirty-seven years, her death having occurred in 1861. He was by trade a boot and a shoemaker and, although he gave considerable attention to farming, most of his life was spent in following his trade. He was an active Whig in the early days, later voted the Republican ticket. He was too old to take active part in the Civil war, but two of his sons were in the army, Cheney and Samuel. The latter is deceased, but the former lives in Chicago.

George E. Puffer, of this sketch, grew to manhood in Spring Prairie township and there received his education in the public schools, and he remained in his home community engaged in merchandising until he entered the creamery business in 1891 with Messrs. Harris and West.

Mr. Puffer was married to Eva B. Hempstead, who died in 1909, leaving three children, Edith, Edna and George.

In 1891 Mr. Puffer moved to the city of Waukesha, this state, and he

has continued to reside there to the present time, devoting himself exclusively to the manufacture of butter and cheese. He has acquired a vast and expert knowledge of this business, and the large success and ever growing prestige of the firm with which he is connected has been due in no small measure to his wise counsel and able management. They have a modernly equipped, commodious and sanitary plant, and their products, owing to their superior quality, are eagerly sought for.

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### CHARLES AUGUST SMITH.

The biographer is always glad to give conspicuous representation to the career of such a man as the late Charles August Smith, who, after a long and useful life, spent principally in connection with agricultural pursuits in Walworth county, is now sleeping serenely in "that low green tent whose curtains never outward swing," having been transferred to a higher plane of action, and leaving behind him the record of a well spent and honorable life, of which his descendants and many friends may well be proud, for it was an industrious and honest life, one calculated to be of service in any community. Mr. Smith, like many of the enterprising citizens of this locality, was an American by adoption only, having come here from far-away Germany, but, while reverencing the flag of the emperor, he nevertheless respected and loved our own banner of the free and was loyal in his support of our institutions, and took much more than a passing interest in the affairs of his community, ever ready to lend what assistance he could in its upbuilding.

Mr. Smith was born in Germany in 1836. He was the son of Ferdinand and Fredericka (Homote) Smith, natives of Germany, where they grew up and were married, and there spent the early part of their lives, emigrating to Burlington, Racine county, Wisconsin, about 1854, where they established a good home in which they spent the balance of their lives, both being now deceased.

Charles A. Smith, of this sketch, grew to manhood in the fatherland and there received his education in the common schools. There he learned the miller's trade, which he followed until he came to America, and here he continued the same in the Burlington mills for a number of years, then went to Iowa, where he remained about four years, after which he returned to Wisconsin, locating in Walworth county and bought a mill in Sugar Creek township, which he conducted with much success for a period of eight years, enjoying

a large trade with the surrounding country. He then sold out and moved to East Troy, buying the mill at this place, in 1875, which he continued to operate with his usual success until his death, on March 22, 1900, his products being eagerly sought after owing to their superior quality, for he understood all the phases of modern milling and kept the local mills under an excellent system. He accumulated a competency and had a good home in East Troy.

Politically, Mr. Smith was a Republican, but he was not especially active in public affairs. In religious matters he was a worthy member of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Smith was married in 1861 in Burlington, Wisconsin, to Ida Mucklich, who was born in Germany on January 31, 1842. She was the daughter of Edward and Fredericka (Kerrter) Mucklich, both born in Germany, where they grew to maturity and were married, and there the mother spent her life, dying about 1856. In 1857 Mr. Mucklich and his family of three children emigrated to America, locating at Burlington, Wisconsin, and here he spent his remaining years, being now deceased.

To Mr. and Mrs. Smith six children were born, named as follows: William H., who is a miller and is living in Tennessee; Albert owns the mill in East Troy, which he is operating; Emma is deceased, as are also Hernan and Charley; Frank also followed in the footsteps of his father and became a miller, and is now living in the state of Tennessee, running a mill with his brother, William H. These sons are all expert millers and are doing well in a business way.

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#### WILLIAM HODGES.

Among the well known and influential pioneers of Walworth county was the late William Hodges, who, after a useful and successful life, passed on to higher fields of endeavor. When he came here with his parents, some sixty-six years ago, they found a wooded country, and the settlers of that period had to clear away the trees and brush before a crop could be raised, consequently the subject was set to work at an early age and soon learned from practical experience what was the meaning of the words "hard work."

Mr. Hodges played well his part in the work of upbuilding his community and always tried to be fully abreast of the times, doing such good as he could in all the relations of life, consequently his memory is revered by those who knew him well, for he was a man of sterling character and many attributes to be admired.

Mr. Hodges was born in New York, May 20, 1837, the son of William

and Mary Ann (May) Hodges, both natives of England, and there they grew up and were married, and emigrated to the United States in 1831, locating in Oswego, New York, and there they remained until 1846 when they came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, locating in Lafayette county, on a farm of forty acres, to which the father later added fifty acres, owning ninety acres at the time of his death, and here his death occurred in 1870, and his wife died on October 23, 1878. They were the parents of six children, four of whom are living. He and his wife were members of the Episcopal church, and were people of old-time honesty and hospitality.

William Hodges, of this sketch, was educated in the public schools, such as they had, in his home community, and he was reared on the farm where he worked when of proper age. Early in life he turned his attention to farming for a livelihood and became the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and twenty-one acres in Lafayette and Sugar Creek townships, and he was regarded as one of the best farmers of this community. Politically, he was a Democrat, and his wife belonged to the Methodist church.

Mr. Hodges was married twice, first in 1864, to Sarah Webster, who was born in Chautauqua county, New York, the daughter of Lemuel and Lydia Webster, who came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in pioneer days. To Mr. and Mrs. Hodges five children were born, all of whom are living. The wife and mother died in 1877, and on December 12, 1886, Mr. Hodges was united in marriage with Mrs. Coris A. Hare, widow of Levi Hare, who was born in the state of New York, May 26, 1837, and he came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in an early day and here he spent the rest of his life. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Levi Hare, namely: Otis, Nina, Mary, Earl, Jean, Levi Benjamin and Serena. Mrs. Hare was known in her maidenhood as Coris A. Bartlett, who was born in Essex county, New York, July 21, 1843, the daughter of Truman and Serena (Strong) Bartlett, the father born in Vermont on August 3, 1815, and the mother in Essex county, New York, on February 18, 1823. They came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1844, locating in Spring Prairie township, and in the fall of 1856 moved to Lafayette township where he became the owner of a farm of one hundred acres, also eighty acres in Troy township. His death occurred in Lafayette township on September 4, 1907, and his wife died on June 9, 1890. They were the parents of three children, all of whom are living. Politically, Mr. Bartlett was a Republican and in religious matters a member of the Methodist church.

William Hodges was widely known as a manufacturer of sorghum molasses, which he made at his place for a period of about fifty years, and it

was of such superior quality that it was eagerly sought after, and this caused his farm to be familiarly known as "Sorghum Hill."

The death of Mr. Hodges occurred on March 24, 1911, after a successful and useful life, a life of honor and uprightness, and he will long be missed in this locality.

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### JAMES CHILD.

In many respects the career of the late James Child, long one of the progressive farmers of Lafayette township, Walworth county, is peculiarly instructive in that it shows what a well defined purpose, supplemented by correct principles and high ideals, can accomplish in the face of discouraging circumstances. It is an example of triumph over obstacles, the winning of success by honorable methods, and as such may be safely followed by those whose life work is yet to be accomplished. He was a fine type of the sterling pioneer, having invaded the forests of this locality when settlers were none too numerous and when there was much to be done before a comfortable home could rise and good crops be reaped from the virgin soil, but he was a man who never permitted discouraging situations to influence him, but forged ahead despite of them, and won not only material success, but the good will and esteem of all who knew him.

Mr. Child was born in Saratoga county, New York, on August 23, 1823. He was the son of William and Susan (Deake) Child, the father born in Greenfield, Saratoga county, New York, January 4, 1798; the mother was born on December 25, 1798, in the same locality, and there they grew up and were married on February 5, 1820, and they remained in their native state until 1847, when they moved to Walworth county, Wisconsin, settling in Spring Prairie township, later moving to Lafayette township where they established a good home and where they spent the rest of their lives, dying within a few days of each other, in April, 1865, the father on the 24th and the mother on the 17th.

James Child, of this sketch, grew to manhood on the old homestead in Saratoga county, New York, and he received his education in the public schools of his district and the high school of New York. He came to Wisconsin with his parents when he was twenty-four years old, and at once engaged in farming, becoming the owner of one hundred and sixty-two acres of good land in Lafayette township, where he developed an excellent place and had a good home, carrying on general farming and stock raising successfully.

Mr. Child was married on September 15, 1847, to Esther Dinsmore, who was born in Ontario county, New York, in 1827. She was the daughter of Melzer and Huldah (Clark) Dinsmore, both born in Massachusetts, the father on April 12, 1803. They were married on December 20, 1824. They came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1848 and here spent the rest of their lives, the father dying at Lake Geneva in 1867 and the mother passed away in 1859. They were the parents of seven children, the wife of the subject being the only one now living.

Eleven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Child, named as follows: Melzer, Huldah, Susan, William, all deceased; William (the second) is living and is county surveyor; Henry is deceased; Emma is living; Chauncey is deceased; Abby L. is living; Esther May is deceased.

James Child was a Republican and was more or less active in local affairs. He ably performed the duties of county surveyor for a period of fourteen years, and he was justice of the peace for some time. The death of Mr. Child occurred on his farm in Lafayette township on November 24, 1901.

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#### HERBERT E. WYLIE.

By a life consistent in motive and action and because of his many commendable personal qualities, Herbert E. Wylie, of Elkhorn, has earned the sincere regard of all who know him. He came from an ancestry that distinguished itself in pioneer times, having in them that Anglo-Saxon unrest that drives the race ever westward on its great adventure, globe-girdlers and zone-conquerors. His progenitors were courageous, large-muscled, a stolid sort of people, in whom acute imagination was coupled with immense initiative, and who possessed, withal, loyalty and affection as sturdy as their own strength. When Walworth county was covered with almost an interminable forest of primeval pines, tamaracks and hemlocks, filled with wild animals, and through which would only Indian trails, the Wylies came here and began carving a home from the far-stretching woods, building schools and churches and assisting in the general introduction of the customs of civilization in the wilderness, giving vent to that in their blood to push on to the edge of things. They were genuine pioneers, willing to take the hardships that they might acquire the soil and the home that was sure to rise.

Herbert E. Wylie was born in Lafayette township, this county, on February 15, 1868. He is the only son of George W. Wylie and wife, a prominent early family, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work.

Mr. Wylie grew to manhood on his father's farm and there assisted with the general work, and he attended the home schools during his boyhood. His principal life work has been farming and stock raising, which he followed with uninterrupted success until 1901, having rented a farm and farmed for himself from the time of his marriage in 1893. After farming on his father's place for eight years following his marriage he bought a farm in Delavan township on which he spent about three years, then sold it and moved to Spring Prairie township where he bought another farm which he operated with his usual success a few years, then moved to Elkhorn, where he still resides. In 1910 he purchased his present farm of one hundred and twenty acres a short distance northwest of Elkhorn, which he has kept highly improved and under a splendid state of cultivation. He also owns an attractive and cozy home within the city limits of Elkhorn. He has managed well and has been very successful in a material way.

Mr. Wylie was married in 1893 to Ella Smith, daughter of Lafayette and Lucia (Jenks) Smith and the granddaughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Puffer) Smith. Daniel Smith was a lumberman in the early days and he came to Geneva Lake when the country was new and bought land in this vicinity. However, he soon went north and started the village of Mishicott, Wisconsin, where he put up a store and saw-mill. Some of his children were born in New York state and some in Wisconsin. Lucia Jenks was born in Pennsylvania and came here when a child with her parents, Porter and Pamela (Phelps) Jenks, the family locating in Spring Prairie township in pioneer times, probably entering land from the government and established their home there, in which the parents spent the rest of their lives, and there Lucia Jenks lived until her marriage to Lafayette Smith. After their marriage they lived at Albert Lea, Minnesota, also Preston, where he was a grain buyer, and later they lived in Minneapolis, Mr. Smith becoming overseer in the Farnum-Lovejoy mills there, which position he held for some time. In his older days he returned to Mishicott and there his death occurred in September, 1906. Mrs. Smith afterwards lived with Mrs. Wylie until 1912 and she still lives in Elkhorn.

Mrs. Wylie was born in Mishicott, where she spent her childhood, and she attended high school at Albert Lea, Minnesota. She came to Elkhorn about 1887 and has lived here ever since. She is a lady of rare taste.

Herbert E. Wylie is a man of diligence and industry, and he displays those qualities of manhood that won his father the esteem and admiration of such a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

## GEORGE W. WYLIE.

Human lives are like the waves of the sea. They flash a few brief moments in the sunlight, marvels of power and beauty, and then are dashed upon the remorseless shores of death and disappear forever. As the mighty deep has rolled for ages past and chanted its sublime requiem and will continue to roll during the coming ages until time shall be no more, so will the waves of human life follow each other in countless succession until they mingle at last with the billows of eternity's boundless sea. The passing of any human life, however humble and unknown, is sure to give rise to a pang of anguish to some heart, but when the fell destroyer knocks audibly at the door of the useful and prominent and removes from earthly scenes the man of honor and influence and the benefactor of his kind, it not only means bereavement to kindred and friends, but a public calamity as well.

In the largest and best sense of the term the late George W. Wylie, soldier, ex-sheriff of the county and formerly marshal of the Walworth county fair, was one of the representative and notable citizens of his day and generation in this locality, and as such is entitled to a conspicuous place in the annals of the county.

Mr. Wylie was born in Westmoreland, Oneida county, New York, April 5, 1826. He was the son of Robert and Susan (Hemsted) Wylie, a sterling old family of the Empire state. He grew to manhood in the East and received such education as the common schools of those early times afforded, and he also attended Kirtland Academy in Ohio two years. In 1842 he came with his parents to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and located in Lafayette township when the country was wild and neighbors were few and there he assisted his father develop the home farm.

Mr. Wylie took an active interest in public affairs and in 1860 he was elected sheriff of Walworth county for two years, during which time he made his home at Elkhorn, Wisconsin. He was incumbent of this office until in September, 1862, having discharged its affairs in a most praiseworthy manner; but he resigned to become quartermaster of the Twenty-eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and he served faithfully for two years in the Civil war, when physical disability compelled him to resign his commission and return home. In 1864 he was again elected sheriff, serving a term of two years, after which he returned to his farm in Lafayette township, where he had two hundred and seventy-six acres of finely improved and valuable land, and he became one of the substantial and progressive general farmers and stock men of this part of the county.

In 1880 Mr. Wylie was again elected sheriff of Walworth county and he moved to Elkhorn in January, 1881, and there made his home the rest of his life. For a period of twenty years he had served as assessor of Lafayette township and was township clerk for five years and for over fifty years was marshal of the Walworth county fair at Elkhorn. In all these capacities he discharged his duties most conscientiously and ably, to the eminent satisfaction of all concerned, irrespective of party alignment. He was regarded as a leader in public affairs and was one of the best known men in the county for a half century.

Mr. Wylie was married on June 7, 1846, to Jane Bristol, daughter of Henry Bristol and wife. She was a native of Schoharie county, New York, and was a representative of an old and highly respected family. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wylie, namely: Susan, who married George Fairchild and moved to Everett, Washington, where her death occurred in August, 1911; Elizabeth, usually known as Libby, married Charles Knapp and they live in Lafayette township, this county; Nettie died in 1892; Halbert E., the only son, is told of in a separate sketch in this volume.

The mother of these children was called to her rest in December, 1890, and the father, George W. Wylie, was summoned to close his earthly accounts on March 26, 1893, after a long, useful and honorable career, his loss being distinctly felt by the entire county, for as a citizen he was public-spirited and enterprising, and as a friend and neighbor he combined the qualities of head and heart that won confidence and commanded respect—a genial, obliging, genteel gentleman in every sense of the terms.

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#### CHARLES B. WILMER.

We should indeed be proud of the fact that there is no limit in this country to which natural ability, industry and honesty may not aspire. One born in the most unpromising surroundings and reared in the most adverse environment may nevertheless break from his fetters and rise to the highest station in the land, and the qualities do not have to be of transcendent character to enable him to accomplish this result. It is more the way he does it and his skill in grasping the opportunities presented than to any remarkable qualities possessed by him. Accordingly it is found that very often in this country the chief executive of the nation or state and other high public officials possess no greater ability than thousands of others. They have simply taken better advantage of their opportunities than their fellows. And this truth runs

through every occupation. The business man rises above his competitors merely by taking advantage of conditions which others overlook or fail to grasp. The family represented by the subject of this sketch has always been classed with the best and thriftiest of the county.

Charles B. Wilmer, member of the popular and well known firm of Wilmer Brothers, merchants, of East Troy, was born in Walworth county, Wisconsin, on April 11, 1869. He is the son of August Wilmer and wife, an old and highly respected family of the eastern part of the county.

The subject was reared to manhood here and he received his education in the public schools of the town of East Troy. He began his business career as clerk for the firm of Wilmer Brothers, and, learning the ins and outs of the business, he became a member of the firm in 1895, the name now being Wilmer Brothers & Company. They have a large, well arranged and attractive store in East Troy and always carry a splendid, carefully selected and up-to-date stock of goods.

Mr. Wilmer was married in 1895 to Nellie O'Leary, who was born in Hartford, Wisconsin, in 1872, and to this union one daughter has been born, Charlotte, whose birth occurred on September 8, 1909.

Politically, Mr. Wilmer is a Democrat, but he has never been an aspirant for office. He is a member of the Catholic church.

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#### FERDINANT EBERT.

Walworth county, Wisconsin, has furnished comfortable homes for many of the enterprising citizens hailing from the great German empire, who have been settling within her borders since early pioneer days when the land was still the haunts of various tribes of Indians, the Objibwas, Chippewas, Sioux and others, and also the haunts of many species of wild denizens of the northern woods. We have always welcomed them, and this has been as it should be, for they have been courageous and not afraid of hard work, and have been of untold assistance to us in clearing the fertile soil of its heavy timber of pine, fir, tamarack and hemlock, and they, too, have helped build our substantial dwellings, comfortable barns and imposing business and public buildings. Few of these visitors from that alien land had any capital when they arrived, at least, very little, not enough to be of much consequence; but they didn't need much, for they were strong in body and mind and did not hesitate at obstacles, and thus in due course of time they attained

a competency and a position of influence in the locality in which they chose to reside.

One of these earnest, honest and worthy pioneers is the venerable builder of the town of East Troy, Ferdinand Ebert. He was born in Germany on November 8, 1835. He is the son of Frederick and Charlotte (Brown) Ebert, both born in the fatherland, where they grew to maturity and were married and where the father spent his life. After his death his widow emigrated to America, locating in Walworth county, Wisconsin, where she spent the balance of her life, dying at an advanced age about 1891.

Ferdinand Ebert, of this sketch, was reared in Germany and there he received his education in the public schools and there he was married and continued to reside until 1871, when he came to the United States, and he and his wife came to East Troy, Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1873 and here he has since resided. He learned the mason's trade early in life and this he has continued to follow, being an expert in the same, and his services have always been in great demand, for he soon established a reputation for honesty in his work as well as keeping abreast of the times in all that pertained to his trade. He has assisted in the erection of many of the substantial buildings in East Troy, including the bank building and the Catholic school, and the eastern part of Walworth county. He has also been engaged for many years in moving buildings, having met with continued success in both. He built, some time ago, a fine, modern and attractive brick dwelling which he occupies in East Troy.

Mr. Ebert is a Republican in his political beliefs, but he has preferred to lead a quiet life, rather than seek the emoluments of office. He and his family are members of the Lutheran church and faithful in their attendance on the same.

Mr. Ebert was married on October 13, 1864, in Germany, to Olerka Kreneck, who was born in Germany on October 26, 1839. She is the daughter of Henry and Lena Kreneck, natives of Germany where they grew up and married and there Mr. Kreneck spent his life, dying there, after which event his wife emigrated to America, locating in Milwaukee in 1887.

Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Ebert, named in order of birth as follows: Emil is deceased; Albert followed in the footsteps of his father and became a mason contractor and is located in East Troy, doing a good business; Mary was next in order of birth; William is deceased; Martha was the next born; Henry, like his brother and father, is also a mason and contractor and is doing well in East Troy; Louise was the youngest of the family.

## WALTER DICKERMAN.

It is proper to judge of a man's life by the estimation in which he is held by his fellow citizens. They see him at his work, in his family circle, in church, hear his views on public questions, observe the operations of his code of morals, witness how he conducts himself in all the relations of society and civilization and are therefore competent to judge of his merits and demerits. After a long course of years of daily observations, it would be out of the question for his neighbors not to know of his worth, for, as has been said, "actions speak louder than words." In this connection it is not too much to say that the several members of the Dickerman family have ever stood high in the estimation of their neighbors and acquaintances, for their conduct has been honorable in all the relations of life and their duty well performed whether in private or public life, and that they have ever been industrious, never waiting for some one else to do what they should accomplish themselves.

One of the best known of this worthy family of the present generation is Walter Dickerman, of East Troy. He was born in Beloit, Wisconsin, on August 1, 1881. He is the son of Harry and Mary (Dowd) Dickerman, the father born in DesPlaines, Cook county, Illinois, on June 26, 1855, and the mother was born on March 2, 1860. The father of the subject was the son of Frank Dickerman, who came to East Troy, Wisconsin, in 1856 and located on a farm and here his death occurred in 1908. His wife, Mary, died in 1905.

Harry Dickerman, father of the subject, was educated in the public schools and was a carpenter by trade, later in life engaging in the hardware business, which he began in 1870 and which he has continued to the present time, his well stocked store at East Troy being one of the best known in the county and has always been liberally patronized, drawing customers from remote sections of this and the adjoining county on the east. They carry a large and well selected stock of general hardware and farming implements, and the fact that many of their customers are of ten, twenty or thirty or more years' standing is evidence enough of the courtesy and fair treatment of this popular store. In 1905 Walter, of this review, and his brother, Kirk, entered the firm under the name of the Dickerman Hardware Company.

Politically, Harry Dickerman is a Republican, and while he has been a very busy man he has taken considerable interest in public affairs. He has been supervisor, treasurer and trustee of the village of East Troy. Fraternally, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America.

Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dickerman, namely: Walter of this review; Nellie and Kirk, all three living in East Troy.

Walter Dickerman was reared in East Troy and received his education in the local schools, and he has always lived here, and has spent his life in the store. Politically, he is a Republican, and he was treasurer of East Troy for a period of three years. Fraternally, he and his brother, Kirk, are Freemasons.

Walter Dickerman was married in 1905 to Myrna Rossmiller, a native of East Troy township, this county, where she grew to womanhood and received her education. She is the daughter of William and Minnie Rossmiller, a highly respected family of this township.

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### BERNARD WILMER.

Life is pleasant to live when you know how to make the most of it. Some people start in life as if they had weights on their souls, or were afraid to make the necessary effort to live up to a high standard. Others, by not making the proper study of the conditions of existence, or by not having that blessed trainer, a good and intelligent mother, are side-tracked at the outset and never seem thereafter to be able to get back again on the main track. Much depends on the start, just as it does in a race. The horse that gets the best start, all other things being equal, will almost invariably win the race. So in the race of life; if you are properly started with suitable grooming, such as good educational and splendid home training, you will lead in the race in after years and enjoy every minute of your existence. Such home influences were thrown around the subject of this sketch in his early years. Both father and mother were people of unusual intelligence and both led lives of singular purity.

Bernard Wilmer, member of the popular mercantile firm of Wilmer Brothers, of East Troy, Walworth county, was born on July 7, 1845. He is the son of Bernard Wilmer, Sr., and wife, a worthy old pioneer family of this locality. The subject was reared and educated in this community and he began life as a farmer, which he continued with success until 1871, when the firm of Wilmer Brothers was organized, and he has since been connected with the same, no small part of its success and prestige being due to his energy, judicious counsel and conscientious and honest treatment of the thousands of patrons of this well kept, carefully stocked and superbly managed store.

Politically, Mr. Wilmer is a Democrat, but he has never been specially active in public affairs. He and his family are Catholics and faithful in their support of the mother church.

Mr. Wilmer was married in September, 1875, to Eliza Boyle, who was

born in Cohoes, Albany county, New York, in June, 1854. She is the daughter of John Boyle and wife, a highly esteemed family of this county, a complete sketch of whom appears in another part of this work. The union of the subject and wife has been without issue.

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### GEORGE H. SMITH.

The subject of this review enjoyed distinctive prestige among the enterprising men of Walworth county of a past generation, having fought his way onward and upward to a prominent position in the circles in which he moved, and in every relation of life his voice and influence were on the side of right as he saw and understood the right. He was always interested in every enterprise for the welfare of the community and liberally supported every movement calculated to benefit his fellow men. Although the last chapter in his life drama has been brought to a close by the "angel with the backward look and folded wings of ashen gray," who called him to a higher sphere of action, his influence is still felt for good in the community long honored by his residence and he is greatly missed by hosts of friends and acquaintances, for he was a man in whom the utmost confidence could be reposed, scrupulously honest in all his dealings with his fellows, always making good his promises, was kind and obliging, especially to the unfortunate and a man whom all respected and admired.

George H. Smith was born in Andover, Vermont, on August 17, 1827. He is the son of Sewell and Nancy (Mancer) Smith, who spent their youth in New England and married there in 1823. In 1841 the family came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and settled in East Troy, then a straggling village, where the elder Smith engaged in merchandising, on the site where the bank now stands, and there he continued successfully in business until 1855. He was the first postmaster at East Troy. He lived retired several years before his death, which occurred in 1881 at the advanced age of seventy-eight years, his widow surviving until 1884, dying at the age of eighty-one years. Sewell Smith built the store where Marshall & Son are now located. Politically, he was a Republican; but he never sought office, though he held several local offices, having been the first township clerk, and he was chairman of the board of supervisors and was also treasurer of the town.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Sewell Smith, five sons and two daughters, of whom five are living. George H. Smith was fourteen years

old when he came to East Troy township, this county, and here he grew to manhood and attended the early day schools here. In 1852 he went to Whitewater and there engaged in business as a member of the firm of Sewell, Smith & Sons, returning to East Troy in 1855 and here engaged in business, but in the same year he again went to Whitewater, and was in business there until 1868, then returned to East Troy, where he continued in business until 1897 when he sold out to Marshall & Zinn. He had been in partnership with his brother, C. W. Smith, under the firm name of C. W. Smith & Company, which enjoyed a large trade with the surrounding country. From 1897 until his death, in February, 1903, Mr. Smith lived retired. He had been very successful as a business man and left considerable property at the time of his death. The death of his wife occurred in September, 1904.

George H. Smith was married in 1856 to Anneliza Burgit, who was born in Tioga county, New York, on July 27, 1829, the daughter of Jacob Burgit, a complete sketch of whom is to be found on another page of this work.

Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. George H. Smith, namely: Ida C., who lives in East Troy, and Warren E., who is a resident of New York City. The former was educated in the public schools of Whitewater and the East Troy high school, graduating from the latter; she was also graduated from the Ladies' Seminary at Oconomowoc. She made a specialty of painting and music and has long been very successful as an artist, her fine work being admired wherever shown, having much natural ability in that line. She is a lady of culture, education and refinement and a favorite with a wide circle of admiring friends.

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#### AUGUST WILMER.

It is signally consonant that in this work be incorporated at least a brief resume of the life and labors of August Wilmer, who has long been one of the influential citizens of Walworth county, in fact has spent his life here, being a connecting link with the pioneer period in which he spent his childhood and of which he has many interesting reminiscences. Through his loyal efforts the town of East Troy and surrounding locality have reaped lasting benefits, for his public-spirit and exceptional business capacity have been directed along lines calculated to be for the general good. A man of forceful individuality and marked initiative power, he has been well equipped for the larger duties of life and for leadership in his community, while his probity of character and his genial personality, obliging nature and every-day common charitableness have

gained for him universal esteem and friendship in the town and county where he has made his home for a period of sixty-nine years.

Mr. Wilmer was born in East Troy township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, on March 10, 1843. He is the son of Bernard and Elizabeth (Waltring) Wilmer, both natives of Germany, the father born in Hanover in 1809 and she in Prussia in 1813. There they spent their earlier years, he emigrating to the United States in 1835 and settled in Boston, Massachusetts, and there he was married. In 1840 he came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, with the pioneer element, then setting in strongly from the Eastern states to the Northwest. He located in East Troy township, three miles east of East Troy, securing one hundred and twenty acres, to which he added until he had one hundred and sixty acres, and here he developed a large, fine farm and became one of the influential men of his community. His death occurred in the village of East Troy in 1892, his wife having preceded him to the grave in 1887. They were the parents of four sons and four daughters, all still living but one son and one daughter.

Bernard Wilmer was a Democrat and he and wife belonged to the Catholic church. His father, William Wilmer, was a native of Germany and there he spent his early life, finally emigrating to New Orleans, Louisiana, about 1843. He ascended the Mississippi river in a steamboat to Quincy, Illinois, then came on to Walworth county, Wisconsin, purchasing a farm in East Troy township, where he spent the rest of his life, dying in 1860. His wife, Adelaide Wilmer, died in Quincy, Illinois, the same year in which his death occurred, 1860.

August Wilmer, of this sketch, was reared on the home farm where he worked when he became of proper age, and he received his education in the public schools and the German schools, also a commercial college in Milwaukee. He farmed in the summertime and taught school in the winter months for seven terms, and in 1868 he engaged in merchandising with Theodore Haller, and in 1871 the well known firm of Wilmer Brothers was organized, and in 1895 the son of the subject, Charles B., became a member of the firm, the name then being changed to Wilmer Brothers & Company, and they have continued successfully to the present time, enjoying a large trade with the surrounding country, carrying at all seasons a complete and carefully selected stock of general merchandise.

The subject and his brothers, Bernard, own a farm of one hundred and twenty acres one mile north of East Troy, and the subject is now living practically retired from the active duties of life, having, by his thrift and industry, accumulated a competency.

Politically, Mr. Wilmer is a Democrat and he has been more or less active in party affairs. He was chairman of the town board for six years and president of the village for four years, and he was treasurer of the school district for nineteen years. He always gave eminent satisfaction as a public servant, and has done much for the permanent good of East Troy. He is a member of the Catholic church.

Mr. Wilmer was married in 1868 to Mary Ann Boyle, who was born in Scotland in May, 1842, the daughter of John and Mary Boyle, who emigrated to America when Mrs. Wilmer was a child and settled in the state of New York, where they remained until 1860 when they came to East Troy, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where they spent the rest of their lives on a farm. They were the parents of two daughters, Mary Ann, wife of the subject, and Eliza B., both living.

To the subject and wife two children have been born, namely: Charles Boyle Wilmer, a member of the firm of Wilmer Brothers & Company, and Mary, who married Dr. T. J. O'Leary, of East Troy, and her death occurred on June 17, 1910, leaving two children, Mary and Genevieve.

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#### ARTHUR HENRY BARTHOLOMEW.

It is proper that the descendants of the old settlers, those who cleared the land of its primitive woods, should see that the doings of the earlier years are fittingly remembered and recorded. It was said by one of the greatest historians that those who take no interest in the deeds of their ancestors are not likely to do anything worthy to be remembered by their descendants. Arthur Henry Bartholomew, well known farmer of East Troy township, Walworth county, is a scion of one of the early families of this locality, many of whose worthy characteristics he seems to have inherited, for he believes in keeping busy and in doing what he can in furthering the interests of his community, at the same time so guarding his conduct as to merit the confidence and respect of his neighbors and friends.

Mr. Bartholomew was born in this township on October 23, 1867. He is the son of John and Catherine (Grunewalt) Bartholomew, both born in Roserodia, Hessen, Germany, the father's birth occurring on February 6, 1835, and there they grew to maturity. They emigrated to the United States in 1855, locating in East Troy township, on a farm with Henry Grunewalt. Later selling out, he bought eighty acres of land in Troy which has

remained in possession of the family ever since, and here the elder Bartholomew spent the balance of his life, dying on May 14, 1907. His wife was born in February, 1837, the daughter of Henry Grunewalt, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work. To the parents of the subject eleven children were born, all of whom, with one exception, are living. Politically, John Bartholomew was a Republican and he was confirmed in the Lutheran church, but in 1858 he joined the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife was also a member.

Arthur H. Bartholomew was reared on the farm where he began working when but a small boy, and in the winter time he attended the common schools of his district, in East Troy township, and early in life he turned his attention to farming for a livelihood. He has met with encouraging success all the while and is now the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and eighty-three acres in this township, also eighty acres of valuable land in Price county, Wisconsin, also an interest in the old homestead. He carries on general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of dairying. He has brought his place up to a high standard of improvement and cultivation. He has a pleasant home and everything about his place denotes thrift and good taste. He finished a splendid set of buildings on his farm in 1912, which now makes his place rank with the best in the community.

Politically, Mr. Bartholomew is a Republican and while he takes the interest of a good citizen in public affairs he has never sought to be a leader in public affairs. He attends the Methodist Episcopal church.

On July 12, 1894, Mr. Bartholomew was united in marriage with Birdie Luella Keyes, who was born in Spring Prairie township on the farm now owned by the subject. She is the daughter of Nathaniel and Jane Anna (Flint) Keyes, both natives of New York, and the father came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, with his parents, Nathan A. and Fanny Keyes, who settled in East Troy township, when the country was little developed, and here, through hard work and economy, they became very well established and spent the balance of their lives. The maternal grandparents of Mrs. Bartholomew were early settlers of Walworth county, and they both died in Spring Prairie township. In this township the parents of Mrs. Bartholomew were married, and they owned the farm where the subject now lives. The father died on June 25, 1901, the mother having preceded him to the grave in 1883. They were highly respected people and were very well established here.

To the subject and wife four children were born, all living, namely: Vernie Arthur, born June 5, 1895; Nathan John, born December 5, 1897; Agnes Pearl, born December 17, 1899; Velma, born July 14, 1906.

## WILLIAM BEERS.

We rarely find two persons in everyday life who attribute their success in their different spheres to similar qualities. Hard work and plodding industry paved the way for one, good judgment and a keen sense of values for another, intuition and a well balanced mind for the third. An admixture of some of the qualities above named, emphasized by hard work, has been responsible for the success of the subject of the present sketch in his battle for the spoils of victory, these winning attributes having descended from a sterling ancestry who played no inconspicuous part in the early history of Walworth county, having done their share of the rough work necessary to redeem the fertile land from the wild state in which the first settlers found it, and it is to such as these that we of today are greatly indebted for the good farms, the thriving towns and the good schools and churches to be found in every community.

William Beers was born in East Troy, Walworth county, Wisconsin, on the farm which he now owns, on May 24, 1856. He is the son of John and Mary (Crites) Beers, the father born in Pennsylvania, July 25, 1803, and the mother in the state of New York on June 18, 1819. They spent their childhood in their respective communities and were married in New York on January 1, 1839, and from there they emigrated to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1842, and took up eighty acres of land where the subject now lives. This they cleared and improved, undergoing the usual hardships and privations incident to pioneer life. Later twenty acres was added to the place they had received from the government, thus making them a good farm, and here they spent the remainder of their lives, he dying in Honey Creek in 1886 and her death occurred on May 26, 1892. Politically, he was a Republican.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. John Beers, three of whom are living at this writing.

William Beers, of this review, was reared on the home farm where he assisted with the general work when a boy, and he received his education in the district schools, and early in life turned his attention to agricultural pursuits and he has been very successful, being now the owner of one of the finest farms of his township, consisting of two hundred and forty-one acres, which he has placed under a high state of improvement and cultivation, believing in adopting all twentieth-century methods conducive to the best results. He carries on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale, and he has a pleasant, well kept home and large, convenient outbuildings.

Politically, Mr. Beers is a Republican, and he has been more or less active in public affairs. He is now serving his second term as chairman of the township board. Fraternally, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America.

Mr. Beers was married on December 23, 1879, to Adella Hulbert, who was born in Racine county, Wisconsin, on January 1, 1855. She is the daughter of Septimus and Sarah (Jennings) Hulbert, who came to Racine county, Wisconsin, about 1842, with the pioneer settlers from the East, and here they established a good home and spent the balance of their days, Mr. Hulbert dying in East Troy in 1911 at the home of the subject. The death of Mrs. Hulbert occurred in December, 1907. They were the parents of five children, of whom three are living. The father was a farmer by occupation, and politically he was a Republican.

One child, a son, has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Beers, Raymond Chester, whose birth occurred on January 17, 1887. He was educated in the public schools of East Troy and the high school there, later spending one year in the University of Wisconsin. He has adopted farming for a livelihood and he gives promise of much success in the future.

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### JOHN MITCHELL.

The subject of this sketch occupies a prominent place in the esteem of the people of the northeastern part of Walworth county and is universally respected, for as a business man, fair dealing is his watchword in all his transactions. Mr. Mitchell is a worthy representative of one of our excellent old pioneer families, members of which have figured more or less prominently in the affairs of the county for several generations, ever lending such aid as was their just due in furthering any movements having as their object the general upbuilding of the county in a material, civic and moral way. They have not been neglectful of their duty in any of the avenues of life and they have long ranked among our best farmers, being advocates of twentieth-century methods in order to get the largest results from the minimum expenditure of labor. There is peculiar satisfaction in offering biographies of such people in a work of this nature.

John Mitchell was born in Spring Prairie township, this county, November 5, 1862. He is the son of Edward and Sarah (Burton) Mitchell, both natives of England, the father born in Yorkshire on March 22, 1834, and the mother on August 15, 1841. The paternal grandparents, William and Chris-

tina (Chanley) Mitchell, were also natives of England, his birth occurring there in 1811, and there they grew up and were married, and there the death of the grandmother occurred in 1853, after which the grandfather married Mary Hargrave, in Spring Prairie township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, whither he had emigrated in 1858, and here he spent the balance of his life, dying in 1893, his wife having preceded him to the grave in 1890.

Edward Mitchell, father of the subject, spent his boyhood in England and received his education in the public schools. He was reared on the farm and when a young man took up farming for a livelihood in East Troy township, Walworth county, having accompanied his father here in 1858. He first secured fifty acres, to which he later added one hundred and thirty-five acres, then added forty acres. He placed this land under excellent improvements and cultivation and laid by a competency through his close application and good management, and he is now living retired from the active duties of life in his pleasant home in East Troy township.

Five children, four sons and one daughter, were born to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mitchell. Politically, he is a Republican, and has taken considerable interest in public affairs. He has been supervisor for five years in succession, filling the office to the satisfaction of all concerned.

John Mitchell was reared on the home farm where he made himself useful in his boyhood days and he received his education in the country district schools and the East Troy graded schools, and early in life he took up farming for a vocation. He is now the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and thirty-five acres which he has kept well improved and well tilled and on which he carries on general farming and stock raising successfully. He has a pleasant home and a good set of outbuildings. He makes a specialty of raising Holstein cattle.

Politically, Mr. Mitchell is a Republican, and in religious matters a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his father and mother are members and also the grandfather before him. Edward Mitchell, the father, was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil war, having enlisted in February, 1865, serving until the close of hostilities. He is now a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

John Mitchell was married on November 23, 1886, to Elizabeth Castle, who was born in England on September 12, 1857, the daughter of Edward and Mercey (Warren) Castle, both born in England, the father on April 8, 1820, and the mother on March 3, 1819, and there they grew up and were married, and the father died there on March 14, 1875. In 1880 Mrs. Castle emigrated to America, and located in Walworth county, Wisconsin, and here

she spent the rest of her life, dying on December 1, 1910, at the advanced age of ninety-one years. They were the parents of five children, three of whom are living.

To John Mitchell and wife three children have been born, the first dying in infancy; the second in order of birth was Mercey Pearl, whose birth occurred on November 27, 1891; the youngest, Edgar Warren, was born on September 26, 1895.

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### JOHN L. FUNK.

One of the leading agriculturists of East Troy township, Walworth county, is John L. Funk, who is one of the worthy native sons of the county, having been content to spend his life on the home farm, well knowing that no better opportunities for a man of his inclination could be found in any other locality. He has ever had the interests of his county at heart and, while promoting his own welfare has done much toward the bettering of conditions in general in his community. His career has been one of close application, uncompromising integrity and he is highly regarded by all who know him, consequently is well deserving of a place in his county history.

John L. Funk was born on the farm where he still resides, in the township mentioned in the preceding paragraph, on February 7, 1850. He is the son of Jacob and Catherine (Hamm) Funk, both natives of Germany, the father born in Wurtemberg, July 12, 1808, and the mother on March 30, 1811. Jacob Funk was six years of age when his father died and thus in early life he was thrown upon his own resources, and when young learned the tailor's trade in his native land. In 1829 he emigrated to America, locating in Boston, and there he was married on February 21, 1836, and in 1838 he came to Wisconsin and took up one hundred acres, now owned by the subject in East Troy township, which he developed from the wilderness and here spent his last days, becoming very well established, his death occurring on August 16, 1886, and his wife died on December 1, 1890. Their family consisted of eight children, of whom four are living. In politics he was a Republican, and he and his wife were members of the German Methodist church, and he took much interest in the work of the same. The first sermon of this denomination was preached here in his log cabin. He continued his trade of tailor in connection with farming.

John L. Funk, of this sketch, was reared on the home farm where he assisted with the general work during the summer months, and when a youth learned the shoemaker's trade, at which he worked for about four

years, but farming was his principal business from the start. He received such education as he could in the early schools. As stated, he remained on the home place of one hundred acres, which he has kept well improved and under an excellent state of cultivation, and to which he has added twenty acres in this township, and he also owns twenty acres in Spring Prairie township. In connection with general farming and stock raising he makes a specialty of dairying. He keeps thoroughbred Durham cattle, and is very successful with his live stock and dairy.

Politically, Mr. Funk is a Republican, but has little aspiration to be a leader in public affairs. He has been a director in the Farmers Mutual Life Insurance Company. Fraternaly, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Neighbors of Honey Creek.

Mr. Funk was married on February 22, 1877, to Caroline Schmidter, who was born in Spring Prairie township on May 22, 1849. She is the daughter of Louis and Amelia (Mannert) Schmidter, a complete sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. To Mr. and Mrs. Funk have been born five children, all living and named as follows: Emma, Otto, Walter, Nellie and Roy.

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#### NATHANIEL SCHMIDTER.

One of the successful farmers of Walworth county whose labors seem to have been rightly directed through the course of an industrious and honorable life is Nathaniel Schmidter, who, by his genial and kindly attitude to those about him, has won and retained the good will and respect of his neighbors and acquaintances, who are necessarily many in view of the fact that he has spent his life right here at home, which, most will agree, is the best place after all.

Mr. Schmidter was born in Spring Prairie township, this county, on October 3, 1855. He is the son of Lewis and Amelia (Mannert) Schmidter. The father was born in Switzerland and the mother was born in Germany. They emigrated to America when young and while yet single, and were married in Boston. Later they came on west and located in Spring Prairie township, Walworth county, this state, in 1837, among the pioneers. Here they found a wilderness indeed, but had the sagacity to foresee a great future for the country, so by hard work and economy they established their home, undergoing the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life. They owned a farm of one hundred and twenty acres and on this they spent the

balance of their lives, the death of the father occurring on February 28, 1881, at the age of seventy-one years, his widow surviving many years, dying on January 27, 1899, at the age of seventy-seven years.

Thirteen children were born to Louis Schmidter and wife, seven of whom are living at this writing. Politically, the father was a Republican, but preferred to lead a quiet home life, rather than seek public leadership. He belonged to the German Methodist Episcopal church, in which he did a great deal of good as a local preacher. He was a useful man in his community, was well known and highly esteemed by all.

Nathaniel Schmidter, the immediate subject of this sketch, was reared on the home farm where he worked hard when a boy, and in the winter months he attended the district public schools. Early in life he took up farming for a livelihood, and he is now the owner of eighty acres, which he has placed under good improvements and on which he engaged in general farming and stock raising.

Politically, Mr. Schmidter is a Republican, and in religious matters is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Schmidter was married on March 5, 1884, to Mary Mohr, who was born in East Troy township, this county, November 19, 1861, the daughter of Christopher and Wilhelmina (Krell) Mohr, both born in Germany, where they grew to maturity, and from which country they emigrated to America in early life, and located in Walworth county, Wisconsin, in June, 1861, locating on a farm in East Troy township and here spent the rest of their lives, the death of the father occurring on April 1, 1879, and the mother died on March 17, 1908. Their family consisted of seven children, all of whom are living. Politically, Mr. Mohr was a Republican, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. To Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Schmidter five children have been born, named as follows: Hazel, George, Lulu Maud, Horace and Mary.

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### JOSEPHUS ATKINSON.

The name of Atkinson has long been an honored one in Walworth county, in fact since the pioneer epoch when here was inaugurated the march of progress in material, civic and moral lines, and the worthy representatives of this sterling old family have continued to add luster to the name through their wholesome living, their public spirit and their industry, for they have ever advocated progress along all lines, not laboring merely to selfish ends and to their own advancement—always to be found associated with every movement

which promised an addition to the community's wealth and wellbeing. One of the best known of the present generation is Josephus Atkinson, farmer and stock raiser of East Troy township, a man who has succeeded well at his chosen vocation because he has sought to employ advanced methods and has never permitted the grass to grow under his feet. Mr. Atkinson was born in East Troy township, this county, on November 20, 1853. He is the son of William and Sarah (Houthwait) Atkinson, both born in England, where they grew up, were educated and married. From there they emigrated to the United States, coming on to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in an early day, and settling on a farm of fifty-seven acres in East Troy township, which they later sold and bought forty-seven acres, and here they established a good home and made many friends, and lived the rest of their lives, the father dying in 1886 and the mother in 1900.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. William Atkinson, only two of whom are living at this writing. Politically, the father was a Republican, but not very active in public affairs. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Josephus Atkinson, of this sketch, was reared on the home farm where he assisted with the general work when of proper age, and he received his education in the public schools of his home district. He has devoted his life to farming and is now the owner of an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres, which he has kept well improved and well cultivated, rendering it one of the choice farmsteads in East Troy township, and on this he has made a success as a general farmer and stock raiser. He has built here a modern and attractive dwelling and a substantial barn, and has all the convenient outbuildings and up-to-date farming machinery that his needs require. He also owns very valuable and desirable property in the town of East Troy where he lived for a period of five years. He keeps an excellent grade of live stock, at present a herd of seventy cows, making a specialty of dairying, for which he is exceptionally well equipped.

Politically, Mr. Atkinson is a Republican and he has always taken the interest of a good citizen in the welfare of his township and county, although having little desire to be a public man. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Atkinson was married in 1882 to Minnie Kabliskie, who was born in East Troy, July 7, 1862. She is the daughter of August and Henrietta (Fuss) Kabliskie, both natives of Germany. They grew to maturity in their native land, emigrating, single, to Wisconsin about 1852 and they were subsequently married in Milwaukee; they settled on a farm of forty acres in Walworth

county, which they later sold, then bought one hundred and twenty acres. They became well established here and spent their remaining years in this county, his death occurring in 1908, at the age of seventy-two years, his wife having preceded him to the grave in 1877, when comparatively young. They were the parents of seven children, five of whom are living. Politically, Mr. Kabliskie was a Republican, but led a quiet home life. He was a member of the Lutheran church.

Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson, all living, named in order of birth as follows: Ray, Malan, Lottie, Earl, Mabel and Glenn.

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#### ALEXANDER FRASER.

Born on the far-away heights of bonnie Scotland, the picturesque land, familiar to us principally through the versatile descriptions of such immortals as Scott, Burns and Miller, but spending the major part of his life in Walworth county, Wisconsin, Alexander Fraser, a well known and venerable citizen of East Troy township, is worthy of special mention in a volume of the nature of the one in hand, being truly a pioneer and active in the subsequent development of the locality. His long life of usefulness and charitable acts has won for him the sincere affection of almost every man, woman and child in his township, and of many of those living in townships adjacent. His early industry has resulted in his possession of a neat competence, and while he still enjoys the glow of the golden rays of the sun of life that must eventually set behind the horizon of the inevitable, he shares that enjoyment with no stint in the companionship of the members of his family and his wide circle of friends, won through his residence here of nearly three quarters of a century.

Mr. Fraser's birth occurred in Scotland on May 8, 1830, the son of James and Elizabeth (Campbell) Fraser, both born in Scotland, where they grew up and were married, and from there they came to America in an old-fashioned sailing vessel in 1839 and settled in Walworth county, Wisconsin, purchasing here one hundred and sixty acres. Adding to this as he prospered, he became the owner of four hundred and forty acres of fine land and was one of the leading pioneer farmers of the county and an influential man in the affairs of the county, and here he spent the rest of his life. They were the parents of eight children, only one of whom, Alexander, of this sketch, is living.

Alexander Fraser was nine years old when he was brought to Walworth county and here he grew to manhood and assisted with the general work on the

home farm, and here he received his education, such as could be obtained in the pioneer schools, for the country was then new and the settlers had to devote most of their attention to the development of the wild land into productive farms.

The subject made the arduous overland journey across the great western plains to California in the gold-fever days, and there he remained ten years, engaged for the most part in shipping water to the miners, from 1850 to 1860. He tells many interesting incidents of those early times and conditions in the then wild West. Returning to Walworth county, he resumed farming, which has been his chief life work, and, having managed well and applied himself very assiduously to his work, he is now the owner of one of the choice farms of East Troy township, consisting of three hundred and forty acres, where for many years he has carried on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale, making a specialty of breeding Merino sheep and shorthorn cattle, the latter being especially admired for their superior quality.

Politically, Mr. Fraser is a Republican and he has long taken more or less interest in public affairs. He has been chairman of the local school board for several years. He is president of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company, which position he has held since the same was organized, in fact he has been very largely responsible for the great success of this popular local institution, which has been successfully operating since 1875 and now covers quite a radius of territory. Mr. Fraser and wife belong to the Congregational church.

Mr. Fraser was married on May 20, 1850, to Julia Ann Crites, who was born in Genesee county, New York, on May 18, 1831. She is the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Geiger) Crites, both natives of Pennsylvania. This family came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1842 and settled among the early residents of East Troy township, on a farm of two hundred and forty acres, and here became well established and spent the rest of their lives, the father dying in 1877 and the mother in 1876. Their family consisted of eight children, three of whom are living in 1912.

To Mr. and Mrs. Fraser two children have been born, namely: Frank L., who lives at home and is assisting in operating the homestead, and James W., who is farming in East Troy township. They were both educated in the local schools and are both very comfortably situated in reference to material affairs, being good workers and of proper integrity.

Mr. Fraser is a man whom to know is to respect and admire, for he has always shown a kind and obliging disposition and an unswerving honesty.

## ARTHUR O'LEARY.

It is indeed hard to find among our cosmopolitan civilization people of better habits of life, taking it all in all, than those who originally came from the fair Emerald isle. The descendants of those people are distinguished for their thrift, consecutive industry, patriotism and honesty in dealing with their fellow men, and these qualities in the inhabitants of any country will in the end alone make that country great. When, with the qualities enumerated above, are coupled the other qualities of sound sense, tact and wit which all the Celtic descendants possess, there are afforded such qualities as will enrich any land and place it at the top of the countries of the world in the scale of elevated humanity.

One of the second generation of this excellent people in this country is Arthur O'Leary, a successful farmer of East Troy township.

Mr. O'Leary was born in the state of New York on June 30, 1853. He is the son of Patrick and Ann (O'Rourke) O'Leary, both born in Ireland where they spent their early childhood, but both emigrated to the United States while yet single, during the years 1847 and 1848, and they were married in New York. He was born in county Carey and she in county Wexford. In 1853 they came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and purchased a farm in Troy township, Patrick and his brother, John O'Leary, buying eighty acres. They farmed together until 1865 when the former bought out the latter, and in 1866 Patrick bought forty acres more of William Tobin. In 1881 he purchased eighty acres, thus becoming well established and prospering, and he spent his last days in East Troy township, his death occurring on November 10, 1903, at the advanced age of eighty-six years, his wife also reaching a ripe old age, dying on June 17, 1903, when eighty-eight years old.

Patrick O'Leary and wife were the parents of two children, Arthur of this sketch, and Nora, who is now living in the city of Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Politically, the father was a Democrat, and he and his wife belonged to the Catholic church.

Arthur O'Leary, of this sketch, was reared on the home farm, where he worked when of proper age, and he received his education in the public schools of his district. When young in years he took up farming for a livelihood and has continued the same to the present time. He is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and ninety-three acres, which he has placed under excellent improvements and keeps well cultivated. In connection with general farming and stock raising, he makes a specialty of dairying, for

which he is exceptionally well equipped. He keeps about twenty-eight cows, of a good grade. He has a pleasant home and many large and convenient outbuildings.

Politically, Mr. O'Leary is a Democrat, and he has been assessor of his township for about three years, to the satisfaction of all concerned. He is a member of the Catholic church and a faithful supporter of the same.

Mr. O'Leary was married in April, 1879, to Annetta Wilmer, a daughter of Bernard Wilmer, a complete sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Five children were born to this union, namely: William, Benjamin, Anna, Ella and Arthur.

Mrs. O'Leary was called to her rest in 1893, and subsequently the subject was united in marriage with Bridget Leonard, who was born in Waukesha county, this state, on January 6, 1857. She is the daughter of James and Margaret Leonard, both born in Ireland, where they spent their early lives, emigrating to America and locating in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, about 1853, later coming to Walworth county, and they spent their last days in East Troy township, having established a good home there. Mr. Leonard's death occurred in 1880 and his widow, surviving him twenty-nine years, died in 1909. They were the parents of six children, three of whom are still living. To the subject and his second wife one child, a son, James, was born on January 30, 1899.

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#### JAMES W. FRASER.

Success has been achieved by James W. Fraser, farmer and stock raiser of East Troy township, Walworth county, because he has been persistent along legitimate lines and has been an advocate of twentieth-century methods, which he employs on his fine farm, as any one may readily ascertain even by a cursory glance over his well kept and well improved fields. He has given evidence of the outcropping of many of the sterling attributes of his sturdy Scotch ancestors and while laboring for his individual advancement he has not been neglectful of his duties to his neighbors and the general public, and he is therefore held in high favor by his wide acquaintances.

Mr. Fraser was born in San Joaquin county, California, on January 27, 1859, but nearly all his life has been spent in Walworth county, Wisconsin, whither his parents, Alexander and Julia Ann (Crites) Fraser, a complete sketch of whom appears on another page of this work, came.

James W. Fraser was reared on the home farm in this county where he

assisted his father with the general work during his boyhood, and he received his education in the public schools and in the Milwaukee Normal. Early in life he turned his attention to farming and is now the owner of one of the excellent farms of East Troy township, which consists of three hundred acres, which he has placed under modern improvements and a high state of cultivation, and here he carries on general farming and stock raising on a large scale, making a specialty of dairying, keeping a fine herd of cattle. He has a good home and substantial outbuildings and everything about his place denotes good management.

Politically, Mr. Fraser is a Republican and he has taken considerable interest in public affairs. He has served his township as assessor during several terms in a most creditable manner. He is also prominent in fraternal circles of the county, being a member of St. James Lodge No. 41, Free and Accepted Masons, also Camp No 575, Modern Woodmen of America, and No. 328, Mystic Workers.

Mr. Fraser was married on July 3, 1887, to Zella Warrington, a native of Rochester, Racine county, Wisconsin, having been born there on November 9, 1866. She is the daughter of William and Mariam (Grimshaw) Warrington, both natives of England, he born in Warwickshire and she in Yorkshire. They emigrated to Racine county, Wisconsin, when young and there were married, and settled on a farm in that county, and here they spent the balance of their lives, he dying in Waukesha county in 1901. His widow survives. Their family consisted of four children, two of whom are living. The father devoted his life to farming and in politics he was a Republican. To Mr. and Mrs. Fraser three children have been born, namely: Harrison Chester (deceased), George Alexander and Julia Ann Ruth.

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#### CHARLEY E. ALTENBURG.

Although Charley E. Altenburg, long one of the leading farmers of East Troy township, Walworth county, but now living in honorable retirement, has passed his seventy-eighth milestone, he is hale and well preserved as to his physical appearance, and as far as that is concerned would never be taken by a stranger or casual observer, not cognizant of his advanced age, to be over sixty-five years old, if that. His memory is wonderfully retentive, and his mental faculties, indeed, seem to be in all respects unimpaired. This is all

due, no doubt, to the fact that he has led a clean life, one consistent with virtue in his youth and sobriety and right thinking. He has kept busy during his mature years and has remained at home as much as possible, thus avoiding much of the worry and trouble in a general way that eventually contributes to one's breakdown in later life. In short, he has been wise enough to lead the "simple life" advocated by his great countryman, Wagner, which life, after all, is not only the most conducive to longevity, but also to the greatest degree of happiness and material gain.

Mr. Altenburg was born in Germany on April 13, 1834. He is the son of Gottlieb and Magdalena (Bense) Altenburg, both born and reared in the fatherland where, in fact, they married and spent their lives, never coming to America.

The subject was educated in Germany where he grew to manhood, and there he continued to reside until 1870, when he emigrated to the United States and located in Walworth county, Wisconsin, where, in order to get a start, he worked out by the month for a period of ten years or nearly so long, then, having, by economy, saved his money, he purchased forty acres of land in Waukesha county. Later selling this, he came to East Troy township, Walworth county, and bought seventy-five acres, which he sold in 1883 and bought two hundred and fifty acres which he still owns, and which he has brought up to a high state of improvement and cultivation; in fact, he has placed all the improvements seen today on it, rendering it equal to any of the farms of his neighbors. He has a commodious, modernly furnished home and good barns and sheds, and he always keeps an excellent grade of live stock. Having accumulated a competency through close application and good management, he is now living retired from the active duties of life, merely overseeing his farming interests. He is deserving of a great deal of credit for what he has accomplished, having made all he has through his individual efforts, starting out with nothing.

Politically, Mr. Altenburg is a Republican, but he has led a quiet life and has never been active in public affairs. In religious matters he belongs to the Lutheran church.

Mr. Altenburg was married in 1881 to Caroline Kroenke, a daughter of Carl Kroenke, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Three children were born to this union, namely: Henry, who works the home farm, was educated in the home public schools; Charley E., who was educated in the public schools, the East Troy high school and the Milwaukee Business College, and who became township clerk in East Troy township, is now engaged in farming in Dakota. The youngest child, Clara, married Otto

Schrader, and her death occurred on December 17, 1907, leaving one child. The wife and mother dying in 1886, the subject was married in 1892 to Wilhelmina Brunke, a native of Germany.

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### JAMES DWIGHT BURGIT.

It is a matter of doubt which is the greater heritage, a distinguished name or a goodly estate. Some persons would choose one and some the other, depending wholly on their feelings and judgment combined. But when the two are sent down to descendants together, the permanent standing of such descendant in the community will never be questioned, so far as the heritage is concerned. The average citizen of the United States can hand down no greater heritage to his children than an unblemished reputation, as was done in the case of the late James Dwight Burgit, for a long stretch of years one of the most representative citizens of Walworth county, a man whom to know was to trust and admire, for he was genial, neighborly, kind and public-spirited, never failing to lend such aid as was possible in furthering any principle of good. Such a life record could be very profitably studied by the youth whose destinies are matters for future years to determine.

Mr. Burgit was born in Tioga county, New York, on April 22, 1825. He is the son of Jacob Burgit, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

The subject spent his boyhood in his native community, and when twelve years old, in March, 1837, he came to East Troy, Walworth county, Wisconsin. He had been educated in the public schools of Richford, Tioga county, New York, also went to school after coming to East Troy. He began life as a farmer and became owner of one of the choice farms of the eastern part of Walworth county, consisting of three hundred and twenty acres in East Troy township. He kept his land well improved and under a high state of cultivation, making a pronounced success of general farming and stock raising. He has always lived in East Troy, his farm being near the edge of the town, but he sold the farm and moved to a cozy home in East Troy and here he continued to reside until his death, July 12, 1911.

Politically, Mr. Burgit was a Republican, and religiously he attended the Congregational church, to which his wife belonged.

Mr. Burgit was married on April 25, 1858, to Ruth Ann Jackson, who was born at Florence Hill, Oneida county, New York, on September 6, 1837. She was the daughter of Joseph and Ann (Gardner) Jackson, the father a

native of Wigton, Scotland, born September 2, 1810, and the mother was born in Malpas, England, in 1816. They emigrated to Oneida county, New York, in 1831, settling at Florence Hill, and there the parents established the family home. Her death occurred in New York on June 27, 1845. Mr. Jackson came to Illinois in an early day and thence to Eagle, Wisconsin, and his death occurred in Waukesha, Wisconsin, on September 24, 1885. His family consisted of five children, three of whom are living. He was a tailor by trade.

Mr. and Mrs. James D. Burgit had no children. This grand old couple celebrated their golden wedding in 1908. They were always popular with all who knew them, numbering their friends by the scores wherever they were known, for they were hospitable, genial and obliging, always looking out for the interests of others. Mrs. Burgit, a woman of beautiful Christian attributes, is still living in East Troy.

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#### FREDERICK WENDT.

In presenting the following brief sketch of Frederick Wendt, now living retired from the active duties of life in his pleasant home in East Troy, we find that the battle of life has been well fought by this enterprising, self-made, foreign-born citizen. That he is endowed with financial abilities of no mean order must be admitted, yet there is added to this an honest determination of purpose and a kind heart, which has impelled him to help others while he was making a path to prosperity for himself. From an early age his desire has been to earn every cent needed in the prosecution of his business. He has always lived up to his principle; and now as old age creeps on apace, with the ambition to accumulate not so strong on him as in earlier years, no longer being a necessity, free from embarrassing debts and with unencumbered property, he stands among the financially strong men of his town and township. He is plain and unassuming in manner and by reason of his noble character is frequently sought for as counselor and friend.

Mr. Wendt was born in Germany in 1856, the son of Frederick and Sophia Wendt, both born in Germany, where they spent their early lives, finally emigrating to America, and locating in Lafayette township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1864. Later the father purchased sixty acres in Spring Prairie township and sixty-seven acres in East Troy township. Here they developed a fine farm and spent the rest of their lives, the father dying at the home of the subject in East Troy in 1899, his wife having died in 1892.

They had but one child, Frederick, of this sketch. Politically, the father was a Republican, and a member of the German Methodist Episcopal church.

Frederick Wendt was reared on the farm and received his education in the public schools of Troy, Walworth county. When young he learned the harness-maker's trade, which he followed in East Troy, beginning business there in 1881 and continuing until 1886, when he purchased ninety-seven and one-half acres, which he still owns, together with the homestead of sixty-seven acres. He farmed for a number of years very successfully and he is now living in retirement, in his fine, modern residence, which he built on East Main street, East Troy. He also owns the building now used as a bakery, also another residence property. Politically, he is a Republican and he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Wendt was married in 1879 to Louisa Kebler, who was born in Spring Prairie, Walworth county, on August 8, 1856. She is the daughter of John and Ann (Decker) Kebler, both natives of Germany, where they spent their early lives, emigrating to Walworth county, Wisconsin, about 1853 and located in Spring Prairie township and there established a good home. He was a shoemaker by trade. His death occurred on August 12, 1895, and his wife died on February 14, 1897. Politically, he was a Republican, and a member of the German Methodist Episcopal church.

Mrs. Wendt grew to womanhood in Spring Prairie township and there received her education in the public schools.

To Mr. and Mrs. Wendt four children have been born, namely: Walwin F., who is farming in East Troy township, was educated in the East Troy high school; Herman G., who was educated in the high school in East Troy, is also engaged in farming; Franklin C., also educated in the East Troy high school, is farming on the old home place; Elfie C., who was graduated from the East Troy high school, married Herbert Wales, and lives near Elkhorn.

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#### LAWRENCE CLANCEY.

A man of marked business enterprise and capacity is Lawrence Clancey, of the town of East Troy, Walworth county, and he carries forward to successful issue whatever he undertakes, never permitting himself to lose sight of the modern methods of the business world. His popularity is well deserved, as in him are embraced the characteristics of an unbending integrity, unabating energy and industry that never flags. The earlier years of his life were spent in agricultural pursuits, in which he won success as a general farmer

and stock raiser, not being surpassed by any of his neighbors. He is a representative of one of our honored old families, members of which have labored for the general upbuilding of the county in material, civic and moral affairs since the pioneer epoch, standing ready at all times to do their full share in the work of pushing forward the wheels of civilization, and thus the Clancey family is eminently eligible in every way to receive conspicuous mention in a work of the nature of the one at hand.

Mr. Clancey was born in East Troy, Walworth county, Wisconsin, on April 11, 1861. He is the son of Michael and Mary (O'Brien) Clancey, both born in Ireland, where they grew to maturity and they were married in America. They emigrated to New York in 1850, remaining in the East six years, then coming on to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1856 and located in East Troy township on twenty-six acres. From this humble beginning they prospered through hard work and able management until they became the owners of five hundred acres of valuable land, and became well established, one of the substantial families of the eastern part of the county, in fact. Here the father spent the rest of his life, dying in 1897, his widow surviving until 1906.

Politically, Michael Clancey was a Democrat, and in religious matters he was a loyal Catholic, a good and highly respected citizen, who made a host of friends after locating here.

Lawrence Clancey of this sketch was reared on the home farm where he worked hard as a boy, and he received his education in the public schools. He followed farming and school teaching, each with a marked degree of success, until 1898, carrying on general farming and stock raising extensively, then he sold out and moved to the town of East Troy, where he engaged in the hardware business, under the firm name of Lacey & Clancey, and he has continued the same to the present time, having built up a large and constantly growing trade with the town and surrounding country, their customers coming, many of them, from remote localities, for they know that here they will receive honest and courteous treatment. They have a neatly kept store and they always carry a large and very carefully selected stock of general hardware and farming implements.

Politically, Mr. Clancey is a Democrat and he has been active in party affairs for some time. He has been assessor of East Troy township for several years, filling this position with credit to himself and to the utmost satisfaction of all concerned. He was chairman of the town board for two years, and he has been village president for several years, and supervisor of the village for some time. He is now supervisor and clerk of the high school.

He has done much for the permanent good of the town of East Troy, whose interests he has at heart and which he seeks to promote in every way possible. As a public servant he is cautious, faithful and honest, as well as progressive.

Mr. Clencey was married in 1887 to Mary Wilmer, daughter of Bernard Wilmer, a prominent citizen of this county whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. To Mr. and Mrs. Clancey three children have been born, named as follows: Bessie, John and Edward.

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### JOHN RICHARD GRAYDON.

One of the best remembered men of the eastern part of Walworth county, whose memory is revered by a host of friends and acquaintances among whom he labored, was the late John Richard Graydon, who spent his energies through a life of strenuous endeavor to make the most of his opportunities as well as to assist as best he could his neighbors and friends to improve their condition. In all the relations of life he proved signally true to every trust. He possessed a sociable nature and by his genial and kindly attitude to those about him, he won the respect and confidence of everyone. He was known as a careful and able business man and one whose integrity of purpose was beyond question.

Mr. Graydon was born at Otis, Indiana, on November 14, 1862. He is the son of William and Sarah Graydon, natives of Canada, where they spent their earlier years, coming to Indiana when young. The father is deceased and his widow is still living in Indiana. The elder Graydon was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil war.

John R. Graydon was reared on the home farm in Indiana and there assisted with the general work when a boy. He received his education in the public schools of his native community and in Valparaiso University. When a young man he went to Chicago and there learned the ice manufacturing business, becoming superintendent of the Knickerbocker Ice Company, where he remained for some time. He came to Eagle, Wisconsin, in 1898 and there built an ice plant, and there engaged successfully in the ice business until 1907, when he came to East Troy, Walworth county, and built a fine home on Beulah avenue and here he continued to reside until his death, on December 10, 1910. He had been very successful as a business man, being a good manager and applied himself closely to his work, and through his individual efforts he accumulated a competency.

Politically, Mr. Graydon was a Republican, and while he took a good citizen's interest in public affairs he never sought office. Fraternally, he was a Freemason and a member of the Beavers.

Mr. Graydon was married on July 30, 1891, to Elizabeth L. Booth, who was born in Elmwood, Illinois. She was the daughter of Ferdinand D. and Mary Ellen (Eslinger) Booth, the father a native of Hartford, Connecticut, born in 1838, and the mother's birth occurred at Middleton, Ohio, in 1844. Mr. Booth came to Peoria county, Illinois, when a child with his parents, Louis and Harriet Booth, and there the parents spent the balance of their lives.

The father of Mrs. Graydon was a dealer in horses and he went to Texas where he became interested in irrigation, and there his death occurred on June 20, 1898. His widow survives. They were the parents of seven children, five of whom are living at this writing.

Politically, Mr. Booth was a Republican, fraternally a Freemason, and religiously a Congregationalist. To Mr. and Mrs. Graydon two children were born, Arthur John and Margaret Etola.

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#### ORLIN H. MILLS, D. D. S.

The profession of dentistry has a worthy exponent in Walworth county in the person of Dr. Orlin H. Mills, of East Troy, who, because of his skill and long years of practice here is well known throughout this locality and who ranks high among his professional brethren in the southern part of the Badger state, for he was, it seems, well adapted by nature for this vocation, being, in the first place, a student, so that he has kept well abreast of the times in everything that pertains to his work, and he is also the possessor of those personal traits which one must have in order to be popular with the masses. He is a man who can be depended upon, and his hundreds of patients know that they can repose the utmost confidence in him and rely upon his judgment. His is also of a sociable nature and an optimistic one—he believes in finding the silver lining to every cloud, maintaining that all clouds have such, and that the obstacles we daily encounter on the road of life should but serve to arouse our combative nature, and cause us to accomplish more rather than yield to the perverse rulings of fate.

Doctor Mills was born in Dearfield, Manshara county, Wisconsin, on July 1, 1862. He is the son of Charles and Phoebe (Wright) Mills, the

father born in Canada and the mother born in Pennsylvania. The former was young when he accompanied his parents, Alfred and Ruth Mills, from Canada to Manshara county and settled on a farm when the country was new, and through hard work they established a good home and there the parents spent the rest of their lives. Grandfather Mills was a ship carpenter by trade.

Charles Mills, father of the subject, was reared in Waushara county, this state, and when young learned the blacksmith's trade, also that of wheelwright, and he lived in the town of Deerfield until the commencement of the Civil war, when he enlisted in the Nineteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and served faithfully through many trying campaigns and hotly-contested battles until his death, 1865. His widow survived him many years, dying in 1892. They were the parents of three children, two of whom are living. Mrs. Mills was again married, her second husband being Daniel Kingsley, of Pennsylvania, and to this union one daughter was born, who is still living.

Dr. Olin H. Mills was reared in Deerfield, Wisconsin, and there received his early education in the public schools, from which he was graduated. Early in life he took up the study of dentistry in an office at Plainfield, Wisconsin, with Dr. M. L. Brown who had taken a post-graduate course in the dental department of Northwestern University, from which department the subject was graduated with the class of 1899. Soon afterwards he came to East Troy, Walworth county, and opened an office which he has since maintained, enjoying a very liberal patronage, his office being thoroughly equipped with all modern appliances and furnishings to insure prompt and high grade service.

Doctor Mills belongs to the State Dental Society and the Southwestern Dental Association. Politically, he is a Republican, and while he takes more or less interest in public affairs he has never sought office.

Fraternally, the Doctor belongs to St. James Lodge No. 41, Free and Accepted Masons, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Neighbors.

Doctor Mills was married on December 30, 1886, to Ida Duell, who was born in Wautoma, Wisconsin, September 18, 1864, the daughter of Millard and Adaline (Brown) Duell. Her father was a mason by trade and one of the early settlers of Wautoma. He and his wife are now both deceased. To the Doctor and wife four children have been born, named as follows: Mae, who married Rockwell Brigham, of Sharon, Wisconsin, has one child, Beulah; Grace married Frank Wendt, a farmer of Troy township; Pearl was next in order of birth, and Ella was the youngest of the family.

## J. L. CRITES.

The methods of making money by the farmer are not confined, necessarily, to the mere cultivation of the soil, nor to the rearing of superior grades of live stock, although both of these are of the first importance. Very often an excellent opportunity is offered to make a few hundred dollars or even several thousand dollars in one transaction by the judicious buying and selling of other farms. But in order that the farmer may do this it is necessary for him to keep a good bank account, so as to be able to buy on short notice valuable property that is offered at a sacrifice, which quite often occurs. The farmer of large means can do this without much trouble, but it is best for those of limited surplus cash to keep back near the shore. Many a man has made a fortune in this way while many another has been bankrupt. A safer plan is to work constantly and carefully from month to month, from year to year, earning gradually, for the result will be more satisfactory in the long run. This is the method followed by J. L. Crites, one of the conservative yet progressive farmers of East Troy township, Walworth county, where he has spent his life and where his ancestors lived and labored for their own and the county's welfare, the name Crites having been a well known one here since the pioneer days.

Mr. Crites, of this sketch, was born in East Troy township, March 23, 1873. He is the son of George W. and Sarah (Langmade) Crites, the father born in New York state and the mother in Pennsylvania. George W. Crites was young when, in 1842, he accompanied his parents, John and Elizabeth (Geiger) Crites, and here they spent the rest of their lives, having worked hard to establish a good home in the wilderness, and here the father of the subject devoted himself to farming, becoming the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land and was one of the substantial farmers of the community. Politically, he was a Republican. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. George Crites, all of whom are living at this writing. The death of the father occurred in 1881, when comparatively young, but his widow survives.

J. L. Crites, of this sketch, was reared on the home farm where he made himself useful in his boyhood, and during the wintertime he attended the public schools in his district. He decided early in life to make farming his life work, and he and his brother, William A., have become owners of the home place, consisting of two hundred acres, which they have kept well tilled and well improved, and they carry on general farming and stock raising successfully. They have kept the old home well improved and not permitted the

land to deteriorate, in fact, have carefully rotated their crops and judiciously employed natural and artificial fertilizers until the land has not only retained its original strength, but has increased in value.

Politically, J. L. Crites is a Republican, but he has never been active in public affairs, nor sought office.

Mr. Crites was married on August 16, 1899, to Minerva Beers, who was born in Spring Prairie township, this county, on October 31, 1879. She is the daughter of John and Mary (Garfield) Beers, the father born in East Troy and the mother in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He is the son of John Beers, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume and to which the reader is referred for a fuller history of the Beers family. The parents of Mrs. Beers are now living in Spring Prairie township, and they have three children. The father is a Prohibitionist and active in the movement.

Two children, twins, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Crites, Dean and Dale, born January 21, 1907.

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#### CARL F. KROENKE.

One of the thrifty German farmers of East Troy township, Walworth county, is Carl F. Kroenke, who believes in doing his work well and never permitting the grass to grow under his feet. He is not only a very careful tiller of the soil, but also understands stock raising, looking carefully not only to the selection of live stock, but to the feeding, watering, salting, stabling and the best time of marketing. It is true that the best farmers study the market quotations of stock in the principal cities, and by so doing very often receive the reward of their watchfulness in a much more satisfactory price for their products. This is true of the grain products as well as those of the stock yards. The subject manages thus not only to get good grades of stock, but also to get the best prices, and he therefore has established a very comfortable home and has a good farm, which, although not so large in acreage as some of his neighbors, yet it is so well managed that abundant harvests are reaped from year to year as a result of his vigilance and good management.

Mr. Kroenke was born in Prussia, Germany, in 1868. He is the son of Carl and Charlotte (Meier) Kroenke, both born in Germany, the father in 1836 and the mother in 1830. There they grew to maturity and were married and spent the early part of their lives, emigrating to East Troy township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1881 and settled on a farm, which the subject of this

sketch now owns, seventy-four acres. The father is now living with his daughter at Linden, Wisconsin, his wife having died in 1894. They were the parents of seven children, two of whom are living at this writing. Politically, the father is a Republican and he is a member of the Lutheran church. He has been a hard working man and has lived a quiet, honorable life.

Carl F. Kroenke, of this sketch, grew up in Germany and received his education in the public schools there. He also attended the public schools in East Troy township after coming here with his parents, being at that time thirteen years of age. Early in life he turned his attention to farming and has made this his work to the present time, and he is now successfully operating the homestead, which he owns, carrying on general farming and stock raising. He has kept the place well improved and well tilled and he has a good home and outbuildings. Politically, he is a Republican, but has never been especially active in public affairs. In religious matters, he belongs to the Lutheran church.

Mr. Kroenke was married in 1895 to Bertha Ortmann, who was born in Prussia, Germany, January 7, 1867. She is the daughter of Ludwig and Caroline (Rohleder) Ortmann, both born in Germany, he in 1839 and she in 1837, and there they grew to maturity and were married and there she spent her life, dying there in 1883. After this event Mr. Ortmann brought his family to the United States and settled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His family consisted of seven children. He was a carpenter by trade and known to be a very skilled workman. His death occurred in 1906.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kroenke of this sketch, namely: Curt, born December 3, 1896, and Alma, born January 14, 1899. Our subject is a hard worker, a neighborly and genial fellow, who knows a good joke when he sees one and enjoys it.

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#### FRANCIS A. BENNETT.

In all the relations of life Francis A. Bennett, one of the substantial and well known citizens of East Troy township, Walworth county, has proved significantly true to every trust. He has spent his life in this state, believing that for one of his bent no better place could be found in which to fight out the battle of existence, and he has been very successful all along the line, building up, through his close application and careful management, a valuable landed estate and accumulated a competency, so that, now the snows of old age have

begun to settle on him, he can spend his last years in peace, quiet and plenty, at the same time enjoying the good will and esteem of all who know him, for his life has been exemplary in its relation and he has sought to be of some service to the world, while laboring for his own advancement.

Mr. Bennett was born in New Berlin, Waukasha county, Wisconsin, August 2, 1845. He is the son of Ezra and Amanda (Rathbone) Bennett, both natives of the state of New York, where they spent their childhood and attended school, and from that state they came to Wisconsin in an early day, locating in Waukasha county where they found a wild country and there they endured the usual privations of newcomers, but eventually became very comfortably established through their industry and economy, having taken up government land, thus literally hewing out their farm from the great forests. The mother died in New Berlin. In his political relations the father was a Republican and, leading a quiet, home life, never sought office. He belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church. His family consisted of five children, Frank A. of this review being the only one living.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the home farm, on which he began working when only a boy, for in developing a home in this state in those days there was plenty for all to do. He received his education in the public schools of his home district. He has always followed farming. He came to Troy township, Walworth county, in 1873, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of good land, and on this he lived until 1895, when he moved to East Troy township and bought the splendid farm he now owns, consisting of two hundred and fifty acres, on which he has placed most of the improvements and which he has under a high state of cultivation, carrying on general farming and stock raising on a large scale and in a most successful manner. He has made a specialty of breeding Poland-China hogs, and for many years was rated as one of the leading farmers and stock men in northeastern Walworth county. He is now living practically retired from the active duties of life and rents his farm. He has an attractive home and everything about his place denotes thrift.

Politically, Mr. Bennett is a Republican, of the progressive wing, and he has long manifested much interest in public affairs. He was chairman of Troy township, and also treasurer, filling these offices in a satisfactory manner to all concerned. Fraternally, Mr. Bennett belongs to St. James Lodge No. 41, Free and Accepted Masons, and he believes in carrying into his everyday life the precepts of this time-honored order.

In the month of October, 1874, Mr. Bennett was married to Celia S. Kling, who was born in Troy township on December 6, 1850, and there she

grew to womanhood and received her education in the common schools. She is the daughter of J. R. and Emily (Bliss) Kling, who came to Troy township in the early forties as pioneers, when the vast stretches of forest were the haunts of Indians and wild beasts and the cabins of settlers were few and far remote. They finally went to Woodbine, Iowa, where they both died. Their family consisted of eight children, of whom seven are living in 1912. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bennett of this sketch, named as follows: Blanche, Gertrude (deceased) and Ruby.

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### JOHN SPAIGHT.

The life of the subject of this review has been such as to bear aloft the high standard which has been maintained by his father, who was one of the early residents of this section of the Badger state, and whose life was signally noble, upright and useful, one over which falls no shadow of wrong in word, thought or deed. Such was the type of men who laid the foundation and aided in the development of this state, and to their memories will ever be paid a tribute of reverence and gratitude by those who have profited by their well-directed endeavors and appreciated the lesson of their lives.

John Spaight, successful farmer of East Troy township, Wisconsin, was born here on April 14, 1853. He is the son of James and Hanora (Hayes) Spaight, natives of Ireland, from whence so many of our thrifty, courageous citizens came, and there they spent their childhood days, emigrating to the United States in 1850, locating in Vermont where they were married and started life, coming on to Wisconsin in 1851, locating in East Troy township, where the father purchased forty acres of new land, and, setting to work with a will, he prospered, later buying one hundred and seventy-five acres, the farm where the subject now lives. On this he spent the balance of his life, dying in 1897, at the age of eighty-one years, his widow surviving him a number of years, dying on February 7, 1906, when about eighty years old. They had become very well established through their industry and economy, and had a hand in the general development of the community. Besides his home place, Mr. Spaight also bought one hundred and twenty acres in Lafayette township. They were devout members of the Catholic church.

John Spaight was reared on the home farm and there he began working in the fields when but a boy, for in developing a farm in Wisconsin in his early life required the assistance of all the family. He received such education as

he could in the district schools of his community, school No. 6, in East Troy township, and early in life turned his attention to farming for a livelihood, and he has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, owning now a well improved and well cultivated farm of one hundred and seventy-five acres. He keeps a good grade of live stock, and he has a pleasant home.

Politically, Mr. Spaight is a Democrat, and he has held a number of the township offices, being now in his second term as township treasurer, the duties of which he has discharged most faithfully and satisfactorily. In religious matters he belongs to the Catholic church.

Mr. Spaight was married in 1893 to Mary Murphy, who was born in East Troy, this county, November 18, 1863, and here she grew to womanhood and received her education in the public schools. She is the daughter of Dennis and Mary (Pepper) Murphy, both natives of Ireland, from which country they came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in an early day and here became very comfortably established, and they are now living on a good farm in Troy township. Politically, Mr. Murphy is a Democrat, and a member of the Catholic church.

To Mr. and Mrs. Spaight five children have been born, named as follows: Raphael, Nora, Veronica, Marguerite (deceased) and Rose.

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### JOSEPH POTTER.

A venerable and honored citizen of Elkhorn, now living in retirement after a long and busy life, spending his old age in quiet and in the midst of plenty as a result of his earlier years of strenuous endeavor is Joseph Potter, a man of substantial worth, and who as an agriculturist ranked among the most enterprising in the township of Lafayette, whither he came when Walworth county was in its infant stages of development, but having the sagacity to foresee a great future here, decided to remain, and thus he has been of benefit to the community in general.

Mr. Potter was born in 1823 in Beakman, Dutchess county, New York. He is the son of Robert K. and Sarah (Pine) Potter, both natives of Connecticut, the father born in 1791 and the mother in 1793, and there they spent their earlier years, finally moving to Dutchess county, New York, and in 1843 they emigrated to Walworth county, Wisconsin, going by rail from Rochester to Buffalo, thence by boat to Milwaukee, where they secured a team and drove from there to Walworth county. The family settled in Lafayette

township, about three miles north of Elkhorn. Here they bought a farm of two hundred acres, on which was some grain and live stock, but was poorly improved. Here Robert K. Potter worked hard, placed his land in fine condition and established a good home, continuing general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale. He finally sold out to his second son, Joseph, and moved to Elkhorn, retiring from active life, and later moving to Lyons, where he spent the remainder of his days, dying in 1883, his widow surviving until 1888, each reaching ripe old ages. He was a Republican, and he has served as supervisor of Lafayette township.

Joseph Potter, of this sketch, grew to manhood in Dutchess county, New York, and there received his education in the public schools. When about twenty-four years old he rented his father's farm which he operated a few years.

In 1853 Mr. Potter was united in marriage with Rosanna Elsworth, daughter of Stuckey and Nancy Elsworth, natives of Otsego county, New York. To this union seven children were born, four of whom are still living, three sons and one daughter. The wife and mother passed away in 1869 and in 1872 Mr. Potter was united in marriage with Caroline H. Randall, and to this second union two children were born.

Joseph Potter came to Walworth county in early manhood and here he has since made his home. He finally purchased his father's farm of two hundred acres and has kept it under a high state of improvement and cultivation, and for many years carried on general farming and stockraising on an extensive scale. In 1902 he rented his farm and moved to Elkhorn, where he has since resided, having retired from active life.

Politically, Mr. Potter is a Republican, having always been loyal to his party. He was supervisor of Lafayette township and also chairman for some time, filling these offices most satisfactorily. Mrs. Potter is a member of the Baptist church.

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#### FRANK MCKENZIE.

Frank McKenzie, of Geneva township, is one of Walworth county's enterprising farmers, and a worthy representative of an excellent old family. He has been pleased to spend his life here, having been born in Lafayette township, this county, on October 14, 1869. He is the son of Murdock and Dena (Walbrant) McKenzie. The father was born in Glasgow, Scotland, where he spent his boyhood, emigrating to America about 1842, at the age

of about fifteen, his birth having occurred on July 5, 1827. His mother was a McGregor and she died when he was a child. He was the youngest of the family and he came to America with his half brothers and sisters. They located first in New York, then lived in Canada, coming from there to Walworth county in 1842, and here Murdock McKenzie began working on Osborne's farm in Lafayette township, adjoining Troy, and there he continued working for a number of years. The place reminded him of his homeland and he in time bought it. He also bought two adjoining farms, making three hundred and seventy-five acres. He married Dena Walbrant, daughter of John and Mary Walbrant. She was born in Germany and when a small child came with her parents to Troy township, this county, and here she grew to maturity, attended school and lived until her marriage. Her parents spent the rest of their lives in Troy township.

The McKenzie family consisted of eight children, namely: George died when thirteen years of age; the rest are living: Alexander, of Troy; John, who has a farm in Spring Prairie township, is retired and lives in Elkhorn; Mary is the wife of Fred C. Wiswell, who conducts a livery barn at Elkhorn; Frank, of this sketch; Dena is the wife of L. E. Ellsworth, of Geneva township; Sibylla is the widow of Jedediah Peck, deceased, and she lives in Elkhorn; Fred married and lives at Spring Prairie.

Murdock McKenzie was a home man and was not interested in public affairs. His death occurred on April 10, 1892, his wife having preceded him to the grave on February 14, 1881.

Frank McKenzie lived on the home farm in Lafayette township until he was twenty-one years old, then started out in life for himself. He went to California and spent two years in the fruit orchards there. When a young man he traveled over the country a great deal, east and west, and, being a close observer, was greatly benefited thereby, returning to Walworth county in two or three years. He remained here about eight years, spending most of the time on the farm with his brother.

The subject was married in 1904 to Martha Zabel, daughter of Carl and Alvina Zabel. She was born in Germany and when a year old was brought to this country by her parents, who located in Milwaukee, later moving to East Troy, Walworth county, where their daughter Martha was reared and lived until her marriage with Mr. McKenzie. These parents now live at Mukwonago, Wisconsin. They are the parents of the following children: Wauda is the wife of James Langley and lives in Beloit, this state; Martha, wife of Mr. McKenzie, of this sketch; Lena married Paul Schinke and they live in Lafayette township, near Elkhorn; Elma is the wife of George Am-

mon and lives at Springfield; Elizabeth is at home with her parents; Arthur lives at Mukwonago; Herman lives at Springfield; Paul is at home with his parents.

Mr. Zabel is a carpenter by profession and he also owns a farm at Mukwonago.

After his marriage Mr. McKenzie began farming for himself in Lafayette township and there he continued general farming and stock raising for seven years. He bought a farm in sections 8 and 17, where he owns one hundred and twenty acres. He moved there in March, 1911, and he has kept the place well improved, and has a good home. He keeps an excellent grade of live stock. He has a fine orchard and everything about his place denoted care and good management. Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie have two children, namely: Laverne, born October 25, 1905, and Lawrence, born December 20, 1908.

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#### SHERMAN ULYSSES PHELPS.

One of the progressive and public-spirited citizens of the village of Walworth, who has been content to spend his life in his native county, is Sherman Ulysses Phelps, a man who would have, no doubt, succeeded wherever he chose to cast his lot, for he has many innate characteristics that never fail to win in the battle of life, such as courage, fortitude and persistence in the face of adversity and inauspicious environment.

Mr. Phelps was born in Sharon township, Walworth county, June 25, 1867. He is the son of David and Mary (Auchampaugh) Phelps. The father was born at Sharon Springs, Canajoharie county, New York, and was the son of George and Catherine (Eckerson) Phelps. He came to this county with his parents some time prior to 1850, the family locating on a farm in Sharon township and there they lived until old age rendered it necessary for them to retire from the farm and move to the village of Sharon, where they died.

David Phelps lived on his father's farm until the commencement of the Civil war, early in which he enlisted in Company A, Twenty-fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and remained in the service three years, gallantly taking part in many battles and campaigns. After the war he returned to Sharon township and resumed farming. Before beginning his military career he had married a daughter of Myron and Christina Auchampaugh. She was born at Sharon, this state, where her parents had

located upon their arrival from the East, on a farm in the early days, and here they spent the rest of their lives. The daughter grew up amid pioneer conditions and later in life related how when a child she frequently heard the wolves howl about the farm.

After the war David Phelps continued farming near Sharon about ten years, then bought what was called the Stafford farm at Delavan lake and that has been his home ever since, with the exception of the year 1890, when he went to the village of Howard and opened a restaurant which he ran for about two years; however, he even then spent most of his time on the farm.

Four children were born to David Phelps and wife, namely: Carrie, who is living at Rockford, married Joseph Hatch and they have two children, Bessie and Arthur, both now living at Delavan; Sherman U., the immediate subject of this sketch; George lived at Melvina, Wisconsin, on a farm until his death, on December 19, 1911; he had married, but had no children; Edward lives on the home farm; he married Abbie Hunt, who died in 1904 leaving one son, Evelyn. David Phelps still lives at Delavan, having been very successful in his life work and is spending his declining years in quiet.

Sherman U. Phelps, of this sketch, grew to manhood on the farm at Delavan lake, and after attending the public schools there he entered the normal school at Whitewater where he spent some time, after which he resumed farming, working different places near his home. About 1903 he bought a farm of eighty acres near the Phelps homestead. In 1904 he removed to the village of Walworth. The year previously he had begun carrying the mail on the rural route from Walworth, route No. 2, and he has continued in that capacity ever since, giving entire satisfaction to the people and the department. In September, 1905, he moved into his present home, a good residence which he had just completed. He also owns other property in the village.

Mr. Phelps was married on August 2, 1893, to Myrtle Holston, daughter of Henry and Alice (Bunnell) Holston. She was born at Covert, Michigan, and she came here with her parents in 1880, the family settling south of Delavan lake. Her father died in November, 1902. He was a carpenter and builder. He was a soldier in the Civil war for four years, during which he saw much hard service. He was promoted to captain of a company of Michigan volunteers for gallant service. His widow is still living near Walworth. One son has been born to Sherman U. Phelps, William Emmons Phelps, whose birth occurred on September 3, 1901.

Mr. and Mrs. Phelps are members of the Congregational church. He is a member of the board of directors of the Howard Lincoln Chautauqua, and he is active in promoting the public welfare.

## CARLOS H. BURNS.

Carlos H. Burns is a man whom everybody likes because he is uniformly friendly and obliging. He has spent his life in Walworth county, identified with agricultural pursuits. He is thoroughly practical and stands high in the community as a man and neighbor, in fact, the Burns family is eminently respectable and its members are held in high regard by all who know them.

Mr. Burns was born in Linn township, this county, November 7, 1867. He is the son of Robert L. and Maria (Hardendorf) Burns, both natives of New York, from which state they came here with their parents when young and they were married at Big Foot. The father followed farming all his life.

Ten children were born to Robert L. Burns and wife, named in order of birth as follows: Cora, who married William Menges and lives at Fontana; Carlos H., of this sketch; Josephine married Harry Root and lives in Milwaukee; George R. lives on a farm near Walworth; Alice married Jacob Noe and lives south of Sharon, in McHenry county, Illinois; Anna married Frank Henry and lives at Fontana; Jessie married Sylvanus Beguin and lives near Hebron, Illinois; Robert Burns lives in Rockford, Illinois.

While Carlos H. Burns was a small child the family moved to Rock county, Wisconsin, and lived there until he was nineteen years old. Then they moved two and one-half miles north of Walworth on a farm and remained about two years, then moved to near Big Foot, on the Illinois side of the line. About 1897 the father sold out and bought a home in the village of Lawrence, Illinois, where he lived until his death, in December, 1899, his widow surviving until in August, 1908.

Carlos H. Burns lived at home until he was eighteen years of age, then began working out by the month, continuing thus for a year, then worked a year for the town of Alden, McHenry county, Illinois, then farmed a year with his father, southeast of Big Foot, then went to farming for himself in that same neighborhood. He was there three years and during that time he was married, in August, 1892, to Anna May Swartz, daughter of Oliver Perry Swartz and Eva (Weaver) Swartz. She was born at Twin Grove, Green county, Wisconsin. Her father was from Pennsylvania and he came west when a small child with his parents, John and Susan (Cupp) Swartz. They located at Twin Grove, where he grew up and married Eva Weaver. She was from Ohio and came west in childhood with her parents, Josiah and Anna (Benage) Weaver. Mrs. Burns's parents moved to near Sharon when she was four years old, and there she grew up and lived until her marriage, having received her education in the high school at Sharon. Her mother died

in February, 1899. Her father now lives in Walworth and has engaged both in farming and carpentering.

After Mr. Burns's marriage he remained in Illinois two years, then moved to a farm one and one-half miles south of Walworth and farmed there ten years. On July 2, 1904, he bought out the livery barn then owned by Charles Kirk in the village of Walworth and he has been in the livery business ever since and also deals in buggies. He has been very successful in whatever he has undertaken and is now very comfortably established.

Mr. Burns is a member of the Walworth township board of supervisors. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen and the Equitable Fraternal Union. One daughter, Ora May, has been born to the subject and wife. She is attending school in Walworth.

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#### OLIVER P. SWARTZ.

When a man works as persistently and unselfishly as has Oliver P. Swartz, success is bound to attend his efforts. He is a man who believes in keeping the grass from growing under his feet, and in helping his neighbors along life's highway, while he is laboring for his own advancement.

Mr. Swartz was born in Milheim, Center county, Pennsylvania, October 25, 1851. He is the son of John M. and Susan (Kupp) Swartz. John M. Swartz was born in Pennsylvania, where his father, George Swartz, was also born. The father of George Swartz came from Germany. The mother of John M. Swartz was named Musser before her marriage.

John M. Swartz grew to manhood in Pennsylvania and married Susan Cupp, who was born in Union county, that state. In 1854, when Oliver P., of this review, was less than three years old, the family came west and settled in Green county, Wisconsin, where the father farmed for a number of years, but he spent the last eighteen years of his life in Stephenson county, Illinois. He was very successful as a farmer.

Oliver P. Swartz grew to manhood in Green county, this state, and there received his education in the public schools. There he was married to Eva Weaver, daughter of Jesse and Anna (Benage) Weaver. She was born near Wooster, Ohio, and there her maternal grandparents also lived, the grandfather, Samuel Benger, having been a soldier in the war of 1812, serving on the Great Lakes under the famous Commodore Perry.

It was in 1871 that Mr. Swartz was married. Two years later he moved

to Stephenson county, Illinois, and farmed there for five years, then came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, continuing farming in Sharon township, buying two farms there, one of eighty acres and one of one hundred and forty acres. In the spring of 1892 he sold his farm and moved to McHenry county, Illinois, where he remained two years, then moved to Rock county, Wisconsin, and spent six years there. While there, on February 6, 1899, Mrs. Swartz died. Mr. Swartz continued farming two years, then gave it up and at times returned to the carpenter's trade, at which he had worked some when a young man.

Ten children were born to Oliver P. Swartz and wife, namely: Anna is the wife of Carlos H. Burns, of Walworth; Oliver F. lives with his sister, Mrs. George Burns, in Walworth; Mary J. is the wife of George Burns, a farmer near Walworth; James Emerson lives at Mt. Vernon, Illinois; John J. lives at Clinton, Rock county, Wisconsin; Charles Elmer died in January, 1906; Susan Alice married Elmer Latta and lives at Clinton Junction; Luella is the wife of Henry Rodman and lives in Sharon; Grover C. lives at Clinton with Mr. and Mrs. Latta; Carrie is the wife of Lester Hogle and lives at Buryen, Illinois, near Chicago.

Mr. Swartz now lives in Walworth. He belongs to the Lutheran church and the Modern Woodmen.

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#### WILLIAM H. WILEAR.

It is an axiom demonstrated by human experience that industry is the keynote of prosperity. Success comes not to the man who idly waits, but to the faithful toiler whose work is characterized by sleepless vigilance and cheerful celerity and it has been by such means that William H. Wilear, farmer, carpenter and builder of Sugar Creek township, Walworth county, has forged ahead despite obstacles.

Mr. Wilear was born in Pennsylvania January 10, 1847. He is the son of Ervin and Kate (Heights) Wilear, both natives of Germany, where the father spent his boyhood and was educated, emigrating to the United States when twenty-one years of age. The mother was brought to this country by her parents when three years old, in 1854, the family locating in Walworth county, Wisconsin. Ervin Wilear learned the trade of stone cutter in Germany and he followed the same for some time in Pennsylvania, but after he came to Wisconsin he engaged in farming, starting in when the country was new, and, by hard work he carved a very comfortable home from the prim-

itive, owning a good farm eventually, which consisted of one hundred sixty-three and one-half acres, which he kept well improved and well tilled and here he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1910, his wife having preceded him to the grave about 1899. They were the parents of twelve children, four sons and two daughters of whom are still living.

William H. Wilear, of this review, grew up on the farm and worked hard when a boy. He received his education in the common schools of this county, having been a child when he was brought here from Pennsylvania. He has devoted his life to farming and carpentering, and many of the best and most substantial buildings in Sugar Creek township and vicinity stand as monuments to his skill.

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#### L. B. BARKER.

The old-fashioned notion that hard work, patient industry and far-sightedness make for success in the various avenues of life, does not seem to be accepted so universally in our day. The spread of pessimism engendered by many phases of our complex life is in a great measure responsible for lack of faith in the old idea. However, if we observe conditions closely we will find that the intelligent individual who leads a practical and industrious life, will reach a point of success commensurate with his efforts. The life of L. B. Barker, one of the leading agriculturists and stock men of Lafayette township, Walworth county, will afford us an instance of this, for he is an advocate of persistency, honesty and the adoption of modern methods in his vocation, the economy of labor, and he therefore gets the largest results possible from the minimum amount of labor and expense. It is a delight to look over his well-cared-for acres, his sleek, well-bred live stock and to visit his neatly kept home, for he believes in having system about everything he does, and this is perhaps very largely due to his large success in his chosen field of endeavor.

Mr. Barker was born in Racine county, Wisconsin, on August 20, 1868. He is the son of Carl and Julia Ann (Kreager) Barker, both natives of Germany, he born on October 24, 1826, and she on June 25, 1838. There they grew to maturity and received their education in the common schools, and from there they emigrated to the United States, he in 1862 and she a year later, locating in Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he got work on a farm, also spent a short time in Racine county, this state, then came back to Walworth county, where he became the owner of a good farm of one hun-

dred and fifty acres, in Lafayette township, also owned land in East Troy township, and through hard work and good management he became well established and had a comfortable home. Politically, he was a Republican and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His family consisted of six children, three of whom are living at this writing.

L. B. Barker of this review was reared on the home farm where he assisted with the general work when old enough, and in the wintertime he attended the district schools in his neighborhood, and when young in life took up farming for a livelihood, and he has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, now owning one of the most productive, valuable and desirable farms in Lafayette township, consisting of four hundred and twenty-eight acres, his fine place being known as "Union Stock Farm," and is well located ten miles northeast of Elkhorn in one of the choice vicinities of the county. He has made all the improvements on the place, which are modern in every respect. He has a large, pleasant home and substantial and convenient outbuildings.

Politically, Mr. Barker is a Republican and more or less active in the affairs of his party. He has served his district as school director. He and his wife belong to the Lutheran church.

Mr. Barker was married on June 18, 1902, to Theresa Liebnow, who was born in Germany on October 15, 1879. She is the daughter of Leopold and Pauline (Leightsow) Liebnow, both born, reared and married in Germany, and from there they emigrated to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1881 and they lived there until 1896 when they moved to Walworth county and bought a farm on which they lived until 1906, then returned to Milwaukee where they now reside. To Mr. and Mrs. Barker four children have been born, namely: Alice, Louise; Truman and Zennor.

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#### FRANKLIN JOHN COOK.

Another of our worthy native sons who has been content to spend his life in Walworth county is Franklin John Cook, who owns and operates the farm in Troy township on which he was born November 20, 1865. He is the son of Jerome Madison Cook and Marjorie U. (Pierce) Cook. The father was born in Oneida county, New York, in 1828, and was reared there. He and his brother Henry, when still single young men, came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1856, and purchased together the farms on which the

subject of this sketch and his brother, A. J. Cook, now reside. The former gentleman improved these farms and set a row of maples on either side the road which have grown up and now shade a beautiful driveway. The father of the subject was married in Jefferson county, this state, to Marjorie U. Pierce, who was born in Michigan, and who came with her parents, Richard and Grace (Uglove) Pierce, and located on a farm north of Palmyra. The parents later moved to Chickasaw county, Iowa, where they died. Jerome M. Cook and wife retired to Palmyra in 1889. He was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His family consisted of three children.

Franklin J. Cook, of this sketch, was educated in the common schools and the Eagle high school. He has always resided on the home place and has engaged in general farming, with the exception of three years when he was in the ice cream business at Ironwood, Michigan. He is a breeder of Guernsey cattle, and makes dairying a specialty.

Mr. Cook was married on December 12, 1889, to Mary Etta Durham, who was born in Troy, this county, the daughter of Robert Durham, a well known pioneer of this community. Here Mrs. Cook grew to womanhood and received her education in the public schools. To the subject and wife three children have been born, namely: Willard Franklin, Robert Jerome and Harley John.

Politically, Mr. Cook is a Republican, but has never been especially active in public affairs. In religious matters he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### HALMUTH HUTH.

No people that go to make up our cosmopolitan civilization have better habits of life than those who come originally from the great German empire. Those people, as well as their descendants, are distinguished for their thrift and honesty, and these two qualities in the inhabitants of any country will in the end alone make that country great. When with these two qualities is coupled the other quality of sound sense, which all the German descendants possess, there are afforded such qualities as will enrich any land and place it at the top of the countries of the world in the scale of elevated humanity.

One of this excellent class is Halmuth Huth, a farmer of Troy township, Walworth county, who was born in Germany on September 25, 1852. He is the son of Carl and Sophia Huth, both of whom lived and died in Germany. There were nine children in their family, eight of whom are living.

The son, Halmuth, was educated in Germany; there he spent his early life and was married on October 3, 1872, to Minnie Rohda, who was born in Germany, January 16, 1854, the daughter of Fred and Mary (Wolff) Rohda, both spending their lives in Germany.

In 1882 the subject and wife came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and settled in Troy township where he worked by the year for a Mr. Swoboda for a period of seven years, then he rented land three years and in 1893 bought the farm of two hundred acres which he still owns and where he has been successfully engaged in general farming. He has made all the modern improvements now seen on the place, erecting a good dwelling in 1906, and in 1899 he built a substantial barn. He has made a specialty of dairying and keeps on an average of twenty-five cows, the products of his well conducted dairy finding a very ready market.

Politically, Mr. Huth is a Republican and he and his family are members of the Lutheran church of East Troy.

Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Huth, namely: Fred, born in Germany, September 28, 1873; August, born in Germany, July 23, 1877; Willie, born in Germany, October 17, 1880; Carl, born in Troy township, this county, May 14, 1883; Rossa, born in Walworth county, May 29, 1888; France, born here October 12, 1895. They are all living.

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#### CHARLES D. WESTPHALL.

Since the earliest historical times it has been the custom for households to scatter and as civilization has advanced and means of transportation easier, this severing of home ties has gone on to a greater extent; the young men of all lands and climes heed the call of the wanderlust and strike out to other scenes and other lands in search of better conditions. Some find them, others do not. We often find a man who has been content, and we might add, wise enough, to stay at home and devote his attention to the things with which he is most familiar. Such a one is Charles D. Westphall, farmer of Whitewater township, Walworth county, who was born on the old homestead here, on April 1, 1858. He is the son of John Nicholas and Lucinda (Taft) Westphall, the father a native of Ohio and the mother of New York. The paternal grandfather Westphall spent the latter part of his life in Ohio and died there. Samuel Taft, the maternal grandfather, was a native of New York who came to

Walworth county, Wisconsin, with the earliest settlers, about 1839. He was the first blacksmith in the village of Whitewater and here his death occurred. His wife was known in her maidenhood as Rachael Hanson, a native of New York, who also died in Whitewater. They were the parents of five children, all now deceased. John N. Westphall, mentioned above, came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in the early forties and ran a trip-saw mill, later engaging in farming. In 1857 he bought the farm of eighty acres in Whitewater township which has since been the family home, and which his son, Charles D., of this sketch, now owns. The father moved to Portage, this state, in 1898 and there his death occurred. The mother is also deceased. Their family consisted of three sons and six daughters.

Charles D. Westphall was reared on the home farm and was educated in the public schools of his district and he has farmed all his life. He has kept the home place well improved and well tilled. Politically, he is a progressive Republican. His wife belongs to the Catholic church.

Mr. Westphall was married September 8, 1898, to Catherine Hodgins, who was born and reared in Richmond township, this county, the daughter of Patrick and Margaret Hodgins, now deceased.

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#### ALBERT STORK.

An enumeration of the enterprising and representative German citizens of Walworth county would be incomplete without special mention of Albert Stork, of Richmond township, for since casting his lot with us he has stamped the impress of his individuality upon the community and benefited alike himself and his neighbors, for while laboring for his own advancement he has not been selfish and neglected his duties to the public in general, but he always supports such measures as make for the general good.

Mr. Stork was born in Germany on January 17, 1864. He is the son of Ferdinand and Fredericka (Rocke) Stork, both born in Germany, reared and educated there, and there they were married and spent their lives, both being now deceased.

Albert Stork grew to maturity in his native land and received his education there. Early in life he formed the desire to come to the United States, and he made the long trip to Janesville, Wisconsin, in 1883, and there he worked two and one-half years, then came to Walworth county and rented a farm. He saved his earnings and in 1899 purchased one hundred and twenty

acres in Richmond township. This he has greatly improved with buildings, fences, etc., and here he has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, understanding well the proper rotation of crops and the scientific nature of soils, seeds and their relations and the influence of climatic conditions, so that he has enjoyed a comfortable income from year to year. Politically, he is a Republican, and he belongs to the Lutheran church.

Mr. Stork was married in 1885 to Augusta Renike, who was born in Germany, the daughter of William Renike, who came to Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1887, later coming to Walworth county. He is now deceased. Most of his life was spent in his native fatherland, but he lived in America long enough to establish a good home. To Mr. and Mrs. Stork seven children have been born, namely: Willie, Otto, Lizzie, Mattie, Eddie, Lillie (deceased) and an infant.

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#### GEORGE E. RANDALL.

Among the successful native sons of Walworth county who have been content to spend their lives in the same, well knowing that no better community could be found for those who desired to follow the bent of agriculture, is George E. Randall, of Darien township, a man who has used his influence in every way possible to advance the prosperity of his locality. He is a whole-souled gentleman and a public-spirited citizen, and is ready at all times to use his means and influence for the promotion of such public improvements as will conduce to the comfort and happiness of his fellow citizens, and, like his father, he is held in high esteem by the population, regardless of all sects, politics or professions, for his life has been led along such paths as insure the respect of people in all climes. He has been industrious and has been a close observer of whatever pertains to his chosen life work, consequently has succeeded.

Mr. Randall was born on January 15, 1873, in Lagrange, this county. He is the son of William F. and Mary M. (Madden) Randall, the father born in the state of New York. They now live at Allen's Grove, this county, having come to Troy from the East. The father has spent his life in farming and auctioneering.

George E. Randall grew up in this county and he received his education in the district schools and at Darien city. Early in life he turned his attention to farming and he is now the owner of ninety acres of excellent land in section 34, Darien township, which he has kept under an excellent state of improve-

ment and cultivation. He keeps a good grade of live stock and has a good home and good outbuildings.

Mr. Randall was married on December 2, 1909, to Nina E. Ames, daughter of Clarence and Sara Ames, of Michigan. This union has been without issue.

The subject of this sketch is one of a family of four children, named as follows: William lives at Lake Como; Samuel lives north of Allen's Grove, this county; George E. was third in order of birth; Clarice is living in Darien township, this county.

Politically, George E. Randall is a Republican, but he has never been specially active in public affairs. Fraternally, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen.

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### JAMES J. THORPE.

Of the second generation of settlers in Walworth county from the Emerald Isle, the name of James J. Thorpe, of Darien township, should receive special setting in a biographical work of the nature of the one in hand, for in him are outcroppings of many of the characteristic traits that have made the Celtic race famous and successful wherever they have dispersed. He has tried to keep before him the aphorism, expounded by one of our wisest and best men, "That the wise make of their failures a ladder, the foolish a grave." and he has refused to recall the doing of past years except their lessons, which he has used as guides for present-day actions, refusing to permit obstacles to thwart him in his race for a given goal. In thus advocating sound and wholesome principles of life for himself, he has inadvertently had a palliative influence on the lives of those with whom he has come into contact, the people of this locality knowing him as an honest, earnest, energetic and public-spirited citizen, worthy of their confidence and respect.

Mr. Thorpe was born on November 13, 1873, in Darien, Walworth county, Wisconsin, and is the son of Martin and Catherine (Sullivan) Thorpe, natives of Ireland. The father grew to manhood in his native country and received his education there, emigrating to the United States when about twenty-five years of age, first settling in the state of New York, where he engaged in farming for about two years, then came to Wisconsin and settled in Darien township, where he engaged in farming until his death, in 1909, having been very successful as a general farmer and established a good home through his industry. His wife preceded him to the grave in 1907.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Martin Thorpe, namely: John, who is farming in Darien township; Eugene is conducting a meat market in the town of Darien; Mrs. Charles Farrister lives in Delavan township, this county; James J., of this sketch; Martin is engaged in the hardware business in Darien.

James J. Thorpe was reared on the home farm in Darien township where, when of proper age, he made himself useful during the summer months, and in the winter time attended the public schools of the town of Darien. On November 8, 1899, he was united in marriage with Nellie Flaherty, daughter of John and Calisty Flaherty, a highly respected family of Walworth county, where Mrs. Thorpe grew to womanhood and was educated. To the subject and wife two children have been born, namely: John, born November 26, 1900, and Emily, born October 16, 1906.

Mr. Thorpe has long maintained a livery barn in the town of Darien township, has built up a good business, being well equipped with good horses and such vehicles as his needs require, and he has sought always to give prompt and good service to the traveling public. He does a great deal of teaming.

Public affairs have claimed a great deal of his attention and he has been treasurer of Darien township for the past fourteen years, still incumbent of that office, the duties of which he has discharged in a manner that has reflected much credit upon himself and to the satisfaction of all concerned. He has also been road commissioner, and he is at present deputy sheriff of his township.

In connection with his livery stable, which he owns, he has been an extensive dealer in horses for a number of years, buying and selling continuously. He is regarded as an excellent judge of a horse, and this part of his business is one of the most remunerative. Politically, he is a Republican, and in religious matters is a Catholic and faithful in his support of the mother church. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen.

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#### PETER KNIEP.

The great task of clearing the land of its timber in early years can scarcely be realized by the people of today. Not a crop could be sown nor an orchard tree planted until the large trees had been cut down and removed with fire or with a team of horses. Even then the stumps were a great hindrance and it is doubtful if so much as half a crop could be raised until they had

been pulled out or burned up. The amount of hard labor required to remove the dense forest growth in Walworth county seems almost incredible. It was a task that seemed never to end, and all members of the family were required to assist early and late and at all seasons of the year. The subject of this sketch, and especially his father before him, had their full share of this work, and they did it well, as may be surmised in looking over the Kniep homestead in Spring Prairie township. They came of a race that never quailed before obstacles and hardships, never swerved aside from tasks, no matter how arduous or dangerous, if they believed it their duty to perform them, so it is no wonder that they succeeded, for such men are those on whom the sunshine of fortune delights to shine and who are the builders of empires.

Peter Kniep was born in Spring Prairie township, this county, on August 1, 1853, and here he has been content to spend his life. He is the son of John and Mary (Meddle) Kniep, both born in Germany, where they spent their childhood and from which country they emigrated to the United States, locating in Spring Prairie township in 1848. He settled on a farm of forty acres, to which he later added until he had eighty-four acres of good land and there spent the balance of his life, dying in 1887 at the age of seventy-one years, his wife having preceded him to the grave in 1877, at the age of sixty-four years. They had a family of three sons and one daughter. Mr. Kniep was a hard worker and a good citizen. Politically, he was a Democrat, and a member of the Catholic church.

Peter Kniep of this sketch was reared on the home farm, where he became acquainted with the routine of husbandry when but a boy, and during the winter months he attended the public schools. Early in life he turned his attention to farming and has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, now owning one of the choice farms of Spring Prairie township, consisting of three hundred and twelve acres, which he has brought up to a high state of improvement and cultivation, making a specialty of dairying, in which he has been very successful, his products finding a very ready market. He has been a close observer and a wide reader of everything that pertains to farming, stock raising and dairying and has kept fully abreast of the times, and it would be hard to find a more careful or scientific all-around agriculturist within the boundaries of Walworth county. He has a commodious and attractive residence and substantial outbuildings—everything, in fact, being in "ship-shape" about his place.

Politically, Mr. Kniep is a Democrat and he takes a good citizen's interest in everything that has for its object the betterment of his township and county, taking an especial interest in educational affairs, having been treasurer of the

local school board for a period of twenty years. He is a faithful member of the Catholic church.

Mr. Kniep was married on September 20, 1871, to Ida Bushman, who was born in Spring Prairie township, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Lucum) Bushman, a complete sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Kniep was reared and educated in her home township. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kniep, namely: John Peter, Carrie Annie, Lawrence Frank, Harry Henry and Olive Christina, all living.

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### JOHN BUSHMAN.

The gentleman whose name heads this review is one of the leading farmers in Spring Prairie township, Walworth county, and this volume would be incomplete were there failure to make mention of him, at least, briefly setting forth the leading facts of his busy career. Tireless energy and honesty of purpose are the chief characteristics of the man. He believes in progress, in adopting the most approved twentieth-century methods in his work and in forwarding all movements looking to the general upbuilding of his community.

John Bushman was born in this township on January 29, 1866. He is the son of Henry and Elizabeth Bushman, both natives of Germany, where they spent their early childhood, emigrating to the United States when young and settling in Walworth county, Wisconsin, when the county was little developed, about 1853. In that year they were married in this county, each having come to the new world single. They worked hard, were economical and here established a good home in due course of time. Five children were born to them, all of whom are living. Henry Bushman became the owner of one hundred and fifty-six acres of good land, and here he farmed and raised stock the rest of his life, dying in 1895, his widow surviving until 1904, dying at Berlington, Wisconsin. Politically, the father was a Democrat and a worthy member of the Catholic church.

John Bushman was reared on the home farm and received his education in the rural schools of his locality, and early in life he turned his attention to farming which has continued to be his life work. He has prospered through close application and good management and at one time owned three hundred and sixteen acres, but some time ago sold thirty acres, now owning two hundred and eighty-six acres, which constitutes one of the choice farms

in Spring Prairie township, and which he has kept well improved and well cultivated. He keeps a good grade of live stock, and he has a commodious and well furnished home and large, convenient outbuildings.

Mr. Bushman was married in 1898 to Dora Wenker, who was born in Germany in 1881, the daughter of John and Dora Wenker, natives of the fatherland, where they grew up and were married and from which they emigrated to the United States in 1883, locating in Walworth county, Wisconsin, and here they established a good home through their industry and honesty, and spent the remainder of their lives here, both dying in the town of Burlington. To Mr. and Mrs. Bushman has been born one son, John Joseph Frank, whose birth occurred on March 14, 1900.

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### JOHN CUSACK.

It is a pleasure to any one, whether a farmer or not, to look over a well improved and finely kept landed estate like that of John Cusack, of Darien township, Walworth county, Wisconsin, for he is a man who believes in keeping abreast of the times, in adopting, so far as practicable, the most approved twentieth-century methods in general farming and stock raising. As a result of his long years of husbandry here he has about solved the question of scientific farming as we know and understand it today. He has always stood for progressiveness, not only in material things, but in political, educational and religious matters, and he has always been an advocate of wholesome living and honesty in public life, and while laboring for his individual advancement he has never been found neglectful of his duties to his neighbors and the general public.

Mr. Cusack was born on May 24, 1858, in Darien township, this county, and it has been his pleasure to spend his entire life in his home community. He is the son of Patrick and Ellen (Sullivan) Cusack, both born in Ireland, where they spent their earliest years, emigrating while single to Canada where they were married, the father coming about 1851 and settled on a farm where he remained until 1857, when he came to Darien township, Walworth county, Wisconsin. He worked out until 1870, when he purchased a farm in Darien township, where he established the family home, and developed a good farm on which he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in November, 1906. His wife still lives on the homestead here.

To Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Cusack eight children have been born, named as

follows: Mary, now Mrs. Moran; John, subject of this sketch; Nellie is deceased; M. E. lives in Darien; James; Julia; Frank lives in Darien; Agnes is deceased.

John Cusack grew up on the homestead in this township and he worked on the same during his boyhood days. He received his education in the district schools, and early in life he took up general farming for a livelihood, which he has continued to the present time, being now the towner of a fertile farm of one hundred and ninety acres in section 23, Darien township. He keeps good live stock and makes a specialty of dairying, which he thoroughly understands.

Mr. Cusack was married on January 9, 1888, to Katie Long, the daughter of Patrick and Margaret Long, natives of Ireland, both now deceased. One child has been born to the subject and wife, James M., whose birth occurred on December 10, 1889.

Politically, Mr. Cusack is a Democrat, and in religious matters he is a member of the Catholic church. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. He has been supervisor of Darien township for five years.

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### JAMES BROWN, JR.

Some men speak loudest by talking volubly and frequently, while others speak loudest by their actions. It has been said that we should never form our opinions of men on what they say, but only on what they do. Talking, dreaming, planning amount to but little; it is what a man does that counts. James Brown, Jr., farmer of Darien township, Walworth county, is able to express himself clearly and forcefully when it is necessary to talk, and is also well qualified to carry into execution his thoughts, and he is regarded as one of the strong factors in a community where there are many men of sound sense and ripe judgment. He has devoted his life to farming and has met with encouraging success all along the line as a result of his ability to see quickly what was needed and to do the right thing at the right time. He believes in adopting the latest and most approved methods in farming, believing it just as necessary as in any other line of business.

Mr. Brown was born at Johnson Creek, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, on October 4, 1874. He is the son of James and Margaret (Moran) Brown, both natives of Ireland where they spent their earlier years, emigrating to America about 1861 and settling first in New Jersey. The father was a stone

mason by trade which he followed several years after coming to this country, then engaged in farming the rest of his life. He came to Wisconsin about 1870 and settled at Johnson Creek, Jackson county, where he made his home five or six years, then moved to Darien township, Walworth county, and here he has continued to reside, owning an excellent farm of one hundred and fifteen acres, in section 24. He made a success as a general farmer and has been living in retirement for the past ten years.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. James Brown, namely: William lives in Darien township; Mary, Mrs. Maggie O'Brien; James, Jr., subject of this sketch; Mrs. Nettie Fanning lives at Janesville; Steve is at home; Frank and Ora are deceased. The wife and mother was called to her rest on December 18, 1909.

James Brown, Jr., grew to manhood on the home farm and there made himself useful in his boyhood days. He received his education in the district schools of Darien township, and he has made farming his life work, he and his brother Stephen now operating the homestead in Darien township, which they are managing successfully, carrying on general farming and stock raising. Politically, he is a Democrat and in religious matters belongs to the Catholic church in Delavan. He has never married.

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#### WILLIAM E. DeLONG.

The true measure of individual success is determined by what one has accomplished, and, as taken in contradistinction to the old adage that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country, there is a particular interest attached to the review of the subject of this sketch, since he is a native son of Walworth county, where his entire life has been passed, and has so directed his ability and efforts to gain recognition as one of the worthy citizens of Darien township. He also belongs to a family whose name is indelibly inscribed on the pages of his county's history.

William E. DeLong was born on July 7, 1875, in Geneva township, this county. He is the son of William and Eliza (Lewis) DeLong, both natives of the state of New York where they spent their earlier years, finally coming to Wisconsin in an early day and settling in Jefferson county, near Farmington, with their parents, William DeLong coming about 1841. After remaining there about seven years he went to Kansas City in about 1863, returning to Wisconsin about 1865 and settled in Geneva township and purchased a

farm here, which he operated until 1878, when he sold out and moved to Millard, Sugar Creek township, where he resided until 1884, then moved to Woodston county, Kansas, and lived there until his death in 1891. He had devoted his life to farming. His widow survives, now making her home in Darien, this county.

To Mr. and Mrs. William DeLong four children were born, namely: William E., of this review; Jesse, who is in partnership with our subject in farming in this county; Charles, and Julia, the daughter being now deceased.

The mother of these children married again after the death of her first husband to James Baldwin, who lived in the town of Darien, and to this last union three children were born, namely: Byron and Burton, twins, are now twenty-one years old, and Lester is nineteen.

William E. DeLong, of this sketch, grew to manhood on the home farm and there assisted with the general work during the crop seasons when he became of proper age, and in the winter months he attended the public schools at Millard, this county, and in Woodston county, Kansas.

Mr. DeLong was married on February 17, 1896, to Susan Baker, daughter of Jerry and Rodie Baker, a highly respected family of Darien township. Three children have been born to the subject and wife, named as follows: Lillian, born March 21, 1902; William, born June 10, 1907; and Ethel, born October 27, 1910.

Mr. DeLong has devoted his life to farming and he has managed his affairs so well that large success has attended his efforts all along the line, and he now operates with his brother Jesse, also an excellent farmer, two hundred and forty acres in section 29, Darien township. They keep the place under a high state of improvement and cultivation and in connection with general farming handle a good grade of live stock.

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#### WILLIAM J. DAWLEY.

It will always be a mark of distinction to have served in the Federal army during the great Civil war between the states. The old soldier will receive attention no matter where he goes if he will but make himself known, particularly if he puts on his old faded uniform. And when he passes away, which the last of them must do within a few years, most of them having already lived out their allotted three score and ten, according to the Psalmist, friends will pay him suitable eulogy for the sacrifices he made fifty years ago on the

field or in the no less dreaded prison or hospital. And ever afterward his descendants will revere his memory and take pride in recounting his services for his country in the hour of peril.

One of the old soldiers who went forth to fight to save the union of states is William J. Dawley, retired farmer. Mr. Dawley was born on November 25, 1844, in the state of New York. He is the son of Clark and Harriet Dawley, both natives of New York state, where they grew up and were married, and from there they emigrated to Wisconsin in 1847, first locating in Whitewater, in which vicinity Mr. Dawley purchased a farm, but remained there only a few years, then sold out and moved his family to Hebron, this state, and bought a farm near there, which he operated with his usual success for a period of nine years, then sold out and moved to Iowa, where he bought another farm, remaining there about thirty years, becoming well established in the meantime; he then moved back to Whitewater, Wisconsin, where he continued to reside until his death.

To Mr. and Mrs. Clark Dawley two children were born, namely: William J., of this sketch, and Mrs. Jane Millis.

William J. Dawley grew up on the home farm where he assisted with the general work when a boy during the summer months, attending the common schools in the winter time. When the Civil war came on Mr. Dawley proved his patriotism by enlisting on August 15, 1862, in Company D, Twenty-eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, in which he served very faithfully for a period of three years, taking part in many important campaigns and battles. He was mustered out on August 22, 1865, at Washington, D. C. After the war he returned to his Wisconsin home and has lived most of his life in this state, and after a successful business career is now living retired with his son, Vernon, at their cozy home, No. 137 South Fourth street, Delavan.

Soon after the war Mr. Dawley was married to Mrs. Sarah (Warren) Dawley, widow of Gideon Dawley, deceased. Her first husband was a cousin of William J. Dawley of this review. They went to Iowa not long afterwards and there Mr. Dawley became the owner of a large farm, where he established a good home and remained about twenty years, then came back to Whitewater, Wisconsin, where his wife died in 1897. Mr. Dawley remained in Whitewater till March, 1911, then after one year in Delavan with his son Vernon, went to live with his son Arthur, at Waterloo, Iowa.

To Mr. and Mrs. Dawley four children have been born, namely: George, Harriett, Vernon and Arthur. These children were given every educational advantage and they are very well situated in reference to this world's affairs.

Mr. Dawley has always been a public-spirited man and assisted in for-

warding such measures as make for the upbuilding of the communities in which he has resided.

George Dawley, born March 6, 1869, married Jessie Hawley. He is a brick mason at Mason City, Iowa, and has several children. Harriett is the wife of H. J. Cadman, a plumber of Whitewater, Wisconsin. She had two children. Her daughter Pearl died. The other daughter is Mabel. Vernon was born May 18, 1877, married Louise Sell and has one little daughter, Mary Marie Dawley. He has lived in Delavan for the past four years. Arthur was born March 28, 1879. He is married and lives at Waterloo, Iowa.

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#### EDWARD EVERETT AYER.

It is one of the principle functions of this publication to accord recognition to those representative business men who have aided in the advancement of Walworth county to a position of eminence in the great commonwealth of Wisconsin. Based upon such premises, there is definite propriety in according consideration to the progressive business and public-spirited citizen whose name heads this review. History is made rapidly in these latter days, representing ceaseless toil and endeavor, the proudest achievements and the most potent progress in all lines, and thus it is gratifying to mark the records of those whose influence has impressed itself along the various channels through which the swelling tide of accomplishment makes its way. As a man of twentieth-century industry, Mr. Ayer is well worthy of representation in a work of this nature, as a representative of that class of alert, far-seeing men of affairs who are giving an enduring character to the industrial and civic makeup of Lake Geneva and vicinity. He has shown both the power of initiative and that of concentration, and has made for himself a secure place as one of the leaders of his day and generation in this section of the country.

Edward Everett Ayer, of Walworth county and Chicago, is the scion of an excellent old family, and he was born on November 16, 1841, at Southport (now Kenosha), Wisconsin, and he is the son of Elbridge Gerry Ayer and Mary (Titcomb) Ayer.

Elbridge G. Ayer belonged to the numerous family of Ayers in Haverhill, Massachusetts, where he was born in 1813. Mary Titcomb was from Deadham, Massachusetts, where she was born in the same year as Mr. Ayer. They were married in 1835, and early the next spring, 1836, started for Southport, Wisconsin, where they arrived in July of that year. Their oldest child, Mrs. Mary

Smith, was born November 25, 1836, being the first white child born in what is now Kenosha, Racine county. She was followed during the next ten years by Anna, now Mrs. Abner Burbank, of Harvard, Illinois; Edward Everett, of this sketch; Mrs. Henry Minier, now of Harvard, Illinois, and Henry C. Ayer, also of Harvard, Illinois. In 1847 the father of these children moved to the state line and went into partnership in the mercantile business with a Mr. Dunn. Within the next three or four years two more children were born, Mrs. Harriet Towne, of Harvard, Illinois, and Mrs. Arthur Law, of Tacoma, Washington. In 1853 the father sold out his mercantile interests here to Charles Hunt, father of Charles Hunt, Jr., now of Harvard, Illinois, and took a railroad grading contract between Clinton Junction and Shopiere, on the Wisconsin division of the Northwestern railroad, and he did an excellent job of grading, but was never paid for it, and so lost a large part of his fortune at that time.

In 1856, Elbridge G. Ayer, with others, bought the farm where Harvard, Illinois, is now and located there, and he was always one of its leading citizens. Being within five miles of the state line, the family kept in touch with conditions in Wisconsin. He and his wife kept an eating house there during the Civil war, and they were very kind to the soldiers who came down from Wisconsin and Minnesota, having fed from twenty to two hundred soldiers every day during the war, free of charge, never, in fact, during the war having charged a soldier a cent for a meal. That this was thoroughly appreciated, was indicated by Mr. Ayer receiving a beautiful letter from Governor Lewis at the close of the war, especially thanking him for his courtesies to the sick and wounded, and twenty odd years afterwards, when Mr. Ayer and wife celebrated their golden wedding, the Wisconsin soldiers, who remembered the courtesies extended them by this grand old couple, contributed twenty-five cents apiece, and a committee of twenty-one of the Grand Army of the Republic came to Harvard and presented a gold cup to them, which descended to their son, Edward E., of this sketch, who placed it in the Wisconsin Historical Society at Madison, perpetually.

The Ayer family had at that time as neighbors, at the east, Edwin Wilkinson, father of the numerous Wilkinsons of this locality; Joe Whitely, father of all the Whitelys; Elder Lake, father of all the Lakes; Joe Crumb, father of all the Crumbs; on the north of Mr. Gardner, William Kuhn and a Mr. Converse; on the west, two families of Plummers, Dr. Mulford, Nathaniel Smith, Mark Pierce, Peter D. Hawver, and other old citizens; on the south, David Bentley, father of the present Mr. Bentley; Mr. Tucker, father of all the Tuckers; Dolph Hutchinson, Amos Pease, a Mr. Rogers and others. These men

were all living here at the time the Ayer family came to Big Foot Prairie, and they have all long ago crossed the Great Divide.

Edward E. Ayer has a very vivid recollection of his early boyhood at Ayer's Corners, and especially of the little cobble-stone school house a quarter of a mile west of the corners. He also remembers that in the early fifties numerous Indians came through the entire county every year. Having come to Walworth county in 1846, he grew up amid pioneer conditions. From 1848 to 1856 he rarely went to school more than two days at a time without being thrashed. Upon settling at Harvard in 1856 he attended school part of the time, and bought and sold chickens and turkeys; he kept a limehouse and finally, when his father went into the hotel business, he was night clerk there until 1859. In 1860, being then a little over eighteen years of age, he crossed the great western plains, landing in Nevada broke, and there he worked until he had saved money enough to get across the mountains to San Francisco, where he had friends, arriving there with twenty-five cents. He found his friends a little poorer than he was, but he went to work the following morning sawing wood with a buck-saw, at which he worked for about two months, then worked a few months in a planing-mill. Then the Civil war coming on, he enlisted in the First California Cavalry, on August 15, 1861.

Mr. Ayer and his comrades were sent to southern California by water and from there on to Arizona and New Mexico, into the great desert in which Mr. Ayer served two years and ten months, during which time there was perpetual Indian fighting. He never slept under a tent in travel, and rarely was doing anything else. The hardships of the terrible desert campaign were such as to try the mettle of the most heroic, and Mr. Ayer recalls many interesting reminiscences of those trying times. For meritorious conduct he was promoted to second lieutenant in the First New Mexican Infantry, in January, 1864, it being a company of Mexicans. Resigning in May of that year, he started home over the famous Sante Fe trail in a stage, the trip to Kansas City requiring twelve days of constant travel. He finally reached home the first day of the following July, having been away four years and two months, and he was twenty-two years and four months old when he got back. His many experiences had been a schooling for him in many ways. His father gave him a small interest in his dry goods store, and two years later he commenced railroad contracting. He has been reasonably successful financially.

Always having in mind the poor show he had for an education, Edward E. Ayer determined, if he ever prospered, to try and make it easier for the boys who came after him. This he has had in mind all his life in making the great collection of literature on the North American Indian, some thirty-three thou-

sand titles, which he has given to the Newberry library, and making his great collection of North American Indian paraphernalia, a large ornithological library, the Philippine collection, and the eighteen years work given to the Field Museum in Chicago. In his work in connection with the Art Institute, Thomas Orchestra, historical societies, archaeological societies, and all of this sort of work, it has been his constant thought that he would try to leave the poor boys that came after him in better shape to obtain an education than he was. It has been observed that all men who have done this kind of work have found that it is, first, a great pleasure to make collections; after that, twice as much pleasure to put them into societies, museums and libraries where they can be perpetuated; this theory is held by Mr. Ayer.

The subject took up his residence at Lake Geneva in 1875. He is absolutely devoted to the state of Wisconsin, especially to Walworth township, this county, and while he has been in the habit of leaving the county for a few months each year for the past thirty years, he says he never comes back to it without a feeling of greater admiration than he had previously felt.

The domestic life of Edward E. Ayer began on September 7, 1865, when he was united in marriage with Emma Burbank, at Harvard, McHenry county, Illinois. She is a lady of culture and refinement and has long been a favorite with a wide circle of friends. She was born on November 25, 1845, and is the daughter of Abner and Elizabeth Burbank, an influential old family. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Ayer has been blessed by the birth of one child, Elizabeth Burbank Ayer, whose birth occurred on November 28, 1866; she married Seward Johnson on September 3, 1890.

Mr. Ayer is an enthusiastic auto man and he keeps several cars. During a good autoing season he will probably average one hundred miles per day, riding about the country, the beauties of which he never tires. His residence and grounds along the south shore of Lake Geneva are known as "The Oaks." He owns about twelve hundred acres of valuable land, about seven hundred acres of which is farm land, known as "Upland Farm," which is under a high state of cultivation and improvement and is one of the "show places" of Walworth township. The remaining five hundred acres is nearly all natural forest, chiefly of oak. Mr. Ayer has made an effort to retain about "The Oaks" the natural beauty of nature as far as is consistent with a clean, comfortable, well-kept place. The woods are threaded with six or seven miles of drives and five or six miles of walks, and are open to the public, visitors being permitted to go through them at all times, so long as they do not abuse the privilege.

Approaching "The Oaks" from a distance, one sees above the tree tops the observation tower, which is probably the highest point about the lakes. Its

base is two hundred and forty-two feet above the level of the lake and the tower is about seventy-five feet to the top. From it one may obtain an inspiring panorama, embracing nearly the entire surface of beautiful Lake Geneva. The grounds at the lakeside are enclosed by a stone wall of large field stones. There is the main residence, the guest cottage and various other cottages and residences, providing genuine comfort unexcelled. Near the guest cottage is the rose garden, a rare beauty spot, and from that, passing through a pergola, one comes to the aquatic garden, in which are water lilies. The water is drawn from springs on high land, being piped to the residence and grounds.

Mr. Ayer has traveled very extensively and has, seemingly, gathered mementoes and interesting specimens of various kinds from almost every land. In his garage are enlarged pictures of scenes embraced in his travel. In his house are specimens of rich and antique furniture, some of exquisite hand carving. There are ancient chests, oriental furniture, arms from different ages and different peoples, strange musical instruments and unique relics of various kinds. The prevailing color of delft blue gives a cool, restful "atmosphere" about the place in summer. The mantel of delft blue tile contains hundreds of tiles, no two alike, each depicting some scene from the Bible. There is a separate cottage containing curios from Egypt. Being a close student and a keen observer, Mr. Ayer talks most interestingly of his travels and in giving the history of his many souvenirs.

Out in the grounds is a fine fountain, imported from Italy, and several stone lanterns of Japanese dot the landscape. On the lake is the splendid and graceful yacht "Tula," as fast as any on the lake.

"Upland Farm," adjoining "The Oaks" on the south, is devoted to modern agricultural pursuits and the raising of a fine grade of cattle, sheep and hogs. On Upland farm No. One are two barns, forty-eight by fifty feet and about fifty feet high, their basement walls of stone being twelve feet high, and the lots about them are enclosed by high stone walls very substantially built. The ground floors of the barns are of concrete and here may be seen about two hundred head of high grade Holstein cattle, of which about half are registered. They are curried as regularly as good horses should be, and the milking is done with milking machines. The barns are kept clean and sanitary. Near them is the power-house where the power is generated, used in running the electric light plant and many kinds of machinery. Running through both barns are long lines of shafts and pulleys for transmitting power to whatever place it may be needed. On the second floor, which is reached by embankment, are to be seen all kinds of up-to-date implements used in modern farming, from the hoe

up to corn-huskers, shredding machines, power hay-press and threshing machine. There is also a machine shop nearby in which power-operated machinery has been installed, also a blacksmith shop. There are two comfortable and convenient residences for the men who do the actual farming, and another residence on Farm No. Two.

On Upland Farm No. Two is also a substantial barn, fifty by one hundred and fifty-six feet and about sixty feet high, and here the sheep and hogs are housed, the Shropshire sheep being all thoroughbred and the Duroc-Jersey hogs are every one registered stock.

Personally, Mr. Ayer is a pleasant gentleman to meet, plain, unassuming and courteous, a broad-minded, experienced, progressive business man in whom is a touch of the esthetic in his taste for the beauties of nature, art and literature, and he is a man who has at heart the welfare of his locality and who desires the right to prevail in all relations of life.

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#### THE LAKE GENEVA SANITARIUMS.

Apart from the summer villas, their residents and their guests, the most important interest of Lake Geneva is, without doubt, the sanitariums. Our summer residents, the sanitariums and our dairies are about our only original sources of revenue. In the course of most other business, in Lake Geneva, money is collected here and sent away. The development of the Lake Geneva Sanitariums has been so regular and gradual that it has been accepted rather as a matter of course and their importance, we think, has been little realized.

Founded twenty-seven years ago, the growth of the sanitariums has been constant and important. During the past ten years, from the proceeds derived from its patients, the sanitariums have brought each year, from a distance, from eighty-five thousand to one hundred thousand dollars and expended this money in Lake Geneva. It is true that one hundred thousand dollars is a small sum for a town such as ours, but we would miss it if it were not constant in its arrival.

The sanitariums are not alone important to us on account of the money they bring to Lake Geneva, but their rooms are conveniently open to any one requiring the service of a hospital. Any patient, whether surgical, medical or nervous, may put himself under the skillful care of its physicians and nurses. The doors are open to any local or other reputable physician to bring his patient to the surgery, the Lakeside Sanitarium or to Oakwood, and there attend him

throughout his illness. If desired, physicians can bring with them their own nurses. Members of the consulting staff are able to arrive within a few hours, from Chicago, on being called. To anyone suffering from injury or illness, other than a contagious malady, the doors are open. Thus Lake Geneva is well provided with hospital facilities, far beyond most cities larger in size.

The Lake Geneva Sanitariums were founded by Dr. Oscar A. King in 1883. The work was begun systematically. First, the Legislature of 1883 was asked to pass certain laws governing such institutions. Up to that time the statutes of Wisconsin were silent on the subject. Dr. King's bills were passed without amendment, and, with but one small amendment, still continue in force. To these statutes, more than to any other cause, are due the establishment of the great number of sanitariums in the state of Wisconsin, which are more numerous than those of any other state in the Union.

In the rivalry for location, Lake Geneva competed with Beloit, Janesville, Palmyra and other cities. Janesville and Beloit each offered five thousand dollars bonus and a suitable site. Palmyra offered a site of forty acres in the town and a perpetual lease of the springs. Lake Geneva was able to offer only fifteen hundred dollars through subscriptions to the fund by citizens, and free water supply to the sanitarium buildings and grounds; this, through the offices and energy of James B. Heg, then owner and editor of the *Herald*. A substantial percentage of the promise was fulfilled. Lake Geneva won through the beauty of location and its nearness to Chicago:

Oakwood, the first of the Lake Geneva Sanitarium buildings to be erected, was completed during the winter of 1884-5. The building of the Lake Geneva Sanitariums has occupied all of one man's time for the past twenty-seven years. For the building of such institutions is not alone the piling up of bricks and stone, the construction of buildings, but the filling them with patients. Dr. King has taken little or no time for social life. His time has been spent with his patients in the sanitariums, in his office in Chicago, and in his college work. This work he began as a young man, and while building the sanitariums at Lake Geneva, he was building a reputation in Chicago and the country. On September 27, 1882, he delivered the first medical lecture ever given in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago, having been chosen professor of diseases of the mind and nervous system on his return from the University of Vienna, where he had studied, in this department, under Weiss, Lydersdorf and Meynert. He has continued since 1882 as the head of the department of neurology, delivering three lectures and clinics each week. He has been chief of the staff in the departments of nervous diseases of the West Side Free Dispensary during the same period of time. In 1893 he was made secretary of the

college and professor of clinical medicine, and in 1904 was elected vice-dean of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the College of Medicine of the University of Illinois, which office he still holds. In these positions he has gained a wide reputation as a neurologist and the success of the sanitariums at Lake Geneva has been no less due to Dr. King's work done in Chicago than to his work done in Lake Geneva. Dr. King has never missed a week out of his service in the college during the past twenty-nine years, and is now one of three of the present faculty who were members of the first faculty of the college, and during all of these years the upbuilding has also had his constant application.

Oakwood was opened for patients on the 13th day of May, 1885. Some time later, Mr. Walter's house, now the surgery, was purchased. An addition to Oakwood was built in 1889. In 1893, Lakeside Sanitarium was founded and in 1896 Lakeside Cottage, the former residence of Robert Baker, of Racine, was established. In the past few years another addition to Oakwood has been built and many interior and exterior improvements made. Oakwood is practically fire-proof. Its exterior walls are of stone and brick, with hollow space; there is no furring. The inner walls are of solid brick from basement to attic and all walls are plaster upon the brick. The main stair is of marble and the floors of mosaic tile and hard-wood. Where hard-wood floors exist there is two inches of cement between the lining and the finishing floor and running from wall to wall. It is lighted by electricity and heated by steam, while the ventilating system is such that any room may be filled with smoke and perfectly cleared in ten minutes without opening windows or door.

An extensive hydropathic department with thorough equipment for various treatment-baths and exercises occupy an entire floor. Separate parlors and dining rooms are available for every five to seven patients. The whole building is thoroughly well equipped and furnished. Its carpets are English wilton and rugs of equal grade and its beds are furnished with box springs and hair mattresses. Within, the parlors and rooms present the appearance of a most comfortable hotel or private residence and none of the appearance, sounds or odors commonly thought unavoidable in hospitals are discernible.

The surgery is a separate building. It has a well-equipped, thoroughly antiseptic and modern operating room. There are large, airy bed rooms with pleasant outlooks, suitable baths and diet kitchen.

Lakeside Sanitarium is situated on the very shores of Lake Geneva and is equipped and utilized for the care and treatment of medical and general sanitarium cases. The grounds of Lakeside are about a half mile distant from those of Oakwood. The lake borders these grounds in front and to the west.

while Maxwell park bounds the grounds on the east, thereby affording quietude and a delightful outlook from the windows of every room.

There are broad porches, wide, sunny lawns, fine trees, deep shade and excellent play grounds.

In summer, bathing, boating, fishing, sailing, croquet, tennis, riding and driving are available for patients who have the inclination or for whom activity is desirable. In winter, sleighing, skating, ice-boat sailing and all out-door winter sports are available under the most agreeable circumstances. Within doors billiards, books, music, dancing, social entertainments and agreeable associations pass the time acceptably and with benefit to all.

One entering Lakeside or the Cottage sees nothing to suggest a habitation for the sick. The halls and parlors are well furnished, fresh and bright and suggest a private home rather than an institution. There is observed, in all, a cordiality and cheerfulness seen no where apart from the freest social intercourse among friends. Nevertheless the treatment of the sick practically engages the entire attention of doctors and nurses.

Dr. King has strong support in the resident and attending medical staff. We may mention these: Dr. U. G. Darling, assistant professor of neurology and psychiatry, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago, with long experience in general practice, and for ten years assistant to Dr. King in the college, resident physician at Oakwood; Dr. Oscar Hawkinson, former interne at Passavant Hospital, Chicago, resident physician at Lakeside; Dr. James C. Reynolds and Dr. William H. McDonald of this city, attending physicians, and Dr. T. A. Davis, Chicago, attending surgeon.

The active consulting staff, resident in Chicago, include men of national reputation, among whom are, Dr. Frank Billings, Dr. Henry B. Favill, Dr. James B. Herrick, Dr. Archibald Church, Dr. Twing B. Wiggin, Dr. Otto Schmidt, Dr. Hugh T. Patrick, Dr. E. J. Doining, Dr. Sidney Kun, Dr. Walter Metcalf and Dr. C. B. King, physician; Dr. T. A. Davis, Dr. Alex. H. Ferguson, Dr. David B. Graham, Dr. D. N. Eisendrath, Dr. Matthew Corbett, and Dr. Henry T. Byford, surgeons.

In the first place stands the laboratory. Trained assistants are employed in the use of instruments of accuracy and methods of procedure in chemical, microscopical and physical examinations, as well as in thorough psychological investigation.

Regular courses of instructions are given in appropriate fields of knowledge, mental exercises and drills are conducted with a view to strengthening, restoring or developing the faculties, particularly that of the will. Such treat-

ment is believed to be important in a very large percentage of sanitarium cases, particularly in neurasthenia, hysteria and habit.

Such a course is regarded as a foundation stone in a permanent cure of hysteria and many other habit symptoms, the result of a nervous constitution, irrational living, slipshod and vicious education and idle indulgence—cases that can seldom be treated successfully at home. A training school for nurses was established a few years ago, which includes a course in domestic science. The course of instruction covers three years.

The full apartments at Oakwood and the increased number of applications as patients during the summer and fall, lead to anticipations of greatly increased demand for accommodations in the near future.

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